

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!"

Chapter 749 Fear

When Aubree revealed her true colors and put on a frightening expression, Estella jumped in fear and wanted to go to Lucian. However, her wrist was grabbed by Aubree, and she couldn't break free.

Staring coldly at the girl, Aubree uttered, "If you don't want to suffer, you better obey me! Don't piss me off, do you understand?" Inside the bathroom, Lucian was taking a shower when he called Roxanne.

He knew how much of a workaholic she was, so he was worried Roxanne might not be there when Cayden sent Estella over. The little girl would throw a temper tantrum if she didn't get to see Roxanne. That was why he was calling her, to make sure she was around.

Thankfully, she picked up the call rather quickly. "What's the matter, Lucian?" Roxanne sounded groggy. She might have just woken up, or she was woken up by the call.

Amused by her sleepy tone, Lucian apologized softly, "Did I wake you up? Sorry."

She yawned slightly and sat up in bed. “It’s okay. I should be waking up at this time, anyway. I think I overslept a little. Why are you calling me early in the morning?”

“Essie wants to go to your place. Do you have time during the morning for that? If it’s not convenient for you, I can ask her to stay in the company with me.”

After spending time with Roxanne for a while, Lucian figured out her preferred way of interacting between the two of them. Therefore, he would use a negotiating tone whenever he spoke to her.

Roxanne pondered for a while before agreeing. “Got it. I’ll be at home in the morning.”

He was astounded when he heard her agree to it readily. Raising his eyebrows in surprise, he hummed in response and told her the estimated time that Estella would arrive before ending the call.

After hanging up, Lucian stepped out of the bathroom and glanced at his daughter, who was still at the door.

Aubree was still threatening the girl at that moment and was shocked to see Lucian emerging from the bathroom. Hastily, her expression changed as she greeted him guiltily, “Lucian.”

The moment he saw her, he remembered how she pestered him last night. With a cold tone, he asked, “Why are you here?”

Her eyelashes quivered before she explained cautiously, “I saw Essie standing here, so I thought I should come over and talk with her.” Then, she flashed a fake smile at the girl. “Isn’t that right, Essie?”

Pursing her lips, Estella glanced at the woman before wordlessly running toward her father, hiding behind him while grabbing his pants.

The look in Lucian’s eyes darkened as he regarded his daughter’s restless demeanor. He then glimpsed the woman at the door.

Even though his gaze merely swept past Aubree’s face briefly, it still made her tremble. She clenched her hand tightly to prevent herself from losing her composure.

He was tired of dealing with her, so he just said, "I'll bring Essie downstairs later. You can go down first."

Upon hearing that, she parted her lips to say something but didn't dare to. Silently, she shot a glare at Estella before descending the stairs. With that, only Estella and Lucian were left in the room.

"What did you two talk about with each other earlier?" He looked at her with a frown. She was clearly afraid when she ran toward me just now.

Pressing her lips into a thin line, the girl shook her head, refusing to talk. She appeared similar to how she used to act when her autism was severe.

Lucian's heart dropped when he saw that. Instead of asking any more questions, he wordlessly comforted Estella by caressing her head.

Chapter 750 Warm Smile

Not long after, Lucian brought Estella downstairs. Aubree was already sitting at the dining table. When she saw them, she stifled the displeasure in her heart and smiled at them before pointing to the spot next to her. "Come over here, Essie. Let's eat breakfast together."

She thought her threat from earlier would make the girl listen to her. To her surprise, the little girl blatantly ignored her. Grabbing onto the hem of her father's shirt, Estella followed him to the dining table and allowed him to lift her and plop her down on the seat next to him.

Aubree's expression froze when she saw neither of them had any intention of paying attention to her. "You're heading to work in a while, right, Lucian?" she asked a few seconds later, refusing to give up. He nodded indifferently.

Aubree's rage dissipated slightly when she at least got some response out of him. With a smile, she suggested, "Then let me take care of you today, Essie! I'll make sure you'll have tons of fun!"

The instant she ended her sentence, she saw Estella glancing at her cautiously before looking back down and eating silently. In the past, when the girl's condition hadn't improved yet, she tended to remain silent when Aubree talked to her.

In Aubree's opinion, the girl's behavior had worsened to the point of straight-up disrespecting her. Even threats no longer worked.

Realizing that Estella had changed, Aubree was enraged, and she blamed everything on Roxanne. If not for that b*tch, this brat wouldn't have defied me. The brat clearly thinks she has someone supporting her now, so she could do as she pleases. It's all because of that b*tch! I lost my best way into the Farwell family because of her!

Meanwhile, she was also mad at the stubborn little girl. I remember Lucian's relationship with that b*tch was quite awkward when she first returned to the country. The reason their relationship improved was because of this brat! Even though I treated her so well, she ungratefully insisted on clinging to that b*tch! If not for her, that b*tch wouldn't have had so many opportunities to spend time with Lucian and develop their relationship to what it is today!

As her thoughts ran wild, Aubree started staring at Estella with hatred in her eyes.

The girl was sensitive enough to sense Aubree's hostility. Thus, she put the spoon down and tugged at her father's sleeve to indicate that she wanted to head to Roxanne's as soon as possible.

Aubree rapidly changed her expression and smiled warmly in response to that. Lucian glanced at her. "There's no need for that. Essie will be following me today."

Without giving Aubree a chance to speak, he put his fork down and stood up. "I'll be leaving with Essie now." When Estella heard that, she got down from her chair, grabbed her father's sleeve, and left the mansion with him.

Aubree watched the two of them leave with a gloomy look. After sitting at the table for a while, she got up as well. No, I must follow them and see where the two of them are going.

"Ms. Pearson!" Catalina called out in confusion upon seeing Aubree leave when she barely touched her meal. Without turning to look at Catalina, Aubree replied, "I'm going home."

After that, she stepped out of the mansion. Fortunately for her, she exited the building at the right time. Lucian's car had just left the residence.

Thus, she speedily went to the side of the road, hailed a taxi, entered it, and asked the driver to tail Lucian's car.

Chapter 751 Take Good Care Of Essie

During the drive to his office, Lucian cast a glance at his daughter through the rearview mirror and furrowed his brows. "I'll send you there," Lucian said in a low voice.

Initially, he wanted to ask Cayden to send her over. However, judging by Estella's current state, Lucian reckoned it would be difficult for Cayden to deal with her later on.

He gave Cayden a call right after. It did not take long for Cayden to pick up the call. "Mr. Farwell, when will you arrive?" Lucian frowned and said, "Postpone the meeting in the morning."

Cayden was stumped. The meeting in the morning was important, and yet Lucian had ordered to postpone it. "Postpone it by an hour will do," Lucian added. "I'm going to drop Essie off."

Cayden hurriedly agreed to make the arrangements. He had been working with Lucian for years, and he was already used to his boss prioritizing Estella in every aspect of his life.

After hanging up the call, Lucian turned the car around and headed toward Roxanne's place.

Following closely behind Lucian's car was Aubree in a taxi. The fury burning in her chest was slightly appeased when she noticed that Lucian was heading to his office. However, upon noticing that he made an abrupt U-turn, Aubree stiffened in response.

Even though she had never been to Roxanne's place, Aubree had a hunch that Lucian was heading toward the woman's place right then.

Aubree's face fell when she was hit by the pang of realization. She ordered the driver in an icy tone, "Keep up with that car!"

The driver nodded hastily and tailed behind Lucian as told.

As expected, his car slowly came to a stop in front of Roxanne's place.

Lucian led Estella out of the car and rang the doorbell.

He was greeted soon after, perhaps because he had made a call prior to coming.

"Why is it you? Didn't you say you will ask Cayden to drop Essie off?"

Roxanne was slightly surprised at the sight of Lucian, and she gave him a confounded look.

"I think it's better for me to drop her off myself," Lucian explained.

Roxanne was perplexed by his explanation and lowered her head to look at Estella. Only then did she notice something off with the little girl.

Estella would always greet Roxanne whenever she met her. This time, however, the little girl merely kept quiet as she stared at Roxanne piteously.

It would appear as if the girl had returned to her autistic self.

"Essie?" Roxanne's heart constricted at the sight, worried that the little girl's condition had relapsed.

Estella finally snapped out of her daze when she heard Roxanne. The little girl blinked her eyes in distress and edged closer to Roxanne. "Ms. Jarvis..."

Roxanne heaved a sigh of relief and patted her head. She looked at Lucian and asked, "What's the matter with Essie?"

Lucian frowned. He did not know how to tell Roxanne the fact that Aubree had moved into the Farwell residence.

He remained silent for a few seconds before saying, "I guess she'll tell you later."

Roxanne was even more befuddled by his words.

Seeing as the man did not seem to wish to divulge further, she did not egg him on and merely nodded in response.

Archie and Benny were standing right behind Roxanne. They were worried to see the state that Estella was in as well.

“I have a meeting later on. So, I’ll have to get going.” Lucian said in a low voice, “I’ll be leaving Essie to you now. I will come and pick her up in the evening.”

Roxanne nodded in response.

However, when they met each other’s gaze, she seemed to notice that there was something odd about Lucian’s demeanor.

Chapter 752 This Cannot Go On

In truth, Lucian was stifling a hint of a laugh as he noticed that Roxanne’s lipstick was drawn out of line. It seems like she was still in a daze when she was doing her makeup. She doesn’t have a clue that her lipstick is out of line.

He felt the urge to tease the woman when he saw the blank expression on her face. Lucian let his mischievous side get the better of him and reached out his hand.

Upon noticing that Lucian’s hand was mere inches away from her face, Roxanne flinched and hurriedly took a step back to keep some distance between them.

His hand was left hanging mid-air, and he titled a brow in displeasure. “Do you have anything else, Mr. Farwell?” Roxanne asked warily.

A ghost of a smile fled across his eyes as he noticed Roxanne getting all flustered. “Your lipstick is out of line,” he said impassively.

Roxanne’s face was tinged pink as she instinctively lowered her head to avoid meeting Lucian’s gaze. “Thank you for reminding me, Mr. Farwell. I’ll deal with it myself.”

Then, she inclined her head at him as a sign of goodbye before turning around to head inside the house with the kids.

As he watched the four of them go back inside the house, Lucian could not help but replay the way Roxanne blushed when he tried to touch her. Pleased with her response, he grinned.

It was almost time for his meeting after he dropped Estella off. Hence, Lucian turned around and headed for the office.

In the meantime, opposite the mansion, Aubree was sitting in a taxi parked by the roadside with a dark look on her face.

She had just witnessed Lucian's interaction with that wretched woman.

He's always cold and indifferent toward me, but he's like a whole different person when he's in front of that b*tch!

When she saw that Lucian's hand was about to touch Roxanne's lips, Aubree almost could not restrain her urge to storm over and push her away from Lucian.

"Miss, do you still want to follow the car?"

As Lucian's car started to drive away, the driver did not know whether he should continue tailing him.

Aubree snapped out of her daze and glared at Roxanne's door. "No. Just send me back," she said in a cold voice.

Then, the driver headed back to the Farwell residence via the same route.

When Aubree arrived home, Catalina was surprised to see her return so soon.

Aubree then recalled the way Catalina tried to defend Estella the night before. Frustrated, she shot a daggered look at Catalina.

Catalina could sense Aubree's hostility. Though bewildered, she said nothing and retreated to the side as she watched Aubree head upstairs.

As Aubree ascended the stairs, her mind was filled with the infuriating images of Lucian being gentle toward Roxanne.

And that little b*tch! She acts so meekly in front of me, and yet she throws herself at that d*mned woman the first chance she gets! If not for her, Lucian would not have gone to see that wretched woman so early in the morning! It's all that little b*tch's fault.

Aubree's face contorted with a deranged look.

She thought that a little threat would make Estella behave and listen to her. However, she did not expect Estella to grow so brazen with Roxanne backing her up, even to the extent of ignoring her completely.

I can't let this go on... I have to teach that little b*tch a lesson so that she knows whose side she should take!

With that thought in mind, Aubree turned her attention to Estella's room with a grim look in her eyes.

