

## The secret 71

### Chapter 71

Meanwhile, everyone at Pearson Group had been working around the clock due to the virus.

Aubree had been hanging around in the technical department. From time to time, she would throw out some insults.

"Mister. Pearson. Charles's voice echoed in her ears.

Hearing that, Aubree quickly composed herself and lowered her eyes. "Dad, why are you here?" she greeted the person who had just entered.

Samuel Pearson had a serious look on his square face. "What's going on? Are they still not done with the virus?"

The manager of the technical department, who had been scolded by Aubree all morning, was drenched in cold sweat. He nodded as he leaned in.

apologizing, "Mr. Pearson, we really have done our best, but this virus is too powerful. Every time we get close to cracking it, another difficult problem will appear. It's like an endless", "

So you're saying you can't figure it out?" Samuel questioned, frowning.

The manager nodded guiltily.

"Idiots!" Samuel roared. Then he turned around to look at his daughter. "In that case, we can only contact Lucian's company immediately and ask if they have any solutions."

Farwell Group had many talented employees and its network system was the best in the world. Besides that,

they had the second best computer genius in the world working for them.

If Farwell Group couldn't solve Pearson Group's problem either, then the company was finished:

"No way!" Aubree instantly dismissed it, frowning at the image on the screen.

If we can get someone from the Farwell Group to figure this out,

Lucian will definitely see it. He would feel utterly humiliating if that happened.

Samuel coldly lectured, "If you're worried about being humiliated, why did you mess with people without knowing their backgrounds? And now, they are taking revenge on you.

Do you know how much our company will lose if this is not fixed now? Which is more important now? Your reputation or the company?"

Aubree bit her lip. In the end, she had no choice but to give in.

Samuel glared at her and dialed Lucian's number, asking the latter to send some men over to sort out the problem.

Upon receiving the news, Lucian simply asked Cayden to pick someone at random from the technical department and send them to Pearson Group.

The employee sent by Lucian was clearly more skilled than the ones from Pearson Group.

Pearson Group employees were powerless against the virus all morning,

but Lucian's clerk only glanced over before he started typing on the keyboard.

Those in the same industry could easily see that the virus had almost been cracked by a Farwell Group employee.

Meanwhile, Roxanne returned to the studio after making sure Archie and Benny were okay.

Archie looked back at the laptop screen and studied the stock prices.

After studying it for some time, a series of codes appeared on the screen.

## Chapter 72

Although Archie wasn't as tech-savvy as Benny, he understood what was going on.

Pearson Group made no progress all morning. Now that Benny has suddenly lost, surely the opponent is an expert, and not someone from Pearson Group.

All morning should be enough for Pearson Group to seek help from another person

. "Could be...someone from the Farwell Group." That was the only possible answer Archie could come up with.

The Farwell Group technical team is well known for being excellent at what they do. Besides, if that woman really is Essie's mom,

there's no reason the Pearson Group shouldn't get help from the Farwell Group.

Hearing that, Benny frowned and pursed his lips. He was furious.

Although he knew that the woman was Estella's mother, she was also the woman who bullied his mother. He couldn't believe that Lucian had helped Aubree.

No way. I must teach them a lesson.

At that thought, Benny picked up the laptop again, looking serious, his fingers sliding over the keyboard.

At the same time, employees of the Pearson Group technical department stood at his supervisor's workstation and watched the genius in action.

All they saw was the series of codes constantly appearing on the screen. It didn't take long for the cartoons on computer screens to disappear one by one.

SClee.

"It's done?" Aubree jumped to her feet enthusiastically. The moment he wanted to thank his savior, the latter's expression stiffened.

Aubree's heart also sank instantly.

"It is, supposedly. But, "The person frowned and saw a code automatically appear on the screen.

It was simpler than the previous virus.

You go

Yeah

A row of words appeared, reading: Are you from the Farwell Group?

The hacker is actually talking to me.

The employee hesitated for a moment before answering: Yes.

A series of codes appeared on the screen again. He wrote: How dare you help that wicked woman? I'm angry now!

Immediately after that, the conversation on the screen disappeared and was replaced by an attack more complicated than the virus of now.

What's going on? Who exactly is this? Aubree's face turned purple with rage after reading her conversation.

Caught off guard by the attack, the employee ignored her and started fighting the hacker.

However, he couldn't help but feel that something was wrong with the previous conversation.

The hacker has amazing abilities, but they sounded a bit childish...

In the afternoon, seeing that the person he sent had not yet returned to the company, Cayden hesitantly asked, "Mr. Goodbye, the person we sent to Pearson Group hasn't returned yet. Should we send someone else?"

"We will wait for the people from Pearson Group to come to us first," Lucian said calmly.

SW

After all, every time Pearson Group made a request it meant they owed Lucian a favor.

Chapter 73

Lucian waited until night. However, he did not receive any calls from Roxanne.

He suppressed his disgust and ran to the kindergarten to pick up Estella.

He should be able to figure out what's going on once she's in kindergarten.

When he arrived, most of the children were gone.

Lucian caught a glimpse of his daughter standing in the corner.

She was lowering her head and holding her backpack with both hands, looking completely dejected.

Lucian frowned slightly and reached over to pat her head. "Why are you mad? Is it because I'm late? I'm so..."

Before she could finish,

Estella pursed her lips and snorted, walking right past him.

Lucian's hand hung in the air, and her voice stopped abruptly as she turned helplessly to see her daughter reach the car.

He watched her get into the car before looking away from her and scanning the remaining children.

Still, there was no sign of the twins.

"Mister.

Goodbye..." A teacher noticed that he seemed to be looking for someone. His heart skipped a beat and he cautiously hurried on.

Lucian looked away and stared at the person in front of him blankly. "Where are the twins? Have they been expelled?"

The teacher lowered her head guiltily. "Not yet.

He wanted to tell them the news when they came to school. But Mrs. Jarvis called me this morning and she told me that the children were not feeling well, so I couldn't tell her...

"Okay," Lucian said dryly and headed for the car without waiting for the teacher to react.

In the car, Estella hugged her backpack and rested her head on it,

with downcast eyes. She seemed as if she was thinking about something.

Seeing Lucian get into the car, she scooted to the side without raising her head, putting distance between them.

Lucian sat down next to her and motioned for the driver to drive. After that, he looked at her worriedly and asked, "Can you tell me why you are angry today?"

Estella turned her head to the side at his voice, looking completely reluctant to communicate with him.

Lucian understood the signs immediately. I'm the one to blame for making her angry again.

As for the reason, she had a rough guess,

but he had no intention of solving it at the moment unless Roxanne contacted him personally.

Despite that, Estella clearly wanted her to bring it up. She made some gestures during the ride home, wanting to get her attention.

However, Lucian feigned ignorance.

Chapter 74

Lucian frowned.

He never thought that the boy would be so angry.

After listening to Catalina, he nodded and went ahead to knock on the door. "Essie, open the door. Dad wants to talk to you.

When he finished, a thud sounded at the door.

Clearly, Estella was throwing something against the door to show her rejection of him.

.

Lucian froze momentarily. He spoke once more in a softer tone. "What do you want me to do? Can you open the door and tell me? We'll talk about it, okay?"

A faint knock sounded at the door again.

It was also the first time that Catalina saw Estella act like that.

The thought of the latter's condition made fear grow in Catherine's heart. Worried that something might happen to Estella, she hurriedly said, "Mr. Bye, I think we should go inside. I am concerned that Ms. Estella may..."

Lucian hesitated for a moment, but nodded.

Soon, Catalina brought a spare key.

He opened the door and they entered the room.

They were instantly shocked by the mess inside.

The dolls that Estella always treasured were scattered all over the floor. There were also some exquisite-looking music boxes by the door, and two of them had cracks.

Evidently,

the items that were thrown at the door were the two music boxes.

Among the mess, Estella was huddled in a corner. She stared at the ground as tears ran down her cheeks uncontrollably. Sitting next to her were two relatively ugly dolls that adults had never seen before.

Noticing the adults entering her room, she subconsciously stepped back, lowering her head to avoid meeting their eyes.

Lucian's heart ached when he saw the girl's condition. Feeling regretful, he stepped forward, wanting to pull her into her arms.

Feeling that he was approaching her,

Estella raised her head immediately, her eyes full of resistance. With her hands on the ground, she ran backwards frantically.

Lucian paused when he saw her reactions. "Do not be afraid. I know I was wrong."

Estella didn't seem to hear her words. Finally,

he leaned against the wall and twisted his body to the side to avoid his gaze. She hugged her knees and buried her head inside her.

The adults couldn't see her expression. All they saw was the agitated motoris of Estella's body as she sobbed.

Lucian was instantly silent.

Feeling heartbroken, Catherine stepped forward.

. "Mister. Bye, why don't I give it a try?

With that, he carefully approached Estella and extended her arms to the little girl.

This time, Estella did not avoid it.

Catalina breathed a sigh of relief and gently hugged Estella, patting her back. "What's wrong, Mrs. Stella? Can you tell me about it? Were you bullied by your classmates at school?"

Chapter 75

Estella blinked and her sobs lessened. Still incredulous, she pursed her lips.

She had overheard Lucian talking to her teacher in her own car, and the two boys were absent from kindergarten that day.

How can there be such a coincidence?

Lucian sensed her doubt, which made him feel even more helpless.

"There is no need for me to lie to you. They didn't go to school today because they weren't feeling well. You will see them tomorrow.

Estella continued to purse her lips in aggravation. Suspicion was written all over her face.

Lucian didn't know what to do. "How am I supposed to make you believe me?"

She never expected Archie and Benny to hold such an important place in Estella's heart. They were so important to the point that she didn't believe her words.

Estella hesitated for a moment and let Catalina set her down. She then took a small notebook from the pile of clutter and wrote something while she sobbed. Her wavy handwriting read: Confirm!

He wanted to hear the children tell him that they were not expelled and that he would still see them in kindergarten in the future.

Lucian understood what he meant. He wanted to go to Roxanne's house and check with the guys. The thought made his head ache.

Seeing that Lucian did not respond,

Estella pursed her lips and gripped her notebook tightly in her hands. She looked as if she was about to burst into tears again.

When Lucian remembered how miserably Estella had cried just now, he helplessly relaxed his brows and said, "Okay. I'll take you to them now.

Estella froze instantly,

blinking to confirm what he had heard.

Luciano agreed.

She quickly turned around and packed his bag, then loaded it onto his back and walked over to him, still whimpering because she'd cried too much before.

Lucian was speechless at how quickly Estella's attitude changed. With no other choice, he took her to find Roxanne.

Roxanne was having dinner with Archie and Benny when the doorbell rang. Thinking that Madilyn was here for a free meal, Roxanne immediately opened the door.

Her eyes widened in disbelief when she saw the people at the door.

"Are you two... Essie, are you here to play with Archie and Benny?" That was the only possibility she could think of.

A tall, slender Lucian stood in front of the door, holding Estella's hand. He was dressed only in a shirt with the sleeves slightly rolled up.

Stella raised her head.

Roxanne couldn't help but wonder if it was the breeze that made Estella's eyes and nose red because the latter looked rather pitiful.

## Chapter 76

At first, Roxanne was stunned by Estella's actions. But after that, her heart ached for the last bit. She instinctively reached down and pulled Estella into her arms, patting her back.

Estella tugged at the hem of Roxanne's clothing, sobbing uncontrollably.

A helpless look passed through Lucian's eyes as he took in the scene before him.

When we were home a while ago, all Estella did was avoid me. Now that Roxanne is here, this girl reached out without hesitation to ask for a hug. Are children naturally dependent on their mothers?

"Okay. Stop crying.

Can you tell me what's wrong?" Roxanne comforted Estella, feeling worried.

Naturally, Estella did not know how to speak.

Finally, Lucian cleared his throat and said nonchalantly, "He went to kindergarten today and didn't see his children, so he thought they had stopped going. He went to his house and cried all night, asking to come here to confirm the reason for his absence."

Roxanne inwardly sighed at that. This girl is very clingy with my children, huh?

Realizing that, Roxanne said in a softer tone, "Yeah, yeah. don't cry The boys had an upset stomach today, so I helped them apply for a leave of absence.

They will return to school to play with you tomorrow.

When she heard Roxanne say the same words as Lucian, Estella finally believed it. Slowly, she stopped sobbing and pulled out of Roxanne's embrace. And she carefully, she peeked into the house, wanting to see the two children.

However, it was impossible to see the dining room from the entrance.

When she didn't see the twins, she began to feel restless again.

Roxanne noticed Estella's wary looks and her heart melted. Patting Estella's head, she asked, "Do you want to play with them? I can take you with them.

With that, she smiled and picked up Estella. Just as she was about to enter the house, Estella de he suddenly stepped back.

It was at that moment that Roxanne remembered that the man was still standing in the doorway.

On top of that, she wouldn't enter the house without her invitation.

At that thought, she turned to face the man.

As she blew on the night breeze, Lucian's shirt clung to her body and he gazed impassively at the girls.

Looks like she rushed Essie here because she forgot to put on a coat.

Thanks to Estella, who was in her arms, Roxanne felt bad for him and said calmly, "Sit inside, Mr. Farwell."

Lucian entered the house as soon as she spoke.

## Chapter 77

Lucian, who was standing at the entrance to the dining room, looked conflicted when he saw Estella finally smile.

It took me a long time to persuade her, but it was nothing compared to the words of the trio. He didn't just stop crying. she even smiled.

After standing there for a while and seeing the boys make Estella grin from ear to ear, he walked into the room wanting to take her home.

They had only come because Estella wanted to confirm things with her own eyes. Now that it was done, it was time for them to go home.

As soon as she reached Estella's side,

he heard his stomach growl.



Roxanne frowned. "Have you not eaten?"

Estella pursed her lips and nodded.

Seeing that, Roxanne turned to look at Lucien with a scolding look.

Lucian looked at her without emotion. I've tried talking to her. She has been crying all night.

He locked himself in the room as soon as he returned without eating or drinking anything. It was only when I promised to bring her here that she finally stopped. We haven't managed to eat dinner yet."

Roxanne scanned her thin shirt and looked away from her.

Off to the side, Archie looked at Estella with concern. We just started eating. Do you want to join us?"

Estella's eyes lit up and she nodded fervently. It was at that moment that she finally remembered to ask her father's permission.

Lucian hesitated for a few seconds and looked at Roxanne. "If it's not too much trouble, could you make him something?"

"Do you want to sit among the boys?" Roxanne suggested.

Estella smiled instantly.

Archie and Benny quickly moved their chairs around, making a little space for Estella to sit between them.

Lucian frowned as he watched Estella sit between the twins.

From his point of view, they seemed like family, while he seemed more of a stranger.

After helping Estella get settled and serving her some food, Roxanne looked at the three children sitting next to each other and smiled.

However, the gaze of the man next to her sent chills down her spine.

She stopped smiling and turned to face Lucian.

When she met her gaze, Lucian composed himself and put on a calm expression.

"What about you?" Roxanne asked casually, suppressing her feelings.

Hearing that, Lucian put on a confused look.

Roxanne looked away and looked at the dishes on the table. "Have you eaten?"

## Chapter 78

In the past, it had always been the three of them (Roxanne, Archie, Benny) eating together, occasionally with Madilyn joining in.

However, it was the first time they had eaten with Lucian.

At that moment, various emotions rose up in the hearts of Archie and Benny.

Lucian stopped short and turned to meet Estella's bright eyes. He then shifted his gaze to the seat next to them, which had utensils placed on the nearby table. His eyes immediately sparkled with excitement.

In fact, the four of them were indeed a family.

It would be strange for him to sit there.

Although that thought crossed her mind, she had already sat down by the table before she knew it.

For some reason, the atmosphere that was originally joyous had turned tense. She couldn't help but wonder if he was the reason for the change.

Archie and Benny fell silent and lowered their heads to eat their food.

Since the boys no longer spoke to her, Estella lost her appetite. She held the utensils from her and took small bites of her food.

"Essie, is there anything you don't like?" Roxanne asked gently, noticing the change in her demeanor.

Hearing that, Estella quickly shook her head.

She liked everything Roxanne did.

I just wasn't in the mood to eat.

Benny knew that Estella couldn't speak. Therefore, he put down her tools and responded on her behalf: "Essie is just like us. She doesn't like carrots and bell peppers. She always picks them out in kindergarten."

Roxanne smiled kindly. "I'll help you choose them, okay?"

A smile reappeared on Estella's face, and she nodded obediently.

Seeing her response, Roxanne walked over to Estella, took the carrots and peppers from Estella's plate and placed them on hers. She then saw Estella picking up the spoon from her again.

Just as Estella was about to continue eating, something tugged at the back of her hand,

which made her cry in pain. She stopped moving her arm. She lifted her head and looked to Roxanne for help.

Noticing the expression on Estella's face, Roxanne immediately put down her cutlery. "What happened?"

Stella bit her lip.

doing her best not to cry as she turned her hand to let Roxanne examine it.

Everyone was stunned as soon as they saw the back of her hand.

Estella had extremely white skin. When the light shone on the back of her hand, she could visibly see a hideous red mark.

Roxanne frowned and asked concerned, "What happened?"

Estella bit her lip without saying anything.

Roxanne had no choice but to look at Lucian, who was sitting next to her.

Lucian felt a pang of guilt as he met her questioning gaze. Despite that, he looked as calm as ever.

"Did you get hurt when you were throwing things just now?"

The concern in Roxanne's eyes intensified. "Throwing things?"

Lucian said, "Essie doesn't know how to vent her emotions. Sometimes when she gets really mad, she throws things to get it off her chest."

She couldn't bring herself to utter the word "autism".

Besides that,

he didn't know what his reaction would be once he found out.

Chapter 79

Soon. Roxanne returned with the first-aid kit and carefully applied some medicated cream.

in Estella's hand.

Estella was good throughout the entire process. When she hurt him, she would just cringe a little and quickly reattach her hand.

She made Roxanne's heart melt unbelievably.

After applying the medicine to Estella's hand, Roxanne immediately took the seat next to her.

Archie gave up his seat obediently and carried his plate to sit next to Lucian.

NA

"Is it okay if I feed you?" Roxanne asked Estella's permission.

joins

Naturally, Estella would not reject him. She nodded with a look of anticipation.

Roxanne picked up Estella's plate with a smile and began to feed her.

With Roxanne feeding her, Estella's appetite improved greatly. She fixed her eyes on Roxanne, opening her mouth to eat whatever she gave her to eat.

Roxanne's smile widened when she saw how well behaved Estella was while she ate.

Lucian watched her interaction from the other end.

Whenever Estella's lips were stained, Roxanne helped her clean them immediately. Even her feeding speed was just right.

Estella's eyes crinkled as she ate.

For a moment, a mixture of emotions flashed in Lucian's eyes.

Meanwhile, Archie and Benny had been watching everything in silence. They just thought that Estella looked cute when she ate instead of being jealous of her.

When they looked away from her, they looked at Lucian at the same time.

The next second, they exchanged suspicious glances with each other.

If we're not mistaken, Daddy's been looking at Mommy. Also, there doesn't seem to be any hate in her gaze. Instead, he looks a bit... cuddly.

Archie frowned and put down his fork. He picked up the ladle to the side and served Lucian some food as he watched innocently. "Mister. Bye, why aren't you eating? Eat more!"

Hearing that, Lucian came to and thanked Archie subconsciously, "Thank you.

As soon as he said that and saw the vegetable on his plate, his gaze darkened.

Coincidentally, the vegetable Archie chose was celery.

Lucian looked up and scanned the plates on the table to find the bowl of celery placed well out of Archie's reach. It seemed as if the latter had served him celery on purpose.

As Archie finished his words, he buried his head in his plate and glanced at Lucian out of the corner of his eye.

He remembered that celery was the vegetable Lucian hated the most the last time he and Benny looked past him.

## Chapter 80

Benny's eyes lit up. Emboldened by Lucian's acceptance of Archie's gesture, he tentatively tried the same.

Taking the step, he placed a baked potato on the man's plate and looked at him expectantly.

The boy's thoughtful expression surprised Lucian, since he thought that the first one would complicate things for him. He offered a grateful smile as he regained his composure. "Thank you. Eat some more potatoes yourself.

As he spoke, Lucian returned the gesture.

Having remembered the vegetables that the boy mentioned that he didn't like earlier, he deliberately avoided them.

Benny's eyes widened in surprise. "Thank you, Mr. Farwell! I'm going to!"

oh

dad gave me food!

go

Meanwhile, Archie pouted in disdain as he watched his interaction.

Benny is an idiot. He can't even see such an obvious ploy of Dad's to curry favor with him! I won't be so easy to fool!

The rest of dinner passed with that strange atmosphere hanging over them. Roxanne got up to clear the table when they were done.

Lucian silently helped her stow the cutlery in the kitchen drawer out of courtesy. Upon completing that task, he was left hesitant, as he wasn't sure what to do next.

EITHER

W

IS UNS

Although it was logical for him to return to Estella, he thought it would be inappropriate to simply leave after putting Roxanne to the trouble of organizing dinner.

"I can manage on my own," Roxanne stated when she noted her discomfort. "Could you watch the children?"

Lucian nodded and headed into the living room.

Estella was working with the children in the final stages of a Lego project they had been working on together.

Having already assembled one section, the children were struggling with the height of where she was supposed to be attached. Roxanne was often around to lend a helping hand after the rough set-up on the field was complete.

While she was busy with the dishes at the time, the children stood around, figuring out how to get around that obstacle.

After looking around, Archie decided to grab a chair from the dining room table.

"Here, leave me." Feeling sorry for the children, Lucian softened his expression as best he could. and offered Archie a hand.

Archie hesitated for several seconds before handing the assembled piece in his hands to the man.

. Following Archie's instructions, Lucian took it and put it in place.

"Thank you," Archie said sharply.