

# The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

## **The Heiress Revived Ch 181**

, 9487 Views, Released

Chapter 181 An Act Well Played

Josh's eyes widened in shock, disbelief written all over his face.

What the *hell* was *going on*? *Did I*

*Y get so drunk last night that I lost control?*

4%

Finished

He frantically denied the possibility in his mind.

*No way. Absolutely not. I'm that kind of man.*

But the security footage was right in front of him. It was a solid proof that could not be ignored. Whether he wanted to admit it or not, the truth was staring him in the face.

Josh did not know what to say. He had to find that girl and get to the bottom of this.

After getting out of bed, he washed up, changed into fresh clothes, and prepared to head out. But as he reached the entrance, his gaze landed on a Maitrise umbrella resting on the cabinet.

Faint memories recalled some fragments of a conversation outside the bar.

*It seemed like I had asked her to take me home?*

Josh was speechless. Getting drunk really made him reckless. He had actually let a girl he had only met twice, someone whose name he did not even know, drive him home.

He stared at the umbrella for a long moment before finally stepping out the door.

Inside the elevator, the hushed conversation between two middle-aged women reached his ears.

“Did you hear? Last night, a girl was nearly assaulted right outside our building. **It’s** all over the neighborhood chat group. Girls really shouldn’t be out alone so late at night. It’s too dangerous.” The first woman said.

“Exactly. What was she even doing outside at ten o’clock at night?” The second woman answered.

Josh froze.

*Could they be talking about the girl who had taken me home? Had she been attacked because she was returning from dropping me off?*

A wave of guilt crashed over him. Without a second thought, he rushed downstairs to check the security footage.

It was Mia. In the video, she looked utterly helpless, her terror palpable.

Josh felt a tight squeeze in his chest. He immediately drove to Hoverdale Tech University, intending to find her. But then, a realization struck. He did not even know her full name. So instead, he went straight to the police station.

From the police officers, he learned that Mia had indeed been nearly assaulted the night before. Fortunately, the police had arrived just in time to save her.

Josh also managed to get her name and phone number from the police officer.

In the café across from the university, warm sunlight streamed through the windows, casting golden

1/2

Chapter 181 An Act Well Played

64%

Finished

Josh sat across from Mia. She looked tense, her hands clutching the hem of her sweater so tightly that her knuckles turned white. Her wide, anxious eyes darted around as if searching for an escape. Clearly, she was still traumatized by the previous night’s events.

Seeing Mia like this, so fragile and shaken, tugged at Josh’s heart. “I’m sorry about last night,” he said, his voice deep and laced with guilt.

Mia's breathing hitched. She lifted her trembling hands to pick up her coffee, hoping to steady herself. But she was shaking so badly that the cup clinked against the saucer, the sound crisp and telling.

That sight made Josh feel even worse. She was almost assaulted twice in one night. No wonder she was terrified.

Even though he had not meant for any of this to happen, she had suffered because of him. If he had not asked her to take him home, she would not have been out so late and would not have run into those men.

Josh rubbed his temples, heavy with remorse. "I drank too much last night," he admitted, his voice tinged with regret.

"It's okay," Mia stammered, her voice barely above a whisper. "I know you're a good person..."

She said she was fine, but her eyes glistened with unshed tears, her vulnerability striking a chord deep within him.

Josh sighed. No amount of apology could undo the fear she had endured.

Reaching into his pocket, he pulled out a bank card and slid it across the table. "There's 140,000 dollars on this card. Take it as compensation for everything you've been through because of me."

Mia lowered her head even further, her long bangs falling over her face, concealing the flicker of emotion in her eyes.

Josh assumed she felt insulted and offended that he was trying to use money to make up for what had happened. What he did not know was that, at that very moment, Mia was fighting back the urge to cheer.

Inside, she was celebrating.

*Finally! All **that** acting last night wasn't for nothing! Lauren, I'm about to get rich! I'll take the money today and leave tomorrow. You stay home, and I'll study abroad. Our little family will live happily ever after.*

The only regret she had was that the man in front of her was actually her cup of tea. Too bad she had not gotten the chance to have a taste. But it did not matter. No man could ever compare to her precious Lauren.

Golden light spilled through the floor—to—  
ceiling windows in the afternoon, casting soft, scattered reflections on the polished floor.

Josh studied Mia's lowered head, her hair veiling most of her face. She remained silent for a long time.

280

, ? Views, Released

2/2

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 182 A Missed Opportunity

Finished

Josh's voice softened instinctively, as if afraid of further upsetting her. "I'm giving you this money not to humiliate you, but because I sincerely want to compensate you."

Mia slowly lifted her gaze, tears shimmering in her eyes. Her delicate face, bathed in that watery glow, looked heartbreakingly vulnerable, as if she had suffered an unbearable grievance. "I... I wasn't really hurt, sir. There's no need for this."

"Please, take it. Otherwise, I won't be able to rest easy," Josh's tone was earnest, his expression sincere.

Mia wanted nothing more than to snatch the bank card from the table that very second, but the act had to go on. She bit her lip, furrowing her brows as though deeply conflicted. Her hesitance played out in every careful movement, making it seem as if she was struggling with an impossible choice.

Josh remained patient, comforting her gently, his persistence unwavering.

On the other hand, Mia was looking as if she were being forced into something against her will, when she finally reached out, a sharp voice cut through the tense atmosphere.

"Well, well, look who it is! Isn't this the legendary genius of Hoverdale Tech University, the scholarship-winning Mia?" The voice was laced with mockery, its owner's sarcasm as clear as a blade.

"Oh? Looks like she's bagged herself another rich guy!" A male voice chimed in, filled with ridicule.

Both Mia and Josh turned their heads, only to find a couple standing beside their table.

The woman had layers of thick foundation caked onto her face, resembling a painted mask, while her eyes gleamed with unhidden malice. The man beside her stood slouched, his smirk filled with undisguised

contempt.

Mia glanced at them, her mind quickly assessing the situation. She was certain she had never met them before. But ever since Elliot had set her up, nearly getting her expelled, it seemed like the entire university had decided she was an easy target. Everyone wanted to step on her, to humiliate her at every turn.

Most of the time, she ignored them, treating their words as nothing more than passing wind. But when they crossed the line, like that time when they used her toiletries to clean the dorm toilet just to disgust her, she made sure to retaliate.

A flash of cold light flickered in her eyes.

*These two had dared to interfere with my affairs. They were seeking death.*

After finishing their taunts, the couple's attention shifted to Josh.

They had expected Mia to be clinging to some overweight, middle-aged tycoon. But to their surprise, the man sitting across from her was young. He was no older than twenty-five or twenty-six, dressed in a perfectly tailored suit, every line of fabric exuding precision and elegance. A pair of gold-rimmed glasses perched on his nose, framing deep and intelligent eyes. His features were strikingly handsome, and a refined aura of sophistication clung to him, making him even more distinguished than the most popular men at Hoverdale Tech University.

Then their eyes landed on his wristwatch. It was a Montre Eternelle worth six figures. Their pupils shrank, and a blazing fire of jealousy ignited within them.

How could a snoman like Mia comoono  
so disoeraceful he supported by such an ortraordinari **man**?

1/2

15:3 Sun, 30 Mar

Chapter 182 A Missed Opportunity

464% 會

Finished

“Sir, you shouldn’t let her fool you!” The woman sneered. “She used to be a kept woman for an old man and nearly got expelled because of it!”

“That’s right!” the man added enthusiastically. “If it weren’t for her mother throwing herself at the principal’s feet and begging for mercy, she wouldn’t even be a student here anymore. It hasn’t even been three months, and she’s already back to her old tricks, trying to scam your money. You mustn’t fall for it!”

Their voices dripped with self-satisfaction, as if they had caught Mia red-handed. They spoke with such conviction, as though they had witnessed every sordid detail firsthand.

Josh turned to Mia, his expression a mixture of shock and disbelief.

Mia clenched her teeth. She had been so close. Just a little more, and she would have gotten the money. But

now...

If she took the money now, Josh would undoubtedly investigate her background. He would find out about Elliot’s blackmail, and as a friend of that bastard, there was no way he would let her go unscathed. Worse, he might even drag Lauren into this mess.

*Lauren had suffered enough. I would not let another rich scumbag ruin her life. This money, I could no longer take it.*

Mia’s rage boiled beneath her skin. She wanted nothing more than to kill those two idiots where they stood. Biting down hard on her tongue, she forced a wave of pain through her body. Her eyes reddened instantly.

Her lips quivered, and her entire frame trembled slightly, the perfect picture of a girl utterly humiliated and too frightened to defend herself.

She gently pushed Josh’s hand away, her voice breaking with emotion. “Believe whatever you want, but I never intended to take your money. What happened last night was an accident, and I don’t blame you.”

Then, she abruptly stood up, shoving past the couple and running out of the café.

Josh watched her retreating figure, the warmth in his chest growing stronger, his heart aching at her distress. At the same time, he cast a cold glare at the couple, his disgust toward them evident.

*They had gone too far.*

280

1

, ? Views, Released

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 183 Misread and Misled

Josh got up swiftly, striding towards the door, intent on chasing after Mia.

Finished

But just as he was about to step out, the young man blocked his path with an outstretched arm. “She’s faking it. Women like her aren’t worth your sympathy.”

Behind his gold-rimmed glasses, Josh’s gaze turned cold. He was not a man known for his patience. “Since when do I need your opinion on my affairs?”

The couple was visibly shaken by his imposing presence. Their faces alternated between shades of pale and crimson, yet neither dared to utter another word.

Without sparing them another glance, Josh strode out of the café.

Mia had already crossed the street, heading towards the university gates.

Panicked, Josh raised his voice. “Mia!” He remembered the couple calling her that.

Hearing her name, Mia froze mid-step, her back still turned towards him. At that moment, all traces of vulnerability vanished from her face, replaced by simmering rage. Her eyes burned with fury, as if she wished to obliterate those who had ruined her carefully orchestrated act.

However, in the brief second it took for her to turn around, she swiftly adjusted her expression. But before she could speak, the scene before her left her utterly dumbfounded.

A flamboyantly dressed man had latched onto Josh like a koala, burying his face into the latter’s chest while sobbing pitifully. His cries echoed through the streets.

Josh was instinctively tense at the unexpected embrace; his first reaction was almost to throw the man over his shoulder in self-defense.

“You jerks! Why did no one come looking for me? Do you have any idea how terrifying it was to be locked in a hotel bathroom for an entire day and night? You bastards, I hate you all!” The man sobbed as he pounded weakly against Josh’s chest, looking very much like a grieving wife complaining to her husband.

Glancing down, Josh recognized him immediately. It was Andy. If he had not seen Andy now, he might have completely forgotten about him.

But the sight before him was nothing short of tragic.

Andy’s once meticulously styled hair was now a tangled mess, resembling a bird’s nest. His face bore several deep scratches, dried blood crusting at the edges. His designer clothes were in tatters, barely holding together.

For as long as he had known Andy, the man had always been the picture of vanity. He was a fashion-forward stylist who valued cleanliness and appearance above all else. He would rather die than be seen looking anything less than perfect.

But right now, Andy reeked. The stench of a poorly ventilated bathroom clung to him, so pungent that Josh nearly gagged.

Yet, seeing Andy’s disheveled state, he suppressed his reaction, patting the man’s back in consolation. “What happened to you?”

Andy cried harder “How dare you **ask** me that! It’s all your fault! You abandoned me! I hate you!”

1/2

15:31 Sun, 30 Mar

Chapter 183 Misread and Misled

Tears and snot smeared across his face, painting a pitiful picture.

#Finished

Meanwhile, across the street, Mia watched the two men. One was sobbing hysterically, the other was soothing him with a gentle pat on the back.



A scene so absurdly intimate that it felt like a bolt of lightning had struck her.

What. *The. Hell.* So he was gay?! No wonder his abs were rock-hard. He must have trained them *with* that delicate- looking man in bed!

Instantly, all desire Mia had for Josh vanished into thin air.

It all made sense now. He was not compensating her out of guilt for taking advantage of her. He was compensating her because he was repulsed by the mere thought of a woman touching him.

*Damn it. What a colossal waste of my time.*

Cursing under her breath, Mia spun on her heel and stomped into the campus, never wanting to spare Josh another glance.

The following week passed uneventfully, life returning to its usual rhythm.

But Mia had not been idle.

On a moonless night, in the dimly lit woods behind the campus, an eerie silence pervaded the air.

Mia hid in the shadows, dressed in full disguise. Her sharp eyes gleamed ominously. She had been waiting for a suitable moment.

When the couple from the café strolled into the secluded woods, laughing flirtatiously, clearly intending on some intimate rendezvous, her lips curled into a wicked smirk.

Silently, she moved in. Then, with a single swift kick, she struck the young man square in the groin.

A bloodcurdling scream tore through the night as he crumpled to the ground, clutching his injury and writhing in agony.

His precious jewels? Destroyed.

The girl, terrified beyond words, opened her mouth to scream. But before she could make a sound, Mia lunged forward, raising the brick in her hand and bringing it crashing down onto the girl's face, again and again, with merciless precision.

, ? Views, Released

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

## Chapter 184 Buried Truths, Unveiled Pain

Finished

A sharp crack echoed through the air. Four of the girl's front teeth flew out, accompanied by a spray of blood. Her nasal bone fractured on impact as well. She collapsed to the ground, wailing in agony.

Mia did not linger for even a second. She swiftly retreated into a secluded corner, stripping off her outerwear, gloves, and mask.

With a flick of her lighter, flames consumed the evidence, leaving no trace behind.

Later, the couple reported the incident to the police. Investigators combed through the small forest meticulously, yet no clues leading to Mia were found.

The case went cold.

Mia's ruthless vengeance **was** not driven by the million she failed to extort. It was because of her deep sorrow for Lauren.

For every extra day Lauren remained trapped in suffering, she had to endure another day of torment.

If anyone dared to make her dear Lauren suffer, then they, too, would have to pay the price. That was the real reason Mia had beaten them so mercilessly.

Meanwhile, at the Brooker's Villa, Lauren had not stepped foot outside for seven whole days. Every day, she focused intently on embroidering the intricate Queen of Blooms tapestry for Madam Kate.

On the seventh day, the driver, Gael, finally returned.

Inside Felix's study, the air was stifling, heavy with an oppressive silence. Gael placed a thick stack of documents on the desk. The rustling of paper against wood seemed deafening in the stillness.

"Mr. Brooker, all information regarding the Bennett family is here." Gael said.

Felix slowly reached out, his long fingers flipping through page after page. As he read further, his brows furrowed tighter, his already sharp features darkening with an unsettling storm.

The previous investigation by Josh had already made Felix's heart ache for Lauren's harrowing life. But what Gael had uncovered this time was nothing short of a tidal wave, completely shattering his perception.

Lauren's suffering was far worse than he had imagined. She had not just endured hardship but had plunged into an abyss deeper than hell itself.

Felix's grip tightened unconsciously. A tempest of emotions surged within him. It was a mix of anguish for Lauren and seething fury for the monstrous people of the Bennett family.

After a long silence, he stood up and picked up the files.

Gael hesitated before speaking. "Mr. Brooker, this report is too cruel. Ms. Bennett may not be able to handle

it."

A flicker of unreadable emotion crossed Felix's eyes. "She's already endured so much pain. She deserves to know why. Living blindly in self-pity is far worse than facing the truth head-on."

Then, he turned and strode toward Lauren's embroidery room.

11-1 1.

-13 1

...

1

13 TT-

7/2

15:31 Sun, 30 Mar

Chapter 184 Buried Truths, Unveiled Pain

in his dealings and precision in his decisions. He never hesitated in the face of treachery,

464%

Finished

But now, standing before this door, he found himself unable to push it open. He had envisioned countless scenarios of Lauren's reaction upon seeing the truth.

*Would she be shocked? Devastated? Or completely broken?*

Each possibility felt like a dull knife, slowly cutting into his heart, leaving behind a persistent ache

Gael observed the rare hesitation in Felix's demeanor, astonished. Having followed him for years, he was well-acquainted with Felix's ruthless methods. Yet, never before had he seen him so affected by a woman.

During the investigation, Gael had also found himself shaken by Lauren's past. He had witnessed human cruelty before, but never had he encountered a family so utterly devoid of humanity. One that was willing to sacrifice their own flesh and blood, draining her dry as if she were a mere commodity.

The Chinese saying went, 'Even a tiger does not eat its own cubs.'

The Bennett family, however, was worse than beasts

Just as they hesitated, the door to the embroidery room suddenly creaked open.

contracted

Lauren's expression flickered with surprise. But the moment her gaze landed on Gael, her pupils constricted sharply. In the next breath, she turned her eyes to the thick file in Felix's hands.

She was too smart not to understand.

Gael's seven-day absence meant he had uncovered everything.

"You found it?" Her voice was hoarse, barely above a whisper.

Felix gave a slow nod. "It's all here. Do you... want to see it?"

The look on Felix's face told Lauren that what lay within those pages was far worse than she had imagined. Her fingers clenched tightly around the fabric of her dress, her heart beat hammering wildly in her chest.

She had always tried to be strong. But now, standing at the precipice of truth, fear crashed over her like an unrelenting tide.

“I...” Lauren’s lips parted, but the words stuck in her throat, refusing to come out.

19

280

U

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 185 The Unforgivable Truth

64%1

Finished

Lauren took a deep breath, trying to steady herself. “I want to know.” Her voice trembled slightly, but beneath the fragility lay an unshakable determination.

Felix hesitated, but in the end, he extended the thick stack of documents toward her.

Lauren reached out with deliberate slowness. The weight of the papers felt crushing in her hands, as if she were holding an unbearable truth. She turned the first page. The moment her eyes skimmed over the words, her face drained of color.

The documents meticulously detailed the schemes and cruelty inflicted upon her by the Bennett family. The once—foggy fragments of memory sharpened, replaying vividly in her mind like a nightmare refusing to fade.

She had always believed that she was kidnapped at birth by human traffickers. But the truth was far crueler!

The person who stole her and abandoned her at an orphanage was none other than her own biological father, David.

She had always thought Willow was adopted because her parents were heartbroken over losing her. Yet, the documents mercilessly revealed the truth. Willow was David’s biological daughter as well, born from his affair with Sharon.

When Lauren’s mother, Alice, was pregnant with her, David had already betrayed her with Sharon. The very doctor who had been conducting Alice’s prenatal checkups.

To make space for his mistress’s child, David had heartlessly abandoned his newborn daughter at the orphanage. And for the next twenty years, he helped that very woman rise to become the hospital’s director.

“David Bennett!!” Lauren gritted her teeth as she spat out his name. Tears welled in her eyes and spilled over, blurring her vision. She took a shuddering breath, forcing herself to suppress the sobs threatening to break free, then continued reading.

“Sharon had a hereditary kidney disease. Coincidentally, Alice was a perfect match. The moment David learned of this, he didn’t hesitate. The day Alice underwent a C-section to deliver Lauren, Sharon was also scheduled for an operation. A surgeon, who had long been bribed, removed Alice’s kidney under the guise of the C-section and transplanted it into Sharon.”

Lauren stared blankly at the words. Her mind went completely blank.

No wonder, for the three years after she returned to the Bennett family, her mother constantly suffered from lower back pain and exhaustion.

No wonder, whenever she and Willow argued, her mother would always scold her, “If it weren’t for giving birth to you, my health wouldn’t have deteriorated this badly! Why can’t you just get along with Willow? Are you trying to anger me to death? Will that make you happy?”

So, it was not childbirth that ruined her mother’s health. It was because Willow’s mother needed her kidney.

And Alice, she had unknowingly tormented her own daughter for the sake of her enemy’s daughter.

“Ha. Hahaha.” Lauren suddenly burst into laughter, a laughter so sharp and cold that tears streamed down her face. The sound was filled with indescribable bitterness and mockery.

Was this fate’s **delivering** justice?

1/2

15:31 Sun, 30 Mar N

Chapter 185 The Unforgivable Truth

\*.63%

Finished

The atmosphere in the room grew suffocating. Lauren’s laughter was not laughter at all. It was a guttural wail, ripped straight from the depths of her soul. Every sound carried an unbearable weight of grief, a lifetime’s worth of agony and despair.

Felix stood beside her, his deep eyes dark with conflicting emotions. He watched her, wanting to speak, but the words died in his throat. In the face of such a devastating truth, any words of comfort seemed meaningless.

Even Gael, who had witnessed countless tragedies, lowered his gaze, unable to watch.

Gradually, Lauren's laughter faded. All that remained was a long, weary sigh, as if she were expelling decades of pain, resentment, and heartbreak in a single breath.

*Alice, you always said I was the harbinger of your misfortune. But in the end, the true disaster in your life was not me. It was the man you loved so blindly. Every torment you suffered was because you failed to see him for who he truly was. I wonder, how will you feel when you learn that the daughter you raised so tenderly was your husband's illegitimate child? That the kidney stolen from your body was to save his mistress? That the daughter you abandoned to die was your only real child?*

Lauren closed her eyes, and in her mind, she pictured her mother's reaction to the truth. A deep, unfathomable satisfaction surged through her heart.

When she reopened her eyes, she lifted a trembling hand to wipe away her tears. Then, once again, she turned her gaze back to the heavy stack of documents in her hands. Her eyes darted across the words, her face, which was already pale from crying, suddenly darkening as if a layer of frost had settled over her skin.

She had always believed that the Bennett family's vast wealth and success were built on David's talent and relentless effort.

But she had been a fool.

David was no self-made businessman. He was a parasite, a man who married into the Pierce family as a mere live-in son-in-law, a pathetic social climber.

And Lauren had thought he only turned cruel after his affair, after having Willow. But the truth was far more terrifying...

H

280

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 186 A Web of Deceit

#Finished

The documents laid it bare, David was not who he seemed. He was a scheming opportunist, determined to seize Alice's family fortune.

Alice, the only daughter of Hoverdale's prestigious Pierce family, had been born into privilege, pampered from birth. David, by contrast, had clawed his way out of a remote mountain village. His mother vanished after his birth, leaving him to fend for himself.

Upon gaining admission to Hoverdale Tech University, he set his sights on Alice, the heiress who could elevate him from rags to riches. Their meeting, courtship, and marriage were all meticulously orchestrated by David.

Alice's father, a seasoned businessman, saw through David's facade and fiercely opposed the match. But Alice, blinded by love, ignored her father's warnings. Pregnant with David's child before graduation, she insisted on marrying him.

Left with no choice, Alice's father reluctantly agreed, on one condition, David must enter the Pierce family as a live-in son-in-law. Though David outwardly complied, he seethed with humiliation, burying his resentment deep within.

When their son was born, Alice's father insisted the child take the Pierce surname. David, powerless to object, festered with rage. He began subtly driving a wedge between Alice and her father, stoking her sympathy for him.

Alice, pained by her father's treatment of David, vowed their next child would bear his surname. David agreed outwardly, but his hatred for the Pierce family grew. He felt belittled, craving respect and recognition.

Then Sharon entered his life, a "light" in his twisted world. Their affair thrilled him, especially under Alice's nose. He even engineered Sharon's pregnancy to spite the Pierce family.

Had Alice's second child been a boy, David might have kept it, as it would carry his name and lineage. But it was a girl, Lauren. Useless in his eyes, he abandoned her at an orphanage. Instead, he brought Sharon's child, Willow, into the family under the guise of adoption, handing her to the grieving Alice.

Watching Alice dote on Willow as her own brought David a perverse satisfaction.

After Lauren's birth, Alice had a kidney removed, leaving her unable to bear more children. To preserve his lineage, David murdered Alice's father by pushing him off a building,



staging it as an accident. He then seized control of the Pierce Group, renaming it the Bennett Group, and even changed Elliot's surname to

Bennett.

Lauren's disappearance and her father's sudden death shattered Alice. Her health deteriorated, and she withdrew from the company, leaving David in full control.

Initially, David valued Elliot, his only son. But when Sharon bore him another son, his attitude shifted. Elliot, tainted by Pierce blood, became a liability. David secretly made him the company's legal representative, planning to scapegoat him if the business faltered.

When Willow inherited Sharon's kidney disease, David saw Lauren as the solution. Since Alice's kidney had saved Sharon, Lauren's could save Willow. That was why he brought Lauren back from the orphanage, only to frame her and send her to prison, where her kidney could be taken without consequence.

Over the years, David siphoned the company's assets, transferring them to Sharon. He planned to secure a final windfall through a partnership with the Brooker Corporation. then abandon Alice and Elliot with the

1/2

15:31 Sun, 30 Mar NW

Chapter 186 A Web of Deceit

debts while fleeing abroad with Sharon, Willow, and his "son."

But the Brooker Corporation deal collapsed, and he was left crippled, his plans in ruins.

280

, ? Views, Released

15:31 Sun, 30 Mar NO.

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 187 A Daughter's Fury

463%

Finished

The second page of the documents was a nightmare, shattering Lauren's understanding of her father's cruelty. He was a monster, devouring everything in his path.

He had murdered Alice's father.

He had stolen Alice's kidney and forced her to raise his mistress's child.

He had framed Elliot, now imprisoned for embezzlement and tax evasion.

And Lauren herself, her future destroyed, her body crippled.

Her fists clenched the papers, nails digging into her palms until they bled.

Lauren thought, *Beast! David is such a dirty rat.*

Though Alice and Elliot had wronged her, they too were victims of his schemes. All three had suffered, while David remained unscathed.

She thought to herself, *It wasn't fair. Why should a man so vile enjoy endless wealth and freedom abroad?*

Hatred consumed her, wild and uncontrollable. She wanted him to suffer, to pay for every sin.

Taking a deep breath, she steadied herself and turned to the next page.

Her eyes widened in shock, then glee.

She thought, *Haha, Hahaha, justice at last! David, your reckoning is here.*

The third page's first line struck like thunder,

"When Alice became pregnant with her second child, Alice's father secretly sterilized David."

Her eyes bulged as she thought to herself, *This meant David couldn't have fathered Sharon's children. His "love children" were a lie. Sharon's two children weren't his. The irony **was** staggering. All his scheming, only to raise another man's offspring.*

Eagerly, she read on, desperate to know who the real father was.

When she saw "George," her breath caught.

Lauren thought, *George? Willow's driver? I remembered him well, among the Bennett household staff, he had been the cruelest to me. I'd thought it was because I threatened Willow's status, but now I understood, he was Willow's biological father.*

The plot thickened, and Lauren couldn't wait to uncover more.

She thought, *Gael, the ex-special forces soldier, had done a thorough job. He'd uncovered not only David's secrets but also those of Sharon and her husband, George Swift, formerly called George Doyle.*

George Swift was actually George Doyle, Sharon's childhood sweetheart and husband. They had married young and lived modestly until Sharon was diagnosed with kidney failure. Desperate for a transplant but unable to afford it, they were at their wits' end.

1/2

Sun, 30

Chapter 187 A Daughter's Fury

¥63%

\*\*Finished

discovered Alice's kidney was a match. She told George, and in their desperation, they devised a plan, Sharon would seduce David.

280

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 188 A Family's Facade

¥ . 63%

Finished

From that moment, everything unfolded as planned. Sharon received the kidney transplant and survived. Her daughter with George, Willow, was brought into the Bennett family by David.

George, yearning to be near his daughter, changed his surname to Swift and posed as Sharon's brother. She introduced him to David as Willow's "uncle," and he became her driver, allowing him to be close to his child.

David, none the wiser, saw their closeness as natural sibling affection. Little did he know, Sharon, George, and Willow were a family, reveling in their secret bond.

J

Later, Sharon bore another child, a son, with George. Now twenty, the boy studied abroad, lavished with 700 thousand dollars monthly by David, who believed him to be his own.

But David was a fool, raising another man's children while his true son rotted in prison. His wealth, siphoned over the years, now sat in Sharon's hands.

And his pitiful five-minute "performances" were a joke to her.

The documents laid bare their tangled web, and Lauren relished every word.

She thought to herself, *This is karma. David, you never imagined you'd end up with nothing. Your only son is in jail because of you. Your stolen wealth is in another woman's hands. And you're left a crippled, despised wreck. You deserve it.*

Lauren laughed, then wept, for herself, for Alice, for all they'd lost. Her emotions surged, and dizziness overtook her. She swayed, but Felix caught her.

Looking up, she saw his concern. "Mr. Brooker, I'm fine," she said, forcing a smile. Then, with resolve, "I need to go to the hospital. I have to see Madam Alice."

Felix understood. She was going to confront her mother, to make her face the truth.

He wanted to drive her, but his phone rang, Hoverdale's leaders needed him for a meeting about the Eastgate project. It was too important to miss. Reluctantly, he turned to Gael. "From now on, you're Ms. Bennett's bodyguard. Protect her at all costs."

On the way to the hospital, Lauren's mind raced. She imagined Alice's face when she learned the truth, a lifetime of privilege, only to be duped by a gold-digging schemer.

Lauren would make sure she saw David for what he was, and felt the sting of betrayal.

At the hospital, she steeled herself and strode to Alice's room.

Pushing open the door, she saw a broken woman, no longer the elegant socialite, but a wilted flower, drained of life.

280

, ? Views, Released

15:31 Sun, 30 Mar N.

## The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

### Chapter 189 A Mother's Collapse

63%

Finished

The once meticulously dressed and elegant lady was nowhere to be seen. At this moment, she was like a flower that had lost its moisture, wilted and dull.

Alice had learned from Michael that both Elliot and Willow were in prison. Desperate to save them, she was trapped by her own injuries, confined to the hospital bed.

When Lauren entered, hatred blazed in Alice's eyes. Her leg was broken because of Lauren, her children were jailed because of her. She wanted to tear Lauren apart.

Thrashing on the bed, she screamed, "How could I give birth to such a vicious creature? If anything happens to Elliot or Willow, I'll drag you to hell with me!"

Lauren stood just out of reach, her expression calm as a still pond. She'd grown used to her mother's venom. She watched, unmoved, as Alice ranted and raved.

She had time. She could wait.

After an hour, Alice collapsed, exhausted.

Only then did Lauren smile, a cold, mocking curve of her lips. "Madam Alice, I have something fascinating for you to see."

She placed the documents on the bed.

Without thinking, Alice grabbed them, ready to tear them apart.

But Lauren's voice stopped her. "Are you sure you don't want to look? It's full of your family's dirty little

secrets."

*Secrets?* Alice glared, but curiosity won. She glanced down.

Moments later, she shrieked, "Impossible! You forged this, you vile witch! You're trying to drive a wedge between me and David!"

She shook her head violently, as if to banish the words. But tears betrayed her, streaming down her face. Her body trembled, shock and pain overwhelming her.

“No... it can't be. David loves me, he wouldn't do this...” Her voice quavered, hands shaking as the papers slipped from her grasp.

Her defenses crumbled, but she clung to denial. She'd always believed her family was perfect, her husband devoted, her children her pride. Now, it was all a lie, a web spun by David.

The coincidences were *too* many, Lauren lost the day she was born, her father dead three days later, the Pierce Group swiftly renamed under David's control. She'd been too grief-stricken to question it then, clinging to David as her lifeline, blinding herself to the truth.

280

, ? Views, Released

## Chapter 190 A Mother's Reckoning

But the truth was merciless.

Finished

During Lauren's birth, David had bribed the doctors to remove Alice's kidney. All these years, she'd doted on Willow, even sacrificing her own daughter to protect her, only to learn that Willow was David's child with his mistress.

Each revelation struck like a hammer, leaving her breathless with agony. Her world crumbled, despair swallowing her whole.

In her mind, she saw Lauren's suffering, shunned, abused, imprisoned, mutilated, all while David and Sharon smirked in triumph.

“Ah!” Alice screamed, clutching her head.

She thought, David, *how could you be so cruel?*

Guilt and regret pierced her like knives. She couldn't face Lauren.

After a long silence, she lifted her head, her eyes filled with desperation and remorse. “I don't believe it. You made this up. You hate us for loving Willow more, so you're punishing me. That's it, isn't it?”

She shook her head frantically, searching Lauren's face for denial. But Lauren's gaze was cold, unyielding.

Yes, she was punishing her.

Deliberately, she withheld the truth that Willow was Sharon and George's daughter. She wanted Alice to drown in the agony of having cherished her husband's bastard while discarding her own flesh and blood.

She didn't want Alice to find relief in knowing David had been duped too. Those who'd hurt her deserved only suffering.

Alice was on the brink of collapse. Her husband had stolen her kidney, murdered her father, abandoned her daughter, and forced Lauren to donate a kidney to his illegitimate child.

"David, how could you do this to me?" she wailed, her cry echoing through the room, raw with despair and

regret.

Lauren watched her mother's torment with fleeting satisfaction, quickly replaced by sorrow, for having such a foolish mother, a pampered heiress blind to the viper in her midst.

She turned to leave, unable to bear another moment.

Alice, seeing her go, thrashed wildly, grabbing Lauren's hand. "Laurie, don't go! I have only you left. I was wrong, please forgive me..."

But Lauren's heart was stone. She'd heard "I was wrong" too many times.

Her gaze was ice. "Madam Alice, you're not wrong. I was, for believing you. But don't worry, I've seen through your lies. I won't be fooled again."

"You can rest easy. Even if I die on the streets, I won't come back. The debt of my birth is paid with my severed finger. From now on, we're strangers."

CL 1.

1. -CA1: — 1

1/2

15:31 Sun, 30 Mar N

Chapter 190 A Mother's Reckoning

Finished

“No, Laurie, don’t go! Give me one more chance, ” Alice’s pleas fell on deaf ears as Lauren walked away, knowing this was the end.

280

◦