

Chapter 731 How To Clarify

Roxanne looked at the man before her. At the thought that he came to help her out of the situation despite being angry, she was moved and softened her expression as she briefly and concisely told him what had happened the day before.

“Ms. Hightower told Jack to get in touch with me, saying that she wanted to apologize to me in person. I went for the appointment as I couldn’t refuse her request. I never expected to be photographed then. The photo of us holding hands was Jack supporting me because I nearly fell down the stairs. I knew I’d be drinking during the meal so I didn’t drive. Jack drove me there instead as we were heading the same way, and he sent me back afterward. He only dropped me at the entrance and didn’t even get out of the car.”

She knew what explanation the man wanted from her, so she picked the part he wanted to hear in the hope that it would calm him down and he would not put her in a difficult spot before the media.

Lucian’s eyes darkened when he heard her explanation. The suspicion in his eyes gradually faded alongside the anger within him, but he quickly discovered something was off.

“If Jessica went to apologize to you, why are you and Jack the only two people in the photo? Where was she?”

Roxanne’s tone was hesitant when she replied with a slight frown, “Ms. Hightower told us to eat first as she was stuck in traffic. That photo was taken while we were waiting for her.”

A cold glint flashed across Lucian’s eyes as he nodded.

“Today’s news is truly just a misunderstanding. You don’t need to be angry about it, Mr. Farwell, so go back quickly,” Roxanne urged with furrowed brows when she noticed someone filming in the corner.

Lucian followed her gaze and narrowed his eyes dangerously when he saw the camera in the corner.

Seeing that, the reporter holding it trembled, got up in fear, and ran away.

Only then did Lucian turn around. “Can you get in the car now, Ms. Jarvis?” he asked indifferently.

Roxanne did not expect him to be so insistent and felt a little helpless. “There are enough people involved in this matter. I don’t want it to affect people who have nothing to do with it.”

As her words fell, she saw the man’s eyes darkening and tensed up involuntarily.

“Such small trouble can’t affect me.” Lucian grabbed her wrist and led her in the direction of the car. “Nor do I want to be just an irrelevant person in your eyes.”

Roxanne felt her heart skip a beat when she heard that, and by the time she reacted,

he had already sat her down in his car.

Outside the car window, many reporters merely looked over dumbfoundedly, holding their cameras up but not daring to take any photos.

As the car slowly drove away from the entrance of the research institute, those reporters and the crowd were also left far behind.

The noise surrounding Roxanne also faded into silence.

She could not help but stare blankly at Lucian's impassive profile, and she unknowingly calmed down.

Neither of them uttered a single word throughout the car ride.

Roxanne did not even ask Lucian where he was taking her, merely contemplating how she was going to clarify the rumors later with narrowed eyes.

By the time she snapped back to reality, they had arrived at her house.

"Rest well at home these two days. I'll handle the chaos online and take charge of picking up Archie and Benny," Lucian said solemnly.

Roxanne, however, appeared a little hesitant when she heard his words. "It's fine. I'll get a friend to pick them up."

"What if the reporters find the kindergarten?" Lucian shot down her idea with a frown. "Can your friend handle it?"

The thought of the reporters heckling her children caused a sinking feeling to creep into Roxanne's heart. In the end, she agreed, "In that case... I'll leave them in your care, Mr. Farwell."

Chapter 732 Troubling Alfred

In the evening, after kindergarten class was over, Archie and Benny stared at their father standing before them in confusion.

"Your mommy has something to do, so I'll be in charge of sending you to school for the next few days," Lucian explained in a deep voice.

The boys exchanged glances upon hearing his words but did not give it much thought. After all, from their perspective, whichever of their parents doing that was the same.

The fact that Mommy is leaving the matter of sending us to school to Daddy means their relationship is developing in a good direction.

As that thought came into their minds, Archie and Benny were secretly pleased as they obediently followed Lucian into the car.

Estella was also on cloud nine.

If Daddy is responsible for taking Archie and Benny to school these few days, it means I get to visit Ms. Jarvis' home every day!

All three kids were in a good mood and chattered away in the back seat.

Unlike them, Lucian was thinking of Roxanne with a solemn look.

It's obvious that Jessica was behind this incident. It seems that the lesson I gave to

the Hightower family last time wasn't good enough, so she still has the energy to come out and cause trouble!

Lucian stopped the car once they arrived at Roxanne's house and brought the three children into the mansion.

At that moment, Roxanne was preparing dinner in the kitchen while thinking about everything that had happened earlier that day.

She was so distracted that she did not notice that the children had returned.

"Mommy!" The kids did not think much of it, merely running excitedly to the kitchen once they had changed their shoes.

Only then did Roxanne snap back to her senses and look down at the children with a smile.

Benny hugged his mother's thigh innocently. "Mommy, why did Mr. Farwell pick us up? Where's Aunt Madilyn?"

Hearing that, Roxanne subconsciously lifted her gaze to look at the man in the living room.

She did not expect the children to ask such a question, so she did not prepare an explanation.

Similarly caught off guard by the question, Lucian looked at Benny with a frown.

After a long while, Roxanne finally came up with a random excuse. "Aunt Madilyn has to work overtime for the next two days and is very busy."

Benny noticed his mother was acting strangely, but he figured that she was probably too shy to tell them about her relationship progress with their father, so he simply nodded understandingly. "All right then. We'll be good and listen to Mr. Farwell."

Seeing that the boy did not ask any further questions, Roxanne breathed a sigh of relief and absentmindedly patted the children's heads.

Meanwhile, in the living room, Lucian noticed that the children were surrounding Roxanne, so he got up, went to the balcony, and called Jonathan.

On the other side, Jonathan had belatedly learned the news about Roxanne and was preparing to contact Lucian.

Hence, he immediately picked up the call and, without waiting for Lucian to speak, said, "I already learned about Dr. Jarvis' matter. I think I should be of help."

Lucian smiled when he heard that. "I also contacted you for this matter."

At present, the netizens were mostly questioning whether Roxanne was qualified enough to join the Damaris family's project and how she managed to join it.

No one knew the answer to that question better than Alfred.

If the old man willingly clarified in her defense, the discussions would naturally die down.

However, the Queen family would be dragged into the farce as a consequence.

"Don't worry. Dr. Jarvis' matter is your matter, and your matter is mine as well."

My family will definitely help you out. After all, only we can help,” Jonathan replied with conviction.

Lucian hummed in response. “Indeed. This matter can only die down with Old Mr. Queen’s intervention. Sorry to trouble him, and I’ll pay a visit to thank him next time.”

Chapter 733 Waiting For Her Response

Jonathan smiled meaningfully when he heard his friend’s words. “You can’t come alone. The person my grandpa is helping is Dr. Jarvis, so you must bring her along.”

Lucian responded with a light chuckle, “I plan on doing that.”

After engaging in small talk for a while longer, the two hung up.

Lucian turned around and went back into the living room.

By then, Roxanne was done making dinner and was sitting at the dining table with the children, waiting for him to go over and eat together.

A hint of warmth flitted across Lucian’s eyes when he saw the scene before him.

He walked over and—upon noticing the extra plate and cutlery on the table—asked knowingly, “Did you prepare this for me, Ms. Jarvis?”

Roxanne nodded gently in response. “Since I’m troubling you to ferry Archie and Benny to and fro from school for the next few days, Mr. Farwell, you can have dinner at my place.”

Before Lucian could respond, Estella threw up her hands joyfully. “Thank you, Ms. Jarvis!”

Roxanne smiled, feeling much more relaxed than before, as she watched the young girl’s delight.

Since Estella had replied, Lucian arched his brows but said nothing, merely picking up his fork and eating.

After dinner, the little girl was still reluctant to leave.

Seeing as it was still early, Roxanne and Lucian did not persist and allowed the children to play for a while longer.

After tidying up the dining room, Roxanne left the kitchen to see Lucian sitting on the couch with his brows furrowed, his slender hands rubbing circles on his temples. It looks like he has a headache.

Thinking of his recent insomnia, she hesitantly stepped forward and said softly, “Let me give you a massage. It’ll also help your insomnia.”

Lucian withdrew his hand and turned back to look at her before stating, “If you’re doing this because I helped you today, then forget it.”

He did not want her to be nice to him just to return the favor.

His words brought a frown to Roxanne’s face, and for a moment, she did not know how to reply.

Now that she thought about it, she also could not figure out why she said those words just now.

Yet, seeing Lucian's slightly haggard face triggered a strange feeling in her heart. Lucian frowned but kept silent, waiting for her reply.

However, there were no movements behind him.

Just when he was about to shoot her another question, a pair of hands rested on his temples and massaged them softly.

Lucian's eyes darkened at her actions, but he still did not utter a word.

With Roxanne's personality, if she only intended to return the favor, she wouldn't have given me a massage after hearing what I had just said. The fact that she's doing this now shows that she's not just being nice to me to repay the favor from the incident earlier day. Well, this is enough for me.

He could not deny that the headache caused by insomnia was greatly relieved under her ministrations.

Lucian even felt a little drowsy.

Feeling sleepiness threatening to overwhelm him, he raised his hand and grabbed her wrist, pulling her hand down.

Roxanne was taken aback by his action.

"As expected of the top traditional medicine doctor. My headache is much better."

Lucian got up from the couch. "It's getting late. I should take Estella back. I'll pick up Archie and Benny in the morning."

At that, Roxanne nodded somewhat sluggishly and watched as Lucian walked toward the backyard.

Not long after, Estella was led into the mansion by her father before bidding Roxanne farewell obediently.

Roxanne smiled at the little girl and followed them out of the mansion. Only after Lucian's car had gone a distance away did she turn around and head back in.

Chapter 734 Quick Turnaround

That very night, the Queen family announced that Roxanne was the one who had cured Alfred's sickness, resulting in the latter nominating her as a candidate for the Damaris family's project.

The internet went abuzz right after that.

In a short span of time, those who were initially against Roxanne now sided with her, although there were some who still questioned her ability.

Roxanne was astounded to suddenly receive such an update before going to bed. She had once thought of asking Alfred to help clear the air, but she also didn't want to involve him in the whole ordeal.

Yet, the Queen family had decided to help her voluntarily.

Thanks to that, the situation was now far more controlled compared to during the

day, even if some remained doubtful of her.

Not wanting to disrupt Alfred's quiet time, Roxanne decided to dial Jonathan's number.

The latter had just finished taking care of his family's PR errands when he answered Roxanne's call.

"I just saw the announcement made by your family. Thank you for speaking up for me, Mr. Queen," the woman said with gratitude.

Jonathan let out a profound chuckle. "Don't just thank me. To be honest, I took a lot of risks over this matter. I wouldn't necessarily have spoken up if it were just for your sake."

Roxanne froze briefly upon hearing that, and she thought back to the similar tone he had used during the medical consultation back at the orphanage.

She had thanked him under the assumption that he had helped her when it was, in fact, Lucian's decision all along.

Did he do something again?

"Did Lucian go and look for you?" Roxanne surmised.

Jonathan's laughter came through the phone instantly. "That's right. Well, I did consider taking action, but it was Lucian's personal phone call that really convinced me to make the announcement. So if you want to express your gratitude, I'm not the only one you should be thanking."

Conflict swirled within Roxanne's heart.

So that phone call he made on the balcony while I was making dinner was to Mr. Queen? He was asking him to make an appearance and help me. He probably would've continued to keep this from me if Mr. Queen hadn't explained anything. Roxanne felt perplexed at the thought of this.

"I will, Mr. Queen. Thank you," she finally responded, concealing her mixed emotions. "I'll thank Old Mr. Queen in person another time."

Jonathan agreed with a smile.

Right after hanging up, Roxanne opened up her chat conversation with Lucian, but even after staring at her screen for God knows how long, she couldn't figure out what to write.

Ultimately, she put her phone away without sending out a single text message.

Back at the Hightower residence, Stephen thought that since his daughter had apologized to Roxanne and the latter had forgiven her, Lucian would now let them off and that they were clear from danger.

Yet, even after waiting all day, the situation remained the same as that of the past two days, with various companies calling in and asking to terminate joint projects for all sorts of reasons.

Things became direr by night, where those who called couldn't even come up with any more excuses, instead telling Stephen frankly that Lucian had told them not to

work with the Hightowers. Naturally, Stephen dared not say anything in response. It was only after hanging up that he realized something amiss, so he headed upstairs to knock on Jessica's door.

The young woman was currently staring at her phone with a grim expression. It's only been one day! I took so long planning everything, and yet the tables have already turned? To think that even the Queen family backed that woman up! What's so great about her?

Chapter 735 An Uncontrollable Degree

Boiling with rage, Stephen banged on the door.

Jessica glanced at the door with a sullen look before getting up and walking over. She saw how infuriated her father looked the moment she opened the door.

"Is this your doing?" the man roared at her.

Jessica froze momentarily.

Although he had lost her temper with her in the past, this was her first time seeing him so livid.

It's all Roxanne's fault.

In spite of her fear, the woman mustered up the courage to stare at her father.

"What did I do wrong? All I wanted was to show everyone her true colors!"

Stephen's brows furrowed deeply at that. "What did you say?"

"Seriously, I don't know what people see in her that even the Queen family would step forward to defend her! I'll never believe she could cure Old Mr. Queen!"

Stephen grew puzzled at her words, and deep down, he began to sense that something was off.

It felt as though his daughter had committed something atrocious unbeknown to him.

Feeling his stomach drop upon recalling what Farwell Group had done tonight, he strode into Jessica's bedroom and gazed at her phone screen.

Then, he picked up the device to see a string of comments—all of which were about Roxanne.

It all started from the three photos that surfaced last night.

At that moment, Stephen realized that his daughter was behind the whole incident.

"You imbecile!" With a bellow, he smashed Jessica's phone into bits.

The woman jumped in fright and stared at her father. "Are you insane? What are you getting all worked up for?"

Yet, she received a vicious slap across the face as soon as her words fell.

She clutched her cheek and turned to her father in disbelief.

"Do you have any idea who has Roxanne's back?" Stephen yelled in fury. "It's because you got on her nerves back then that Farwell Group started giving us hell the very next day! Why do you think I told you to apologize to her? But look at

what you've done now! Do you think Farwell Group's going to let us off this time?"

Jessica was rendered speechless for a moment. "That can't be... I know Lucian's fiancée. Why would he ever back Roxanne up?"

Seeing that the circumstances had unfolded to such an extent, Stephen could only cling to the last hope he possibly had. "I want you to apologize to Roxanne publicly! Do it now and post it online. We might still stand a chance if you manage to subdue these comments!"

Despite her reluctance, Jessica knew she had no choice but to concede when Farwell Group was against them.

In a matter of minutes, she used another phone to post a public apology on Twitter, citing her jealousy over Roxanne and Jack's relationship as the reason behind her actions.

Her words appeared sincere enough, but unfortunately, the post caused nothing more than a small buzz before being flooded by similar comments once again. Even if more people now believed in Roxanne, the suspicions from those who didn't still carry a considerable amount of impact on her.

Both Jessica and Stephen's faces turned increasingly pale as the number of comments continued to pick up.

Evidently, the situation had escalated to an uncontrollable degree.

At this rate, it'll be over for the Hightower family.

Jessica's eyes became filled with panic, followed by hatred.

It's all because of Roxanne! As if seducing Jack wasn't enough, she even went after Lucian when he already has a fiancée! None of this would've happened to our family if it weren't for her!

Chapter 736 Who Dares Question You

The next morning, Roxanne woke up and immediately checked the comments online. She was now the most trending person on Twitter. Thinking that the comments were leaning to her disadvantage, Roxanne's heart sank as she glanced at the first post with a frown.

To her surprise, the most viral Tweet was a video of her own professor in an interview. It wasn't just him; many of Harvey's internationally-renowned research partners from his overseas institutes were present too.

"I've long heard about the Damaris family's project," Harvey stated in the video. "As Janet's professor, I'm extremely proud that my student has been chosen to take part in this project. I've also come across many comments on her medical

prowess within the nation. Please give Janet your trust for she'll be sure to surprise you.”

The man had a smile on his face, but his eyes looked stern. After he was done speaking, it was the other researchers' turn to give their opinion about Roxanne.

Upon seeing those familiar faces, emotion swirled within Roxanne as her eyes began to water. The comment section under this post blew up, but unlike yesterday, most of the comments were of people apologizing to Roxanne.

Bibomama: Janet? Is this the same Janet I know? She actually came back to the country in secret, and she's this gorgeous?

11Zollo22: She'd make it big with just her looks, but she's relying on her talents instead? That's it. I'm officially a fan of hers now.

Most of the comments indicated surprise that Roxanne was actually Janet, and those who had never heard of the latter were quickly filled in by other netizens.

Janet wasn't as popular in the country compared to Roxanne, but she was still fairly well-known internationally, so it was more acceptable for her to be joining the Damaris family project as the former.

Thanks to yesterday's news, Roxanne's good looks had added a touch of color to Janet's name.

Now, Janet was referred to as the goddess of the medical world by social media.

Roxanne hadn't gotten used to the sudden changes in opinions that had occurred overnight.

After scrolling on her phone a while longer, she exited Twitter and looked up her professor's contact so she could thank him.

Yet, a phone call came from the latter just as she was about to dial his number.

The woman picked up immediately. “Professor Lambert—”

“Why didn't you tell me about something this serious? What do you take me for?” Harvey questioned her right away.

In spite of his sullen tone, Roxanne felt a sense of warmth well up within her, for she knew he was only worried about her. “I’m sorry, Professor Lambert. It all happened because of me, so…”

If she were to disclose her identity as Janet, it wouldn’t take long for everyone to figure out that she was Harvey’s student.

Given the severity of yesterday’s comments, the woman was afraid of ruining Harvey’s reputation. She didn’t want others rebuking him for having such an unethical student.

The sudden turn of tides today had to be due to both the Queen family and Jessica’s respective statements.

“I’m not having any of your excuses. You’re my student, and if anyone dares question you, that means they’re questioning me too,” Harvey declared.

Chapter 737 Open Admiration

Roxanne was moved upon hearing Harvey’s words. “I understand. Thank you, Professor.”

Unable to stand seeing her being slandered by netizens online, Harvey softened his tone after giving her a quick lecture. “Give it your all now that everyone knows you’re my student. Don’t let me down.”

Roxanne grinned. “I’ll do my best.”

“I believe in you,” encouraged Harvey. “Also, that Damaris kid. He’s not bad, you know—”

“Professor!” Roxanne hurriedly cut him off knowing what he was about to say. “I have to make breakfast for Archie and Benny. I’ll talk to you next time.”

Harvey stopped at the mention of the two boys. “All right. Say hi to them for me.”

“Okay,” the woman responded before pausing briefly. “Please thank everyone on my behalf.”

Harvey readily agreed.

Then, they both hung up.

A knock came on the door right after the call ended.

Roxanne glanced at the time before quickly getting out of bed. She opened the door to find Archie and Benny standing outside.

“Are you not feeling well, Mommy?” they asked, staring straight at her.

The children would normally be eating breakfast by then, but they had waited much longer than usual that morning only to realize there was no food, nor had their mother left her room.

Hence, they made their way over, worried that Roxanne may have fallen sick.

“Sorry for keeping you waiting. I was just in the middle of a call with Professor Lambert,” the woman apologized while caressing her sons’ heads. “Why don’t you go heat up some milk?”

Relieved that she was in good health, the boys headed back downstairs to prepare breakfast.

Roxanne then went back into the room to wash up.

By the time she was done, her sons had already prepared breakfast, including her share.

Upon taking a seat at the dining table, Roxanne suddenly recalled something. Now that the comments are looking better, I won’t have to trouble Lucian by getting him to come and pick the boys up.

Yet, the doorbell rang just as she was about to dial Lucian’s number.

As Roxanne stopped tapping on her phone and was just on her way to get the door, the two boys ran ahead in excitement and opened the mansion gates without even looking at the security camera footage.

They knew who was waiting outside.

“Good morning, Mr. Farwell!” Archie and Benny greeted in their squeaky voices.

Lucian nodded at them.

Estella wished the boys a good morning before dashing straight into the house and throwing herself into Roxanne's arms.

"Ms. Jarvis!" she called out exuberantly while clinging to the woman.

Roxanne stilled momentarily before beaming and stroking the girl's head. "You sure are early today, Essie."

The child gazed up at her, looking as though there were stars in her eyes. "That's because I couldn't wait to see you, Ms. Jarvis!"

Roxanne felt her heart melt as she heard that, and for a second, she didn't know how to respond to the little girl's adoration toward her.

At that moment, Lucian walked in and raised an eyebrow upon seeing the boys' breakfast on the dining table.

Not waiting for him to say anything, Archie and Benny took out two glasses of warm milk and placed them on the table before turning to him eagerly. "We warmed these up ourselves!"

Chapter 738 No Evidence

Lucian's frown deepened when he heard the boys, and he eventually decided to hold his tongue. As the children looked on eagerly, Lucian sat down at the table and took a sip of the drink made by Archie and Benny.

Estella, too, happily joined her father and drank a mouthful until she ended up with a milk mustache. "Archie, Benny, you guys are amazing!" she exclaimed.

Wow! I've never even made breakfast for myself before! Amused by the look of admiration on Estella's face, Roxanne chuckled and promptly handed her a piece of tissue.

Archie and Benny, on the contrary, were feeling mighty proud of themselves after the little girl's compliment. "You could've told me if you didn't have time to prepare breakfast. I can always take the kids out to eat," Lucian said in a low voice.

Right there and then, Roxanne suddenly remembered why she had wanted to call earlier and turned her attention to Lucian. "I've already settled everything on my end, Mr. Farwell. I won't have to trouble you again."

As for what she was referring to, the two of them knew perfectly well while the three kids stayed in the dark. All the kids knew was that they'd no longer be able to attend school together, which left them sorely disappointed.

Puzzled, Lucian furrowed his brows and glanced at Roxanne.

What? I can't believe Roxanne has managed to settle the matter. I left so hastily this morning that I haven't even read the online discussion. Did the Farwell Group's warning to the Hightower family last night work? Was that why everything worked out?

"Professor Lambert helped me quite a bit," Roxanne said with a smile. "That's why it all went rather smoothly."

Upon hearing that Harvey had lent a helping hand, Lucian began to feel his inner doubts melt away.

After all, Harvey was a more persuasive and compelling figure in the medical field than the Farwell Group could ever be.

Alas, it wasn't convenient for Roxanne and Lucian to discuss the matter in front of the children, so the latter merely nodded his acknowledgment. "Got it."

After breakfast, Roxanne decided to head out with her family since she figured there wouldn't be any problems at the research institute.

With that, the three children piled into her car and followed behind Lucian's car to the kindergarten.

Before long, Roxanne had dropped the kids off with Pippa and watched them walk into school.

However, instead of leaving, she turned around to look at Lucian. "Thank you for your help in this matter, Mr. Farwell."

Surprised, the man cocked a brow in response.

That's odd. I did indeed help a lot, but I also made sure to keep everything on the down low. How did she find out about it?

“Well, I called Mr. Queen up,” Roxanne hurriedly explained. “Moreover, if it weren’t for the pressure from Farwell Group, I doubt Jessica would’ve apologized to me publicly.”

In all honesty, Roxanne was shocked when Jessica’s public apology went online the night before. Thanks to that, however, Harvey’s interview in the morning yielded immediate results.

She had always suspected Jessica to have masterminded the controversy, but alas, she couldn’t find the evidence to back her speculation up.

Furthermore, Jessica wasn’t the kind to apologize on her own accord, which could only mean that someone else was pulling the strings.

Jack had run off early in the morning to investigate, but since Roxanne had yet to hear back from him, it’d be safe to assume that the matter had nothing to do with the Damaris family.

After much pondering, her only conclusion was that Lucian must have stepped in to help.

Come to think of it, isn’t it strange that he’s been helping me out so much in secret?

Realizing that Roxanne had already figured out the truth, Lucian knew he didn’t have to hide it anymore. “Please be more careful if you encounter such a situation again.”

To that, Roxanne nodded sheepishly in agreement.

Chapter 739 Do Not Let Her Off

Meanwhile, in the hotel, Aubree had also caught up with everything that had happened over the past two days.

Even though she didn’t know who the mastermind was, she was elated when she saw Roxanne getting questioned by the online community.

Ha! I’m sure that b*tch won’t be able to recover from such a powerful online onslaught. That way, she will eventually be forced to leave the country even if I don’t take any action. When that time comes, I’ll have Lucian all to myself!

As a result, Aubree continued to pay close attention to the discussions online, thinking that netizens would continue to attack and scold Roxanne.

To her horror, everything took a sudden turn later that night.

The first wave of anger hit Aubree when Queen Group published its statement, causing her to toss and turn the entire night as she wondered how she could blow the matter up.

Unfortunately, the situation only worsened when Jessica issued a public apology and confessed to spreading the nasty rumors out of sheer jealousy.

Since they were both in Horington's upper-class social circle, Aubree knew Jessica's reputation well enough to surmise that the latter couldn't have apologized on her own. Something must have happened that forced her to take such a drastic measure.

Therefore, as frustrating as things were, Aubree didn't dare to act rashly.

After staying up all night seething with rage, she was distracted when her phone suddenly rang in the morning.

Upon seeing that it was an unknown caller, Aubree hung up the phone without hesitation.

From the day before till that morning, she felt like she had been on an emotional rollercoaster that sent her plummeting to rock bottom.

When Harvey's interview came on, the atmosphere around her became even more frighteningly frigid, so why would she be in any mood to answer a stranger's call?

To Aubree's surprise, she had only just ended the call when she received a text from the same number: Ms. Pearson, don't you want to hear about Mr. Farwell?"

The mention of Lucian instantly grabbed Aubree's attention as she furrowed her brow and carefully weighed her options.

In the end, she decided to call the number, and the person on the other end answered within seconds.

"Who are you?" Aubree asked coldly.

Eyes blazing with fury, Jessica replied, “It doesn’t matter if you don’t know me, Ms. Pearson. All you need to know is the relationship between Mr. Farwell and Roxanne Jarvis!”

Upon hearing that, Aubree felt her heart sink.

What? I can’t believe she knows about Lucian and Roxanne! If word gets out, what would people think about me as the fiancée?

Aubree replied cautiously, “What are you talking about? I don’t understand what you’re implying!”

“Ha! You’d better keep an eye on Roxanne Jarvis, Ms. Pearson. Because of her, Mr. Farwell pushed Hightower Group to its edge in just one day,” Jessica snapped. “Now that you know what he’s willing to do for Roxanne, what do you think their relationship’s like?”

Needless to say, Aubree’s heart sank even further.

The Farwell Group took action, huh? I’ve always known there was something between Lucian and that b*tch, but I never expected him to go to such lengths for her!

“Wait a minute. Are you Jessica Hightower?” Aubree asked.

A cold chuckle rang out on the other end before Jessica’s voice sounded again. “I’m surprised that you’d even know me, Ms. Pearson. Don’t worry. I won’t divulge anything about the relationship between Lucian and that b*tch. That said, I do hope you won’t let her off!”

With that, Aubree finally heaved a sigh of relief. “Thank you for informing me. Since that b*tch has the guts to seduce Lucian, I’ll make her pay for it!”

Chapter 740 Ask Someone To Send You

After hanging up the call, all Aubree could think of was everything Lucian had done for Roxanne.

At the same time, she felt grateful for staying out of that matter. If I’d done anything, Lucian would definitely find out. If that happens, I’m afraid I’ll face a fate as terrible as Jessica’s. Still, Lucian is blatantly favoring that b*tch, Roxanne,

now. If this situation drags on, I'll risk losing my position as Lucian's fiancée! I need to make a move.

Aubree sat inside the room for the entire morning but failed to come up with any plan. In the afternoon, when the waitress came to deliver her meal, she got up to open the door.

Aubree frowned slightly at the sight of the waitress pushing the cart full of food into the room as an idea popped into her head.

The waitress was shifting the plates of food from the cart to the dining table when a hand suddenly appeared from behind her.

"That's not needed. I'll do it myself," Aubree uttered gently.

The waitress was stunned after hearing that. She regained her senses after a few seconds and instinctively rejected, "This is my obligation. You—"

Before she could finish the rest of her sentence, the waitress felt someone slam into her.

"Ah!" Aubree yelled and staggered two steps backward. Then, she fell to the floor on her side as an agonized expression spread across her face.

Even before the waitress could make sense of the unexpected turns of events, she already realized anyone who could stay in the presidential suite was either very affluent or highly influential, so there was no doubt she could not afford to offend this woman.

Regardless of whether she had anything to do with the customer's fall, there was no way for her to deny responsibility since that incident happened when she delivered the meal.

"I'm terribly sorry. It was my fault for being careless. Are you all right?" the waitress hastily apologized without hesitation.

Aubree held her arm and wore a tight frown. "My arm is hurting so badly."

The waitress panicked at once after hearing that. "I'll send you to the hospital right away!"

She reached out to help Aubree up from the floor as she spoke.

Naturally, Aubree's goal was not to visit the hospital. When she heard the waitress' offer, she immediately shook her head. "That's not needed. I'm going to make a phone call."

Perturbation overwhelmed the waitress' mind after Aubree said she wanted to make a phone call.

Since Aubree did not order her to leave, the waitress had no other choice but to remain rooted in her spot and wait.

Subsequently, Aubree dialed Lucian's phone number, but it took quite a while for the call to be picked up.

"What's the matter?" Lucian asked coldly. He had just finished his work in the morning and was about to have lunch when he suddenly received Aubree's call.

An icy glint flashed across her eyes when she sensed his indifferent tone. Despite that, her tone was pitiful as she said, "Lucian, my arm is hurting."

He furrowed his brows after listening to her. "Go to a hospital then."

However, Lucian was swiftly reminded of his mother's instruction to take care of Aubree, prompting him to add, "I'll ask someone to send you to the hospital if necessary."

Aubree's expression grew increasingly ugly. "That's not needed. The injury is not that severe, but it's a little painful. It'll be inconvenient for me to live alone in the hotel, so can I go to your place and stay there for a couple of days?"

The waitress was baffled when she saw the changes in Aubree's expression and heard her tone. However, the next second, Aubree glared at the waitress, causing the latter to be scared out of her wits.

On the other end of the phone call, Lucian knitted his brows without showing any inclination to agree to Aubree's request. All along, Roxanne has been wary of my status as Aubree's fiancé, contributing to her reluctance to accept my pursuit. Her perception of me is finally improving now. If I allow Aubree to move into my house, I'm afraid all my previous efforts will go down the drain.

Chapter 741 Take Care Of You

Aubree was furious because Lucian did not reply even after some time. Still, she said tenderly, “I slipped and fell just now, and I think I aggravated my wound from the car accident previously. It hurts so bad.”

However, even after hearing that, Lucian merely replied emotionlessly, “If the pain is so severe, I’ll ask someone to send you to the hospital. I’ll hang up now if there’s nothing else. I have another meeting to attend in the afternoon.”

Aubree gritted her teeth. “All right. Get back to your work then.”

Lucian wasted no time disconnecting the call right after she spoke.

Her face turned grim as she stared at the darkening phone screen.

Standing at one side, the waitress piped up fearfully, “Miss, let me accompany you to the hospital—”

Before the waitress could finish her sentence, Aubree interrupted, “Get lost!”

The waitress shuddered. She looked up and saw Aubree, who had been complaining about how much her arm hurt a few moments ago, using her “injured” arm to knock all the dishes on the table to the floor.

The floor was a complete mess after a few seconds.

The waitress lamented inwardly, knowing she had been dragged into a tight spot yet not daring to utter a single word. She could only clean up the clutter on the floor as quickly as possible and leave the room before Aubree threw another fit of anger.

Aubree, eyes reddened, panted heavily inside the room. Why is this happening? I’ve waited for Lucian for so many years, staying obediently by his side without making any complaint, yet he’s giving me the cold shoulder. On the other hand, he’s treating that b*tch so well, even after her unannounced departure six years ago! What’s so good about that b*tch anyway?

The more Aubree pondered over the matter, the more furious she became. After venting her wrath briefly, she gritted her teeth and dialed Sonya’s number.

It did not take long before Sonya answered the call. “What’s the matter, Aubree?”

Aubree sobbed out, “Mrs. Farwell, I’m in pain.”

Sonya’s heart lurched with dread after hearing that. “What happened to you? Didn’t Lucian send someone to look after you?”

Aubree whimpered pitifully, “I’m at a hotel. I accidentally fell and appeared to have worsened my previous injuries. I called Lucian, but he told me he had work in the afternoon. Since my dad is still mad at me, I have no one else to turn to but you...”

Sonya frowned. “You’re at a hotel?”

Following Aubree’s argument with Samuel, Sonya had contacted her a few times before to express her concern. However, she was completely unaware that Aubree had been arranged to stay in a hotel.

At that moment, listening to Aubree describing the pain in her arm, heartache and frustration churned in Sonya. She was displeased that Lucian was mistreating the daughter-in-law she rooted for.

Aubree answered with a soft “yeah.” Then, she intentionally put up a thoughtful pretense by defending Lucian. “Lucian is swamped with work most of the time, so it doesn’t matter where I stay. Besides, Essie harbors an aversion to me now, so I want to avoid upsetting her by living under the same roof with them.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Sonya’s voice sounded through the phone’s speaker. “Where are you? I’ll go and pick you up at once.”

A hint of smugness flashed across Aubree’s face after she received her desired response. Still, she deliberately spoke in a timid voice when informing Sonya of the name of the hotel she was staying at.

With that, Sonya hung up the call and ordered the driver to send her to the hotel Aubree was at.

On the way to her destination, anger boiled within Sonya’s chest. I thought I placed Aubree in good hands by asking Lucian to care for her. However, little did I expect him to leave her alone and neglected in a hotel! He didn’t even take the time to visit Aubree when she’s suffering from a relapse!

Chapter 742 Is There Anything Else

That night, after Lucian picked up Estella and returned home, he saw his mother and Aubree sitting on the couch.

Rage was seen on Sonya's face, while Aubree looked troubled. The latter stood and greeted, "Lucian, Essie, you're back."

Expressionlessly, Lucian nodded at her and turned to look at his mother.

As for Estella, after she saw Aubree, she timidly hid behind her father and didn't even greet Sonya.

Holding Estella's hand, he wordlessly comforted the child as he asked in a deep voice, "Why are you here with Aubree, Mom?"

Upon hearing her son's question, Sonya's scowl grew more intense. "You're still wondering why the two of us are here? I entrusted Aubree to you, yet you refused to let her stay at home. To make matters worse, you didn't even check up on her when her injury relapsed!"

Annoyed, Lucian felt his head throb. "I already asked someone to send her to the hospital, but she didn't want to go."

He was telling the truth, but the person he sent informed him that Aubree refused to go to the hospital. Now that I think about it, she was probably waiting for Mom to go over. Mom certainly didn't disappoint her and directly brought her here.

"Aubree is injured and is in trouble with her family again. How can you expect her to go to the hospital alone with no one to talk to and no one to take care of her?" Before Aubree could explain her decision, Sonya had already provided a reason for her.

Aubree was delighted, but she still pretentiously put on a piteous look.

"Then what do you want me to do?" Lucian couldn't be bothered to continue this pointless argument with his mother.

After all, Sonya always put Aubree's interests above everything else whenever the matter concerned the latter.

Any further arguments about the matter would just be a waste of time.

Sonya glanced at Aubree before turning to face him. “Let Aubree stay at your place for now.”

Estella frowned and tightened her grip on her father’s hand as a sign of protest. I only want Ms. Jarvis to live with us! I don’t want to stay with this bad lady!

Naturally, Lucian knew what was on his daughter’s mind. He patted her head before speaking to his mother. “I can ask Catalina to take care of her in a hotel. Just forget about letting her live here.”

Aubree’s lashes trembled before she tugged on the corner of Sonya’s shirt pitifully. “I think I should go back to the hotel, Mrs. Farwell. I can take care of myself.”

Aubree’s sensibility further reinforced Sonya’s idea of letting the younger woman stay. “I’ve already checked out of her hotel room. Aubree’s arm is injured. Why are you making things difficult for her? You spend your entire day in the company, so what’s the difference between her staying here and the hotel?”

Before Lucian could retort, Sonya stood, turned to Aubree, and reminded, “I’ll be going back now. You stay in the manor. Catalina will take good care of you.”

Aubree stared at Lucian cautiously before nodding at Sonya with a troubled expression.

Sonya approached her son and asked, “You’re not going to walk me out?”

With a frown, Lucian asked Catalina to take care of Estella before exiting the house with his mother. “Is there anything else?”

He knew she had something to say to him if she specifically asked him to walk her out.

Slowly, Sonya turned around and glared furiously at him upon hearing what he said.

Chapter 743 Aversion

Lucian more or less knew what she wanted to say, so he furrowed his eyebrows silently and waited. With a serious expression, Sonya uttered, “I’m still going to

say the same thing, Lucian. Aubree has waited for you for six years, and things have been hard for her. No matter what happens, you can't disappoint her!"

They had had that same conversation many times before, so much so that it gave him a headache every time he heard it. It also made him lose the drive to argue with her.

She continued to speak as he listened silently. Inside the mansion, Estella stared at the woman sitting on the couch and timidly grabbed the edge of Catalina's shirt while wearing a wary expression.

Upon noticing the girl's aversion toward her, Aubree felt displeased, but she still pretended to be nice. "Look, I brought you a gift, Essie." Then she pulled out a doll from her bag. "Do you like it?"

Without hesitation, the girl shook her head. I'm not going to like anything this bad lady gives me!

When Aubree saw the girl shaking her head, the expression on her face froze for a moment before returning to normal. "It's fine if you don't like it. I'll take you out next time to buy whatever you like." In response, Estella cowered behind Catalina wordlessly.

"Ms. Estella just returned from school, Ms. Pearson. She's probably tired. You should wait here in the living room while I send Ms. Estella back to her room first." Catalina watched Estella grow up, so she understood the girl's emotions very well.

She could tell Estella was afraid, so she immediately stood in front of Estella and shielded the little girl as she spoke to Aubree politely.

The moment she finished speaking, Aubree frowned. "I'll send Essie upstairs. I have something I want to talk to her about."

Then, Aubree stood and approached the girl.

Estella grabbed onto the edge of Catalina's shirt even tighter when she saw Aubree getting close. Defiance was written all over her face.

Catalina was distressed when she saw Estella's expression. However, due to her identity, she couldn't say anything. She could only watch as Aubree approached and stretched out her hand toward Estella.

"I'll send you upstairs, Essie." Aubree put on her most amicable smile with the intention of changing the girl's attitude toward her.

To her surprise, Estella still didn't take her hand even after she waited patiently for a while. Instead, the little girl cowered further behind Catalina.

In response, Aubree's eyebrows creased imperceptibly as she suppressed the rage in her heart. Patiently, she squatted down and stared into Estella's eyes apologetically. "I can understand why you don't like me, Essie. I didn't know how to deal with children in the past, and I wasn't patient enough with you. I hope you can forgive me. Let's learn how to get along with each other, okay?"

Pursing her lips, Estella still shook her head.

Aubree had to dig her nails into her palm in secret to stifle her raging fury. This little b*tch! How dare she reject me when I'm asking her to get along with me nicely! It seems like she has forgotten how I used to punish her! If Catalina weren't around right now, I would've shown her the consequences of disobeying me!

Children were usually sensitive to adults' emotions. Despite Aubree's attempt at suppressing her emotions, Estella could still sense her anger. Thus, the girl promptly and cautiously tightened her grip on Catalina's shirt.

Sensing the girl's emotions, Catalina could only protect her silently. She didn't have the nerve to say anything.

"Be a good girl, okay, Essie? I'm going to be your mommy in the future. Don't you want to get along with your mommy?" Biting the bullet, Aubree used the ace up her sleeve.

She thought that would make the girl cooperate, but to her surprise, the moment she ended her sentence, Estella's detestation became even more obvious.

Chapter 744 Filled With Remorse

Initially, Estella only hid behind Catalina, but after she heard what Aubree said about being her future mother, her expression instantly changed. She glared at Aubree angrily before running upstairs by herself.

Aubree's face fell as she watched the girl leave. Catalina breathed an inward sigh of relief when she saw Estella running away. "Ms. Estella's emotions are often unstable. I hope you'll forgive her, Ms. Pearson."

In response, Aubree flashed her a forceful smile. Amidst her frustration, she heard sounds at the mansion's entrance. Subsequently, she saw Lucian stepping back into the building.

"Has Mrs. Farwell left already, Lucian?" Aubree made swift adjustments to her expression before staring at the person at the entrance pitifully. After shooting a glance at her, Lucian nodded indifferently and turned to Catalina. "Where's Essie?"

He asked Catalina to take care of Estella before he went out, which was why he was wondering where his daughter had gone to. Catalina subconsciously glanced at Aubree before informing, "Ms. Estella... went back to her room."

The man furrowed his brows. What did Aubree do to Essie again?

"Since Mrs. Farwell has already left, should I..." Aubree intentionally shot a piteous look at Lucian, wanting to ask if she should stay or go. Instead of looking at her, he relayed an order to Catalina. "Arrange a guest room for Ms. Pearson."

Catalina was briefly shocked as she didn't expect Lucian to allow Aubree to stay. Still, she complied with his order.

She was aware of Estella's and Lucian's attitudes toward Aubree, so she prepared a room that was furthest from their bedrooms for Aubree to stay in.

When Aubree heard that she could stay, joy leaped into her heart as she promised, "I promise to not cause any trouble!"

Lucian nodded coldly. Earlier at the mansion's entrance, his mother spent a long time convincing him to let Aubree stay. She always managed to counter him with the right words, no matter what he said.

In the end, he had no choice but to agree. However, he only agreed to let Aubree stay. That didn't mean he was going to change his attitude toward her.

Soon, Catalina finished tidying the guest room and asked Aubree to go and take a look. Instead of doing that, Aubree stared at Lucian. "My arm is injured. Can you help me carry my luggage?"

Frowning, Lucian grabbed her luggage indifferently and followed her upstairs. Displeasure swiftly flashed past Aubree's eyes when she saw the room Catalina had arranged for her. Why is it so far away from Lucian's room?

"This guest room is easier to clean up, and it's bigger. It'll be much more convenient for you to stay here, Ms. Pearson," Catalina explained with a grin.

With a forced smile, Aubree thanked her.

Seeing that Lucian was about to leave after he put the luggage down, she called out to him, "Lucian!"

He turned back to look at her.

"I tried to talk to Essie just now, but looks like she still dislikes me. Can I take Essie on a shopping trip to buy stuff for her tomorrow to make up for my past mistakes?" Her face was filled with remorse as she gazed at him cautiously.

Unfortunately for her, Lucian was unmoved. "That won't be necessary. Essie doesn't need anything for the moment. You should focus on taking care of yourself and return home soon."

He then strode out of the room without giving her a chance to speak.

Chapter 745 Acting

Aubree's expression darkened as she stared at Lucian's back. Even though he had agreed to let her stay in the manor, it was obvious he intended to ignore her presence.

Of course, she wasn't going to allow that to happen. Meanwhile, after Lucian left the room, he strode to Estella's bedroom before knocking on the door. "Open up, Essie."

When Estella heard her father's voice, she recalled what Aubree had said earlier. In response, she turned around in a huff, facing the door with her back.

After waiting for some time, Lucian still hadn't gotten a response from her. She must be sulking again. What a headache. Both my mother and my daughter are just taking turns to give me a hard time tonight.

Lucian waited a little longer, and still, there was no response. So, he grabbed the key, unlocked the door, and entered the room. When he entered the room, he saw his daughter sitting on the bed while hugging her knees, curling into a ball. From his angle, she looked so tiny.

The look in Lucian's eyes softened when he saw Estella sulking. He spoke tenderly. "Grandma needed to talk to me just now, so I left you alone for a while. Tell me what happened, okay?"

The little girl shot her father a glare upon seeing that he had entered the room without gaining her approval. Alas, she was too tiny and adorable to be intimidating, so the look in her eyes didn't scare Lucian at all. It just came off as amusing to him.

Seeing the smile on Lucian's face made Estella's temper spike. "I hate you, Daddy!" He raised his eyebrow slightly. "What did I do wrong?"

She pouted. "You said you're going to pursue Ms. Jarvis!" With an indifferent nod, he replied, "That's what I've been doing."

Estella's rage quelled when she heard his response, but still, suspicions surfaced in her eyes. "But she said she's going to be my mommy in the future."

Of course, both of them knew who "she" was. Lucian's expression turned gloomy when he heard that. Time and again, he told Aubree that there was no way love would blossom between them.

Yet, during the few short minutes when he wasn't around, she actually had the audacity to say such things to his daughter. Staring at her father, Estella waited for his answer.

"I'm not going to marry her," Lucian promised in a deep voice. "I let her stay here because that's what Grandma wants me to do. Don't worry, I'll send her away as soon as possible."

Only when Estella heard that was she at ease. Pursing her lips, she nodded, though there was still a touch of aggrievement on her face.

He patted her head. "All right, let's go downstairs and eat." Hesitation flashed past her face. "I don't want to." I don't want to eat with that obnoxious lady!

Lucian saw through her and comforted her. "If you don't like her, you're free to ignore her when I'm around. She won't dare to do anything to you."

As he spoke, suspicions filled his heart. After what Aubree did to Essie last time, I finally know that she has always been acting in front of me. Although, I'm still not sure what she did to Essie behind my back that caused Essie to hate her so much. Or was that usually how she treated Essie whenever they were alone in the past?

When his train of thought ended there, the atmosphere around him became thick with tension.

Estella was feeling pretty hungry, so after she heard her father's words, she hesitated for a few seconds before following him downstairs.

Chapter 746 No One Found Out

Aubree was already waiting at the dining table downstairs. When she saw Lucian and Estella coming downstairs, she faced the girl apologetically. "I'm sorry, Essie. I think I said the wrong thing again earlier."

Estella grabbed her father's hand tightly as she glanced at him, nonverbally asking him if she really could ignore the woman. He patted her head in consolation and pulled her to his side.

Both of them ignored Aubree. The atmosphere at the dining table was incredibly awkward.

Aubree was enraged when she saw the father-and-daughter duo sit down to eat without paying even a bit of attention to her as though she wasn't there. However, she couldn't vent her anger and even had to try and please the little girl.

"You're still growing, Essie. You need to eat more so you'll grow taller." Wearing a fake smile, she put a piece of pork on the girl's plate.

Estella paused in her tracks as she stared at the pork on her plate. Lucian scrunched his brows as he removed the pork from his daughter's plate and explained apathetically, "Essie doesn't like pork."

Aubree's expression shifted slightly. This is the Farwell residence. There's no way the chef would make something Essie doesn't like to eat! This b*tch just doesn't like the food I took for her!

Even though she realized that, she couldn't complain, so she just gritted her teeth and apologized, "Is that so? I had no idea. I'm sorry."

Lucian nodded expressionlessly. "When I'm not around, Catalina will take care of Essie, so you don't need to worry about her. If you have time, spend it talking with your family."

Pinching her palm, Aubree agreed.

After the awkward dinner was over, Lucian brought Estella back upstairs.

Aubree's scowl intensified as she watched them leave.

As much as she didn't want to admit it, his actions so far had clearly shown her that he had no feelings for her.

In fact, it was even possible that he saw her as a liability.

That thought filled her heart with despair.

"Do you still want to eat, Ms. Pearson?" Catalina asked in concern when she saw Aubree remain still at the dining table for a long while.

Suppressing the rage in her heart, Aubree smiled at her. "I haven't been able to sleep well for these two days. Can you bring me a bottle of red wine?"

Catalina didn't give that request too much thought before grabbing an opened bottle of red wine from a wine cabinet filled with alcohol meant to serve guests.

After thanking Catalina, Aubree returned to her room with a decanter and the bottle of red wine. Right now, only wine can lift my spirits and make me temporarily forget about Lucian...

With that thought in mind, she glugged down the bottle of wine like water. She didn't care how she was supposed to drink red wine and just gulped it down.

Not long after, the aftereffect of the red wine kicked in.

Aubree's cheeks turned red, her eyes filled with drunkenness. All she could think of was, ironically, Lucian.

Due to her state of tipsiness, she became even more rash than usual. As she thought about Lucian, she staggered out of the room in a wobbly manner. He should be in the study right now...

With one hand pressing on the wall to support herself, she stumbled toward the study and muttered, "Lucian... Lucian..."

Lucian usually had to work even when he was at home, so the second floor usually didn't have any housekeepers around. That was why no one noticed Aubree was acting oddly.

She arrived at the door of the study without any trouble and stared at the tightly shut door before knocking on it amidst her inebriation.

Chapter 747 Drunk

Inside the study, Lucian, eyebrows furrowed, was staring at his unfinished work for the day. Suddenly, he heard a set of footsteps approaching the door.

Shortly after, a loud knocking sound was heard. He moved his line of sight away from the computer and frowned at the door.

The housekeepers of the Farwell residence normally would have rested at that time. Even if that weren't the case, no one would disturb him willy-nilly while he worked in the study.

Not only that, the knocking was really loud, which could only mean Aubree was the one at the door. What is that woman up to now? Lucian thought.

The knocking continued. He had just gone through much trouble to tuck Estella in, so he still stood and opened the door to prevent her from being woken up by the relentless knocks.

When he opened the door, he saw an intoxicated Aubree at the entrance. Lucian had no idea how much she had drunk, but he could tell the smell of wine was creeping into the study.

Upon seeing her, he stared at her with a frown and spoke in a deep voice. "You're drunk. You should return to your room and rest." He then prepared to turn around and close the door.

To his surprise, the moment he turned around, Aubree hugged his waist. Lucian stopped in his tracks, stared at Aubree's arms around his waist, and ordered coldly, "Let go."

She was still in a daze as she spoke. "I won't... I love you, Lucian. Don't cancel the engagement, okay? What's so good about Roxanne, anyway? She left you back then while I've waited for you for six years..."

That was the same thing Sonya said to him.

Even though Aubree meant what she said, Lucian was still unmoved by her words. In fact, a touch of disdain even flashed past his eyes. For six years, this woman put up an act in front of me and bullied Essie behind my back, yet she has the gall to mention it!

"Lucian..." She hugged him from behind, putting all her weight on him. Every single breath of hers sprayed the stench of alcohol on his body.

Sensing her movements, his face fell, and he grabbed her wrists forcefully without hesitation. "Ugh..." She grimaced and let go of him reflexively. Holding her injured wrist, she stumbled backward with a pained expression.

Expressionlessly, Lucian turned around and stared down at her before warning in a cold voice, "The only reason I let you stay is because of my mother. If you behave yourself, I'll allow you to stay until you can return to your home. If you continue acting as you please, don't blame me when I ask someone to chase you away!"

Aubree regained some of her senses because of the pain. Fear filled her eyes when she heard what he said, and she apologized instinctively, "I'm sorry, Lucian. It's my fault. I drank too much earlier. Don't chase me out..."

Gazing at her coldly, he ordered, "Get back to your room!"

Aubree still didn't want to give up as she stared at him pitifully. "My legs are so weak right now. Can you send me back to my room?"

When she finished her sentence, the man before her didn't immediately reply. Instead, he just raised his eyebrow wordlessly.

For a moment, she was delighted because she thought he was going to say yes.

However, to her dismay, Lucian asked a housekeeper to send her back to her room.

She scowled in response because she didn't want a housekeeper to see her wretched state. Nevertheless, she didn't dare to say anything after seeing his frosty expression. Thus, she allowed the housekeeper to bring her back to her room.

He promptly returned to the study after that. His eyebrows furrowed when the stench of alcohol rushed into his nose. To get rid of the smell, he opened the windows.

Chapter 748 Fake Smile

The next morning, Lucian heard a series of careful knocks on his door when he woke up. The only person who would do that was Estella.

As expected, he saw the girl standing in front of his bedroom with puppy dog eyes when he went to open the door. Upon seeing him, she greeted sweetly, "Good morning, Daddy!"

Nodding slightly, he patted her head. "What's the matter? Why did you wake up so early today?" After glancing at Aubree's room, she lifted her head and stared at her father. "I want to meet Ms. Jarvis! Take me to see her!"

The last thing she wanted was to spend time with Aubree, and even the mere thought of having breakfast with the woman filled her heart with disgust.

A frown marred Lucian's face as he knew what the girl was thinking and understood her feelings. However, he needed to attend an important meeting that morning. He would be late if he sent his daughter to Roxanne's place before going to the company.

Thus, his initial plan was to let the girl stay in the house, but when he lowered his head, he saw a pleading look in her eyes. In the end, he couldn't bring himself to say no to that face.

“I have something to tend to at work today. So, you'll come with me to the company before I ask Mr. Lawson to take you there. Is that okay?” he asked.

While Estella didn't want to stay with Aubree, she was still an obedient girl. So, she nodded when she heard her father had work-related matters to deal with.

Patting the girl's head, Lucian turned around and went to wash up.

As for Estella, she waited at the door docilely.

Meanwhile, Aubree had just woken up. Due to her excessive drinking last night, she was groggy and had a nasty headache.

The cold attitude Lucian gave her last night was still fresh in her mind.

Thinking about how coldly he treated her enraged her instantly. It also made her panic because, if things continued in that trajectory, her position might really be replaced by Roxanne. Even if he gives me the cold shoulder again, I must put up with it! I must change Lucian's attitude toward me!

As that thought came into mind, she ignored her headache, swiftly freshened up, and prepared to head downstairs.

She could only see him during the morning and night because he would spend the rest of the day in the company. That was why she couldn't miss out on any chance to meet him.

When she left her room, she saw Estella, who was waiting for Lucian in front of his bedroom.

Thus, Aubree slowed her pace, adjusted her expression, and approached the girl with a smile.

“You're up early, Essie.” She tried to caress the girl's head when she got close enough.

However, when Estella saw the woman, she had her guard up like a porcupine raising its body's quills. Then, as she regarded her warily, she inched into her father's room.

Aubree retracted her hand and paused in her tracks, but the smile on her face remained. "Are you waiting for your father? How about I bring you downstairs?"

Without hesitation, the girl shook her head with an expression of clear defiance.

Aubree was already suffering from a terrible headache, so when she was once again rejected by Estella, the smile on her face disappeared.

Glancing at the bedroom, she surmised Lucian was probably still inside the bathroom, meaning he wouldn't be able to see what was going on outside.

At that realization, Aubree's expression turned grim. "Listen to me obediently and follow me downstairs!"

