

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

The Heiress Revived Ch 251

, 6483 Views, Released

Chapter 251 That Guy? Here? Seriously?

Mia said cheerfully, "Hey, how about I swing by and see you anytime I'm not in class

Mia was all bright energy, cheerful and mischievous—
just like a kid without a care in the world.

switched

But in that brief moment she
looked at Lauren, there was something else. A flicker of genuine concern. *Like* she just
wanted to take away whatever was weighing on her.

She just wanted to cheer her up.

Lauren smiled gently, brushing Mia's hair back like she was calming a child. "Of course that
hat's okay. Honestly, I wish I could see you every day?"

How could anyone not love how sweet and open Mia was?

Just being around her made everything feel lighter.

Lauren took her hand and led her inside. "Grab a seat, **Mia**. There's **still** some chicken
and rice soup on the stove—I'll fix you a bowl."

Mia beamed. "Laurie, you spoil me. If I were a guy, I'd definitely make you my wife:

Lauren gave her a mock glare. "You and that mouth."

Mia giggled and stuck out her tongue, full of sass.

Their closeness was so natural it made Felix's eye twitch just watching them.

As Mia walked past him, she barely nodded—just enough to acknowledge him.

Then she happily scampered after Lauren into the kitchen.

Lauren's voice drifted out from the kitchen. "What're you doing in here?"

Mia's voice came back, teasing and syrupy. "I hardly ever get to see you—I'm not letting you outta my sight."

Lauren let out a soft laugh at her clingy tone.

The two of them were giggling and chatting in the kitchen like best friends at a sleepover, making Felix feel like a total third wheel.

Right then, the door opened and Josh walked in.

"Mr. Brooker, are we ready to head out?"

Mia had just picked up a bowl to ladle some soup when that voice hit her—and she completely froze.

Why does that voice sound so familiar?

She turned to look toward the dining room—and there he was. A tall guy in a silver-gray suit, gold-rimmed glasses on his face, all smooth and handsome like he just walked out of a magazine.

Mia's eyes went wide.

1/3

Chapter 251 That Guy? Here? Seriously?

And *why'd he* call Felix 'Mr. Brooker'?

Her mind short-circuited on the spot.

Out of nowhere, Josh turned toward the kitchen like something had just caught his attention.

Mia freaked and spun around fast, going completely rigid.

His eyes landed on her, eyebrows slightly raised. "And she is...?"

Why does her back look so familiar?

Finished

Josh was still trying to connect the dots when Lauren stepped out of the kitchen, carrying a bowl of chicken and rice soup. She smiled and said, "This is Mia—Marilyn's daughter."

Marilyn's *daughter?*

She looked to be around Lauren's age.

Mia...

The name lit something up in his memory. That girl. The more he looked at her, the more certain he became.

Josh stared at her, unmoving, clearly waiting for her to turn around.

Mia was already breaking into a cold sweat. Her heart was racing and her brain was short-circuiting.

What *do* I do? *What do I do?*

Just then, Lauren said, "Josh, did you eat? Want to sit down and have something?"

Josh snapped out of it and gave her a polite smile. He reached out for the bowl she was holding—but before he could take it, Felix's voice came low and firm, "He already ate."

Felix grabbed the bowl of chicken and rice soup in front of him. "There's something urgent with the Eastgate project. I'm taking this with me. Josh, let's go."

And just like that, Felix turned and walked out, brisk and all business.

Josh shot one last regretful look at the bowl of chicken and rice soup in Lauren's hands, then gave Mia—still facing away from him in the kitchen—a long, lingering glance before finally picking up the pace and following Felix out the door.

Outside, Felix handed him the bowl of soup without a word.

"Here. You eat it."

Josh looked surprised, almost flattered. He glanced down and saw a bunch of cilantro floating on top. That explained everything.

He smirked. "Cilantro's amazing, but you can't stand it? What a waste, Mr. Brooker."

2/3

09:10 Sat, 5 Apr 0

Chapter 251 That Guy? Here? Seriously?

Josh paused with the spoon halfway to his mouth. "Wait, what?"

Felix didn't even look at him. "You talk too much. Not even a bowl of soup can shut you up"

Josh nearly choked on his first bite,

Inside the kitchen, Mia finally exhaled, tension draining from her shoulders.

80%

Finished

She picked up her bowl of chicken and rice soup and walked out. She almost sat next to Lauren, but then stopped herself—
Lauren wouldn't be able to hear her from that angle. So she circled around and took the seat directly across.

That way, Lauren could read her lips easily.

Mia started eating, trying to sound casual as she asked, "Hey Laurie, who was that guy that walked in just now?"

Lauren replied, "That's Josh. He's Mr. Brooker's executive assistant."

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Chapter 252 If He's Good to Laurie...

Mia froze. Her spoon hovered in midair.

He works for Mr. Brooker? Then what's he doing running around with someone like Jeffrey?

The memory of the 140,000 dollars she scammed off him hit her hard.

80%

Finished

She'd never felt bad about taking money from cocky rich jerks-people like Jeffrey and Elliot deserved it.

But someone decent? Someone tied to Laurie, who'd only ever looked out for her?

Now it just felt wrong.

Her stomach turned. That 140,000 dollars might as well have been on fire. She wanted to give it back- immediately.

If Laurie ever found out where that money came from... she'd be crushed. She'd never look at me the same again.

Mia stared into her bowl, her emotions flickering in her eyes. She kept eating, mechanically, but every bite was tasteless.

After dinner, Mia helped Lauren with the dishes.
She was lost in her thoughts, and barely said a word.
Lauren didn't talk much either, mostly because she couldn't hear.
So the kitchen stayed quiet, filled only with the soft sound of water and the occasional clink of utensils.
Once they finished, Lauren led Mia into her embroidery room.
These days, when she wasn't eating or sleeping, Lauren was pretty much always in there working on her embroidery.
Mia glanced around at the explosion of vibrant thread colors and then at Lauren-head down, totally immersed in her craft. Her chest tightened with emotion.
Laurie is the kind of person who excels at everything she touches.
She had learned this intricate embroidery-an officially recognized heritage art-while she was in prison. And somehow, in just five years, she had gotten so good she could pass for a master.
If she hadn't been falsely imprisoned... if she'd graduated from Northcrest like she was supposed to... her life would've been on an entirely different level.
Mia sat silently nearby, not saying a word, her eyes locked on Lauren as she embroidered.
Lauren was by the window, working at her embroidery stand. Morning sunlight streamed in, wrapping around her in a soft, golden haze.
She looked so peaceful, so graceful as she stitched.

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Chapter 252 If He's Good to Laurie...

Then she sat back again, watching Lauren in stillness while her thoughts wandered off
How am I supposed to give that 140,000 dollars back to Josh without making things weird?

Finished

And then another thought layered on top-Laurie said she wants to finish this entire embroidery piece in a year. Meanwhile. I've got to figure out how to save enough to leave the country in the same amount of time.

Her mind was a mess of plans and worries, all while Lauren kept stitching in golden light.

The day went by fast, and before long, it was time for lunch.

Mia had a quick meal at Brooker Villa, said her goodbyes to Lauren, and headed back to school.

That afternoon, Lauren got back to her embroidery routine, and Mia went to class like usual.

By the time the sun started to dip low in the sky, casting everything in a deep orange glow, Mia was wrapping up her last class.

As she stepped outside, her phone rang.

The voice on the other end was smooth and familiar.

"Mia, did you miss me?"

Still on edge from the whole encounter with Josh that morning, Mia wasn't having it. She snapped without hesitation.

"Cut the crap."

Kenny was caught off guard by her tone.

His phone was on speaker.

The second Mia's voice came through, loud and clear, it set off a round of laughter from his dad, James, and his brother, Jeffrey-both sitting nearby with the rest of the Gordon family.

So why was Kenny's phone on speaker in the first place?

Simple-there was a family meeting going on.

The topic? James had called everyone together for one reason only-he wanted one of his sons to finally join the company and start preparing to take over.

Jeffrey didn't even try to pretend. "I'm a doctor. I have no interest in the business."

Kenny, just as relaxed, added, "I'm still young. I wanna enjoy life a little longer. Dad, you're not even close to retiring. You've still got it under control. What's the rush?"

James looked like he was about to pop a vein. "One of you is busy playing doctor, the other one's out screwing around with your party crowd. When I step down, who's gonna run this company? You think leadership skills fall from the sky? I need time to train you!"

Kenny smirked "Jeffrey come on just quit being a doctor. It's exhausting. You could be the CFO, kick back

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Chapter 252 If He's Good to Laurie...

80%

Finished

business. You should go. Once you turn the company into an empire, just build me a couple hospitals,"

"No thanks. My youth is way too valuable to waste behind a desk.

"Cool. I'm out too."

Neither one of them wanted anything to do with the family business.

James was fuming. He had built a whole empire-and neither of his sons wanted to take it over.

James said, "Fine. You won't run the company? Then go get married. Have kids. If I can't rely on you two, I'll start training the grandkids."

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Chapter 253 Put Her on Speaker, Kenny

Finished

As soon as James started pushing the whole 'get married and have kids' thing, Kenny's brain immediately pictured Mia-beautiful, but with a stare that could kill.

He swallowed hard. Landing a girl like her? That's not a short-term project.

So he switched tactics. "Come on, Dad, don't overthink it. You're only fifty, Why not just have another kid with Mom? Give Jeffrey and me a little brother. Right, Jeffrey?"

Jeffrey nodded along. "Yeah, Kenny's right. If you really want a next-gen CEO, maybe you and Mom should get a head start."

James looked like someone had hit him with a baseball bat.

"You two are unbelievable. You won't touch the company, won't settle down, won't start families-what exactly are you planning to do? And you, Jeffrey, you're almost thirty. Not a single girlfriend in all these years. Be honest-do you like men?"

Jeffrey's eyes nearly popped out of his head. "What? Dad, seriously? I don't have a

girlfriend because I'm busy. That doesn't mean I'm into guys. Kenny's single too-why aren't you questioning him?"

Kenny jumped in, clearly offended.

"Who said I don't have a girlfriend? I just broke up with one. If I wanted a new one, I could get one in like five minutes."

"Yeah sure, keep dreaming."

"I'm not joking. I may not be the best at business or school, but when it comes to women? I'm top tier."

James perked up. "For real?"

"Obviously." Kenny lifted his chin, acting like he was the king of charm.

Jeffrey wasn't buying it. "Yeah right. Anyone can talk big. If you've really got someone, call her. Put it on speaker."

Kenny smirked. "Easy. I'll call right now. Not a problem."

He pulled out his phone and started scrolling to dial one of the girls he usually hung out with. But before he could hit the call, Jeffrey grabbed the phone out of his hand.

Right at the top of Kenny's contacts was a number labeled, Mia My Goddess.

Well, well.

With a name like that, it was pretty obvious-Kenny wasn't just into her. He was seriously into her.

Jeffrey didn't hesitate. He hit the call button and immediately put it on speaker.

Kenny's heart practically exploded. He lunged to end the call, but before he could, Mia had already picked

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Chapter 253 Put Her on Speaker, Kenny

Finished

He figured even if Mia had a bit of an edge, there was no way she wouldn't soften up when he used that sweet, familiar tone.

Instead, her voice came through sharp and annoyed, "Cut the crap,"

Kenny's face went red all the way to his ears.

James and Jeffrey were wheezing with laughter, practically in tears.

Once they managed to pull themselves together, James shot Kenny a look full of doubt.

That's your idea of being a ladies' man? Really?

Kenny was dying inside. The secondhand embarrassment was so real he wanted to dig a hole and crawl in.

He forced out a weak smile and tried to explain. "You guys wouldn't get it. That's just playful banter. It's a thing with couples these days-romantic in a modern kind of way."

James and Jeffrey weren't having it. The irritation in that girl's voice had been loud and clear. No amount of spin could change that.

"You don't believe me?" Kenny protested.

Jeffrey raised an eyebrow and grinned. "If you can get her to come over and hang out here at the house, then we'll believe you. Right, Dad?"

James nodded right away. "Jeffrey nailed it."

At this point, James had two major concerns.

One, who was going to take over the business.

Two, when his sons were finally going to settle down and get married.

A few years back, James never stressed about his sons settling down. With their looks, money, and background, he figured there were probably tons of girls out there just waiting for a chance.

But now? Time had flown by, and his oldest was about to hit thirty-with zero trace of a girlfriend.

Kenny, the younger one, had definitely dated his share of girls over the years-but none of them were remotely serious. Not one felt like someone he could actually build a future with.

Instead, Kenny spent most of his time running around with his usual crowd of reckless friends. He lived like he didn't have a care in the world, while James constantly worried himself sick.

Not long ago, Kenny came home all busted up-black eye, split head, looking like he barely survived a bar fight.

At this point, James just wanted him to find a good, solid girlfriend. Someone who could keep him grounded. A girl would at least keep him busy with dates instead of getting into trouble every other weekend.

2/3

09:10 Sat, 5 Apr

Chapter 253 Put Her on Speaker, Kenny

Finished

That's why James was so hung up on the idea of Kenny being in a relationship.

"Kenny, what does this girl do?"

Kenny's face turned red. "She's a student at Hoverdale Tech University."

The second James heard that, his interest in Mia skyrocketed.

Hoverdale Tech was no joke-one of the top schools in the country. Anyone who got in had to be the best of the best. If Kenny really had a shot with a girl like that, James would support it all the way.

368

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 254 Mia Throws Hands in the Cafeteria

James's grin turned downright warmer.

"Since we've got nothing going on today, why don't you invite that girl over to the house?"

Kenny winced. Sure, he wanted to invite Mia-but that didn't mean she'd actually show up.

Meanwhile...

Finished

Mia stood outside the campus building, staring at her phone. She'd been holding the line for a while, but it had gone dead.

Already on edge from earlier, this only made her more irritated. She ended the call with a sigh and headed toward the cafeteria.

It was the middle of the lunch rush, so the place was packed. She waited in line forever just to get a bowl of her favorite-beef ramen.

She found a spot in a quiet corner and finally sat down, hoping to eat in peace.

But before she could get more than a couple bites in, she heard whispering behind her.
“Check out who’s behind us.”

“Gross. I heard she was some rich guy’s mistress. So trashy.”

“Right? And she still has the nerve to come to class? If that were me, I’d be hiding in a hole somewhere.”

“Must be nice though. Just lie around and collect cash. Living the dream, right?”

They all burst out laughing.

Mia froze for just a heartbeat when she heard the insults behind her-but only for a second. Then she kept eating, totally unfazed.

She’d heard stuff like this so many times it didn’t even register anymore.

Let them talk. In less than a year, Laurie and I are out of this place. I’m not giving them the satisfaction.

If gossip made them feel powerful, fine. She felt nothing.

Or so she thought.

But ignoring them didn’t work. It only encouraged them. Bits of scallion, garlic, and ginger started landing on her. Someone even splashed broth that hit her hair and skin, leaving her smelling like soup.

She slowly put down her chopsticks, picked up her bowl, stood up, turned around-then dumped the entire bowl of beef ramen right over the head of the girl behind her.

A blood-curdling scream echoed through the cafeteria.

1/3

Sat, 5 Apr

Chapter 254 Mia Throws Hands in the Cafeteria

Mia placed the empty bowl on the table, turned, and walked away without saying a word.

“Mia, stop right there!” the other girl yelled, furious.

Mia didn’t even glance back. She kept walking like she hadn’t heard a thing

Getting ignored like that-especially in front of a crowd-only made the girl burn hotter with rage.

“Hey, are you deaf? You think you can humiliate my best friend and just walk off?”

She reached out, trying to yank Mia by the hair.

Finishers

But Mia moved like lightning. Before the girl’s hand even made contact, Mia spun around, grabbed her wrist, and slammed her to the ground with a flawless over-the-shoulder throw.

Then she stepped forward and planted her foot right on the girl’s chest.

“All done acting tough now?” Mia’s voice was low and cutting, sharp as glass.

The girl gasped, stunned and winded from the impact. Now she could barely breathe with Mia pinning her down. Her face turned beet red.

Mia stared down at her, eyes cold and unflinching-like some untouchable force looking down at a worthless pest. The girl couldn’t stop shaking.

“I’m sorry... I’m really sorry...” she choked out through tears.

Mia’s lip curled into a mocking smile. “What a coward. Guess you need a beatdown just to understand basic respect.”

Everyone nearby was frozen in shock, eyes wide.

Nobody expected this from Mia-the straight-A, rule-following star student from

Hoverdale Tech. She looked like a model student. Who knew she had a side like this? One girl finally stepped forward, clearly uncomfortable. "Mia, that's going too far. Everyone saw what happened. If this gets reported to the dean, you could be expelled." Mia scoffed. "Then report me."

She turned to leave like it was nothing.

But the girl wouldn't let it go. "You hit someone and act like it's no big deal. You don't even deserve to be called a person."

That stopped Mia in her tracks.

She turned around slowly and started walking toward the girl.

"W-what are you doing?" the girl stammered, backing away fast as Mia closed the distance.

Mia didn't say a word. She raised her hand and slapped her across the face-loud and hard. Then she grabbed a half-eaten plate of food from a nearby table and slammed it into her face

2/3

09:10 Sat, 5 Apr.

Chapter 254 Mia Throws Hands in the Cafeteria

Finished

The girl was so stunned she couldn't even react. Her face was covered in rice, vegetables, and soup. Her makeup was smeared everywhere. She stood there crying, humiliated and helpless.

Everyone around her was talking-whispers, judgment, outrage.

Mia didn't acknowledge any of it.

Her mood had been wrecked for days because of what was happening with Laurie.

368

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Chapter 255 Be My Girl, Get Paid

So anyone who got in Mia's way? They became target practice.

Finished

If Laurie was the definition of pure and gentle, Mia was the other end of the spectrum-ruthless, intense, and totally unpredictable.

She stormed out of the cafeteria. As she passed three girls from her dorm, they immediately gave her tight, awkward smiles-desperate to stay on her good side.

Mia didn't even look at them.

She just walked straight past and pushed through the doors.

The three girls let out a breath they'd been holding and looked at each other, panic still lingering in their eyes.

They knew the truth about Mia better than anyone.

She used to keep up the sweet act when she was outside the dorm.

Now? She didn't even bother.

Those girls who picked a fight with her? Yeah-should've known better. They walked right into that one.

Mia pushed open the door to the principal's office without knocking.

She walked in casually and dropped herself onto the couch like she owned the place. "I just laid out three girls in the cafeteria. They'll probably come crying to you about it. I assume you know how to handle it?" she said, voice cool and detached.

The principal, Ruben immediately felt a migraine coming on.

If Mia didn't have dirt on him, she'd have been expelled a long time ago.

But she did-and now he had to smile and pretend everything was fine.

"Of course, Mia. Consider it handled."

Mia shot him a cold smirk. "Good. Then the cleanup's on you."

Ruben kept grinning like an idiot until Mia finally walked out the door. The second she was gone, his face dropped.

If I'd known she'd turn into this kind of nightmare, I never would've taken Elliot's money to begin with.

Back then, the plan was to expel Mia for some vague behavioral issues. But Elliot flipped the script and said never mind. And from that moment on, Mia clung to Ruben like a curse.

Somehow, she'd dug up everything-every shady little detail about how he'd been secretly supporting a female student in exchange for... favors.

7/2

Chapter 255 Be My Girl, Get Paid

He was trapped, and he knew it.

Finished

Not even half an hour after Mia left, three girls barged into his office to report her for starting a fight in the cafeteria.

Ruben took one look at their messy, tear-streaked faces and already in a foul mood-snapped.

He slammed the desk with both hands and ripped into them without holding back. His voice echoed, spit flying, the kind of yelling that felt like it could knock someone over.

The girls stood frozen, completely blindsided. Their eyes filled with tears as they stared at him, shocked.

What just happened? We were the ones who got attacked. So why were we the ones getting chewed out?

Mia was in a terrible mood. Everyone at school was rubbing her the wrong way.

She decided to ditch campus for a bit and clear her head.

Right then, a loud motorcycle pulled up and stopped directly in front of her.

The rider was decked out in black riding gear, long legs straddling the bike like he walked out of an action movie.

He pulled off his helmet, ran a hand through his messy hair, and flashed a cocky smile.

"Mia," he called, casually, like it was no big deal.

Mia saw who it was and gave him a cool, uninterested look. "What do you want?"

Originally, Kenny was going to do what his dad asked-bring Mia over to the house and show her off.

But halfway there, he got a call from one of his buddies inviting him to a motorcycle race. What sealed the deal was the fact that Taylor would be there.

Taylor Giles-his ex. The one who had dumped him not long ago.

He hadn't even been that into her, but getting dumped? That stung. Especially for someone like Kenny, who prided himself on always being the one in control. The whole

thing bruised his ego more than he liked to admit.

So he came up with a new plan. Bring Mia to the race. Maybe shake Taylor up a bit. Get a little satisfaction back.

He leaned in and started telling Mia about the race.

Mia couldn't have cared less about some dumb motorcycle race.

"Not interested," she said, already turning to walk away.

Kenny scrambled. "Wait-Mia, what would it take to get you to come with me?"

2/3

Chapter 255 Be My Girl, Get Paid

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Finished

She couldn't keep that 140,000 dollars from Josh. That ship had sailed. Now she needed to find other ways to make up for it.

And Kenny? He had cash to spare,

The second she mentioned money, he perked up. "Alright then, how much do you want?"

She raised an eyebrow, "How much are you offering?"

He smirked. "Depends on your performance. If you agree to play my girlfriend for the day, how does 14,000 dollars sound?"

Fourteen thousand. For one day?

That was an easy yes.

Mia didn't even blink and replied, "Deal."

368

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 256 Kenny Takes Mia to the Races

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Finished

Mia took the helmet from Kenny and strapped it on without a word. Then she climbed onto the back of his motorcycle and wrapped her arms around his waist like it was the most natural thing in the world.

Kenny glanced down at her hands and couldn't help the smirk tugging at his lips. His eyes were practically glowing with amusement.

"Hold on tight, Mia," he said.

Then he twisted the throttle. The bike growled like a beast waking up from sleep and tore down the road toward Eastgate.

That area had been cleared out for a new development project, so the roads were wide open and smooth. Honestly, it felt like they were built for racing.

When they pulled up, there was already a decent crowd gathered at the starting line.

It was almost all guys-except for one girl who instantly drew everyone's attention.

She looked about twenty-something, dressed in a white sundress, with long black hair and soft, natural makeup.

Her whole look gave off an innocent, sweet vibe, like a delicate flower among thorns.

The second Mia saw her, something twisted in her gut.

It wasn't even personal-it was the way the girl looked. The way she carried herself. She

was a carbon copy of Willow.

All wide eyes and soft smiles on the outside-but underneath, she was probably just as heartless. Willow had ruined Laurie's life while wearing that exact same fake innocence.

Mia didn't need a reason. Girls like that made her skin crawl.

Mia hopped off the bike and barely took a step before two guys rushed up to her.

"Mia."

"Look who showed up-Mia's here."

She recognized them-Kenny's friends. A while back, they'd tried cornering her in a bathroom to scare her. She ended up stabbing one of them. Then ran into them again at a bar and cracked a bottle over someone's head.

She never bothered learning their names. But those faces? Burned into memory.

She gave a quiet grunt in response, her expression stone cold from start to finish.

That icy attitude caught the eye of another group hanging nearby.

They scanned her from head to toe. She was dressed in a simple white button-down, jeans, and a pair of

11

1/3

Chapter 256 Kenny Takes Mia to the Races

80%

Finished

Another one chimed in, grinning. "Hey sweetheart, don't let Kenny's serious face fool you. He's trouble wrapped in charm."

The guys burst out laughing, loud and unfiltered.

The girl in the white dress stared directly at Mia, unblinking.

And Mia saw it right away-that sharp glint of hostility.

She didn't care.

She wasn't about to waste energy on people who weren't worth her time.

But that cool, distant attitude? It rubbed the crowd the wrong way.

"Hey there, gorgeous-wanna tell us your name?" one guy smirked.

He was chewing gum like he owned the place, and as he spoke, he pulled the girl in white close with one arm-making a show of it while shooting a look straight at Kenny.

Kenny's jaw tightened. His eyes flared.

Really, Taylor?

She had just dumped him, and now she was wrapped around the guy he hated most.

Kenny stepped up and moved in front of Mia, standing protectively between her and the rest of them.

"You wanna race, then race. Save the trash talk."

The guy across from him raised an eyebrow, clearly amused. Kenny defending Mia had definitely caught his attention-like he'd just discovered a new toy to play with.

"Oh we're racing alright," the guy said. "But this time, we're changing the rules."

Kenny's brow furrowed, his tone wary. "What kind of change are you talking about?"

The guy smirked, eyes drifting toward Mia with a cocky glint. "Simple. We both ride with a girl. If I lose, you get mine. If you lose, I get yours. Sounds fair?"

Kenny's face turned stone cold. He was about to shut it down when he felt Mia tug his arm.

She looked at the guy with a smile that didn't quite reach her eyes-cool, sharp, and

unreadable. "Sure. I'm in."

If this guy's begging for a beatdown, I'm happy to deliver.

"Mia," Kenny said under his breath, clearly concerned. "These races aren't a joke. You sure you're up for it?"

"I said I'm fine." She was already swinging a leg over the bike.

On the other side, Taylor was already perched behind the other rider, batting her lashes and throwing Mia a

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09:10 Sat, 5 Apr

Chapter 256 Kenny Takes Mia to the Races

She was just here for a fight.

Finished

Both bikes were lined up and ready. The moment someone yelled "Go!" They launched forward like rockets.

368

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 257 Josh Sees Someone Familiar on a Bike

The engines roared, wind howled past, and Mia tightened her arms around Kenny's waist. She could feel the heat of his body and the raw power of the bike rattling beneath them.

Everything around them blurred-buildings, trees, road signs-all streaking by.

The two bikes were side by side, locked in a dead heat.

Then came a sharp curve up ahead. Kenny shouted over the roar of the wind, "Mia, hold on!"

Mia's grip instinctively tightened.

They hit the curve fast. Kenny didn't slow down. He leaned into the turn, taking the bend like a pro.

Their bodies dipped low with the bike, tracing a clean, dangerous arc along the curve-and just like that, they passed the other racer and Taylor in one smooth move.

The bike roared down the open stretch, and Kenny whooped into the wind. "Mia, you feeling that?"

Mia actually smiled-something real, rare, and glowing even from behind the helmet.

She opened her mouth to answer, and froze.

A black luxury car appeared in her line of sight.

She knew that car.

It was Josh's.

As the motorcycle flew past Josh's car, something caught his eye. He turned just in time to catch a flash of Mia-and his heart skipped a beat.

He couldn't see her face under the helmet, but that outfit? He knew it. No doubt about it.

He'd just seen her wearing it this morning at Brooker Villa. Standing in the kitchen.

Same clothes, same posture.

Josh leaned forward, eyes locked on the bike as it sped ahead, trying to make out her

face.

But the motorcycle was already gone, a blur disappearing into the distance.

His reflexes kicked in. He hit the gas, trying to close the gap.

But the moment he accelerated, a thunderstorm of engine noise erupted behind him.

A swarm of six or seven motorcycles came flying past, dark and fast, filling the road and cutting off any chance of catching up.

Josh sighed and eased off the gas.

He stared at the bikes pulling away and told himself, I'm probably just overthinking it.

1/3

Sat, 5 Apr

Chapter 257 Josh Sees Someone Familiar on a Bike

With that, Josh let it go. He slowed down and watched the motorcycles vanish ahead.

Up front, Kenny was tearing down the road.

K 80% #

Finished

He leaned into the ride, every move sharp and controlled. His hands gripped the handlebars tight, and under his helmet, only his eyes were visible—lit up with pure thrill.

He was in full performance mode, showing off every bit of his skill. With Mia behind him, he was determined to impress. In his mind, he looked incredible right now—fast, fearless, and cool as hell.

He couldn't help the smirk pulling at his lips.

"Hey Mia, how's my riding?" he shouted, expecting her to be impressed—maybe even breathless with admiration.

But what he got instead was Mia's icy voice cutting right through the engine noise.

"Sharp turn ahead. If you don't wanna die, watch the road."

Kenny immediately shut up.

Still cold as ever, he thought, almost laughing at himself.

And yet—God, that only made her more attractive.

He'd grown up with money. People praised him constantly. Girls went out of their way to flatter him. He was used to being adored.

But Mia?

Mia didn't play that game. She was blunt. Brutal. Zero sugarcoating. And for some twisted reason, he loved it.

He never imagined himself falling for a girl who was cold, sharp-tongued, and could absolutely beat the heck out of him.

But here he was.

She'd punched him, insulted him, and instead of backing off, he found himself wanting more. At this point, he was honestly starting to wonder if he had a full-blown masochist streak—because every time Mia put him in his place, he kinda loved it.

Mia had no clue what was running through Kenny's head.

The bike shot around the curve, and she gripped his waist tighter, her arms wrapped around the lean strength of his body.

She glanced back instinctively—no sign of Josh's car.

Only then did her nerves finally settle.

Good. He's gone.

The last thing she wanted was for Josh to recognize her—and worse, go tell Laurie.

2/3

Sat, 5 Apr

Chapter 257 Josh Sees Someone Familiar on a Bike

That's why she always put on her best behavior when they were together.

But it wasn't all fake.

80%

Finished

Something about being around Laurie calmed her down. Laurie made her feel grounded. Safe. When they were together, Mia didn't feel the need to put up walls or go on the offense. She wasn't cold. She wasn't cruel.

The motorcycle roared down the wide, empty road like a black streak across the sky.

And sure enough, Kenny and Mia crossed the finish line first, there was no competition.

368

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 258 Kenny's Down Bad for Mia

Finished

Kenny pulled off his helmet with flair, his wind—

blown hair falling perfectly out of place. He raised his eyebrows at Mia with a smug grin.

"So? How was that? Admit it—

I looked amazing out there. Are you thinking about dating me yet?"

Mia didn't even blink.

She calmly pulled out her phone, opened her payment screen, and held it up. "Pay up.

Kenny's grin faltered.

"Seriously, Mia? That's it? Not even one compliment? I just gave you the ride of a lifetime and you're gonna leave me hanging like this? That's cold."

She said nothing, just stared at him—cool, still, and unreadable.

Those sharp eyes locked onto his, and Kenny's heart immediately kicked into overdrive.

His face flushed

red.

He looked down, pretending to scroll through his phone, mostly just trying to hide the chaos going on in his chest.

Why does her death stare make her even hotter? Why am I into this? I'm seriously down bad.

He fumbled for his payment app and, without a second thought, sent over 140,000 dollars.

"Payment received, 140,000 dollars."

The crisp notification broke the silence. Mia raised an eyebrow. "What's this for?"

Kenny gave a sheepish laugh and rubbed the back of his neck. "You said one day as my girlfriend costs 14,000 dollars. So I figured I'd lock in ten days. Advance booking—what do you say?"

Mia's lips curled ever so slightly, the tiniest smirk playing on her face. There was even a flicker of amusement in her eyes.

She had to admit—Kenny looked kind of adorable right now.

She stepped right up to him, grabbed a handful of his collar, and yanked him down so they were face to face.

Kenny's heart practically stopped. His face lit up like a fire alarm, blush rushing all the way to his ears.

"M—
Mia, what are you doing?" he stammered, his brain jumping straight into fantasy mode.

Wait—is this a kiss? Is she really about to kiss me? Oh crap I'm not ready!

But if she is... I mean, I'm down.

He shut his eyes, puckered up just a little, standing there like a human invitation.

1/3

80%

Chapter 258 Kenny's Down Bad for Mia

Then she let go and gave him a light shove backward.

Finished

Kenny blinked, stunned. His daydream popped like a soap bubble, and he was left staring at her like a kicked puppy.

He had paid 140,000 dollars for ten days—and she wouldn't even give him a kiss?

Brutal.

Right about then, the rest of the riders finally pulled up at the finish line.

Kenny spotted his longtime rival and smirked, pure smug satisfaction in his voice. "Looks like you lost."

The guy scoffed and shoved Taylor toward him.

"She's yours."

Taylor stumbled and practically fell into Kenny's chest.

He pushed her off like she was covered in slime. "What am I supposed to do with that? I never asked for her back."

The guy rolled his eyes. "We made a deal. I lose, Taylor's yours. You lose, I get your girl."

His gaze slid over to Mia, eyes roaming up and down like he owned the place. Then he whistled, low and sleazy. "Hey baby, what's your name?"

Mia didn't flinch. She didn't spare him a glance.

That wiped the smirk off his face. He scowled, voice turning mean. "I'm talking to you. You deaf or something?"

Mia's expression shifted immediately. That word hit a nerve.

Ever since learning about Laurie's hearing loss, she couldn't stand hearing the word "deaf" used like that.

She turned on him, her stare like a blade. Her voice dropped cold and flat. "What makes you think I'd ever tell you my name?"

The guy blinked in surprise, then broke into a smug grin.

"Mr. Kenny, this one's got some fire. Tell you what—why don't we trade? You give me your girl, I give you Taylor. I thought she was your type anyway. Win-win."

Kenny's face turned crimson. "You've got to be kidding me. You think I'm out here collecting garbage? Quit tossing your used-up leftovers at me."

He reached out and yanked Mia behind him, shielding her like she was made of glass.

Then he shoved Taylor right back where she came from. "Take her. She's your problem, not mine. I've got a girlfriend now who's a thousand—no, a million times better."

Taylor's eyes filled with tears humiliation written all over her face. Her voice cracked "Kenny how could

2/3

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

, ? Views, Released

Chapter 259 Fists Fly

Taylor blinked, caught off guard. "Wait.. you didn't?"

Finished

Kenny barked out a laugh. "Hell no. I raced so you'd see just how far out of your league my girlfriend is. Stop flattering yourself."

"You..." Taylor's face flushed, then went pale. Her lip trembled.

Tears finally spilled as she turned to the guy next to her. "Saint, did you hear that? He's being so mean to

me."

Saint let out a sharp click of his tongue and turned toward Kenny, clearly pissed. "Really, Mr. Kenny? I told you—if I lost, Taylor was yours. Now you're saying you don't want her? That's straight-up disrespect."

Kenny scoffed. "I never agreed to that. You've got issues. We're done here."

He grabbed Mia's hand, waved for his two boys to follow, and turned to walk away.

"You think I gave you permission to leave?" Saint's voice dropped low, eyes narrowing like a warning shot.

Kenny shot right back. "You think I need your permission to walk away?"

Saint's face went stone cold.

He raised his hand, and his crew—big, solid guys—fanned out in front of them, blocking the way like they were waiting for a brawl.

“Kenny, unless you take Taylor with you, no one’s leaving.” His voice was sharp as glass.

Saint had spent years being second to Kenny. Losing to him in everything. So when he stole Taylor, it felt like a win. He’d shown her off, used her, made sure the whole world saw it.

And now? He lost again.

But worse—Kenny didn’t even want her back.

Saint thought he was hitting Kenny where it hurt. Turns out, he’d been clinging to something Kenny had already tossed aside.

And the more that reality sank in, the angrier he got.

His eyes practically lit up with rage, like he was about to explode.

Kenny’s eyebrows pulled together into a sharp crease. Anger flared in his eyes.

He shoved Saint’s arm out of the way with force. “Get out of my way.”

It wasn’t a gentle push. It was full—on force. Saint stumbled back, nearly losing his footing.

“You just put your hands on me?” Saint snapped. His voice went from smug to enraged in a split second. He lunged at Kenny.

1/3

Sat, 5 Apr

Chapter 259 Fists Fly

The rest of the guys jumped in, and the whole scene erupted into a full-blown fight.

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Finished

While punches were flying. Taylor snaked her way over to Mia, hips swaying like she was still the center of

attention.

The innocent act was gone. Her face twisted into something sharp and nasty, “You’re seriously treating my leftovers like he’s worth something?”

Mia glanced at her once. Barely. Then turned back to watch the brawl unfold like Taylor didn’t even exist.

That stung.

Taylor’s face contorted with rage. “Hey, I’m talking to you”

Mia didn’t flinch. Not even a blink.

That calm, collected look pushed Taylor over the edge.

“You smug little b*tch,” Taylor snapped. “You’re the reason Kenny humiliated me. Don’t act all innocent- you’re just some broke college girl playing dress-up.”

Taylor hated girls like Mia. Girls who looked clean. Untouched. While she felt like she was drowning in her own mess.

And if she couldn’t have that innocence back—then nobody should.

She snapped. Raised her hand and swung it, aiming a slap right for Mia’s face.

Mia’s

eyes flashed ice cold. Reflexively, her hand went straight into her pocket and gripped the butterfly knife inside.

You don’t lay hands on her and walk away. Not without bleeding.

Just as she was about to pull the blade, tires screeched nearby. A sleek black Maybach rolled up and stopped clean at the curb.

The window lowered slowly—revealing Josh’s sharp, polished face.

“Mia? I knew it was you.”

His voice hit her like a punch.

Her body went stiff. Her fingers stayed curled around the knife in her pocket, but the fight left her all at

once.

No, no, no. He saw. Josh saw everything.

Is he going to tell my mom? Worse—Laurie?

Mia was still in shock when Taylor's hand came out of nowhere and smacked her across the face—hard. The force of it knocked her off balance.

Her cheek burned like fire but she barely registered the pain. Her eyes darted straight to Josh

2/3

Chapter 259 Fists Fly

"You okay?"

Mia opened her mouth, trying to say something—but the words just wouldn't come.

Josh didn't wait.

Finished

He took one glance at the chaos behind her, then at the bright red mark on her face—and that was enough.

He grabbed her by the wrist and pulled her with him.

Mia stumbled after him, caught off guard.

They got into his car, and seconds later, the car sped off down the road.

Back at the fight, Kenny saw it all and lost it. He shouted after the car at the top of his lungs, "You better stop that damn car—that's my girl!"

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Chapter 260 Josh Brings Mia Home

#Finished

Mia sat stiffly in the front seat, head bowed. Strands of her hair fell over her face, half-hiding the red slap mark still fresh on her cheek.

Her hands twisted together in her lap, fingers fidgeting, rubbing at each other until her knuckles turned white.

She kept sneaking glances at Josh, who was locked in focus behind the wheel. A few

times she opened her mouth to speak-but the words just wouldn't come.
What could I even say?
The silence in the car was deafening.
Every tick of the clock felt like forever. Her mind spun in overdrive, desperate for something-anything- to say that would make this feel less awful.
But Josh never said a word.
And the longer he stayed silent, the worse she felt. Her anxiety only grew heavier.
Eventually, the car rolled to a stop.
Josh unbuckled and stepped out calmly.
Mia forced herself to breathe, then followed behind him.
Inside, he walked straight to the couch, sat down, and folded his hands over his knees.
His gaze met hers- steady, unreadable, almost clinical.
Mia stood frozen near the door, nerves crawling under her skin.
After a long, tense pause, Josh finally let out a breath and broke the silence. "Sit down. I'll get the first aid kit."
His tone was flat. No warmth. No anger. Just... unreadable.

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Mia hesitated for a moment. She didn't sit until Josh had already left the room.
This was only her second time at his place, and just like before, it was pristine.
Everything was perfectly arranged. No dust. No clutter. Not even a stray pillow out of place.

Yeah, of course. He's gay, she thought.
Gay guys always keep things super clean.
But then another thought hit her-and suddenly she couldn't sit still.
Wait... what if he and his boyfriend have done stuff on this couch?
Just the image made her spring to her feet like the cushions were on fire.

1/3

Chapter 260 Josh Brings Mia Home

"Sit down. I'm putting medicine on that bruise."

80%

Finished

Mia gave the couch one last suspicious glance, clearly not over it-but sat anyway, stiff as a board.
Josh knelt in front of her with a small tube of ointment and gently dabbed it on her cheek with expert care.
Mia sat inches away from Josh, close enough to smell the soft, clean scent of his soap.
It was the kind of smell that stuck in your memory-subtle but addicting.
She'd always thought he was good-looking. Sharp features, classy but just a little rebellious. There was something warm in his eyes too-something that made her nervous in a way she wasn't used to.
Now, with him this close, she couldn't keep her heartbeat steady.
She cleared her throat and spoke low. "Can you... not tell my mom or Laurie about today?"
Her voice came out small, a little nervous.
Josh froze for a second.
Then his eyes met hers-steady and intense. "Did someone threaten you?"

“What?” Mia blinked, thrown off. She quickly shook her head. “No. Nothing like that.” Josh’s expression tightened. “The guy on the bike-he’s the same one who tried to drag you into that bar, right? If he’s not threatening you, why are you hanging out with someone like that?”

Mia opened her mouth-but nothing came out. She had no idea how to explain it. Josh leaned in, voice calm but serious. “If he’s got something on you, I can take care of it.”

Mia jolted, immediately shaking her head. “No. Seriously, he didn’t threaten me.”

She couldn’t afford to lose her money stream. Kenny was still her walking ATM.

Josh stared at her, clearly trying to figure out if she was telling the truth.

Mia could feel the tension climbing. Her nerves were shot.

She shifted back a little, putting some distance between them, then reached into her pocket and pulled out a bank card. She held it out to him.

“Here. Your money. I’m giving it back.”

Josh narrowed his eyes. “You don’t want the money? What then-you want me? Or you planning to go public with what I did?”

The second he said you want me, something flickered in Mia’s chest.

She tried to play it cool, but it hit her.

Josh had always been her weakness.

22

2/3

09:11 Sat, 5 Apr

Chapter 260 Josh Brings Mia Home

There were plenty of hot guys at school.

She didn’t care about any of them.

Finished

But Josh? That night at the bar, she saw him once and made a move without hesitation.

She played the game and used herself as bait just to get close.

Then she found out he liked guys.

And just like that, she had to let go.

Mia placed the card into his hand gently and said, “Don’t worry. I’m not trying to keep you. And I’m not telling anyone about what happened between us.”

She hesitated, then added, “But I’d appreciate it if you didn’t say anything either.

Especially not to my mom. And please... not to Laurie. She’s not in great shape. I don’t want her stressing over me.”

She finally looked up and met his gaze.

His eyes were sharp and clear, like stars. Strong jaw, clean features, that ridiculously handsome face. The longer they held eye contact, the harder it was for her to pretend her heart wasn’t racing.

368

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