

Mission To Remarry Chapter 1327-1358

Chapter 1327

In the meantime, Lucian was driving Roxanne and the kids back to Roxanne's place. Roxanne felt uneasy throughout the whole ride, for she assumed the man had something to say because he was driving unusually slowly.

However, as the car slowly came to a stop in front of the mansion, Lucian still remained silent. The woman's anxiousness was replaced with confusion.

In contrast, the kids were chattering and having fun at the back. When the car stopped, they didn't cease playing as they hopped off the vehicle and chased each other around in the yard.

As soon as the kids were out of hearing range, Roxanne asked, "Do you have something to say to me?"

She thought Lucian felt uncomfortable talking to her in front of the children.

Yet, the man merely smiled at her. "I just wanted to stay with you guys for a little longer, that's all."

He gazed at Roxanne and continued with a sigh, "I don't know when you'll give me an answer, and I'm worried that you'll run away again. You won't run away again, will you?"

A glint of guilt flashed across her eyes as her lips curved into a sheepish smile. "I won't. I already promised you that I'll think about it, so I'll definitely give you an answer."

Relief flooded Lucian when he heard her words. He slowly rolled the window back up. "Rest early. Good night."

Roxanne waved him goodbye with a smile. "Drive safe."

After sending Lucian off, she turned to look at the three kids helplessly.

The kids were fooling around, huddling closely together as they had fun.

Archie and Benny embraced Estella excitedly. "Yay, we won't have to be apart anymore! You're our sister! We'll treat you a thousand times, no, a million times, better than before!"

Estella's eyes squinted as a wide smile spread across her face. "I'll do the same to you both!"

After declaring their promises, they ran to Roxanne's side.

Roxanne bent down and gave the trio a big hug. "All right. It's getting late. Let's go to bed."

The kids weren't done playing but realized it was indeed late, so they obediently followed their mother into the house.

"We want to sleep with Mommy and Essie too!" the boys protested in front of Roxanne's bedroom.

Estella, too, looked up at Roxanne with puppy eyes, hoping Roxanne would let them all sleep together.

That was Roxanne's first time facing such a situation.

Ever since Archie and Benny were old enough, they had always slept in a separate room from her, and Roxanne had gotten used to that.

She didn't expect the boys to oppose their sleeping arrangements one day.

"You're boys. Boys are different from girls, so you can't sleep with Essie," she patiently explained to the kids.

Even though they were still young, Roxanne figured she had to teach them about gender differences as early as possible.

The kids exchanged disappointed glances with each other. Knowing they couldn't refute their mother, they obediently complied, "Okay, then."

Roxanne noted their disappointment and comforted, "Essie will always be with us. You can see her anytime you want to, so it isn't necessary to sleep together."

The children's mood brightened again at her reassurance.

Roxanne heaved a relieved breath as she watched Archie and Benny return to their room. As she led Estella back to hers, she caught the excitement shining in Estella's eyes. Estella kept calling her "Mommy" over and over again as though to prove she wasn't dreaming.

Roxanne patiently acknowledged her each time.

"I also have a mommy now!"

Estella leaped into Roxanne's embrace after coming out of the shower, smelling like baby soap.

Roxanne caught the little girl and chuckled. "You have always had a mommy. It's just that I haven't found you earlier. Now that I found you, I'll never let you go."

Chapter 1328

In the meantime, Archie and Benny had switched off the lights and were lying on their beds in the darkness, but they couldn't fall asleep.

Benny climbed out of bed and crossed the room to Archie's bedside. "Archie, say. Do you know why Mommy doesn't want to marry Daddy?" he asked as he shook Archie's arm.

Archie sat up with a troubled look on his face. "I don't know either."

He paused for a beat before the corners of his lips curled into a smile. "But we found our sister! Isn't that great?" he exclaimed as though to console Benny and himself.

Benny nodded fervently in agreement.

They had always thought Estella was their half-sister who shared a father with them. It was such a pleasant surprise to find out they shared the same parents.

That also meant their father had never cheated on their mother, and they were the ones who misunderstood Lucian from the start.

Their hearts soared with joy at the thought.

"But when will Mommy tell Daddy we're also his children?"

Recalling how Lucian lifted them into his arms earlier, Benny couldn't hide his disappointment. "I also want to be like Essie. I want to have a mommy and a daddy. I don't want to call Daddy 'Mr. Farwell' anymore."

Daddy could lift us up so high into the air.

Archie missed his father's embrace as well but chose to put himself in his mother's shoes. "Maybe Mommy has her own plans?"

Benny frowned as he speculated, "Do you think it's because of Mr. Damaris? Mommy is close to him. He even gave her flowers. Do you think Mommy wants Mr. Damaris to be our daddy?"

Benny pursed his lips unhappily before continuing, "I like Daddy more! Daddy is more handsome than Mr. Damaris, and he cares for Mommy more than Mr. Damaris does!"

Archie pondered briefly before shaking his head and disagreeing with Benny. "I don't think so. Mommy only considers Mr. Damaris a friend at most."

After Mommy accepted Daddy, there is a massive difference in the way Mommy interacts with Mr. Damaris and Daddy. The look in Mommy's eyes whenever she looks at Daddy is different from when she looks at Mr. Damaris.

Hearing Archie's disagreement, Benny felt even more perplexed. "Then why didn't Mommy say yes to Daddy?"

Archie suddenly remembered Roxanne did reach out her hand when Lucian proposed, but she quickly withdrew her hand upon hearing their grandmother's coughing.

Realization dawned upon him when his train of thought ended there. He finally understood what his mother was thinking. "I got it!"

His eyes were gleaming brightly, but his eyebrows were furrowed. He felt bad for his mother.

Noticing the change in Archie's expression, Benny hurriedly held onto Archie's arm. "Why? Tell me."

Archie turned to Benny with a solemn look on his face. "It's because of Grandma. She still hasn't accepted Mommy and us. Mommy doesn't want us to suffer with her, so she rejected Daddy."

The light in Benny's eyes dimmed when he heard Archie's explanation. His heart clenched for his mother, too.

Indeed, Grandma's attitude toward us and Mommy has always been terrible. I don't understand why, though. What did Mommy ever do wrong to deserve such hatred from Grandma? Mommy is the best mother in the world in my eyes. I'm sure she felt pressured to reject Daddy because of Grandma. But she never tells us these. She keeps everything to herself. What should we do to get Grandma to accept Mommy?

Chapter 1329

Even though Roxanne and Estella had been by each other's side a lot recently, their feelings toward each other were much different from before after the truth was revealed.

Roxanne had so much she wanted to tell her lost daughter. Similarly, Estella had a lot she wanted to say to her mother.

The two lay in bed and chatted endlessly, never running out of topics to talk to each other about.

"I drew a lot of pictures of me and my mommy, but none of those mommies in the pictures were as pretty as you."

Estella looked at Roxanne with glee in her eyes, her smile so sweet and lovely that it softened Roxanne's heart. "Now that I found you, can you draw pictures with me, Mommy?"

Roxanne's heart nearly melted into a puddle at her question. "Sure. Let's do everything together!"

Estella's eyes sparkled with delight. "Archie and Benny too! I want to do everything with them too!"

Roxanne promised with a laugh, "Archie and Benny will be by your side too."

"Mommy," Estella suddenly whispered into Roxanne's ear.

Playing along with the little girl, Roxanne put on a curious expression. "What's wrong?"

Estella said softly, "Can you tell me who is Archie's and Benny's daddy?"

Even though Mommy and Daddy are already together, I still wish they can progress to the next stage. I know this is something that's been bothering Daddy.

The smile on Roxanne's face stiffened ever so slightly when she heard Estella's question.

Archie's and Benny's father... How am I supposed to tell Essie that she and the boys share the same parents? If I tell her the truth, will she ask why I refused to say yes to Lucian even though we are an actual family in the first place?

Despite knowing that Estella wouldn't have thought of that question with her current level of intellect, Roxanne still couldn't help worrying about it.

"Archie's and Benny's daddy... You'll know who he is in the future." Roxanne gently caressed Estella's head, her tone laced with guilt.

Disappointment crossed Estella's face when she didn't get the answer she wanted.

But no matter who their father is, we will only share one daddy in the future!

With that thought in mind, Estella was once again filled with joy. "Then can they please come over so we could all sleep together?" she pleaded with an adorable voice.

Roxanne was about to decline the little girl's request when the latter burrowed deeper into her embrace. "I feel bad for them. I have a daddy and a mommy, but they only have a mommy."

Roxanne was instantly guilt-ridden when Estella mentioned the absence of the boys' father.

As penitence got the better of her, she sighed internally and decided to make an exception just this one time.

"Go on. Get your brothers to come over."

Roxanne watched Estella put on her pajama and led her to the boys' room.

In the boys' room, Archie and Benny were sitting on Archie's bed with looks of frustration on their faces.

When they heard the knock on their door, they quickly concealed their troubled expressions before letting Roxanne enter.

"You boys haven't slept yet? Good. Come over to our room, and let's sleep together."

Roxanne was confused when she saw the boys sitting on Archie's bed but didn't comment on it. "But you have to put on your pajamas."

Elation immediately replaced the boys' gloomy mood. They put on cute cow onesies before hopping to Roxanne's room in excitement.

The three kids got even more worked up than they already were as they gathered together.

Roxanne was already exhausted, but the children were still up and playing.

She regretted her decision of letting the kids sleep in the same room.

But since they're already here, I can't go back on my word. All I can do is stay up with them.

The children finally fell asleep at midnight.

Chapter 1330

When Roxanne woke up the next morning, the kids were huddled together in a tangle of limbs, hugging each other as they slept soundly. She had no idea how they ended up like that, but they showed no signs of waking up.

Warmth spread in Roxanne's chest as she watched them sleep like babies.

Essie, my baby girl. I'm not dreaming. My daughter is really back!

Roxanne planted a kiss on each of their foreheads before heading downstairs to prepare breakfast for them.

As her tumultuous emotions began to calm, she belatedly recalled something important.

Estella was born with Archie and Benny, but why was she sent to Lucian? Yet I was completely clueless about the whole incident. Also, it was evident from Lucian and Sonya's attitudes that they didn't know what happened either.

The possible reason behind it sent chills down Roxanne's spine.

Who could've done such a thing? What was that person's motive for doing so?

In the meantime, chaos erupted all over Horington when the news was revealed.

As one of the prestigious families in Horington, the Pearson family was prominent and capable. Coupled with the marriage contract they shared with the Farwell family, their status in society had always been stable.

However, the shares of one of the Pearson family's branch companies' plummeted overnight. Numerous comments and discussions regarding the incident flooded the internet.

One netizen commented: I heard the Pearson family has offended the Farwell family. This is the consequence of their action.

Another refuted: No way! The Farwell family and the Pearson family have a marriage contract with each other. They're basically one big family. Why would the Farwell family go up against the Pearson family?

One supplemented: You guys haven't heard about it? I heard through the grapevine that the Farwell family has long since planned to annul the marriage, and the Pearson family has been begging them not to.

That comment attracted more attention from the public.

Meanwhile, Archie and Benny had just woken up in Roxanne's place.

Archie habitually glimpsed at the stock market news to check the latest rise and fall of shares. As he flipped through the articles, he accidentally noticed the plummeting of shares of a Pearson family-affiliated corporation.

Many shareholders were discussing the matter on the internet.

Archie's expression shifted subtly at the news.

Catching the look on his brother's face, Benny walked over to his side in confusion.

Archie tilted the screen to Benny, showing him the news.

"Whoa!" Benny's eyes sparkled. "Is it Daddy's doing?"

Archie tilted his head to the side. "Who else could it be?"

Benny rubbed his palms together in exhilaration. "No, this isn't enough. I have to add fuel to the fire. How dare that evil woman bully Mommy!"

He then reached for Archie's computer, his fingers furiously typing away on the keyboard, writing a long comment.

Before long, the discussion on the internet took a new turn.

A comment read: Have any of you heard? The daughter of the Pearson family is actually a homewrecker!

Another netizen commented: That's right! I heard she was the one who forced the legitimate wife away. I wonder what means she used to secure a marriage engagement with the Farwell family. No wonder the Farwell family delayed the wedding for so long!

Someone typed a question: What about now?

One of the netizens responded: The wife is back! Mr. Farwell repented and turned over a new leaf. Naturally, the homewrecker needs to be kicked out of the house!

That discussion soon reigned over the other speculations, and the netizens started condemning Aubree.

One of the netizens typed: Homewreckers are shameless!

Another netizen commented: I can't believe she has the audacity to meddle in someone else's marriage! How shameless!

A satisfied smile formed on Benny's lips as he read the public's comments about Aubree.

Hmph! Evil woman! That'll show you for calling Mommy a homewrecker! You're the one who's the homewrecker!

Chapter 1331

"Mr. Farwell!"

At Farwell Group, the staff in charge of publishing comments on the internet noticed a shift in the trend of the public's opinion, so he hurriedly went to seek further instruction from Lucian.

Lucian glanced at the screen and furrowed his brows.

He saw the internet was flooded with speculations about his relationship with Roxanne and criticisms toward Aubree.

"We didn't do this. We merely released some news about the Pearson family. This statement mentioning the original spouse came out of nowhere. Should we attempt to sway the public opinion again?" the employee hurriedly explained.

Lucian rejected the suggestion. "That's not needed. Just let it be. Find out where the statement about the original spouse stemmed from."

The employee replied guiltily, "I investigated the source, but the information was leaked from a virtual IP address that does not correspond to a physical network interface..."

Hearing that, Lucian narrowed his eyes and was immediately reminded of the previous incident involving Pearson Group's computer malfunction.

Farwell Group's technicians were considered one of the best in their expertise. Even so, they failed to find out the mastermind's identity.

Could it be the same person this time? After all, that person scolded Aubree as an evil woman last time and is now sparking discussions on the internet about Aubree being a homewrecker. Homewrecker...

At the thought of that term, Archie and Benny's faces flashed across Lucian's mind.

Nevertheless, he quickly dismissed the idea. Those two boys are still so young. How could they be capable of accomplishing something like this? If the same person didn't orchestrate these incidents, and my technicians fail to track the masterminds down on both occasions, I think it's time for Farwell Group to hire new people.

He recollected his thoughts and instructed solemnly, "I got it. Ignore this matter for now. Update me again if there are any more changes in the trend."

The employee let out an inward sigh of relief before promptly agreeing.

Soon, opinions of varying stances appeared online.

A netizen wrote: Let's not make random guesses without evidence to support our claim. The two families have yet to announce anything, right?

Another commented: That's right. Don't forget that Mr. Farwell had personally accompanied Ms. Pearson to the hospital and stayed by her side throughout the night before. There's no way he would've done something like that if not out of true love.

After seeing that, Benny was speechless and at a loss for what to do. Daddy hasn't made any official announcement, so I don't suppose I can do that on his behalf, right?

Hence, he could only tap on his keyboard furiously to delete all the comments rooting for Aubree.

Still, the netizens posted more, no matter how many comments he deleted. Some people were even convinced by the remarks and switched sides to support Aubree.

Benny sulked as he couldn't remove all the distasteful comments in time.

Yet, all of a sudden, the phrase "Marriage Engagement Between the Farwell and Pearson Family" suddenly entered the trending list. The word "Hot" was added in red capital letters at the back of the title.

After clicking into the title, more astonishing descriptions were displayed before Benny's eyes: Farwell Group declared the marriage engagement with the Pearson family had been canceled from today onward! The reason behind the Pearson family's overnight downfall is shocking!

Benny was taken aback.

Following the statement released by Farwell Group, those posts discussing Lucian harboring true love toward Aubree gradually quieted down.

A netizen even commented: Rumor has it Mr. Farwell brought his original spouse to the hospital and took care of her all night, not Aubree.

The netizen also deliberately attached the picture from the newspaper the other day and a photo of Aubree's profile for comparison.

Upon scrutiny, although the person's identity couldn't be determined through the blurry profile, she was undoubtedly not Aubree.

One netizen wrote: Although this is all we can see, I must say the original spouse's facial features look prettier.

Another commented: Oh my! I've been complimenting the original spouse all along. She's so gorgeous and is a match made in heaven with Mr. Farwell!

Subsequently, the public's view on the internet did a one-eighty.

All of a sudden, Roxanne and Aubree became two starkly contrasting figures in the netizens' opinion.

Chapter 1332

Meanwhile, at the Pearson residence, Aubree locked herself inside her room without consuming any food or water upon returning from the Farwell residence.

A single thought filled her mind for the entire day. I'm doomed. No one can save me this time. My life is completely ruined! I can't believe that b*tch, Roxanne, told Lucian to let the police handle this matter. I'd rather die than spend the rest of my life in prison.

The more she dwelled on that, the more furious and terrified she became.

As a result, Aubree didn't pay any attention to the news on the internet.

Samuel currently loved and hated his daughter at the same time.

Aubree was his only daughter, so how could he have the heart to send her to jail?

If she hadn't done those foolish things, the Pearson family wouldn't have met its downfall.

Early in the morning, the person in charge of each of Pearson Group's branch companies flooded his phone with calls.

All of them informed him about their companies' stocks crashing out of control, and all their business partners requested to dissolve their collaborations.

Regardless of how much Samuel cared for Aubree as her father, the fatherly affection he harbored toward her gradually dissipated as he answered each call.

While he was boiling with rage, Gina, wearing a tear-stained face, rushed into the study.

"Samuel, bad news. Hurry up and look at this. How can these people on the internet criticize our family and Aubree in this manner?"

Gina wept almost immediately after reading the news on her phone that morning.

The Pearson family had never endured such humiliation since they established their presence in Horington many years ago.

Grimacing, Samuel took her phone and glanced at the screen.

He tightened his grip around the device when he read how the netizens berated the Pearson family to the extent of almost crushing the phone with his hand.

Unfilial daughter! That unfilial daughter! Does she realize how much trouble she has brought to the Pearson family?

“What should we do now, Samuel?” Gina gazed imploringly at her husband in a daze.

Samuel was still mad, and in a fit of rage, he shoved her, causing the latter to fall to the ground. “All you know how to do is cry! You’re useless during desperate times.”

With that, he stormed toward Aubree’s room and banged on her door.

In a state of shock, Aubree showed no inclination to open the door.

The next second, the sound of someone kicking the door reverberated suddenly.

Samuel booted the door as he scolded in a rage, “B*stard! Come out here and see the mess you made! What did I tell you yesterday? I asked you to go to the Farwell residence and apologize nicely. What did you do instead, you incompetent trash? You could’ve secured the position of Mrs. Farwell instead of letting Roxanne seize the opportunity if you didn’t act on your own accord!”

If she hadn’t treated Essie insincerely, the kid wouldn’t have refused to accept her even after so long, and Lucian wouldn’t have delayed fulfilling his promise to marry Aubree for six years!

The more Samuel thought about it, the angrier he got.

Overwhelmed by wrath, he successfully kicked down the door.

Aubree’s heart sank when she saw her father standing at the doorway with bloodshot eyes. He didn’t behave like this when I came home yesterday. Something must’ve happened again.

“What’s the matter, Dad? What happened?” She gazed at her father in panic, wanting to inquire if the police were there to look for her.

Before she could do so, Samuel interrupted her, “How dare you ask that question! Look at what you’ve done!”

He flung the phone at her as he spoke.

Aubree dodged on instinct, preventing the phone from hitting the corner of her eye.

She picked up the device and glanced at the screen.

The discussions on the internet continued refreshing, and the comments about the Pearson family latching onto the Farwell family had sunk to the bottom of the page.

Displayed before Aubree's eyes were everyone's compliments toward Roxanne and their disdain toward Aubree as the homewrecker.

Chapter 1333

"Ah!" cried out Aubree as she violently threw the phone in her hand away. "I'll ensure that b*tch, Roxanne, regrets the day she was born! She must be the one responsible. She has to be!"

With that, Aubree was about to rush out when Samuel stopped her in her tracks.

"Idiot! Have you forgotten about what happened at the Farwell residence yesterday? Do you actually think it's a good idea to confront Roxanne now?" rebuked Samuel.

Aubree seemed even madder after listening to that. "You're my father! Can you really sit by and do nothing while those people cursed at me online? Since our family has nothing left to lose, I'm going to drag that b*tch down to the abyss with me!"

At that point, Samuel could no longer hold his anger in, so he slapped his daughter so hard that she fell into her bed. "You're the reason our family is ruined, yet you show no remorse! In fact, you seem more than ready to repeat your mistakes. Now you listen to me well. I don't care if you have to kneel before Lucian or grovel at his feet; you will convince the man to stop keeping our family in his crosshair because you're responsible for this mess! Otherwise, nobody can save you!"

If the Pearson family were to crumble and his daughter was to be subjected to legal procedures by then, Samuel would not be able to do anything even if he wanted to.

Nevertheless, all Aubree could hear after getting smacked was the buzzing sound in her ear.

When she finally regained her hearing, the first thing she heard was her father telling her to kneel before Lucian and apologize.

"Fine! I'll beg for Lucian's mercy. I'll go right away!" responded Aubree with nothing but hate in her eyes, and after giving her father a cold glance, she got up and rushed out of the room.

With his eyebrows tightly knitted, Samuel could not help but feel worried when he thought of the look in Aubree's eyes before she left.

Still, there was not much he could do about Aubree, given the situation of his family.

"Aubree!" Gina just so happened to see the swollen-faced Aubree storm out of the room when she arrived at the scene.

"Hey, hold up! Calm down! Where are you going?" questioned Gina while trying to catch up with Aubree.

Aubree, however, turned a deaf ear as she rushed out of the house before zooming off in her car.

After witnessing that, Gina returned to the room in a panic to speak to Samuel. "What is Aubree planning to do? Is she going to do something stupid again? You have to stop her!"

"You're the reason she's who she is today, so you should figure it out yourself!" uttered Samuel, who was already having an unbearable headache, before striding into the study and slamming the door shut.

Left alone in Aubree's messy bedroom to stare at the door Samuel had kicked down and the smashed phone, Gina burst into tears.

There was a grimness in Aubree's eyes when she finally floored the brakes after driving for quite a distance. He expects me to apologize to Lucian? In his dreams! This is all that b*tch's fault, so why do I have to be the one to apologize? I swear I'll make Roxanne pay!

Nevertheless, the Pearson family had already run out of resources they could use, so after some thought, Aubree took out her phone and tried to call Frieda.

When she failed to reach Frieda after several attempts, Aubree sneered and decided to send the woman a message instead: Don't forget that we're in the same boat! So far, Lucian knows I added the bacteria, but he has no idea where it came from. How much better do you think your family will do than mine after he finds out about that?

In less than a minute after the text message was sent, Aubree received a call from Frieda.

Chapter 1334

"Aubree, I only noticed your missed calls now because I was in the shower. What's up?" Frieda sounded very concerned.

It was as if the engagement between the Farwells and the Pearsons was never canceled, and they were still on good terms.

Aubree knew that Frieda only called because of the message she had sent, but since she still needed Frieda's help, she decided to play along.

With that thought in mind, Aubree coldly bit her lower lip. “Nothing much. Seeing how we haven’t seen each other for a few days, I wanted to ask you out.”

Frieda hesitated for a few seconds, but because of Aubree’s threat, she had no choice but to agree to the woman’s request.

She wanted to follow Jonathan’s advice, but what happened to the Pearsons was too shocking to ignore.

Frieda worried that her family would be in trouble if Aubree really did sell her out.

After confirming the place to meet, the two ended the phone call.

Then, Frieda got changed and was about to walk out the door when she bumped into Jonathan.

“Where are you going?” Jonathan gazed suspiciously at his sister.

In response, Frieda plastered on a smile. “Nowhere. I’ve stayed home for too long, so I wanted to go for a walk.”

Jonathan was still unconvinced, however. “I don’t care if you have to stay home for another few days! Just look at those comments online. You’d better stay away from Aubree if you don’t want our family to end up like hers!”

Standing still and staring coldly at Frieda, Jonathan had no intention of getting out of his sister’s way.

On top of feeling guilty, Frieda was afraid to meet Aubree then, so she nodded meekly and returned to her room.

Nonetheless, she eventually gave in to her anxiety and called Aubree. “My brother’s not letting me leave the house...”

“I bet he doesn’t want you to meet me because he has no idea what you did!” voiced Aubree through gritted teeth.

Frieda nodded guiltily. “I can’t let him know. Otherwise, he’ll kill me before Lucian does!”

“Does that mean you’re not afraid that Lucian will find out?” sneered Aubree.

After being rendered speechless for a moment, Frieda hurriedly reassured Aubree of her loyalty to the woman. “I believe you, Aubree, and I’ll do my best to help you in any way I can. However—”

“Don’t worry. I won’t tell Lucian even if the plan fails, but you have to be a part of it,” interrupted Aubree unceremoniously as though she knew what Frieda wanted to say.

Frieda finally breathed a sigh of relief after hearing that. “What do you need me to do?”

On the other side, Aubree was sitting alone in the corner of a café.

Because of how widespread the online public opinion was, almost everyone in Horington was discussing the matter.

In fact, it was difficult to find anyone who did not recognize Aubree.

Even the waiter who served her coffee gave her a dirty look.

Aubree could not help but harden her face when reminded of her situation. “How have things developed on the internet?”

After turning on her computer, Frieda was unsure how to reply to Aubree because the truth about Roxanne was close to becoming public knowledge.

Almost everyone was praising Roxanne for her beauty and kindness and saying what a perfect match she was for Lucian.

On the other hand, Aubree, who used to be put on a pedestal, became a laughingstock overnight.

Some even said that Aubree made up the story that she was Lucian’s first crush.

“What’s going on?” Aubree’s heart sank when she heard nothing but silence from the other end of the line.

Chapter 1335

Frieda could just imagine Aubree’s face after the latter read the comments even though they were only speaking over the phone.

She said dryly, “You should take a look for yourself, Aubree...”

Aubree turned on the speakerphone and opened her social media app grimly.

Someone commented: Aubree is shameless. How dare she claim to be Mr. Farwell’s first crush when she’s really just a homewrecker? If he truly had feelings for her, why would he have married his original spouse?

Another seconded: That’s right. Whatever feelings Mr. Farwell had for his first crush would have been gone by now after six long years. Moreover, Mr. Farwell acts as if he

doesn't even know her. If you ask me, his original spouse is his first crush. Aubree is just a nobody.

The comments were scathing and merciless, leaving no room for doubt about the netizens' disdain toward Aubree.

Aubree had to muster up all her energy to resist the urge to throw her phone across the room.

"Roxanne, that b*tch!" she cursed through gritted teeth.

Frieda tried to calm her down. "Calm down, Aubree. There's no point getting angry about this right now."

She was worried that Aubree might do something foolish and drag herself into it.

Aubree took a few deep breaths before she spoke again. "Do you know any public relations company? I'm going to make that b*tch pay for what she said."

Frieda hesitated upon hearing this.

How is this any different from what she did the last time? I'm still the one who's handing the knife over to her as she commits murder. I'll be a goner if either Jonathan or Lucian finds out.

"Just let it slide, Aubree. Where are you going to get the money to recruit the help of a public relations company with the state your family is in right now?"

She tried to dissuade Aubree.

However, Aubree saw through her right away. "I'll contact them myself. Don't worry. I won't get you involved. As for the money, I can afford it."

I'll do everything in my power to expose that b*tch's true colors to the world.

Frieda reluctantly gave her a number, having no reason to reject her at this point.

Aubree didn't say anything anymore after getting what she wanted. She hung up the call and contacted the public relations company.

"Hello, what kind of business collaboration are you looking for?" came the prompt response from the other end.

Aubree said through gritted teeth, "I want you to spread the news about the original spouse of Farwell Group's CEO."

The scandal involving the Farwells had caused a huge uproar online. It was only natural for a professional public relations firm to be aware of it.

The person on the other end of the line immediately became cautious when he heard Aubree's request. "And you are?"

Aubree replied coldly, "Aubree Pearson."

Hearing that, the other party ended the call immediately.

Aubree dialed the number again through clenched teeth, her face darkening. "I'll pay you thirty million to post the news. It's not fake, I promise."

The other party's resolve started to waver when they heard the offer of such a large sum. However, they still didn't dare to take the risk.

"Fifty million! I'll pay you ten million more when everything is over, so sixty million in total!" Aubree added.

Aubree had prepared the fifty million Cory requested back then, but little did she know she would be using the money for this instead of what she had intended.

In the end, the other party gave in to the temptation of money and agreed to her terms after much hesitation. "Okay. What do you want us to post?"

Aubree's gaze turned icy as she delivered the message she had prepared beforehand.

Chapter 1336

Archie and Benny chuckled in delight as the public view tilted in favor of their mother.

Estella woke up and rubbed her eyes groggily. "Archie, Benny, what are you guys doing?"

Archie and Benny closed their laptop immediately when they heard Estella's voice. They shook their heads in unison. "It's nothing. We're just browsing the stock market."

They decided to handle the chaos that was going down online themselves. Estella had no need to get involved.

Estella felt that something was off as she stared at the boys.

However, nothing came to mind, as she was still groggy from her sleep. She took a moment to gather her thoughts before getting out of bed to wash up.

Archie and Benny wanted to continue monitoring the online discussion, but Roxanne called them down for breakfast.

After Estella washed up, they put their laptop away and went down.

Roxanne noticed that her two boys were in high spirits during breakfast and couldn't help but ask, "What's the occasion?"

Archie and Benny exchanged looks and replied, "Nothing special. We're just glad to have our sister back."

Estella nodded enthusiastically in agreement. "I'm very happy too!"

Roxanne didn't dwell further on the matter upon hearing that. Her heart warmed as she stared at the kids' smiling faces.

She scooped some food onto their plates. "I'll take you out for some fun after breakfast, okay?"

It's been a while since I took them out after the last incident. Besides, I've found my little darling this time around.

Roxanne would always be reminded of the child she had lost whenever she took Archie and Benny out to play.

However, her dream had finally come true, as she had found her missing daughter.

The kids were overjoyed when they heard Roxanne was going to take them out to have some fun. "Okay!" they shouted in unison.

Roxanne couldn't help but smile. Their happiness was contagious.

At the same time, Aubree managed to bribe her way through the public relations firm and was posting anything and everything about Roxanne on the world wide web, causing the public's view of Roxanne to shift drastically once again.

Someone wrote: His original spouse? You mean Roxanne Jarvis? Haven't you read the news? Her research institute was provided with the opportunity to join the Damarises' project because of her relationship with Jack Damaris. Women like her can't be trusted.

Another commented: You can still find pictures of Roxanne and Jack having dinner online. They have yet to clarify matters up till now. She's just another one of those b*tches in the medical industry if you ask me.

Various posts defaming Roxanne started to pop up. At the same time, others still believed in Roxanne and thought the scandal between her and Jack was just mere

speculation. Lucian's decision to call off his engagement told them everything they needed to know.

However, soon after, another piece of scandal erupted on the internet again.

The netizens started discussing again. Someone wrote: Rumors have it that Roxanne already has two kids aged around four to five. It has only been six years since she left the Farwells. Who fathered her children? It couldn't be Mr. Farwell, could it?

Another replied: That would be an understatement. Roxanne left the Farwells on her own accord back then. Who knows? Maybe she left because she had gotten herself pregnant and was worried that she wouldn't be able to explain herself. She's probably back to get her hands on the Farwells' wealth now that her children have grown up.

A third agreed: That is entirely possible. She must be really good at scheming if that's the case. Who knows? She might have played dirty tricks to make Mr. Farwell call off his engagement with Ms. Pearson.

After the public discovered that Roxanne had two mysterious children, they began to turn their backs on her.

Chapter 1337

Aubree chuckled in delight as the public showed disdain for Roxanne.

"Roxanne, you b*tch, I'm going to let you get a taste of your own medicine."

Early in the morning that day, Sonya read the comments on the internet.

She was furious when she found out that Lucian had sent Roxanne to the hospital and had even spent the night there taking care of her.

She could still recall the incident vividly. Roxanne had just returned to the country not long ago, and Lucian had insisted on taking care of her.

Sonya read through the comments furiously.

Everyone had different opinions regarding the matter. Public opinion was swayed.

Sonya's face darkened when she saw a comment about how well Lucian and Roxanne complimented each other.

They're a good match? Since when has she ever been worthy of my son? On what grounds? Certainly not her looks, nor her two illegitimate children. Speaking of which, I've yet to find out who fathered those two children.

Just as she was about to blow up, the public's view of Roxanne took a sharp turn for the worse, and that calmed Sonya down.

However, she suddenly caught sight of a comment that read: Roxanne left the Farwells on her own accord back then. Who knows? Maybe she left because she had gotten herself pregnant and was worried that she wouldn't be able to explain herself. She's probably back to get her hands on the Farwells' wealth now that her children have grown up.

Sonya's face contorted in anger as she read the comment.

Now that I think about it, Archie and Benny look to be about Estella's age. But who knows? She could have lied about their age. No wonder she left so hastily back then.

Sonya found the thought to be unbearable as she considered the possibility.

No matter what, Roxanne is very suspicious. I won't let her get her way.

Sonya put her phone away, left the mansion, and drove straight to Roxanne's house.

It was noon by the time she arrived at Roxanne's door. However, no one was home.

Sonya got back into her car and checked her phone, only to find that the public was having a heated discussion about Roxanne. Rumors and speculations spread like wildfire.

Some even suspected that Roxanne had known Jack since a long time ago.

The Farwells were starting to get a bad rap because of this speculation.

One comment read: The fact that the Farwells were unaware of Roxanne's infidelity with Mr. Farwell is quite concerning. I wonder how they judge people. I hope the employees of Farwell Group don't act two-faced like her.

Someone asked: What is the last name of Ms. Jarvis' kids? Can someone please tell me?

Sonya almost fainted in anger as she read the comments.

I knew it. The Farwells will surely turn into a laughingstock when I let her marry into the family. Damn it. I can't believe how quickly this has happened. I need to find a way to settle this once and for all.

Sonya parked her car in front of Roxanne's gates and spent a good while there before finally coming up with an idea.

The most important thing for me to do right now is to restore the Farwells' reputation. The relationship my son has with Roxanne right now is the root cause of it all. So if his fiancée is someone other than Roxanne...

Sonya made up her mind and immediately drove to the Pearson residence.

Even though she was dissatisfied with how Aubree had treated Estella, she was the only one who could take Roxanne out of the picture now.

At most, I'll let her be Lucian's fiancée on paper. After all, no one knows about her deeds yet. Having her around won't harm the Farwells' reputation.

Chapter 1338

At the Pearson residence, Samuel had been receiving calls non-stop since morning due to all the online drama and the Farwells' pressure.

They were either calling to report how terrible his subsidiaries were doing or to discuss the termination of contracts with the headquarters.

Things had been tense at the Pearson residence since morning.

Even though Gina was worried about her daughter, she didn't dare call to check in on her with Samuel around.

That afternoon, Samuel remained holed up in his study while Gina sat alone at the kitchen table, unable to summon the appetite for lunch in the midst of such tension and uncertainty.

Nobody touched the food even when it had turned cold.

That was the scene that greeted Sonya when she arrived, and she couldn't help but notice that Aubree's room was located directly opposite the mansion main entrance.

"Mrs. Farwell, what brings you here?"

Gina was instantly reminded of the previous day's ordeal when she caught sight of Sonya. A shiver ran down her spine, causing her to stand up shakily.

Samuel also emerged from his study when he heard the doorbell ring.

As soon as he saw Sonya at the door, Samuel ended his phone call and hurried downstairs to meet her.

"Mrs. Farwell, what brings you here? Aubree has realized she is in the wrong, and we Pearsons have learned our lesson. Please don't make things any more difficult for us..."

Samuel felt embarrassed as he spoke.

Sonya frowned as she looked around the Pearson residence.

She noticed that there were only two simple dishes on the dining table that had not been touched.

Samuel and Gina appeared exhausted and worn out despite it only having been one night since they had last met. They seemed to have aged a decade overnight, with worry and stress etched into their features.

Sonya's heart ached for them, as they had been good friends for many years.

Reminded of Aubree's actions, she sighed. "How could you allow Aubree to do something like that to Essie? The Farwells have never mistreated you, have we?"

Samuel and Gina exchanged looks, sensing that Sonya was starting to soften.

Samuel said in a resigned voice, "We didn't want this to happen either. Aubree was foolish and has learned her lesson. She said she went down the wrong path because she was desperate to marry Lucian."

Gina chimed in, "Aubree has been locking herself in her room since coming home yesterday. We've had a serious talk with her about it and she's learned her lesson now. She will apologize and make things right with Lucian and Essie."

Sonya's heart ached as she witnessed the sincerity and exhaustion etched on the faces of her two friends.

She stared at them as if she was assessing how sincere their apology was.

Samuel and Gina both had their heads lowered. One was red in the face with anger, and the other had red, blotchy eyes caused by crying.

They do look like they have regretted on their actions.

Sonya slowly retracted her gaze and sat down on the couch in the living room.

"Aubree has indeed gotten carried away. Things wouldn't have turned out like this if she had listened to me back then and tried her best to get along with Lucian and Essie," she said regretfully.

Samuel and Gina immediately caught on.

"Mrs. Farwell, we have realized what a huge mistake we have made and have learned our lesson now. Could you try to persuade Mr. Farwell to let things slide?"

Sonya didn't reply to them as she sat with crossed legs on the couch like an elegant lady.

Chapter 1339

Gina and her husband were at a loss for a moment.

They initially thought Sonya came to defuse the tension.

Seeing Sonya putting up an arrogant look left them unsure of what to do.

Gina tested the waters by pleading, "Mrs. Farwell, we will heed your advice and not do stupid things anymore. Please help us!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she noticed Sonya's gaze fall on Samuel, who stood beside her.

Gina immediately caught her drift and cleared her throat to get Samuel's attention.

Clearly, Sonya still thought the Pearson family was of use to her, and she wanted them to pledge their loyalty to her.

Given that Gina lacked authority in the Pearson family, Sonya hinted at Samuel so he could make the first move.

They might have been friends for years, but after all the things the Pearson family had done, Gina knew they were now at Sonya's mercy. Their friendship had become solely based on interests and more transactional.

Of course, Samuel could read Sonya's mind too, but after much pondering, he still could not bear to give up Pearson Group. But if I were to turn her down, I might risk losing the entire Pearson Group, let alone my position of influence in the company!

Samuel had no choice but to grit his teeth and agreed. "In the future, neither the Pearson family nor Pearson Group will go against your wishes. That's my promise to you!"

Only then did Sonya nod in satisfaction and put her crossed legs down.

"Where is Aubree?" She looked up and glanced at the broken door of the bedroom where Aubree was.

Gina let out a nervous laugh. "She had a fight with Samuel in the morning and ran away. I can call her back immediately if you wish to see her!"

She was worried that her daughter might engage in dangerous behavior but did not care to intervene because of Samuel.

Now that Sonya had mentioned it, she had an excuse to bring her daughter back.

There was a hint of displeasure in Sonya's eyes. How could Aubree throw a tantrum and run away when something like this happened? I'm surprised to learn that she's this kind of person.

Samuel and Gina felt something was amiss when they noticed the change in Sonya's expression.

"Forget it!" Sonya withdrew her gaze. "Tell her to stop causing more trouble when she returns later!"

A question stirred in the hearts of Samuel and Gina. Does the fact that Sonya came to look for us mean there's hope for us to continue with the engagement?

Yet, what Sonya uttered next completely shattered their fantasy.

"Though the engagement between the Farwells and Pearsons is off, I will not allow Roxanne to marry into our family since she has tarnished Farwell Group's reputation!" Fury was written all over Sonya's face. "I'll talk to Lucian on your behalf, but if Aubree were to do anything stupid again, she'd better watch her own back!"

Gina and Samuel looked puzzled. Why is she doing all this if she doesn't want us to proceed with the engagement?

Nonetheless, the two dared not ask further as they knew how furious Sonya was. They responded, "We will keep an eye on Aubree and make sure she doesn't do anything stupid again!"

Sonya glanced at them before walking out of the door. I'm glad the Farwell family has this chance to teach the Pearson family a lesson. At least they'll no longer dare to step on our toes!

The flattery on Samuel's face gradually disappeared as he watched Sonya depart. I can't believe I just relinquished the authority of the Pearson family because of my useless daughter!

Chapter 1340

Meanwhile, Roxanne knew nothing about the online controversy.

After breakfast, she took the kids to the beach.

At first, Archie and Benny were a little worried about the changes in public opinion on the internet, but they instantly forgot about it the moment they got into the car.

Roxanne had not taken them on a road trip in a while, so they looked forward to it. They were especially excited that she brought Estella along.

“Mommy, where are we going?” Estella kept calling Roxanne “Mommy” as if she wanted to make up for the years she missed.

While observing the change of scenery outside the car, Archie and Benny could not help but ask curiously, “Mommy, it seems you’re driving out of town. You’re not planning to sell us now that you have Essie, are you?”

Benny acted shocked and pleaded in a tender, babylike voice, “Mommy, please don’t do this to us! We’re good kids, and we’ll help look after our little sister!”

Estella, too, nodded earnestly. “If you insist, sell me along with them as well!” However, not long after making that remark, she tilted her head, looking troubled. “But I love Mommy very much too. Mommy, don’t sell us, please?”

Roxanne’s heart melted as she was charmed by their innocent and endearing words.

“When did I say I was going to sell you? I’m taking all of you to the beach because the weather is lovely.”

It was the same beach she had visited when she first found out she was pregnant.

A few days ago, Lucian had taken her there again. That visit brought back all of Roxanne’s memories of the place.

When she was pregnant, she wanted to bring the little ones to the beach even though they were still in her womb.

As soon as the children heard they were going to the beach, their minds instantly flooded with memories of their last vacation.

Come to think of it, our last vacation was also our first family trip!

The last vacation held a special place in Archie’s and Benny’s hearts.

It became an unforgettable memory after they discovered Estella was their long-lost sister.

“Mommy, are you taking us to the beach we went to last time?” Benny asked.

Roxanne could not help but feel emotional as she recalled their last experience.

After the kindergarten activity ended, they had gone on a hot spring vacation where many things happened.

If it weren't for Sonya and Aubree, Roxanne and Lucian would have been together when they were enjoying themselves at the beach.

"Mommy?" the little ones urged impatiently, waiting for her answer.

Roxanne snapped back to her senses and smiled at the children. "No. This time, we're going to the beach I used to visit."

The little ones' eyes lit up.

Since Archie and Benny were rarely exposed to Roxanne's past while growing up, they were thrilled to learn that she was taking them to her favorite beach.

Roxanne could not help but grin when she looked in the rearview mirror and saw the happiness on their faces.

When she found out she was pregnant years ago, she once stood by the sea and imagined how she would watch her children play on the beach.

However, she quickly dismissed that thought, as she had decided to leave the country for good.

Roxanne had long given up hope of watching her children having fun by the beach.

Little did she know that one day her dream would come true.

Half an hour later, Roxanne's car slowly stopped in the distance from the beach.

As soon as the car stopped, the children got out of the vehicle and ran toward the beach like untamed horses.

Chapter 1341

"Be careful!"

Roxanne's cheeks tinged pink when she thought about the accident she had had the last time she was here.

The three children waved their hands at her without looking back and dashed toward the waves.

Roxanne quickened her pace and kept up with her children.

“Mommy, you’re so pretty!”

Estella grabbed Roxanne’s hand and snuggled up to her. Her little face lit up in awe.

There had been a firework event during their last vacation to the hot spring resort. As a result, the beach was overcrowded with people, and the children didn’t get the chance to experience playing on the beach.

It was quiet all around at that moment, save for the sounds of waves crashing against the beach.

Despite their young age and high energy levels, the children couldn’t help but want to quiet down and relax in the face of the calming waves.

Roxanne patted their heads and said, “There are not many people here, and it’s really quiet. That’s why I come here quite often.” Then she took a glance at the surroundings. Still worried, she held Estella’s hand and said to Archie and Benny, “I’m going to bring you guys to a place.”

The two boys snapped back to their senses and kept up with their mother obediently.

Roxanne took them on a long walk, and the children noticed that there was a lighthouse and a long deck when they arrived.

The majestic blue lighthouse towered over the long, white deck, set against the backdrop of crystal-clear, turquoise waters. The windmill nearby turned slowly and gracefully with the rhythm of the tides, creating a picturesque scene that seemed to belong in a fairy tale.

The kids were in awe.

This is totally different from the beach that we’ve been to!

“Go ahead and enjoy!”

Roxanne was elated to see her children liking the beach.

The three children finally snapped out of their awe at Roxanne’s words.

Estella was the first to scamper toward the sea. “Archie, Benny, come on!”

Archie and Benny followed behind her. “Run, Essie! We’re going to catch you!”

The three of them chased each other on the deck.

Roxanne leaned against the railing, watching her kids play happily. She couldn't help but take out her phone to photograph them.

She had missed out on a lot of Estella's growth.

She had never seen Estella babble as she learned to talk, nor had she ever seen her stumble as she learned to walk.

However, Roxanne was still grateful that she had shown up when Estella needed her the most.

She was grateful that she had reached out to help Estella and had not resisted the little girl's emotional dependence on her.

If Estella's autism had persisted until now, Roxanne would be overwhelmed with feelings of self-blame.

Naturally, Roxanne was more concerned about Estella. Even though the camera was aimed at the three children, Estella was in every single one of the photos that she had taken.

From now on, she vowed to never miss out on a single moment of Estella's life anymore.

Tired from running around, the three children went back to Roxanne when they noticed that she was still standing in the same spot, taking photos of them.

"Mommy, what are you looking at?"

The three of them huddled to her side and clutched a corner of her shirt. They tiptoed to get a glimpse of Roxanne's phone screen.

Roxanne smiled and crouched down to show them the photos that she had taken.

"There are so many photos of Essie!"

Benny puffed his cheeks in mock displeasure. "Mommy, are you favoring Essie now? It's so obvious!"

Roxanne was stumped.

She had only wanted to record their happy moments and didn't notice who she was photographing.

However, after skimming through the photos, she realized that there were indeed a lot of Estella's photos.

Chapter 1342

Roxanne was hit by a pang of guilt. "Sorry, I didn't realize that. I just—"

She had only subconsciously taken more photos of Estella because she was thinking about her.

Benny was only joking. He immediately explained when he saw that Roxanne had taken the joke seriously, "Mommy, I was just kidding! Don't take it to heart..."

Then, the boy planted a kiss on Roxanne's cheek and said sweetly, "We know you love us! We've just reunited with Essie, and we know you want to make it up to her because we've lost so much time with her. That's why you favor her a little. We understand that. Besides, Archie and I will love Essie more too!"

Estella's eyes crinkled into a smile. "I will love Mommy and you guys more too!"

Roxanne felt as if a heavy weight had been lifted off her chest after hearing Benny. However, she still couldn't help feeling guilty.

Truth be told, after being separated from Estella for so long and finally having her back by her side, Roxanne couldn't deceive herself into believing that she could treat all the children equally. She knew that, at least for now, she would favor Estella more.

"Mommy, we're a bit tired. We want to go sit on the beach for a while," Archie said.

He knew Roxanne was still feeling guilty. He thought it was best to give her some alone time to think things through.

Roxanne thought the same.

She wanted to cool off a little and take some time to think about how she should treat her three children. Just when she was considering how to start, Archie's voice rang out.

Roxanne flashed a grateful smile at the considerate boy. "Go on, but you guys can't go too far. Be sure to keep a distance from the sea and wear your watch properly."

Archie nodded and brought his siblings back to the beach.

"It's all my fault. I've made Mommy upset," Benny muttered apologetically. Then, he turned to look at Estella. "What I said earlier was just a joke. I really, really like you!"

Benny was afraid that Estella might take it seriously as well.

Estella hurriedly nodded. She knew Benny was just joking.

After all, Archie and Benny had always taken good care of her ever since they knew her.

Estella was apt at discerning whether someone was being sincere.

Benny heaved a sigh of relief when he saw Estella nodding. Then, he turned to Archie and said in a small voice, "I wish Daddy was here."

He can definitely make Mommy feel better.

With that thought in mind, Benny secretly sent their location to Lucian.

Daddy will come to find us if I send him the location, right? Mommy will feel so much better with Daddy around.

Benny felt better afterward.

"Um, why did Mommy refuse Daddy's proposal?" Estella mumbled.

Despite knowing that she had probably taken Benny's words the wrong way, Estella couldn't help but feel dejected.

I enjoy both Mommy's and Daddy's love, but Archie and Benny receive only Mommy's love. Aren't they receiving less than me, then? If Mommy and Daddy get together, Daddy will surely treat Archie and Benny like his own children.

Benny stole a glance at Archie after hearing Estella.

We can't tell her that Mommy refused Daddy because of Grandma, can we?

It didn't matter if they knew about it or not since they couldn't actually do anything substantial about it.

However, Archie and Benny knew that Estella would definitely confront Sonya if she knew about it.

The boys were afraid that they might accidentally trouble Roxanne again.

Chapter 1343

"Because..." Archie and Benny couldn't just ignore their sister's pleading look.

In the end, Benny made up a reason. "Maybe it's because Mommy wants to test Mr. Farwell further! After all, they didn't seem happy when they separated back then."

Estella furrowed her eyebrows, perplexed. I know I don't know about Daddy and Mommy's matters as much as they do, but I think that's the case based on what Daddy said when he proposed to Mommy. What happened when they initially separated? Why did Mommy abandon me?

When Benny saw that his answer removed the smile on his sister's face after he ruined his mother's mood, he was in full panic mode. "I-It's going to be fine! As long as Mr. Farwell performs well, Mommy will forgive him eventually and accept his proposal!"

Still, Estella remained worried. "But what if Daddy feels he has lost all hope after Mommy rejects him this time? What do we do, then?"

I helped Daddy chase after Mommy, so I know he'll overthink things. He would get angry and stop pursuing Mommy if she had a tiny issue. The more Estella thought about the times when her father got jealous, the more concerned she was. In the past, I would advise Daddy. But now, he doesn't have anyone like that! If I had known this would happen, I would've stayed by his side obediently...

Her words threw Benny's mind into further chaos. "I don't think so?"

Daddy's probably not that fragile! He glanced at his phone watch. I still haven't received any news. Did Daddy really give up? But he taught the bad lady a lesson this morning!

"Why not?" Archie was similarly dumbstruck by Benny's words. "Mr. Farwell's personality is exactly the same as yours, which is to say he always gets very emotional. Who knows what he's thinking right now?"

That instantly shifted Benny's attention. "There's no way I'm similar to Mr. Farwell when I'm so cute and lively! You're the one who resembles Mr. Farwell! You always have that lack of expression on your face, just like him! I resemble Mommy the most!"

Estella was also attracted by her brother's conversation. She uttered innocently, "I should be the one who resembles Mommy the most!" Mommy's a girl, and I'm a girl too! Besides, Mommy is really pretty, so when I grow up, I'll be as pretty as her, too!

Her participation in the conversation stunned the boys for a moment.

"I don't care! I don't want to resemble Mr. Farwell!" Benny turned away and left with a pout.

Am I really that similar to Daddy? Okay, maybe we look a little alike. We're both handsome, after all. However, our personalities are completely different! Daddy's not talkative and he's always expressionless, unlike me, who's lively, cute, smart, and has a sharp tongue! Everyone loves me.

“Don’t you like Mr. Farwell the most—” Archie was going to joke about his brother when he saw the latter walking toward the sea.

“Come back, Benny!” he yelled and promptly chased after him.

Benny was still so deep in his thoughts that he couldn’t hear Archie and kept marching forward. The loud waves didn’t help either.

Chapter 1344

Upon seeing the scene before her, Estella knew she couldn’t help and went to call for her mother instead.

When Roxanne returned to her senses and turned to the sea, she saw the boys approaching the ocean.

She saw Benny frowning while looking as though he had lost his soul.

“Archie! Benny!” Furrowing her eyebrows, she chased after them.

She wouldn’t have panicked if they were in a different place because the boys knew how to swim.

However, she had tripped there two days ago, so she knew there were rocks hiding in the water. She couldn’t help but worry.

Estella followed behind her.

Right then, a huge wave rushed straight toward the boys. Roxanne felt her heart tighten. She increased her pace and grabbed the boys in time.

The three of them were drenched in seawater, but not Estella because she was too far behind.

When Benny snapped back to reality, he lowered his head guiltily to avoid looking at Roxanne.

Roxanne tossed the boys to the beach.

In one smooth motion, Benny sat on the ground and flashed a pleasing smile at his mother.

Those not in the know would think they were just playing around.

Lowering his head, Archie apologized, “I’m sorry for not keeping a close eye on Benny, Mommy.”

Roxanne glanced at the sensible Archie before turning to Benny, who was still putting on a pitiful act. Fury burned in her heart, but she couldn't bring herself to get angry. "Didn't I tell you two to stay away from the sea?" Then she sighed resignedly. "This is just great. I didn't bring any clothes with me." I thought we were just going to stand on the beach deck. Getting drenched certainly wasn't something I expected to happen. If my clothes aren't wet right now, I could've bought them new clothes from nearby shops. Now, I can't even do that.

Just as Roxanne was wondering what to do, Estella called out, "Daddy!"

Roxanne assumed the girl wanted her to ask Lucian for help, so she said, "Daddy still needs to work. He's busy."

Besides, she didn't want him to know she had secretly brought the children to the beach so soon after he brought her there.

"Daddy!" Abruptly, Estella sprinted past her.

Only then did Roxanne realize Lucian had arrived.

The boys raised their heads and stared at the man.

After patting Estella's head, he carried her in his arm, approached Roxanne, and asked resentfully, "Why did you only bring the children here?"

Roxanne couldn't help but feel guilty as she met his eyes. "I thought you were busy working today..." It's also because I need time to calm down after I rejected his proposal last night.

However, he didn't give her a chance to breathe. "As busy as I may be, I still have time to spend with you all." Then he examined her and the boys because they were wet before speaking meaningfully. "Besides, I can't help but worry when you bring the children to the beach."

Roxanne blushed as she recalled the kiss they had after she fell that day.

"Mommy's very good at swimming!" Benny defended. She even went diving when we went on vacation last time!

Just as he ended his sentence, he heard his father chuckle for no apparent reason.

Meanwhile, Roxanne's face was getting even redder.

When the children saw how their parents were acting, they knew for sure something had happened and that it very likely involved their father bullying their mother.

Chapter 1345

"Daddy, why are you here?" Estella glanced at her father curiously.

We were talking about Daddy a few moments earlier, and I'm surprised to see him arrive so quickly. I thought he was angry.

Her words served as a reminder to Roxanne.

Suppressing her embarrassment, she gave Archie and Benny a stern, questioning look, as if to inquire which one of them had sent Lucian a text message.

It couldn't be Essie, so it must be either of the boys!

"It wasn't us!" Benny felt a chill go down his spine and immediately drew on his inborn acting skills to put on an innocent look. "If you don't believe us, ask Mr. Farwell!"

With that, he turned to look at Lucian.

Lucian met his eyes and nodded readily. "I came here by myself."

Roxanne frowned, her eyes filled with suspicion.

It's worrying to consider what might happen once they discover their familial connection, given that they're already helping each other without any knowledge of their relationship.

Knowing Roxanne was suspecting him, Benny shot her an innocent smile and changed the topic. "Mommy, I'm freezing!"

Roxanne couldn't bring herself to yell at them, so she turned to look at Lucian.

He was the only one who could head out to buy some clothes for the kids.

Before she could state her request, Lucian broke the silence. "I have some clothes in the car that you can change into. You can change your clothes in the car."

Roxanne grew suspicious again.

How could it be so coincidental?

As though he had seen through her, Lucian arched a brow and added, "Don't forget that I brought you here first after you returned to the country. For the past six years, this was my territory. Is there something wrong with me coming to my territory?"

Roxanne was rendered speechless.

Since he had spelled things out so clearly, Roxanne knew she couldn't probe further as she did not want to come across as overly calculative.

"Perhaps this is fate," Lucian remarked with a smile. He then pushed Archie's and Benny's shoulders gently. "Come, let's go change your clothes."

The boys nodded obediently and padded to his car with him.

"Mr. Farwell, why are you here?" Benny asked in surprise as he changed his clothes.

They were thoroughly soaked, and it was quite troublesome for them to switch out of their wet garments into something dry and comfortable.

Lucian only remembered to bring them a change of clothes but forgot to buy some towels to dry them off.

He glanced around in his car and retrieved his suit jacket placed in the backseat to wipe the boys dry.

The material was expensive and bad at absorbing water, but it was better than nothing.

Lucian was amused to hear Benny's question. "You were the one who sent me your location, no?"

Benny flashed a guilty smile. "You didn't answer me, so I thought..."

I thought he's mad at Mommy!

Lucian could guess his mind. "You thought I'm mad at your mommy because she rejected me?"

Benny chuckled sheepishly.

Archie, however, remained unfazed. "Are you upset?"

Lucian had no idea he'd be this straightforward. It took him a few seconds before he regained his composure to reply, "No. Our past was marred by a misunderstanding that was entirely my fault. All I want now is to try to win her heart back, nothing more." A gentle smile nudged his lips as he gazed at the boys. "You'll help me, right?"

Benny bobbed his head eagerly. He then proceeded to explain why Roxanne was in a foul mood earlier.

"It was my fault for making her angry," he admitted.

Lucien finally understood why Benny had summoned him. He was pleased to be of help.

"All right, I'll handle this, so don't worry. I'll make sure to cheer her up."

Chapter 1346

Roxenne and Estelle waited at the beech for some time before Lucien and the boys climbed out of the car.

The sight of the boys wearing rainbow-colored T-shirts surprised Roxenne to no end.

Lucien preferred wearing plain-colored clothes, so she had assumed he'd buy monochrome clothes without any pattern for the boys.

She had no idea he'd buy them such vibrant-looking clothes.

I wonder when he bought these clothes. They seem to fit the boys well.

"When did you buy the clothes?" Roxenne asked when they came over to join her.

Recalling Benny's earlier comment that she was in a foul mood, Lucien regarded her silently for a moment before responding, "I actually bought them on my way here. I've been planning to bring you here one day, and I thought it best to be prepared, and it seems I made the right choice as they came in handy."

His words merely served to fuel Roxenne's suspicion.

Never mind if Lucien showed up suddenly. I can't believe he even prepared clothes for them.

She looked down and observed Archie's and Benny's reactions.

The boys were grinning broadly. "Mommy, Mr. Ferwell bought clothes for you as well. You should go get changed!"

When they were changing their clothes, they suddenly noticed a stunning dress tucked away in the rear of the car. They were certain that Lucien had purchased it as a surprise for Roxenne.

Roxenne was stunned to hear that.

Did he buy clothes for me as well?

She gave Lucien a questioning look.

Lucien appeared to be a bit dismayed, as the boys had ruined his surprise, but he still gave a brief nod. "Go get changed. You don't want to catch a cold."

Roxenne remained hesitant.

Lucien arched his brow teasingly. "Don't worry. I won't peek at you. You can take your time while I bring the kids to play over there."

Without waiting for her reply, he gathered the kids and led them away.

The kids wanted Roxenne to get changed as soon as possible, so they followed him obediently.

Roxenne hesitated as she stared at their backs. A few seconds later, she made up her mind and walked to the car.

As Benny said, there was an ocean blue spaghetti strap dress at the rear of the car. The bodice of the dress was slightly ruffled, and the waist was snugly cinched.

After giving birth to Archie and Benny, she rarely had the chance to wear such a casual outfit.

However, she had to admit that the dress was her style.

Six years ago, when she was still married to Lucien, she would often come to the beach clad in similar dresses.

I can't believe Lucien knows the style I like. It looks like he has put in some effort to get to know me.

Under his careful and considerate attention, Roxenne felt her heart beginning to mend from the anguish of their divorce.

She retrieved the dress and was about to remove her own clothes when she belatedly remembered that her underwear was drenched, too.

She glanced at the expensive dress in her hands.

If the dress comes into contact with water, it will be irreparably ruined.

Right then, her phone, which she placed on the seat, lit up.

Roxenne glanced at it and realized it was a text from Lucien.

It read: There's underwear in the box in the trunk. I bought the same brand you used to buy, but I'm not sure if you'll like it.

Roxenne's cheeks turned pink after she read the text.

Did Lucien seriously buy me underwear? Am I dreaming?

Roxenne had never imagined that Lucien would do such a thing for her six years ago, let alone after he proposed to her.

Roxanne and Estella waited at the beach for some time before Lucian and the boys climbed out of the car.

The sight of the boys wearing rainbow-colored T-shirts surprised Roxanne to no end.

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Chapter 1347

Roxanne sprawled on the backseat and poked her head into the trunk.

There was an exquisite black box right in the middle of the trunk which belonged to the underwear brand she used to wear.

This brand was only available locally and sold in offline stores, so Roxanne couldn't buy it when she was overseas.

After her return, she didn't have time to head to the store in person to buy new underwear.

She couldn't help but grow curious when she imagined Lucian shopping in the store with his expressionless face.

I can barely imagine it!

Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief when she saw the box in the trunk.

Fortunately, he didn't put the box in the backseat. If the boys were to see the box, I couldn't imagine how he'd explain it to them.

Roxanne couldn't face the boys if Lucian were to tell them the contents of the box directly.

She hesitated briefly before retrieving the box.

Despite feeling shy, she had to wear it, as Lucian had paid for it, and she didn't want to stain the new dress.

Roxanne's cheeks turned crimson when she tried on the new bra.

She attempted to hook the bra from the first row to the last row, but it was a struggle. Even when she finally succeeded, the bra still felt too tight.

Never in Roxanne's wildest dreams did she expect Lucian to buy the same brand of underwear she had liked six years ago and the same size she had worn back then at that.

After she gave birth, her bosom had increased in size, making her barely able to fit into her old size.

Alas, she had no choice but to make do with it.

Roxanne hastily put on the dress and folded the clothes she and the kids had changed out of. After the embarrassment in her heart faded away, she opened the car door and hopped out.

“Mommy, you’re so pretty!”

The kids were splashing around in the sea under Lucian’s supervision.

Their eyes lit up when they saw Roxanne clad in the dress.

Roxanne’s skin was as pale as milk, but the ocean-blue dress accentuated her complexion and made her radiate.

Her long hair flowed down her back like a cascade of silk. The ocean breeze blew, causing her dress and hair to sway in the air.

Roxanne’s gentle smile was complemented by the way the dress hugged her curves.

Lucian’s gaze turned dark as he regarded her silently.

I can’t believe she looks seductive in this dress! Six years ago, she often came to the beach dressed like this. Many people must’ve seen her, but I only noticed how gorgeous she looks today!

“Mr. Farwell!” Wanting to make up for his mistake, Benny decided to create an opportunity for them. “You picked a suitable dress for Mommy!”

Lucian snapped back to his senses and shot Benny a half-smile. His gaze was still fixed on Roxanne.

Benny’s words reignited the embarrassment that Roxanne had tried hard to suppress earlier.

Sensing Lucian’s gaze on her, Roxanne blinked twice and averted her gaze shyly. “Thanks. This dress must be expensive. How much is it? I’ll transfer the money to you later,” she said softly.

Instead of answering her question, Lucian asked, “Do you like it?”

Roxanne sighed. “It’s been a while since I last wore a dress.”

She stretched out her hand, trying to comb her hair, which had been ruffled by the cold breeze, and slowly turned her head to look at the sea. She felt as if she had traveled back in time to six years ago.

However, she wasn't alone now, as Lucian and the kids were with her.

Chapter 1348

Lucian watched as she gazed at the sea silently. His eyes grew dark as guilt rose in his heart.

She must've stood here alone six years ago. What could she be thinking of? Was she blaming me?

He slowly approached her, his eyes revealing the guilt and affection that had been building up inside of him for the past six years.

Roxanne turned over her shoulder to realize that there was someone standing beside her. She was suddenly transported back in time, and the man's presence filled the void that had been left in her life.

"A penny for your thoughts." Lucian suddenly spoke when he noticed the change in her expression.

Roxanne snapped out of her reverie and flashed a nonchalant smile. "It's nothing. The ocean looks somewhat different today, that's all."

That would explain why she felt different when she had been here before.

Lucian looked at her silently before suddenly reaching out to pull her into his arms.

Behind him, the children were taken aback.

They quickly recalled how they had interrupted the adults' hug previously and promptly covered their eyes with their hands, but their lips curled into smiles nonetheless.

Benny couldn't stop himself from peeking through the gaps of his fingers.

He saw Roxanne regaining her composure several seconds later and tried to push Lucian away. "The kids are here. Stop it."

Lucian buried his head in the nape of her neck and mumbled, "They won't peek."

Roxanne furrowed her brows at his answer. She was about to protest when the kids' adorable voices rang out.

“Mommy, we didn’t see anything!”

She slowly scanned the row of children and saw that they had all covered their eyes with their hands. They were standing still with huge smiles on their faces.

They couldn’t see anything now but had seen everything a while ago.

“They didn’t see a thing,” Lucian assured her, feigning nonchalance and tightening his grip around her waist.

With no other choice, Roxanne relaxed and allowed him to hug her. “What is it? Hurry, spill. The children are still waiting for us.”

Lucian was overwhelmed with a mix of emotions.

He had no idea why he had reached out to hug her earlier.

Perhaps it was because he felt guilty, or perhaps he just couldn’t help himself.

After a long moment of silence, Lucian said in a hoarse voice, “Can you promise me you’ll only wear this kind of dress for me?”

Lucian couldn’t help but feel captivated by Roxanne’s alluring appearance in the ocean-blue dress. He couldn’t shake off the guilt he felt for what happened six years ago and wanted to make it up to her in any way he could.

Roxanne was moved as she naturally understood the underlying meaning of his words.

However, she could barely believe her ears.

“I’ll keep you company when you want to come to the beach. You won’t be alone anymore.”

Lucian’s huge palm brushed across her waist.

Roxanne felt a tickling sensation and immediately jolted back to her senses. Finally, she dared to believe that it was true.

Her hands balled into fists as she gave a conflicted nod.

Having received her answer, Lucian loosened his grip on her waist.

Roxanne thought he was finally going to let her go, but she had no idea he’d lean down to give her a kiss.

Seeing that, Roxanne quickly glanced at the kids and avoided Lucian's kiss without hesitation.

Lucian seemed displeased that he didn't manage to kiss her.

Roxanne cleared her throat awkwardly. "All right, since you're here, let's have fun together with the kids at the beach."

Chapter 1349

Lucian could tell Roxanne only had the children's best interests at heart, so he did not force her. "Let's go."

The children lowered their arms slowly upon hearing his voice and studied Roxanne with surreptitious smiles.

Although they had covered their eyes earlier, their ears had remained open, and they had heard it all.

Mommy promised to wear a dress like this only for Daddy. Does that mean Mommy has him in her heart? No, Mommy has always been thinking of Daddy. She was only forced to reject his proposal because of Grandma.

Archie's and Benny's smiles faded a little when they thought of that.

A second later, they were swept off their feet into their father's embrace.

The boys froze in surprise before catching sight of the ocean in the distance, and their faces lit up once more.

With Roxanne leading Estella by the hand, the five of them sauntered along the beach.

Tired of being carried too long, the boys became so restless and bored that they struggled to free themselves from Lucian's arms.

Accommodating their wishes, Lucian placed them on the beach, and the children chased each other into the distance.

Feeling a little worried, Roxanne strode after them.

Lucian jogged along, but at the thought of something, he slowed to a stroll in their wake.

A twinkle appeared in Lucian's eyes as he watched Roxanne play with the children. He fished out his phone and took some photos of them.

Remembering how much she enjoyed taking pictures of the children the last time they went on vacation, he felt a responsibility to document the children's growth.

Although she had never mentioned it, Lucian knew she would love to be in the children's lives.

However, there was never anybody else to take her place behind the camera, which resulted in her absence in the photographs.

Roxanne had barely spent any time with the children before she excused herself.

As much as she wanted to continue playing with them, the activity caused her to bend over, drawing her already uncomfortable undergarments tighter around her skin.

She was worried that the delicates would wear themselves out if she kept going.

Blushing profusely, she removed herself from the children's company with a shifty smile and said, "I'm a little tired. You guys play among yourselves."

To her relief, the children did not ask any questions.

They wanted their parents to spend some alone time together.

"What's wrong? Are you unwell?"

Lucian put aside his phone at her approach, alarmed by her peculiar expression.

His gaze did not so much as leave her figure when he was taking photographs earlier, and he noticed she would make an odd gesture now and then. After bending over, she would straighten up almost instinctively. It happened enough times to rouse his suspicion.

I wonder if she's feeling unwell.

Roxanne's cheeks turned even redder. "I'm fine..."

I can't tell Lucian he bought me undersized underwear!

Just the thought of it made Roxanne grimace with embarrassment.

Frowning with worry, Lucian touched her forehead under the assumption of her being feverish but did not detect anything unusual.

"You're not having a fever. What could it be?"

Roxanne bit her lip, too embarrassed to speak.

Lucian was really worried. "Let's call it a day. We'll stop by the hospital for a check-up."

Chapter 1350

At those words, Roxanne looked at the children in the distance who were having the time of their lives.

I wonder if it's the feeling of security Lucian brings that makes the children appear much happier than they used to be.

She could not bear to spoil their mood, seeing as the children did not have many outings.

Roxanne steeled herself to reject Lucian's suggestion. "I'm not unwell. My clothes just aren't the best fit to get physical in."

Lucian merely fixed her with a penetrating gaze. "Where? Are they too loose?"

Seizing the opportunity, Roxanne nodded.

His voice, carrying hints of displeasure, sounded a moment later. "It shouldn't preclude you from playing with the children if it is loose fitting. I felt it when I hugged you earlier, and it fits you just fine."

Roxanne's cheeks grew redder than ever. She glared helplessly up at him.

My words could not be clearer, yet he still doubts me. Does he want me to spell it out?

Noticing the fury in the woman's gaze, Lucian gave her an inscrutable smile and leaned in close to her.

Before she could retreat, he was already in front of her. "Did I buy the undergarments in the wrong size?" he asked softly, sweeping his gaze over her bust.

Instinctively, Roxanne covered them with her hands.

His low chuckle sounded again.

"I bought this according to an order you placed six years ago, but I'd forgotten you bore children. My mistake."

Roxanne felt her ears scorch. She turned her head silently away from his hot breath at her ear.

Lucian's voice still found its mark. "I can't take all the blame. After all, you never gave me a chance to take the measurements. I would remember it after measuring it once, and I won't buy the wrong size again."

Roxanne was outraged by his shameless words.

After six years apart, he has become more shameless. This isn't the Lucian I know.

Her heartbeat quickened in her consternation. She was so nervous that she dared not examine Lucian's expression.

To her relief, he did not press her.

Seeing her panic, he averted his gaze with a laugh and reached for his phone from his pocket. "Since you're restricted from running around, do you want to take a look at the pictures I took?"

Like a startled rabbit, Roxanne was looking around for a place to hide in embarrassment. As a result, she did not hear what he said.

Lucian frowned slightly but remained patient with her. "The kids enjoy having you around."

The resolve in Roxanne's gaze wavered at the mention of the children.

"Essie looks like you when she smiles. Here."

Lucian scrolled through the photographs, making brief remarks about each while observing Roxanne's expression.

At every mention of the children, her gaze would shift over slightly.

"Let me see."

At last, Roxanne gave in to the temptation of seeing the photograph where Estella's smile resembled hers and leaned closer to Lucian.

Basking in the satisfaction of gaining her trust, Lucian did not complicate matters for her any further and placed the phone in her hand.

Roxanne took it eagerly, fixing her eyes on the group photo with the children, and she felt a surge of gratitude.

Chapter 1351

It was her first photograph with the three children.

More importantly, it was after learning that Estella was the baby whom she had thought died prematurely.

"Thank you," she said gratefully.

Looking at her trembling hands, Lucian pulled her into his arms. "If you want to thank me, then reconsider my proposal. I was lying to you. I can't wait much longer. Six years is long enough. I don't want to keep waiting."

Roxanne lowered her head without answering. Her eyes brimmed with guilt.

Having detected something in her silence, Lucian released her with a sigh and gave her a kind smile. "It's all right. I can wait a little longer. Besides, I'm sure you wouldn't bear to keep me waiting too long."

Roxanne looked away, not knowing what to say.

Meanwhile, having tired themselves out, the children came running over to the adults.

"Mommy, what were you looking at earlier?"

Benny could tell that something was wrong between their parents, so he hurriedly tried to change the subject. Clutching Roxanne's arm, he asked to see the phone in her hand.

Heaving a sigh of relief, she crouched beside him to show him the photographs.

Initially only intending to help his father out of the predicament, Benny was pleasantly surprised to learn how nice the photographs his father had taken looked and was momentarily mesmerized.

"Wow, Mommy! You and Essie look so much alike when you smile!" He found the photograph of his mother and sister smiling. "We've never noticed this!"

Having also just seen that photograph, Roxanne felt emotional.

Estella leaned closer curiously to Benny and gazed at the photograph.

A moment later, she arrived at a verdict. "Mommy is pretty!"

Benny's cheeks puffed with pride. "Of course. Mr. Farwell took it! He has never taken a bad picture of Mommy!" He then turned around and pretended to comfort his sister. "You are still young. When you grow up, you will be as pretty as Mommy!"

Estella turned to Roxanne beside her at those words. At the thought of how beautiful she would be in a few years, she smiled so broadly that her eyes turned to slits.

Roxanne caressed the children's heads as she said to Lucian, "The children must be hungry. Let's call it a day and find someplace to eat."

Then, she turned and sought the children's opinion.

Starving, the children nodded eagerly at the question.

Lucian announced promptly, "I've booked a restaurant. Let's go."

The family got into the car.

The three children squeezed behind while Roxanne sat in the passenger seat.

"What is this?"

The children noticed the box which contained the undergarments and gazed curiously at the adults.

With a jolt, Roxanne remembered that she had forgotten to put the box back after changing her underwear.

Confronted by the children's questions, she was at a nervous loss for words.

"It's a box for clothes. Toss it into the trunk for me, will you?" Lucian's nonchalant voice sounded beside her.

The children obliged and tossed the box to the trunk.

Roxanne heaved a massive sigh of relief. She gazed up at the man beside her with the intention of thanking him.

Instead, she met his mischievous gaze.

Roxanne froze when their eyes met and flushed crimson.

"Thank you," she mumbled her gratitude and turned away, trying hard to calm her pounding heart.

Chapter 1352

As the restaurant in which Lucian had made reservations was not far from the beach, it took less than twenty minutes for the family to arrive.

Roxanne helped the children out of the car, and Lucian went off in search of a parking spot.

“Is that Roxanne? I can’t believe she dares to show herself.”

An unfamiliar voice rang out.

Roxanne turned in the direction of the remark in confusion.

Two figures who had emerged from the restaurant were openly pointing and casting strange looks at the three children beside her.

“Those two are her kids, aren’t they? And the little girl beside them is the heiress of the Farwell family?”

The pair gossiped as they walked, pretending she did not exist. “How trusting of Mr. Farwell to leave his kid in her care.”

Roxanne heard their words clearly, and a strange sense of unease surfaced within her.

For some reason, she noticed how everybody they passed by was giving them the same strange look.

Hearing those words as well, Archie and Benny noticed the manner in which the strangers looked at them.

Turning to his brother in a panic, Benny feared that the rumor mill on the internet was causing them trouble again.

Otherwise, why would these people look at us like that?

Archie’s expression grew taut, like a wary little fox. With several noiseless steps forward, he stood before Roxanne.

Upon his arrival, Lucian noticed the hostile and wary looks on the four of them.

“What’s going on?” he asked with a frown.

Roxanne became inexplicably calm at his arrival and shook her head. “Nothing. Let’s head inside.”

I am likely overthinking. After all, these people don’t know me. There’s no reason for them to hate me.

The pair led the children into the restaurant.

Perhaps because of Lucian’s presence, the ones who had given them strange looks earlier averted their gazes.

Roxanne heaved a secret sigh of relief.

To divert his attention, she brought up the problem with Estella's accommodations.

"Can Essie stay with me for another two days?"

Estella turned her large, unblinking eyes to her father. "I would like to stay with Mommy, Daddy!"

Lucian caressed the child's head. "Sure, but you must listen to Mommy and not give her any trouble."

Estella nodded obediently in response, beaming.

Roxanne put on a disapproving face. "It's not the same as it used to be. Essie is my daughter. She can never trouble me."

Besides, I have never seen the child as being troublesome.

Aware of the error in his words, he gave an apologetic smile. "My mistake."

Initially only intending to make one grumbling remark, Roxanne became surprised at the speed with which he admitted his mistake and instinctively laughed alongside him.

His eyes, however, darkened.

From the moment they sat down, Lucian had sensed the other patrons occasionally looking at them with what seemed to him to be disgust in their eyes.

Whipping around suddenly, he caught the neighboring patrons before they could retract their gazes.

The other customer shuddered when their eyes met, but it was too late to look away.

"What are you looking at?"

Scowling, Lucian rose to stand before the man at the neighboring table, who waved his hand guiltily. "Nothing! I wasn't looking at anything. I know nothing!"

Chapter 1353

Lucian narrowed his eyes dangerously as he scanned the inside of the restaurant.

When the others saw Lucian had gone looking for the man to settle the scores, they retracted their gazes guiltily.

Meanwhile, the man was so scared he did not dare breathe loudly in front of Lucian.

Truth was, the man had no ill intentions.

He had only read the discussion on the internet and gotten curious about their relationship.

In fact, when the man saw Roxanne bringing along two sons of unknown origins, he figured Lucian would have some grudge against her.

To the man's astonishment, Lucian seemed to be truly in love with Roxanne.

Moreover, Roxanne did not look like a crafty person as described in the rumors.

Lucian suddenly thought of something and warned the man, "I don't care what you think, but you'd better keep your eyes to yourself and not interrupt our meal." After that, he instructed the waiter to move them to a different private room.

"What happened?"

Uneasiness swirled within Roxanne's heart.

Flashing an assuring smile, Lucian said, "Nothing. Carry on with your meal. I need to make a call."

With that, he exited the private room and called Cayden.

The call was connected instantly. "Mr. Farwell."

Lucian's expression was stern, and he exuded a gloomy aura. "How's the public opinion on the internet now?"

Cayden sounded rather guilty. "The public opinion is one-sided, and they're not in Mrs. Farwell's favor. I've already assigned someone to handle it and trace the source."

The situation had stabilized earlier, but for some unknown reason, negative comments began to appear.

Cayden had dealt with it in a panic. He did not dare to call Lucian, for he knew the latter was with Roxanne.

However, he never expected Lucian to make the call instead.

Lucian's expression grew darker. "How long has it been? Why didn't you tell me about it sooner?"

Cayden lowered his head, not daring to answer.

In the meantime, Roxanne, too, received a call from Linda in the private room.

Linda had originally been abroad, but ever since something happened to Colby, Roxanne had told her to return because she feared she could not handle all the work on her own.

They had been keeping in touch recently because of the research institute.

Seeing Linda calling her out of the blue, Roxanne naturally thought it was related to the research institute, so she answered it without hesitation.

“Dr. Jarvis, have you offended anyone?”

Linda’s words puzzled Roxanne. “Did something happen?”

Linda briefly recounted the discussion on the internet and summarized by saying, “I think they’re targeting you on purpose. Someone’s slandering you behind your back.”

Roxanne’s eyes dimmed when she learned about what the internet was saying about her.

She could roughly guess who the person behind all of it was.

Apart from Aubree, no one would call Roxanne a homewrecker.

Linda continued, “At first, I thought I shouldn’t get involved since this is your private matter, but this is affecting the research institute’s reputation. We know it’s someone slandering you, but the others don’t. Many collaborators have requested to cancel the contract because of this. They’re afraid your reputation might collapse and affect them.”

Roxanne felt her heart sink when she heard that. “I got it. Indeed, this one’s caused by my private matters. Negotiate with them about the cancellation of the contract. I’ll do my best to deal with the matters on my end.”

Linda hummed in agreement.

Chapter 1354

By the time Lucian hung up and returned to the private room, he saw Roxanne lowering her head and reading something on her phone.

The scowl on her face made him frown. He figured she was reading the contents of the discussion.

"You know about it already?" Lucian asked as he walked over to sit beside her.

Roxanne did not look up. She kept her eyes fixed on the post that was constantly updating with insulting comments targeted at her.

There were also comments that speculated the background of Archie and Benny.

Roxanne could bear the insults hurled at her. However, she could not help but feel bad when her children were dragged into the mess as well.

"Mommy, what's wrong?"

Estella was oblivious to the discussions online. She inched over to show her concern.

It was then that Roxanne snapped back to her senses. Putting away her phone hastily, she flashed Estella a smile as if nothing happened. "It's nothing. Eat up."

With that, she cast Archie and Benny an apologetic glance.

The boys had guessed there were changes to the discussions on the internet.

They surmised the reason Roxanne was giving them that look was that they had been dragged into the discussion as well.

Not wanting to make Roxanne worry, they feigned ignorance and smiled meekly.

At the same time, Benny secretly clenched his fists.

That evil woman must've done something again. I'll teach her a lesson once I get back to my laptop.

"I'm sorry. It's my fault for not dealing with it properly." Lucian gazed into the woman's eyes with worry.

Before entering the private room, he had read the discussions online, which were filled with insulting and degrading comments toward Roxanne.

Immediately, he knew she would be upset if she read them.

Glancing at the children, Roxanne whispered to Lucian, "Let's talk after the meal."

She did not want the children to learn of the matter.

Understanding her intention, Lucian nodded with a heavy heart and said nothing else.

Thankfully, they had a peaceful meal after changing private rooms.

Archie and Benny were worried about the discussion that they lost the mood to fool around. They simply ate their food in silence.

The meal was a gloomy one.

Once they finished the food, Lucian drove them straight to Roxanne's house.

Roxanne stayed downstairs with Lucian after telling the children to go upstairs first.

"I'm sorry I didn't deal with this properly. I didn't expect Aubree to pull such a move after that lesson."

Lucian's heart was filled with fury.

He hated himself for not dealing with Aubree using his methods.

Lowering her head, Roxanne uttered, "I'm not bothered about what they're saying about me. This isn't the first time, anyway. I just hope that Archie and Benny won't get dragged into this mess. They have nothing to do with this."

Lucian felt a twinge in his heart. "I know. I'll settle this as quickly as possible."

When he finished his sentence, he gave her a conflicted look and asked cautiously, "It's been so long. Can you tell me who Archie and Benny's father is already?"

Every time he pictured Roxanne with another man, he could not help but feel mad, not to mention she had children with another man.

Regardless, all he wanted at that moment was to keep her by his side.

No matter how much he cared about the past, he had no choice but to feign indifference.

After all, the boys shared Roxanne's blood, too.

Lucian would still treat Archie and Benny as if they were his own.

Still, he could not help but feel curious about their father's identity.

Chapter 1355

Panic spread over Roxanne's face when she heard the question.

Archie and Benny's father was right in front of her, yet she did not know how to answer him.

Lucian understood her intention when there was no answer from her after a long time. "It's okay if you don't want to tell me. I'll look into it myself. I'll find out, eventually."

"Don't." Roxanne frowned.

Lucian's expression darkened.

I can't even look into him? Just who is this man?

Roxanne kept her head low as a myriad of emotions swam in her eyes. "I'll tell you when the time comes. Just don't look into it."

I should be the one to tell him about the boys' identities.

She did not dare to imagine what Lucian's reaction would be if she let him dig into it.

Lucian fell silent for a long time. Seeing how anxious she looked, he agreed, "Okay. I'll wait for you to tell me."

He had prepared himself for the worst, thinking maybe Roxanne had been taken advantage of in the past.

He believed in her feelings for him six years ago and that she would not lose them so soon.

She might've been forced to bear those boys...

The thought of it flooded his heart with more remorse.

Oblivious to his thoughts, Roxanne could only flash him a grateful smile.

Lucian could not bear to see her feeling so worried. He got up and said, "Take good care of the children. I'll settle the discussion on the internet. Don't worry."

I couldn't protect her for the past six years. Now that we're finally together, I won't let anyone harm her again.

With that, he spun on his heel and left.

After watching him leave, Roxanne made her way upstairs.

The children were hanging out in Archie and Benny's bedroom.

Ignored by the boys, Estella played with the toys on the side.

Archie and Benny huddled together in front of the computer, reading the discussion that had changed its direction.

“Mommy’s not like that! It must be that evil woman’s doing. I’m going to teach her a lesson.” Benny balled his fists furiously.

He placed the laptop on his thighs. He was about to begin his counterattack when suddenly a knock sounded on the door.

The boys exchanged glances. Immediately, they shut the laptop and opened the door with a smile.

Standing at the door, Roxanne asked, “There’s something wrong with the laptop in the study. Can I borrow yours for a while?”

The children were getting smarter. They would notice the uproar on the internet as long as they used the laptop.

Roxanne did not wish for them to be involved, so the only solution she could think of was to confiscate their laptop for the time being.

Naturally, the boys guessed her true intention and were reluctant to give her the device.

We haven’t even taught that evil woman a lesson for bullying Mommy!

However, as soon as they recalled Lucian’s promise at the restaurant, they felt a wave of relief.

Daddy won’t let that evil woman off.

At that thought, the children finally gave in.

“Okay. I was browsing the stock market just now, though. Give me a moment, Mommy,” said Archie nonchalantly. He then returned to open the laptop and cleared the browsing history before handing it to Roxanne.

Roxanne secretly sighed with relief upon receiving the laptop. “I’ll get busy, then. Take care of Essie, okay?”

The boys nodded obediently.

When they saw Roxanne entering the study with the laptop, their faces promptly fell.

Hopefully Daddy can help us teach that evil woman a lesson.

Chapter 1356

Aubree's joy did not last long, for the tables had turned that evening.

Farwell Group made an announcement again, clearly stating the reason for the annulment of the engagement between the Farwell and the Pearson family. At the same time, it also contained a warning for the people who contributed to the discussions on the internet.

One specific line in the announcement caused an uproar on the internet. It read: The Farwell and the Pearson family have annulled their engagement due to Aubree's personality that is unfit for the role of Mr. Lucian Farwell's wife.

Someone wrote: The Farwell family must've toned down their words. They're a big family, after all. I bet Aubree has done something disgusting behind their backs. Farwell Group is already sparing her dignity by saying it's a personality problem.

Another wrote: So, who's the problem now? Aubree or Roxanne?

Someone replied: Do you still need to ask that? Didn't Farwell Group explain everything clearly in the announcement? It's Aubree, of course! Who knows? She might even be the one who orchestrated the entire discussion on the internet.

Suddenly, the netizens began discussing among themselves.

Although the public was still curious about Archie's and Benny's identity, no one dared to bring it up after reading Farwell Group's warning.

Roxanne secretly breathed a sigh of relief when she saw things had finally calmed on the internet. Even though Lucian had promised her he would settle that matter, she did not think it would be done so quickly.

Moreover, Lucian had filed lawsuits in the name of Farwell Group against those who slandered her.

That was basically announcing their relationship to the public.

A peculiar feeling arose within Roxanne when she thought about that.

Since the matter had already been resolved, there was no reason for her to keep the boys' laptop, so she returned it to them.

After they got their laptop back, the first thing the children did was check the discussion on the internet.

Thanks to Lucian's warning, the disrespectful posts toward Roxanne had been completely removed from the internet.

Farwell Group's latest announcement was at the top of the trending list. Everyone who clicked on it could see the announcement.

Naturally, the boys discovered it as well.

First, the children noticed Lucian had indirectly called Aubree out for having a poor personality, which made them applaud him.

As expected, this has to be handled by Daddy. The effects wouldn't be the same if we took care of it.

Next, they learned that Lucian was gathering evidence and filing lawsuits against those involved in the discussions.

Upon reading that, they naturally took up the responsibility to help collect evidence.

In less than half an hour, the children compiled all the evidence in a compressed folder and sent it to Farwell Group anonymously.

They would not let those netizens who insulted Roxanne off the hook.

One of the most crucial pieces of evidence in the compressed folder was the proof of Aubree transferring money to a media company.

It was only fifty million. The remaining balance of ten million had yet to be transferred.

Meanwhile, Cayden reported to Lucian the moment he received the compressed folder.

The evidence of Aubree bribing the media company made Lucian's blood boil.

In fact, he had guessed the same thing and had assigned someone to look into it.

Never did he expect someone to find the evidence faster than them.

Taking in Lucian's infuriated look, Cayden prompted carefully, "Mr. Farwell..."

"Since this company loves money so much that they'd go against Farwell Group for it, we'll make them pay with all the money they earned," Lucian said coldly.

Cayden nodded grimly.

Of course, he knew Lucian was not just referring to the five million Aubree transferred. It also included every cent the company had earned ever since its establishment.

How dare they bully Mrs. Farwell! That company won't be able to survive in the industry anymore!

Chapter 1357

Just as Cayden was about to leave to execute his orders, Lucian's voice rang out behind him again.

"Where did the compressed folder come from?"

Lucian eyed the computer screen.

Everything in the folder was more detailed than the evidence gathered by Farwell Group's technicians.

It even contained the personal information of the users who made the worst insults.

If Farwell Group were to file lawsuits, every single one of them would surely have to face punishment by the law.

Lucian's curiosity was amplified when he recalled the same person had taken action twice.

Whether the anonymous person was simply targeting Aubree or doing it to protect Roxanne, Lucian had no clue.

If it were the latter, then he had to find the person.

Cayden looked conflicted when he heard Lucian's question. "The technician's still looking into it."

This person must be the same one who posted the discussion this morning.

Alas, he did not know who that person was.

Farwell Group's technicians were among the best in the country. The supervisor of the department, especially, ranked third on the list of hackers.

Still, he could not find the identity of the anonymous person.

While Cayden was feeling curious about the anonymous person's identity, he felt nervous for Lucian too.

After all, Roxanne had disappeared for six years. Now that she had returned, many outstanding men had begun appearing in her life.

I wonder what this hacker's relationship with Mrs. Farwell is. Don't tell me he's going to fight with Mr. Farwell for Mrs. Farwell's heart...

Lucian's expression grew darker as he ordered frostily, "File lawsuits against everyone listed in the name list. One more thing, find the anonymous person no matter what it takes."

Even if Lucian did not care about Roxanne's relationship with the anonymous person, he still wanted to find out the reason for the latter to make such a move. After all, the person had great hacking skills.

Who knows? He might attack Farwell Group one day if I let such an elusive hacker roam freely.

Cayden acknowledged it at once. "Understood. I'll execute your orders right away."

With that, he left hastily.

That night, Ocean Media officially announced its bankruptcy.

At the same time, Samuel received a call from Lucian.

Thinking Sonya had actually begged Lucian for mercy on their behalf, Samuel answered it with anticipation. "What's the matter, Lucian?"

Lucian's voice was laced with anger as he warned, "Mr. Pearson, you'd better watch your daughter and stop letting her do stupid things that test my limits. If not, Pearson Group will face worse consequences than this."

The anticipation within Samuel was instantly doused by Lucian's words. Horrified, he asked, "What did Aubree do? Please tell me the details. I promise I'll teach her a lesson."

"You don't even know what she's done? Looks like your apology that day was just a perfunctory one. If that's the case, don't blame me for not sparing your dignity one last time."

Samuel's heart was flooded with panic. To his dismay, Lucian had already hung up before he could even ask more questions.

Recalling Lucian's words, Samuel flew into a rage.

Aubree again! She has only gone out this morning. What stupid thing has she done this time to make Lucian so mad?

Upon hanging up, Samuel stormed up the stairs.

Aubree was sitting in her bedroom, looking grim.

As soon as she had contacted the media company, she had gone home and happily watched the drama unfold.

Little did she expect the tables to turn again that night.

Chapter 1358

Her face contorted with anger when she saw Farwell Group's new announcement trending.

On top of that, the announcement clearly stated it was Aubree's personality that caused the annulment of the engagement.

How could Lucian do this to me?

A netizen commented: I've met Aubree before. Sure enough, she's not all that great. She always looks down on others as if we're inferior to her.

Another comment read: I heard Aubree even scolded the daughter of the Farwell family and called her Little Mute. Back then, I thought I'd gotten the wrong person because they hadn't called off their engagement yet. Now that I see it, it's definitely Aubree. No wonder Mr. Farwell wants to renounce the engagement.

The more Aubree read, the darker her expression grew.

Everyone, no matter their identity, was stepping out to criticize her.

Hmph! What do they know? It's all Roxanne's doing! Who knows what she said to Lucian? It's clearly that b*tch's fault. What right do they have to criticize me?

Aubree was seeing red.

Just as she was about to contact the media company to attack Roxanne again, the person in charge beat her to it.

"You called me at the perfect time. I want you to post the news from this—"

Before she could even finish, the person on the other end of the line questioned, "Ms. Pearson, didn't you say our company won't be affected? What's happening now?"

Aubree froze for several seconds before frowning. "What's wrong? What happened?"

The person in charge sounded as if he was hiding somewhere. Although his voice was soft, his anger was notable.

"The assistant of Farwell Group's CEO brought his men to our company and even showed us evidence of our illegal acts from the past. They want to send us to jail. They even seized our company!"

Suddenly, Aubree felt a chill run down her spine.

The person in charge continued, "And now, our company's bankrupt. I've lost all my money! Where's the balance of the ten million you promised? Transfer it to me now! I'm going to go into hiding with that—"

Before he could finish, Aubree hung up.

It took her a while to register the fact that Cayden had brought his men to the media company. Does that mean Lucian knows it's my doing already?

The thought of that possibility made her break out in a cold sweat.

Lucian said he wanted to send me to jail for attacking Roxanne earlier. He'll never let me off the hook if he finds out I'm the one behind this again.

As she was feeling fearful and uneasy, her broken room door was suddenly pushed open.

At that, Aubree hastily put away her phone and gazed at the door.

All she saw was her father marching over with a gloomy expression.

"Dad..."

Aubree was already feeling extremely guilty. Her voice trembled more when she noticed Samuel's expression.

Glowering at her, Samuel fumed, "What did you do again?"

Aubree shuddered, and her subconscious self decided to hide the truth. "What are you—"

To her horror, Samuel grabbed her by the neck and lifted her up from the bed before she could finish.

"If you did nothing, why would Lucian suddenly tell me to watch you carefully? If you did nothing, why would he suddenly tell me Pearson Group would face worse consequences? Do you take everyone for a fool?"

Samuel's eyes were bloodshot as rage surged in his heart.

Aubree could barely breathe. “Dad, let me go... I was wrong...”