

Chapter 761 Worsen Her Condition

“Why shouldn’t I?” Lucian asked after a moment of silence.

“Because you’re courting Ms. Jarvis! So you have to make her happy!” Estella replied matter-of-factly.

Lucian furrowed his brows at her answer, and his gaze darkened.

Even Essie knows that. How could I have forgotten about it?

At the thought of Roxanne’s angry face, Lucian chuckled to himself self-deprecatingly.

No wonder there is no progress between us even though I’ve been pursuing her for so long.

Coming back to his senses, he apologized to Estella, “Sorry, I was wrong.”

Estella hummed in satisfaction. Then, she crossed her arms and demanded, “What did you do wrong, Daddy?”

Lucian glimpsed at her again through the rearview mirror and answered, “I shouldn’t have made Ms. Jarvis angry. I was too reckless.”

Estella was contented to hear her father admit his fault. She nodded before probing, “Why did you argue with Ms. Jarvis?”

Upon hearing that, Lucian shook his head in amusement.

This little brat! I already admitted to my mistake, yet she still wants to get to the bottom of the matter! Well, since she asked, I don’t mind telling her. I will need lots of help from her in the future, after all.

With that thought in mind, Lucian confessed, “There is some misunderstanding between us. I’m sure you’ve seen all the things I’ve been doing for Ms. Jarvis recently, but she just won’t accept me. So I felt anxious and wanted an explanation from her.”

All right, that’s all I will tell her. There’s no need to tell her about my rival. A child doesn’t need to know so much.

Estella got a bit worked up when she heard Lucian’s words, but she remained on Roxanne’s side. “You can ask me for help if you’re anxious. Don’t ever get mad at Ms. Jarvis again!”

Lucian nodded. “Okay.”

Estella continued to stare at him, seemingly unsatisfied with his answer.

Right when Lucian looked up, he met her glare in the mirror. Pursing his lips helplessly, he promised, “I promise not to get mad at Ms. Jarvis anymore. I’ll talk to her properly no matter what happens. If all things fail, I’ll ask for your help.”

Estella nodded in approval, and it was only then that a smile returned to her face.

However, her smile faded again as they got nearer to the Farwell residence.

She couldn’t help feeling scared when she remembered Aubree’s presence there.

“Daddy, how much longer will she be staying at our house?” Estella inquired carefully.

Lucian naturally knew who she was referring to.

When he thought of the woman in his house, he felt troubled.

While he was talking to Roxanne earlier, the only thing on his mind was her relationship with Jack.

Now that he thought about it, Roxanne was right.

With Estella’s aversion to Aubree, the former’s condition would likely worsen if he continued to let Aubree stay.

However, with Sonya meddling in their matters, he would need to find an appropriate reason to make Aubree leave.

In the end, Lucian could only give Estella a vague answer. “If you don’t like her, I’ll make her leave as soon as possible.”

Estella bobbed her head in response, albeit reluctantly.

Chapter 762 Sudden Change

Meanwhile, at the Farwell residence, Aubree tiptoed out of Estella’s room while on her phone.

“Don’t worry. I’ve used this drug on someone before. It takes effect once the person takes it,” Frieda claimed proudly on the other end of the line.

Aubree curled her lips coldly upon hearing that. “That’s good to hear. I’m definitely going to teach her a lesson this time!”

Only then did Frieda realize she had forgotten to ask about something. “Aubree, who are you going to use it on?”

Feeling impatient, Aubree knitted her brows and uttered indifferently, “That’s none of your business. Anyway, I’m hanging up. Lucian is back.”

With that, she hung up, leaving Frieda staring at her phone screen in bewilderment.

Aubree entered the bathroom and thoroughly washed her hands twice. Through the window, she saw Lucian’s car roll into the courtyard. She quickly schooled her expression and went downstairs with a smile.

Catalina was preparing dinner downstairs. At the sight of Aubree, she greeted her politely, “Ms. Pearson.”

“Let me help you,” Aubree offered with a pretentious smile.

Catalina had wanted to decline, but Aubree had already reached out and taken away the plate from her hand.

Catalina watched Aubree bustle about, her eyes filled with doubt.

Aubree had often stayed at the Farwell residence over the past few years, but she had never acted so helpful and attentive.

Yet, she had been going in and out of the house all day that day.

After leaving with Lucian in the morning, she returned shortly before going out

again when it was almost lunch. Upon returning, she stayed upstairs and only showed herself at this time.

What is she up to? Or has she finally matured after the conflict with her family? Suddenly, Catalina snapped out of it and shook her head hard.

How is that possible? Considering the environment she grew up in, how could she possibly change drastically in one night?

Just as Catalina was lost in her thoughts, the door to the mansion opened.

Before Catalina could acknowledge Lucian, Aubree walked past her and headed straight to the door.

“Lucian, Essie, you’re back.” Aubree had a bright smile plastered on her face, but her thoughts were the total opposite.

I hope Essie never comes back! I don’t even need to guess to know that Lucian went to Roxanne’s house again to fetch this brat. If it weren’t for her, Lucian wouldn’t have had so much time to spend with that wretched woman. And this brat won’t even listen to me!

Lucian nodded at Aubree coldly, loosening his tie with one hand while holding Estella’s hand with his other.

He knew how much Estella disliked Aubree, so he could only give the girl a sense of security this way.

When he saw the way Estella looked in front of Aubree, he regretted giving in to Sonya’s request.

“Essie, are you hungry?” Aubree crouched down and looked into Estella’s eyes, pretending to be gentle. “Come, let’s wash our hands and have dinner, okay?”

Estella shook her head immediately. She grasped Lucian’s hand and hid behind him.

Sensing her fear, Lucian frowned and looked at Aubree frostily. “There’s no need for that. I’ll take care of her. Just mind your own business.”

Having said that, he looked away from Aubree and walked past her while holding Estella’s hand.

For an instant, a dark look fled across Aubree’s face.

Chapter 763 That Girl Will Regret It

After Lucian brought Estella to wash her hands, they came out and sat at the dining table.

They sat at the same side of the table, leaving Aubree alone on the opposite side. It was clear as day that they were giving her the cold shoulder.

Feeling their aversion toward herself, Aubree dug her nails into her palm quietly to suppress her boiling rage. “Essie, did you have fun with your daddy today?” she asked with a nonchalant smile.

Let’s see if the father-daughter duo is going to tell me the truth!

Naturally, Estella turned a deaf ear to her question, and Lucian merely glanced at her meaningfully, looking as if he had seen through something.

Aubree shuddered involuntarily and steeled herself to carry on with the one-sided conversation. "I figure Essie probably had nothing to play with when she was staying at the office with you. You're always busy with work, so I'm worried she might be bored."

After saying that, she turned to Estella and continued with a smile tugging at her lips, "Let's play together later, okay? I bought a lot of games for you today."

Estella pursed her lips and shook her head.

If I hadn't known the way Estella behaves in front of Roxanne, I would have thought that this girl is a mute. But it turns out that Little Mute has a silver tongue in front of that b*tch, Roxanne!

Waves of exasperation washed over Aubree, but the smile on her lips grew even more genuine as she went on, "What do you want to play, then, Essie? I can play with you."

Estella lost her appetite after hearing what Aubree said. She put down the fork in her hand and gazed pleadingly at her father, silently asking for his approval.

Lucian knew that Estella wanted to go upstairs to escape Aubree's ingratiating, but he furrowed his brows and did not agree to her request.

Essie has always been sickly. I won't let her go without eating.

Estella seemed somewhat upset to see her father reject her.

Lucian turned his head and glanced at Aubree with a hint of warning in his eyes.

"If you have time to play games with Essie, you should call home more frequently so that Mr. Pearson will stop being mad at you."

Aubree met his gaze, then bit her lower lip and argued her case in a pitiful state. "I just want to make up to Essie. I didn't have much time to spend with her in the past, and I don't know much about her as well. I hope I can use this opportunity to let Essie and I get to know each other more."

Still, Lucian remained unmoved, and his tone became even frostier as he replied, "There is no need for that. You may not have the chance to get along with Essie again in the future, so you don't have to know her well, and she doesn't need to know you as well."

He made it clear with those words that she would not have the chance to become Estella's mother.

Although Aubree had long learned of his stance on the matter, when she heard him say that again, she still felt a stab in her heart. At the same time, her resentment for Roxanne and Estella grew even more.

For a long while, Aubree found herself at a loss for words.

Taking advantage of the tense atmosphere, Estella quickly finished her meal. This time, she put down the fork, jumped out of the chair, and dashed toward the stairs

without asking for her father's permission.

An insidious glint flashed across Aubree's eyes as she watched Estella climb up the stairs.

Lucian didn't think much about it. Without saying another word to Aubree, he rose to his feet as well and followed Estella up the stairs.

When he saw that Estella had gone into her room, he turned to the study.

The father-daughter duo acted as though the woman downstairs were not there at all.

Aubree had a cold look in her eyes as she watched them leave.

That little girl will regret it later!

Chapter 764 Have A Nice Chat

In the room, Estella felt upset when she thought of Aubree's expression the moment she walked through the door just now.

I really don't want to stay with Ms. Pearson, but Daddy won't tell me when he will chase her away.

After dwelling on that for quite some time, Estella couldn't hold it back anymore and called Roxanne.

Thankfully, Roxanne answered the call rather quickly.

"Essie, what's the matter?" When Roxanne saw that it was a call from Estella, she couldn't help but feel her heart clench. She was afraid that Aubree had bullied her again.

Hearing Roxanne's voice, Estella felt even more aggrieved. She mumbled sadly, "Ms. Jarvis, can you pick me up from my house?"

Roxanne frowned, her eyes filled with concern. "Why? Did Ms. Pearson get mad at you?"

Estella shook her head. "Daddy is here. She wouldn't dare."

Only then did Roxanne feel at ease. "Why did you ask me to fetch you, then?" she asked caringly.

It had not been long since Lucian brought Estella back. She thought Estella had been wronged now that she had called all of a sudden.

However, that did not seem to be the case.

Estella pouted. "I don't like Ms. Pearson, but she keeps talking to me."

I want to avoid Ms. Pearson.

Roxanne sighed inwardly upon hearing her response.

I've promised Essie that I will help her to talk to Lucian. But judging from his reaction just now, I'm not sure if he'd listened to my words or not... At the end of the day, I've still failed to help Essie. If I had known this was going to happen, I would have insisted on letting Essie stay.

After beating herself up for a while, Roxanne replied to Estella in a gentle tone,

“Essie, I can’t bring you over now. If you really don’t like Ms. Pearson, just stay in your room and try not to be with her when you’re alone, okay?”

She was worried that Estella would be mistreated if she was alone with Aubree. Luckily, Estella had learned her lesson. Upon hearing Roxanne’s words, she agreed obediently, “Okay.”

Roxanne breathed a sigh of relief and continued to comfort Estella. “Your daddy probably won’t let Ms. Pearson stay for long. Don’t worry, Essie.”

At the mention of that, Estella recalled the answer her father had given to her just now and puckered her lips in disbelief.

Seeing that Estella didn’t reply to her, Roxanne knew that Estella didn’t quite believe it, but she couldn’t do anything about it. She could only divert Estella’s attention.

“Archie and Benny said that you all have learned to make paper roses in kindergarten. Can you make one for me?” Roxanne asked gently.

Hearing that Roxanne wanted a gift, Estella agreed right away, “No problem!”

I will not just make one paper rose for her. I’m going to make a bouquet of paper roses for her!

Roxanne chuckled lightly, but she still seemed to be worried.

Just when she didn’t know what else to say, Archie and Benny came downstairs and stared at her expectantly. “Mommy, are you on the phone with Essie?”

Roxanne nodded in response.

Archie and Benny immediately jumped for joy and wanted to take her phone. “We want to talk to Essie too!”

They wanted to ask Estella if she had found anything on her side.

Not thinking much about it, Roxanne told Estella about it first before passing the phone to Archie and Benny. “Have a nice chat with Essie.”

Archie and Benny bobbed their heads obediently and ran to the side with the phone in their hands.

Chapter 765 Something Was Moved

Archie and Benny ran to a corner. They glanced furtively over their shoulders at Roxanne, making sure she was out of earshot before asking in a whisper, “Well? What did Mr. Farwell say?”

Upon hearing their question, Estella recalled her conversation with Lucian during their journey and answered, “Daddy said it was his fault, and he won’t do it again.”

The two boys heaved a sigh of relief when they heard that. Then they remarked chidingly, “Hmph! Mr. Farwell is the one who wants to pursue Mommy, yet he made her angry.”

If it weren’t because he has appeared sincere up until now, we wouldn’t bother helping him.

Despite Lucian being the one in the wrong, Estella could not help feeling guilty. She said softly, "Daddy already knows he made a mistake, so don't stop helping him..."

She sounded so pitiful that Archie and Benny also softened their tones as they replied, "Don't worry. We'll help him."

Then, they could not resist asking curiously, "By the way, did you call Mommy at such a late hour just to tell us this?"

There was a brief silence on the other end of the line, and the boys started getting worried.

After a while, Estella finally spoke again. "I want to be with the two of you and Ms. Jarvis. I don't want Ms. Pearson..."

Regret washed over Archie and Benny when they heard how upset Estella was. They said apologetically, "We're sorry. If we'd known, we would've said something to Mr. Farwell so that you could stay."

Estella shook her head. "I don't blame you. It's all Ms. Pearson's fault."

"That evil woman... If she dares to bully you, you must let us know. We'll get back at her for you," the boys replied indignantly.

Their response made Estella press her lips together in a shy smile. She sounded much more relaxed as she murmured, "Thank you, Archie. Thank you, Benny." The children chatted for a while before reluctantly ending the call.

After hanging up, Estelle remembered what Roxanne had said earlier. She took some kraft paper and started making paper roses for her.

Just imagining the look on Roxanne's face when she received the flowers filled Estella's heart with anticipation.

Seeing that it was getting late, Catalina went upstairs to give Estella a bath. She had to knock some time before getting a response.

As Estella stood in the doorway, Catalina gazed at her and asked curiously, "What were you busy with, Ms. Estella?"

Estella's eyes crinkled as she pointed at the paper roses on the table.

Catalina looked toward where Estella was pointing, then patted her head. "You've done a good job. They look beautiful!"

Hearing Catalina's praise only made Estella even more eager to see Roxanne's expression when she received the flowers. Her smile widened.

Catalina had not seen Estella smile since Aubree moved in, let alone smile so brightly.

Her heart could not help but melt when she saw how happy Estella looked. "It's getting late. Let's get you cleaned up and tucked into bed. You can pick up where you left off tomorrow, okay?"

Estella nodded obediently, and Cataline led her into the bathroom.

Inside the bathroom, Catalina sensed something amiss as she helped Estella

undress.

I could be imagining it, but it seems as though something in this bathroom has been moved. The only people who come into this bathroom are Mr. Farwell and me. Oh, and Estella, too. Maybe one of them moved something.

Catalina put it out of her mind and gave Estella her bath as usual. Then, she waited until Estella fell asleep before getting up and leaving.

Chapter 766 The Only Person I Can Think Of

Late that night, Lucian came out of the study after finishing his work. All the lights on the first floor had been turned off, and only the lights along the second-floor corridor were still on.

While walking past the door to Estella's room, he vaguely heard some movement inside the room, and his heart sank.

Recalling the aversion Estella had shown toward Aubree, he was worried Estella was secretly crying in her room because she was upset he did not tell Aubree to leave.

Thinking of that, Lucian quietly opened the door to Estella's room, padded over to her bedside, and peeped at her.

Under the glow of the lights in the corridor, he saw that she seemed asleep. However, it did not look like she was getting a good night's rest as she kept tossing and turning. She was also scratching at her body to the point that her pajamas had ridden up.

Lucian's brows drew together sharply as he took in the scene before him.

I thought at first that she must be having a bad dream, but why is it that she seems to be behaving strangely? Also, she can't seem to stop scratching herself.

Frowning, he grabbed Estella's wrists to try and stop her from scratching.

To his surprise, she struggled to break free in her sleep and let out a cry of frustration. She even started thrashing around on the bed.

It looks like she's itching like crazy!

After slowly letting go of her wrists, he saw that she could not refrain from scraping her nails over her skin again, and she even started using more force.

“Essie? Essie?” Lucian called her name twice in a low voice, but she did not wake up.

He waited for a while, his expression turning solemn. Then, he strode to the door and raised his hand to turn on the lights in Estella’s room, bathing the room in a bright glow.

As soon as Lucian turned back around, the red spots on Estella’s exposed skin caught his eye immediately.

The small, red spots formed patches, spreading across Estella’s arms to her neck. Since she had been scratching them, they looked especially red and inflamed.

“Essie!” Lucian could tell with just one glance that it was an allergic reaction. Fearful that her scratching would break her skin, he quickly grabbed her small hands despite her trying to squirm out of his grasp.

The itching persisted while she was still in a slumber, yet try as she might, she could not do anything to alleviate the discomfort. It was too much to bear, and she finally opened her eyes.

Estella was stunned for a few seconds when she saw Lucian standing by her bed. The next moment, she felt her entire body itching intensely. She reached out to scratch her skin, but Lucian held her hands firmly.

“No more scratching,” he said, giving her a stern look.

Estella turned to him miserably. “But it’s so itchy. It’s as though there are mosquitoes biting me.”

After saying that, she lowered her head with an innocent expression to see if there were actually any mosquitoes on her.

Realizing her intention, Lucian quickly covered a hand over her eyes. “It’s probably just allergies. Don’t look. I’ll take you to see Ms. Jarvis and have her check on you.”

It's her first time going through something like this. All those red spots on her skin look terrifying, and I don't want to scare her. Even if we go to the hospital, there may not be a reliable doctor at this hour. The only person I can think of is Roxanne. Now that I think about it, it'll also probably make Essie feel more comfortable if Roxanne is the one to treat her.

Estella's eyes reddened. She was upset that she could not see anything and felt as though she were in absolute agony. She uttered in a tearful voice, "Daddy, I'm so uncomfortable!"

Lucian gathered Estella into his arms, then used one hand to hold her wrists and the other to take out his phone and dial Roxanne's number.

Chapter 767 She Had Never Suffered Like That

Roxanne had just fallen into a deep sleep when she was suddenly awakened by her phone ringing. Groggily, she felt for her phone on the bedside table and answered the call. "Who's this?"

Lucian furrowed his brows slightly, then said in a deep voice, "It's me." Hearing his voice gave her a jolt, and her mind suddenly felt much more awake. "What's the matter?"

He looked down at the girl in his arms. Estella was sobbing while attempting to lower her head and look at herself.

Lucian tightened his arms around her, then explained everything to Roxanne. "There are suddenly a lot of red spots on Essie's body, and they itch a lot. I just woke her up. If it's convenient for you, I'll bring her over for you to check on her."

As soon as Roxanne learned that Estella was unwell, the last vestiges of sleepiness vanished. Getting dressed while climbing out of bed, she said, "Sure. I'll wait here for you."

After murmuring a reply, he hung up and patted Estella's head. "There's a good girl. We'll go and let Ms. Jarvis take a look at you, and everything will be fine," he said in a reassuring tone.

Despite her condition, Estella nodded obediently upon hearing that she would be able to see Roxanne soon. She leaned against Lucian's shoulder weakly and said pleadingly, "Daddy, it itches so bad."

It worried Lucian terribly to see her so unwell. Alas, the only thing he could do was free a hand and lightly scratch at her skin through her clothes with the tips of his fingers to relieve her discomfort.

He carried her all the way downstairs. Just then, Catalina happened to come out of her room to get some water.

When the woman saw Lucian and Estella, she asked in confusion, “Mr. Farwell, where are you taking Ms. Estella in the middle of the night?”

He paused his footsteps, then turned and enquired, “Were there red spots on Essie’s body when you were helping her wash up?”

Catalina’s heart sank a little as she glanced at Estella in concern.

Her face was etched with worry when she noticed the red spots dotting Estella’s body. “She was fine during her bath. How did this happen?”

“I’m taking her to get it checked,” he responded without asking further questions. He was about to leave when Catalina quickly called out to him.

She reached for a throw from the couch and wrapped it around Estella. “Since it’s chilly outside and Ms. Estella isn’t feeling well, it’ll be better to wrap up.”

Lucian nodded, watching as the woman tucked the throw around Estella. After that, he proceeded to carry Estella out of the house.

Catalina sighed worriedly as she watched the pair leave, then went to pour herself some water.

I’m not sure whether it’s an illusion from seeing the red spots on Estella’s skin, but I’m starting to feel some itchiness on my body too.

Lucian carried Estella to the car and had just placed her down when she started clawing at her irritated skin again.

His expression darkened, and he said sternly, “Don’t do that, Essie.”

Estella pouted at those words, tears brimming in her eyes.

I don’t want to do so, either. It hurts and itches when I scratch at it. It’s absolutely unbearable. But if I don’t, it’s torturous!

Her aggrieved expression made his heart ache, and he gently stroked her head.

After all, she had been pampered since she was little and had never suffered like that.

Recalling how Roxanne usually spoke to Estella, Lucian tried his best to soften his tone and say a few words of comfort. “Everything will be fine when you see Ms. Jarvis. She’ll make you feel better. If you keep doing that, it’ll leave scars. That’d be an ugly sight.”

Estella finally nodded obediently at the mention of Roxanne.

Chapter 768 The Mosquitoes Keep Biting Me

Meanwhile, although the light in Aubree’s room had been turned off, she had yet to go to sleep.

Aubree waited until she saw Lucian carry Estella to the car and slowly drive out of the Farwell residence before tiptoeing around her room to gather some things. Then, she opened the door and crept to Estella’s room.

Lucian had left in such a hurry that he did not even close the door to Estella’s room, which only made things easier for Aubree.

Using the glow from her phone screen to see what she was doing, she switched out a few things inside Estella’s bathroom. After scanning the room carefully and ensuring nothing appeared out of the ordinary, she left quietly.

Back in her room, the thought of the distressed look on Estella’s face filled her heart with glee.

That little brat... Let’s see if she dares to go against me again!

Meanwhile, Estella’s condition did not get any better as they made their way to Roxanne’s house. She could not refrain from occasionally reaching out to rake her nails wildly over her skin.

Lucian could see what she was doing through the rearview mirror, and his brows knitted together. While they stopped at a traffic light, he took the chance to call Roxanne again.

Roxanne had already prepared her medical kit and was anxiously waiting for them to arrive.

When she saw that Lucian was calling her, she answered her phone immediately.

“I’m on the way to your house, but Essie can’t stand the itchiness and keeps scratching. You should chat with her for a little while.”

Lucian was subconsciously thinking of Roxanne as Estella’s biological mother. He spoke in a way that sounded as though that was the most natural thing for Roxanne to do.

As for Roxanne, since the matter concerned Estella, she did not notice anything odd about his tone and agreed without hesitation.

Over in the rear passenger seat, Estella stared at Lucian’s phone as soon as she heard Roxanne’s voice. I want to talk to Ms. Jarvis!

A second later, Estella saw him toss his phone over to her.

She quickly grabbed it. Then, holding the phone in both hands, she proceeded to voice her grievances to Roxanne. “Ms. Jarvis, it’s so itchy! The mosquitoes keep biting me!”

Upon hearing Estella’s miserable voice, Roxanne felt a pang shooting through her heart. “Be good and don’t scratch, okay? I’ll take a look later and make you all better.”

Estella sadly mumbled a response.

To distract Estella, Roxanne started chatting to her about arts and crafts again.

It seemed to work as Estella’s hands stopped moving after a while.

Lucian heaved a sigh of relief and began driving even faster.

Soon, the car slowly pulled up in front of the entrance to Roxanne’s residential area.

“We’re here.”

Roxanne vaguely heard Lucian's voice over the phone. Then, the intercom in her house started ringing.

She hung up and went to the intercom to open the gates of the residential area for Lucian and Estella to come in. After that, she opened the mansion door and waited in the yard.

In the dark of the night, she watched as a car slowly drove toward her and stopped in her yard.

Lucian alighted from the car. His shirt was only a thin, ashy gray one. He turned to open the rear passenger seat door and carried Estella out of the car.

"Ms. Jarvis!" From afar, Estella stretched out her hands toward Roxanne while still in her father's arms, wanting Roxanne to carry her.

Roxanne hurried forward to carry Estella. However, Lucian dodged away.

Roxanne was taken aback. Her thoughts flew to their rather unpleasant conversation earlier that evening, and she guessed that he was still annoyed by her relationship with Jack.

However, Lucian frowned and simply said, "We don't know if it's contagious."

Chapter 769 Still Need To Check Her Over

When Estella heard her father's remark, her eyes flickered, and she retracted her hands. I'm already feeling horrible, so I don't want Ms. Jarvis to suffer as well.

Roxanne was inevitably stunned for a few seconds, surprised that Lucian was purely concerned about her. Oh God, I misunderstood him...

Pursing her lips, she smiled and looked at Estella reassuringly. "It's okay. Come here and let me hug you." While saying that, she held her arms out to the little girl to carry her into the house.

She could tell that Estella was scared to death then and yearned for her embrace. Alas, her outstretched arms grasped empty air once more.

Estella wriggled into her father's embrace, dodging Roxanne's outstretched arms. She then shook her head at the latter. "Daddy will carry me in."

Roxanne's heart promptly melted, knowing that Estella was afraid she would be infected. In the end, she relented and followed them into the living room.

"Place her in my room," she offered gently upon noticing the man faltering in his tracks.

Nodding, Lucian headed upstairs directly with Estella in his arms and went to Roxanne's room.

After stepping foot into the room, however, he hesitated because he wasn't sure where to place her.

If it's really contagious, Roxanne might be infected if I were to place Essie onto her bed.

Entering right after him, Roxanne perceived his worry. She snagged a large blanket from the side and spread it over the bed before motioning for him to place Estella down.

Only then did Lucian step forward and place Estella onto the bed.

Subsequently, Roxanne stepped forward and carefully removed the blanket wrapped around Estella.

The lighting outside was rather dim earlier. That aside, Estella was wrapped up like a burrito, so she merely knew that the girl had red spots all over her body. She had no idea of the specific situation.

Estella docilely allowed her to do as she pleased.

When Roxanne had removed the blanket, a glimmer of shock flittered across her eyes at the red spots blanketing Estella's body.

Although she had expected her condition to be exceedingly severe long before Lucian arrived, she never imagined it would be that bad.

It's fortunate that he timely stopped Essie from simply scratching her body. Otherwise, her condition would be even more severe.

"So? Is it serious?" Lucian asked with a frown, restraining Estella's wrists in order to prevent her from moving around.

At his question, Roxanne turned and cast him a look. The expression on her face was somewhat solemn. "I still need to check her over."

She could roughly tell the cause of Estella's symptoms, but she still needed to take her pulse to be sure.

As soon as Lucian glimpsed her outstretched hand, the crease of his brows deepened. Ultimately, he admitted, "Essie's condition is contagious."

During the drive over, his arm had also started itching. As time passed, the feeling soon grew increasingly intense. On top of that, the affected area was seemingly expanding as well.

He hadn't had the time to check himself over yet, but he was inwardly certain that he had already been infected by Estella.

To avoid having her blame herself, he had been holding himself back and saying nothing. Nor did he exhibit any irregularity.

Nonetheless, he still stopped Roxanne timely when she wanted to touch Estella.

Unexpectedly, contact between them both still ended up unavoidable.

Hearing that, both Roxanne and Estella were startled.

Snapping back to her senses, Roxanne instinctively swept her gaze over the man's exposed skin, only to be greeted by the sight of a few inconspicuous red spots looming at his collar.

The back of his neck, where Estella touched earlier, had also turned into an expanse of red spots.

Whoa! I wonder how he managed to endure it that he didn't give anything away all this while.

Chapter 770 I Will Not Be Infected

At the sight of Lucian's condition, Roxanne couldn't help frowning. Conversely, Estella merely heard that her condition was contagious but didn't see the red spots on Lucian's body. She shrunk to the side pitifully, refusing to allow the two adults to touch her further.

Gathering her wits about her, Roxanne dipped her eyes. When she saw Estella curled up in a ball, her heart clenched painfully. “Come over here, Essie. Let me have a look at you.”

Estella shook her head, replying timidly, “No, it’s okay. I’ll infect you, Ms. Jarvis.”

Her words had Roxanne’s eyes stinging. Smiling, she coaxed, “I’m not afraid. I’ve treated patients with similar conditions in the past and have suffered from this condition previously. Therefore, I won’t be infected anymore.”

Even Lucian was momentarily stupefied to hear that, mistakenly assuming that she was speaking the truth.

Estella scrutinized Roxanne suspiciously for a long time. Only when she had ascertained that the latter didn’t seem to be lying, and she was indeed feeling so awful that she couldn’t put up with it any longer did she slowly inch over to Roxanne and stretch her hand out.

Roxanne stroked her head to comfort her before reaching out and taking her wrist to diagnose her condition.

At the side, Lucian stared at the woman in front of him with a dark look in his eyes.

Her expression when she spoke earlier had me duped as well. But on second thought, she hadn’t even checked Essie over. So, how could she have known whether her condition was contagious? Thus, her words earlier were only meant to console Essie.

By the time realization dawned upon him, Roxanne had already started taking Estella’s pulse. There was no point in him saying anything then. A strange feeling welled within him.

She has no idea of her relationship with Essie, yet she’s willing to take such a colossal risk to diagnose and treat her...

For a moment, he even regretted bringing Estella over.

I should’ve brought Essie to the hospital. At the very least, I could have prevented Roxanne from being infected.

While Roxanne was checking Estella over, Archie and Benny trotted in curiously.

Earlier, they vaguely heard some noise outside, so they got up to have a look. To their sheer surprise, they spotted Lucian's car in the courtyard.

They initially thought that he came alone, so they wanted to come over and sneak a look to ascertain whether the two adults were having a row again.

Unexpectedly, no sooner had they reached Roxanne's bedroom door than they caught sight of Estella sitting on Roxanne's bed pitifully with red spots dotting her exposed wrist and neck. She appeared as though she was gravely ill.

Seeing that, they both wore worried expressions on their faces. They hastily sprinted over to the bed to have a look at Estella.

In the room, both adults were preoccupied with their respective thoughts. Estella, on the other hand, was itching badly. No one noticed Archie and Benny's approach.

Lucian was the first to notice them.

When he saw them dashing in without warning, his brows abruptly knitted together, and he warned in a deep voice, "Don't come in."

Regretfully, it was already too late. Archie and Benny gingerly touched Estella's neck with worry written all over their faces. "What's wrong with Essie, Mommy?"

It wasn't until Roxanne heard their voices that she jolted back to reality and shifted her gaze away from Estella's wrist.

The instant she laid eyes on their outstretched hands, her pupils constricted.

Withdrawing their hands, Archie and Benny looked at each other in bemusement.

"How itchy!" Benny lowered his head and glanced at his wrist, only to see red spots similar to the ones on Estella's neck dotting his wrist.

Chapter 771 I Am Sorry

Shortly after, Archie's arm also started itching. Archie and Benny gazed at Roxanne blankly, not understanding what had happened to them.

A glint of self-recrimination flashed across Roxanne's eyes when she saw that they had both gotten infected.

If only I had closed the door earlier, I would've noticed their entry in time and stopped them from approaching. Then, they wouldn't have gotten infected...

"It's so itchy, Mommy." With a frown marring his countenance, Benny stretched out his hand to scratch the itch.

"Don't touch it!" Roxanne hastily ordered.

As her words rang out, Lucian stepped forward and grabbed Archie and Benny's hands to prevent them from simply scratching their itches.

Just now, he didn't dare touch them out of consideration that he was already infected. That was why he didn't physically stop them.

Since they had also been infected then, that was no longer a worry.

Meanwhile, Estella already had that experience. While refraining from scratching her body, she pinned her eyes on Archie and Benny as she apologized, "I'm sorry. This is all on me..."

When Archie and Benny heard that, they endured the itch assailing them and comforted her instead. "We asked for it. It has nothing to do with you."

After saying that, it occurred to them that Estella had suffered such torment for an indeterminably long time. Gritting their teeth, they turned solemn and said to Lucian, "Let go of us, Mr. Farwell. We won't scratch anywhere!"

Since Essie can endure it, we can naturally do the same! We need to be good role models for her!

Lucian eyed them both skeptically. Only when he was sure he couldn't detect any signs of lying did he slowly loosen his hold on them.

Sure enough, Archie and Benny didn't touch the red spots on their bodies throughout it all.

"Ms. Jarvis..." Estella muttered with much difficulty out of the blue.

Roxanne's heart lurched. She dropped her hand from Estella's wrist and touched the girl's face instead.

When they came over earlier, the red spots hadn't yet spread to her face.

Right then, however, her entire face was stained red.

With a single touch, Roxanne discovered that Estella was already running a slight fever. At once, her heart sank.

"What's wrong?" Lucian inquired with a frown, his expression likewise darkening a shade.

Shaking her head, Roxanne merely murmured, "I'm stepping out to make a call."

After saying that, she instructed the three children, "I'm going out for a while. Don't touch the red spots on your bodies."

In response, the children nodded obediently.

Having obtained their agreement, Roxanne pivoted and left the room.

His brows scrunching together, Lucian touched Estella's forehead. Upon detecting that she was running a fever, he initially wanted to step out after Roxanne to ask about her condition. But it was clear that someone needed to keep the children company, so he could only give that plan up.

At the door, Roxanne rolled up her sleeves and took a gander at her arm. Unsurprisingly, red spots had also manifested on her arm.

Since they were adults, their resistance was stronger than children. For that reason, Archie and Benny developed a reaction as soon as they touched Estella, while she and Lucian were infected slowly.

If her diagnosis was correct, Estella's symptoms obviously indicated an allergy due to bacterial infection.

As time dragged on, the symptoms would only worsen.

She and Lucian would still be fine, but the three children would inevitably have to suffer quite a bit.

Worse still, Estella had already developed subsequent symptoms.

At the thought of the children inside, Roxanne didn't dare delay things anymore. She whipped out her phone and called Colby right away.

She initially thought that she would have to wait for a while before he answered, as it was late at night.

Unexpectedly, the person on the other end picked up the call mere seconds after it was connected.

Chapter 772 We Will Take Good Care Of Essie

“What's the matter, Dr. Jarvis?”

Colby had just fallen asleep when he was jolted awake by Roxanne's call. When he glimpsed the caller ID, he immediately answered the call.

Hearing his voice, Roxanne furtively breathed a sigh of relief. She hadn't the time to exchange pleasantries with him, so she cut to the chase. “If it isn't too much trouble, can you make a trip to the research institute right now?”

At that, Colby sat up from the bed. “Is there anything important?”

While saying that, he had already started changing without waiting for her reply.

He knew that there must be something crucial that she was calling at that hour, but he wanted to know the specifics.

Roxanne glanced at the three children in the room, her voice grave. “I have kids here who developed an allergic reaction due to bacterial infection. The spray we formulated back then might be effective, but I'm really needed here. As such, I can only seek your help.”

Having said that, she added, “Forget it if it's too much trouble. I can also make a trip over myself.”

By then, Colby had already gone downstairs after snagging a coat and draping it over himself. “I've already left home and will be arriving soon.”

Roxanne thanked him gratefully, saying, “I'm really sorry for troubling you at this hour.”

At her words, Colby merely chuckled nonchalantly. “It’s no big deal. The children’s health comes first. I remember that the symptoms of such an allergy can get exceedingly serious. Take care of them first. I’ll rush over as soon as possible.”

Roxanne murmured an acknowledgment and thanked him again before hanging up the phone.

By the time she returned to the room, Estella’s face had already flushed bright red. The red spots on Archie and Benny’s bodies had also spread to their necks.

It was the first time they had such a severe illness. Although they were already sufficiently strong, they were still inexorably afraid.

Utter distress inundated Roxanne at the expressions on their faces. But still, she gritted her teeth and soothed them. “Don’t be afraid. It’s just a bit of an allergy. I’ve already asked someone to send the medication over. Just put up with it for a while longer.”

Unwilling to cause her concern, the children nodded meekly.

Turning her back to them, Roxanne sighed soundlessly.

While Colby had promised that he would rush over as soon as possible, she couldn’t help feeling anxious. Thus, she went downstairs to wait.

At the sight of her retreating back, Lucian’s gaze darkened. He shifted his eyes to the three children on the bed.

Discerning his intention, Archie and Benny instantly patted themselves on the chest and vowed, “We’ll take good care of Essie!”

Following that, Lucian bobbed his head at them and left the room as well.

When he arrived downstairs, he bumped into Roxanne, who was about to head upstairs with a pot of hot water in hand.

Lucian took the pot from her. “What illness is this exactly?”

Roxanne didn’t bother to stand on ceremony with him. She whirled around and took a few brand-new towels from the bathroom before following behind him. “It’s an allergy due to bacterial infection. Adults can still endure it, but kids’ resistance

is low. As time drags on, there'll be a series of complications, such as high fever, laryngeal edema, and the like. In serious cases, there's even a possibility of asphyxia."

At her words, Lucian's heart promptly sank to rock bottom.

Essie is already running a high fever now. It'd be bad if things were to drag on.

"I've already asked someone to help get the medication. Right now, I'm going to use hot towels on them to alleviate the itching first."

Roxanne's heart was similarly heavy.

Earlier, she initially planned to go downstairs to wait for Colby. But when she arrived downstairs, that idea occurred to her.

Lucian didn't know much about pathology, so he could only do as she said.

Chapter 773 What Is Their Relationship

An hour later, Roxanne's phone rang. Colby had arrived. Roxanne went downstairs to open the door for him.

Meanwhile, Lucian and the children heard the male voice on the other end of the phone. Without waiting for the man to speak, the children took the initiative to urge him to follow Roxanne downstairs for a look.

Seeing that they were even more anxious than him, Lucian inclined his head a fraction and went downstairs with huge strides. "Thank you." Roxanne stood in the courtyard as she took the sprays from Colby.

Since the condition was contagious, she could only try her best to keep a distance from him. However, he brought a number of sprays, so she couldn't quite carry them all. "I'll carry them in for you," Colby suggested at her conflicted expression.

Without an ounce of hesitation, Roxanne turned him down. "As you know, this kind of bacteria is highly contagious. I already feel horribly bad for troubling you to make this trip late at night. You'd best not go into the house, for I'm afraid that you'd get infected as well."

As a fellow doctor, Colby also played a part in formulating the spray. Naturally, he knew full well the contagiousness of such a bacteria.

Therefore, he didn't insist after she had said as much.

Just when he was racking his brain for a way to help her carry the sprays in, a figure suddenly walked out of the mansion door.

He reflexively lifted his eyes and cast his gaze over.

The instant he recognized the person at the door, a glimmer of surprise flittered across his eyes.

Lucian? Why is he here at this hour?

While he was still perplexed, Lucian had already walked over to him with mighty strides and regarded him expressionlessly. "You're... Dr. Galloway?"

He had seen Colby once when he went to the research institute to pick Roxanne up previously.

When it came to the men around Roxanne, he had a deep impression of them, even if he had only seen them once.

Snapping back to his senses, Colby courteously extended his hand and greeted, "Mr. Farwell."

His brows furrowing imperceptibly, Lucian didn't extend his hand. Instead, he merely explained, "Sorry, but I'm infected, so I'd better not shake hands with you for your sake, Dr. Galloway."

Upon hearing that, Colby was again stupefied.

When Roxanne asked me to go over to the research institute to get the medication, she said there were kids who were sick, so I instinctively presumed that it was Archie and Benny. But if it were them, why would he be here? To top it off, he's even infected? What's their relationship exactly?

Likewise, the look in Lucian's eyes was pitch dark.

I remember that Roxanne exited the research institute with this man when we met the last time. And in such an urgent situation now, she asked him for help. What's their relationship exactly?

For a moment, the atmosphere between them turned a touch tense.

Worried about Archie and Benny upstairs, Roxanne didn't notice the strange atmosphere between the two men. "It's late now, and considering the situation today, I won't be inviting you in."

Gathering his wits about him, Colby nodded in understanding. Before leaving, he didn't forget to remind her gently, "Take care of yourself. Don't tire yourself out."

Roxanne merely pursed her lips and flashed him a smile.

A while later, Colby got into his car and left.

Roxanne and Lucian remained in the courtyard, watching until his car had disappeared from their lines of sight before they spun around and went back into the mansion.

They held two large bottles of spray in each hand respectively.

By the time they returned to the bedroom, they were greeted by the sight of the three children lying on the bed sickly. Estella had already plunged into semi-consciousness from her high fever.

"Mommy..." Archie and Benny mumbled indistinctly when they saw them entering the room, still somewhat conscious.

Roxanne hastened forward and touched their foreheads, only to sense searing heat.

At that, she quickly took the sprays over and sprayed the children all over.

Chapter 774 Perceived The Identities Of Archie And Benny

Fortunately, the spray they formulated worked in no time. Mere seconds after Roxanne sprayed the children all over, they stopped itching, simply in a daze from the high fever.

After spraying them all over, she turned and looked at the man behind her. She handed the spray in her hand to him. “Go and deal with it in the bathroom, Mr. Farwell.”

Dipping his head slightly, Lucian took the spray and went into the bathroom.

Roxanne, on the other hand, opened another bottle of spray and sprayed herself in the bedroom.

Having done that, she sprayed the room. Then, she took some disinfectant upstairs and sanitized the room.

When she had finished sanitizing the place, Lucian so happened to step out of the bathroom.

At the sight of her bustling around in the bedroom, he strode forward with a frown, planning to help.

“Carry the kids out. This room has to be left unoccupied for two days,” Roxanne instructed, noticing his intention.

Upon hearing that, Lucian swiftly changed directions. He carried the children downstairs one by one and placed them on the couch for the time being. Subsequently, he headed back to Roxanne’s bedroom.

It was the middle of the night, so Roxanne was a tad drowsy after she had finished doing everything. She was planning to go downstairs to check on the children when she collided with a solid chest the moment she turned around.

Before she realized what had happened, Lucian had already reached out and supported her by the waist.

Roxanne was stumped for several seconds before she abruptly jolted back to reality. At once, she backed away. “Why are you back?”

“The kids are all asleep, so I came upstairs to see whether you needed my help,” Lucian replied in a deep voice.

Tilting her head a fraction in acknowledgment of his reply, Roxanne lifted the spray in her hand. “I’ve already dealt with things here. Next, you need to sanitize your car thoroughly.”

Lucian grunted in acquiescence.

The two of them went downstairs, one after another, to sanitize his car.

“Are there any valuable things in the car?” Roxanne asked, glancing over her shoulder at Lucian after having sanitized the car. She then elaborated, “The windows have to be opened tonight for the air to circulate overnight. Then, the car can be used tomorrow.”

In response, Lucian shook his head.

Thus, Roxanne rolled down all four windows fully. Having done that, she reminded him, “Remember to also sanitize your house tomorrow. This bacteria is highly contagious.”

Lucian murmured in affirmation before following her back into the mansion unhurriedly.

The children’s symptoms had been alleviated by far after they had used the spray. Hence, they would be fine once their fever abated.

However, it was evidently uncomfortable for them to sleep on the couch, for all three of them were sleeping rather fitfully.

“Mommy, Daddy...” Benny muttered as he opened his eyes dazedly and saw the two adults entering the house.

Hearing that, Roxanne merely assumed that he was talking in his sleep. But still, her heart inexorably lurched, and she stole a peek at the man beside her on reflex.

Meanwhile, Lucian frowned, for he thought Benny was dreaming about the man who abandoned him and his mother.

At that possibility, he swung his gaze at the woman beside him with a dark look in his eyes.

On the contrary, Roxanne had no idea of his thoughts. When she locked gazes with him, she merely felt guilty, fearful he had perceived Archie and Benny’s identities.

As Lucian glimpsed her expression, his gaze darkened further.

The two of them stared at each other for a long time, different thoughts running through their minds. Roxanne was the first to avert her gaze. She suggested airily, "Let's carry them to the guest room on the first floor. That room can still be occupied."

Languidly retracting his gaze, Lucian leaned down and scooped Archie and Benny up. He then whirled around and headed toward the guest room.

Roxanne, on the other hand, carefully scooped Estella up and entered the room behind him.

