

The secret 51

Chapter 51

The next day was the weekend, so the children did not have to go to kindergarten.

Roxanne planned to take the children to the research institute with her.

Just after she packed everything up and was about to walk out the door, she heard the doorbell ring.

Thinking it was a visit from Madilyn,

Roxanne got up and went to open the door.

Her brows furrowed in confusion as she saw the person standing at the door. "Essie? What are you doing here?"

Roxanne instinctively looked around, thinking that Lucian would be standing and waiting somewhere within sight.

However, surprisingly,

he saw no one but Estella outside his door.

Roxanne decided to turn her attention back to Estella. She leaned down to the girl's eye level and asked, "Estella, tell me how you got here. Did your dad send you?"

Judging by Lucian's attitude in kindergarten yesterday, I highly doubt he'll let Essie meet me,

but there is no other possibility for now.

Estella wore a white dress and carried a small backpack on her back. He was the one she had taken to kindergarten the day before. Hearing Roxanne's question, Estella searched for the notebook in her backpack, opened it, and then began to write something.

She wrote: I came here myself.

Roxanne was stunned. "Yourself? How did you find your way here?"

Estella scribbled on the page: I took a cab here.

Roxanne was still suspicious, but after checking her surroundings several times, she finally believed Estella's words.

So Lucian's daughter took the early morning cab to my house by herself.

This situation is giving me a headache.

She suppressed the mixed feelings in her heart and asked tenderly, "Is there a reason why you are looking for me?"

The girl answered her in writing: she wanted to be friends with Archie and Benny, so I came to play with them. Alright? Estella picked up the notebook from her and looked at Roxanne with anticipation.

Just for this reason?

Roxanne didn't know how to answer him at the time.

Yesterday, the children's teacher told me that Estella liked to follow the children. However, she never

I thought I'd be bold enough to take a cab home just so I could play with them. Also, she can't talk.

If he met some bad people on the way here...

Roxanne did not dare to think about what would happen.

"Mommy?" Archie and Benny had been waiting inside for a while and didn't see Roxanne come back, so they went outside to take a look.

When they saw the girl at the front door, they had the same reaction as Roxanne.

. "What are you doing here?"

Estella was about to write in her notebook when Roxanne explained on her behalf, "Essie just wanted to play with you."

Chapter 52

Lucian's hands stopped. "I will come back soon".

He hung up the phone and drove back to the Farwell residence.

"What happened? There are so many of you watching her, so how can she disappear? Lucian questioned once he set foot in the mansion.

In the living room, all the staff in the house were nervous.

Lucian's anger burned so hot they didn't dare raise their heads.

The butler cautiously replied, "We are not sure. Mrs. Estella had returned to her room after breakfast this morning. When Catalina went upstairs a few hours later, she was nowhere to be found Mrs. Estella."

Lucian's brows knitted in disgust. "What about the surveillance cameras?"

The butler responded with a defeated look on his face, "Mr. Goodbye, surveillance cameras...we're not sure when they went off. Coincidentally, there's no recording from this morning.

hearing that,

Lucian's expression darkened tremendously.

The living room fell into a deathly silence.

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The entire staff bowed their heads in fear, hunching their shoulders, making themselves as small as possible. They even hoped they could hide inside the crack in the tiles.

Who would have thought that we would lose Mrs.

Estella twice in such a short time. Plus, she got away right under our noses. If anything happens to Mrs. Estella, Mr. Farwell will fire us.

Lucian looked up to see that the bodyguards he sent to protect Estella were among the staff. The sight only fueled his rage.

"Why are they standing there? Move and look for it! If you can't find her, then you're all fired."

The bodyguards immediately agreed and urgently left the mansion without looking back.

Anguish filled Roxanne as she looked at the girl in front of her.

She is getting late.

I should take the children to the research institute, but Estella's sudden appearance has spoiled my plan. Besides, she took a taxi here by herself. I can't exactly send her back on her account.

After a brief silence, Roxanne sighed in resignation as she got up to let Estella into the house. "Come on."

Estella's eyes sparkled as she nodded fervently and followed Roxanne into the mansion.

"Have you had breakfast?" Roxanne asked.

Estella sat down on the sofa and nodded obediently.

Roxanne and the boys took seats next to Estella. After a brief hesitation, Roxanne asked.

"Can you tell me if you're really here to play with Archie and Benny? Or are you running away from home like last time? Does your family know you're here?"

Estella tilted her head to the side and wrote in the notebook.

Archie and Benny's faces were serious.

"Do you know that someone can kidnap you if you meet a bad person when you take the taxi? Didn't our teacher teach us not to leave the house alone?"

When they finished talking, Estella had already finished writing and showed them the notebook.

She wrote a sentence on the blank page: I want to meet Mrs. Jarvis, Archie and Benny.

Roxanne frowned. "Did you... run away from home because of us?"

Estella nodded firmly before beginning to write in her notebook again. She scribbled:

Chapter 53

Roxanne looked up Lucian's number in her contact list.

She had kept it only because she didn't want to miss her call when Estella had left home.

It was then that the woman remembered that she had saved her contact name as just "A".

After changing it to her real name, Roxanne dialed the number.

Lucian was about to go out and find Estella on his own when his phone rang.

Seeing her name on her screen, he narrowed his eyes as he answered the call.

"It's me." Roxanne's voice came from the other end of the line.

Lucian sneered inwardly at the thought of how she had escaped her previous antics.

"What do you want?" she asked in the same frigid tone the woman used.

Roxanne looked at the girl next to her. What's with that shade? She would have hung up right away if it wasn't for the kid!

"Essie came looking for me first thing in the morning. Come get her if you're free. Or you can tell me your address and I'll take her there.

hearing that,

Lucian frowned slightly. "Give me your address."

32, Durwest Garden.

The man hung up right after that.

Roxanne inwardly breathed a sigh of relief as she watched her screen go black. She turned to the girl next to her and said, "Your dad is coming to pick you up. Be a good girl and go home with him, okay?"

Estella nodded, but secretly began to ponder her next move.

She had finally had the chance to be with this beautiful lady and she didn't want to have to leave so soon.

But dad's on his way here. What do I have to do to be able to stay?

Unfortunately, Archie saw her intention immediately and crossed his arms.

"Your dad hates my mom, so he definitely won't let you stay. I suggest you give up the idea.

Estella's gaze darkened upon hearing that.

It's true. Dad doesn't like her. He even argues with her in front of me.

But I like Mrs. Jarvis!

The girl had left the house early this morning just to see Roxanne.

He didn't know why, but he liked this woman so much.

The two had not spent much time together, but Estella adored Roxanne much more than Catalina, her daily caretaker.

That's right! The boy's eyes lit up again.

He had brought presents for Roxanne and the two children when he left the house this morning.

remembering that,

She quickly jumped off the sofa and rummaged through her small backpack. Next, she took out a small but exquisite crystal ball and held it in front of Roxanne with both hands.

Chapter 54

Given how well raised the children were, they shook their heads despite liking toys, knowing how expensive these things were. "We cannot accept this. They are too expensive.

Estella tilted her head in confusion before placing the toys next to them and writing again in her notebook: For you. Thank you. Help.

Benny looked at his handwriting in bewilderment.

He can't write a complete sentence. What is he trying to say?

Archie was initially stumped as well, but quickly figured it out. "Are you trying to say that you are thanking us for our help that day?"

Nodding fervently,

Estella put down the book and held the car figurines in front of them once more.

Roxanne remembered what her sons' kindergarten teacher had told her about Archie and Benny protecting Estella.

I remember the teacher mentioned it. However, what the heck could have happened between mere children?

But judging by Essie's behavior, everything Archie and Benny did for her seems like a big deal to her.

"What happened that day?" Roxanne couldn't help but ask.

"Essie got hurt after another student pushed her," Archie explained. "Benny and I made that student apologize to Essie,

and then we took Essie to the school nurse."

Roxanne nodded enlightened.

"Can we accept these gifts, Mommy?" Archie felt sorry to see that the girl was still holding the toys in her hand.

Roxane chuckled. "Okay. Give him something of yours in return.

The children finally took Estella's toy cars,

without forgetting to express your gratitude. "Thank you Essie! Wait for us here, okay? We will also give you some gifts!"

They then ran upstairs and began searching her room for something they could give the girl in exchange.

Now, only Roxanne and Estella remained inside the room.

Seeing how obedient the girl seemed.

Roxanne couldn't resist showing her concern. "Does your hand still hurt?"

Hearing that, Estella walked towards Roxanne and raised her hand, showing the wound that she had received that day.

There was a visible bruise on the girl's pale-colored hand, and it tugged at Roxanne's heart.

The woman was relieved only after examining the bruise closely and making sure that there were no internal injuries. Did you use any ointment?

Estella remained motionless for a few seconds. Then, she innocently shook her head after seeing how worried Roxanne looked.

That made Roxanne's heart ache even more.

There's no way Lucian would have missed such an obvious bruise, but he didn't give her any ointment?

Then the woman thought about how Estella ran away from home from time to time.

Chapter 55

After Roxanne finished tending to Estella, Archie and Benny returned downstairs carrying Estella's presents.

They each had a strange looking stuffed toy in their hands and approached the girl. "We buy them with our pocket money. You can have them."

The dolls looked adorable but horrible at the same time and didn't seem to suit Estella at all.

However, this was the first time the girl received gifts from classmates her age that she liked very much. She therefore, joyfully accepted the stuffed toys and hugged them tighter than the previous doll of hers.

After a long time, Estella finally put down the toys and scribbled a big word of thanks in her notebook, showing her handwriting to Archie and Benny.

This was the first time the boys had seen her shine like this.

They used to avoid her because she was a girl that her father had with another woman.

But after seeing how adorable she looked,

their hearts skipped a beat as they exchanged glances and scratched their heads sheepishly.

She is such a cute half sister!

I don't want to hate her anymore.

Meanwhile, Roxanne's heart softened at the sight of the three children interacting with each other.

"Why don't you play with Essie for a while?" he suggested his children while he stroked Estella's head. "I have to call the research institute and tell them I'll just be leaving a little later. I just applied ointment to Essie's hand, so be careful."

The boys nodded obediently.

Then,

Roxanne went upstairs to make the phone call.

“Shall we play some Lego?” The boys did not know what the girls liked to play, so they could only invite her to play with her usual toys.

Even so, the bright-eyed Estella easily nodded her head.

I did well to come here today. I have to make Mrs.

Jarvis tends to my wound, and Archie and Benny are now asking me to play with them!

Both Archie and Benny's intelligence far exceeded that of a normal child, so Roxanne would buy them adult Lego pieces, which could usually be stacked into huge models. Her current project was halfway done.

“If you don't know how to do this, you can watch us first,” Archie said helpfully.

Estella nodded and watched solemnly as they connected various Lego pieces. It wasn't long until she picked up a few pieces and started doing the same.

Seeing that, Archie and Benny stopped and prepared to guide her, only to realize that the girl seemed to catch on quickly.

Soon, she began to match her speed, also with a high level of accuracy:

the children were momentarily stunned.

Chapter 56

Lucian collected his thoughts from him and followed Archie into the mansion.

As soon as he walked in, he saw Estella sitting on the carpet with all her attention on the Lego blocks in front of her. There was also a little boy next to her who looked just like the one who had opened the door for her.

Twins, huh?

With a darkened look,

Lucian looked away from the boys and surveyed the rest of the living room instead.

Roxanne was nowhere to be found.

You go

“Your dad is here,” Archie called out to Estella coldly after walking back, her once friendly demeanor completely gone.

hearing that,

Estella stopped whatever she was doing and looked at Lucian who was not far from her.

But right after seeing him, she looked away and began to write something in her notebook.

Lucian and the boys looked at her.

Both Archie and Benny were reluctant to see her leave her, but now that her father had arrived, there was no reason for them to let her stay.

Lucian's brow furrowed. He knew what the girl was about to tell him.

Soon, Estella lifted the notebook from her.

I don't want to go home yet.

As she had expected.

The frown between Lucian's brows deepened as her voice was soon filled with displeasure. Estella Farwell,

you left home without saying a word. Don't you think you should give me an explanation? This is the second time you've run away from home this month. Why the hell did you do it?

Estella met his eyes stubbornly before lowering her gaze to write again in her notebook: I like Mrs. Jarvis. I like Archie and Benny.

I want to be friends with them!

A mocking look flashed in Lucian's eyes as he read that. "You like them, but have you ever asked them if they like you? You came running into their house like that and interrupted their lives. Don't you know how rude that is?" he asked himself sternly.

Estella pursed her lips and turned to the two boys carefully.

I knew that I would disturb them by coming early in the morning.

But she couldn't help it. She liked them a lot, but her father wouldn't let her play with them.

We have even already exchanged gifts, and they also invited me to play with them. Doesn't that mean they like me too?

Benny's heart faltered when he saw the pleading look in Estella's eyes. "She's not bothering us," he chimed in, putting down her Lego. "Actually, we were just playing Lego together until you showed up. It was fun!"

Estella smiled at the way Benny defended her. Then, she turned on her father furiously.

Lucian seemed conflicted with the boy's response.

Chapter 57

Instantly, the children became wary at the mention of their mother.

"Why do you ask about her?" Archie demanded, looking at the man like a puppy that could attack at any moment.

He didn't have much strength, but he was still adamant in putting up a vicious front:

noticing the hostility and wariness of the boys,

Lucian was curious and amused at the same time, but he paid her no attention. "Well, you all babysat Essie twice now, so it's only natural that she would give her mother a few words of thanks."

Archie sighed internally at that, but his expression remained tense. "There is no need for that.

My mom is in the middle of a phone call. She doesn't need your thanks anyway.

Then she dragged Benny back onto the rug and turned to Estella. "Your dad is here now, so you should go with him. My mom will be leaving for work soon. She will no longer have time to keep you company.

Stella,

who was initially still jubilant at the way the boys supported her, slowly came back to her senses after hearing that. Although she didn't want to leave, she finally nodded upon learning that Roxanne had to work.

Archie had been on high alert ever since Lucian mentioned his mother. I don't want him to see mommy.

Seeing that the girl agreed to go home, she quickly gave Benny a yank before kneeling down to put all her Lego blocks away.

Lucian said nothing more, simply watching the three of them put away their toys.

But the more he looked at them, the stranger he felt.

They are all the same height.

they are classmates

They are more or less the same age. But considering the timeline, even if that woman gave birth to these twins right after she had Essie and got divorced, the children shouldn't look too much like Essie in age. Is it... that it is because they are children,

in the same grade as Essie. Also

A wave of doubt washed over Lucian.

Unable to find an answer, he averted his gaze from the three children and observed his surroundings nonchalantly.

This was a rented building, but Roxanne had evidently put a lot of effort into decorating the place.

Then, a clean and welcoming environment entered Lucian's line of sight. Looking closer,

he noticed that there were many areas adorned with photographs.

With his attention now on the picture frames, the man walked over and looked at them carefully.

Chapter 58

Roxanne had wanted to call the research institute just to mention that she would be heading there a little later today.

However, the one who answered the phone was Colby, who proceeded to consult her about a project they had been rushing over the past two days.

He had sought her help with some group data before she could say anything.

. As Roxanne got into a lengthy discussion with him, she finally lost track of time.

The woman only remembered to end the call after hearing Lucian's voice coming from downstairs.

It was then that he quickly came to a conclusion, hung up, and hurried downstairs.

She had almost forgotten that Lucian was going to show up soon and that her two sons were still keeping Estella company downstairs.

If Lucian saw his children...

She instantly flustered herself at the idea.

Unfortunately,

when he went downstairs to prevent both sides from meeting, it was already too late.

As soon as she turned the corner of the stairs, she saw the man standing by the rug, and the three children had almost finished putting away their toys.

Lucian coolly turned around after apparently hearing her come downstairs.

Roxanne's expression stiffened as their eyes met, but she clasped her palms together in an attempt to calm herself before greeting the man nonchalantly, "You're here."

Lucian

he nodded chillingly but kept her gaze on her. No one could tell what he was thinking deep down.

Thinking that she had already found out who the two children were, Roxanne couldn't hide her guilt. "So... are you going to take Essie home now, or..."

She was terrified that Lucian would want to sit down and talk after discovering the boys' origins.

Luckily for her, the man simply thought she was hinting at him to get out of her.

"We will leave now. Don't worry. I won't be staying here much longer," she replied icily.

Then, she turned to look at Estella, who was still slowly putting away the Lego blocks. "Did you finish packing? It's time to go."

Estella had deliberately tried to keep her movements slow since she didn't want to leave, but Archie and Benny were so quick that the area was now nearly spotless.

Hearing her father's instructions, the girl reluctantly stood up and looked at Roxanne with tears in her eyes.

Povonne's chest tightened at the sight, but with Lucian here and whatever happened before, no words of comfort could come out of her mouth.

"Thank Miss Jarvis, then we'll go home," Lucian instructed coldly.

Estella's expression softened further at that, and she looked at Roxanne expectantly, hoping the woman would invite her in next time.

Chapter 59

Since Catalina was the one who always looked after Estella, Lucian didn't have much experience dealing with children and thought his daughter was throwing a tantrum.

A look of panic flashed in the man's eyes as he saw the girl crying, but he finally looked at her sternly.

"Stop crying," he commanded,

thinking that it didn't sound harsh at all.

However, it sounded especially fierce in the boy's ears.

With that, Estella began to cry harder. Her tears rolled down her ashen cheeks like a river escaping a dam as she broke into an uncontrollable sob.

Lucian's brows furrowed at the sight of her. He didn't know how to react

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Meanwhile, Roxanne couldn't see anymore how cold the man was to her crying daughter.

"Is this how you treat a child? She is already crying, and you still talk to her like that? Can't you just talk to him nicely?"

Lucian froze at the woman's sudden warning.

Roxanne quickly walked over to Estella and knelt down to take the girl in her arms. "There, there, Essie. Do not cry! You can come play whenever you want, okay? I'll give you my number, so let me know when you're thinking of stopping by," she assured tenderly. "Don't cry anymore, okay? You won't look pretty if you do."

Meanwhile,

Archie and Benny stood next to them with handkerchiefs. While she persuaded Estella, Roxanne took a tissue and wiped away the girl's tears.

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The girl slowly stopped crying and sank into Roxanne's arms.

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Feeling that she was breaking her heart,

Roxanne hugged the girl tight and patted her back.

Archie and Benny were furious that Estella had burst into tears like that, and they turned on Lucian in outrage.

"Why don't you let Essie be our friend?" Archie couldn't help but ask.

We have never been mean to her! The last two times she ran away from home, my mommy is the one who took good care of her, and we also played with her. She has fun playing with us and she likes us a lot, so why can't she be our friend? It's not like we're bad!"

Chapter 60

Lucian was surprised by the angry reaction from the two little ones and frowned.

They openly berated him, but somehow, he felt sorry for Archie and Benny. He even felt a pang of guilt overwhelm him.

Roxanne, who was carrying Estella in her arms, was stunned to hear what her two children were saying. She also felt a stabbing pain in her heart.

Thank God they don't know that the man in front of them is her biological father. They might be even more upset if they knew the truth...

After being silent for a while, Lucian looked away apologetically. "I'm sorry, but I don't see you two as bad.

I feel like it's inappropriate for your mommy to be in contact with her ex-husband. Your dad might be upset if he finds out.

Roxanne and the two children froze for a moment when they heard that.

Archie and Benny exchanged glances. Correct! Dad still doesn't know our relationship with him!

Benny said what he thought. "Alright! We do not have potato!"

The comments the two boys were making continued to baffle Roxanne. She wanted to prevent her youngest son from spilling the tea, but it was too late.

She could only eagerly await Lucian's response.

The man's eyes narrowed suspiciously. There's something fishy about the things he said and the photos.

"What do you mean you don't have a dad? Where she?" Lucian couldn't help but ask.

Benny looked at the confused man and explained, "Dad didn't love us anymore. He abandoned mommy, and she doesn't like us. We grew up living with mom, so we haven't seen our dad before."

Hearing that, Lucian frowned and stared into Roxanne's eyes.

His eyes flickered with complicated emotions.

So all these years, this woman raised these two children without help?

She could not imagine the hardships they had to endure.

Also, the woman had such an impressive resume when she was abroad.

How the hell did he manage to juggle the kids and his job? And how could that man abandon them like this? Curse!

Roxanne could see that the man was overwhelmed with emotions. She even she could predict what she was going to say next.