

## **The Secret 111**

Chapter 111 Guilty but pitiful

Roxanne hurried home after thinking things through.

The children had already eaten and Madilyn was watching a science channel with them.

The three of them stood up and ran towards her when she entered.

Her two sons realized that her mother was not in the best mood and they hugged one leg each, looking at her with concern. "Mommy, did something happen? You look tired."

Roxanne's heart warmed at her concern and she did her best to force a smile. "Nothing is wrong. Just a few things at work that are a little hard to deal with."

Knowing how difficult her mother's job was, the two children did not question it and comforted her: "Mommy, you can definitely do it! You are the best!"

Roxanne nodded and looked at the time, signaling for them to go upstairs and sleep.

The two obediently went up the stairs, leaving only Roxanne and Madilyn in the living room.

Madilyn could already tell that her best friend was feeling down by the time she walked in and asked, "What happened? Don't even think about lying to me. I realized you were lying just now."

Roxanne hesitated for a few seconds before telling Madilyn everything that had happened today.

When she heard that Lucian was mean enough to take it out on the two children, Madilyn was extremely angry. "What kind of man is he? How can you do that to children? I will not let this happen to my godchildren! I'm going to scold him."

She was about to storm out of the house, but Roxanne quickly stopped her.

They sat on the sofa and Roxanne chuckled. "Alright. I've already gone to talk to him. On the way back, I thought it through. Did you know? This is a good opportunity to really cut things with him. I no longer have to worry about him stealing my children."

However, Madilyn still couldn't let it go. "What about Archie and Benny? How are you going to explain to them?"

Roxanne was still stressed about it. She hesitated before answering: "I'll think of something."

The two continued to talk about the matter for a while until it got late and Madilyn went home.

Early the next day, the two children woke up on time and had breakfast, waiting for their mother to send them to school.

Roxanne hadn't slept for most of the night trying to find an excuse, but the moment she saw the two of them sitting there with their eyes shining, she almost broke down. Still, she accepted the excuse that had occurred to her. "I've been thinking about it and I feel like you two don't have to go to kindergarten anymore since you're already past that stage. I'll send you two to some specialty classes instead, okay?"

The two of them seemed like they didn't really know what was going on.

Roxanne chuckled and said, "Benny, you're into computers, right? How about I enroll you in computer classes? Archie, would you like to take a financial management class, or would you both prefer something else?"

The two children finally realized what was going on and looked at their mother in confusion. "Why don't we go to day care anymore, mommy? We didn't even say goodbye to Essie. If she doesn't see us, she'll definitely start crying."

Chapter 112 No

I'll keep bothering you After learning the truth, the two said goodbye to Madilyn and sadly trotted home.

Madilyn didn't know that she could be won over so easily. When she saw how disappointed the two boys were, she hurried to apply for leave from work and went to accompany them.

Archie and Benny were completely depressed.

All this time, they had been under the impression that their father probably didn't really hate them.

Now that they knew that he had kicked them out of school, they realized that he actually hated them to death.

Benny couldn't help but cry at the thought, and his small hands gripped the sofa cover nervously, his little mouth pressed into a straight line.

Archie was also extremely disappointed, but he was a bit calmer compared to his brother.

When he saw the tears in Benny's eyes, he began to comfort his brother. "Don't cry for that bad man. If he doesn't like us, he shouldn't like us either. Besides, Mom doesn't seem to want us to know, so let's just pretend we don't, shall we? Let's not make him worry."

Benny sniffed and nodded silently.

Meanwhile, Roxanne had just finished kindergarten when she ran into Lucian, who was sending Estella to school.

Estella seemed to be in a different mood and she was pouting, barely letting her father drag her to school.

When her eyes met, Estella's gaze lit up as if she was excited about something.

Roxanne's heart sped up for a second, but she fell again at the sight of the man with the boy.

The two quickly approached her.

Estella lightly tugged on Roxanne's skirt as she looked at the latter with teary eyes, as if she expected her to say something.

Roxanne fell silent before stepping back a bit, pulling her skirt out of Estella's grasp. "Archie and Benny aren't coming here anymore, so you have to take care of yourself, okay? You can make friends with the other kids."

She saw the light in Estella's eyes slowly fade as she spoke and Roxanne looked away, doing her best to sound calm. "I have to go to work. Bye bye."

After that, she walked past them and was about to return to her car when a large hand from hers grabbed her wrist.

Roxanne stopped abruptly and turned around, meeting her bored gaze. Is there anything you need, Mr. Farwell?

Luciano frowned. "Boosting the boys was not my idea. This is a misunderstanding".

Roxanne scoffed at that. "I can't believe you're still trying to defend yourself now, Mr. Farwell. However, I am willing to listen to your excuses. Who is the lucky one you chose to frame this time?"

Lucian didn't seem bothered by his tone and said in a deep voice, "I asked Cayden to look into it. This is all because of Aubree. Because of what I said earlier, the kindergarten principal assumed that I agreed with that."

Lucian trailed off, filled with regret at what he had said.

#### Chapter 113 His Autism Was Triggered

Lucian watched in amazement as his daughter frantically chased after Roxanne's car.

He hasn't even seen Roxanne that many times, so why is he so attached to her?

As Lucian was lost in bewilderment, the girl suddenly fell, jarring him to her senses. He quickly rushed to hug her. "Are you OK? Let daddy take a look at you.

Estella refused to let go of the arms that she had wrapped tightly around her neck, and as he worried over her plight, he heard the girl break into sobs.

For a moment, Lucian thought his ears were playing tricks on him.

Even if he was just crying, that was the first time he broke her silence while he was growing up.

Estella screamed her heart out and clung to him so tightly that he actually felt it around her neck. Despite the emotional turmoil he was experiencing, he bore her in silence and turned his own attention to comforting her.

"Millisecond. Jarvis... I love Mrs. Jarvis..."

Estella's abrupt, stuttering utterances of these words surprised Lucian, for he had never expected those to be his first words.

To think that that woman would care so much.

The thought of that left a bitter taste in his mouth. In the end, he could only tell the girl the truth through his teeth. "Millisecond. Jarvis is gone, but daddy will be here with you, so don't cry anymore."

Estella's incessant crying absorbed her so physically that her tiny body began to tremble.

Devoid of options, Lucian could only ask to be excused from school and taken home.

On the way back, the girl settled in, slowly but surely, only sobbing now and then as she sat in the backseat in complete silence.

Ignoring everyone when they came back inside, she went straight to her room and closed the door behind her.

Lucian assumed that Estella must be in one of her usual tantrums, considering how often similar outbursts had occurred before.

On top of everything else, her presence in the company was still very much needed that day.

After some deliberation, Lucian asked Catalina to keep an eye on the girl before going to the office.

When he was about to finish her work in the afternoon, a call came in from Catalina. "Please come home quickly, Mr. Farwell! I think something might be wrong with Mrs. Estella!

She seemed almost panicked for him.

Heart in his throat, Lucian immediately put aside everything he came to hand and drove back home like a bat out of hell.

"After you left, I tried to comfort Mrs. Estella but I saw that she didn't have any reaction no matter how she spoke to her..." Catalina was so nervous that her voice trembled.

With quick steps and a tremendous sense of urgency, Lucian entered Estella's room. Sitting huddled in the corner with vacant eyes, the girl did not respond to her input.

#### Chapter 114 Unhappy With Him

Almost an hour later, James came out of the room, looking quite exhausted.

Nothing had worked to the effect he had hoped for, despite dishing out every trick in the book he knew of just to get some sort of response from Estella.

"How did he do?" Lucian asked anxiously.

James shook his head. "Essie has completely shut herself down. She has refused to communicate with anyone and she resists even me. My guess is that she must have been triggered by something. The only way to resolve this is to identify the source of her trauma."

Lucian's expression softened when he heard that.

Apparently unaware of the change in his friend's mood, James went on to ask the latter earnestly, "Has she recently encountered any situation, Essie, that could have caused this change in her emotional state?"

Memories of the girl breaking her silence because of Roxanne came back to Lucian. The answer thus became obvious to him.

After a moment's pause, Lucian recounted the events that occurred that morning.

James was stunned to learn how that woman managed to cause such a sharp fluctuation in Estella's emotions. "Perhaps this woman can be the key. Essie's condition may see some improvement if we could just get her to come over."

Make that woman come to Essie?

Remembering the way the first one left that morning made Lucian's brows knit in frustration. "Understood. I'll try to talk to her about this."

James nodded.

Elsewhere, Roxanne remained completely in the dark about Estella's situation.

Not sure if it was because of what Lucian told her, she had been feeling quite uneasy ever since she left the kindergarten premises behind.

As she reflected on it, the man's tone of voice and expression didn't seem faked, but she had reasonable reasons to believe that Lucian must be involved in some way.

All the way home, Roxanne's mood had been depressed, but driven by concern that her children would find out about her, she did her best to pull herself together.

The two small ones had already been solved. When they saw her enter, they approached meekly. "Are you done with the paperwork, mommy?"

Smiling, Roxanne nodded as if nothing was wrong. She even mentioned her meeting with Estella. "It's done. I've also spoken to Essie on your behalf."

"Thank you, mommy!" The children expressed their gratitude in a meek way.

Patting their heads gave Roxanne a greater sense of grounding.

## Chapter 115 We Will Protect You

Soon enough, the four of them arrived at Universe Park.

Although Archie and Benny wanted her mother to feel better, they also wanted to have a little fun before her arrival and had already come up with a plan.

Right after entering, they both tugged at Roxanne's hands, saying that they wanted to go to Jurassic Park to see the dinosaurs.

She agreed and took them to the park. Both boys were so absorbed in their surroundings.

Once out of Jurassic Park, they headed straight for the ET Adventure Ride for a ride into space on a bike with the alien, ET.

Roxanne was already feeling a little tired after the two walks. However, Archie and Benny were still in high spirits, and they went on many other walks after that.

Every time they went on a new ride, they insisted that their pictures be taken, and her mother did what they wanted each time.

All the negative emotions of the past few days were forgotten as they were distracted by their antics.

After the discussion with James, Lucian still felt that it would be better if they called Roxanne as soon as possible. Therefore, he quickly called her.

However, she never answered the call.

Her expression softened at that.

After spending some time with her, he had almost forgotten how ruthless her woman could be.

He not only wouldn't listen to her explanation, but he had also blocked her number on her phone. It was as if he was trying to show her how determined she was.

"How is?" James' heart sank when he took in the man's expression.

Time was not on Estella's side. The longer they waited, the worse his condition would be.

Lucian followed his gaze and looked toward the girl's room, quietly as he said, "Please stay here and take care of Essie. I'm going to go find her now.

Once he finished speaking, he headed straight for Roxanne's house with Cayden following.

The one who opened the door for them was the housekeeper from earlier. Seeing that it was them, she greeted with a smile, "Are you here for Mrs. Jarvis? She is not here now. Do you want to go inside and wait for her?"

Lucian's face darkened at her words. "Where she went?"

"I think she went to Universe Park. Something happens? Should she inform him of her visit? Lisa said.

However, the man had already turned and left when she finished her sentence.

Cayden then said with a smile, "No need. We'll head there to find her.

Then he quickly followed closely behind Lucian.

"Mister. Bye, where..." she. Only she had made up something before since she didn't know what she was thinking about this last one.

"We're going to Universe Park," Lucian said, frowning.

Hearing that, Cayden hurried to drive towards the theme park.

After getting the tickets and entering the venue, they both realized they didn't know where Roxanne was.

"Let's divide. Call me the moment you find her," Lucian ordered coldly.

Chapter 116 In His Arms

It was pitch black by the time they set foot in the haunted house. Roxanne clung tightly to the children's hands as Madilyn went ahead of them.

Archie and Benny chuckled. They had never expected their mother to be so afraid of ghosts.

But she'll probably forget about whatever she's been bothering her with after freaking out here, right?

With the plan in mind, they both decided not to tell her that their hands hurt from squeezing them so much and dragged her away.

The more they walked, the more scared Roxanne became.

She had been afraid of things like this since she was young. Even though she knew the ghosts weren't real, with the music and lights setting the mood, she couldn't help but feel terrified.

It was especially so when she didn't know when the NPCs would appear.

The three people walking in front of her had been saying that they were going to comfort her. However, it seemed like they weren't talking on purpose, which terrified her more and more. She wanted so badly to turn and leave.

However, thinking about what Archie had said earlier, she confronted Roxanne and kept walking because she wanted to be the role model for the children.

Just when she was feeling restless, a pair of stiff legs appeared before her eyes.

The woman froze upon seeing that, but she subconsciously looked up.

Under the dim lights, a pale face with its tongue hanging out floated before her face.

"Ah..." Seeing this, Roxanne felt as if her heart was about to jump out of her chest. She couldn't even make a sound in surprise.

It was already too late when Archie and Benny realized that something was wrong with their mother.

The woman tore her hands away from them and ran in the direction they had come from.

It's too scary. I want to leave!

"Mommy!" The children were stunned by her reaction. However, they quickly gave chase once they regained her senses.

Madilyn turned around and saw the hanging ghost that had appeared some time ago. She couldn't help but feel exasperated seeing this.

The NPC had appeared at such a perfect time. She was not there when she and the children approached. However, he had appeared right in front of Roxanne.

The three of them went after the woman hurriedly. However, she was nowhere to be seen after taking two turns.

At that moment, Madilyn, Archie, and Benny couldn't help but worry.

They knew how much Roxanne feared these things. They just wanted to distract her when they brought her here.

No one had expected something like this to happen.

Chapter 117 What is there to explain?

Roxanne was scared to death. Her body trembled as she instinctively tried to sink deeper into her embrace.

When she felt her body tremble, Lucian's heart softened and she asked, "Why did you come in here if you're so afraid?"

She was too stunned to react when she heard her voice.

Sighing, the man said, "I'll get you out."

Roxanne slowly came to her senses. She felt that her voice was truly familiar, and the scent that surrounded her senses made her heart sink.

Luciano? No. Why are you here?

She looked up in confusion and met the man's worried eyes.

Roxanne froze as soon as her eyes met. She responded immediately after, and all the fear seemed to have left her body. Her face went expressionless as she struggled to break free of her embrace.

Lucian could feel her resistance, and he quickly turned cold towards her, allowing her to pull away from him.

"Why are you here?" he asked, eyeing the man in front of her warily.

Taking time to remember himself, Lucian nonchalantly replied, "To find you."

Hearing that, Roxanne frowned slightly. "I think I've made that clear enough already. Seeing as you're doing so much to search for me, there must be something you want, right?"

She had already blocked Lucian from all the platforms after leaving the kindergarten in the morning.

Now that she had found it, all her efforts had been wasted.

Besides needing her help from her, she Roxanne couldn't think of any other reason why he would seek her out.

Lucian's eyes darkened at her words. She originally planned on going straight to the point and telling him what he was looking for, but she felt as if her question had pierced her heart.

If he had told her that she needed her help, the woman would have come up with something sarcastic to ridicule him.

Chapter 118 Not His Son

Roxanne found the words funny from her.



She could still clearly remember how the man had sworn she would not marry anyone but Aubree six years ago. She had even treated her coldly because she had taken Aubree's place.

However, now that six years had passed, he was separating from that woman.

Roxanne wondered how Aubree would feel if she heard what Lucian had said.

However, regardless of the truth, the kindergarten principal had still received the latter's orders. Besides, Roxanne had already made up her mind to draw a clear line between herself and Lucian.

If something like this could happen once, there was a chance it could happen a second time. She didn't want her children to get hurt even when they were innocent.

Having thought about that, Roxanne mustered her emotions, not wanting to dwell on this topic any longer. "I have already heard your explanation. If there's nothing else, I'll leave now," she said listlessly.

With that said, she turned to leave.

She didn't want to stay in this haunted house any longer. Now that she was in a more reasonable frame of mind, she was sure she could find her way out quickly. I can wait for Madilyn and the boys once I'm outside.

The woman had just turned around when the man grabbed her wrist.

Roxanne stopped her steps and turned to ask coldly, "What else do you want, Mr. Farwell?"

Pausing for a moment, Lucian decided to come clean. I need your help with something.

At her words, she bit her lower lip in disdain.

she knew it. If he didn't need my help, why would he work so hard to find me?

"You know Essie made a fuss when she didn't see Archie and Benny in kindergarten last time. Now that she found out that they weren't going to kindergarten anymore, she made an even bigger ruckus. Her autism spiked when she saw you leave this morning and she locked herself away. Nothing works, say what we say. Her psychologist said that it could work if you came, so I would like you to follow me".

Lucian's expression was grim, and he didn't let go of her grip on her wrist, apparently afraid she'd just leave like that.

Roxanne was briefly surprised by her words.

I can't believe Estella's condition is so bad that they even need to hire a psychologist. From her words, it seems that even the psychologist can't do anything about it.

What's more, it's only like that because of Archie and Benny...

I didn't know they were so important to her.

She began to hesitate as she thought of Estella's tearful face the last time she went looking for them.

Chapter 119 What Will You Do To Mommy

? Lucian's expression darkened and he looked closely at Roxanne. However, she was unable to identify any trace of insincerity.

Lucian finally looked away, his heart racing, and he was overcome by a wave of confusion.

All this time, Roxanne thought that Estella was Aubree's daughter!

She was under the impression that Roxanne had abandoned Estella. When Roxanne acted distant towards Estella when she returned to the country, Lucian thought that Roxanne was a cold-hearted woman.

However, from the way she spoke earlier, she didn't seem to know that Estella was her daughter.

What's going on?

Or is she such a good actress that she managed to trick me?

Lucian was stunned and stunned.

It was only after a long time that Lucian managed to remember his thoughts. He grasped his slender wrist, lowered his voice, and uttered word for word with precise precision, "Since when do I say that Estella is Aubree's daughter?"

Roxanne's wrist began to ache, but her mind-blowing statement distracted her. Shock and suspicion filled his heart.

Estella is not Aubree's daughter!

No wonder Aubree wasn't there that day when Estella was sick.

However, as far as she knew, no one else met Lucian besides Aubree.

Who can she be? Who is Estella's mother?

Thoughts of her began to overwhelm Roxanne and she fought to resist asking the question.

"Mommy!" Two familiar voices called out to Roxanne. "We finally found you! Are you OK?"

The children frantically ran towards Roxanne, whose wrist was held tightly by Lucian.

Archie and Benny exchanged glances before running over to Roxanne.

"Mommy, don't worry. We will protect you!" Benny reached out and stood in front of Roxanne. He looked up and finally saw Lucian's face clearly.

Archie also walked to Roxanne's side and took her arm. With a deadly glare, he met Lucian's fierce eyes.

Realizing that he was Lucian, Archie's face tightened as he pursed his lips. He then furiously stormed towards Lucian, summoned all of his strength and pushed Lucian hard. "Let go of my mommy! What do you want to do to her?"

Lucian frowned before releasing it. He quickly explained, "I'm just asking your mommy for help. I'm not going to hurt him."

Archie, however, continued to eye him warily.

Chapter 120 I Must Protect Essie

Lucian followed right behind her.

The exit was not difficult to locate. However, Roxanne got lost because she was scared by her fancy tricks, causing her to panic.

After calming down, she managed to find her way out of the haunted house in no time.

The sunlight shone on her face, dazzling Roxanne a bit.

Lucian, who was right behind Roxanne, couldn't take his eyes off her.

At this point, both of them had different thoughts in their minds.

Realizing that the atmosphere was tense, Madilyn pulled Roxanne to the side of her and whispered quietly, "What's going on? What are you asking for?"

Roxanne came to her senses. She glanced at Lucian, only to see her anxious, worried look on her face.

The next second, she remembered what Lucian said in the haunted house.

She didn't look like he was lying.

With that thought in mind, Roxanne began to worry about Estella.

Before this, she had always thought that Estella was the daughter of Lucian and Aubree. After learning that Aubree wasn't involved, Roxanne couldn't help but like Estella even more.

"Nothing, just some personal matters." Roxanne smiled.

Madilyn, however, was in doubt.

What personal matter did they have to discuss with each other anyway? Even puzzling was the fact that Lucian came here all the way.

Just when Madilyn wanted to dig further, she realized that Roxanne had already left her and was walking towards Lucian.

Madilyn's doubts intensified.

Lucian saw Roxanne walking towards him. She frowned and wanted to keep asking him for help.

Roxanne, however, spoke first. "We're going for a walk".

Lucian immediately breathed a sigh of relief. He thanked her profusely and said, "I really appreciate this."

After deciding to pay Estella a visit, Roxanne took care of Archie and Benny from Madilyn, saying, "I think you can go back first. Let's go with him."

She knew that Estella was dependent on Archie and Benny. With the two of them around, he could aid in her recovery.

Madilyn decided not to bother Roxanne anymore. Silently, he watched the four leave, behaving no differently than any other family that adored them.

After leaving Universe Park, Roxanne, along with Archie and Bernie, got into Lucian's car, leaving Madilyn and the car they came with behind.

Cayden was already waiting in the car. He revved up the engine and sped toward the Farwell residence.

Along the way, Lucian briefly explained Estella's condition to Roxanne and her medical treatment history.

Roxanne was disheartened to learn of the mental illness and difficulties Estella faced at such a young age.