

## Leaving The Country After Divorce Chapter 419

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In the car opposite the main road, the driver noticed the sudden change in atmosphere. His palms started sweating as the air surrounding them seemed to have dropped by a few degrees.

It was after a long time that Lucian stopped looking at the entrance to the hotel. "Let's go back," he ordered in a cold voice.

The driver acknowledged his instructions and started the engine, driving toward the hotel that Lucian was staying at.

Roxanne had no idea that Lucian had seen her. She opened the door to the passenger seat and got into Larry's car.

The moment she entered the car, she politely took off Larry's coat and placed it in the backseat

After getting the address to her hotel, Larry revved up the engine.

Both of them remained silent for the entire journey. Roxanne looked out the window to stare at the scenery outside and soon fell into deep thought.

She couldn't understand Lucian's attitude earlier at all.

"You just left like that. What about Mr. Farwell?" Larry suddenly asked.

Roxanne only returned to her senses after a long while. Her eyebrows furrowed in confusion. "What does it have to do with him?"

Larry looked at her through the rearview mirror. "Mr. Farwell brought you to the banquet, right?"

Although Roxanne had said that she met Lucian in the lobby, Larry managed to figure out the truth when he realized that Roxanne did not drive.

Roxanne was stunned. She turned around and met Larry's eyes.

Roxanne pressed her lips into a smile and replied, "You're right, but we only met by chance at the boutique. It's not what you think it is."

Larry nodded. "Does Mr. Farwell know that you left?"

*That man left even before I did. How would he know when I left?*

"I'm not sure," she replied dismissively, then quickly changed the topic. "Oh, right, what were you doing at the banquet, Larry?"

Larry knew that she did not want to talk about it, and thus, he did not press any further. "Mr. Ziegler sent me an invitation. I didn't want to attend, but I found out that Mr. Lynch was in Summerbank as well. I figured he would attend the banquet, so I came over. I never thought I would run into you."

Roxanne nodded absent-mindedly.

"How are things at the research institute?" Larry asked caringly.

"I went to the banquet to discuss the matters at the research institute. Mr. Ziegler and the others have a branch in Horington that can work together with us. We've already discussed it and will be signing the contract tomorrow. I will head home once that's done."

Larry furrowed his brows. "How did you find Mr. Ziegler?"

As far as he knew, Roxanne had been looking for a partner in Horington. However, Jasper was all the way in Summerbank. Larry was curious as to how they managed to get in touch with each other. Moreover, Jasper seemed to think very highly of Roxanne.

"Mr. Queen introduced us to each other. Speaking of which, I need to thank him for his help," Roxanne said.

Upon hearing that it was because of Jonathan, Larry nodded in response. "Queen Group does have a good relationship with Ziegler Group. But it seems that Queen Group has a better relationship with Farwell Group. Now that Mr. Queen has helped to introduce you to Ziegler Group, he has inevitably stood against Farwell Group. If Mrs. Farwell finds out about this, things may not end well."

Roxanne frowned upon hearing that. She was worried for Jonathan.

Although Jonathan had said that they would not be noticed by Farwell Group, both of them knew that there would still be a risk that his decision to help Roxanne would be discovered by Farwell Group.

Regardless, Roxanne had already gone this far. She did not want to give up so easily.

After all, Sonya's aim was to chase her away. Once she solved all the problems related to the research institute and left Horington, she reckoned Sonya would probably stop going after her.

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The car gradually came to a stop in front of the hotel. After bidding Larry goodbye, Roxanne got out of the car and headed into the building.

When the next morning rolled around, Roxanne went to Jasper's office to sign the contract at the scheduled time. Once that was done, Roxanne boarded the flight back home.

The moment she sat down in her seat, her nerves, which had been on an edge, finally relaxed.

Upon arriving at her destination, all she needed to do left was to observe how things were going to proceed. Once she made sure that the supplies given by the few companies were stable, Roxanne could finally leave the country in peace.

Just as she was deep in thought, someone sat down in the seat next to her.

Roxanne came back to her senses and glanced at the person next to her. When she realized who it was, her expression stiffened.

"Are you going to think that I'm stalking you again, Ms. Jarvis?" Lucian's tone was filled with mockery as he quirked an eyebrow. "If you are uncomfortable, would you like me to switch seats with someone else?"

Roxanne balled her fists to suppress the displeasure in her heart. "Don't bother. I wouldn't make such a request to a stranger either," she replied emotionlessly.

With that, she turned away from Lucian and leaned back against her seat,

Recalling what he had seen outside the banquet hall that night and noticing how Roxanne was treating him on the plane, Lucian grew angry all of a sudden. "Why are you by yourself, Ms. Jarvis? Where's Mr. Morrison? Why isn't he with you?"

At the mention of Larry's name, Roxanne sat upright and looked at Lucian in discontentment. "There's nothing between Larry and me. Please refrain from speaking nonsense, Mr. Farwell."

Lucian snorted. "Why did you assume I thought there was something between the both of you?"

Roxanne parted her lips, but she did not know how to respond to his question. Instead, she fell back into her seat indignantly and pulled her blanket up to her face. She no longer wanted to pay any attention to the person next to her.

*What is his problem? As far as I know, Larry has barely ever interacted with Lucian, yet Lucian keeps going after him. .*

Lucian's eyes turned cold when he noticed that she was annoyed. He was just about to say something when a flight attendant walked toward them. He frowned and suppressed the rage within him, keeping his words to himself.

The plane soon took off.

Roxanne was lying stiffly on her side facing the window. During the flight, she heard the flight attendants walking over a few times to ask if they needed anything, and Lucian rejected the flight attendants coldly every time.

Roxanne was definitely not about to turn around to face Lucian.

However, every time the flight attendant left, his gaze would land on her.

All Roxanne felt was discomfort when that happened.

Just as Lucian's eyes settled on her once again, Roxanne flung the blanket off and sat upright. She was about to open her mouth to say something when Lucian beat her to it. "She said that we are expected to be hit with turbulence, and the airplane might shake violently."

The words that Roxanne was about to say ended up being caught in her throat. There was a look of confusion on her face.

However, before she could react, the airplane started to jolt.

Roxanne, having lost her balance, accidentally lurched toward Lucian before her seatbelt pulled her back.

She had just settled back into her seat when shouts and sounds of queries could be heard around her.

“What’s going on? Will the plane be able to land safely?”

“Are we going to die?”

It was the passengers’ first time encountering something like this, and they were understandably nervous.

Through the speaker, a flight attendant explained to the passengers the reason behind the sudden jerk. She also tried to calm the passengers down.

However, just as she managed to calm everyone down, the plane jerked again. This time, it was more violent than before.

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Right at that moment, no one could listen to the announcement through the speakers anymore. The plane erupted into chaos, with wails and screams sounding from every part of the plane. There were even some passengers demanding answers to their questions,

It was Roxanne’s first time experiencing such a situation as well. Although she felt uneasy, she still managed to calm herself down.

Yet as she listened to what was going on around her, the uneasy feeling in her heart seemed to have grown stronger.

The airplane was still experiencing turbulence.

Suddenly, someone cried out, “My kids are waiting for me at home.”

Roxanne clearly heard that sentence. Her eyes widened, and the restlessness in her heart seemed to have increased greatly.

*My kids... Archie and Benny are still waiting for me at home.*

Roxanne was already selfish enough to keep their family background a secret. She could not bear to think what would happen to them if something were to happen to her.

The moment she imagined her two children ending up alone if something happened to her, her face turned as pale as a sheet. She started breathing heavily, unable to catch her breath because of her anxiety.

Just when she felt she was about to pass out, a large hand tightly grabbed onto hers.

Roxanne barely regained some of her senses and heard Lucian's deep voice sounding next to her ear. "Don't worry. It's just turbulence. It'll be over soon."

His voice seemed to have some sort of magical power, for Roxanne was able to breathe normally again after listening to him, although her body was still trembling.

When Lucian noticed Roxanne's nervous and anxious look, the anger in his heart long dissipated. On the contrary, his heart ached for her.

"I'm right here. Nothing will happen to us. Don't be afraid," Lucian comforted her.

Roxanne nodded absentmindedly as she looked at the economy cabin. "Archie... Benny..." she muttered.

Lucian had to focus in order to hear what she was saying.

Roxanne was already so afraid, yet she was still thinking of her two children at home. At that moment, Lucian's resentment toward Archie and Benny's biological father increased greatly.

*How can he call himself a man when he left his wife to raise their kids alone?*

Despite his anger, he said in a low voice, "Archie and Benny are obediently waiting for you back home. You will return safely, so stop overthinking. Take deep breaths and relax."

Roxanne was trying very hard to do as he said, but her body seemed to be out of her control.

The other passengers did not even listen to the flight attendant's advice. It was madness out there, and Roxanne was greatly affected by it.

Lucian looked toward where Roxanne was gazing and realized the reason for her sudden fear. His eyes darkened.

In a soft voice, he said, "Don't listen to them. Listen to me. Turbulence isn't a big problem, and we will be fine. They're scared because they haven't experienced it before. They also don't understand."

Roxanne's attention was slowly drawn away from the chaotic mess in the economy cabin. The loud noises soon faded as well.

Lucian sighed in relief when he saw that Roxanne was calming down. As it was still a mess outside, he could only continue talking to Roxanne while holding her hand tightly to give her strength.

Slowly, Roxanne started to tighten her own grip around his hand.

Sensing the sudden force, Lucian, too, tightened his grip around her hand.

Roxanne seemed to be terrified and had grabbed onto him to release the fear in her heart, and Lucian allowed her to do just that. He was also waiting for her reaction in anticipation when she came to her senses and realized that they had been holding hands all this while.

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The airplane slowly regained control, but Roxanne's mind was still as blank as an empty piece of paper.

It wasn't until the plane had safely landed that Roxanne slowly came to her senses. She was still fearful of whatever had happened just now.

"I told you we would land safely." Lucian's words seemed to have hidden meaning in them. "Since we've finally touched down, you can let go of me now, right, Ms. Jarvis?"

Roxanne was surprised.

She had been so terrorized by what had happened just now that she had totally forgotten about the man sitting next to her.

*Wait, let him go? What is he talking about?*

Just as she was in a dazed, something moved in her left hand.

Roxanne looked down and saw that her hand was intertwined with Lucian's on the armrest.

To be more accurate, it was her latching onto Lucian's hand for dear life. There were even marks of her fingernails embedded on his skin. As she had been gripping his hand so tightly that her hand had gone stiff, she did not even realize that she was holding his hand.

Looking at their interlocked hands, Roxanne remained in shock for a few seconds before snapping back to reality. She instantly let go of Lucian's hand as if it burned her.

Lucian chuckled lightly at her reaction, not at all surprised by it.

is drenched

It was after Roxanne retracted her hand that she realized that her body in a cold sweat. Her palms were also just as sweaty.

At that realization, she looked at the man next to her, only to see that he had gotten a tissue and was wiping his own palm slowly.

It was obvious that his palm was full of her sweat as well.

A wave of embarrassment washed over Roxanne.

After calming down, she slowly recalled how Lucian had comforted her during the flight.

It didn't matter how much she wanted to maintain a distance between them. At that moment, she couldn't help but admit how grateful she was to him. It was fortunate that he was there with her.

Snapping out of her reverie, Roxanne looked at the man beside her with a serious expression on her face. "Thank you for comforting me earlier. Otherwise..." she trailed off

Lucian discarded the tissue he had used to wipe the sweat and met her eyes. He instantly noticed that there was still sweat on her forehead and frowned.

Roxanne, however, thought that Lucian was bothered by her attitude. She pursed her lips, suddenly at a loss for what to do.

She was supposed to treat Lucian like a stranger, but he was by her side when she needed help the most. Therefore, she couldn't bring herself to put up the same cold exterior.



Right then, two pieces of tissue appeared in front of her. "Here. Wipe the sweat off your forehead. The plane has safely landed. There's no need to be afraid anymore." Lucian's voice rang beside her.

Roxanne took the tissues and wiped the sweat off her forehead. "Thank you. It was my first time experiencing something like that. I was really afraid," she said as she looked at the man in front of her.

Lucian quirked an eyebrow nonchalantly. "And then? Is that how you're going to thank me?"

Roxanne's eyebrows furrowed slightly as she looked at Lucian with a troubled look in her eyes. "How do you want me to thank you, Mr. Farwell?"

Lucian's lips twitched when he heard how she addressed him. "I want you to stop avoiding me. Can you do that? I remember you said that we are only strangers to each other. I don't think you need to keep avoiding a stranger, Ms. Jarvis."

Roxanne was taken aback. She cast her gaze downward and remained silent.

She was incredibly thankful to Lucian for helping her earlier. Nevertheless, she was still going to stay away from him.

Lucian fell silent for a few seconds when he noticed her reaction. He then got up without any expression on his face. "Forget it if you can't do that," he said in a cold voice.

With that, he got off the plane.

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Roxanne remained seated in her seat, watching as the man left the plane. It was a while before she slowly stood up.

Just as she did, a wave of nausea hit her. It seemed to be a physical reaction after stress.

Roxanne grabbed the seat in front of her to stabilize herself. Once she regained her balance, she carefully got off the plane.

As she walked to the immigration gate, her entire body ached uncomfortably while her stomach lurched painfully.

Upon getting inside the airport, she made a beeline to the nearest restroom.

“Jeez!” A voice laced with annoyance rang out. A passerby was walking with their luggage when Roxanne accidentally bumped into him.

Roxanne tried her best to suppress the discomfort she was feeling and hastily bowed to the man to apologize. She continued to run toward the restroom with a hand covering her mouth.

Not far away, Lucian heard the commotion behind him. He instinctively turned around to see what was going on and managed to catch sight of Roxanne dashing into the restroom with her back arched.

Lucian's gaze darkened when he saw that, and he quickly followed after her.

Although Roxanne had been treating him very coldly, he still worried for her whenever he saw that she was in discomfort.

When Roxanne rushed into the ladies restroom, Lucian came to an abrupt halt and stood outside. With furrowed eyebrows, he listened to the sound of Roxanne puking her guts out.

Roxanne supported herself against the wall, and her fingernails had already turned white from the force as she bent over to puke.

She had been incredibly nervous. It didn't help that the flight was super bumpy, which led to her upset stomach.

Perhaps her urge to puke had been suppressed by her anxiousness during the flight. It was only after she disembarked that the feeling of discomfort in her stomach rose again.

Roxanne gradually stopped puking after a while.

When she straightened her back, her vision suddenly went dark. It was fortunate that she did not end up fainting.

Roxanne stayed in the restroom for a while more to recollect herself before walking out while supporting herself against the wall.

“What’s wrong?” Lucian’s voice suddenly rang out next to her.

Roxanne stopped and slowly looked up at him.

She was puzzled when she noticed Lucian’s worried look.

*I thought he left. Why... is he here? And he saw me in this wretched state again.*

Roxanne withdrew her hand from the wall and smiled at him. “I’m sorry for making you worry again, Mr. Farwell. I was feeling a little dizzy after the bumpy ride. I feel better now that I’ve puked up.”

Lucian stared at her suspiciously.

Roxanne had just recovered from her fear and had literally puked her guts out. Her face was as pale as a sheet.

Her words did not convince him at all.

Although she was still feeling weak after vomiting everything, Roxanne didn’t want to support herself on the wall in front of Lucian. She could only steel herself and wait for him to leave.

However, Lucian did not seem to have any intention of leaving at all.

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“If there’s nothing else, you should go back early, Mr. Farwell,” Roxanne said.

The man in question raised an eyebrow. “I don’t think you are in the position to tell me when to leave, Ms. Jarvis.”

Roxanne was slightly taken aback, but she had no choice but to admit that he was right.

With how he was acting, both of them would have to stay here forever if she didn’t make the first move to leave.

Roxanne gritted her teeth. She decided to force herself to start moving and leave.

Alas, her legs did not have enough strength to support her body. She had just lifted her leg to take a step forward when she lost her balance and fell to the floor.

In her panic, she reached out to hold the wall, but she grabbed onto a strong arm *instead*.

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Lucian could tell at one glance that Roxanne was putting up a tough act. When he saw that she almost fell, he stretched out his arm to catch her.

And coincidentally, Roxanne's hand grabbed his,

Both of them stopped and did not move an inch more.

Knowing that she had accidentally exposed herself, Roxanne held Lucian's arm stiffly and calmed herself down. Then she slowly straightened her back and apologized as if nothing had happened. "I'm sorry. I... I missed a step."

Having said that, she wanted to withdraw her hand.

Lucian's eye darkened when he knew what she wanted to do. Before she could do so, he authoritatively pressed her hand on his shoulder.

Roxanne was slightly taken aback by his gesture.

"You're already in a bad shape. Stop acting tough in front of me." Frowning, Lucian wrapped his arm around her waist to support her.

arm around

Instantly, Roxanne felt much better.

Shortly after, she tried to keep her distance from him because there were too many people at the airport. She thought that their actions might cause others to misunderstand their relationship.

"I do think that carrying you is easier," he muttered.

When Roxanne heard that, she widened her eyes in disbelief and met his gaze.

Lucian stared at her indifferently as if he was threatening her to oblige. *Go ahead and try escaping my embrace. There's only one way to find out if I'll make a huge ruckus and carry you out of the airport,*

The both of them were at a stalemate for several seconds. Roxanne clenched her teeth and averted her gaze. Subsequently, she relaxed her body and leaned against his arm.

Cautiously and slowly, Lucian helped her toward the exit.

Exiting the airport, Roxanne struggled a few times. "Thank you, Mr. Farwell. I'm fine. You can let go of me now."

Lucian continued to support her and insisted, "I'll take you home."

"It's okay. I can take a cab home myself." Roxanne turned him down without any hesitation.

Her children knew that she had no feelings for Lucian. That was why she did not want them to

spot her with him and create an unnecessary misunderstanding.

However, she did not seem to have an upper hand in the current quandary she was in.

She was rather exhausted and had no more energy to break free from his embrace.

Left with no choice, she caved in to Lucian.

As expected, the latter did not let her have her way. He made her walk to the parking lot, where Cayden had been waiting for them.

When Cayden saw the duo walking out together, he was puzzled. Soon, he figured out what was probably going on.

*It's no wonder Mr. Farwell went there personally even though it was just a petty matter. He even stayed there for so long. I guess I've got my answer now.*

Cayden opened the car door and invited them into the car. Then he returned to the driver's seat. "Mr. Farwell, should I send Ms. Jarvis home first?" he asked with a smile.

Lucian simply hummed in response.

Roxanne furrowed her brows upon hearing Cayden's question. She could sense that something was amiss.

*Cayden seems to be implying that Lucian and I are close..*

Once the engine was revved up, Roxanne leaned against the car door, trying her best to rest and regain some energy.

None of them uttered a single word throughout the journey.

When they arrived at an intersection near the mansion, Roxanne broke the silence. "Please drop me here. I'll walk home myself."

She did not want her two children to see her coming home with Lucian.

Needless to say, Cayden immediately stared at the rear mirror to check on Lucian's response.

Seeing the latter's blank face, Cayden continued driving until he arrived at the gate of Roxanne's house.

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Archie and Benny dragged Madilyn to the door the moment they heard some noises at the gate.

They opened the door as soon as the car pulled over at the entrance. The three of them were completely baffled to see the car that stopped at the porch.

*This car looks somewhat familiar.*

Roxanne could see the curious gazes of the trio in the car. Instantly, she felt a headache coming her way.

While she was still debating how to explain herself, the man next to her opened the car door.

Upon recollecting herself, she wanted to open the door. Only then that she realized that it was already open.

"You're home." Lucian reminded her of her predicament with an outstretched arm.

Roxanne clenched her jaw and wanted to hop out of the car from another side.

Lucian's voice sounded again. "I suppose you wouldn't want your two children to see you fall down, right?"

Roxanne's body stiffened at once.

Though she had not regained much of her strength, she did not want Archie and Benny to see her being so close to Lucian.

Ultimately, she did not want to embarrass herself in front of her kids.

After what seemed like forever, Roxanne decided to hold Lucian's arm as he assisted her out of the car slowly.

Realization finally dawned on the two boys when they saw Lucian. *It's Daddy!*

It had been a while since they had last seen Lucian. They had forgotten it was his car.

*I thought Mommy doesn't like Daddy? Why is she with him?*

At that thought, the boys stared at Lucian warily.

They were worried when they saw Roxanne being assisted by Lucian as she got down from the car. Immediately, they let go of Madilyn's hand and rushed over to Roxanne. Trailing behind her, they asked in a concerned tone, "Mommy, what happened to you?"

Roxanne forced a smile when she saw how anxious her boys were. "I had motion sickness on the plane, but I'll be fine once I get some sleep."

Madilyn went up to her and shifted her gaze to Lucian. "How did it get so serious!"

Roxanne shook her head and slowly stopped in her tracks.

The observant Lucian noticed her action and stopped as well.

"Thanks for taking me home, Mr. Farwell. I'll let you go instead of inviting you inside." Roxanne flashed him a polite yet distant smile before offering a hand to Madilyn. "Help me, Madilyn."

Hearing that, Madilyn held her hand and got hold of her.

Lucian merely frowned and did not let go of her.

Archie and Benny went up to him and offered to take Roxanne's hand.

Faced with the two munchkins and coupled with the words uttered by Roxanne on the plane, Lucian reluctantly released his grip in the end.

Archie let Benny hold their mother's hand while he turned to look at Lucian. He pulled a long face as he questioned his father. "What happened to Mommy? Why are you with her?"

Lucian found it amusing that the little one was interrogating him like a protective cub protecting its food. At the same time, he could not ignore the fact that Archie was wary of him.

Just like Roxanne, the two boys never let their guards down when Lucian was around.

"I was on the same flight as your mommy. After getting off the plane, I noticed that she was unwell. So I sent her home," Lucian explained to Archie patiently.

Archie looked him in the eyes for a while. Since he could not tell if Lucian was telling a lie, he assumed it to be true.

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When Roxanne saw that Archie was standing very close to Lucian, she quickly called out to him, "Let's head in, Archie."

The little boy nodded obediently and withdrew his gaze from Lucian. Then he followed Roxanne into the house.

Madilyn held her bestie carefully. "Is it true that you felt nauseous? I don't remember you having motion sickness in the past."

The two ladies had known each other for years. However, it was the very first time that Madilyn had heard Roxanne speak about her motion sickness, and a severe one, too.

Roxanne was afraid that her condition would frighten her children. Thus, she nodded lightly at them and added, "I was already unwell earlier today."

With that, Madilyn dropped the topic and assisted her into the mansion.

Lucian stood at the gate, the emotions in his eyes unfathomable



"Ms. Jarvis, Mr. Farwell is still outside." Lysa was cooking dinner when Roxanne walked in. She noticed how feeble Roxanne was and dashed over to check on her. At one glance, she could see that Lucian was still standing on their front porch.

Roxanne frowned and simply gave her a laconic reply. "Shut the door, please."

She had no intention of getting entangled with that man.

Lysa was clueless about their affairs. She had always thought that the couple was on good terms because Lucian seemed to be very caring toward Roxanne.

At one point, she even had the impression that they would be together.

Since Roxanne was obviously giving Lucian the cold shoulder, Lysa assumed that the two had a falling out over some issues.

She felt bad when she glanced at Lucian before closing the gate.

With the doors closing in front of him, Lucian retracted his gaze and returned to the car. Subsequently, he instructed Cayden to send him back to the Farwell residence.

*Essie should be home now at this hour.*

Meanwhile, inside the mansion, Lysa helped Madilyn to walk Roxanne back to the bedroom. Archie and Benny served her a glass of hot water sweetly and nestled closely around her bed, staring at her intently.

Roxanne flashed the children a comforting smile. "I'm all right. I just need to get some rest, and I'll recover in no time. You two go out and play, okay?"

The two of them exchanged a glance, both feeling perturbed.

Madilyn chimed in, "Go ahead and leave her to me."

Then she signaled Lysa to usher the kids outside.

Archie and Benny had no choice but to leave the bedroom reluctantly.

As soon as the door was shut, Madilyn put on a solemn face and bombarded her bestie with a series of questions. "You'd better come clean with me now. What happened? You were perfectly fine when you attended the banquet yesterday. How is it possible that you became so sick today? Also, did you really run into Lucian?"

Roxanne felt slightly exasperated having to attend to the relentless interrogation of her best friend before she could recuperate. "It's really just a coincidence. There was a minor

accident on the flight back which startled me and caused me to become like this. Don't tell the boys. I don't want them to worry."

Madilyn stared at her for a while. The suspicion in her eyes was replaced with sympathy. "All right, I got it. I know what to do. It's just that you and Lucian ..."

Madilyn was well aware of what happened between them.

Six years ago, Roxanne had fled to a faraway place because of Lucian's hostility against her.

Now that she was back, the man had been acting like a completely different person. Not only did he keep showing up around Roxanne, but his attitude toward her had also improved tremendously.

Madilyn could not wrap her head around the changes in Lucian. She could only pray hard that Roxanne would not let history repeat itself.