

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

The Heiress Revived Ch 231

, 7332 Views, Released

Chapter 231 Swing and a Miss

The only way out was to grab his wife and daughter and flee fast. George steeled his heart and swung his fist at Josh.

However, before his punch could land, Josh caught it effortlessly, and with a **fierce** twist, George was spun to the ground, begging for mercy.

There **was** a sharp “crack” **as** George’s shoulder dislocated, and he let out a pained scream, instantly losing any ability to **resist**.

Seeing George hurt, Sharon’s heart ached, and she rushed forward to help.

But Josh brutally kicked her in the stomach.

Sharon immediately felt a wave of intense pain; she clutched her belly and curled up on the ground, writhing in agony, unable to get up.

Josh snorted coldly and swiftly plucked a strand of hair from George’s head.

He then walked straight up to David.

David was about to resist when Josh coldly said, “You saw what happens to those who don’t cooperate.”

David shuddered, knowing resistance was futile and pointless; his own strand of hair was plucked by Josh.

Last was Willow. Her hair had been shaved off previously by Felix’s men, but it had started to grow back slightly on the sides.

Josh plucked her hair as she trembled, her eyes filled with fear.

Josh handed all three strands of hair to Jeffrey.

“Mr. Jeffrey, I need your help,” he said.

Jeffrey, who had watched the whole ordeal, was stunned. The harsh reality of why Lauren was abandoned at the orphanage was indeed brutal.

Lauren, only twenty-three, had been harmed almost constantly throughout her life. *David, **the** scoundrel, how could he **treat** his own daughter so cruelly? **It** was utterly heartless.*

Of the Bennetts, only Lauren was normal, yet he had mocked and scorned her, never showing kindness.

Already feeling guilty, Jeffrey now knew the whole disgraceful truth and hated himself. *Why did I listen to Elliot **and** Willow's **lies** instead **of** seeing for myself whether **Lauren** was as bad as they said?*

Jeffrey took the hair and said solemnly, "Give me an hour; I'll make things crystal clear."

As he turned to leave, he felt a firm grip on his ankle. Looking down, he saw Sharon sprawled on the floor.

"Don't you dare go," she screamed hoarsely.

Jeffrey looked at Sharon with utter disgust. He kicked her aside and strode out.

Desperate, Sharon crawled on the floor and yelled, "I'm the director; if you disobey me, I'll fire you right now!"

Jeffrey stopped, turned **back**, and said disdainfully, "You must not know my family owns shares in Hoverdale People First Hospital. I'm a doctor **because** I love healing; I don't need to be director unless I choose to be."

Thanks to business dealings between Bennett Corporation and Gordon Group, David had supported Sharon's rise **to** director.

But as a shareholder's son, Jeffrey needed only a word to dismiss Sharon.

~1

1/2

1:14 PM **dd**.

Chapter 231 Swing and a Miss

The living room fell into **dead** silence, the atmosphere oppressively heavy.

Suddenly, Willow, as if driven mad, dashed towards the door.

She just wanted to escape this dreadful place; every second was torture.

To her, Lauren wasn't the scary part. Nor **was** the Gray family knowing the truth from five years ago.

The most terrifying wasn't even being discovered by David as not his biological daughter.

It was Felix. The ruthlessness he displayed at Kate's birthday was vivid in her memory.

This man was exactly as ruthless as rumored.

Everyone who had wronged Lauren had either lost fingers, been disfigured, or had their teeth knocked out.

Even his own father hadn't been spared, driven nearly insane with fear.

She couldn't bear to think about how Felix, this demon, might cruelly treat her next just to avenge Lauren.

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 232 Escape to Nowhere

So, Willow had to escape, even if it meant abandoning her own parents. She dashed to the door and yanked it open.

Instantly, sunlight poured in, bathing her in its glow as if beckoning her towards the light.

A smile of relief from imminent danger began to form on Willow's face, but it froze when she saw the man standing at the doorway. **Her** eyes filled with endless horror.

A small, exquisitely crafted dagger gently lifted Willow's chin, forcing her to step back. As she retreated, the man holding the dagger came into full view.

Dressed in a black suit, his tall, imposing figure was accentuated by broad shoulders, a narrow waist, and long legs.

His expression was stern, his face emotionless, especially his eyes, which emitted a chilling aura of someone accustomed to battlefield carnage and bloodshed. The man was no one other than Gael.

"Go back!"

Gael's cold command, sharp as a bullet, struck right at Willow's heart.

Her pupils dilated; she turned stiffly and reluctantly walked back to where Sharon and George stood.

David, witnessing this, felt his heart sink once more. Willow's instinctive reaction had clearly shown her closer bond with George.

As they argued, Kenneth looked towards Lauren in agony, his legs gave out, and he collapsed to the ground, begging for mercy through his tears,

"Laurie, I'm so sorry."

Lauren remained calm, silent. Her serenity, more than any anger, drove Kenneth to despair.

Her calm meant she had completely given up on him, caring no longer. Realizing this, he felt his body sway unsteadily.

"Laurie, I'll atone. I'll make it up to you, even if you want my kidney, just don't ignore me, please?" Kenneth pleaded, tears streaming down his face.

However, Lauren simply looked away, indifferent to his desperate pleas. She didn't want to hear his meaningless words anymore; by not looking at him, his words were as insignificant as air to her.

Seeing Lauren unmoved, Kenneth began to bang his head frantically.

His head thudded against the ground loudly.

Soon, his forehead **was** bloodied. Brendan and Brielle couldn't bear to look and turned away.

Elaine, however, scoffed, "Kenneth, do you look now as you did when you forced Lauren to beg for mercy at my bedside, apologizing?"

Kenneth stopped his kowtowing abruptly, staring at Elaine in disbelief.

Elaine sneered, "That's right. Though I **was** unconscious, I was aware. I know all the terrible things you've done to Lauren over the past five years. Do you know how it felt like salt in my wounds every time you spoke of Lauren's miserable time in prison while you did nothing? This suffering should have been Willow's. How can you claim to care for Lauren when you've been so **cruel** to her and **yet** so lenient with Willow? You don't deserve her. Lauren will never forgive you. You brought this on yourself!"

Kenneth felt the room spin, his vision blurred, and he collapsed heavily to the floor.

Brendan and Brielle wanted to help him, but recalling Elaine's words, they clenched their teeth and held back.

1/2

Chapter 232 Escape to Nowhere

He strode up to David, slamming the report into his face, "Now, you can give up, right?"

There were two DNA reports.

One between Willow and David, and another between Willow and George.

David, trembling, picked up the reports and read them word for word, his hopes shattering in that moment.

Finished

The report revealed no biological relation between him and Willow, while George was confirmed as her biological father. This devastating blow struck David like a bolt from the blue, leaving him paralyzed.

At that moment, Alice, who had been unconscious, slowly came to.

Her first act upon awakening was to search for Lauren, her gaze desperately scanning the room until she saw Lauren sitting quietly on the couch, utterly disregarding her own frail condition and disheveled appearance.

Send Gifts

◦

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 233 Cold Comfort from the Past

Finished

Alice, her hands supporting her on the ground, her legs weak, struggled toward Lauren, tears streaming down her face as she almost crawled in her direction.

"Laurie, I was wrong. I won't side with Willow anymore. Please forgive me. Your brother was put in jail because of that scumbag David, and now all I have is you."

Alice's voice was hoarse and desperate, filled with the agony of a mother begging for mercy in front of Lauren, recounting her regret in a heart-wrenchingly pitiful manner.

Yet, Lauren remained as indifferent as before, unmoved. She merely glanced in Alice's direction with a detached gaze and then looked away.

This cold, indifferent demeanor stabbed straight into Alice's heart like a sharp blade.

At that moment, Alice truly understood the depth of a grief greater than death.

Lauren had completely given up on her, would never forgive her again. Realizing this, Alice felt her heart tearing apart.

Desperation filled her eyes as she trembled, "Laurie, are you really that heartless? Don't you want me anymore?"

Lauren wasn't even looking at Alice, so she didn't catch what was said. Alice was heartbroken by Lauren's silent, indifferent attitude.

Marilyn, her face shadowed with anger, confronted Madam Alice fiercely, "You have no right to call Ms. Bennett heartless. In the three years she spent with the Bennetts, you never showed her any care. You knew she endured fifteen long years in that orphanage, yet when she finally returned to the Bennetts, you continued to ignore her. You sent Willow 140,000 every month, but not a dime to Ms. Bennett. Willow had a new outfit for every day, while Ms. Bennett wore nothing but a high school uniform all year round. You turned a blind eye, never once buying her a new piece of clothing in those three years. Ms. Bennett and Willow share the same birthday, yet you celebrated only Willow's, showering her with gifts. Ms. Bennett left for school early and returned late, never welcomed by a warm meal, while your family of four enjoyed dinner together, laughing and eating. I suggested we send meals to Ms. Bennett, but you refused, claiming she was never home because she wasn't hungry."

Marilyn's voice dripped with scorn, "Ms. Bennett was in high school, a critical period for both physical growth and academic pressure, yet you justify your neglect while she suffered from hunger and malnutrition. You may not have abused or insulted Ms. Bennett like David, or schemed against her like Willow, but your cold neglect is even more contemptible. I remember every single wrongdoing; how dare you call Ms. Bennett heartless? What right do you have to expect her love as a mother? Ask yourself, have you ever even slightly fulfilled your responsibilities as a mother?"

These words had been bottled up in Marilyn for many years. In fact, during the five years Lauren was wrongly imprisoned, Marilyn had considered leaving the Bennetts more than once.

But at that time, Mia was in high school and needed money for everything. When Mia went to college, the expenses only increased.

Though the Bennetts' behavior was deplorable, the salary was decent. Moreover, Marilyn worried that once she left, no one would genuinely care for or protect Ms. Bennett once she returned from prison.

So, despite her grievances, she gritted her teeth and stayed.

Later events proved her decision right. That time when Alice, in defense of Willow, had hit Ms. Bennett with an ashtray, causing a bloody wound. If Marilyn hadn't carried her a way and fortuitously encountered Felix, Lauren's life would have been in jeopardy.

Marilyn had kept a tight account of each incident, and today, she finally had the chance to unleash years of repressed feelings, feeling much relief.

Kate and Anna had known Lauren had a tough time with the Bennetts, but they hadn't realized how heartless her biological mother could be.

They looked at Alice with disgust.

1/2

1:14 PM

Chapter 233 Cold Comfort from the Past

Finished

They too were parents, their own daughter cherished too much to ever think of hurting her, which was why they'd lashed out so fiercely when Elaine became comatose.

Send Gifts

368

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 234 Lashing Out in Despair

Brendan and Brielle were overwhelmed with guilt and sorrow upon learning how miserable Lauren's life had been. Not only was she wrongfully imprisoned, but she also suffered from their unwitting acts of retaliation.

Their gaze towards Alice now carried nothing but contempt. Kenneth, limp on the floor, was so overwhelmed with remorse that he couldn't even face Lauren anymore.

And David, seated in his wheelchair, paralyzed from the waist down, actually shed tears of regret. Willow was not his daughter. He had been deceived for over twenty years, an

d for a child not of his own blood, he had mercilessly abused his biological daughter. He had raised Willow, a child born out of wedlock, like a princess, while his real daughter was abandoned to an orphanage and even sent to prison in place of Willow. He had harvested his own daughter's kidney for the sake of the non-relative. Was Willow, that deceitful woman, secretly laughing at him?

Are Sharon and George, that disgraceful couple, also mocking *me* for my foolishness? The grief weighed on David like an immense boulder, nearly suffocating him.

"Ah..." David attempted to express his remorse, to voice the regret swelling inside him, but as he opened his mouth, drool uncontrollably dribbled down his chin, and all that emerged were garbled, incomprehensible sounds.

Alice was jolted back to the past by Marilyn's harsh words. The scenes of her harsh treatment towards Lauren flashed through her mind like scenes from a movie.

Her gaze became vacant, those memories piercing her heart like sharp needles, bringing intense pain.

She could see a young Lauren, wearing a tattered uniform, watching from a corner as Willow was surrounded by adoration, her face filled with envy and loss. Yet, she had ignored all this, lavishing all her care and protection on Willow instead.

"No, no..." Alice murmured, hugging her head, her body shaking violently.

She wished it was all just a nightmare, that she could wake up and return to the past to make up for her neglect towards Lauren. She remembered the pleading look Lauren gave her when David was beating her, and how she coldly turned away. Now, that look haunted her relentlessly, giving her no place to hide.

She beat her chest, wishing she could turn back time. She would have hugged Lauren tightly, bought her beautiful clothes, thrown grand birthday parties, and made her the happiest daughter in the world.

But time is merciless and never turns back. She couldn't change her past actions, which were branded into Lauren's life and seared into her own soul, becoming a pain she could never erase.

Tears flowed uncontrollably as she cried out, releasing years of accumulated regret. Now stripped of her usual arrogance, she was just a mother consumed by agony. Suddenly, she spun around and, losing all reason, rushed at David, pummeling him

with her fists.

"It's all your fault, all because of you! If you hadn't thrown my daughter into that orphanage, Laurie was supposed to grow up happy and loved by me. You stole Laurie's rightful happy life!"

David, defenseless, took the beating, his face swelling and contorting under the blows.

Exhausted, Alice looked down and inadvertently saw the DNA report David was clutching tightly.

Her focus slowly shifted to the report, and as she read the results, she first paused, then burst into uncontrollable laughter.

"Hahaha!" Her laughter was sharp and manic.

"David, look at how pathetic you are! Willow isn't even your daughter; she's your driver's child. You, you're even less than a driver, hahaha!"

Alice laughed hysterically, but as she laughed, tears suddenly streamed down her cheeks.

David had heartlessly harmed Laurie for Willow, a child not even his own – she too had been deeply sinful.

1/2

Chapter 234 Lashing Out in Despair

Finished

Then, trembling, she knelt down to gather the scattered documents. Each word on the papers was like a hammer striking her heart, weighing her down so heavily she could barely breathe.

It turned out, Laurie's tragic fate all started with Sharon's hereditary kidney disease.

Send Gifts

368

(

2/2

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 235 Laughing at the Truth

Finished

Because Sharon wanted to survive, she schemed and seduced David, causing herself to lose a kidney, lose her biological daughter, and even her son got dragged into a lawsuit and ended up in prison.

At this moment, Alice's mental state was near collapse; she was crying and laughing simultaneously, her behavior almost deranged.

"David, didn't you always say that marrying into my family was a great shame for you? Well, what about now? How does it feel to be played by the woman you loved? For the sake of another man's daughter, you cruelly abandoned your own, even leading her to end up in a prison labor camp. You've driven Bennett Corporation into bankruptcy, and all the liquidated assets have gone into Sharon's account. Even your own son, you've turned him into a legal scapegoat, burdened with responsibilities he should never have had to face. David, you're really the ideal husband, the 'model father, aren't you? Haha.

Alice's laughter was tinged with tragedy as she violently tore up the documents in her hands and then threw the shredded papers at David.

The fragments fluttered down like ceremonial paper money, covering David, who was rendered motionless by his fury, as if burying him in his disgrace.

Every word from Alice was like a sharp dagger, relentlessly stabbing into David's heart. He had struggled out of the countryside to the big city with a clear goal—to make a life. From the moment he first saw Alice, he saw her as his target.

In the years before meeting Sharon, apart from feeling the disgrace of being a son-in-law, he was rich in both spirit and material wealth. He had a wife who loved him dearly and a son who was exceptionally intelligent, and he was the president of Pierce Corporation.

Looking back now, those shameful moments, mostly just his father-in-law, the chairman of Pierce Corporation, summoning him to his office for advice, seemed trivial compared to the immense disgrace Sharon, George, and Willow had brought him.

David was heartbroken, wanting to repent but unable to even speak, his gaze filled with sorrow as he looked at Lauren.

This time, his repentance was heartfelt; he was wrong, terribly wrong.

Knowing he would end up with nothing, even paralyzed from the waist down, he would rather have endured a lifetime of nagging by the elder.

His gaze was more sincere than ever before.

If he could stand, he would undoubtedly beg for mercy at Lauren's feet; if he could speak, he would sincerely apologize, even humbly begging for her forgiveness.

Yet even such a humble wish was beyond him.

He could only slump in his wheelchair, helpless as mud.

Since Lauren had gone deaf, she relied on her eyes, which had become incredibly sharp, instantly discerning all of David's thoughts. *Apologies? Repentance? Making amends? Ha! I needed none of that.*

These were merely acts of desperation, seeking psychological comfort to continue living after being punished and left with nothing.

If there had been a better choice, David would never have bowed to her. Her earlier life was filled with hardships, all thanks to this man before her.

Why should I forgive someone who had deeply wounded me?

She did more than not forgive; she even felt that the punishment David received was far from enough. She harbored deep hatred for David, Elliot, Willow, Alice, Sharon, George, and also for Lucas and Kenneth. All of them were executioners who had intentionally hurt her for Willow's sake.

for Brandan and Briella che couldn't **cau** cha hated tham hut cha falt na fandnace aither

Chapter 235 Laughing at the Truth

Lauren's gaze swept over everyone present.

None dared meet her eyes, each shamefully lowering their heads.

Finished

Lauren's eyes settled on David, her voice calm yet firm, "You were unkind to me, but I will not be unjust to you. Go back to where you came from."

David's pupils dilated, filled with terror. *What does she mean? Is Lauren sending me back to the countryside? No, I didn't want to go back.*

The countryside was poor and the people were harsh; he had left in glory, but now he would return with his tail between his legs. The mockery and gossip alone could drown him.

“Ah... Laurie, don’t do this to me, I’m your dad.”

Send Gifts

368

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 236 Too Late for Regret

Lauren’s lips lifted into a cold, silent smile.

Dad?

She hadn’t had a father since the day he tossed her aside like trash.

Her voice was calm, her eyes empty.

“You and Willow clearly have this sweet father–daughter thing going. I wouldn’t want to break that up. So how about she goes with you to those mountains of yours? Makes it easier for her to take care of her amazing dad.”

Willow’s entire body began to tremble.

She’d once taken a flight that passed over David’s old hometown—the mountains stretched out forever, wild and endless.

If she ended up out there, she’d never make it back. Worse, she knew what could happen—men in those areas with no wives and no rules.

She’d be trapped.

“No. I’m not going. I won’t!” Willow shook her head over and over, eyes filling with tears.

But Lauren didn’t even blink.

Her begging didn’t matter.

Lauren shifted her eyes to Alice and said, “Madam Alice’s husband cheated, her son’s behind bars, and the shock of it all broke her. Clearly she’s no longer mentally stable. Might as well have her committed to a psychiatric hospital.”

Alice stood there like she’d just been struck by lightning.

Sure, I was devastated. But I wasn't out of her mind.

She never thought Lauren would go this far.

A psych ward? That's where they send people who are truly lost. You walk in normal, you don't come out the same.

"Laurie... I'm your mother. You're really going to do this to me?"

Lauren smiled softly, almost sweetly, "Oh, Madam Alice, don't be dramatic. I'm only giving you back the same coldness you once gave me. I learned from you, remember?"

"No, Laurie—
please. Just give me a chance. I swear I'll make it right. I'll spend the rest of my life making it up to you. If I don't—"

Lauren didn't even let her finish.

"I don't need it."

Lauren looked toward the Brookers, her expression soft and her voice calm, "I've got Madam Kate now. Anna, Marilyn... and my fiancé—Mr. Brooker."

Almost like they were in sync, Felix reached over and gently took her hand, lifting it to show off the sparkling ring on her finger.

His voice was firm and clear, "Laurie already said yes to my proposal. From now on, she's not alone. I'll be by her side."

Lauren looked at him, silent, her eyes slowly filling with tears.

1/2

Chapter 236 Too Late for Regret

Lauren's smile didn't waver, she said, "I made it through prison, Madam Alice. I'm sure you'll figure it out."

Alice shook her head over and over, panic taking over.

Finished

"I can't go there. I won't. Please don't send me to a place like that. Laurie, I'm begging you. Just give me one more chance. If you forgive me, I'll do anything you ask. Anything. Just please forgive me," she sobbed, her voice breaking.

Lauren stood still, her eyes like ice. She didn't say a word.

Alice completely broke down. She fell to her knees, then stumbled forward on her hands, crawling toward Lauren like someone drowning—reaching for anything to hold onto.

She stretched out her arms, trying to touch her, to hug her, to prove she meant what she said.

But before her fingers could even graze Lauren's clothes, Josh stepped in and pulled her away.

"Laurie—
please! I'm begging you. Can't you show me some pity?" Alice cried, loud and desperate, her tears soaking her face as she fell apart right there on the floor.

Lauren finally spoke, voice tight with fury, "Pity? From you? You really think that sounds right coming out of your mouth?"

She gritted her teeth, then spoke slowly, each word like a blade, "At the auction... when Willow drugged me, when I almost lost everything—did any of you pity me?"

Alice froze like she'd just been struck by lightning.

Her eyes darted in panic as the memories came flooding back—one brutal moment after another. That night played back in her head like it had never ended.

She, David, and Elliot had stood there while Lauren was hurting. And instead of helping her, they sided with Willow.

They told Lauren she was being ridiculous. That she was lying. That she was trying to ruin Willow's reputation.

Lauren lost it. She tackled Willow, pinned her down, and smashed an ashtray over her head.

And after that...

Alice didn't want to remember, but the memories came anyway.

They left Marilyn outside in the pouring rain. She stood there sobbing, begging them to show Lauren mercy—reminding them she was their daughter.

But all four of them just turned away.

Alice's strength gave out completely. She collapsed to the floor like a puppet with its strings cut. She couldn't even look Lauren in the eyes.

Lauren's smile was sharp and cold, "Having a little flashback, Madam Alice? That was the night you hit me in the head with the ashtray. I was covered in blood. And while it poured outside, you tossed Marilyn out and left her to cry in *the* rain- begging for you to care about me. But the four of you didn't move. Not an inch."

Send Gifts

368

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 237 It's Your Kidney!

Finished

Lauren's voice was flat, emotionless. "You left me lying on that freezing floor like I was nothing. No one checked on me. If I hadn't woken up and dragged myself out of the Bennett Residence, I would've died that night. And you wouldn't be here to witness any of this. I used to wonder if it was my fault— if maybe I wasn't good enough, and that's why you hated me so much. But then I realized... it wasn't about me. It was you. All of you. You're not normal. You're not even decent. So no— I'm not repaying you with the pain you gave me. I'm just putting you where you belong. And honestly, you should be thankful that's all I'm doing."

Every word landed like a blow to the chest. Alice felt like she was being carved up from the inside out.

All the horrible things she'd done to Lauren came crashing back— every choice, every moment of cruelty, each one slicing deeper than the last.

She couldn't breathe. Her chest ached like her heart was being torn apart.

And right then, she realized the brutal truth, which was she didn't even deserve to apologize.

What she'd done to her own daughter was beyond forgiveness. It wasn't just cruel—it was monstrous.

She wasn't owed compassion. She didn't deserve kindness.

Because Lauren had been treated worse than an animal in the Bennett family, and Alice had stood by and let it happen. Worse, she'd helped.

Josh dragged Alice away as she slumped, all strength gone. Her legs dragged behind her, leaving streaks across the floor.

Her eyes were empty. Soulless. As if what little humanity she had left had finally left her behind.

Then it was David and Willow's turn.

David had nothing left in him but dread.

Lauren hadn't held back with her own mother—what hope did he have? He was the one who had broken her the most. He'd made her life a nightmare.

Now he couldn't even move. Couldn't speak. All he could do was stare at her with pleading eyes, full of guilt and desperation.

But Lauren didn't flinch.

If murder were legal, she would've taken him apart piece by piece without hesitation.

"Take them out of my sight," she said flatly, every word ice-cold.

Gael stepped forward and went straight for Willow.

Willow panicked the moment she saw him. She screamed, "No—I'm not going to those mountains! Please, don't take me!"

Gael didn't waste time. He grabbed her like a stray kitten, completely ignoring her screams as he hauled her away.

Willow flailed in Gael's grip, her eyes wide with raw panic.

Just before she was dragged out of the house, she shrieked, "Lauren, you can't do this! You still have a kidney inside me! Let me go and I'll give it back!"

Gael stopped in his tracks and looked to Felix and Lauren, waiting for direction.

Willow's heart soared. She stared at Lauren, thinking she'd found her way out. Everyone else seemed to think so too—that Lauren would cave for her own organ.

But Lauren just laughed—cold, sharp, and terrifying.

Chapter 237 It's Your Kidney!

People looked around, stunned.

What *is she saying?* That's *her kidney*.

Willow blinked, confused and rattled, "You... you don't want it back?"

Lauren smiled wider, but there was nothing warm about it.

"Oh, I do. But I never said I needed it today."

Finished

Her voice was calm, steady, lethal. "I'm doing just fine with one. My life's good. But you? You've only got one left. If I take it now, you'll drop dead—and I'll be a murderer. No thanks. I'd rather let you suffer in those mountains first. Let that body break down with just one kidney. You think you'll outlive me? You won't. And when you don't—I'll take it back. Legally. Clean. No guilt. Win-win."

Willow's face went pale with horror as Lauren's words hit her like a punch to the gut.

It all made sense now—

Lauren didn't just hate her. She loathed her. Enough to plan something this twisted.

Lauren wasn't looking for blood. She wanted slow revenge. A kind that didn't get her hands dirty.

She wanted to dump Willow in some remote hellhole and let time, isolation, and misery do the rest.

Willow had never suffered a day in her life. She was the spoiled one, the girl who always got what she wanted. Life in the mountains would break her.

Her body would weaken, her spirit would crack. She wouldn't last.

And if one of those desperate, brutal men out there hurt her—if she ended up pregnant—her already delicate body wouldn't survive it.

Just the thought of it made her entire body shake. She started fighting back, flailing in terror.

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 238 Leave My Son Out of This

Willow screamed, voice raw with fear, "No! You can't do this! Even if you torture me to death, I'll never sign anything! I won't give you that kidney! You'll never get it!"

Lauren arched a brow, her voice ice-cold, "Your consent doesn't matter once you're dead. As long as your parents sign the Honor paperwork after, that kidney is mine."

15 Willow Lauren suddenly looked like something straight out of a nightmare.

When did she get this cell

But the with was—Lamen had learned it from the best.

once plotted to have her declared brain-dead. They wanted to harvest her organs for Willow.

So now Lauren was just returning the favor. Letting Willow feel what it's like to be nothing but a body someone else picks apart—that was the revenge she deserved.

Willow shook her head furiously, "No—my parents would never go along with that!"

Sharon and George glared at Lauren, seething. "You evil little thing. Don't even dream of it. We'd never sign that."

Lauren's smile sharpened into something terrifying. "Then I'll just deal with your son—the one living abroad. You know... a place where gums aren't exactly hard to find, and recreational drugs are completely legal. So many fun ways to get creative," she said lightly, tilting her head like she was planning a weekend getaway, not issuing a threat.

Then her eyes lit up, like a thought had just clicked. She said. "And since my kidney was a match for Willow... maybe I should get rested with your son Carl too. Who knows—he might be a perfect fit."

You xray the heck away from Carl!" Sharon snapped, eyes wide with panic. "He's never hurt you. He doesn't deserve this. He's

innocent

Lauren's voice didn't waver, "Really? His food, his rent, his clothes—where do you think all that comes from? Every penny Traces back to the Bennett family. If he's comfortable enjoying everything your name paid for, then he can share the weight of what you've done. Parents sin. Children pay. All I'm asking for is a kidney. Seems fair to me."

Her tone was calm—too calm. And every word hit Sharon like a blow to the chest.

No—
you can't. Take it out on us. He has no idea any of this even happened Sharon cried, her voice breaking.

That was when fear finally cracked her open.

She loved George more than anything. Without him, she never would've had the life she lived.

To save her, George had let her do the unthinkable—
seduce David, share herself between two men. He'd endured it all for her

George had given her everything.

She couldn't let it end here. She couldn't let him lose his only son.

Carl had to see

Sharon's hands trembled as she looked at Willow—
her eyes filled with guilt and resignation, "Willow... please don't blame me. I don't have another way out."

Willow stood there in disbelief. Her own mother was throwing her away.

She watched in shock as Sharon turned to Lauren and pleaded, "Lauren, I'll do it. As soon as Willow... as soon as she's gone, I sign the organ donation papers. Just don't touch my son. Please. You can do whatever you want to the rest of us—just leave Willow alone

Chapter 238 Leave My Son Out of This

In 23 years, she had never felt pain like this—sharp, soul-crushing, and beyond repair.

This was what it felt like to be thrown away by the people who were supposed to love her unconditionally.

It felt like someone had carved her heart out with their bare hands.

She wailed and fought against her fate, completely consumed by despair.

But not a single person in the room felt sorry for her.

Because they all knew this was the very same pain Lauren had once endured.

David and Alice had sacrificed Lauren time and time again, always to protect Willow.

And now?

Now the script had flipped.

Finished

Lauren stood by, silent but powerful, while Willow—the once—precious daughter—became the one being torn apart by her own family

This was the revenge Lauren had waited for.

The girl she used to be the one who once believed that if she just tried hard enough, her family might finally love her—
was gone. That version of her died the day she was thrown in prison.

The day she walked out of prison, she'd already made up her mind to cut ties with the Bennett family forever.

Back then, she didn't want revenge. She wasn't even capable of it.

She just wanted to

But the Bennett family wouldn't let her. They pushed her, cornered her, broke her—until this was all that was left.

Her heart had been shattered so many times, there was barely anything left to break.

And yet—
it was Felix, Kate, Anna, and Marilyn who kept her from falling apart completely.

Send Gifts

368

2/2

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 239 The Inheritance Returns to Lauren

The Brookers' love gave her something to hold onto. They were the glue that held her together when she was one step from the edge.

Because of them, she didn't become the monster she could have been.

Because of them, she didn't drag her enemies into the fire and go down with them.

They were the last sliver of good in her life.

And even if that light was small—flickering, fragile—it was still burning.

Just barely.

Felix reached for a document he had clearly been waiting to use. He tossed it onto the coffee table with a casual flick of his wrist.

“The agreement’s here. Sign it, and you two can leave,” he said, voice calm but firm, speaking to Sharon and George.

The two of them blinked in disbelief. They hadn’t expected Felix to actually give them a way out.

But the second they read the first few lines, their hope collapsed.

The document required them to give up everything—all their wealth, transferred unconditionally to Lauren.

No money. No assets. Nothing left to their name.

How were they supposed to live like that?

And what about Carl, still overseas? What would happen to him?

But deep down, they both knew—they didn’t have a choice.

Felix had connections and power that reached far beyond what they could fight. Defying him wouldn’t just ruin them. It would put Carl at risk too.

Sharon clenched her jaw, holding back the rising panic. Her hand shook as she signed her name, one stroke at a time, giving up everything David had passed to her—and putting it back in Lauren’s hands.

After all the lies and betrayal, everything that was never truly theirs... ended up back where it belonged.

Felix handed the document to her, his expression serious and steady.

Lauren took it with trembling hands. The paper was thin, but it felt impossibly heavy.

She looked up, meeting Felix’s warm eyes, and a tight ache settled in her chest.

So he'd been planning this all along. From the very beginning, Felix had been quietly working to return everything that was rightfully hers—down to the final detail. Even the paperwork had been ready.

"Mr. Brooker... I don't even know how to thank you. You've done so much for me." Her voice wavered as emotion tightened her throat.

Felix's smile was soft, "Want to repay me?"

Lauren nodded right away.

She already owed him more than she could count.

He was the one who'd pulled her off the bridge. She'd drunk his absurdly expensive wine. He'd covered her medical bills.

1/3

1:15 PM

Chapter 239 The Inheritance Returns to Lauren

She said. "Whatever you ask, I'll do my best to **make** it happen.

But then his expression

shaned

Finished

The smile lingered, but now it held something darker—like he already knew the ending. Like he was watching everything fall into place exactly as he planned

Then bring it all with you, bring this fortune... as your dowry into the Brooker family." he said.

The words were calm. But they hit like an earthquake.

Lauren's cheeks went scarlet in an instant.

The last time Felix proposed, it had been in a language she didn't understand. She'd agreed anyway, swept up in the moment.

This time, though every word was crystal clear. He had said it plainly, and she'd heard it all.

And the moment it hit her the joy should've lifted her off the ground.

But instead, tears came rushing out like a dam breaking-

She didn't even know why at first. But deep down, she did.

It's not fair, she thought. Why would the universe give me the right person... but *at* the wrong time?

I loved Mr. Brooker. I loved Madam Kata

I dreamed of belonging to them—of finally having a real family

But my body felt broken. Used up. Unworthy

Someone like *Mr.* Brooker deserved someone stronger. Healthier. Not me...

The tears wouldn't stop. They weren't about fear—
they were about not feeling like she deserved to hold onto something so good.

Felix quickly grabbed a tissue and gently wiped her tears.
“Don't cry” he whispered voice low and soothing.

But Lauren couldn't stop.

Not even getting justice against Willow had brought her relief

All she could think about was that once she finished her embroidery project, she'd be leaving—going abroad with Mia.

And that meant goodbye.

No more Mr. Brooker. No more Madam Kate.

Just the thought of it shattered her.

She collapsed into Felix's arms and sobbed, her grief finally breaking free.

Lauren's sudden hug caught Felix off guard—his whole body froze for a second.

Then slowly, he wrapped his arms around her and gently rubbed her back. She couldn't see his lips, so she couldn't hear a word—but he still whispered anyway. “It's okay. You're safe now.”

Kenneth stood off to the side, and the sight hit him like a punch to the gut.

He couldn't believe it.

Falin had b

23

Chapter 239 The Inheritance Returns to Lauren

It clawed at his chest, ripped through his composure.

Finished

"Let her go! Brooker, you have no right—
Laurie and I are still engaged. I am her fiancé!" he shouted, voice cracking with rage.

Kenneth's outburst was beyond ridiculous.

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 240 Kenneth Crumbles, Felix Makes a Move

Sure, Lauren was the real daughter of the Bennett family. But the engagement? That had always been with Willow.

The Gray family knew from the start that Willow wasn't actually a Bennett by blood.

But back then, Willow had been the favorite—the center of attention. So of course they went ahead with the engagement. She was the one everyone wanted in their corner.

What the Grays never expected was that Willow would turn out to be so cruel underneath all that polish.

But for Kenneth, none of that mattered. In his mind, only the real daughter of the Bennett family was worthy of being his fiancée.

Once he found out Lauren was the true Bennett heiress, he convinced himself that she was supposed to be his bride.

What he conveniently ignored was the way he'd treated her.

He never stood up for her. Never supported her. Never believed her.

All he ever offered was judgment and blame.

And now, seeing her in Felix's arms—
trusting him, leaning on him like he was her anchor—Kenneth lost it.

Jealousy took over. And he snapped.

That's why he shouted something so ridiculous, so out of touch with reality—
because in his twisted mind, Lauren still belonged to him.

Brendan, Brielle, and Elaine all winced at Kenneth's outburst, the secondhand embarrassment washing over them like a wave. They wanted nothing more than to disappear.

Felix, still quietly soothing Lauren, slowly lifted his eyes to lock onto Kenneth.

They were sharp. Dangerous.

His lips curved into a cool, almost mocking smile. And then, with calm precision, he lifted a hand and gently held the back of Lauren's head.

In the next breath—without warning—he leaned in and kissed her.

It was so sudden, the room froze.

Lauren had been lost in sorrow, wrapped up in the thought that someone like her could never stay beside someone like him.

And then... his lips were on hers.

Her brain short-circuited.

Felix kissed her like there was no one else in the room. Like the moment was his to claim. He didn't hold back. And as he kissed her, his gaze stayed locked on Kenneth—unblinking, unwavering.

She's *mine*, his eyes said. *You were never even close.*

Kenneth's heart hammered in his chest. His entire body trembled with rage.

"You son of a- I told you not to touch her!" he yelled, charging forward with a clenched fist.

But before he could lay a hand on Felix, Brendan moved in fast and blocked him.

Without hesitation, Brendan smacked him across the face—hard.

1:15 PM

Chapter 240 Kenneth Crumbles, Felix Makes a Move

Finished

Brendan shot him a glare, voice tight with anger, “She’s not your girl. Lauren agreed to Mr. Brooker’s proposal. That makes her his fiancée. As for the woman you were supposed to marry...

He stopped for a beat, his expression flickering with shame. He didn’t want to say it—but facts were facts.

“You were engaged to Willow. So quit the drama. You’ve got no claim here.”

Kenneth looked like someone had knocked the wind out of him. His shoulders slumped, and the fire in his eyes dimmed.

But he still couldn’t stop staring at Felix.

And that’s when Felix pulled Lauren into his chest—his hold firm, protective. Then, without a word, he bent down and swept her into his arms.

He stood upright, holding her like she belonged there.

Then he turned and walked upstairs—calm and composed, like he had already won.

Lauren never looked back.

Not once.

“Laurie!” Kenneth yelled, desperation rising in his voice.

But Lauren couldn’t hear him at all.

“Lauren! Bennett!” he shouted again, louder this time, almost frantic.

He snapped. Completely unhinged, he tried to rush after her, but Brendan grabbed him and held him back with both hands.

All he could do was watch as Felix carried Lauren upstairs and disappeared into one of the rooms. The door closed behind them—and just like that, she was gone.

A cold dread settled over him, crashing through his chest and dragging him straight to rock bottom. The last sliver of hope he’d been clinging to crumbled to dust.

His mind spiraled.

What were they doing in there?

Felix had kissed her in front of everyone—what would he do now, with no one watching?

The thought made Kenneth's head spin. His vision darkened, and he nearly collapsed from the storm building inside him. Brendan caught him just in time.

Kenneth dropped to the floor, hands covering his face, trying to hold back the tears—but failing.

"I messed up... Laurie... just look at me. One more time..."

And then there was nothing. Just the sound of his sobbing filling the room.

Brendan and Brielle watched as their son completely fell apart, and even though they were furious with him, their hearts still ached.

But what could they possibly do?

They had failed Lauren too.

They'd stood by. Stayed silent. Made choices that hurt her.

The fact that she hadn't turned her anger on them—that she hadn't even said a word to them—was more mercy than they deserved.

2/