

# The Heiress Revived from the Ashes Novel

## The Heiress Revived Ch 101

, 12297 Views, Released

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes.

Chapter 101 Unveiling Shadows: The Missing Pieces.

His voice was thick with exhaustion.

Jeffrey froze, Lauren was missing?

Finished

Images of that frail woman he'd seen being carried away, someone who looked so much like Lauren, flashed through his mind.

Could that woman have been Lauren?

He was just about to mention it to Elliot, but the words caught in his throat.

Though he'd been busy with academic discussions lately, he hadn't been completely **out** of the loop regarding the Bennett family's affairs.

In the short two months since Lauren had been released from prison, she had already been hospitalized multiple times. Each time, her injuries were severe enough to spark whispers among the hospital staff.

What kind of "troublemaker" ends up in the hospital every other week, covered in injuries?

*It* was hard not to wonder, was Lauren really the bully the Bennett family claimed she was?

If she was constantly picking on Willow, *then* why was *it* Lauren who always ended *up* battered and hospitalized, never Willow?

Last time, she'd been covered in whip marks, her pinky finger broken; this time, her head had been smashed open, leaving a bloody gash that nearly cost her life due to infection.

Jeffrey recalled the night Lauren tried to flee to Garrison City by train, sneaking out to South City in the dead of night.

*It* was clear, she wanted nothing more than to escape *the* Bennett family, to get as far a way as possible.

Yet he and Elliot had dragged *her* back, convinced she was being dramatic.

Back then, *he'd been* firmly on Willow's side, *treating* Lauren with nothing but hostility.

*Only* later did *he* realize, Lauren wasn't being stubborn. She was just completely, utterly heartbroken by her family.

She must've been truly heartbroken by the Bennett family this time too, which was probably why *she* left when no one was looking.

Lost in thought, Jeffrey didn't even hear Elliot speaking to him.

Jeffrey?"

Snapping out of it, Jeffrey blinked. "What?"

"Where do you think Laurie could've gone?" Elliot's brows were tightly furrowed. "Do you think she might've run off to another city like last time?"

"Maybe," Jeffrey said vaguely.

1/3

## Chapter 101 Unveiling Shadows: The Missing Pieces

out there?" Elliot's voice was laced with anxiety. "Why she **so** stubborn? Whatever the problem is, couldn't she just talk it out with the family? Why does she always have to make things so difficult."

Finished

Hearing Elliot ramble on, and recalling how he'd just mentioned that Elaine **had** woken up yesterday, only **to** nearly be strangled again, Jeffrey couldn't help but wish he'd just shut up.

Elaine had already admitted that Lauren wasn't the one who tried to hurt *her* back then. Her waking up could only benefit Lauren, not harm her. Lauren would have to be insane to try and strangle *her*.

The truth was obvious.

As much as Jeffrey didn't want to admit it, facts were facts,

If he could see it, he refused to believe Elliot couldn't. The on explanation was that *Elliot* knew *the* truth but *didn't* want to face it, clearly choosing to protect Willow instead. No wonder Lauren was at *her* breaking point.

*If* he were Lauren, wrongly accused of attempted murder by his own brother and locked away for five years because of it, he'd probably feel like killing someone too.

It's no surprise Lauren wanted **to** run away. The way the Bennett family treated her versus Willow was painfully unfair.

Thinking about how he'd been so biased **against** Lauren all these years, always greeting her with harsh words and cold stares, Jeffrey

felt a surge of frustration.

He, Jeffrey, a man known for being fair and clear-headed had been played like a pawn, blindly following orders like some fool.

Out of the corner of his eye, through the glass window of the hospital room door, he saw David comforting a tearful Willow with a face full of concern. Jeffrey's expression darkened instantly.

What a mess. His own daughter had been *falsely* accused, yet David chose to shower sympathy and protection on his adopted one instead.

"I've got work to do," Jeffrey said flatly. "I'll catch you later."

Without another word, he turned and walked away.

Jeffrey didn't head back to his office. Instead, he turned and walked toward the surveillance room.

Elaine was staying in a VIP ward, and for the sake of monitoring her condition, her room was—equipped with a surveillance.

However, when Jeffrey arrived at the surveillance room and attempted to pull up the footage, the screen displayed the words: "Video file deleted."

His expression turned **cold** in an instant.

After a brief moment of thought, he decided to check the surveillance footage of Willow and Lauren entering Elaine's ward.

The footage from the hallway outside the ward had also been deleted.

Jeffrey's expression darkened even more, and a growing sense of unease crept over him.

2/3

20:15 Fri, Mar 28 B

Chapter 101 Unveiling Shadows The Missing Piece

Hospital surveillance footage wasn't something just anyone held the necessary clearance, and Jeffrey had that privilege

Center

For someone to sneak into the surveillance room and erase ordinary staff member,

Who was helping the real culprit?

Jeffrey's expression grew even more serious.

Looks like he'd have to ask Elaine himself.

260

20:15 Fri, Mar 28

Chapter 101 Unveiling Shadows: The Missing Pieces

Finished

*Hospital* surveillance footage wasn't something *just* anyone could access, *not even* most medical staff. *Only* a *select* few held the necessary clearance, and Jeffrey had that privilege because he was a *prominent* doctor at Skyline Medical

Center

For someone to sneak into the surveillance room and erase the footage without a trace, it couldn't have been an ordinary staff *member*.

Who was helping the real culprit?

Jeffrey's expression grew even more serious.

Looks *like* he'd have to ask Elaine himself.

260

, ? Views, Released

## Chapter 102 Fragments of Truth: A Thorn Among Roses

Elaine's Hospital Room.

Jeffrey gently knocked on the door before pushing it open and stepping inside.

At **that** moment, Elaine lay quietly on the hospital bed, her eyes blankly staring at the ceiling.

Finished

Jeffrey walked to her bedside, first expressing concern about her condition, but his words were met with

silence.

He sighed softly, then shifted the topic. "I know what happened in your room yesterday

Elaine seemed completely unresponsive, as if she had heard him. She remained motionless; her expression unchanged.

"Elaine, Jeffrey's tone grew firmer, "Don't you want the person who really hurt you to face justice?"

Of course she did!

How could she not?

But she had seen the situation clearly yesterday, David, Alice Elliot, *Jeffrey* himself, and even her own brother, Kenneth, they had all been deliberately protecting Willow.

*She* had the chance to point out Willow as the culprit, yet time and time again, they stopped her.

To them, Willow was that important.

Important enough to ignore her pain. Important enough to ignore *the* five years of wrongful suffering Lauren had endured

Given Jeffrey's close ties with *the* Benneth family, Elaine figured he was probably no different from the rest of them.

She ignored his questions, continuing to lie there quietly.

Jeffrey tried reasoning with her for a long time, but Elaine remained unresponsive, like a lifeless puppet, void of any emotion.

Her cold, detached demeanor frustrated Jeffrey to no end.

He stared at her for a moment before speaking in a low voice, "Lauren is missing

The moment those words reached her ears, Elaine's once—empty gaze suddenly flickered, like something **had** stabbed her right in the heart.

Jeffrey immediately noticed that flicker in her eyes, a subtle change, but enough to tell him his words had struck a nerve.

Seizing the moment, he pressed on. "The Bennett family, Lucas, and Kenneth are all looking for her. You know what they'll do if they find her first."

Recalling the vicious insults and abuse Lauren had endured just yesterday, Elaine let out a muffled, choked sound from her throat. Tears streamed down her face.

2015 F, Mar 28 13

Chapter 102 Fragments of Truth A Thorn Among Roses

Finished

**She** struggled to speak, but all that came out were garbled, broken cries. The frustration left her sobbing helplessly, tears falling freely.

Jeffrey reached for a tissue and gently wiped her face. "Don't cry. Everything's going to be okay."

Once Elaine finally calmed down, Jeffrey spoke softly, still focused on getting better. "Once you're **stronger**, you can help expose the person who really hurt you."

After a few more words of comfort, he quietly took his leave,

He was heading to Westhaven Medical Center to check things out.

As his car rolled out of the parking garage, he spotted a few familiar faces from a distance.

Coincidentally, he knew them both, **one** was their hospital's director, **Sharon**, and the other was Willow's personal driver. He couldn't quite remember the man's first name, only that his last name was **also** Swift.

Jeffrey frowned slightly. What were those two doing together?

He didn't dwell on it much. Instead, he started driving toward Westhaven Medical Center.

Halfway there, something clicked in his mind. He suddenly pulled over by a flower shop.

It was the weekend, and the place was bustling with customers.

Jeffrey was dressed casually, yet his tall, well-built frame and striking good looks still turned heads. His hair was neatly styled, and his whole demeanor radiated a carefree arrogance.

The moment he stepped into the flower shop, a clerk immediately noticed him and greeted him with a warm smile. "Sir, are you looking to buy flowers for someone?"

"Yeah," he answered lazily.

Since he was going to visit Lauren, it didn't feel right to show up empty-handed.

She'd been through so much, buying her some fresh flowers seemed like a small gesture to brighten her day.

In truth, the real reason was that he'd treated her coldly in the past. Today's visit was an opportunity to

make up for it, in his own way.

make

Of course, being the proud man he was, there was no chance he'd actually apologize out loud.

The clerk asked again, "So, sir, is this for a man or a woman?"

"A woman, Jeffrey answered casually.

The clerk gave him a once-over.

Judging by his sharp outfit and effortless swagger, this guy was clearly some rich kid. If he was buying flowers for a woman, he was probably trying to win her over.

The clerk's smile widened. "Leave it to us, sir. We'll make sure she's impressed.

Jeffrey didn't say much. He didn't know the first thing about nicking flowers anyway derri  
ng the

2/3

9479%

Chapter 102 Fragments of Truth: A Thorn Among Ro

professionals handle it seemed like the best move. He figured he'd just wait until they w  
ere ready.

With that in mind, he stepped outside the shop and lit cigarette.

Finished

The ever-carefree Jeffrey, with his striking looks **and** la-  
back charm, naturally drew attention from passers-by.

Especially the women, they couldn't help but steal glances his way.

Some were eager to try their luck and ask for his number.

After a while, a young, pretty girl finally mustered up the courage, pulled out her phone,  
and walked step by step toward Jeffrey.

Just as she was about to reach him, the clerk suddenly stepped out.

260

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 103 Roses in Ruins

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 103 Roses in Ruins

"Sir, your flowers are ready

A bouquet of exactly ninety-nine fresh, vibrant red roses was handed to Jeffrey.

Jeffrey speechless.

Even though he wasn't exactly a flower expert, he knew what red roses symbolized.



Giving them to Lauren, who was still recovering in the hospital, clearly didn't seem appropriate.

Finished

He considered refusing the bouquet, but with so many people watching, he couldn't bring himself to back out, not as Jeffrey, a prominent doctor at Skyline Medical Center. That just wasn't his style.

Besides, Lauren wasn't exactly the romantic type. Odds were, **she** wouldn't even realize what red roses

meant.

With that thought, Jeffrey silently accepted the flowers.

The clerk winked at **him** and said "Good luck! I'm rooting for you!"

...Jeffrey speechless.

He glanced at the

girl who had been about to ask for his number. Seeing that massive bouquet of red roses, she instantly realized he must have a girlfriend. Her face flushed red, and she awkwardly turned and

left.

Jeffrey casually pulled some cash from **his** wallet **and** handed it to the clerk, not even bothering to wait for change.

The clerk accepted the money with **a** big smile. "Have a great day, sir!"

Jeffrey carried the bouquet back to his car, placing it on the passenger seat.

He started the engine and continued driving toward Westhaven Medical Center.

On the way, Jeffrey couldn't help but **glance** at the bouquet, imagining Lauren's tearful, grateful reaction upon seeing such a large bundle of fresh flowers. The corners of his lips curled up slightly.

Westhaven Medical Center.

Although Jeffrey didn't work there, he often visited for academic exchanges. Thanks to his good looks, most of the medical staff recognized him.

Seeing him walk in with that massive bouquet of bright red roses, several staff members immediately exchanged gossiping glances, their eyes filled with curiosity and amusement.

"Mr. Jeffrey, are those for a patient?" a **nurse** teased.

Jeffrey smiled faintly. "Yeah, a patient. A very troubled patient.

He walked over to the **nurse's station** and casually asked. "Excuse me, is there a patient named Lauren staying here?"

1/3

## Chapter 103 Roses in Ruins

The nurse paused for a moment, then nodded. "Oh, Lauren? She's in Room 312 on the third floor."

Finished

It was no surprise the nurse remembered Lauren so well, her husband was just too handsome, even more so than Mr. Jeffrey

But still... Mr. Jeffrey, walking in with such a huge bouquet of red roses to visit someone else's wife, isn't that a bit inappropriate?

Jeffrey couldn't care less about the strange looks. After thanking the nurse, he strode confidently toward

Lauren's ward.

He had expected to see Lauren lying weakly in bed, but the ward was completely empty, not a soul in sight.

Jeffrey's heart sank. Had Lauren already left?

Just as he was wondering, he heard the sound of a toilet flushing from the bathroom.

The next second, Lauren emerged, dressed in a hospital gown.

When Lauren unexpectedly saw Jeffrey, her mind went completely blank.

By the time she snapped out of it, her already pale face had turned even more bloodless.

How did Jeffrey find her here?

Did that mean the Bennett family knew her whereabouts too?

A chill ran down her spine, freezing her to the core. Without a second thought, she turned and bolted.

Seeing her run, Jeffrey tossed the bouquet of roses onto the bed, took two quick strides, and grabbed Lauren's wrist, forcefully pulling her back.

"What are you running for? Do you think I'm going to eat you?"

Lauren's eyes widened in panic as she struggled desperately, but she couldn't break free. Her gaze was filled with fear. "What do you want? Did the Bennett family send you?"

Just the thought of being dragged back, framed once again by that family without question, made her whole body tremble uncontrollably.

Jeffrey sighed in frustration. He let go of her wrist and said. "I just came to check on you. Don't assume the

worst about me."

"Check on me?" Lauren sneered. "You're all the same, you all want to hurt me!"

Being misunderstood like this made Jeffrey feel both annoyed and wronged.

His temper flared instantly, Grabbing the bouquet of red roses from the bed, he shoved it into Lauren's arms and snapped, "If I wanted to hurt

, would I bother buying flowers first? You're just like a dog biting the hand that feeds you!"

Lauren was startled by the sudden bouquet. The ninety-nine roses were heavy, and when they landed in

her arms, they hit her chest so hard that it hurt. Tears welled up and rolled down her face before she could stop them.

2/3

Chapter 103 Roses in Ruins

This left Jeffrey completely flustered.

Finished

“Hey, what are you crying for?” he said irritably, his voice laced with frustration. “You don’t like red roses? Just say so! What’s the point of crying?”

He had never been in such an awkward situation before **His** first time giving someone flowers, and it ended with her crying because she didn’t like them.

“Stop crying, it’s driving me crazy. Just tell me what you like, and I’ll get it for you!”

Ahhhhh....

260

201

Fri, Mar 28

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 104 Clash of Egos

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 104 Clash of Egos

Jeffrey really felt like he **owed** Lauren.

Finished

Jeffrey wasn’t afraid of Lauren’s cold words, but seeing her looking so pitiful, like he’d bullied her, made him uncomfortable.

Though his tone remained sharp, he reached out to grab the bouquet of red roses from Lauren’s arms, intending to toss them in the trash.

Just as his **hand** was about to touch the flowers, someone appeared at the door.

“Seems like I came at a bad time.”

Jeffrey froze mid-action, his hand hovering just above the bouquet. He turned toward the doorway.

Standing there was a tall man with a lean, upright posture. His tailored designer suit fit him perfectly. exuding an air of sophistication and elegance.

The man’s sharp features were chiselled and defined; his deep-set eyes framed by sleek gold-

rimmed glasses. His gaze, cold and penetrating, swept over the room's occupants. The powerful aura he carried made the **air** feel heavy, commanding attention without a word.

"Who are you?" Jeffrey asked, frowning,

Felix didn't **answer** right away. His gaze shifted from Jeffrey to Lauren.

When he noticed Lauren clutching a large bouquet of red roses, her eyes glistening with tears, his eyes. narrowed slightly.

All this emotion... just for a bunch of flowers?

Felix stepped into the room, walking straight up to Lauren. Gently, he took the roses from her arms and set them aside on the nearby **table**.

"You must be hungry," he said, placing a thermos on the table. "Grandma made **this** herself, give it a try."

Jeffrey, who had been thoroughly ignored, felt a wave of irritation.

Who does this guy think he is?

Acting all high and mighty!

Jeffrey sized up Felix from head to toe, secretly impressed by the man's commanding presence.

But as a **rich** kid, Jeffrey refused to back down. He squared his shoulders, lifted his chin, and did his best to project his own aura of dominance.

Felix paid him no mind. Calmly, he unpacked the thermos, setting out each dish neatly on the table before. **taking** a seat by the window.

Lauren was indeed hungry, but with Jeffrey still in the room, she felt too on edge to eat.

Her face was pale, and her eyes betrayed her unease as she asked, "Jeffrey, what are you doing here?"

1/3

20:15 Fri, Mar 28 BBU.

Chapter 104 Clash of Egos

379%

79%

Finished

Originally, Jeffrey had expected her to be grateful, moved to tears, even, when he showed up with flowers

to visit her.

Instead, not only **was** she ungrateful, but she looked at him as if he were a ghost. Judging by her tone, it seemed she had no desire to see him at all.

Jeffrey felt his pride take a hit, and his irritation flared. **His tone** turned **sharp**.

“Can’t I **just** stop by to check on you?”

Lauren lowered her eyes. If there **was** really **nothing** going **on**, she doubted she’d even be worth Jeffrey’s

attention.

Besides, every time they’d crossed paths before, it always ended with him mocking her in some way.

How could she possibly look forward to a visit from him?

*What’s* worse, his close ties with *the Bennett* family meant that *if* he’d managed *to* find her, it wouldn’t be *long before* the Bennett family knew where she was, too.

Those lunatics from the Bennett family... In their quest to secure a foothold in the Eastgate project, they were even willing to force her into a marriage alliance with the so-called Mr. Brooker in Balewood

For Marilyn and Mia’s sake, *she* had once considered giving in

Ever since she learned last night that her embroidery could fetch a sky-high price, Lauren had no intention of compromising herself anymore.

But that depended on one thing, not letting the Bennett family find her. Otherwise, they’d drag *her* back once again.

All she needed was enough time. Time to earn money through Swish embroidery. Once she had enough to send Marilyn **and** Mia away safely, *she’d* no longer have a weaknesses.

When that time came, even if she had to go head-to-head with the Bennett family, she wouldn't be afraid.

Lost in her thoughts, Lauren absentmindedly scooped up a spoonful of the truffle soup in front of her. Yet no matter how rich the flavor should have been, all she tasted **was** bland nothingness.

Jeffrey frowned deeply at her cold attitude.

He'd grown up accustomed to flattery and **admiration**, never before had he been met with such obvious

disdain.

Feeling incredibly frustrated, Jeffrey pulled out a cigarette.

Before he could even light it, a deep voice interrupted him.

Don't smoke.

The voice belonged to Felix, his tone low yet authoritative, the kind that brooked no argument.

For some reason, Jeffrey felt a bit guilty, but his pride wouldn't let him back down. "Why do you care if I smoke or not?"

Felix

I get angry. Instead, he calmly replied. This is a ward."

2/3

20:15 Fri, Mar 28 B

Chapter 104 Clash of Egos

Finished

Jeffrey clenched his teeth and shoved the cigarette and lighter back into his pocket. "Lauren didn't **say**

anything, why are you acting like her guardian?"

As he spoke, his eyes kept darting toward Lauren.

Lauren paused her motion with the spoon. "I... I'm not used to the smell of smoke..."

Jeffrey's expression soured immediately.

"Wait a minute, Lauren, who is this guy that you're so protective of him?" His voice **rose**, frustration seeping into every word. "I've known you for over eight years, and I've never heard of this guy!"

Lauren didn't know what to say. She hadn't even said much, yet Jeffrey was acting like a firecracker set off by the tiniest spark.

Seeing her silent response, Jeffrey's temper flared even more.

*He* had come *all* this way to see her out of concern and not only was she unwelcoming, but *she* was *also* siding with some guy he didn't even know.

260

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 105 An Unexpected Exchange

Fincl

If they didn't want him around, he'd leave.

Jeffrey stormed toward the door, fuming.

"Jeffrey!"

Just as he reached the doorway, Lauren's anxious voice called out to him.

He stopped but didn't turn around.

Finished

Still, hearing the urgency in her voice brought a strange sense of satisfaction, his mood improved quite a bit.

"Can you not tell the Bennett family that I'm here?" Lauren's voice carried a hint of **pleading**.

Jeffrey wasn't unreasonable. Since he already **knew** Lauren had been wronged, there was no way he'd help those people make things worse for her.



His tone softened. 'Don't worry, I won't tell them.'

After a brief pause, he added, "And I won't tell Lucas or Kenneth, either."

Lauren finally felt her heart settle. Thank you."

Her simple words of gratitude instantly dispelled Jeffrey's anger.

His voice sounded noticeably lighter. "Take care and get some rest... I'll stop by **again** when I have time."

With that, he left.

The room instantly fell silent.

**Lauren** felt much better and even regained her appetite

She continued eating while Felix sat by the window reading a book.

Sunlight streamed through the window, casting a warm glow on him, outlining his tall and lean figure.

He focused intently on his book, the light creating soft shadows on his face, making his features appear even more defined.

His fingers gently held the corner of a page, flipping it every now and then as he read.

The gold-rimmed glasses perched on his nose caught the sunlight, reflecting a faint shimmer that accentuated his sharp, refined gaze.

Lauren glanced up unintentionally, and the sight stirred a quiet warmth in her heart.

Among all the people she had encountered, few had ever treated her with genuine kindness.

1/3

Chapter 105 An Unexpected Exchange

harsh slap in the face.

People from wealthy families looked down on her humble background.

Finished

The Bennett family was *like* that. *Kenneth* was like that, and *Jeffrey* was even worse and there were so many others... Because of this, her impression of people from powerful *families* had always been that *they* were sharp-tongued and

harsh.

Until she met Felix.

He was unlike anyone else she'd encountered in those circles, calm, reserved, and incredibly well-

mannered. He carried himself like a true gentleman, as if he had stepped right out of one of those dramas about old-money families with deep-rooted traditions.

It was as if *his* upbringing had instilled *in* him a rare sense of grace *and* composure.

As if sensing her gaze, Felix lifted his eyes from the book.

Startled by his deep, captivating gaze, Lauren's breath caught in her throat.

Felix seemed unfazed by her awkwardness. His voice was calm and gentle as he asked, "Does it suit your

Taster

Snapping back to reality, Lauren's cheeks flushed slightly. "Madam Kate's cooking is delicious," she replied. softly.

After speaking, she bit her lip, suddenly remembering the two bottles of red wine she drank the night before.

She didn't know their exact value, but she did know Felix drove a Phantom. Anyone who could afford that kind of car would surely have expensive taste in wine too.

Yet she had finished both bottles, **not** a single drop left for him.

The thought alone made her feel utterly embarrassed.

She couldn't quite remember if she had acted out after drinking, but she figured she probably hadn't. After all, she considered herself to have decent self-control, so her drinking habits should be fine too.

Thinking this, Lauren put

put on a sincere expression and said, "Mr. Felix, about those two bottles of wine from last night, how much were they? I'll pay you back!

Seeing her looking so serious and obedient, Felix's lips curled slightly in amusement. He couldn't resist teasing her. "70,000 dollars a bottle," he said casually.

70,000 dollars?

Lauren's eyes widened in shock.

So, she'd downed a hundred thousand dollars' worth of wine in one go? That was practically an entire apartment gone!

Her face flushed bright red, burning with embarrassment.

2/3

## Chapter 105 An Unexpected Exchange

"I... I'll pay you back." Lauren stammered, her embarrassment turning her face even redder.

Felix set down his book and fixed his gaze on her. Seeing her flustered and awkward expression, he couldn't help but find it amusing.

"And how do you plan to pay me back?" he asked, his voice calm but laced with curiosity.

Finished

She was practically penniless, no doubt about that, and yet here she was in a *VIP ward*. It was clear without a *doubt* that *Mr. Felix* must have been the one to cover her medical expenses.

She owed Mr. Felix a huge debt.

Lauren's face turned bright red, all the way to her ears. "I can do embroidery, and I can sell my works to make money, but I just need some time from you, Mr. Felix."

Mr. Felix, with a playful look on his face, leaned back in his chair, resting his chin on one hand. "But I don't need money."

Lauren was momentarily stunned.

Of course, someone who could afford a multi-billion-dollar Phantom and casually offer 70,000 dollars wine *bottles*. wouldn't need money.

She felt a rush of heat across her body, realizing how different their worlds were. How could she possibly repay someone like him when she had nothing of value to offer?

She lowered her head, feeling completely dejected.

“Then... What would you want, Mr. Felix?”

260

, ? Views, Released

## Chapter 106 A Calculated Move

Felix lounged in his chair, his gaze fixed on Lauren with an unreadable expression.

Lauren felt uneasy under his stare, gripping her spoon tightly.

Felix noticed her discomfort but remained deep in thought.

Finished

For years, Kate had been pushing him to get married, her hopeful, expectant gaze had become a persistent headache.

Marriage wasn't something he cared for, but his grandmother wasn't one to give up easily.

If he had to settle down, why bother with a high-society heiress who'd turn marriage into a battlefield? It would be far simpler to choose someone his grandmother liked—someone who wouldn't cling to him or stir up unnecessary trouble.

Lauren fit the bill perfectly.

Her family was a mess, but that wasn't a dealbreaker.

If need be, he could ruin the Bennetts. That would keep them from causing any more trouble.

The thought crossed Felix's mind so casually, as if making the Bennett family disappear was as simple as flipping a switch.

Of course, getting Lauren to agree wouldn't be easy.

He had a pretty good read on her—kind, stubborn, and fiercely independent. She wasn't the type to take shortcuts just because someone offered her a way out.

This wasn't something he could force. It had to be done step by step.

His gaze remained fixed on her as he silently strategized, carefully mapping out how to lead her into the plan without her realizing.

Lauren, completely unaware of his thoughts, just felt an overwhelming pressure from his unwavering stare.

It was like being watched by a predator who had already decided she was his next meal.

She took a slow breath, reminding herself she was overthinking things.

Mr. Brooker was rich, powerful, and had *no* shortage of women throwing themselves at him. *Why* on earth would *he be* interested in someone as frail as me?

Pushing aside her discomfort, she forced a small smile. Mr. Brooker, I'll do my best to repay what I owe you, both the money **and** the favor. You have my word!

Felix raised an eyebrow, his lips curving slightly. "No rush. I don't necessarily need you to pay it back right away. There might be something far more valuable **than** money."

Her

paused, watching her expression shift with curiosity. Only when he saw confusion flicker in her eyes did he continue, "Madam Kate's birthday is in a month. Last night, you agreed to restore "Queen of

1/3

Chapter 106—A Calculated Move

the original, we'll call it even."

Lauren's eyes widened slightly.

That's all

She knew it—Mr. Brooker was a generous man.

Finished

He probably realized she didn't have much money and was giving her a way out by letting her settle the debt through embroidery.

"I'll make sure it's perfect, she promised. It was originally her work, so finishing it herself made perfect sense. Gratitude filled her eyes as she looked at him..

Felix smiled, "Good. Once you recover, you'll stay at my place for now."

Lauren's eyes widened in shock...

S—Stay with him?

That... didn't seem appropriate.

Before she could say anything, Felix added. "I need to oversee the work personally. It's the only way I'll be

at ease."

Lauren instantly understood.

He **had** spent 2.8 million dollars on "Queen of Blooms. Of course, he'd want to make sure the restoration was done right.

A soft smile crossed Lauren's lips. "Alright."

Felix's gaze darkened slightly, his smirk deepening.

She's so easy to fool.

A faint blush crept onto Lauren's face. She quickly looked down and focused on her meal.

Felix went back to his book, his expression calm **as** ever

Every now and then, Lauren glanced at him, watching his composed profile. For some reason, being around him made her feel oddly at ease.

Meanwhile, outside the hospital room, Josh's expression **was** twisted as if he had just swallowed a bitter

melon.

Moments ago, David had called him—how he got his number was a mystery.

Josh could still hear David's flattery—filled voice ringing in his ears, making him want to roll his eyes.

At the last banquet, the Bennetts had already embarrassed themselves, desperately trying to tie their family to Mr. Brooker. And now? They were even trying to set him up with women?

These people are insane.

2/3

Chapter 106 A Calculated Move

Finished

Josh muttered under *his* breath. "They treat their own daughter like dirt, and now they're sucking up to the

boss? Shameless."

He glanced through the glass window, taking in the scene inside.

Lauren sat quietly at the table, eating her meal, while Felix leaned against a chair by the window, reading.

Sunlight spilled in, wrapping them both in a warm glow, making everything look strangely peaceful.

260

, ? Views, Released

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

#Finished

Chapter 107 A New Strategy

If Ms. Bennett has earned both Madam Kate's and the boss's favor, she must have some redeeming qualities. A rare gem. from a rotten tree, indeed.

Josh found himself feeling a shred of sympathy for Lauren.

At Skyline Medical Center

David slammed his phone onto the bed, his face dark with rage.

Willow flinched at the sudden outburst and quickly stepped closer, "Dad, what happened? Did Mr. Brooker refuse **again**?"

David gritted his teeth, his voice filled with resentment “That bastard is impossible to get through to. Last time, we tried to arrange a marriage between him and that little wretch, Lauren—he rejected it. This time, we invited him to dinner and even arranged some beautiful women to accompany him, and he turned that down too!”

His chest heaved with barely contained fury,

Willow frowned, “But isn’t he supposed to be a notorious playboy? How could he reject them so easily?”

“Who knows?” David slammed his fist on the **table**, making everything on it tremble.

If they couldn’t secure the Eastgate project, the Bennett family would have no place in Haverdale’s elite circles. How could he not be desperate?

Willow’s eyes gleamed with an idea, her voice dropping slightly. “Dad, **what** if the rumors were wrong? What if Mr. Brooker isn’t actually the type to indulge in women?”

David narrowed **his** eyes, considering her words. After a moment, he nodded. “It doesn’t matter whether he is or isn’t. What matters is that we must be part of the Eastgate project. If one approach doesn’t work, we’ll try another.”

A sly smile crept onto Willow’s lips. “Dad, I heard Madam Kate’s birthday is next month. Why don’t we prepare an extravagant gift and visit her in person? It might be our chance to get in with the **Brooker family**.”

David’s eyes lit up. “Willow, you’re sharp. That might actually work. If we win over Madam Kate, Felix won’t be able to **refuse** us.”

Willow beamed with satisfaction. “But we need to choose the gift carefully. It has to be something she truly desires.”

David nodded, but soon, his expression turned grim. “The Brooker family is the most prestigious in Balewood. They’ve seen every luxury imaginable. Finding a gift **that** stands out won’t be easy.”

“Not to mention, the birthday banquet will be filled with prestigious guests. Every present will be rare and worth a fortune. If we want Madam Kate to notice ours, we need something extraordinary.”

Willow tapped her chin, then smirked. “As long as we cater to her tastes, she’s bound to like **it**.”



## Chapter 107 A New Strategy

A flicker of something crossed her eyes, and she **made** decision, “Dad, I need to go to Halewood.”

Finished

David immediately understood her intent. “You want to go there yourself and figure out what Madam **Kate** -likes?”

Willow nodded. “The Bennett family must secure a share **in** the Eastgate project. If we succeed, you’ll solidify your position in the company. The board will trust you more. And once they do, we can push them. to pressure Mom into handing over the rest of her shares. When that happens, the entire Bennett Corporation will be ours.”

David didn’t hesitate. “Good idea. And it’s best if you lay low for now. I have a feeling Kenneth is already suspicious of you.”

Willow had thought the same.

Kenneth might have stopped Elaine from pointing fingers at her, but that wasn’t because he was on her side.

He had never truly cared about her. His heart had always belonged to Lauren.

He wasn’t protecting her—he was protecting himself.

If Elaine’s accusation turned out to be true, Kenneth would have to face the fact that he had wrongly

blamed Lauren.

And once that truth came out, everything he did to Lauren would be a cruel joke.

Their relationship would be beyond repair.

Willow had another reason for going to Halewood.

She wanted to see for herself what Felix was really like.

If the rumors about him were true, then no matter how good-looking he was, he wasn’t worth her time.

But if they were false, then a man as powerful as him.. could only belong to her.

Just as father and daughter were finalizing their plan, Alice burst into the room, her face pale with panic.

“David Bennett!” she demanded. “Lauren’s been missing for so long, and you’re just sitting here? Aren’t you even the slightest bit worried?”

David’s face darkened at the interruption. Annoyed, he waved a dismissive hand. His voice was cold.

“If that little brat wants to leave, let her. The Bennett family doesn’t need her.”

260

2/2

20:16 Fri, Mar 28

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 108 The Art of Deception

279%

#Finished

Alice felt as if she had plunged into an icy abyss at David’s heartless words. Tears welled up in her eyes, trembling on the edge before finally spilling over.

Choking back sobs, she pleaded, “Lauren is our daughter too. How can you be so cruel to her?”

“You lost her when she **was** just a child. She suffered so much. Do you not feel even the slightest guilt?”

David let out a cold laugh, his expression laced with mockery,

“Cruel? Guilty?” His voice dripped with scorn. “Don’t forget, you were the one who deleted that surveillance footage. You destroyed the only proof of her innocence. If we’re talking about cruelty, I could never match you.”

Alice flinched at his words, her body trembling.

Her face twisted with pain and regret as tears streamed down her cheeks.

"I... I only did it for Willow," she whispered, her voice thick with sorrow. "She was just a child. It was an accident. I couldn't let her carry such a heavy burden at such a young age..."

**And** now you blame me?" David scoffed. "You made a mistake, and somehow, that's my fault?"

"I wasn't thinking clearly back then, but what's your excuse?"

Seeing Alice waver, Willow quickly put on a heart-wrenchingly pitiful expression, her eyes brimming with tears. She threw herself into Alice's arms, sobbing.

"Mom, I never meant to hurt anyone. If I had known how much pain it would bring Lauren, I would have confessed everything back then."

Her frail, remorseful **act** softened Alice instantly. The anger drained from her face, replaced by deep.

SOITOW.

Gently stroking Willow's hair, she whispered, "Sweetheart, I never blamed you. You're my daughter—I know your heart better than anyone."

Willow's face remained innocent, but her eyes gleamed with silent mockery.

What a fool.

All it takes is a few well-timed tears, and she falls for it every time.

Her gaze flickered toward the hospital room's doorway, locking eyes with Sharon.

A knowing smirk passed between them, and Sharon even flashed her a discreet thumbs-up.

Willow's chest swelled with satisfaction.

handpile

This is how you play the game—distract them with one hand while you move the other.

Manipulating Alice was almost too easy. It was intoxicating.

1/3

Chapter 108 The Art of Deception

Finished

Memories of her eager enthusiasm from earlier that morning surfaced in his mind, making his pulse quicken

If only Alice would just leave. Then he and Sharon could pick up where they left off

A slow, knowing smirk tugged at his lips. He gave Sharon a subtle nod.

Sharon bit her lip, teasingly lifting the hem of her white coat, just enough to reveal the black stockings beneath.

The sight sent a rush of heat through David. He nearly lost his composure, longing to act on his desires right **then** and there.

But with Alice still present, he had to restrain **himself**.

He sighed dramatically and waved **his** hand dismissively. "Fine! The only thing that scares me is your tears. I'll send someone to look for that ungrateful brat, alright?"

He picked up his phone, pretending to issue orders.

But instead of arranging a search for Lauren, his message went straight to Sharon.

The words were so suggestive that she felt a rush of heat climb up her neck. Her legs nearly gave out from under her.

Meanwhile, Alice remained oblivious to **the** silent exchanges.

She continued to hold Willow, gently patting **her** back in comfort.

She let out a quiet sigh.

How could anyone blame Willow for what happened five years ago?

*If* anyone was to blame, it was Elaine for *being* careless... and Lauren, for simply being in the wrong place at the wrong

time.

*If* Lauren hadn't been there, none of this would have fallen on Willow's shoulders.

It was fate.

After soothing Willow for a while, Alice smiled warmly at her.

“Mom, I’m sorry,” Willow murmured sweetly. “I was being selfish. You’re the one who’s still recovering, yet here you are, comforting me instead.”

Alice’s heart melted at her daughter’s kindness. Her exhaustion seemed to lessen.

Patting

Willow’s back, she whispered, “Silly girl, I’m fine. As long as you’re happy, that’s all that matters.”

Then, she turned to David, her gaze growing firm. “David, we need to send more people to find Lauren. No matter what’s happened, she is still our daughter. We can’t just abandon her.”

, ? Views, Released

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 109 A Reckless Pursuit

Though unwilling, David gave a perfunctory nod **and** responded with a half-hearted hum.

Satisfied, Alice left the hospital room with Willow.

At the door, they ran into a woman with a warm, gentle smile—Sharon.

Alice greeted her politely, “Madam Sharon, you’re heret

Finished

Sharon returned the smile. “Yes, I **was** looking for you earlier, Madam Alice, but you weren’t in your room. So I thought I’d check in on Mr. David instead. Didn’t expect to run into you here as well.”

“You’re looking much better. I take it you’re recovering well?”

Alice nodded gratefully. “All thanks to you, Madam Sharon. My injury is healing nicely

Sharon’s tone turned slightly stern. “Even so, you need to rest as much as possible. Health comes first.”

Willow immediately latched onto her mother’s arm, playfully whining. “Mom, you heard the doctor. Let’s get you back to your room.”

Alice smiled and allowed Willow to guide her away.

Sharon watched them leave, a smug glint flashing in her eyes.

Once they were out of sight, she stepped into the room and locked the door behind her.

David had been waiting impatiently, his eyes burning with urgency.

To avoid any prying eyes, he pulled Sharon into the bathroom, **tearing** at her stockings as he pressed her against the wall.

Sharon eagerly responded, her gaze filled with hunger and desire.

Breathless moans filled the **small space**, their passion lasting five minutes before the room finally fell

silent.

As Sharon stepped out of the hospital room moments later, the satisfaction on her face disappeared instantly.

He's getting worse.

For **the** next three days, Lauren remained at Westhaven Medical Center for recovering.

Every single day, like clockwork, Jeffrey appeared at her hospital room, carrying a fresh bouquet of flowers.

She had no desire to see him. The last thing she wanted was for the Bennett family to notice his visits and start stirring up trouble.

On the fourth morning, Josh arrived to handle her discharge papers.

1/3

Chapter 109 A Reckless Pursuit

#Finished

Not even thirty minutes after she left, Jeffrey showed up, flowers in hand—only to find an empty room.

His face twisted with frustration.

“Damn you, Lauren! I visited couldn’t even tell me you were leaving?”

you every day, and t

What infuriated **him** more was **that** he didn't even have her contact information.

Seething. Jeffrey **tossed** the bouquet into the nearest trash bin and stormed out of the hospital.

Lauren sat in the back seat as Josh drove through Hoverdale's busy streets.

The car stopped at a red light.

Lauren turned her head slightly and rolled down the window. A cool breeze brushed against her face, carrying a refreshing chill.

It swept **away** the suffocating weight that had been pressing on her chest these past days.

She closed her eyes, savoring the sensation, a faint smile gracing her lips—a rare moment of peace.

The light turned green, and the car slowly moved forward.

At that moment, a sleek black luxury car approached from the opposite lane, passing just beside them.

The driver of the luxury car glanced sideways, catching a fleeting glimpse of Lauren just as she was rolling up her window.

Even with only a partial view of her profile, he recognized her instantly.

Lucas's heart slammed against his ribs, his breath catching in his throat.

"Laurie-!"

His voice rang out, sharp and urgent, cutting through the noise of traffic.

Heads turned, curious bystanders glancing his way.

But Lucas didn't **care**.

At that moment, nothing else mattered—only stopping her from leaving **again**.

Without hesitation, he yanked the steering wheel hard, completely ignoring the traffic around him.

The sudden maneuver threw the surrounding vehicles into chaos.

Honks blared in protest.

And then-

A deafening crash.

AZZIKALd with the mos har

rida him inline uinlante, form the **imnast**

2/3

Fri, Mar

Chapter 109 A Reckless Pursuit

Yet Lucas barely seemed to notice.

Flinging open his door, he staggered out, ignoring whatever injuries he had sustained.

His only thought was catching up to Lauren.

“Laurie, don’t go—1”

Finished

The driver of the other car, furious, jumped out and ran after him. “Are you out of your damn mind! You think you can just crash into my car and run!”

He grabbed Lucas by the collar, but Lucas shoved him off without a second thought.

All he cared about was the woman disappearing down the road.

Without missing a beat, he threw a punch, knocking the man to the ground before taking off again.

In the back of her car, Lauren had just rolled up her window when a loud crash echoed behind her.

260

, ? Views, Released

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 110 A Ruthless Decision

Finished



Lauren instinctively turned to look **back**. Josh **glanced** the rearview mirror, frowning. Looks like there **was** an accident behind us.”

A strange unease settled **in Lauren’s** chest. She could vaguely hear someone shouting her name.

Her heartbeat faltered, unease creeping in.

Josh, drive faster.”

Suppressing the anxiety clawing at her, Lauren urged him to speed up.

It wasn’t until they reached the Brooker’s Villa safely that she finally let out a breath of relief.

At the entrance, Kate, **Anna**, and Marilyn had been waiting. The moment they spotted Lauren, the three elderly women rushed toward her like anxious hens welcoming their precious chick home.

But as

soon

as they saw her pale complexion, their hearts clenched in unison.

“What happened?” Kate’s voice was laced with concern.

“Are you feeling unwell? Marilyn stepped forward, placing a hand on Lauren’s forehead.

Anna, equally worried, examined her closely. “You look terrible.”

Lauren was deeply touched by their genuine **concern**.

She shook her head slightly, about to reassure them when Josh spoke up first. “Ms. Bennett was startled by the accident on the **way** here.”

The three women gasped, their faces instantly paling.

“A car accident!” Kate grabbed Lauren’s hands, looking her over anxiously. “Are you hurt? Let me see.”

Lauren quickly held her hand in return, reassuringly. “Tom fine, Grandma. It wasn’t me, just someone else who got into an accident.”

Hearing that, the three women finally exhaled in relief, their tense expressions easing.

“That’s good. As long as you’re safe.”

Meanwhile, the “someone else”-Lucas Reed—was already in police custody.

Even as the officers restrained him, his frantic gaze darted around, desperately searching for Lauren.

Only when he was shoved into the patrol car did the weight of what he had done sink in.

At the station, he was officially charged with reckless driving and attempting to flee the scene.

1/3

Chapter 110 A Ruthless Decision:

shouting **her** name, so I had it looked into.”

Finished

Josh stood in the study, reporting to Felix, who sat behind his desk, one long leg crossed over the other. His slender fingers tapped rhythmically against the polished wood, filling the room with soft, deliberate

clicks.

“One of the people involved in the accident turned out to be her childhood friend, Lucas Reed.”

Josh continued. “The police have taken him in. Given that no one was seriously injured, he’ll likely be fined between 200 and 2,000 dollars, detained for up to 15 days, and have his license revoked.”

“Do you want me to intervene?”

A slow smirk tugged at the corner of Felix’s lips, though his eyes remained unreadable.

“Max penalty.” His deep voice carried a chilling finality

Josh nodded. “Understood. If there’s nothing else, I’ll take care of it now,”

Felix waved a hand dismissively.

Just as Josh reached the door, Felix’s voice stopped him.

Josh turned, puzzled.

Felix's mind drifted back to the five years Lauren had spent in prison—because of Lucas,

She had lost her freedom, her health... and a part of herself, a broken leg, a kidney.

A simple fine and brief detention?

That was far too lenient.

Josh, noticing his boss's darkening expression, hesitated "Mr. Brooker... any further instructions?"

Felix's voice **was** soft, yet ice—cold. "Make sure he's well taken care of inside. His tone carried an unmistakable warning. "I don't want him walking out of there unscathed."

Josh's pupils shrank slightly, instantly understanding.

Boss is avenging his future wife.

It was just the beginning of his pursuit, and he was already **this** protective.

Josh could only imagine how fiercely Mr. Brooker would shield Ms. Bennett once she became his wife.

Excitement flickered across his face.

When Ms. Bennett finds out about this, she's

going to be absolutely touched.

"Consider it done, sir. With that, Josh exited the study.

Felix pulled out **a** cigarette, lighting it with practiced ease.

He brought it to **his line inhaling** deeply. The ember shed a tiny flower of light

2/3

Chapter 110.A Ruthless Decision

against his **sharp** features.

His gaze turned cold, lost in thought.

Finished

As he exhaled, tendrils of smoke curled around him, shrouding him in a haze—dangerous, unreadable, and utterly untouchable.

260