

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

The Heiress Revived Ch 211

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Chapter 211 Frosty Felix to the Rescue

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He gritted his teeth and growled, "You reckless wench, don't think you're in the clear just because you're out of jail. You dared to harm my daughter; you'll pay a painful price."

With those words, he raised his hand and slapped Lauren across the face.

Mia turned around in horror, trying to intervene, but it was too late,

She only managed to shout, "Touch Laurie, and I'll chop off your hands!"

As soon as she finished, Brendan's hand froze mid-air. It wasn't that he didn't want to follow through; a pair of strong, well-defined hands had caught his wrist. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't budge them.

Lauren and Mia both looked at the person behind Brendan.

They saw Felix, clad in black pajamas, standing there.

His robe hung casually open, revealing a delicate collarbone. His hair was slightly tousled, but it didn't detract from his inherent regal demeanor.

His deep eyes were like dark pools on a cold night, icy and sharp. Under a prominent nose, his thin lips were pressed into a harsh line, exuding a chilling aura that was downright frightening.

An almost tangible aura of authority enveloped him, powerful and oppressive, forcing others to avert their

gaze.

Brendan struggled, veins bulging on his forehead, his face turning a bright red, but he couldn't escape Felix's grip.

A crisp "snap" sound echoed.

Felix easily dislocated his arm.

Brendan screamed in agony, collapsing to the ground, his arm dangling uselessly. The chandelier cast a sharp shadow over Felix's brow, his gaze cold as if he was looking not at a living person but at a corpse.

Facing that piercing gaze, Brendan felt a chill surge from his feet to his head, his forehead breaking out in a cold sweat.

He tried to speak through his pain and discomfort, stuttering, "Mr. Brooker..."

But Felix abruptly turned his gaze away, cutting him off.

Felix's attention was now on Lauren. He walked over with long strides and naturally took her hand.

The scald marks on Lauren's fair skin were glaring, with blisters forming on the surface.

Frowning deeply, Felix led Lauren to the sofa.

Just then, Kate, Anna, and Marilyn emerged from the house.

Kate immediately noticed the burn on Lauren's arm, her eyes reddening with pain, "What happened here?"

Anna's eyes filled with tears.

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Chapter 211 Frosty Felix to the Rescue

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Ever since Lauren affectionately called her "Mom," she had treated her like her own daughter, cherishing and caring for her deeply. Now, seeing Lauren injured like this, she was frantic and rushed to fetch the first aid kit.

Marilyn, noticing Mia, exclaimed in surprise, "Mia, what are you doing here?"

Then, her gaze fell on the chaotic scene and the disheveled Brendan, and she asked, "What happened?"

Mia recounted the events succinctly. Marilyn listened, her eyes filled with disgust as she glared at Brendan.

Kate, furious, slammed her cane on the floor, the sound echoing loudly in the quiet living room, "How dare you hurt my granddaughter in my house; the audacity!"

Felix gently placed Lauren's hand on his lap and took the first aid kit from Anna, beginning to treat the burns.

His movements were gentle as he asked with concern, "Does it hurt?"

Lauren, her eyes fixed on him, shook her head slightly.

A flicker of pain crossed Felix's eyes, his touch becoming even gentler, creating a hush so profound it seemed the sound of a pin dropping could be heard.

The gaze of Kate, Anna, Marilyn, and Mia all focused on Lauren.

Brendan and Brielle, completely ignored, felt each second stretch like an eternity in hell.

It took Felix about ten minutes to finish treating the burns.

He closed the first aid kit and looked up, his gaze icy and menacing as it swept over Brendan and Brielle, his voice low and dangerous, as if heralding a storm, "You'd better have a good explanation."

Though his voice wasn't loud, it carried an undeniable authority.

Brendan clenched his teeth, his facial muscles twitching with rage, "Mr. Brooker, we didn't come here looking for trouble. We came for our son Kenneth, but we never expected to find the culprit who turned our daughter into a vegetable here. So, in a moment of anger, we struck her, but she deserved it!"

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Chapter 212 Cold Calculations

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Brielle, despite her disheveled and ragged appearance, said urgently, “Mr. Brooker, this woman is no saint. Five years ago, when she was only eighteen, she ruthlessly tried to kill my daughter. Now, she has somehow seduced you with her underhanded tactics. You mustn’t be deceived by her.”

“Yes, yes! We hit her partly as revenge for our daughter and partly for your sake. Imagine the damage to your reputation if people knew Mr. Brooker was involved with a convict. Right?”

Brendan’s last remark carried an implicit threat, suggesting that if Felix continued to protect Lauren, he would spread rumors of Felix’s association with a convict throughout high society.

But he clearly didn’t understand Felix’s character. Felix had previously tolerated rumors about his impotence to keep women at bay, so why would he care about this threat to his reputation?

No one could intimidate him.

Felix’s lips curled into a smirk, tinged with scorn and disdain, his gaze on Brendan and Brielle growing colder, like frost on a winter night.

“Recently, I’ve been preoccupied with the Eastgate project and completely forgot about Gray Corporation.”

At these words, Brendan and Brielle’s expressions froze, their previously arrogant demeanor washed away as if doused with cold water.

Brendan clenched his fists subconsciously, stunned by Felix’s words—a clear warning.

“What do you mean?” Brendan asked nervously.

Ignoring them, Felix calmly pulled out his phone and dialed Josh’s number. His voice was low and magnetic, yet struck like a hammer, “Block Gray Corporation’s industries completely.”

Brendan and Brielle’s pupils dilated in shock and disbelief.

Felix was initiating a business war against Gray Corporation unilaterally. Known as Hoverdale’s top conglomerate, with deep roots and diverse interests, Gray Corporation was not easily shaken.

Yet, coming from Felix, it seemed like a trivial matter, casual yet undeniable, forcing Brendan and Brielle to believe him.

Besides, with decades of experience in business and a profound understanding of the upper echelons of Corwynale, the Brooker family had the resources and connections to challenge Gray Corporation.

Brendan's face turned ashen, his eyes filled with despair, "Mr. Brooker, we acted out of love for our daughter. How can you be so blind? Is it worth starting a business war with Gray Corporation over one woman?"

Felix repeated meaningfully, "Out of love for your daughter?"

He savored the phrase, his expression increasingly amused.

"If you truly love your daughter, you should seek the real culprit rather than falsely accusing Lauren."

Brendan and Brielle were stunned, asking in unison, "What do you mean?"

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Chapter 212 Cold Calculations

has woken up. Why not ask her?"

What? Elaine is awake? The news caught them off guard.

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But then, Felix continued, "However, it seems your precious son has hidden her away. To find out the truth, you'll need to visit him in detention"

Brendan and Brielle fell silent.

If Felix was right, then they had misunderstood Lauren all these years. But they were reluctant to believe they had wronged her.

If someone else was the real culprit, that would mean their actions in the prison against Lauren allowed the true criminal to go free for five years.

No, it couldn't be true.

Brielle shook her head frantically, eyes red as she glared at Lauren, "It has to be you. It must be."

Felix's eyes narrowed, a dangerous glint appearing, "I'll give you one day to uncover the truth. After a day, I expect you to beg for mercy and apologize to Lauren. If I'm satisfied, Gray Corporation will remain as is. If not, then it has no reason to continue existing."

He coldly swept his gaze over Brendan and Brielle, dismissing them with two words, "Leave now."

Brendan and Brielle walked out of the Brooker's Villa, their steps unsteady, as if they had aged a decade in

moments.

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Chapter 213 Spill It, Kenneth

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After tending to their wounds at the hospital, Brendan and Brielle drove straight to the detention center. Inside, dim yellow lights cast patchy shadows through the iron bars, filling the air with a suffocating, oppressive atmosphere.

Brendan and Brielle sat side by side outside the cold, hard metal bars that separated them from Kenneth like an insurmountable chasm.

Kenneth looked nothing like his former spirited self. His hair was unkempt, his face unshaven, and he had lost a lot of weight, with dark circles under his eyes.

His gaze was empty and lost; the sharpness and brightness he once had were gone, replaced by a deep emptiness and numbness. He seemed like a man stripped of his spine, emitting a heartbreaking air of decay.

This was the first time they had seen Kenneth in such a desolate state, and it was a painful sight; he had always been their pride.

From a young age, Kenneth had been handsome and charismatic, moving with an elegance and confidence that made him shine in any crowd, a true star of the Gray family.

But now, his disheveled appearance in front of them was heart-wrenchingly painful.

Tears welled up in Brielle's eyes, her voice thick with emotion, "Kenn, how are you holding up in here?"

Brendan, too, fought back a surge of pain in his heart, "Don't worry, we'll get you out of here soon."

However, unlike Brendan and Brielle's emotional reunion, Kenneth felt incredibly uneasy and guilty at the sight of them.

He kept his head down, his eyes darting nervously, dreading that they might ask about Elaine. But as always, what he feared most soon came up.

After a few words of concern, Brielle's voice took on an urgent, anxious tone, "Kenn, tell me, has Elaine woken up?"

Kenneth's heart sank, and his breathing quickened. "No, she hasn't," he replied, clearly lacking conviction.

But Brielle wasn't convinced, her eyes filled with suspicion, "Really? You can't lie to me and your dad, Kenn. We just came from the Brooker's villa, and Felix said Elaine has woken up. She can prove that Lauren wasn't the one who pushed her down the stairs all those years ago. Is that true?"

Kenneth's face turned pale, a flicker of panic in his eyes.

He knew he could no longer hide the truth, but he was too scared to admit it, so he stubbornly continued to deny it, "Mom, dad, don't listen to Felix, he must be lying to you..."

Brendan's expression darkened, his tone becoming stern, "Is Elaine being hidden by you?"

"I... haven't." Even now, Kenneth's first instinct was to protect Willow.

In his eyes, Willow had always been gentle, kind, and understanding.

No matter what the truth was about the past, he firmly believed Willow was innocent. Otherwise, he

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Chapter 213 Spill it, Kenneth

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Brendan knew his son well. From Kenneth's evasive demeanor and frantic eyes, he could tell he was lying.

"Whether Elaine is hidden by you or not, your mother and I can find out easily with a trip to the hospital. How long are you going to keep lying to us?" Brendan's voice carried a mix of disappointment and anger.

Kenneth remained silent, struggling painfully inside. If Elaine returned and identified Willow as the one who had caused her to become comatose, not only would Willow face prison, but he would also lose the courage to face Lauren ever again.

He truly liked Lauren, liked her so much that even though she had been in prison and was physically impaired, he couldn't help but miss her, care for her, and even wanted to marry her and protect her forever.

He knew he was being selfish, but love was inherently selfish. Lauren had already suffered five years in prison because of his misunderstandings, and he couldn't stand to see the innocent and kind Willow suffer the same fate; he couldn't bear the thought of hurting two girls.

Seeing Kenneth's stubborn denial, Brendan became infuriated, his face turning red as he shouted, "Kenneth, tell me, has Elaine woken up? I want the truth!"

His voice echoed in the cramped, oppressive space, painfully resonant.

Kenneth closed his eyes, knowing he could no longer hide the truth; his father would soon discover Elaine's whereabouts if he looked into it.

"Yes."

At his admission, Brendan and Brielle's hearts tightened, a mix of emotions swirling within them.

They felt joy and excitement that Elaine had awakened, yet also a creeping unease and guilt as Felix's words seemed increasingly likely to be true.

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The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 214 The Tangled Truth

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Brendan took a deep breath, trying to calm himself before continuing. "Elaine admitted that the person who hurt her wasn't Lauren?"

Kenneth turned pale, his mind involuntarily flashing back to the chaotic scene at the hospital. Back then, Lauren had been desperately trying to prove her innocence, her eyes filled with despair and helplessness.

And he had blindly obstructed Elaine from identifying Willow. Now, recalling that day, his heart ached and his guilt towards Lauren deepened.

Kenneth slowly began to speak, his voice deep and heavy as if each word weighed a ton, "No, it wasn't

Lauren."

"Who was it then?" Brielle stared intensely at Kenneth, her voice tense with anger, "Who was so cruel to push Elaine down the stairs? If Elaine hadn't been lucky, she would have died."

This time, Kenneth fell silent. He and his sister had grown up with Willow, and he knew her character better than anyone.

The incident five years ago might not have been Lauren's doing, and it certainly wasn't Willow acting maliciously. It was likely that Willow had accidentally bumped into Elaine, who then lost her balance and fell down the stairs.

Moreover, Elaine was Willow's best friend. Willow had no reason to harm her.

Ultimately, he blamed Elaine herself for her clumsiness, which he believed led to the fall

And Lauren too, why admit to something you didn't do? If you hadn't confessed, you wouldn't have served five years in prison, and I wouldn't be feeling guilty now. Kenneth thought, completely forgetting that initially, it wasn't about whether Lauren admitted guilt.

It was because Elliot gave false testimony, Alice deleted surveillance footage, and Lucas, as the defense attorney, twisted the facts, while he, Kenneth, never gave Lauren a chance to explain.

It was them, the people closest to Lauren, who had pushed her into the abyss.

Now, he blamed Lauren for not proving her innocence, forgetting that she had no evidence to do so.

"Just say it!" Brielle shouted, driven by her emotions.

Kenneth remained tight-lipped, refusing to reveal the name, his attitude of shielding the real culprit thoroughly infuriating Brendan and Brielle.

Elaine was their younger daughter, pampered and cherished from a young age. As a noble of the Gray Corporation group, she could get whatever she wanted, the princess held in the palm of the entire family.

Yet, this beloved daughter had been transformed by her vegetative state. As parents, seeing their precious child in such a condition was heart-wrenching.

Imprisoning Lauren had not quenched their thirst for revenge, which is why they had people torment Lauren in prison. Now, to be told they had targeted the wrong person...

And their son was still protecting the real culprit.

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Chapter 214 The Tangled Truth

bulging as if about to burst into flames, "Tell me, who is the real culprit?"

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Kenneth remained silent.

Thinking of his daughter lying bedridden for five years, occasionally suffering from bedsores despite careful nursing, and looking as gaunt as a corpse, Brendan felt an uncontrollable surge of anger. He raised his hand and slapped Kenneth several times.

"You worthless thing, do you even care about your sister? Do you know how much your mother and I suffered at the Brooker's villa to get you out? Felix gave *us* just one day. If we don't give him a satisfactory answer tomorrow, the Gray family might go bankrupt. And here you are, still hiding the truth."

Brielle, tears streaming down her face, pleaded, "Kenn, if you won't reveal the culprit, can you at least tell us where Elaine is?"

Kenneth, his face bruised and eyes tearful, looked agonized and guilty.

This time, he couldn't hide it anymore.

His voice was low and hoarse, "Elaine is at an estate located in Mavella."

"You ungrateful child!" Brendan shoved Kenneth away, "Elaine is your own sister! She spent five years as a vegetable, only to be sent abroad by you as soon as she woke up. Do you even have a heart? You're a beast!"

He stood up, towering over Kenneth, "You better pray nothing's wrong with Elaine, or you and I are not done."

Turning to Brielle, he said, "Let's go get Elaine back home. I want to ask her myself who dared to harm her. I'll make them pay dearly."

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The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

Chapter 215 Kenneth Faces the Music

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Kenneth watched his parents disappear into the distance, a sense of despair filling his eyes.

"Willow didn't mean it, I swear!"

He slumped down on the cold iron chair, his hands hanging limply by his sides, his gaze clouded with confusion. He didn't even understand how he had gotten himself into this mess.

He had always tried to maintain the peace, always trying to quell Lauren's disdain for Willow. But his efforts had backfired, not only intensifying Lauren's dislike but also drawing the ire of that maniac Felix.

He was supposed to be the future leader of Gray Corporation, yet here he was, locked up in a detention

center.

Kenneth's frown deepened. If only Lauren hadn't caused a scene at Kate's birthday party, he and Willow wouldn't be in this predicament

Lauren, who had spent five years in prison, had changed; she was no longer the gentle person she once was.

However, Kenneth couldn't possibly imagine just how ashamed he would feel about his current thoughts and words when Elaine returned home and the truth came out.

His once thoughtless protection of Willow would turn into sharp knives, each one stabbing deeply into his heart, making it bleed in unbearable pain.

A crushing guilt would shadow him for the rest of his life, becoming shackles he could never shed.

Even if he knelt and begged for mercy in front of Lauren, it wouldn't earn him even a glance from her.

The thought of being ignored and despised was more painful than death itself.

But at this moment, he stubbornly clung to his perspective, completely unaware of any wrongdoing on his

part.

At the Brooker's villa, everyone's eyes were filled with undisguised care and affection for Lauren.

A minor burn had everyone deeply concerned, pulling at the heartstrings of everyone present.

Kate held

Lauren's scorched wrist, her eyes full of worry and care, and urged, "Felix, take Laurie to the hospital right now."

Being cared for in such a way was so foreign yet warm for Lauren. It made her crave this affection, and she even harbored a wish deep down to spend the rest of her life with Kate and Felix.

But reality poured cold water on her fantasies.

She knew Kate wanted to match her with Felix, but her body was riddled with injuries, like a crumbling building ready to collapse at any moment.

How could I, out of selfish desire, hold back Felix's promising life, entangling him with someone so physically damaged?

Lauren spoke with serious sincerity, "Madam Kate, I've already applied medication; it's really not serious. Please don't worry about me anymore."

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Chapter 215 Kenneth Faces the Music

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matter; they could leave scars. You're not strong, and this is a good opportunity for a full check-up, to put everyone at ease."

Ever since learning about the inhumane abuse Lauren suffered in prison, including losing a kidney, Kate had been deeply concerned about her health and constantly thought about getting her a comprehensive check-up.

Recent distractions at home had prevented this, but with Felix rarely home, she didn't want to miss this chance to push for the check-up.

Lauren's eyes flickered with complex emotions. She knew Kate genuinely cared for her, but she was also acutely aware that a full medical examination would reveal all the injuries from prison and the fact that she had lost her hearing.

She didn't want to burden the family or disrupt the peace and warmth they had found.

"Madam Kate, I really am fine," Lauren said firmly.

Seeing her resolve, Kate sighed and let it go.

She reached out, tenderly stroking Lauren's hand, and gently advised, "If there's anything wrong with your health, you must tell me immediately. Don't suffer in silence, okay?"

"Okay." Lauren nodded obediently, lowering her eyes to hide the sudden moisture in them.

She didn't want Kate to see her vulnerability, didn't want this care to become a burden. When she looked up again, the tears in her eyes had been forcefully suppressed, replaced by a strong and warm smile.

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Chapter 216 A Fleeting Warmth

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Lauren's gaze slowly swept over everyone present, seeing the sincerity and care in their eyes. At that moment, a warm surge filled her heart, and she suddenly felt that fate might not be so cruel to her after all.

Despite her thin connection with her biological parents and the numerous hardships she had faced, there were still people in this world who truly cared for her. This warmth was enough to fend off the coldest winds.

She flashed a radiant, genuinely heartfelt smile. At that moment, sunlight streamed through the spacious, bright windows, casting a warm golden halo around her, making her look exceptionally healthy and untroubled.

Kate looked at her and said softly, "Laurie, you must be hungry by now; I'll go make some breakfast with Anna and Marilyn."

With that, Kate didn't wait for Lauren to refuse; she stood up and enthusiastically invited Mia to sit and chat with Lauren.

In the living room, only Lauren, Mia, and Felix remained. Mia was bursting with things to say to Lauren, eager to confide in her.

But Felix sat quietly on the sofa, radiating a commanding presence unique to those in power, like an invisible mountain, pressing down on Mia and making her feel the pressure. The words she wanted to say choked back down her throat.

Her eyes darted, and she said, "Laurie, when I came in, I saw many beautiful flowers outside the villa. Would you like to go see them with me?"

Without any suspicion, Lauren happily stood up from the sofa, took Mia by the hand, and headed outside, all the while mentioning, "The flowers outside were specially selected and planted by Mr. Brooker."

As she spoke, Lauren's tone unconsciously lifted, not openly praising, but the joy was evident between the lines.

Mia glanced at her stealthily, noting the sweet expression on her face, and a tightness seized her heart. Could *Laurie actually be falling for that man?*

Despite Felix's seemingly exceptional exterior, Mia's intuition screamed that he was unfathomable and very dangerous.

She tilted her head slightly, stealthily glancing at Felix from the corner of her eye, only to see Felix watching them quietly, eyes narrowed.

Mia's heart tightened suddenly, feeling like she was caught between a rock and a hard place, a chill running through her.

It wasn't until they stepped out of the villa that the oppressive feeling of being watched slowly faded. Mia breathed a sigh of relief, muttering to herself, "What a terrifying man. It's better to stay as far away from him as possible. Once entangled, it might be impossible to escape."

Lost in thought, Mia found herself already in the vibrantly blooming garden, led by Lauren.

They were instantly enveloped by a sea of blooming flowers, the air thick with their rich and enchanting scent, naturally lifting their spirits.

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Chapter 216 A Fleeting Warmth

"Laurie," Mia suddenly stopped, looking earnestly at Lauren.

It was rare for Lauren to see Mia look so serious, and curiosity welled up inside her. She asked softly, "What's up?"

"Do you want to leave this place?" Mia's eyes shone with determination and hope.

Hearing this, Lauren fell silent, unsure how to respond.

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Seeing her hesitation, Mia grew more anxious and quickly added, "Remember how you asked me in the hospital if I wanted to study abroad? I really do want to. And I want to take you and my mom with me. If we go abroad, the Bennetts, the Gray family, and Lucas, that scumbag, won't be able to bother you anymore. Laurie, come with me. Haverdale just isn't the right place for you to stay any longer."

“And...” Mia glanced around cautiously, ensuring no one was nearby, before continuing with a grave tone, “I know you’ve been treated well by the Brook family, but such wealthy households always have their rules. It’s not that the Brook family aren’t good people, it’s just... Mr. Brooker, he’s a very dangerous man, Laurie. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Lauren had been watching Mia’s lips intently, understanding every word, and her mind was clear on Mia’s intentions.

She knew Mia meant well. In fact, she often felt that she shouldn’t keep staying with the Brook family.

After all, the Brook family owed her nothing, and although she appreciated Kate’s efforts to match her with Mr. Brooker, upon reflection, she didn’t truly want to be with Felix.

In her eyes, Felix was so outstanding and deserved a better life, not to be held back by someone like her, who had nothing to offer but a trail of injuries.

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Chapter 217 Whispers at the Window

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Lauren was acutely aware of her deteriorating health and figured she didn’t have much longer to live. Why drag Mr. Brooker into this?

“Mia, I understand”

Upon hearing this, Mia’s heart leapt with joy, and she asked eagerly, “So, you’re agreeing to leave with me?”

Upstairs, in the embroidery room where just opening a window provided an unobstructed view of the garden below, Felix had insisted on positioning it facing the garden.

He thought that when Lauren felt weary from her embroidery, she could stand by the window and breathe in the fresh air filled with the fragrance of flowers, soothing her body and mind for a moment.

At that moment, Felix leaned lazily by the window, his gaze following Lauren and Mia’s every move in the garden.

Listening to their conversation below, his deep eyes narrowed slightly, his eyebrows involuntarily raised, a hint of intrigued amusement crossing his face.

Marilyn really did raise a sharp-minded daughter. He had thought that Lauren would be coveted by some scheming man outside, but instead, Mia was the one to take her away.

However, he showed no signs of anger; he remained relaxed, standing there, interestedly continuing to listen to their conversation.

Lauren hesitated before saying, "I... I agree."

"Really?" Mia's face instantly brightened with happiness, and she stepped forward excitedly, hugging Lauren tightly, her voice brimming with barely containable joy. "Laurie, when do we leave? How about tomorrow? I'll book the plane tickets right away."

Lauren couldn't see Mia's lips or hear what she was saying, but she was sure Mia had said a lot.

She quickly gently pushed Mia away and continued, "I agree to leave with you, but..."

"But?" Mia's smile froze, a flash of nervousness and confusion in her eyes. "But what?"

Lauren looked troubled, biting her lower lip slightly, then slowly said, "I previously promised Mr. Brooker to embroider 'Queen of Blooms' for Madam Kate. Last time, at Madam Kate's birthday celebration, Mr. Brooker spent 2.8 million dollars to buy that embroidery piece, which, due to my carelessness, was torn up by Willow."

As she spoke, guilt and self-reproach flickered in her eyes. "Also, Mr. Brooker has been kind to me. In my most desperate and helpless times, he was there to pull me back from the edge. If it weren't for him, on the night Elaine woke up, I would have jumped off a bridge."

That night, she had also drunk two bottles of Felix's 140,000-dollar wine, which her body couldn't metabolize, landing her in the hospital.

The medical expenses were also covered by Felix. She kept all these acts of kindness in her heart. *I owe Mr. Brooker so much, and I've yet to repay him.*

Mia clenched her fists tightly, never having imagined that Lauren had once harbored such desperate

thoughts

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Chapter 217 Whispers at the Window

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At that moment, she was immensely relieved that Lauren had met Feliz. Otherwise, she might never see Lauren again.

Mia carefully proposed, "Then, how about we go abroad after you've repaid Mr. Brooker?"

Lauren's face broke into a gentle smile. "That sounds good"

Now skilled in the heritage craft of Suzhou embroidery, she had a means to support herself even abroad, ensuring she wouldn't be left destitute,

Felix listened quietly to all this, the smile deepening in his eyes, dark and unfathomable like a deep lake. inscrutable. Laurie, *I haven't agreed to let you escape from my side, Grandma already sees you as her granddaughter- in-law. I've even put my mother's ring on your finger. You are my family, how could you just leave and abandon us so easily?*

However, he didn't plan to intervene just yet. He wanted Lauren to eventually return to his side willingly. even if she did manage to flee.

The next day, Lauren woke up slowly to the gentle pattering of light rain outside.

The raindrops tapped rhythmically against the windows as she went about her morning routine methodically and then went downstairs for breakfast.

After breakfast, she prepared to go upstairs to continue her unfinished embroidery work.

However, just as she turned, her wrist was suddenly grasped by a warm, strong hand.

Lauren felt as if an intense current raced through her body from that grasp, her heart involuntarily racing. Her eyes widened, filled with confusion and surprise as she looked at the man before her.

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Chapter 218 Tears and Truths

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Felix's lips parted slightly, and his deep, magnetic voice flowed through the air, "Laurie, sit!"

The way he said "Laurie" sent a blush to her cheeks and quickened her heartbeat. She didn't know when he had stopped calling her as Ms. Bennett, but he seemed to favor drawing her close, face-to-face, whenever they spoke.

"Mr. Brooker, is something wrong?" Lauren's voice was soft and slightly trembling.

"Yes, Kenneth's parents brought Elaine with them. Felix's voice was deep and calm, as if he were discussing something utterly mundane, yet Lauren could feel a tense atmosphere spreading instantly through the air.

Lauren's pupils dilated sharply; the moment she had been anxiously awaiting for five long years had finally

arrived.

Although the truth had been thoroughly investigated by Gael, Elaine held a special significance for her; she was the only key witness who could prove Lauren's innocence. Only Elaine's testimony could fully clear the false accusations she had carried for five years.

She followed the pull of Felix's hand and slowly sat beside him.

Felix turned slightly and instructed Anna, "Anna, open the door. Let them in."

Brendan and Brielle had already been waiting outside for a long time.

After learning the truth from Elaine, their faces had turned ashen, filled with guilt and self-reproach, almost unable to face Lauren.

During the hour it took Lauren to wake up, wash up, and eat breakfast, the couple had stood rigidly outside the Brooker's Villa, letting the cold rain drench them.

They hadn't used an umbrella, almost as if they were using this nearly self-torturous method to punish themselves for their past mistakes and seek Lauren's forgiveness.

The relentless rain soaked their clothes through, their hair plastered wetly to their pale faces, making them look utterly wretched. Anna opened the villa door and said to Brendan, Brielle, and Elaine standing outside the iron gate, "Come in."

At her words, Brendan's body jolted.

In that instant, they felt as if their legs were weighted down with lead, too heavy to move. Just yesterday, they had been adamant about punishing Lauren and humiliating her, but in just one day, everything had changed dramatically.

Five years ago, Lauren had not harmed Elaine. Yet, Elaine's supposed victimization had started Lauren's nightmarish ordeal, subjecting her to five years of wrongful imprisonment and endless torment.

Elaine looked at her ashen-faced parents and felt only endless sorrow.

"Let's go in. We have to face it. No one can escape their sins; this is what we owe Lauren."

Her voice was calm and resolute as she pushed her wheelchair straight into the villa, with Brendan following

behind like a zombie.

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Chapter 218 Tears and Truths

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invisible force, and their legs gave out. They both collapsed with a thud in front of Lauren, begging for

mercy.

"Lauren, we are so sorry," Brendan's voice was hoarse and shaking with profound guilt.

“We didn’t mean to. We thought you had hurt Elaine, so we sent you to prison. We are truly sorry.” Brielle was already in tears, the tears streaming down her cheeks.

In just a few days, they had been shattered by one brutal truth after another, seemingly aged a decade in an instant. They were genuinely remorseful, but it was difficult to see how Lauren could easily accept this belated apology.

“A simple ‘sorry’ is supposed to make up for all the suffering I endured in prison?” Lauren’s voice was calm but carried an undeniable anger and resentment. “In prison, I was slapped daily, forced to beg for mercy, had toilet water poured over me, was stabbed with needles, had my leg bones broken...”

As Lauren listed her torments, Brendan and Brielle’s faces turned even paler.

“All these horrors, aren’t they thanks to you? Of course, it wasn’t just you—David and Willow, among others, bribed prison inmates to torture me in the cruelest ways, even going so far as to take one of my kidneys. I went from being a healthy, promising young woman to the crippled state I am in now. None of you can escape responsibility.”

Lauren’s voice trembled slightly, “My life was destroyed by you. What makes you think a flippant ‘sorry’ can erase the damage you’ve done to me?”

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Chapter 219 A Cry for Justice

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Lauren’s accusations weighed heavily on Brendan and Brielle, rendering their complexions even paler, their lips trembling.

Instinctively, they wanted to defend themselves, but the harsh truth blocked their words before they could speak.

Indeed, it was they who had orchestrated the actions that led to Lauren’s disabilities, Overwhelmed by guilt, the couple could only look at Lauren with eyes full of pleading, hoping she would give them another chance.

However, Lauren was unwilling to forgive those who had harmed her. No matter how eloquently they spoke, nothing could compensate for the hellish five years she endured in prison.

She was sitting here today, confronting the very people responsible for her suffering, not because Brendan and Brielle had shown her any mercy, but because of her own resilient will to survive.

She was not content to die wrongfully accused in prison.

She wanted the truth to be exposed for all to see and for all who had harmed her to pay a severe price.

She wanted to witness firsthand the remorse and despair of those who had protected Willow once they learned the truth.

Therefore, in the face of Brendan and Brielle's tearful confessions, Lauren did not soften in the slightest.

She even slowly rolled up her pant leg to reveal her twisted, deformed leg for all to see.

"My leg was broken by inmates in the third year of my imprisonment, shattered with six batons. Can your hollow apologies restore my leg to how it was before?"

Lauren's lower left leg was grotesquely twisted, with a hideous dark red scar like a fat centipede clinging to her limb, both ugly and terrifying.

"After my leg was broken, no one treated it. They left me lying on the ground, writhing in agony, while a crowd watched and mocked me. This leg took three agonizing months to heal without any medical care."

As Lauren recounted her ordeal, Brendan and Brielle collapsed to the ground as if the rug had been pulled out from under them.

Proper medical treatment could have prevented her leg from deforming so severely.

Even to the naked eye, it was clear that the bones in her broken leg had not been properly set but were merely encased in layers of newly formed flesh.

"Lauren, we know we were wrong. We don't ask for your forgiveness, just a chance to atone," Brielle pleaded tearfully from the floor, bowing deeply. "Please, just give us a chance to make amends!"

Even Brendan, a strong man, had tears in his eyes.

Seeing the horrific scars on Lauren's leg, Elaine burst into tears, unable to speak.

"Lauren, it's all my fault. If it weren't for me, you wouldn't have ended up like this. I should be the one most sorry to you."

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Chapter 219 A Cry for Justice

Lauren took a deep breath, suppressing the resentment that had festered in her heart for years.

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She turned to Elaine, "You are a victim too, I don't blame you. I just want to know, what exactly happened at Willow's graduation party? You were her best friend. Why did she want to harm you?"

As Elaine mentioned the past, her hands clenched tightly, filled with hatred for Willow and empathy for Lauren. She fought to control the rage bubbling inside her as she began to recount the events of that day five years ago at Willow's party.

As she spoke, even Brendan and Brielle, who had already known the whole truth from Elaine, shook with

rage.

Felix, Kate, Anna, and Marilyn, who knew nothing of that day's events, grew more and more shocked as they listened.

When Elaine finished, they were all seething with anger toward Willow and David.

Lauren stood frozen, knowing already that Willow and David had likely targeted her kidney.

But she had never imagined the truth would be even more horrifying than she had thought.

Initially, Willow and David's plan wasn't to push Elaine down the stairs but to stage an "accident" in broad daylight that would injure Lauren.

The plan was to rush her to the hospital and declare her brain dead, regardless of her actual condition.

Then, David, posing as her father, would openly sign an organ donation consent form, transferring both of Lauren's kidneys to Willow.

Moreover, any other viable organs, like her heart, liver, and corneas, were also to be harvested.

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Chapter 220 Echoes of Evil Intent

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They planned to donate her body for medical training, claiming it was a contribution to science, especially since it was the day of Willow's graduation party with all of Hoverdale's high society in attendance,

In their eyes, David's act of selfless generosity, witnessed by these elites, would spread his fame across Hoverdale and even the nation

This way, Willow would no longer suffer from kidney failure, and he himself would become a revered figure, praised and admired for donating his own daughter's organs and body.

Once labeled a philanthropist, his career in Hoverdale would flourish even more, and the shareholders of Bennett Corporation would hold him *in* even greater esteem.

Eventually, he could pressure these shareholders to force Alice to transfer all her shares to him. With this step, he would completely control Bennett Corporation.

Then, he could drive Alice insane, later claiming to the public that she lost her mind due to the trauma of losing her daughter.

His image as a devoted husband would be solidified once again, propelling his career even further.

When he became the richest man in Hoverdale, it would be time for Alice's demise. With Alice gone, he could legitimately marry Willow's biological mother, Sharon.

As for his son Elliot, whose capabilities were decent, he could continue to add value to the company. After all, David could write a will leaving all his wealth to Sharon, Willow, and his son abroad.

Elliot would spend his life working for someone else's benefit.

It was a plan of hitting five targets with one shot. Save Willow, turn David into a philanthropist, drive Alice mad, marry Sharon, and ensure Elliot inherited nothing, forever oblivious and serving the Gray family.

This was the grim truth behind Willow and David's conspiracy.

Their plan could have proceeded smoothly, but Elaine's unexpected involvement threw a wrench into their plans.

The venue for the graduation party was crowded, and with the restrooms always occupied, Elaine, who was particular about cleanliness, went upstairs to find a less crowded one.

As she was about to head back downstairs, she inadvertently overheard their entire conversation.

Upon seeing Elaine, Willow and David panicked, feeling as if the sky was falling.

Elaine, shocked to her core, couldn't believe the gentle and kind Willow, the cultured and kindly David, were in fact ruthless monsters. Naively, she threatened to expose them in front of all the guests.

In desperation, Willow pushed her down the stairs, a moment that Lauren witnessed entirely by chance.

Willow and David hadn't anticipated Elaine discovering their plot, so killing Elaine became a spur-of-the-moment decision to silence her.

However, when Elaine tumbled down the stairs, bleeding and unconscious, panic set in. Murder was a crime.

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Chapter 220 Echoes of Evil Intent

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Willow didn't want to go to prison, so when she saw Lauren appear, she didn't hesitate to pin the murder on her.

This move disrupted the original plan. With Lauren arrested and thrown into prison, she inadvertently escaped a fate worse than death—being declared brain-dead and dissected alive.

Otherwise, she would have been cruelly harvested for organs while conscious, and her body used for medical training, all to enhance David's reputation through her sacrifice.

From this perspective, Elaine indirectly saved her life. Yet, even though Lauren didn't die as initially planned, her time in prison was filled with inhuman torture.

In this well-orchestrated conspiracy, Lauren had no chance of coming out unscathed.

Either her body would be hollowed out, and David and Willow's plan would succeed.

Or she would end up in prison, tormented by the unaware Brendan and Brielle, and tortured by the demonic Willow and David.

Compared to the original plan, prison seemed like her only bit of good fortune.

At least, she lived to see the day the truth came to light.

But this was also what made Lauren most desperate and pained. Five years ago, these were the only two possible outcomes she faced.

During her days in prison, the relentless humiliation and abuse, coupled with being told *it* was all orchestrated by the Gray family, haunted her every moment.