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“Roxanne told me that she’d be discussing with Mr. Morrison and Mr. Damaris about their collaboration, but I never thought that the discussion would take so long.”

Lucian sounded casual as he spoke to Jack and Larry, and even the way he called Roxanne’s name was intimate.

It truly sounded as if Roxanne was his woman and that she had only gone out for a business talk with them after gaining Lucian’s approval.

The moment Lucian said that, the people’s eyes widened.

Many knew that Lucian was engaged to a woman, and they knew that his fiancée was the daughter of the Pearson family.

However, Lucian’s attitude made them begin to wonder about his relationship with Roxanne.

When they thought about Lucian’s status and the woman’s divine looks, it did not seem all too surprising that they were in a relationship.

The people inhaled sharply, thinking that they had learned something shocking; they were ready to seal their lips and say nothing about that to anyone.

Roxanne was anxious when she saw the changes in their expressions. She wanted to part her lips to say something to refute Lucian’s words, but there was nothing she could say.

After all, Lucian did not actually utter anything concrete.

It was just misleading.

If she were to speak without thinking, the man might twist her words.

When she thought about what might happen, Roxanne bit her lower lip in defeat.

Like the others, Larry's and Jack's expressions also changed when they heard Lucian's words.

However, they had to admit that Lucian's appearance and the words he said were the best way to get Roxanne out of the mess.

After sharing a look, they nodded at Lucian. "The upcoming collaboration is important, and there were quite a number of people at the event. That's why we didn't notice the time."

In other words, they were telling the crowd that the three of them had not been alone earlier.

The crowd, naturally, dared not question Lucian.

Only the drunk Jessica was still slurring her protests.

"Why did you have to sit so close to each other if you were talking about work? So what if she's a great doctor? What right does she have to sit with you? At the end of the day, it's all because of her pretty face!"

As she spoke, she stumbled over to Roxanne, her finger still pointing at Roxanne's face.

Jack's attention was fully on Roxanne and Lucian. Even though he could hear Jessica's voice, he did not realize when she had walked away from his side.

By the time Jessica reappeared in his line of sight, she was already in between him and Roxanne.

Jack scrunched up his brows and tried to stop her.

However, it would not be appropriate for him to be the one to make the move now.

Hence, he had no choice but to remain still in his position as he watched Jessica ram herself onto a wall.

Larry had even less right to do anything.

Jessica's friends, on the other hand, were panicking, but Lucian's dominating presence stopped them from mustering the courage to pull Jessica back. So, they, too, could only watch as the scene unfolded.

"You..." Jessica staggered toward Roxanne until the latter was only a few steps away. "You minx! What kind of medical skills can you possibly have with that look of yours? Y-Your looks are everything!"

Roxanne had faced many similar questions like that before, but their questions had been looks in their eyes; none had ever voiced them out loud like that, let alone in a situation like this.

Even if she wanted to defend herself, she could not prove that her medical skills were not as lousy as Jessica said they were with just words.

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Everyone heard Jessica clearly.

Of course, they did not know much about the medical field. Hence, they merely nodded at Jessica's remarks.

After all, they had the perception that accomplished doctors would typically be in their fifties. People would not normally associate a young and beautiful woman like Roxanne with being an accomplished doctor in the medical field.

Jessica's hand edged closer and closer to Roxanne's face. The latter's face turned cold. She was ready to swat off Jessica's hand at any moment right then.

However, before Roxanne could do so, a large hand struck first and immobilized Jessica's hand.

The man clutching her hand had evidently exerted a considerable amount of force, so much so that Jessica lost her balance and staggered a few steps back and missed Roxanne's face.

"You could consult Dr. Lambert if you have any doubts about her medical skills, or you could also ask Old Mr. Queen. I believe he will have an answer for you." Lucian threw a scornful look at the tipsy woman before him. "Also, if you can't control yourself after having a few drinks, you'd better not attend these functions."

Before Jessica could respond, Lucian eyed the crowd and fixed his gaze on Cayden as he ordered, "Get someone to send Ms. Hightower home."

Cayden hastily agreed.

Lucian's grip hurt Jessica's wrist, and she slowly snapped out of her daze. Her blurry vision slowly became focused as she started to recognize the man before her.

"M-Mr. Farwell?" Her voice turned shaky as she registered the face in front of her.

Lucian looked daggers at her. Noticing that she was finally sobering up, he swung her off to one side with a disdainful look on his face. "I'm glad that you've finally sobered up, Ms. Hightower. I think it's best that you refrain from drinking from now on."

Jessica felt her legs going jelly at the realization. She staggered a few steps backward before she could finally steady herself.

Despite Lucian's rough treatment, Jessica dared not utter another word as she lowered her head, still reeling in from the shock.

When Cayden finally brought along some people as Lucian instructed, he hesitated as he waited for Lucian's orders for his next course of action.

Lucian glanced at the woman beside him.

However, it did not seem that Roxanne wanted anything to do with the mess.

Seeing as the misunderstanding had been resolved, Roxanne wanted to just put it all behind her.

She said, "It's great that you're sober now, Ms. Hightower. I'd like to excuse myself if there is nothing else."

Then, she looked around the crowd and stated, "It's only a misunderstanding. I'd appreciate it if all of you would move on and refrain from spreading gossip."

Lucian furrowed his brows in disagreement when he noticed that she was trying to play down the situation. However, he said nothing and went along with her as he shot a warning glare at the

crowd.

The crowd agreed not to spread the rumor as they met Lucian's admonishing stare.

Roxanne flashed a grateful smile at the crowd. When she lowered her gaze, however, there was an unmistakable weary look in her eyes.

She had drunk her fair share of alcohol just now. As a result, she was feeling dizzy. After going through the drama, Roxanne was utterly drained.

Lucian noticed her tired look, and his eyes darkened. He turned to Cayden and said, "Send Ms. Hightower home, and let Mr. Hightower know that she is sent home on my order."

Jessica was slow to make sense of Lucian's remarks.

However, the same could not be said for everyone else. They reckoned that life for Jessica would not be easy after this shenanigan that she had pulled.

If Jessica's father, Stephen Hightower, knew that his daughter had offended Lucian, there was a slim chance that she would ever get to show her face in the public after this.

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Soon, Cayden sent Jessica away.

Only after getting out of the hotel did Jessica finally make sense of what was happening. She struggled to break free, but it was all too late.

After Jessica left, Lucian scanned the crowd.

Everyone felt chills running down their backs as they met his gaze. They dared not linger and hastily left afterward.

Instantly, only a few people were left at the entrance of the hotel.

“Thank you for helping me out of the situation, Mr. Farwell,” Roxanne said.

She lowered her gaze and tried to calm herself as she muttered her thanks to Lucian, consciously keeping her distance from the man. Then she turned around to head back to Larry’s side.

However, Lucian held her hand right after she turned around.

Roxanne paused in her tracks and instinctively wanted to shrug him off, yet she did not have the courage to turn around and tell him off. She simply stood there stiffly.

“You’ve always been insincere with your thanks, Ms. Jarvis,” Lucian said in an enigmatic tone.

Then, he lifted his head to regard Jack and Larry who were standing not far from them. When he parted his lips, however, he did not sound as amiable as when he was defending Roxanne.

“Mr. Damaris, Mr. Morrison, the both of you couldn’t even handle a drunken woman, and as a result, your business partner here has suffered a scare. I’m afraid this is hardly ideal as far as business collaborations go,” Lucian said.

When Cayden reported the matter to him earlier, he had only mentioned that Roxanne was being put on the spot, and Lucian had come to her aid without hesitation.

He was upset to discover that Jack and Larry were actually present as well.

Larry glanced at Roxanne’s stiffened face. He approached her and said to Lucian, “It all happened too fast. We had no time to respond. Thank goodness, Roxanne is not hurt.”

A guilty look flitted across Larry's eyes.

Owing to his amicable personality, he had only thought about defending Roxanne when Jessica tried to admonish her. It never occurred to him to come up with a more aggressive retaliation.

Larry knew he could have done better.

Lucian gave him a sardonic look and turned to look at Jack. He wanted to see what kind of explanation the latter would come up with.

Jack's eyes darkened. He did not fumble for an explanation. Instead, he said, "I am to be blamed

for this. This happened because of me. I will take care of the rest. Dr. Jarvis' name will not be tarnished because of this misunderstanding."

Lucian pursed his lips into a thin, hard line. Then he regarded Roxanne with a frown.

These two men were the ones whom he had witnessed to be quite close to Roxanne.

In fact, Lucian felt threatened by their presence.

However, seeing as these two men could not even protect Roxanne from being slandered, Lucian vowed that he would never hand her over to any of them.

Roxanne was his and his only.

The tension among the four of them was palpable right then.

Of course, Roxanne felt the air going still as well. She lifted her head to look at the three men. She could not help but frown as she noticed the tense expression on their faces. Hence, she took the initiative to break the silence.

“Please let go of me, Mr. Farwell. I’m not going to run away.”

With that, Roxanne wriggled her wrist out of his grip.

Lucian cocked an eyebrow and let go of her.

He had only gripped her hand because he did not wish to see her standing beside another man.

Given the situation, it would not seem right, no matter where she stood.

Lucian reckoned that Roxanne must have realized the same as well.

He was right. Roxanne did notice that something was off. She hesitated for a moment and made no move. Then she looked at Jack and asked, “Mr. Damaris, is the car not here

yet?”

It was getting late. She should be heading home.

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Roxanne could feel the air growing still right then.

Needless to say, it was because of Lucian.

Roxanne clenched her fist and told herself repeatedly not to turn around and watch. She wanted to pretend that Lucian was not there at all.

His question had made her squirm uneasily. At the thought of his out-of-place confession. Roxanne was worried that he might make more unreasonable demands.

Meanwhile, Jack frowned when he saw that the driver was running late.

“Let me make a call,” Jack said as he took out his phone.

The next moment, Lucian’s voice rang out. “Since Mr. Damaris’ driver is going to take some time, I could send you home if you don’t mind, Ms. Jarvis.**

Roxanne tensed up once again and turned around immediately to reject his offer. “That won’t be necessary. I’ve already made the arrangement with Mr. Damaris. Feel free to leave first if you’re in a rush. Mr. Farwell!”

Then Roxanne scurried to Jack’s side.

She did not wish to be alone with Lucian, afraid that he might say anything that would cripple her defenses, or worse, entrap her again.

Roxanne had not seen Lucian’s trick coming in the morning, and that served as a lesson for her to be warier of him.

Noticing that Roxanne was about to run away and scurry off to another man’s side, Lucian reached out to grip her hand once again. “Didn’t you say you won’t run away. Ms. Jarvis?”

Roxanne paused in her tracks and lowered her gaze. After she straightened out her rambling thoughts, she turned around and met Lucian’s gaze calmly. “Mr. Farwell, I’m grateful for your kind gesture. But I don’t wish to trouble you further since it’s already quite late. I’ll just head back in Mr. Damaris’ car.”

Having said that, Roxanne noticed that Lucian was staring at some place behind her.

She did not know what he was staring at. However, the two men behind Roxanne were already staring right back at Lucian.

After some time, Lucian averted his gaze and said, "Is it truly that much trouble? I've given you many rides, Ms. Jarvis. Isn't it a little too late to say that you're troubling me? Or are you saying that you feel more comfortable with Mr. Damaris, Ms. Jarvis?"

Roxanne stared at the man incredulously.

First, it was Larry, and now it's Jack. What the hell does he want?

If any other man were to say that, Roxanne would surely think that the man was jealous.

However, the man standing before her was no other man.

Lucian would never be jealous because of her.

Besides, she was not in that kind of relationship with Jack.

Roxanne could understand it if it came from the drunken Jessica's mouth. However, to hear it coming out of Lucian was an insult.

Even if she were not to dwell on his dubious confession, Roxanne could not believe that the man who had just proclaimed his love for her would say something like this to deny her efforts.

“It just so happens that my place is along his way. Please don’t misunderstand, Mr. Farwell.” Roxanne said as she tried her best to suppress the boiling rage inside of her. “How are you different from Ms. Hightower if you say such things?”

Roxanne could feel the grip on her wrist tighten right after she said that.

The pain made her wince. However, she gritted her teeth and continued, “I have worked very hard to secure this collaboration with Mr. Damaris. You can always come up with a myriad of ways to humiliate me if you must. But please don’t belittle or deny my effort in this matter!”

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Roxanne leveled a stare at Lucian as if she was questioning him about the reason he was accusing her like so many others who did not know any better.

Lucian was momentarily stumped.

He was angry at himself for saying things that he should not have said. His tone was gentler when he spoke again. “That’s not what I meant.”

Lucian simply did not wish to see her leave with another man.

However, his clarification was to no avail. Roxanne’s face stiffened as she rebutted, “What could you possibly mean to say then. Mr. Farwell?”

Lucian frowned and cast a glance at Jack before saying, “After the commotion just now, my efforts to defend you would be in vain if you should be spotted to leave with Mr. Damaris.”

Then, his gaze drifted from Jack back to Roxanne as he said in a low voice, "I know you might not feel very grateful for my help just now, but I don't wish to see my efforts going down the drain either. Do consider my stand in the matter, Ms. Jarvis."

Roxanne was taken aback. His words had managed to sway her.

Lucian had a point. So many people had witnessed the drama just now, and they all had heard what Jessica said.

If Lucian had not stopped Jessica, Roxanne knew she would have been labeled as the woman who had only secured the collaboration with Jack because of her pretty face, and the slander would have tarnished the Damaris family's reputation as well.

It had taken much effort on Lucian's part to clear her name, but it would all have been for nothing if Jack was spotted sending her home.

People who were eager to slander her name would jump at the chance and accuse her of being involved with Jack.

Roxanne knew that the tide of public opinion would turn against her.

Hence, she gave up on her initial plan. Roxanne turned to Jack and said apologetically, "Mr. Farwell is right. It's not appropriate for you to send me back, Mr. Damaris. I will hail a cab home."

Jack could find no words to refute Lucian's claim, for he knew that it was a perfectly sound argument.

Larry eyed the two men and said gently. "It's late. Let me send you home."

Lucian then said derisively, "Do you really think there's a difference between you and Mr. Damaris sending her home?"

Larry frowned in response.

Although he was reluctant to admit it, Lucian was right. Both he and Jack were the pillars of the collaboration project with the Damaris family. Any one of them sending her home would incite gesticulation as to the reason Roxanne could participate in it.

Larry went silent, as he could find no words to refute Lucian.

Roxanne flashed Larry a grateful smile and said, "It's all right, Larry. I was not planning to trouble you either."

Then she turned around to face Lucian once again. Just when she was about to say something, Lucian interjected, "I have nothing to do with the collaboration project. Nobody can slander your name if I'm the one to send you home. Besides, Archie and Benny are still waiting for you at home. I suppose you don't wish to keep them waiting for long, yes?"

Despite still feeling offended by what Lucian had said, Roxanne could not find a better way out of the situation.

She hated to admit it, but Lucian always knew her weakness and would use it against her.

"Since Mr. Farwell has put it that way, let him send you home, Roxanne," Larry said.

Roxanne went silent for a few seconds before she relented. "Thank you, Mr. Farwell."

Lucian pursed his lips and bade goodbye to the other two men impassively before leaving with Roxanne.