

The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

The Heiress Revived 361

Chapter 361 That's How You Raise a Daughter

Now, looking at them? One word, tragic.

Lauren stared at the miserable sight in front of her—and couldn't help but let out a snort of laughter.

In her past life, this family had always looked so polished and perfect. It wasn't until Felix stepped in to help her take revenge that they finally started falling apart.

But now, she had personally beaten them into pig-headed messes. All the resentment in her heart suddenly melted away.

Madam Shirley pointed straight at Alice and said, "Since none of you managed to actually hurt my daughter, I'll let this slide as a small warning. But if my daughter loses so much as a strand of hair next time, I'll break your legs. Now get lost."

Alice, as the pampered wife of the Bennett family, had never been humiliated like this in her life.

She wanted so badly to scratch the face off the lunatic woman in front of her, but thinking about that woman's brute strength—she didn't have the guts to try

Alice ground her teeth. "You'd better watch your backs. I'm not letting your filthy family off the hook."

Madam Shirley rolled her eyes. "Who are you calling filthy? It's the twenty-first century, not the ancient days. God, you really are brainless."

Alice was so angry she nearly burst a blood vessel.

She dragged Elliot and Willow out of the store and stormed off.

This trip to Balewood wasn't just for fun. Her husband had plans to expand their family business into the Balewood market.

Balewood had four major families. The most powerful among them was the centuries-old Brooker family -a true noble household. Getting in with them would be nearly impossible.

But even if they couldn't make connections with the Brooker family, there were still three others: the Mavis family, the Fawkes family, and the Kwain family.

As long as they could get in with any one of those three, the Bennett family's business would officially take root in Balewood.

Her husband was already trying to network with people from those families.

If they succeeded, finding that loudmouthed mother and her daughter would be a piece of cake. Just a bunch of lowlifes—one word from the Bennett family and they'd be driven out of Balewood.

That's what happens when you cross the Bennett family.

But Madam Shirley didn't care about the tantrums of that ridiculous family. After that beatdown, she felt refreshed. Then, almost instantly, she slipped right back into her elegant, refined socialite persona.

She crouched down and gave Lauren a full inspection, gently taking her small hand in hers. When she saw the red marks, her heart just about broke.

22:01 Wed, Apr 16 **G.**

62%

Chapter 361 That's How You Raise a Daughter

"Look at this—look at your poor hand. It must've hurt so much to hit someone like that, right?"

Lauren was speechless. Dearest Mommy, *do you even hear yourself?*

I was the one doing the hitting, not getting hit.

Even though she was exasperated, Lauren still felt warm inside.

She obediently shook her head. "It didn't hurt, Mommy"

Finished

Madam Shirley started to tear up. "But Mommy's heart hurts just seeing your red little hand. Only one of your sweet kisses can make it better."

Victor immediately jumped in too. "Fighting is so exhausting! I need a kiss from my baby sister too, or I won't survive!"

Lauren was speechless again. *Here we go again....*

Still, she planted a big kiss on each of them.

Madam Shirley and Victor both looked completely satisfied.

Madam Shirley pulled out her card and handed it to the clerk.

"Pack up everything we picked and have it delivered to the Mavis estate."

The clerk's eyes lit up at the mention of the Mavis name.

The Mavis family?

It's the Mavis family?!

The Mavis family was one of the four great families of Balewood. No wonder they'd bought over a hundred outfits without batting an eye. A few million? That was pocket change to them.

Thank goodness she'd been smart enough earlier to protect this pampered young lady from the Mavis family. Otherwise, this store might've been forced to shut down.

The clerk ran to process the payment, still trembling with excitement. After the charge went through, she respectfully returned the card.

"Madam Shirley, please rest assured—we'll deliver everything to your home as soon as possible."

The dresses were bought. The day was getting late. The three of them happily headed home to start preparing for Lauren's birthday banquet the next day.

This was Lauren's very first birthday since being adopted into the Mavis family. Both Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley agreed: it had to be grand enough.

They planned to invite all of Haverdale's elite to celebrate their beloved daughter—and to officially announce her status as the eldest daughter of the Mavis family.

Meanwhile Alice returned to the hotel with Elliot and Willow

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Chapter 361 That's How You Raise a Daughter

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David took one look at them and almost didn't recognize his own family. When he finally realized who they were, he was utterly shocked.

"Hon—what happened to you?!"

Alice, shaking with rage, gritted her teeth and recounted everything that happened at the boutique.

Elliot jumped in to help. "Dad, you have to get revenge for us! You don't know how arrogant they were!"

Willow threw herself into David's arms, sobbing pitifully.

"Daddy, my face hurts... my whole body hurts... she sat on top of me and hit me! Waaaah..."

458

22:01 Wed, Apr 16 **G**

Chapter 362: The Plan Behind the Gift.

62%

Finished

"This is outrageous. They actually dared to lay a hand on someone from the Bennett family? They must have a death wish."

"But... since they could afford that many high-end children's clothes, they must be wealthy. Balewood is full of hidden dragons and cunning tigers—if we're not careful, we might end up offending someone we really can't afford to mess with. We'll have to think this through carefully."

Alice let out a cold snort. "Did you see how crude and uncultured that woman was? Even if she has money, she's nothing more than a nouveau riche. We're the Bennett family — one of Hoverdale's elite. Are we supposed to be scared of some flashy upstart? Besides, we're about to partner with the four great families. Once we have them backing us, even if that bitch has money, she'll never compare to the four families. Honey, have you met anyone from them yet?"

David frowned. "As expected of capital elites— just getting a meeting is difficult, even for someone like me from Hoverdale. But while I haven't met the core members of the four families, I *did* meet someone from the Jackson family. And from what they told me, tomorrow is the birthday banquet for the little princess of the Mavis family. We can use the opportunity to attend as guests and meet all sorts of powerful figures from the capital."

At those words, a sharp glint flashed in Alice's eyes.

"After tomorrow,

we'll settle the score with that woman and her entire trash family. With the four great families backing us, I'll ruin them. I'll see to it they go bankrupt and end up as beggars."

David nodded. "But right now, what's most important is preparing a birthday gift for the little princess of the Mavis family. What do you think we should give her?"

"How old is the kid?"

"I think she's about the same age as our Willow."

Alice's eyes turned as she thought. "Kids that age love pretty clothes and toys. The gift doesn't need to be expensive— but it has to be thoughtful. Why not give her a stuffed animal?"

"A stuffed animal?" David paused, then a sly glint appeared in his eyes.

If the little princess liked it, there was a good chance she'd keep the toy in her bedroom.

If he installed a listening device inside the stuffed animal, he might be able to overhear the Mavis family's secrets. And even if there were no secrets, he could at least learn about the little girl's likes and dislikes- making it easier to win her favor.

Once he had her trust, forming a partnership with the Mavis family would be a walk in the park.

"Great. Let's go with a stuffed animal."

“Honey, go take care of your face—and the kids’ injuries too. Tomorrow we’ll be attending the Mavis family’s little princess’s birthday.”

“Willow, remember—tomorrow, you have to find a way to make her like you. Only then can our Bennett family successfully secure a partnership with the Mavis family.”

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Chapter 362: The Plan Behind the Gift

could marry into the family. That would take the Bennett family’s business empire to new heights.

62%

Finished

And even if she couldn’t marry the Mavis heir, she could still use that connection to get close to the young heir of the Brooker, Fawkes, or Kwain families.

David believed his precious daughter was loved by all—there was no way Willow couldn’t win the heart of one of those four young heirs.

Chapter 363 The Center of Attention

Cloud Palace was the only seven–star hotel in all of Balewood

To celebrate Lauren’s birthday, the Mavis family had booked the entire place.

Today, Lauren had been personally dressed up by **Madam** Shirley. She wore a handmade, custom pink princess gown. Paired with her fair skin and naturally adorable features, she looked just like a porcelain doll.

The Mavis family of four arrived together at Cloud **Palace**.

Mr. Timely crouched down to meet Lauren at eye level and gently patted her head. “Sweetheart, there are still a lot of guests I

need to greet. I can't stay with you right not

it w:

All the guests invited by the Mavis **family** were among Balewood's elite. As the head of the household, it was his duty to welcome them.

In her previous life, Lauren had never had a birthday party of her own. But she'd seen the Bennett family throw **grand** birthday banquets for Willow, so she was quite familiar with how they worked.

She nodded obediently. "Go ahead, Daddy."

Her maturity filled Mr. Timely with both pride and a tinge of sorrow.

He **was** always stern and cold in front of others, but when it came to his sweet, soft little girl, his heart melted completely.

With a look of reluctance, he said, "Baby, aren't you even a little sad I'm leaving? I don't want to be apart from **our** lovely Lauren for even a minute."

He even made a teary **face** as he spoke.

Lauren's **mouth** twitched. Her father's **love** was a bit overwhelming.

She cupped Mr. Timely's face and, putting on her best childlike tone, comforted her tearful daddy.

"Daddy, you're **a** grown-up. You can't cry like a little kid, or you won't look **cool** anymore."

Mr. Timely sniffled.

"Then I want **a** big, big hug from my baby as comfort."

Faced with this "macho man in tears," Lauren had no choice but to **give in**.

Ever since she'd joined the Mavis family, her parents and big brother demanded **hugs** and kisses nonstop. If she weren't **so** little, she honestly believed they'd even make her do airplane lifts.

Lauren sighed inwardly, but still gave her dad a strong hug and even added a kiss as a bonus.

"Good Daddy. Now go greet the guests **outside**."

With **that kiss** and hug from his **daughter**, Mr. Timely was instantly revitalized. He handed Lauren off to Madam Shirley.

After he left. Madam Shirley pointed to the grand door in front of them and said to Lauren, "When **the** party starts, I'll **walk** you out through this door. When that moment comes, **our** precious Lauren will be the star of the whole event."

This door had once felt **like** an unbridgeable divide for the old Lauren.

She had wished countless times that the Bennett family would throw her a party like this, hold her hand, **walk** her out through that door, and proudly introduce her **as** their biological daughter.

11:59 AM

Chapter 363 The Center of Attention

the more she **was** given, the more she pitied the **girl** she used to be.

+8 Pearls

If only she hadn't stayed at the orphanage for **Lucas** in her past life... if only she'd agreed to be adopted by the Mavis family...

Then she would've **had** all this back then too. She wouldn't have been used and discarded by the Bennetts, ending up crippled and forced to drink pesticide in **a** suicide attempt.

Her own suffering was bad enough—**but** she'd dragged Mia down with her and turned her into a murderer

This time around. Mia would never witness such tragedy. She would grow up safe and sound.

Lauren silently vowed that when she grew up, if she had the chance, she would visit Marilyn and Mia and repay everything **she** owed them in her past life.

While Lauren was deep in thought, Madam Shirley **said again**, "But there's still some **time** before the banquet starts. I'll take you to the lounge to rest a bit. When the time comes, we'll come back here."

"Okay, Mommy." Lauren walked with Madam Shirley and Victor toward the lounge.

Once inside, Madam Shirley looked at Lauren with a serious expression. "Lauren, there's something I want to ask you."

Lauren tilted her head in confusion. “What is **it**?”

She was so young. What kind of thing needed her input?

“Lauren, now that you’re part of the Mavis family, and after today, everyone in Balewood’s upper circles will know you’re **our** daughter... I **want** to change your last name to **Mavis**. From now on, you’ll be Lauren **Mavis**. What do you think?”

Honestly, the Mavis family **didn’t** have to ask a five-year-old for permission about something like this.

But out of respect for their child, they truly cared about what Lauren thought.

Send Gifts

Chapter 364 A Name Worthy of Her

Madam Shirley’s face **was a** mix of hope and nervousness.

But when Lauren heard those words, she felt nothing but a deep wave of emotion.

In her past life, **what** she longed for most wasn’t just family—it was respect.

In the three years she spent back with the Bennett family, no one had ever respected her. They hit her when they wanted. yelled at her whenever they pleased, ordered her **around** like she wasn’t even human. She was treated worse **than** a dog.

Then came five **years** in prison—forget respect. She had no dignity left. She was trampled into the dirt.

But now, at just five years old, she was finally receiving the respect she had once only **dreamed** of

Most adults didn’t care what a child thought, let alone respect their opinion. But **the** Mavis family treated her with nothing but care and made her feel safe.

Lauren’s eyes welled up with tears. She threw her arms around Madam Shirley’s neck and hugged her tight.

Startled by her reaction, Madam Shirley quickly asked. “Sweetheart, why are you crying? You don’t like the name change? If you don’t want it, we won’t do it. Don’t cry.”

Lauren shook her head as tears streamed down her face.

“Mommy, I want to change my name. I want to be part of the Mavis family. I’m just **really** touched.”

Madam Shirley gently patted **Lauren’s** small back. This poor child must’ve suffered **so** much in the orphanage to be moved to tears so easily. She was far **too** pitiful. From now on, they’d make sure to love her even more.

She pulled out a handkerchief and carefully wiped Lauren’s tears.

“Don’t cry, sweetie. If your eyes get all **puffy**, you won’t be the prettiest girl at **the** party.”

Lauren **Bennett**—no, now she was Lauren Mavis.

Lauren sniffled and gave **Madam** Shirley a big, bright smile.

Relieved **to** see her smiling **again**, Madam Shirley finally relaxed.

“Are **you** thirsty? Hungry? I’ll get you something to snack on.”

Lauren had eaten a bowl of pasta earlier that morning. She wasn’t hungry, **but** she was feeling a little thirsty.

“The water.”

“Mommy, I **want** some

“Okay, be good and wait here. I’ll be right back with **some**.”

After Madam Shirley left, only **Lauren and Victor** were left in the lounge.

The two siblings got along well, enjoying a peaceful **and** warm atmosphere.

But of course, there were always people who didn’t know how to read the room—ready to barge in and ruin the **peace**.

“Ugh, I’m so tired. Why hasn’t the party started yet? I don’t want to **walk anymore**. Willow, there’s a lounge here. Let’s go in

and rest.

With the sound of chatter, the lounge door swung open.

11:59 AM c

Chapter 364 A Name Worthy of Her

remember the Mavis family inviting anyone from the Bennett **family**.

+8 Pearls

The moment Victor saw the two of them, he instantly remembered what they'd done yesterday—trying to steal his sister's dress. He jumped up from **his** seat and glared, his little face ice-cold.

"How **did** you get in here! Get out."

Elliot and Willow noticed them too.

Elliot sneered. "What are a bunch of tacky nouveau riche like you doing here? Oh, I get it. You must be trying **to** use the Mavis princess's birthday party to cozy up **to** the upper-class families from the capital, huh? **Makes** sense. People like you—if you manage to impress one of those old-money types, **even** the scraps they throw your **way** would be enough to keep you fed for life. But tough luck **running** into us today. Don't think you're getting away with it. Telling us to get out? **You** should be the ones leaving."

His words were cruel, and he clearly forgot that Victor had beaten him so badly yesterday he didn't **even** get a chance to fight. back.

He stormed over and grabbed Victor, **trying** to push him out. "Scram. **This** isn't a place for penniless trash like you. **Just** being here lowers the standard of a seven-star hotel."

As Lauren listened to Elliot's arrogant rant, her anger surged with every word.

Elliot was always like this—pointing fingers without knowing the truth.

She couldn't believe he'd been this rotten even as a kid. Clearly, the disease ran deep.

What she hated most was Elliot's twisted sense of superiority. It was bad enough that he treated her that way, but dared to lay **a** hand on her brother? He was seriously asking for it.

She raised her **hand** and slapped him across the face.

I now he

The crisp smack rang out, turning Elliot's face to the side. A red mark immediately bloomed across his pale cheek.

"Let go of my brother," Lauren said coldly, glaring at him with pure disgust.

Elliot was so stunned by the sudden slap he froze on the spot. When his eyes met Lauren's—full of hatred his chest tightened with an unfamiliar jolt of fear.

Willow rushed over, ready to jump in.

Chapter 365 Déjà Vu

"You filthy rich brat! How dare you hit my brother? I'll beat you to death!"

Willow had just lunged forward when Lauren slapped her square across the face.

Elliot finally snapped out of his daze. He let go of Victor and shoved Lauren **hard**. "You hit my sister? You've got a death

wish!"

Lauren stumbled, nearly falling, but Victor caught her in time.

"I'm warning you

you get out of here right now, or I won't be so nice next time."

Elliot had always had **an** irrational hatred for Victor. Every time Lauren called Victor "big brother so sweetly, it made his blood boil.

"I've had enough of you."

He lunged at Victor, swinging his fists,

Lauren quickly grabbed Victor's hand **and** ran for the door.

She wasn't in the mood to argue with the Bennett **siblings**—especially not today. It was her birthday. If she ended up bruised **and** bloodied, she'd only embarrass the Mavis family in front of their guests.

It was better to grab her brother **and** find their parents.

Once they did, Mom and Dad would definitely call security **and** have the Bennetts thrown out.

"Let's **not** waste time on these lunatics. Let's find Mom and Dad," Lauren **said**, tugging Victor's hand.

The two of them ran toward the elevator, **hand** in hand.

Elliot glared at their joined **hands**, as if the sight burned his **eyes**. He yanked Willow along and chased after them.

"I make sure you two get what's coming!"

Willow's eyes were full of envy **as** she stared at Lauren's elegant designer dress,

She'd never worn anything so beautiful. How could a broke little nobody wear something even fancier than her?

Once she **caught** up to Lauren, she was going to rip that dress to shreds.

Lauren and Victor reached the elevator, but just as the doors opened, a group of people stepped out.

Leading the **pack** was a girl around eight or nine, followed by several tall teenage boys.

Lauren was about to step inside when the girl pushed her right back out.

"**What's** your problem?" Lauren snapped, annoyed.

The girl gave her a slow once—**over**. When she saw Lauren and Victor holding hands, her eyes turned ice—cold.

You must be **that** adopted girl the Mavis family took in, right?"

Lauren frowned. "You **know** me!"

Seeing her admit it made the girl's face twist even more

Chapter 365 Déjà Vu

+8 Pearls

Victor stepped in, shouting. "Corinth, don't you dare! If you lay a finger on my sister, the Mavis family won't let it slide." Corinth froze for a second, then sneered.

"Everyone in Balewood knows Felix and I grew up together. I've always liked **him**, and I'm going to marry him when I grow up. Everyone else backs off—except this charity case your family adopted. She had the nerve to show up at Felix's house. I'm teaching her a lesson today whether you like it or not,"

"I'd like to see you try," Victor said, shielding Lauren behind him.

Corinth snorted. "Guys, hold him **down**. I'll deal with that little mutt myself."

At her command, the boys behind her grabbed Victor.

Victor was only ten—
no match for a group of teenage boys. He was pinned in place, unable to move.

“Lauren, take the stairs! Go find Mom and Dad!” he shouted.

Lauren bit her lip. “Hang in there, Victor!”

Without hesitation, she turned and dashed toward the stairs.

But before she could get far, Elliot and Willow caught up. The three of them joined Corinth in chasing Lauren.

Elliot grabbed her arm tightly, refusing to let go,

Cornered at the top of the staircase, Lauren twisted and struggled “Let go of me, you jerk!”

Elliot’s eyes widened, “How do you

know my

name?”

Lauren didn’t answer. She just kept fighting to get free.

Corinth raised her hand. “Trying to steal Felix? I’ll beat you until your teeth fall out.”

As her **palm** came down, Lauren slammed her fist **into** Elliot’s stomach.

He doubled over in pain, letting go.

Lauren took the chance and bolted down the stairs. Corinth’s hand missed its mark.

In a moment of panic, Willow shoved Corinth from behind right down the staircase. Thud after thud echoed through the stairwell, followed by Corinth’s piercing scream.

Lauren, standing at the bottom, **saw** everything

Her **eyes** went wide in shock.

And just like that, the scene before her dragged her straight **back** to her past life.

Send Gifts

Chapter 366 Same Scene, Different Fate.

It happened at the stairwell—again. Just like **before**, Willow shoved someone down the stairs. This time, it was Corinth, and she landed at the bottom with blood pouring from her head.

Willow stood at the top of the staircase, **panic** frozen on her face. Beside her stood Elliot.

Lauren stood below, watching it all happen with her own eyes.

She stared upward, dumbfounded. The same scene, all over again.

Willow was only five, yet already **this** cruel?

“**Willow**, are you out of your mind?” Lauren shouted up at **her**.

Willow’s face twisted in fear. “It wasn’t me! It wasn’t me—it was you! You pushed her!”

She pointed straight at Lauren, screaming at the top of her lungs.

The same accusation. The same setup. Just like in **her past** life—Willow **was** once again trying to pin the blame on her,

Only difference was, this time, it wasn’t David standing next to Willow.

It **was** Elliot

Lauren’s heart clenched. Her fists tightened as she locked eyes with Elliot.

In her last life, he had testified against her in court without even knowing the truth. All it took was Willow’s word, and he lied under oath. She’d gone to prison because of it.

But this time, he had seen it himself.

This life, she wanted to see what he would do now that he’d

Elliot stood frozen..

witnessed everything with his own eyes.

To him, Willow **had** always been **the** perfect little sister—sweet, well-behaved, adored by all.

He never imagined she'd do something like this. That she'd push someone down the stairs and then try to **pin** it on someone

else.

His gaze met Lauren's. Her eyes were **cold**, searching—and he suddenly felt a wave of guilt, like he'd wronged her somehow

before.

Which was strange. They'd only met twice.

Just then, Willow clutched Elliot's arm and pleaded with him, full of desperation. "Elliot, help me! I'm **scared**! I didn't mean

"Help you? What am I supposed to do?"

"There's only the three of **us** here. If you say it was her who pushed **Corinth**, everyone will

Elliot's body tensed. He thought he'd **misheard**

believe you."

He looked at Willow—his sweet, innocent little sister—and suddenly, she seemed **like** a stranger.

A flicker of unease crept into his heart. But she was still his sister. The pride of the Bennett family

Chapter 366 Same Scene. Different Fate

+8 Pearls

Silence.

The stairwell fell utterly quiet.

As soon as he said it, Elliot felt like the air had been sucked out of him. He lowered his head, ashamed, unable to meet Lauren's eyes—afraid of seeing the hatred he knew would be there.

But what he didn't know was she wasn't angry

And she definitely wasn't surprised.

She'd already come to understand in her past life that Elliot would always take Willow's side. That to the Bennett family, she **was** nothing.

She'd seen through all of that long ago. So what was there to be disappointed about now!

Instead, her lips curved into a mocking smile.

Same scene. Same betrayal.

But she wasn't **the** same girl.

Back then, she'd cried, screamed, desperately denied the accusation—"It wasn't me! It was Willow!"—but no one had listened.

Now, she didn't need to fight back. Didn't need to defend herself..

Because she had faith the Mavis family would stand by her.

She wasn't that pitiful, unwanted girl anymore.

Now, she was Lauren Mavis.

She stared at Elliot and Willow, then suddenly laughed.

The sound cut sharply through the **silence**.

"You two really are something," she said. "Rotten to the core. And dumb as hell."

She raised a hand and pointed upward. "See **that** camera? It caught everything. And you still think you can frame me?"

Both of them instinctively looked up—and sure enough, a surveillance camera was fixed right above **them**.

Their faces drained of color.

Lauren sneered.

In her last life, she'd gone to prison partly because Alice had deleted the surveillance footage. Without evidence, she'd been helpless—left to be slandered by the Bennetts.

But this time was different.

This time, she had a family **that** loved her. She had video proof.

Cloud Palace was the only seven–star hotel in Balewood. Its **owner had** to be extremely powerful. She didn't believe the Bennetts had the ability to erase surveillance footage from a place like this

This time, she was holding the cards.

"My mom, my dad, and my brother love me dearly, Lauren said coldly. "What do you think they'll do when they find out

Chapter 367 No Mercy for the Merciless

+8 Pearls

Willow looked anxious, but her mouth **was** still defiant. "Your family's just a bunch of flashy upstarts. We Bennetts aren't afraid of you.

Lauren's smile turned colder, her voice sharper. "I'm guessing you don't even know my last name yet. It's Mavis—as **in** the **Mavis** family, one of the four major families of Balewood."

Elliot and Willow froze, staring at her in disbelief.

Lauren didn't care to waste another word on them. She needed to find her mom—if her mother came back with water and didn't see her, she'd be worried sick.

Just as she turned to leave, the sound of approaching footsteps echoed in the stairwell.

The steps grew louder, then stopped right beside her.

Lauren turned and met the gaze of Felix—his dark eyes sharp and clear as stars. He reached for her hand and held it gently.

She felt a little awkward. "Felix... did you hear everything we just said?"

Felix nodded softly. "Letting the two of them off like this is too easy. They tried to frame you. They should pay for that."

With that, he took her hand and calmly led her back up **the** stairs.

Elliot and Willow both looked up at him, their legs **shaking** under his cold, expressionless stare,

Felix was only ten, but the pressure he exuded was suffocating—his gaze held the chill of someone capable of anything.

Hand in hand with Lauren, he climbed the steps until they stood face to face with Elliot and Willow. Then he spoke.

“I’m ten. Not yet of legal age for criminal responsibility.”

Elliot’s pupils shrank. “What what do you mean by **that**?”

Felix suddenly smiled—but the smile never reached his eyes.

Without warning, he **grabbed** Elliot and, before he **could** react, shoved him down the stairs.

Elliot tumbled, landing **hard** beside the unconscious Corinth, his body twitching from the impact.

Then, Felix turned to Willow and kicked her down with a single sharp blow.

Spoiled and pampered her whole life, Willow let out **a** string of blood—curdling screams as she crashed down the steps, head bleeding, before finally **blackin g out**.

Felix looked down at them with **calm** detachment. “I’m underage. So are you. We’re all beneath the threshold of criminal liability. **That means** the law can’t touch us. But **since** the law can’t handle you... I will. This is payback for Lauren”

He said it so **easily**—so lightly—but every word was **ice** cold.

Lauren stared at Felix, wide-eyed.

She wasn’t afraid. She didn’t find it cruel. In fact, she genuinely admired his courage to fight back.

If I had been brave like him in my *last* life, the Bennetts wouldn’t have been able to destroy me

Without thinking, she threw her arms around him and hugged him tightly

Chapter 367 No Mercy for the Merciless

Right then the sound of footsteps echoed once again in the stairwell

Lauren let go and looked down.

And there stood Alice

+8 Pearls

Her eyes narrowed Hill on that just perfect Just like her last life— Willow had shoved someone down the stairs, and Alice arrived right after, just moments behind her.

Back then, Alice **knew** full well that **Lauren had been** standing **at** the bottoms, making it impossible for her to have pushed Elaine And still she chose to protect Willow and deleted the surveillance footage.

Let's see how she reacts this time when she finds both her precious son and treasured foster daughter lying bloodied at the bottom of the

Lauren watched her curious.

But the expression **on Alice's face wasn't** what she expected. There **was** no heartbreak for Willow, no panic for Elliot.

Instead, as Alice looked at the two unconscious children—Willow and Corinth—and Elliot writhing in pain on the **floor**, her face twisted in agony

Images flashed violently through her mind.

"Mom, you knew it was Willow who pushed Elaine. Why did you protect her? You're my mother! But to shield Willow, you deleted the surveillance that could've proven my innocence. Why were you so cruel to me? Officer, it wasn't me! You've got the wrong person! It was Willow! You think giving birth to me lets you control me? Fine. You gave me life—I'll repay **you**. Birth without love deserves nothing. One tinger for your so-called gift of life. You ruined me. You all ruined me! I don't care about being innocent anymore—

I just want you to die. Alice, your beloved **husband** gave your kidney to his mistress. That darling foster daughter you love! She's the mistress's **child**. This is your karma. It's **finally** here."

The scene in the stairwell mirrored the one from her past life exactly. And in that moment—Alice remembered everything.

Chapter 368 Too Little, Too Late

+8 Pearls

The painful memories kept crashing through her mind like waves, one after another. Her head felt like it was splitting open. Her chest burned as if stabbed straight through the heart.

Her own daughter—carried for ten months and born **in** agony—was thrown into an orphanage by David, that monster. And in her **place**, he gave her Willow, **that** illegitimate child, to raise.

Her kidney had been cut out and given to **Sharon**.

Her real daughter's kidney had been cut **out and** given to Willow.

When she finally **learned the truth** and tried to confront **David**, he blinded her **in** one eye.

The flood of memories crushed her, body trembling with spasms.

Lauren watched her coldly, brows furrowing

Alice **was** falling apart from grief just from seeing Elliot and Willow covered in blood.

But in her past life, Lauren **had** been the one covered in bruises and wounds—
Alice had eaten well, slept soundly, and showed not a flicker of emotion.

Of course. She never loved me. Not even enough to fake it

Lauren cast her a cold, emotionless glance.

When Alice met Lauren's eyes, she felt something pierce right through her chest—
those eyes held zero warmth, no hint of hope or longing for a mother.

She reached out with shaking hands, eyes filled with heartbreak and guilt.

*I was wrong. I know I was wrong, Lauren... give me one more chance. Please. This time, I'll give you **everything**. All my love. **You** are my true daughter—the real heiress of the Bennett family*

"Lauren_

Her **voice** was so faint that Lauren didn't even catch what she said.

But it didn't matter. **Whatever** she was saying couldn't be anything good anyway.

Probably the same tired words—calling her ungrateful, evil, heartless.

She'd heard them all before. She was sick of it.

"Come on, Felix. We should **go**. If Mom doesn't see me soon, she'll be worried."

"**Okay.**"

Felix took her hand, and the two walked away side by side.

Alice tried to stand and follow, **panic** in her eyes, but her body refused to cooperate. She was too devastated to move, **and** could only watch them go, sobbing in helpless regret.

They hadn't gone far when Lauren saw Madam Shirley **and** Victor running toward them.

Madam Shirley scooped Lauren into her arms and held her tight

"Sweetheart, you scared me to death! Let me see—are you hurt anywhere?"

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Chapter 368 Too Little, Too Late

Finished

"They dared to lay a hand on my baby? Sounds like the Jackson family wants to disappear from Balewood"

Victor spoke up angrily. "Mom, it's not just them. Those siblings we saw at the kids clothing store yesterday—they somehow got into **Cloud** Palace. They barged into the lounge and tried to hit Lauren **and** me."

Instantly. Madam Shirley transformed into a full-on battle-ready mama bear.

"Where are they

Lauren pointed toward the stairwell.

"They're over there. Just now, they even tried to frame me for pushing Corinth down the stairs"

A glint of icy fury flickered in **Madam** Shirley's eyes.

She picked Lauren up and strode to the staircase. From the top step, she looked down—and locked eyes with Alice.

Alice's gaze froze when she saw Lauren cradled lovingly in Madam Shirley's arms. The mother-daughter bond obvious.

She completely forgot about the pain in her chest. She scrambled to her feet **and** shouted, pointing. "Put down my daughter!"

Madam Shirley blinked, startled, her eyes turning even colder.

"What did you just say?"

Alice stared at Lauren, her voice trembling The child in your arms—that's my daughter. That's Lauren!"

"Lauren. I'm your mother. Come to **me**"

Lauren narrowed her eyes

Something's wrong with Alice

By now, Alice shouldn't recognize her. Just yesterday at the kids clothing store, she didn't recognize her at all—and even helped Willow bully her.

So what changed!

Could it be. Alice also remembered everything from our past let

The thought made Lauren scoff silently,

After everything Alice had done to her before, she was supposed to forgive her just because she got a second chance!

Keep dreaming

She already had a better mom now. One who truly loved her. She didn't **need** Alice's so-called motherly love.

Lauren tightened her arms around Madam Shirley's neck.

"Mommy, that lady looks really **scary**. I'm scared"

Madam Shirley parted her gently "Don't be scared I'm here"

The word "Lady" hit Alice like a slap to the face. Her head throbbed so hard it felt like it **might** explode.

She wasn't just some lady

She was Lauren's mother she had carried her for ten long months

Chapter 369 Too Late for Redemption

+B Pearls

She had a new mother now. And based on everything that happened yesterday, it was clear—this new mother gave her more than enough love. Lauren would never lack a mother's love **again**.

As for her biological mother—Alice—she was no longer needed.

Lit.

Alice couldn't accept it

She hadn't atoned for anything yet. She hadn't begun to repay the debt she owed Lauren from their past life.

Why had Lauren already given up on her?

Alice reached toward her, sobbing, "I'm your real mother. Lauren, sweetheart, come to me.

Lauren sneered inwardly. Now you remember you're my birth mother?

Too late

She looked up from Madam Shirley's arms and asked, with innocent eyes and a voice filled with feigned confusion, "If you're really my mom, then why did you abandon me at an orphanage when I was born? Was it because you hated me?"

One sentence. And it hit Alice like a thousand knives.

"No, no! Lauren, **please** let me explain!"

But Madam Shirley spoke first, her tone ice-cold. "There's nothing to explain. Any mother who abandons her own child in an orphanage doesn't deserve to be called a mother. And judging by how arrogant and selfish your other children turned out, it's clear you failed as a parent. All of you crashed my daughter's birthday party and nearly ruined what the Mavis family worked so hard to prepare for her. We'll settle that score after the party is over."

With that, she turned and walked away with Lauren still safely in her arms.

Alice watched their backs retreating, her screams desperate and guttural. “Give me back my daughter!”

No one

turned around. No one listened.

She tried **to** chase after them, but her body shook so violently **she** couldn’t move. Her legs simply wouldn’t work.

Tears streamed down her face. It felt like her soul was being torn in half.

“Lauren it’s my fault. In my last life, I was blind, I was stupid. I coddled Willow and ruined you. I caused your disability. But now that I’ve been given a second chance. I swear, I’ll protect you. I’ll never let anyone hurt you again. I know I was wrong, I

it more than you could imagine. If **only** I had remembered sooner—none of that would’ve happened at the clothing

More”

Just the thought of how she’d protected Willow back then—how she’d nearly hit a five-year-old Lauren over nothing—made her want to claw her own face off

Her eyes slowly turned toward Willow, still lying on the floor, unconscious.

It was all this little brat’s fault.

In their past life, Willow had known all along **that** she **wasn’t** David’s daughter. She was **Sharon** and George’s child. And yet. she had led—deceiving the entire Bennett family.

And for what! For a stranger’s child, they had destroyed their own blood.

Now that she was back in this life, there was no way she’d let Willow off easy.

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Chapter 369 Too Late for Redemption

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+8 Pearls:

At five years old, children's hands are soft and tender. Under the pressure of a high heel, Willow's flesh and bone began to distort.

The pain woke Willow instantly.

She opened her eyes just in time to see a foot crushing her hand. She looked up and met Alice's eyes—burning with **hatred**. **as** if she wanted to rip her apart.

Willow sobbed uncontrollably, snot and tears streaming down her **face**.

"Mommy! It hurts! Please, get your foot off me!"

She had no idea why the mother who'd always adored her—treated her like a precious gem—was suddenly stepping on her and **glaring** at her like she was trash.

She couldn't **make** sense of it. But the pain in her hand drowned out everything else.

Alice didn't lift her foot

In fact, she pressed down even harder.

Crack

The bones in Willow's hand shattered

"Ahhhh!" Willow shrieked, then passed out from the pain.

Just then, Elliot regained consciousness.

He blinked in confusion, only to see Willow lying there, bleeding—her hand twisted unnaturally beneath their mother's shoe.

His eyes widened in disbelief.

He rushed over and tried to **push** Alice's leg away. "Mom! What **are you** doing?! Let go! You're hurting her!"

Alice looked down at her son, and her heart clenched painfully.

In their past life, it hadn't just been her who had hurt Lauren—Elliot had played a part too. A big **one**.

She hated herself. She hated Elliot. And she hated David even more.

When she saw Elliot defending Willow, just like he had so **many times** before, a spark of rage shot through her.

She kicked him hard.

Elliot flew backward and landed with a thud, gasping **as** the air was **knocked** from his lungs.

It took him several long seconds just to catch his breath

Send Gifts

Chapter 370 The Real Sister

“What’s wrong with you, Mom?”

Alice couldn’t **stop** crying. “Elliot, did you know? Willow... she’s actually your dad’s illegitimate daughter.”

Of course. Alice knew Willow wasn’t David’s biological child. She knew the truth.

But what did that matter?

She wasn’t about to tell the truth now. **All** she wanted was for her son to turn against Willow.

Starting today, **that** little brat wouldn’t get a single peaceful day.

Everything Lauren had suffered in her past life, Willow would suffer too—down to the last drop!

She wanted to watch David, Sharon, and George squirm as they saw Willow broken and mistreated.

Elliot’s eyes widened. “Mom, what are you talking about?!”

+8 Pearls

“I’m not making it up. Willow is your dad’s child with Sharon—the director of Hoverdale Skyline Medical Center. And do you know what happened to your real little sister?”

Elliot blinked. “Didn’t she get kidnapped?”

Alice shook her head. “No. Your father took her. He abandoned her at an orphanage and brought

his bastard daughter home instead. He let me raise that girl while treating you **and** me like fools.”

Auto–Unlock Enabled. To disable it, go to “Profile” – “Settings”.

The ten–year–old stood froze, MACROMBIE KAYHDEKÅNERGORI

“How could this be.”

He’d met Director Sharon before.

And

d now th

that he thought about it...

Willow reall

really did look like her.

“Mom... **what** about my real sister?”

“She’s been adopted. The family who adopted her is none other than the Mavis family of Balewood. That birthday party we were crashing? It was for your real sister.”

“Really?!” Elliot’s face lit up. “Mom, let’s go! I can’t wait to see her!”

But Alice **looked** stricken with guilt. It showed all over her face.

“Elliot... **you’ve** already met her.”

“What? When?”

“She was the little girl at **the** kids’ clothing store.”

“**H**–her?”

Elliot **stood** there stunned. Scenes from the store–and the earlier incident at the hotel–flashed through his mind.

He **wasn’t** stupid. He’d always known Willow was in the wrong. But she was family, and he’d chosen to protect her regardless,

Now, learning that Willow was actually someone else’s child and that the girl they had bullied was his **biological** sister...

Shame and disgust churned in **his gut**.

Chapter 370 The Real Sister

“You dared to cause trouble at the Mavis family’s little princess’s birthday? You’ve messed with the wrong people.”

Alice, Elliot, Willow, and Corinth were all escorted out.

And with those pests gone, Lauren’s birthday party went on without a hitch.

Meanwhile, the footage of Willow pushing Corinth down the stairs had already been turned over to the police.

Willow, being five, wouldn’t face legal charges.

But Alice and David would.

+8 Pearls

The Mavis family was one of Balewood’s most powerful clans. The Jackson family wasn’t on the same level, but still leagues above the Bennetts

With both families pressuring the authorities, Alice and David were promptly thrown into holding cells.

As for the surveillance footage of Felix pushing Elliot and Willow down the stairs? Already deleted.

Lauren’s birthday party was grand and extravagant. In front of all Balewood’s elite, Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley formally introduced her.

From **that** day on, everyone in Balewood’s upper circle knew Lauren was the Mavis family’s cherished daughter. Every glance sent her way **was** warm and respectful.

In her past life, back in Hoverdale, Lauren had never once been treated kindly by the rich and powerful.

But this time, everything was different.

She wasn’t **just** someone the elites knew about—she was someone they admired.

Backed by the entire Mavis family, with Felix, Flynn, Jim, and other loyal friends at her side, she had nothing to fear.

Even Jim’s little sister, Rayne, stuck to her like glue.

Rayne fluttered around her like a butterfly the **entire** night, gushing nonstop.

“Wow! No wonder my brother keeps talking about you. You’re exactly like he said—super cute! You’re like.. like a little steamed bun! All round and soft!”

Lauren: Thanks, I guess.”

Rayne threw her arms around Lauren’s neck.

“Once school starts, don’t worry. I’ve got your back. No one’s gonna mess with you

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