

The secret 21

Chapter 21

Estella obediently held out her injured hand to him.

When she saw her wound on her hand, she frowned. "What happened? Were you bullied by the other children?"

Estella stiffened for a second before shaking her head vigorously.

She wasn't bullied?

Luciano was confused. "And then what happened?"

I was

Estella then took her pencil and slowly wrote some letters in her book: "treeped".

She then tilted her head to the side, a little doubtful of what she had just written.

It was too hard for her to spell.

She whenever she couldn't spell a word, she would usually try to spell it according to how it sounded, or just skip the word.

However, she didn't usually write that word, so she wasn't sure if she really spelled it right or not.

"Did you trip?"

Lucian asked after looking at the word he wrote.

Stella agreed.

Lucian then breathed a sigh of relief and gently touched the spot where she was hurt. "Did the teacher treat your wound?"

Estela nodded again.

Lucian nodded before her eyes drifted to his small blond hands again. "This will take days to heal, and you need to treat the wound. I'll help you, okay?"

Estella did not reject him.

Immediately, Lucian bent down and scooped her up into her arms before heading down the stairs.

Once they reached the living room, he placed her on her lap and sat down on the sofa. At the same time he told Catalina: "Bring the first-aid kit."

Catherine nodded in response. It wasn't long before she brought the equipment.

Lucian then took a spray from inside and sprayed it on his bruise. Then he massaged the area for a while.

It was a pretty bad bruise. Even though hours had passed since the initial impact, it still hurt.

However, Estella did not make a scandal. She just pursed her lips as she frowned.

Lucian turned to study her expression from time to time to see if he was hurting her.

He was lost in thought of her when he saw her frowning face.

Saw

She looks a bit like that woman when she's solemn.

Sensing her father's gaze, Estella looked at him puzzled. Instantly, she saw her hurt lips, and she pointed at them with a confused look.

It was easy to understand what she meant. She was asking him how she had hurt herself.

Lucian took her hand and replied, "Okay. A wild kitten bit me."

A wild kitty?

Estella was even more confused. She grabbed the pencil and paper from the coffee table and wrote: Where did the cat come from?

Lucian's eyes darkened a little. "From abroad."

That was all he was willing to say. He was afraid that he would not be able to contain his anger around his daughter.

When she noticed the puzzled look on her face, she reached out to take the pencil and paper from her. "Let's not talk about this anymore. It's almost time. I'll take you to bed now."

Estella was still curious about the matter, but she decided not to insist any more with her father's words. Obediently, she let her father lead her upstairs.

Chapter 22

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Once the two boys were upstairs, the smile on Roxanne's face slowly faded.

Madilyn turned off the television and approached to ask concerned: "What's wrong? Something on your mind?"

After a moment's hesitation, Roxanne told Madilyn a light-hearted version of what happened earlier. "I met Lucian when he was having dinner just now."

There was no one but Madilyn for Roxanne to talk to about what happened six years ago.

Hearing that, Madilyn froze. Then, she whispered, "What kind of fate is bringing the two of you together? Horington is such a big city, and I thought the chances of the two of you meeting would be slim to none if you weren't actively looking for each other."

Roxanne lowered her eyes, seemingly lost in thought of her.

"So, what are you thinking after meeting him?" Madilyn kept asking.

The corners of Roxanne's mouth turned down. "What can be on my mind? My relationship with him ended six years ago. We're just strangers now. It won't affect me anymore. All I want to do for the rest of my days is take care of Archie and Benny and have a good life with them."

She seemed like she had thought things through.

Madilyn sighed in relief before patting her good friend's shoulders. "That's good. You are an excellent woman, and there are many people courting you. Take your time to make your choice. Let's put that idiot in the past."

Roxanne nodded slightly, not wanting to continue the subject. She then said, "By the way, I haven't had a chance to buy a car after coming back here. I had to get my coworkers to take me to the welcome party today, and it seems pretty inconvenient. Are you free the next morning to pick up a car with me?"

Madilyn's attention moved to the next topic, but she didn't know why Roxanne wanted to buy a car. "Why do you want to buy a car? I have some in the garage. Just pick one."

Roxanne chuckled as she arched an eyebrow. "Are you really that generous?"

After sharing a look, Madilyn wrapped her arm around Roxanne's neck and said, "Of course. After all, you are the mother of my godchildren! What's mine is yours!"

"Thank you, then," Roxanne told him.

The two chatted for a while longer. When they looked at the time again, it was already quite late. It was then that Madilyn reluctantly returned to the house next door.

After Roxanne washed up, she lay down on the bed. However, she could not sleep.

It took her a long time to go round and round before she entered the dreamlands.

In her dream, she was returning to the empty room at The Waterfront.

In the room. Lucian was pinning her against the wall. He was narrowing his eyes and getting closer to her.

Just as her lips were about to touch, Roxanne jerked awake, completely drenched in sweat.

After waking up from that dream, she couldn't sleep anymore.

Therefore, the next morning, Roxanne had obvious dark circles under her eyes as she sat next to her children at the dining room table while they ate breakfast.

"Mommy, didn't you sleep well last night?" Archie asked concerned as he looked at his mother's dark circles.

Roxanne stiffened a little at the thought of that dream. A few seconds later, she gave them an idle smile. "Yeah. I lost track of time reading documents last night."

Her children were observant individuals, and Roxanne feared they would press her for more information. Therefore, she quickly lowered her head and pretended to focus on eating breakfast.

At that, the two boys exchanged a look but didn't ask anything else. All they said was, "Don't get too tired, Mommy. You have to take good care of yourself."

Roxanne's lips curved as she nodded.

After breakfast, she took the children back to Madilyn's house.

"Choose what you want. Do not you worry about anything. Madilyn led them to her garage while she held the entire bunch of car keys in her hands.

The guys were young, but they could recognize a lot of luxury cars. Therefore, once they saw the cars in the garage, they clapped their hands and yelled, "Auntie Madilyn, you are amazing!"

After walking through the garage, Roxanne chose a mid-priced Mercedes-Benz worth over a million.

Chapter 23

Lucian only looked away from Estella after the Professor picked her up. He then told Cayden, "Come on."

Cayden nodded and drove to the Farwell Group office.

Once Lucian arrived at his destination, he hurried to join the executive meeting.

When he ended the meeting, more than an hour had passed.

Lucian went straight back to his office.

"Lucian, you're back."

Just as he entered the room, he was greeted by Aubree's voice.

Hearing it from her made him frown.

Then he saw that Aubree, who was wearing a black suit, was standing in front of her office desk with a smile. It seemed that she had been waiting for a while.

"When did you come?"

Lucian walked to the other side of his desk before letting his eyes drift past the documents on the table. Finally, he brought his gaze to Aubree's face.

Aubree sat up when she saw him sit down, the smile on her face never faltering. "Not a long time ago. I heard from Cayden that you were in a meeting.

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At that moment, she saw the scab at the corner of Lucian's mouth, and his heart skipped a beat. "Did you... hurt your lips?"

A glint of disgust danced in Lucian's eyes at the memory of last night's incident, and his tone turned colder. "I accidentally bit him. There's no need to be scared by

that.

Aubree nodded with a slight hesitation. She consoled herself by telling herself that there had been no other women around Lucian besides her for all those years. Therefore, the suspicion of her was just paranoia.

With that thought in mind, she finally felt a little calmer.

"Then why are you here?" Lucian asked in a flat tone.

Hearing that, Aubree pulled herself together and smiled again. "I have some work issues. The project our families were working on is just missing the last step of signing the contract. So I've come to ask if there are other terms. Also, my parents were asking if they could buy you dinner tonight. Your parents will be there too, so I was wondering if you're free for that."

They also invited my parents. No doubt they must want to urge us to hurry up with our wedding.

Lucian glanced at her before coldly muttering, "Please tell your parents I need to meet someone tonight so I won't be free."

The smile on Aubree's face froze. For a moment, she didn't know how to answer him.

In fact, her goal for her dinner was to urge them to speed up their marriage.

WAS

It was something that should have been done a few years ago.

She finally managed to hold out until Roxanne left, but Lucian kept delaying the matter with work issues.

Chapter 24

After Lucian said those words, he looked away from Aubree's face.

He had decided to marry Aubree back then to repay the favor her grandfather had done them.

That's why she interacted so closely with the Pearson family. That was why he, too, had agreed to marry Aubree when the family elders had suggested it.

In fact, for a while, Lucian was certain that Aubree was his first crush.

That lasted until six years ago when that woman left without saying anything. It was then that he realized that the feeling he had for Aubree was not love as he initially assumed.

After that, the elders of both families kept urging him to marry her, but he had found all kinds of excuses to delay her wedding.

In those six years, he too had done his best to help the Pearson family and agreed to all kinds of business requests they made to repay the kindness at that time.

Now, he seemed like he had done more than enough to repay them back then.

At the very least, it was enough for him not to go through with the wedding.

"Lucian..."

Aubree's voice trembled as she looked up into her expressionless face. He wanted to know if her guesses were correct.

Lucian lifted her hand to massage the bridge of her nose. Then he interrupted her, "Download the file. I'll look at it later. I still have work to do, so if there's nothing else, you can go."

Aubree bit her lip and looked at him for a moment. When she realized that he wasn't going to change his mind, her eyes slowly reddened. Even so, he forced himself to swallow the discomfort and sadness, he put the file down and left.

Aubree's mood was somber as he left the Farwell Group office.

She had been waiting for six years, but Lucian had never given her a proper answer. Now, he was telling her that he was planning to call off the wedding.

Fortunately, Aubree was sure there were no other women around Lucian.

In other words, she still had a chance with him.

With that thought in mind, Aubree's grave expression brightened a little.

Yes, I still have a chance. The wedding is only unsalvageable if I make Lucian frustrated with me. I have to keep calm.

As Aubree consoled herself, she got into the car.

"Are you going back to the company?"

Chapter 25

Roxanne immediately stiffened.

The Pearson family?

As far as she knew, there was only one Pearson family in Horington that was in the raw drug industry.

Coincidentally, that was the family she had some issues with.

However, Roxanne frowned and prayed that she wouldn't have the bad luck of running into the one she least wanted to meet.

Soon, they arrived at their destination: a cafe.

The people from the raw drug supplier hadn't arrived yet.

Colby and Roxanne took their seats first. They then ordered two cups of coffee and waited for the other party to arrive.

Dozens of minutes later, someone knocked on the door of the private room.

Colby straightened up and said to Roxanne, "They're here."

Roxanne gave her a quick nod. Standing up, she then said, "Please come in."

Soon, someone pushed the door open and a male voice traveled to her ears. "I'm sorry we're late."

The moment Roxanne raised her head, she stared at Aubree.

Instantly, Roxanne sighed in her mind. Talk about the devil.

Unlike her, Aubree's eyes widened in shock. When she was overwhelmed with surprise, she yelled, "You, Roxanne? Because it's you?"

Didn't you disappear a long time ago? Why are you here now?"

Colby and Charles were taken aback by Aubree's response.

Colby then asked in a curious but friendly tone, "Mrs. Pearson, do you know Dr. Jarvis?"

Aubree's eyes flicked to Colby. "Dr. Jarvis?"

"Roxanne Jarvis is the person in charge of our research institute. When she found out that we are signing a contract with you, she asked to come as a token of our sincerity," Colby introduced.

. However, Aubree's expression only turned even darker.

All he wanted to know was when Roxanne had returned.

It's the first time Lucian has told me that he's thinking of calling off the wedding this morning. Is this about Roxanne? Has he...heard that Roxanne is back? Have they met?"

The more Aubree thought about it, the more anxious she became: as she looked at Roxanne, her expression darkened and paled.

On the other hand, Roxanne was much calmer. It was as if it was the first time she had seen Aubree.

Chapter 26

"A two percent increase?"

Colby stiffened. "Millisecond. Pearson, didn't we make a deal last time? Now we are about to sign the contract, so why are you suddenly raising the price?"

At his surprised response, Aubree crossed her legs and replied, "Actually, we've agreed, but almost everything on the crude market has gone up in price this year. If we sign the contract with the previously agreed price, we will be suffering too great a loss. Dr. Galloway, please forgive us."

She made it sound so rational.

Colby's expression tightened. Just as he was frowning and about to say something else, Roxanne stopped him again.

"Millisecond. Pearson, you must suddenly want to raise the price because you saw me. I am well acquainted with the prices in the crude drug market. We can have a negotiation if you want to raise prices, but raising prices by two percent here and now is too unreasonable."

Roxanne wanted to be professional, but clearly Aubree didn't. Therefore, there was no need for her to put up with her antics.

Aubree frowned in disgust. Then she coldly asked, "Regardless of what the reason is, that is our current price. If you don't think that's right, we won't mind letting this business go on."

Roxane agreed. "In that case, let's take this as a waste of time. A company that doesn't stick to their words is not a company we feel comfortable working with."

With that said, Roxanne stood up and said to Colby, "Come on."

Colby nodded and the two left the cafe.

"Is there something between you and Aubree?" Colby couldn't help but ask when they left the place.

He could sense Aubree's clear hostility towards Roxanne during their earlier meeting.

she will talk more Instead, he began to talk about the crude matter of the drug supplier. "If we're not going to work with Pearson Group, we're going to have to find another supplier of raw drugs." Roxanne nodded. "So that's what we're going to do. Horington is a big place. I'm sure there are other suppliers of raw drugs

"Okay," Colby replied with a nod.

He would rather deal with the problem of finding a new supplier of raw drugs than see

Roxanne in someone's crosshairs.

Meanwhile, in the cafe, once Roxanne had left, a cold look came over Aubree's face. She ordered Charles: "Tell all the crude drug suppliers in Horington that if they dare to work with the VR Research Institute, they will be enemies of the Pearson Group!"

Charles didn't know what happened between his employer and doctor carlier, but he could sense that his employer was in an exceptionally bad mood after meeting Roxanne.

A chill ran through his body at Aubree's tone. Not daring to delay any longer, he replied, "Of course. I'll work on it right away."

Chapter 27

Lucian immediately put the work away from him and asked worriedly, "Who is he?" Images of Roxanne dating a stranger last night began to flash before his eyes.

"The man's name is Colby, and he is the person in charge of the VR Research Institute. Previously. Mr. Farwell came to him for medical treatment."

Cayden instinctively picked up on the sudden change of atmosphere in the room and became extremely wary of his words. "Besides, I also found out that Colby is still single. But from the looks of it, Mrs. Jarvis is not related to him in any way. The other possibility is that they met when they were studying medicine at the same university.

Realizing the possibility, Lucian's facial expression softened. "Besides this, did you manage to find out anything else?"

Cayden seemed to be in a quandary. "This is the scope of my investigation. Of Mrs. Jarvis, we only know that she recently returned to the country. As for what he did and where he was abroad, we haven't been able to find anything at this time."

Lucian frowned, disgusted by the answer. However, knowing that it would be useless to investigate further, he decided to change the subject of the conversation. "How is old Mr. Queen now?"

Cayden was about to apologize for his incompetence, but breathed a sigh of relief when Lucian began asking about Old Mr. Queen. "It doesn't look good for him. They have consulted all the famous doctors inside and outside the country, but they have not been able to do anything."

Luciano nodded slightly. "Reschedule my scheduled schedule for tomorrow night. I want to pay old Mr. Reina a visit.

"Understood," Cayden replied.

Cayden, being sure there were no further instructions, left after waiting for a while.

When they first arrived at the research institute, Roxanne and Colby sprang into action, rushing to contact every medical ingredient supplier in Horington.

Due to the lack of supplies, many projects at the research institute had to be put on hold. If this continued, the losses would spiral out of control.

Therefore, time was of the essence for them to collaborate with a supplier of medical ingredients.

At this, Colby attempted to contact the vendors in Horington, but his proposal was instantly rejected. However, running out of options, they were forced to try their luck once more.

"VR Research Institute? I thought we'd had this conversation before? Your selling price is too low! We are not interested in collaborating with you!"

Just as Roxanne mentioned the name of the research institute, the rejection from the other end of the phone call was instantaneous.

Roxanne clenched her teeth. "We can increase the price of our original offer. what about a increase of half a decimal point? Let's try to come up with a workable plan, and there is always room for negotiations-"

The person intervened and said, "It's still too low. We need to increase at least 3 decimal points, or else there is no room for negotiation."

Hearing such a bold demand, Roxanne immediately hung up.

Meanwhile, Colby's expression didn't look pleasant either.

Chapter 28

Roxanne couldn't help but feel irritated. Ultimately, she was being sabotaged and the projects at the research institute couldn't continue because of this.

She never expected Aubree's vendetta towards her to persist even after 6 years. Even worse. Aubree resorted to such heinous tactics to get back at her!

However, this was not the time for her to be bothered by emotions.

Roxanne clenched her fists in an attempt to calm herself. She then looked over at Colby and said, "Okay. If Horington is not the solution to our problem, we can try other cities. Surely someone must be willing to collaborate with us."

Be that as it may, it also meant that the costs and time required to achieve it would be greater.

Although Roxanne didn't mention it, she was well aware of the consequences.

She, too, hoped to find a suitable partner in Horington. However, the prospect of doing so seemed rather bleak.

"No, there is no need to go to other cities," Colby pronounced.

She seemed to have thought of something, and her tone relaxed.

Roxanne arched an eyebrow. "Are you saying that there is someone in Horington who is willing to collaborate with us? Small providers are definitely out of the picture, and we need someone with larger operations..."

Colby nodded. "I know. However, this might require you to attend to it personally."

Roxanne was puzzled.

Colby then said, "I actually heard it from you. But first things first, have you heard of the Queen family?"

Colby continued: "The Queen family supplies medicines and built an empire out of them. The Queen family is a prominent family in Horington, and Old Mr. Queen has a good reputation in the community. However, his health has been deteriorating lately. Because of this, the Queen family has been looking for doctors to cure him, but to no avail. They invited me to try, but I couldn't do much. However, you might have a chance at this."

"Is that so?" Roxanne replied.

She understood what he meant, but she hesitated nonetheless. "The Queen family is in the big leagues. When it comes to pricing, it won't necessarily be lower than what we're being offered right now."

Colby responded, "Prior to this, the Queen family offered expensive medicines as a reward to whoever could cure Old Mr. Queen of his condition. In the future, they can also make an agreement to supply medicines at half price!" .

Roxanne's face glowed with hope and she felt the rock lifted from her shoulders. "Why didn't you say this before? That's a great thing!"

Colby smiled. "I thought about it, but I admit that I am not good enough. Besides, you weren't here at the time. Therefore, I gave up and never thought about it until now. Maybe you can try. What do you think?"

"Of course! It's not a problem at all!"

Roxanne confidently stood up to urge him on. "Please help me contact the Queen family and help me make an appointment with them."

Seeing Roxanne's passion for matters related to the research institute, Colby's heart raced with a sense of relief. He smiled and said, "I'll do it now. Wait for me here."

Then, he left the office and took the phone from him.

Chapter 29

Alfred's condition was quite complicated. That's why famous doctors weren't sure what to do.

Just describing his illness took Colby a long time to finish.

At six o'clock in the evening, after Roxanne got off work, she went alone to the Queen's residence according to the address Colby gave her.

The person who opened the door was a middle-aged man dressed in a butler outfit.

He looked at Roxanne and asked politely, "Greetings. May I ask who are you?"

Roxane smiled. "Hello, I am the doctor who is here to treat Old Mr. Queen. I called in the afternoon."

the butler scrutinized her suspiciously because she looked quite young.

Is someone as young as her so capable?

Still, he didn't show her doubts on her face. After two seconds, he invited: "Since you are a doctor, follow me inside."

He turned and led Roxanne inside.

She didn't care that he doubted her.

One of her principles was that before treating a patient, she accepted any form of distrust.

She followed the butler into the courtyard. The structure and decoration of the patio looked elegant.

He clearly showed that the Queen family was a family that cared a lot about appearances.

After they entered the mansion, the butler gestured for her to sit on the sofa. "A visitor came earlier, and Mr. Queen is accompanying them to meet Old Mr. Queen. I'll let them know you've arrived. Please wait here."

Roxanne agreed. "Alright."

She then sat on the sofa.

Soon after, a housekeeper served him coffee.

A few minutes passed and she heard footsteps coming down the stairs. She put down her cup and turned to the stairs.

A young couple came down the stairs.

At first glance, they both looked quite familiar. The man was handsome, and the woman was beautiful. It was likely that they were a pair of brothers.

As they walked, they talked to someone behind them.

hug there was a child. He currently he was talking to the brothers

Chapter 30

Soon, the trio arrived in front of Roxanne.

In Lucian's arms, Estella stared at the beautiful lady before her. A rare expression of joy appeared on her face.

Roxanne wasn't sure how to react to the look from the father-daughter duo.

Fortunately, the man in front of Lucian spoke first to break the silence. "Are you the doctor recommended by Dr. Galloway to treat Old Mr. Queen?"

Roxanne adjusted his expression and smiled. "Yeah. My name is Roxanne Jarvis.

"Dr. Jarvis. The man extended his hand. "I am Jonathan Queen. This here is my sister, Frieda Queen.

When she finished, she turned to Lucian. "This is... Well, we consider him as our big brother. His last name is Farwell.

Roxanne tried to nod calmly and greeted, "Mr. Queen, Miss Queen, Mr. Farwell.

By the time she finished speaking, Lucian's crisp, meaningful chuckle sounded. There was a mocking tone to the laughter.

Roxanne lowered her head to hide the emotions in her eyes.

Frieda studied her briefly before frowning. She questioned, "You are the one who said that you can treat my grandfather's condition, right? However, you look as young as us. I doubt you've been working as a doctor for very long. Are you sure you can do it?

Her attitude mirrored that of the butler earlier.

However, since she came from the patient's relative, Roxanne didn't mind her doubt.

Before she could explain, Jonathan smiled apologetically. "I'm sorry. My grandfather's condition has become quite serious. We have hired all kinds of famous doctors inside and outside the country, but none of them could do anything. Our sister is simply worried that our grandfather will suffer, even more. After all, many doctors had given us false hope. It has happened so many times that we cannot help but be cautious. I hope you don't mind, Dr. Jarvis.

He then he shot a look at Frieda. "Dr. Jarvis is here to treat Grandpa. How can you be so rude to her? Apologize to her right now.

Frieda reluctantly looked away and muttered under her breath, "I'm sorry."

