

The Secret 81

Chapter 81

The three children exchanged glances before putting down the Legos in unspoken agreement and running into the kitchen.

"What's up, babe?" Archie and Benny asked concerned.

Her voices woke Roxanne from her trance. She felt even more uneasy seeing her children in front of her. Barely able to suppress her fears, she shook her head and managed a smile. "It's nothing," she said. "The bowl must have slipped from my hand. Do not enter. There are broken pieces everywhere."

With that, she bent down as if nothing had happened to pick up the pieces, still distracted as she did so.

Lucian's eyes darkened behind the three children as she studied the woman on her knees.

He might be imagining it, but this woman seems to have a lot on her mind.

Roxanne lowered her head. The man's intense gaze on her puzzled her even more.

In a momentary lapse of vigilance, her fingers closed around a particularly sharp corner of a shard.

Tingling pain shooting from the tips of her fingers jerked her back to her senses, and she gasped involuntarily in pain.

"Mommy!"

"Millisecond. Jarvis!

The children squealed anxiously as blood dripped from Roxanne's finger.

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Archie and Benny were about to run into the kitchen when a tall figure suddenly stopped in front of them.

A moment later, they saw Lucian squat down beside his mother to take her wrist in her large hand, a cold expression on her face.

Archie and Benny froze in their tracks.

"What were you thinking?" she asked herself irritably.

Roxanne stared at her huge hand on top of hers. She was speechless.

Lucian wrapped her arms around her waist and had her on her feet in an instant.

Roxanne was already standing by the sink when she came to.

Looking sullen, Lucian turned on the faucet and dragged her wrist under the stream of water.

"Wait outside," Lucian ordered, turning his attention to the three children by the door. "Do not enter."

Although the children were worried about Roxanne, they nodded when they saw that she was in good hands.

Satisfied that the wound on the woman's hand was clean enough, Lucian took a clean handkerchief from her pocket and wrapped it around her injured finger to stop the bleeding.

"Thank you". By this time, Roxanne had regained sufficient control of her faculties. She tried to pry her hand from his as she avoided her gaze. "I can finish on my own."

The man frowned and tightened his grip on her.

Roxanne was upset by her refusal to let him go.

He has a son with another woman. Essie is watching us right now.

Chapter 82

When they reached the living room, they forced Roxanne to sit on the sofa.

The children surrounded her as they looked worriedly at her handkerchief-wrapped finger as Lucian rummaged unsuccessfully in the living room to locate the medicine cabinet.

In the end, Archie was the one who jumped off the couch to get the medical kit off the TV stand.

Lucian patted the boy's head in gratitude and stood next to Roxanne with the kit now in hand.

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The children hastily stepped aside.

Lucian sat down next to Roxanne. Although her face betrayed not one iota of her thoughts and her presence caused a perceptible shudder in her, her movements seemed softer than usual.

Roxanne watched him work for several seconds before being forced to look away from her. She forced herself to keep her gaze on the ground.

Looking further would create unnecessary misunderstanding. The man obviously hates me. Why is he so affectionate all of a sudden?

After iodine was applied to the cut, Lucian pulled out another Band-Aid and wrapped it around her wound.

Roxanne sighed with secret relief when he finally released her hand. She jumped as soon as she could put some distance between them. "Thank you, and sorry again for bothering you."

The man frowned slightly at her words, but did not respond.

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Roxanne looked at the mess on the kitchen floor and made to get up.

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"What are you doing?" The sullen voice sounded again.

Roxanne froze. "The floor needs cleaning," she said. "Children could step on the fragments."

Lucian's scowl deepened.

Despite this woman's stellar credentials, she—she—she can't even take care of herself!

Roxanne grew anxious at the man's grim expression, not knowing what she had done wrong this time.

Could it be because of the trouble she had caused him earlier?

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After careful consideration, Roxanne was about to apologize when she spoke again.

"You can't get your bandage wet. Let me find you a housekeeper.

Without giving her a chance to respond, Lucian called out to her assistant.

After dinner, Cayden was about to wash up and go to bed when he suddenly received a call from his employer. He picked up the phone nervously.

"Find me my housekeeper and take them to 32 Durwest Garden in half an hour."

Cayden was stunned. Before he managed to get the question out of him, the other had already hung up.

After staring at his dark screen in confusion for several seconds, Cayden contacted a cleaning company and personally escorted the housekeeper to the address per Lucian's instructions.

Chapter 83

Roxanne breathed a sigh of relief at how little effort it cost her.

Having expected to go to great lengths to find a suitable nanny, she was surprised to find such a promising candidate so easily.

"Come over tomorrow morning," Roxanne proposed after a brief discussion of Lysa's salary range. "I will draw up the contract by then. You can sign it if everything is in order."

Lysa nodded in response. After saying goodbye to the others, she left with her tools and left a few in the living room once more.

Though Roxanne's mood lifted after her talk with Lysa, her stiff formality returned when she turned to Lucian. "I feel the trouble to bandage my wound and find me a housekeeper. I owe you one."

A strange gleam crossed Lucian's deep eyes. She quickly suppressed the rising feeling and responded with similar detachment, "Don't mention it. Essie and I were the ones who bothered you in the first place. Please consider these trivial matters as a token of my gratitude."

Estella nodded in vigorous agreement with her father's words. She even ran to grab Roxanne's wrist and stared at her bandaged finger for a long time.

Roxanne smiled as she patted the girl's head. "Everything's fine. Don't worry. It doesn't hurt at all.

Estella blinked as she touched Roxanne's fingers gently. Verifying that there was indeed no problem, she looked up from her and gave him a sweet smile.

Roxanne's heart softened at the boy's tenderness.

"It's getting late. We have intruded on her gracious hospitality for too long. Lucian cleared his throat as he looked down at Estella. "Say goodbye to Mrs. Jarvis and the children, Essie."

With an unwilling face, Estella obediently greeted the boys at the prospect of seeing them the next day.

The two boys returned her smile and waved. "Wait for us in the kindergarten tomorrow!"

Essie nodded vigorously.

Lucian took the girl's hand and, with a final goodbye to the three of them, turned to go.

Only when he saw her car disappear from the driveway did Roxanne completely relax.

The two boys seemed reluctant to part with their guests as they stared into the distance for a long time, never taking their eyes off the spot where Lucian's car had disappeared.

Roxanne thought they missed Estella. "Let's go guys. Let's go inside," she said quietly. You'll see Essie tomorrow.

The two boys looked away slowly and followed her back to the mansion.

Chapter 84

It was almost ten when Lucian got home with Estella.

The butler was already waiting at the door.

"Millisecond. Pearson is waiting for you inside, Mr. Farwell.

Lucian's brows furrowed at the news. With a nod to the butler, he entered with Estella.

"Are you at home!"

Aubree, sitting on the sofa, jumped up as she saw them cross the threshold. She reached down and tried to touch Estella's head, which she did her best to avoid.

Aubree's eyes flashed with displeasure, which she quickly concealed by straightening with a smile.

"What's happening?" Lucian studied her closely. Her tone remained indifferent.

Aubree gave him a casual smile. "I want to thank you again for lending us someone today. You helped us out of a bind there, and Dad had me come over to offer our gratitude to you personally."

She was going to add something else after a brief pause, but Lucian cut her off, "Is the matter resolved?"

Aubree was momentarily stunned by her frankness. She nodded with a smile that seemed rather forced now. "Well, the little problem we had kept us busy until the afternoon. I hope I have not interfered with your business.

Luciano agreed. "There are many employees at Farwell Group, and the absence of one would not make a difference. There is no need to thank me.

Without waiting for her response, he walked past her with Estella.

Aubree's features contracted with fury, but softened again when he came to his senses a few moments later.

"However, you have helped me solve something huge. He didn't know what to get you, so he brought a little gift for Estella. Don't worry. I didn't spend a fortune. Think of it as a token of my appreciation."

As he spoke, he took out a limited edition doll from the bag on the sofa. His delicate manner made Lucian recognize him as part of a game Estella kept in her room.

Knowing that his daughter loved these dolls, he stopped to see if he would accept the gift.

Unexpectedly, Essie didn't even look up. Instead, she tightened her grip on her father's hand and moved closer to him.

Lucian understood immediately. He met with Aubree before refusing her gift. "Thanks for the doll, but she already has this one. Besides, she's thrown a tantrum at me before. Forgive us for not being in the mood to entertain."

Aubree's expression was a little stiff. He put her things away with a smile that was more like a grimace before looking at Estella with concern. "Why is she mad at herself this time?"

Having hit multiple dead ends trying to interact with the girl before, Aubree didn't try very hard this time for fear that Lucian would catch on to her falsehoods. Instead, she directed her question to him.

Chapter 85

The next morning, Aubree was having breakfast when he called his bodyguard.

"Millisecond. Pearson, I've checked. Last night, Mr. Farwell took Mrs. Estella to a woman named Jarvis. They stayed at her house for almost three hours before leaving..."

Unfortunately, before the bodyguard could finish his sentence, the beep of a disconnected call sounded from the other end.

There was no doubt in Aubree's mind that the woman in question was Roxanne Jarvis.

The more he imagined Lucian and Roxanne spending time together, the more his face contorted with anger.

What could they have done in those three hours? I can't believe they had Estella with them too!

A new surge of anger rose in Aubree as he stood up and tossed his phone away, his eyes full of maddened fury.

Samuel, who was eating breakfast across from her, looked up with a frown when he heard her shock.

To his surprise, he saw her daughter standing menacingly by the table as her phone lay on the floor, smashed to pieces.

"What's going on?" Samuel asked sternly after setting down his cutlery.

Aubree met her father's gaze and gritted her teeth. "Roxanne Jarvis is back, and Lucian has been staying away from me recently! I think he has plans to reconcile with her!" he complained, sounding rather pitiful towards the end.

Samuel's gaze darkened instantly. "Elias and Sonya know about this?"

As far as he knew, Roxanne had run away without saying goodbye to her back then, leaving only a divorce settlement.

For that reason, Elias and Sonya were very resentful of her.

Now that Roxanne had brazenly returned to her child, one could only imagine how they would react if they found out.

Hearing her father's words, Aubree's brow twitched as a thought crossed her mind.

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Find an opportunity to inform the Farwells of that woman's return," Samuel suggested, which helped solidify Aubree's idea. "I'm sure they are very unhappy with her."

With that, Aubree nodded and slowly returned to her seat.

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Seeing that his daughter had calmed down, Samuel frowned and seriously advised: "That woman just returned, so we can't be sure what Lucian's intentions are toward her. Don't get mad at anything. Besides, Elias and Sonya know how loyal you have been.

been with his son and how much you have done for him. Even if that woman comes on the scene, they would still be on your side. You have nothing to fear."

After hearing Samuel's reassuring words, Aubree felt much calmer and she visibly regained her composure. "Understood. I will remember to stay calm."

Meanwhile, Roxanne had finished her breakfast and sent Archie and Benny off to kindergarten.

When the teacher, Pippa Ward, saw the three of them, a worried look crossed her face. "How are Archie and Benny? Do you feel better?"

Roxanne smiled and nodded. Yes, they have recovered. Thank you for your concern."

Chapter 86

It was weird to see Estella running towards the school entrance as she wordlessly greeted Roxanne and the children.

Seeing that the girl was too caught up in emotion to care about road safety, Roxanne hurried to take her hand. When she saw Lucian calmly walking towards them, she couldn't help but feel a sense of helplessness.

Estella grinned from ear to ear as she held onto Roxanne's hand. Once she stopped walking, she even hugged the latter's leg affectionately.

Archie and Benny weren't jealous either and greeted Estella with big, friendly smiles.

When Lucian finally came to a stand next to them, Benny tugged bravely on the sleeve of his suit.

Puzzled, the man lowered his head to look at the boy.

Good morning Mr Farwell! Benny exclaimed, flashing an innocent smile.

Lucian's eyebrows rose slightly, but his surprise soon turned to sweetness. "Oh, good morning to you too."

Having received his father's response, Benny smiled even brighter.

Archie, however, simply pursed his lips and nodded at Lucian.

Of course, Lucian returned the greeting in kind.

Seeing how close the two families seemed, Pippa mused, "Wow, Mrs. Jarvis, I suppose you must be on excellent terms with Estella. That's pretty weird, you know? She's been teaching her for so long, but she's never been that clingy to me."

Roxanne looked at the girl holding her leg and simply giggled.

Estella refused to leave Roxanne's side, but that didn't matter since it was still early and not many kids had made it to kindergarten.

So Roxanne and the children decided to stand in the doorway to chat with Pippa.

Fortunately, Lucian had called the kindergarten principal the night before to cancel the expulsion of the twins, so Pippa never mentioned how close Archie and Benny had come to being expelled from school.

Naturally, Roxanne continued to be kept in the dark.

After the three children linked hands and entered the school together, Roxanne turned around to prepare to leave. Unfortunately, she felt her heart skip a beat when she accidentally met Lucian's gaze.

She had been chatting with Pippa for so long that she almost forgot Lucian was standing silently behind her.

"If there's nothing else, I'll go to work, Mr. Farwell," Roxanne pronounced, walking away before Lucian could even say anything.

As she watched his figure walk away, Lucian's gaze darkened.

The sight of Roxanne and the three children chatting with Pippa earlier had left him stunned. To him, she felt like they were family.

Only after Roxanne had sped off in her car did Lucian finally collect his thoughts and walk to his Bentley.

. After leaving kindergarten, Roxanne headed straight for the research institute.

Thanks to the Queen family's herbal supply, the once-stalled research gradually returned to normal and continued to progress smoothly.

Chapter 87

Roxanne quickly collected herself and shifted her gaze from Aubree to Jonathan.

Sharp-eyed as usual, it didn't take long for Jonathan to realize the awkwardness between the two women. He casually moved closer to Roxanne, making sure to block Aubree's line of sight as she did so.

"Dr. Jarvis, my grandfather is already waiting for you upstairs. Shall we go up now?"

Roxanne agreed.

With that, Jonathan turned to Aubree to apologize and started toward the stairs with Roxanne in tow.

As soon as the two reached the stairs, Aubree spoke again. "Millisecond. Jarvis, I hear that your course of treatment has helped Old Mr. Queen a great deal. I think I'll take this opportunity to visit him and watch you work your magic.

Right after saying that, Aubree followed them.

Roxanne frowned, clearly disgusted. However, since Jonathan did not object, she had no choice but to pretend that Aubree did not exist.

Under Roxanne's treatment, Alfred had recovered enough that he was well enough to return to his room.

When they got to his room, they found Alfred propped up on the bed and looking like he was in a good mood.

"Grandpa, Dr. Jarvis is here," Jonathan announced as he carried Roxanne to bed.

After hearing that, Alfred looked at Roxanne with a grateful smile. "Dr. Jarvis, thank you very much for treating me. If he were not for you, today he would not be alive.

Alfred had seen Roxanne during previous treatments, but she was so weak that she could barely speak. Now that he had recovered for a couple of days, he finally found the energy to personally thank the latter.

"Don't mention it, old Mr. Queen," Roxanne replied with a courteous smile. "After all, I am a doctor and you are my patient. I feel just as happy and fulfilled to see you on the road to recovery."

Without further ado, she sat down next to the bed and began sterilizing her tools.

Seeing how focused she was, Alfred's appreciation for her instantly grew beyond her words.

Of course, Aubree was upset by Alfred's reaction and quickly walked over to him to block his view of Roxanne. "Hello, old Mr. Queen."

Alfred finally noticed Aubree's presence and nodded. "Oh Aubree, you're here too."

"When I heard you woke up, I really wanted to visit you first," Aubree said as he sat down next to Alfred. "But I've been so busy at work that I couldn't find the time to stop by. Fortunately,

Chapter 88

When she finished the treatment, Frieda had also returned home.

Learning from the butler that Roxanne was treating Alfred, she made a beeline for the latter's room.

"Grandpa, how are you feeling?" Frieda asked in concern the moment she entered the room.

Alfredo nodded slightly. "Better."

Having lived for so long, she had gained an understanding of how traditional medicine worked and had also consulted countless famous doctors.

Roxanne, however, had been a pleasant surprise to him.

After each course of treatment from him, Alfred would always feel a significant improvement in his health, something that even the best doctors in the world could not achieve.

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Frieda looked at her grandfather and finally nodded with a smile. "That's good to hear."

Then she turned to Aubree and added, "Have you come to visit Grandpa too, Aubree? Since he's getting late, why don't you stay for dinner?"

Naturally, Aubree had no objection to that and smiled broadly. "In that case, don't worry if I stay and bother you, old Mr. Queen."

Alfred just laughed and nodded.

Now that Frieda was home, Roxanne hurried to pack, since she didn't want to stay and interact with the women anymore.

At that moment, Alfred smiled and turned to her. "Dr. Jarvis, why don't you stay for dinner too? I could use this opportunity to properly thank you."

Roxanne froze momentarily and was racking her brain for an excuse when Alfred continued, "Invite Lucian too. It would be great to get everyone together for a hearty meal. We can treat it as a celebration of my recovery, right? Besides, it's been a while since I've had fun.

Needless to say, Jonathan agreed to his grandfather's request and immediately left the room to call Lucian.

That, however, made Roxanne's heart skip a beat. After putting her tools back in the medical box, she quickly got up and said goodbye to Alfred. "Since it's a family dinner, I don't think it's appropriate for me to join. If you really must thank me, we can always find another day to do it, old Mr. Queen.

Although Roxanne had seen Lucian many times since she returned from abroad and she was also well aware of her relationship with Aubree, she really hated the idea of seeing them together.

Chapter 89

Before the group went downstairs, Alfred asked Roxanne if she could get out of bed in her condition. As soon as he got the green light, he let Jonathan and the butler hold him and slowly made his way down the stairs.

Roxanne kept her head down as she sat at the dining room table, doing her best to make herself less conspicuous.

Unfortunately, Frieda seemed to want to make things difficult by intentionally throwing questions at Aubree and her from time to time.

Because of Alfred, Roxanne responded to everyone.

A while later, the butler's voice echoed from the door.

"Mister. Bye bye.

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Then, they all heard Lucian give a short reply in his deep voice before they saw the tall, thin figure of him appear in front of them.

"Hello, old Mr. Queen," Lucian greeted, his gaze slowly sweeping the room. When his eyes landed on Roxanne, he couldn't help but pause for a moment.

Roxanne dug her nails into her palms as she met her gaze and nodded calmly.

Without further ado, Lucian raised his eyebrows and responded with a small smile.

Take a seat, Luciano. Aubree has been waiting for you for nearly half a day," Frieda said warmly, motioning for her to sit next to Aubree.

Earlier, she had used the excuse that her grandfather wanted to thank Roxanne for the latter to sit across from Alfred while she and Jonathan plopped down next to the doctor.

As such, the only seat left was the one next to Aubree.

However, knowing that Lucian was closer to Alfred than she was, Aubree immediately stood up and relinquished her seat to him.

That way, Lucian was now at Alfred's side and also directly in front of Roxanne.

Seeing him sitting across from her, Roxanne felt her tense against her as he slowly lowered his gaze.

When she started dinner, she quietly dove into her food and only spoke when Alfred spoke to her.

As for Aubree, she was more concerned with Lucian's attitude toward Roxanne than anything else. Even when she was buying food for Alfred, she would check Lucian's line of sight and talk to him frequently so she wouldn't focus too much on Roxanne.

Of course, Roxanne was unaware of Aubree's motives. All she knew was that her conversation really made them seem like family, and she couldn't shake the uneasy feeling churning inside her.

Frieda looked at Roxanne and was surprised to see her so calm and collected. She thus, she turned to Aubree and said in a soft voice, "Aubree, you and Lucian look so in love! Have you already chosen a date for your wedding? I'm still waiting to be your bridesmaid!"

As soon as those words were out, Roxanne froze in her tracks.

Chapter 90

Aubree hadn't taken her eyes off Lucian, so when she saw him glancing at Roxanne over the matter of marriage, she began to burn with envy.

"There's no need to rush the wedding," Lucian replied, still looking at Roxanne.

Say oh! Let's see if she can still be so calm after this!

Although Roxanne was momentarily surprised by Lucian's response, it didn't take long for her to regain her composure.

And what if they are not married yet? It's only a matter of time before they do. Why should you be surprised?

With that, Roxanne looked down and went back to eating casually. It was as if her previous interaction had absolutely nothing to do with her.

Aubree, on the other hand, found Lucian's response quite surprising.

How odd. The last time I spoke to Lucian about the wedding, she already hinted that she wanted to call it off. Why would she change her mind now?

Alfred frowned, clearly unhappy with Lucian's response.

However, before he could say anything else, Aubree hurriedly said, "Lucian is right. In any case, I will not run away at any time. There's no need to rush, old Mr. Queen. We're doing good, aren't we? Besides, it hasn't been easy for Lucian to find time to visit you, so let's not talk about us. We should be talking about happier things!"

If we drag this subject out any longer, I'm afraid Lucian might turn the tables and reveal his intention to end our engagement. How can I risk letting him say that in front of Roxanne? I would be so humiliated if I did!

Once again, the eagle-eyed Jonathan noted Aubree's reluctance to talk about the wedding and chimed in, "That's Lucian for you. He loves his work more than anything else. Leave them alone, grandpa. I'm sure Lucian has his plans.

"I'm not denying that work is important, but it's not okay to keep putting off the wedding, is it?" Alfred complained. "So many years have passed and Estella still doesn't have a mother to take care of her. I don't know what you're thinking, but I know my heart aches for her!"

Flustered, Aubree gave a short, vague answer.

As soon as he thought of Estella, Roxanne also felt a little heartbroken.

Ah, no wonder the boy always clings to me. It's because he doesn't have a mother,

Just as she was lost in her thoughts, she suddenly heard Alfred call out to her.

And you, Dr. Jarvis? Are you married?"

Roxanne snapped out of her daze and responded after a moment of stunned silence, "No. Not yet."

Alfred looked her up and down and his lips curved into a smirk. "What do you think of Jonathan? Would you like to consider it?"

After several treatments, Alfred had long developed an admiration for Roxanne. It would certainly be even better if he could join his family as his granddaughter-in-law.