

# The Heiress Revived from the Ashes

## The Heiress Revived 371

Chapter 371 The Devil in a Suit

Lauren **was** speechless. Okay, you do realize I'm starting college soon and you're still in elementary school, right? I don't care if you're older than me physically. Technically, I outrank you—you should be calling me senior." I really don't think I need you to have my back."

She grinned so widely her teeth showed, playing it off like **the** innocent little angel everyone thought she was,

But her body was still too small, and the party wasn't even over before her **eyelids** started to droop from exhaustion.

She didn't even know how she ended up back at the Mavis family estate.

While she slept soundly, things outside were already turning upside down.

David **and** Alice had both been officially placed in holding. Meanwhile, the Bennett Corporation in Hoverdale took a major hit—Balewood's four powerful families united against them.

By the time the **pair** were released half a month later, the company had gone bankrupt. Nearly twenty years earlier than in the previous timeline.

And it wasn't just the **Bennett** family that collapsed—the Jackson family was also dragged down, thanks to Corinth.

Mr. Timely **and Madam** Shirley had learned about **Corinth's** little plan to "teach Lauren a lesson."

The fact that she dared to try something like that on Lauren's birthday, in the middle of a grand celebration, only showed that the Jacksons had no respect for the Mavis **family**.

In that **case**, there was no need for the Jackson family to keep existing.

In her last life, Corinth had obsessed over Felix well into his twenties. To keep other women away from him, she even spread lies—saying Felix was impotent, twisted, and emotionally unstable. She smeared his name constantly.

Felix didn't care about the rumors. But he was sick of her clinging to him.

That's why he eventually bankrupted the Jackson family **and** shipped Corinth off **to** another country.

**This** time **around**, the Jacksons went bankrupt more **than** a **decade** ahead of schedule .

As for Casey—she didn't fare any better.

She was the one who'd provoked Corinth into going after Lauren in the first place.

The night the party ended, Felix walked into his father's **bedroom** holding a knife.

Kyle saw the blade and immediately paled, "What are you doing with that?!"

**He** knew all **too** well how ruthless his son could be. He wished he could lock Felix away in the old family estate and never see him again.

**But** Felix refused to **leave** the villa. And over the years, he'd trained both Kyle and Casey into submission. Neither dared to even breathe loudly around him.

Felix's eyes were dark, **his** face unreadable.

He turned the **knife** in his **hand**. "Casey told Corinth to hurt Lauren. So now I'm going to cut out her tongue. Sounds fair, doesn't it?"

Over the years, Kyle had grown used to obeying Felix. At this point, he was practically brainwashed.

Faced with that cold, bottomless stare, he found himself unable to speak—he even nodded without **thinking**.

12:00 PM

Chapter 371 The Devil in a Suit

Kyle picked it up with shaking hands. When he looked at Casey, he hesitated. But defying Felix wasn't an option.

"Don't! You can't do this to me!" Casey cried out, horrified.

Kyle looked like he was going to cry, "I don't **want** to, honey. But I have to listen to Felix."

If he didn't, Felix would chop off something a lot worse. It had happened before.

+8 Pearls

The night Kyle brought Casey home—right after his first wife’s death—Felix had pushed her down the stairs, killing their unborn child.

And that same night, while Kyle was asleep, Felix had... severed something.

It had been surgically reattached, but he was never the same. He lost his manhood, literally and figuratively.

Felix had done that at five years old.

Now he was t

ten. And crueler than ever.

“You’ll still be **alive** without a tongue,” Kyle said, trembling. “But if **you** say no again... you’ll lose a whole lot more.”

Casey shook her head frantically. “Call the cops! Let’s call the police right now! We’re adults—why should we be afraid of a ten-year-old? He doesn’t even have the knife anymore. We can overpower him easily. Once we do, we’ll have him committed to a psychiatric ward. Lock him up for life.”

Kyle wavered.

Then Felix chuckled.

“Knew you wouldn’t behave.”

He reached into his pocket and pulled out a lighter.

“Oh, I forgot to mention—I turned on the gas earlier. The whole house is full of it. If I flick this... what do you think will happen?”

Kyle and Casey’s eyes widened in horror.

“You’re insane!” Casey screamed.

Kyle nearly pissed himself. “Don’t! Felix, don’t do anything rash! I’ll do it. I’ll cut her tongue. I’ll do it right now!”

**A** gas explosion **would** level the entire villa. No one would survive.

Kyle couldn’t believe this monster was his son.

Sometimes he wondered if Felix even belonged to the human **race**.

## **Send Gifts**

### Chapter 372 A Monster's Game

To save his own skin. Kyle pinned Casey to the ground.

"Honey, don't blame me—  
blame yourself for being so stubborn. Why did you have to mess with that Jackson girl and tell her to target Lauren Connth bullied Lauren, and of course **the** Mavis family is going to retaliate. The Jacksons are probably on the verge of bankruptcy, and now you have to pay the price for what you did."

"No—no, don't!" Casey struggled desperately.

But she was no match for Kyle's strength. She was pinned, helpless, as Kyle severed her tongue.

She let out a blood-curdling scream. Blood gushed across the floor.

Felix watched, satisfied.

"Kyle, you're still the same cowardly fool. You really believed me when I said I turned on the gas? **Do** you honestly **think** I'd risk dying with you two when I care so much about Lauren?"

Kyle looked at him, horror-stricken "W—What are you talking **about**?"

"I mean" Felix said calmly, "I never turned on the gas. But now **that** you've cut Casey's tongue out, you've committed a crime. Congratulations, dear Father—you're going to prison."

Felix's smile didn't reach his eyes. It was more terrifying than a demon's

Kyle was so stunned his eyes nearly popped out of his skull.

He'd always known Felix was dangerous—but he'd never realized just how deeply calculating he really was.

With just a few words, Felix had tricked him into committing a felony.

Kyle glared at him with hatred. "You little bastard! **You won't** die a good death!"

Felix's voice was as cold as ever. "If I'm a bastard, then what does that make you? **You** should start worrying about yourself."

“You—you-” Kyle choked on rage, nearly blacking out

“I should we strangled you the moment you were born,” he **spat** through clenched teeth.

But Felix didn’t flinch at his hysteria. Kyle was nothing more than a dying man **flailing** in **his final** moments.

That night, the Brooker household was thrown into chaos.

Kyle was arrested for aggravated assault, and Casey was rushed to the hospital.

Tela, meanwhile, lay in bed, looking out at the dark sky, a content smile on his **face**.

He couldn’t wait for morning. That was when he’d get to see **Lauren** again

Half a month passed

A lot happened in those two weeks

First, Kyle was sentenced to five years in prison for intentional injury

As for Cary, losing her son dealt a crushing blow to her psyche

12.00 PM c

Chapter 372 A Monster’s Game

Felix used that as an excuse to have her committed to a psychiatric hospital.

Her breakdown made it easy for everyone to believe she’d lost her **mind** from the **trauma** of losing her son

No **one** suspected that a ten-year-old boy had orchestrated the **entire** thing.

**Meanwhile**, the Mavis household was buzzing with excitement.

Lauren’s college acceptance letter had arrived.

Not only was she the top scorer in the province—  
she’d been accepted into the **National** Defense University.

Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley held the letter with trembling hands, tears of joy in their eyes.

“Our Lauren she’s really the top scorer in the province?”

“She got into the National Defense University?”

My sister is incredible.”

The three of them looked at Lauren like she was the rarest treasure on Earth.

**What** they didn’t expect was the storm of reporters that descended on the Mavis estate **shortly** after the news. After another, they arrived with cameras, microphones, and lights flashing like fireworks.

Microphones were practically shoved into Lauren’s mouth.

Being top scorer was impressive—but there were top scorers every year.

What made this different was that Lauren was only five years old

Five.

She was the youngest top scorer in Corwynale’s history.

+8 Pearls

broke. One

The reporters looked at her like she was the second coming of Einstein. They could already imagine the headlines

A child prodigy like Lauren would inevitably become a cornerstone of the nation’s future.

Everyone was desperate to get the first exclusive. The estate was so packed it felt like the threshold might collapse under all the footsteps.

By the time the reporters finally left, Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley were both parched and exhausted.

But when they looked at Lauren, the love in their eyes only deepened.

Chapter 373 She Already Has a Family

+8 Pearls

**For** a moment, everyone in the room silently thanked the Bennett family of Hoverdale for being blind enough to abandon **such** a gifted daughter in an orphanage.

A blessed child has no place in a cursed home.

Madam Shirley cradled **Lauren** gently in her arms, softly stroking her little head.

Same species, different brains. Her Lauren was just that smart.

Comparisons really were the thief of joy.

“Lauren,” Madam Shirley said warmly, “how about I throw you a big party to celebrate your acceptance?”

Lauren sat there looking **as** sweet and obedient as ever.

So I finally get **a** celebration of my ot

my own

In her past life, she and Willow had both gotten into college.

Willow had gotten into an average second-tier **school**, while she had been accepted into the prestigious Northcrest University - the top in **all** of Corwynale.

But the Bennett **family** only threw a party for Willow,

And it was at that very party, in front of all **the** guests, that Lauren **was** led away in hand cuffs.

From that moment on, their paths had diverged completely.

Willow became the beloved daughter of the Bennett family, the darling of Hoverdale's elite social scene.

And Lauren became a murderer in the eyes of the law.

But in this life, everything **had** changed.

She had **a** father, a mother, and a brother who loved her.

She had friends who didn't look down on her.

And now, she would finally have her own celebration.

What haunted her most in her previous life **wasn't** being framed—it was that after finally earning her way into college, she never got to attend.

She'd spent those years behind bars.

But not **this** time.

This time, she was really going to experience what it meant to be a college student.

The emotion overwhelmed her. Tears started to fall before she even realized it.

Madam Shirley panicked "Sweetheart, why are you crying

Lauren hugged her mother tightly around the neck. "Thank you, Mommy. Thank you for bringing me home. If it weren't for you. I'd never have had a party like this"

Madam Shirley's heart melted even further,

12:00 PM c

Chapter 373 She Already Has a Family

and threw his arms around them as well.

The four of them huddled close, warmth and love filling the air.

But of course, Sottirone just had to ruin the moment.

've matter to make you home"

sweat aize from just outside the villa

"You can't go in there. a housekeeper protested.

"Move! My daughter in inside?"

After wine sipping and shouting **Alice** shoved her way in.

What she saw was Lauren snuggled in the arms of the entire Mavis family.

Alice's pupils dilated. Her beam clenched painfully. The sight was like a **blade** to the chest.

Lauren was her daughter- but she was in someone else's arms, being loved like she never had been before.

Alice couldn't make sense of it

+8 Pearl



Back in her past life, when they'd picked Lauren up from the orphanage, she had still been living in that miserable place

So why was she here now, in Balewood

Then her eyes flickered with sudden realization

It must have been the same last time.

Lauren must've also been adopted by the Mom family in that life—only to be abandoned again, which was how she ended up back in the orphanage.

If she was destined to be abandoned, then Alice could take her back now.

She knew the full truth **now**

This time, she would never hurt Lauren again.

She would pour every ounce of love into her, spoil her till she was a princess

And as for Willow! She would make that little brat pay for every wound she inflicted on Lauren.

Alice, now utterly convinced she was **in** the right, puffed up with confidence. She looked down at the Mavis family with disdain

"You have your own child. Why are you trying **to** steal mine"

"Yours?" Madam Shirley laughed coldly. "**You** let your biological daughter rot in an orphanage. You couldn't protect her, and

you've got the nerve to claim her now?"

Alice clenched her fists toward her birth mother. No matter what you say you can use the blood tie between us

and I revulsion only deepened.

All this talk about making amends—did Alice really think she could forget that agonizing of her past life? The betrayal: The past hatred she had carried all those years

## Chapter 374 Alice's Collapse

"Lauren, you **have** to believe me—

I love you. I carried you for nine months and gave birth to you. How could I possibly abandon you at an orphanage? It was your father, that bastard—he was the one who did it. I didn't know anything! Now that I've finally found you, **please** come back with me, **alright**? Don't you love dresses? I'll buy you as many as you want, anything

**you** want."

Lauren laughed **silently**.

She didn't love dresses. She loved receiving things from the Mavis family. Even if they gave her a leaf or a stone, if it came from them, she'd treasure it.

As for Alice, she could pluck the moon from the sky and hand it to her, and Lauren still wouldn't care.

Lauren burrowed deeper into Madam Shirley's arms.

"Mommy, I'm so tired."

**Madam** Shirley gently patted her back, her eyes full of affection.

"Then sleep, sweetheart. We had so many reporters here today—you must be exhausted."

With **that**, she scooped Lauren up in her arms and headed upstairs.

Alice lunged **forward**, trying to snatch Lauren back.

"Where are you taking my daughter? Give her back to me!"

Mr. Timely stepped in immediately and blocked her. "You're not welcome here. Leave."

"Leave? Why should I leave? If you **want a** daughter so badly, have your own! Why do you have to steal mine? You people are shameless!"

Mr. Timely frowned. He had no patience for this lunatic.

"Throw her out."

At his **word**, two black—

suited bodyguards stepped forward, grabbed Alice, and dragged her out the front door.

No matter how loudly she screamed or how hard she pounded, no one came to open it **again**.

As the sky darkened, Alice finally gave up. Her voice hoarse and her body aching, she turned and trudged away from the

Mavis estate.

She returned to the cramped little apartment they'd been **renting**.

**Just as** she **reached** the door, she heard shouting from inside.

"Elliot! What the hell were you thinking? **This is how** you look after your sister? While your mother **and** I were in detention, **you** brought her to live in this dump? You're a boy—fine, let suffering toughen you up. But your sister? She was raised in luxury! She can't live like this! You did this on purpose, didn't you? Just like your mother. Both of you are a **damn** headache!"

Alice's temple twitched.

**So** this is how David treated their son behind her back?

If he could treat Elliot like this, how badly must he have treated Lauren when no one was looking?

With a loud **crash**, the apartment door was kicked open.

12:00 PM

Chapter 374 Alice's Collapse

+8 Pearls

She didn't say a word.

She grabbed the broom by the wall and started beating him with it, over and over, not holding back at all.

David ducked and scrambled like a rat.

"You crazy woman! Stop it!"

**But** Alice was beyond reason. She kept swinging, harder and harder. **It** didn't take long before David's face **was** black and blue.

Willow cowered in the corner, too terrified to move.

She wasn't dumb. She could tell—something in her mom had changed.

Ever since **that** Mavis girl's birthday party, her mother looked at her like she was trash.

Elliot just stood there and watched his father get beaten. He didn't say a word.

When Alice **finally** wore herself out, she threw the broom aside and screamed. "David, who the hell do you think you are yelling **at** my son!!"

**David** gritted his teeth. "I yelled because I care! And this is **how** you repay me? You lose your mind over something this small? Alice, what happened to you? You're acting like a **crazy** person!"

Alice let out a wild, bitter laugh. Tears streamed down her face.

"You say Willow was raised soft and can't take hardship. But my son can? My daughter—the one you abandoned at birth—is supposed to suffer? Is **that** it?"

David froze.

She kn

That wasn't possible. How!

"You're talking nonsense. I don't know what you mean.

Alice slapped him **across** the face.

-You murdered my father. You threw our newborn daughter into an orphanage. Then you brought this little brat back here. this bastard child from **your** affair with that woman, and **made** me raise her. You're a monster. David. You're disgusting

Chapter 375 Bargaining with Blood

David stared **at** Alice like he was looking at a ghost.

She knew?

"What's wrong? Got nothing to say now?" Alice's face was streaked with tears, every word laced with hatred

The truth was out—there was no point pretending anymore. David let out a sharp, cold laugh.

“So what if I did it? Your father forced me to marry into your family. That old bastard always looked down on me—he deserved to die. And once he was out of the picture, what could a clueless idiot like you do to stop me?”

His voice turned smug. “What I didn’t expect was you finding out so soon. So tell me—how’d you figure it out?”

“You bastard! I’ll kill you!” Alice lost control, rage rushing through her like a flood. She grabbed the broom beside the door and swung it wildly at David.

He barely managed to **protect** himself, grabbing Willow and running for the door.

Alice chased him a few steps before collapsing, breathless. The broom clattered to the floor.

She slowly dropped to the ground, curling into a ball, sobbing into her knees.

“Lauren my baby... when will you come back to me? I miss you so much. I just want a chance to make things right.”

The image of all those reporters outside the Mavis estate flashed through her mind. This life, Lauren seemed even more brilliant than before.

In her past life, Lauren had also been the top student in the province—but she was already eighteen at the time.

Now, at just five years old, she was already a college student, being interviewed by a swarm of reporters..

This brilliant little girl should have been mine.

Was that what fate intended? To give her a second chance, only to make her lose everything **again**?

Elliot stood silently at the door, watching his mother cry her heart out. He felt a pain in his chest like he was being stabbed with a thousand needles.

Back in the room, Alice lay flat on the bed, utterly drained.

No. She wasn’t going to let the Mavis family take Lauren from her.

Sure, they treated Lauren like royalty **now**—but hadn’t they also abandoned her in the past?

Lauren had suffered enough in her last life. This time, her birth mother would never let her go through that again.

Yes. She'd get Lauren back. She was still little—  
Alice just had to win her over slowly. With time, Lauren would understand. And if Lauren had truly become the province's top student, then the Mavis family was bound to throw her a massive graduation party.

That was it

At the party, in front of all those people, she'd stand up and tell everyone the truth—that she w

was Lauren's real mother.

The **Mavis** family could try to resist, but under the weight of public **opinion**, they'd have no choice but **to** give Lauren back.

Ⓐ

## Chapter 375 Bargaining with Blood

Three days before the term began, the Mavis family hosted Lauren graduation banquet.

This time it wasn't at Cloud Palace. They held it at their own estate

The party was buzzing—guests clustered in groups, chatting and laughing

When Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley brought Lauren out, she was mellominely silent.

All eyes turned toward her.

The expressions were warm, **curious**, admiring.

Five years old and accepted into National Defense University—  
her fine was beyond bright.

+8 Peart

Many of the guests were business elites who already had ties with the Mavis **family**.. for  
her weghy Lauren, they were more Carer than ever to maintain that connection.

W: Timely stepped forward, **smiling**. **Today** we're gathered to celebrate

before he could finish, chaos broke out at the entrance.

"You people! You stole my daughter and bankrupted the Bennett family! Don you have any shame!!

Bad harped **into** the hall, screaming.

Secure was right beind him, swarming **in** to drag him out.

Ban Dought **bag** with wild strength, resisting every attempt to restrain him.

He sundiced eves with Lauren, and his gaze turned greedy

He unually started laughing.

Chitienuine... Mis little bree—four years old, and already the province's top student?

Shemale is me Sarah I'd known surmas a genius. Td never have dumped her in that orp hanage

Think of it up men at me already in National Defense University. She's worth a fortune.

Every news audie hudher fuce plastered across the headlines. **She** was practically mor e famous than a pop st

Lauren wasjus, sydhlid anymore. She was a walking goldmine

The Bennett family men have collapsed—  
but if he could ger Lauren back, they **could** rise again Fast.

All he had to do was raise him

Send Gifts

Chapter 376 Performance and Revelation

++8 Pearls

Once they'd squeezed every bit of value out of her, if Willow's kidneys failed **again**, they could just harvest this little wretch's kidneys and give them to Willow.

Willow had kidney disease. What if she had the same problem again when she grew up ?

The best plan was to keep Lauren close, raise her under their watchful eye. That way, they'd always have Willow—and a backup kidney source for her too.

With these vile intentions, David stepped into the banquet hall.

He didn't care that today was Lauren's graduation celebration. He'd always been selfish and self-serving.

David shook off the security guards and looked at Lauren with eyes brimming with tears, like he was a loving father reunited with his long-lost daughter.

you

Through sobs, he **said**. "Lauren, my sweet daughter, I finally found you! Do you have any idea how much it hurt when we were taken by traffickers right after you were born? Your mother was devastated—she couldn't eat or sleep. To calm her down, I adopted Willow, and only then did her condition start to stabilize. **But** I never stopped looking for you. For five years, I've been searching nonstop, and now, finally, I've found you. Daddy's so happy."

As he **spoke**, David edged closer to Lauren.

"Lauren, let me give you a hug, okay?"

David was a skilled performer. His tear-streaked face and sniffing act fooled plenty of people in the room.

All most guests knew was that Lauren had been adopted by the Mavis family from the H overdale orphanage. They'd assumed her **birth** parents had abandoned her because they'd wanted a boy,

No one had expected this.

"So Miss Lauren **wasn't** abandoned—she was kidnapped by traffickers?"

"Poor thing to suffer so much right after being born."

"I think her birth parents are the ones who really suffered. **They** waited ten months for their daughter, only for her to be stolen by those monsters. Any parent would be heartbroken."

"If you ask me, the **Mavis** family should give the child back."

"I agree. They've only had her for about a month. There's not that much emotional attachment yet—better to return her quickly."

David's performance had completely swayed the crowd. Most people were now on his side.



Some even took out their phones to record.

Seeing **this**, **David** was secretly delighted.

Ha! So what if the **Mavis family** had power and influence? They couldn't withstand public pressure.

As long as these clueless idiots believed him, the Mavis family wouldn't be able to keep Lauren.

**David was** willing to go all out if it meant reviving **the** Bennett family.

He turned to Mr. Timely **and Madam** Shirley and suddenly dropped to his **knees**.

1. v. I'm begging you—  
please return my daughter to me. She means everything to me. **Maybe** you

"Mr. Timely, Madam Shirley.

12.01

Chapter 376 Performance and Revelation

→ +8 Pearls

**David's words** were smoother than a stage actor's monologue. With his skills, he could win an award if he ever starred in a

movie.

The people around him were fooled—but not Lauren, who knew just how ruthless he was. She simply stared at him, cold and unmoved.

Mr. Timely and **Madam** Shirley watched with **amused** smiles.

Mr. Timely chuckled and said. "You say Lauren was kidnapped by traffickers?"

David nodded enthusiastically. "Yes"

After all, no one **had** seen him take the baby, so he had nothing **to** fear.

"And you're saying you love your daughter dearly!"

"Of course! Lauren is my flesh and blood—how could I not love her?"

Mr. Timely's smile deepened.

He raised a hand and suddenly snapped his fingers.

"Then let's all take a look at how much this David here loves his daughter."

As his words fell, the large screen suddenly lit up..

The video showed a VIP hospital room.

On the bed **lay** Alice, unconscious and weak after giving birth.

Next to her was a bassinet, where tiny Lauren lay sleeping peacefully.

Then, David appeared—creeping toward the baby with a cold smile on his lips and **not a** trace of affection in his eyes.

He quietly picked Lauren up and left the room while Alice remained completely unaware .

David's pupils dilated the moment he saw the footage.

Send Gifts

Chapter 377 The Real Mother

"**Fake!** Turn it off—turn it off now!"

David lunged for the remote, but the security guards pinned him to the ground.

The **next** second, the screen changed. This time, it showed the entrance to an orphanage.

In the pitch—  
black night, David abandoned newborn Lauren at the orphanage's doorstep.

Looking down at the tiny infant, he sneered viciously. "If you weren't still useful to me, I'd have fed you to the dogs. When you grow up, if your **kidneys** match Willow's, I'll cut them out and give them to her."

With 1

that venomous declaration, David scoffed, got into his car, and **drove** away.

It's over, he thought. I'm completely done for.

The crowd that had watched the footage no longer looked at him with sympathy. Now, all they felt was disgust and fury.

“So everything he said earlier was a lie. He just wanted to use public opinion to pressure the Mavis family,”

“He tried to **use** us like pawns? Unbelievable.”

“I’ve never seen **anyone** this cruel. He doesn’t deserve to be a father.”

**As the** guests began to turn on David, Alice appeared.

Without a word, she marched up to David and slapped him twice across the face.

“You’re not even human, David! I’ll kill you!”

She clawed at his face with her sharp nails, and in moments, his cheeks were covered in scratches.

“You’ve lost your mind, Alice! Get off me!”

“You disgusting, shameless pig. What right do you have to claim Lauren? She’s my daughter—mine! You’re nothing but a **scumbag**

“Don’t forget, she’s my blood too!”

“David, I’m divorcing **you**.”

“Heh, even if you divorce me, don’t **think you** can take my daughter away.”

The two of them went completely feral, fighting right there at the party. Wine glasses shattered. Cakes went flying.

Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley watched the **chaos** with veins bulging on their foreheads.

This was Lauren’s graduation banquet—an event they **had** put their hearts into. **And** it had been completely ruined.

Last time, they had nearly wrecked her birthday. This time, they didn’t just crash the event—they smashed everything in sight

Throw them out,” Mr. Timely snapped.

A squad of bodyguards in black appeared, quickly subduing David and Alice and dragging them out.

Alice struggled wildly. "Let me go! I came for my daughter! **You Mavis** bastards—Lauren was stolen by that monster David! I've always loved her! I'm her mother! You have no right to stop me from claiming **her!**"

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## Chapter 377 The Real Mother

The couple turned to Lauren.

"Lauren do you want to go home with your biological mother?"

Alice stared at her with hopeful eyes.

+8 Pearls

"Lauren, believe me, I love you just as much as your adoptive mother—maybe even more. Come home with me. I promise I'll give you all my love."

Lauren glanced at Alice, then looked back at Mr. and Mrs. **Mavis**.

"Dad, Mom, there's something I want to say to them. Is that okay?"

Madam Shirley gently patted her head.

"Say whatever you need to say."

No matter how much it hurt, they knew—

Alice was Lauren's birth mother. If Lauren chose to leave with her, they would have to respect that.

Lauren walked toward Alice, step by step. Mr. Timely frowned. Madam Shirley's eyes welled up with tears.

Alice was trembling with excitement, **at** a loss for words.

"Lauren, you've come around, haven't you? You're coming home with me? I knew it—**my** sweet daughter would never abandon me."

Lauren looked up at her and said coldly, "**Kneel.**"

Alice blinked "Kneel?"

Lauren nodded. "Yes. Kneel. I **have** something to say to you."

Alice noticed something strange in Lauren's expression—she didn't seem like she wanted to go home with her at all.

Still, she slowly knelt, hopeful. "Lauren, what do you want to say to Mommy?"

Lauren leaned in closer.

Seeing her daughter so near, Alice's heart nearly burst with joy. She even cast a smug look toward Mr. Timely **and** Madam Shirley.

See? This is what a mother–daughter bond looks like.

Even after five years apart, Lauren **was** still her little girl, just like **in** their past life. Still longing for her love,

Send Gifts

Chapter 378 Only One Mother

Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley felt a pang in their hearts.

They truly loved Lauren and had treated her like their own daughter from the very beginning.

But now that her birth mother had shown up. Lauren had taken the initiative to go to her.

Is it because we haven't spent enough time together? Is that why she doesn't feel as close to us yet?

The couple stood by anxiously, terrified that Lauren might choose to leave them behind.

Alice beamed. "Lauren, sweetheart, what did you want to say to me?"

Lauren leaned in close, her lips brushing against Alice's ear, **and** whispered **so** that only the two of them could hear.

"Alice, did you really think you were the only one who came back?"

Alice's body went rigid. She turned to look at Lauren, utterly stunned.

When she met the cold mockery in Lauren's eyes, her pupils widened in disbelief.

"You... you..."

Lauren sneered. "That's right. I was reborn too. And I came back earlier than you did—right when **you** gave birth to me. Don't think that just **because** you returned to the past, everything will magically change. Alice, the truth is, the you in this life and the you from before are no different at all.

"In the children's store, before your memories returned, you **still** defended Willow and treated me the same way you did in the last life. Nothing's **changed**, You're selfish, arrogant, fake, dumb, and cruel. Why should I ever forgive someone like you? Alice, whether in our **past** life or this one, I **will** never forgive you. If you truly feel guilty, then stay far away from me. Don't ever show your face again.

"**You've** seen it for yourself—

my parents **love** me very much. In the Mavis family, I **have** a mom, a dad, and a big brother who care about me. I'm no **longer** the Lauren who **was** helpless and bullied by the Bennett family. I'm the little princess of the **Mavis** family—Lauren.

"Oh, and I'm sure you're dying to know how I ended up being adopted by the Mavis family, right? I don't mind telling you. They wanted to adopt me in the last life, too. But I turned them down and stayed for that scumbag Lucas. Looking back, I was such an idiot—for the sake of someone unworthy, I missed **out** on a family that truly loved me. If I'd accepted their adoption back then, maybe I wouldn't have been abused and disabled by you and the rest of the Bennett family."

Lauren's words struck like steel needles, piercing deep into Alice's heart.

Why?

Why is this happening?

It was already cruel enough that fate had let her relive her life—but Lauren had come **back** too?

Lauren would never forgive her.

No. No, she can't. That's not how it's supposed to be

She hadn't returned to **grow** even further apart from her daughter.

She knew she'd been wrong. She **had** paid for it in their past life.

She had already repaid her debt to Lauren

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1201 PM

## Chapter 378 Only One Mother

Tears and not covered Alice's face as she sobbed so wretchedly that even the onlookers were moved.

□

+8 Pearls

he is Ms. Lauren's birth mother. And it was that bastard David who abandoned her—Alice had nothing to do with

Yeah. Only a mother can truly understand what it means to lose a child. I think they should let her take her daughter **back**."

"Exactly. It's only night"

Whispers began to spread through the crowd again

Madam Shirley stood frozen, her mind blank. She stared at Lauren with eyes full of sorrow and heartache.

She wanted to snatch Lauren back immediately. But that woman—no matter how poorly she had raised her—was still Lauren's birth mother. And her love didn't seem fake

Am I really going to lose my daughter today?

I really to lose my

The thought made her nose sting, and her eyes turned red with tears.

"Lauren come to me." she said softly, her voice trembling with hope and fear. She sounded like she was begging

Victor glared at Alice furiously: "You're a terrible person! You tried to hit my sister at the kids store! Lauren, don't go with.

her!

Lauren shoved Alice hard. Caught off guard. Alice fell straight to the floor

Lauren stared down at her coldly and whispered:

"In our last life. you already drained every bit of hope I had in you. In this life. I refuse to be your daughter again. I only have one mother—and that's Madam Shirley."

Send Gifts

Chapter 379 No Forgiveness, No Redemption.

After Lauren finished speaking, she turned around without a moment's hesitation.

"No-  
!" Alice screamed, grabbing hold of her. "You're my **daughter**! I carried you for ten months—you can't treat me like  
this!

Lauren looked back, her eyes brimming with scorn.

Alice met **that** mocking gaze and instantly lowered her **head** in shame.

She had no right to say Lauren couldn't **treat** her this **way**. After all, in their previous life, she had shown Lauren no mercy as her mother.

She had poured all her love into that wretched Willow, while Lauren hadn't even been treated **as** well as the servants in the Bennett **family**.

"Let go" Lauren's voice was cold.

Still, Alice clung to her, clinging to her last bit of desperation. "I won't."

That's when Victor charged over and bit down hard on Alice's hand—the one gripping Lauren.

Alice yelped in pain and instinctively let go.

Victor grabbed Lauren's hand and pulled her back toward Mr. Timely and Madam Shirley.

Mr. Timely scooped Lauren up in one arm and wrapped his other around the tearful Madam Shirley. His voice was icy as he ordered, "Get those two lunatics out of here."

**At** once, the bodyguards stepped forward and dragged David and Alice out.

**Alice** kept screaming the whole way, but no one paid her any attention.

The banquet hall fell into **a** dead silence.

Mr. Timely's sharp gaze **swept** across the **room**, lingering especially long on those **who** had whispered support for Alice earlier those who had swayed **with** the wind **and** sided



with whoever seemed the weakest at the time. His **look was** so cold it seemed to freeze them in place.

Feeling the pressure of Mr. Timely's unyielding aura, the **guilty** ones lowered their heads, filled with dread, silently praying that he'd be magnanimous enough to let it go.

They hadn't meant any **harm**. They'd just been moved by sympathy for a mother.

But even if they hadn't meant harm, they had spoken rashly without understanding the full situation. As adults, they should've had better judgment. That kind of gullibility—falling for **Alice's** words so easily—made them unfit to work with the **Mavis** family.

Collaborating **with** such people would only drag the Mavis family down

Mr. **Timely's** expression didn't change, but his next words hit like a hammer, to leave.”

“**Anyone** who felt sympathy for that woman—feel free to

The stunned guests lifted their heads, eyes wide in disbelief.

Just because of a few comments, he's **kicking** an out?

This was a public slap in the

p in the face. 1

Was he really cutting ties with them?

12.01 PM

Chapter 379 No Forgiveness. No Redemption

But with those fools people gone, the atmosphere finally quieted, and the celebration resumed.

Though the chaos caused by Alice and David had interrupted things, everything proceeded smoothly afterward.

As for Alice and David—

After being thrown out they kept banging on the Mavis family's villa gates.

But no one came out. No one even acknowledged them.

Alice turned toward David eyes filled with hatred so intense it was practically tangible.

David, catching her murderous glare, stumbled back in fear.

“Baby, listen, I can explain-

“Explain? You abandoned my daughter at an orphanage! What explanation could possibly justify **that**?”

-5 Pearls

“Oh. I get it now. This was all about bringing your bastard child into our home. You let me raise your illegitimate daughter like a fool while you sat back and wanted. You must’ve felt real smug, huh? David, this is all your fault. Everything- everything—is because of you”

Alice flew at him like a madwoman her sharp nails clawing at his head and face. Blood streamed down David’s cheeks.. making him look utterly pitiful.

“You crazy b\*tch! Get off me!”

“Crazy b\*tch? Hahaha, yeah. I’m a crazy brich I’ve been crazy for a long time!”

She’d gone mad the moment she lost Lauren in their past life

Alice’s strength in that moment was terrifying—even David couldn’t fight her off,

She pinned him down and pummeled him, again and

With every blow, her mind flashed back to Lauren suffering the last life.

She’d refused to give her own daughter a single penny-

and Willow’s allowance to a million.

When Willow pushed Elaine down the stairs, turning her into a vegetable had personally deleted the security footage to protect her.

When Willow repeatedly provoked Lauren, their entire family had responded with beatings **and** scoldings, until Lauren had been so desperate that she’d cut off one of her own fingers just to break ties with them

**Send Gifts**

Chapter 380 The Only One to Protect

+8 Pearls

Willow had drugged Lauren in an attempt to destroy her purity, When Lauren fought back, Alice had smashed her over the head with an **ashtray**, splitting her scalp open—and left her bleeding, alone on the cold floor to die.

Those shameful memories tormented Alice to the brink of madness.

And yet she didn't want to die just yet.

Lauren had been reborn. In this life, she had a family that cherished her, and powerful friends who stood by her. **Alice** believed Lauren would live a life far more radiant than before.

If Lauren didn't want to go home with her, then Alice would quietly bless her from afar.

As for David and Willow—those two wretched beings—Alice had no intention of letting them live in peace.

Lauren, you must be happy

Even if you never forgive me again, even if you never call me “Mom,” I will protect you for the rest of my life. I'll live on

Alice's eyes brimmed with a wild **and** deadly determination.

She picked up a stone from the ground—and **without** hesitation, smashed it directly into David's eye.

“Ah—!”

David's shriek tore through the night as blood gushed from his ruined eye.

Alice stood tall above him, watching coldly **as he** writhed in agony.

life, David had stabbed her in the eye.

In their past li

only for you.

Because they were married, her injuries had been dismissed as a domestic squabble. No justice. No consequences.

Fine. In this life, she'd follow his example. If she blinded David, so what? No one would stop her now.

She raised her foot and stomped hard on his head, grinding her heel in mercilessly.

“Tsk, tsk. David, you really do **look** like a dog right now. No, that’s wrong. Byen a **dog** k  
nows to wag its **tail** at me. You’re nothing but an ungrateful mongrel.”

David felt like his skull **was** about to shatter under her heel.

He had never seen Alice like this before.

as terrified.

And now **that** he had he was

Overwhelmed, he passed out cold.

But Alice had no intention of letting him die **so** easily. The pain he had inflicted in their last life—death alone wouldn’t be enough to repay it—

She dragged him away like a sack of meat.

When they reached the apartment—

She heard voices coming **from inside**.

**Take** your time, Willow. These are all for you.”

12:01 PM c

Chapter 380 The Only One to Protect

like before.”

“Hmph I won’t forgive her that easily

The front door flew open, kicked in by Althea

Elliot and Willow jumped in fright

Elliot flinched when he saw Alice—  
but reminded himself that she had raised Willow for years, and even if she was a man’s daughter, Mom had cared for her all the same

He didn’t believe his mother could truly be this bearless. Surely she wouldn’t just cut Willow off forever.

And besides, Willow was so sweet and adorable—she liked her too.

Elliot forced a smile. “Mom, you’re back”

Alice locked eyes with him.

She’d thought that once Elliot learned the truth he would stop associating with Willow altogether.

But she had barely been gone a moment and here he wanting Willow into their home, letting her eat all the treats she’d bought for Lauren.

Alice stepped toward him, one step at a time.

The weight of her fury **made** Elliot tremble.

“M—Mom, what’s wrong?”

Without warning, Alice slapped him hand across the face

The blow knocked Elliot to the ground.

A red swollen handprint bloomed on his cheek, putting up quickly

“You know she’s a bastard child, and you’re still good to her- When have you ever cared half as much about your own sister?”

Elliot had never seen his mother like this. He was still just a boy—  
and faced with her madness, he could only cry silently, too scared to speak

Then Alice turned to Willow.

Wow was already shaking like a leaf. “Mom.”

“Shut up. I’m not your mom. A little bastard like you doesn’t deserve to call me that

“You love eating, don’t you? You love stealing Lauren’s food, don’t you? Eine. I’ll let you eat to your heart’s content today”

She grabbed Willow by the collar and yanked her up, then shoved all the remaining pastries into her mouth, one after