

# **The Unwanted Daughter: When Love Comes Too Late**

## **#Left Behind 141 - Read The Unwanted Daughter: When Love Comes Too Late Left Behind 141**

Chapter 141 He Shows Up

Chapter 141 He Shows Up

s

Many times before, the Jackmans would've caught that Tracy was being framed if they had bothered to check the security footage for even a few minutes.

But they didn't do anything.

Instead, they kept blaming her for being vain and malicious, pushing her to admit she was wrong and say

sorry.

No matter how much proof she gave, they just called it lying and making excuses.

Maybe in their eyes, even the way she breathed was wrong.

As Tracy expected, Andrew got even more furious after hearing her. "Still making excuses, huh?"

"Erin is kind. If you'd just said sorry and owned up, she wouldn't be mad. But you don't seem sorry at all. I'm truly disappointed in you!"

Maybe because she expected nothing. Tracy wasn't even a little bit let down by what Andrew said.

She knew that was how things would go, so she didn't bother arguing when the Jackmans accused her.

But Ronald had told her more than once, "Tracy, the Jackmans are out of their minds. Don't waste time trying to explain. You'll only lose out."

"If someone hits you, hit back. If you're wronged, call the cops. You have nothing to lose-don't just let them push you around. Make them pay!"

Before, Tracy had treated the Jackmans like family, so their misunderstandings made her sad, angry, and powerless.

But they weren't her family anymore.

It wasn't worth getting upset or hurt over people like that.

So, Tracy pulled out her phone, preparing to make a call. "If Mr. Andrew is sure it was me, I'll let the police look into it."

Everyone was shocked.

People of their status would never call the cops over something so small. It'd be embarrassing and could ruin their company's image.

No one expected Tracy to do that. For a moment, nobody knew what to say.

Winona, who had been quietly watching the drama, was the first to respond.

"This is just a minor issue. No need to involve the police over something like this!"

She rushed forward to grab Tracy's phone.

Tracy had just been slapped by Andrew, so she was on guard.

2:29 pm BBG

Chapter 141 He Shows Up

As Winona came at her, Tracy quickly stepped aside.

s

Winona missed the phone and froze for a moment. Panic flashed in her eyes when she met Tracy's gaze.

At that moment, Tracy knew exactly who was behind all that. But when did Winona get so bold?

Without hesitation, Tracy called and explained everything to the police.

Everyone was stunned by her move, standing there speechless.

Then, a loud noise suddenly came from behind the hotel.

Fireworks exploded, catching everyone's attention. People turned instinctively toward the lawn.

With everyone's attention drawn away, Winona was the most thrilled. She quickly ran over, took a look, and shouted excitedly, "It's fireworks! They're so beautiful!"

She grabbed Erin's hand and said loudly, sounding envious, "Erin, this must be a birthday surprise just for you! I'm so jealous."

"I think I also saw drones. This has to be a special show for you. Let's go see it!"

Erin hadn't expected that and smiled. Acting shy but not refusing, she followed Winona.

With Winona and Erin leading, everyone's attention shifted to the fireworks and drones outside, forgetting all about the accusations against Tracy.

Only Tracy stayed standing, feeling trapped and uncomfortable. She even thought about leaving right then.

Just as she was about to, she heard a voice behind her. "CeeCee, aren't you gonna check it out?"

This voice...

Tracy turned around and saw Ronald standing there with a warm smile.

She was shocked. "Why are you here?"

He tilted his head. "I knew today was your birthday, so I came to celebrate with you."

He knew about the Jackmans' favoritism and foolishness and showed up on purpose. He just didn't expect his timing to be off.

Tracy was surprised.

Ronald had said before he wanted to spend her birthday with her, but she'd stopped caring about birthdays a long time ago and had been too busy to think about it.

But he remembered that and even found her here.

Tracy asked, "When did you get here?"

Ronald's eyes flickered.

2:29 pm BGG

Chapter 141 He Shows Up

He saw the swelling on her face. Something dark and dangerous flashed in his eyes.

He had just arrived in time to see Andrew hit her.

s

At that moment, a storm of rage boiled inside Ronald, like he wanted to destroy everything in front of him.

Especially Andrew!

Ronald blinked, forcing himself to calm the anger rising inside.

Happy Birthday

s

Instead of answering Tracy's question, he took her hand first. "These fireworks are amazing. Come with me to watch them."

He guided her to the big windows just in time to see fireworks bursting over the lawn.

The purple fireworks changed into all kinds of shapes, so beautiful that it almost made one forget everything else.

After the fireworks, the drones lit up too.

They shifted from flowers to a cake, then lined up to spell out, "Happy Birthday!"

Behind the words was a cartoon of a little girl in a hoodie, smiling sweetly.

Tracy stared blankly, almost forgetting how long it had been since she'd seen anything so grand and lovely

Ronald's voice pulled her back. "Happy Birthday, CeeCee."

She turned in surprise, meeting his clear eyes.

At that moment, she felt like she was the only one he saw-just her, reflected in his eyes.

Ronald smiled, proud and sweet like a kid waiting for praise. "Do you like your gift, CeeCee?"

Snapping back to reality, Tracy asked in surprise, "You prepared all this?"

He raised an eyebrow and nodded.

Instantly, a warm feeling spread through her chest, and even the hand he was holding felt like it was on fire.

She thought she'd gotten used to not celebrating her birthday, but now she realized she hadn't.

Getting used to it didn't mean she didn't want it.

She'd just forced herself to stop hoping after being let down by the Jackmans too many times.

Deep down, she still wished someone would remember her birthday. Even if there were no gifts, just a simple "Happy Birthday" would be enough.

For the first time since leaving the Angelic Etiquette Academy, Tracy smiled relaxedly and comfortably,

"Thank you"

Those two words held all her true feelings.

But Ronald wanted more than a thank you.

"I should be the one thanking you. Thanks for saving me from the kidnappers and for sticking by me

afterward."

2:30 pm BGB

Chapter 142 Happy Birthday

He knew what it was like to be abandoned and was scared of it.

So, even though Tracy's warmth was casual, he clung to it.

As long as she held on, he wouldn't let go.

Tracy didn't fully get what he meant, but she felt his grip tighten slightly.

s

She was about to say something when Ronald smiled softly. "If you truly want to thank me, just keep smiling like you are now."

His words warmed her heart.

They stood quietly behind the crowd, talking softly, unnoticed except by Winona.

Winona had already diverted everyone's attention, but Tracy still hadn't left.

If Tracy left now, she'd take the blame for ruining the gifts.

Winona gritted her teeth and called out loudly, holding Erin's arm, "This has to be from Mr. Liam! Erin, you're so lucky to have a brother like that!"

Everyone looked at Liam, who looked confused and nervous under the spotlight.

Before he could say anything, Erin smiled happily at him. "Thanks, Liam. I always knew you cared about me the most."

When Liam looked into Erin's happy, excited eyes, he suddenly couldn't get the words out.

The gift he prepared for Erin was inside the room. Those fireworks weren't his doing.

But Erin was so thrilled and sure it was from him that he didn't want to ruin her mood by denying it.

Liam glanced around. Since nobody else claimed credit, he hesitated for a moment, then said, "It's just

ome fireworks. As long as you're happy, that's what matters."

Out of everyone there, he seemed like the only one who'd do something like that for Erin.

He figured someone accidentally set off the fireworks nearby, and he'd find that person later to pay them

off.

With that thought, Liam felt completely at ease.

Even as people around him praised him for being thoughtful and envied Erin's good life, he felt even prouder.

He acted like he was truly the one behind the fireworks and drone show.

Suddenly, a sharp, mocking laugh cut through the compliments.

"I've been alive for more than 20 years, and I've never seen someone this shameless."

Ronald raised his voice on purpose, breaking the happy and lively mood.

2:30 pm BBB

Chapter 142 Happy Birthday

When the Jackmans saw who it was, their faces immediately darkened.

Everyone clearly recognized him as the gigolo Tracy kept around.

s

Liam was the first to rush over. "How did you get in here? We never let you in! Security! Kick this guy out!"

From what Liam could recall, things never went well whenever he ran into Ronald. He didn't want to ruin his good mood today.

Seeing Ronald holding Tracy's hand, he felt angrier. "Tracy, you-"

373

2:30 pm

What Proof Do You Have?

s

Ronald stepped forward, standing in front of Tracy like a shield. "Today is CeeCee's birthday. I'm here to celebrate with her. Why shouldn't I be here?"

"Good thing I showed up, or else I wouldn't have known that you claimed the fireworks and drone show I planned for CeeCee.

"Mr. Liam, you truly have no shame. Your face is thick enough to build a wall."

Ronald's nonstop sarcasm made Liam's face change colors-from pale to flushed-like a wild painting.

He never expected Ronald to be behind the fireworks and that he'd get exposed in front of everyone.

And today was indeed Tracy's birthday.

Liam glanced at Tracy, but she was either watching the drone show outside or looking at Ronald. She didn't even glance his way.

A sharp sting of hurt hit him. "Tracy, you're just going to stand there and let him insult me?"

She used to hate seeing him get hurt, so he couldn't understand why she'd watch him suffer like that.

Liam's eyes were full of blame and disappointment, as if she'd done something unforgivable.

Finally, Tracy looked at him but stayed cold. "He's just telling the truth. How is that insulting to you?"

"Did you plan the fireworks and drone show? Or were you taking credit for stuff you didn't do?"

Her words were another humiliation to Liam, who cared a lot about his pride, making him even angrier.

At Liam's embarrassing moment, Ronald snickered openly. "The Jackmans seem to have a knack for being brainless.

"You accused CeeCee without proof and even hit her. Now you're claiming credit for things that aren't yours. After being caught, you don't even apologize. You just act all high and mighty and blame CeeCee for not helping you.

Is this how the Jackmans behave?"

Andrew and Liam had dealt with Ronald's sharp tongue before, but this time it hit harder. Their faces twisted with anger.

Most guests here were big names in Cloudville. Being humiliated like that wasn't just embarrassing-it stained the whole Jackmans' reputation.

Ronald's fierce words left the Jackmans dumbfounded.

What upset them the most wasn't just the insults, but being called out in front of many guests.

Andrew, the well-groomed heir of the Jackmans, was the fastest to react.

"What proof do you have that you actually prepared those fireworks and drones?"

2:30 pm BGB

Chapter 143 What Proof Do You Have?



S

His eyes, behind his gold-rimmed glasses, stared darkly at Ronald. "You're just some gigolo living off Tracy. Do you have any idea how much it costs to pull off something like this?"

Being labeled a gigolo in front of a crowd would infuriate any man, making him vehemently deny it and scramble to clear his name.

That was Andrew's plan.

He just wanted to distract everyone from Liam so he could play down the situation and keep the Jackmans out of trouble.

As for Tracy's reputation?

If it weren't for her, none of that would have happened. She messed up Erin's birthday party, so she deserved some kind of punishment.

Once everything calmed down, if she just admitted her mistake and apologized, the guests probably wouldn't say much for the Jackmans' sake.

Andrew felt sure of his move because he didn't believe a gigolo living off Tracy could pull off those surprises.

Too bad Ronald didn't buy into Andrew's cheap tricks at all.

"If I didn't do it, then was it you?" Ronald shot back. "Didn't you notice 'CeeCee' written on that cartoon hoodie? If you think someone else did it, then step up!"

He laughed sarcastically. "Come on, whoever wants credit, show me your receipts, security footage, or any proof, and I'll believe you."

He scanned the crowd. People glanced at each other, but no one stepped forward.

Ronald laughed even more wildly.

He didn't say anything, but the look he gave Andrew felt like a slap in the face.

Andrew's face went stiff, his eyes burning with anger, but he couldn't find any words.

Everyone else stayed quiet as well.

After all, they were just guests, and that was just some juicy gossip. No one wanted to get involved in the Jackmans' drama.

In such silence, the first person who couldn't keep silent was Benjamin.

As the chairman of Jackman Enterprise, he'd held power in Cloudville for years, but he'd never felt that

humiliated before.

His stare at Tracy was cold, like she was his enemy.

"Tracy, take your gigolo and get out of here! I don't have a shameless daughter like you!"

2:31 pm BBB

Chapter 144 It Feels Off

Chapter 144 It Feels Off

s

Benjamin was furious, like Tracy had done something so terrible that even the gods wouldn't forgive her.

But Tracy knew he was just copying Andrew's earlier move, trying to distract everyone.

Maybe because she'd just received a surprise gift. She didn't want to waste any more time with those irrelevant people and gently pulled Ronald's hand. "Let's go."

Every time she faced the Jackmans, she felt drained and powerless.

She was exhausted and just wanted to avoid them altogether.

But Ronald held her back. "We'll leave, but not yet."

His eyes landed on her swollen cheek. Though he smiled, his gaze was cold.

"I've already dealt with the person who stole my credit, but I haven't even started to pay back those who wronged you and laid a hand on you."

People who knew Ronald understood he never let any insult go unpunished, especially since Andrew had hit Tracy more than once.

And this time, Ronald had seen it himself.

Watching Ronald keep pushing, Andrew's bottled-up anger suddenly flared up once more.

“Since when do you get to interfere with the Jackmans’ business?” he snapped at Tracy. “How long are you going to keep dragging this guy into it?!”

At first, Tracy didn’t want to get too involved with the Jackmans.

She knew no matter how much proof she had, once Erin was involved, the Jackmans wouldn’t listen.

But seeing Ronald stand so firmly beside her, she suddenly changed her mind.

It wasn’t her fault. Why should she take all the blame? Why swallow the bitterness while the Jackmans lived comfortably?

Looking straight at Andrew, she finally stopped caring about upsetting him. “I just want to clear my name. How is that causing trouble?”

“You made us provide proof because you doubted the fireworks and drone show were ours. If you think I messed up those gifts, why don’t you show some proof?”

If you can accuse me without evidence, why can’t I do the same?”

Her eyes shifted toward Winona, who stood nearby looking panicked.

When their gazes met, Winona’s heart skipped a beat, and she tightened her grip on Erin’s hand.

The plan was supposed to be foolproof. How did it go so wrong?

2:31 pm BGB

Chapter 144 It Feels Off

Erin felt Winona’s grip on her arm and inwardly cursed how useless she was.

But on the surface, she appeared understanding. “Dad, Andrew, Tracy, let’s not get upset.

“It’s my birthday today. With so many guests here, can’t we just let this go for my sake?”

Benjamin snorted coldly but seemed a little less angry after hearing her.

s

Andrew followed Erin’s lead and said, “We’re only letting this slide because of you. Otherwise, people might think we’re pushovers.”

Erin smiled sweetly and gently swung his arm. "I knew you were the best."

Then, she turned to Tracy with a bright smile. "CeeCee..."

Ronald cut in sharply, "CeeCee? Who said you could call her that? Let it go for your sake? Do you think you matter that much?"

Even though Erin was trying to keep the peace, he wasn't holding back. "Where do you get off saying we should just drop it? If I randomly accused you and slapped you in front of everyone, would you just let it go?"

He rolled up his sleeves like he was ready to rush up and slap her if Erin nodded.

Erin's expression darkened. She didn't expect Ronald to show her zero respect.

Did he even realize how serious it was to offend the Jackmans in Cloudville?

Under the angry stares from the Jackmans, Ronald stayed calm and collected.

He fixed Andrew with a fierce look. "You keep saying CeeCee ruined those gifts, but did you check the security cameras?"

"In a hotel like this, every room door is covered by cameras. Did you see who actually went into that room:

"CeeCee said she's been in the camera's view since she came in. Did you verify that before you accused her?"

"If you didn't check yourself, couldn't you just order someone to check the footage? Would that be so hard

"You did nothing except blame her without proof. Have you lost it?"

Ronald's logical words hit the Jackmans hard.

Indeed, they had their doubts about Tracy, but they never bothered to confirm anything.

They hadn't even thought it through.

The Jackmans were respected in Cloudville because they usually didn't mess up like that. And yet, that was exactly what happened.

It felt off

Ronald's words were also a wake-up call for Tracy.

2:31 pm BBB

Chapter 145 Are You Kidding Me?

Chapter 145 Are You Kidding Me?

s

Suddenly, Tracy remembered how, ever since her 18th birthday, the Jackmans had kept blaming her without any proof.

At first, she tried to defend herself, then she just got quiet out of disappointment. Eventually, when it kept happening, she stopped even trying to explain.

It was like she'd gotten used to their brainwashing and manipulation.

But she hadn't done anything wrong. Why should she have to prove herself just because they suspected her?

Why should she take the blame when she showed all the evidence and they still refused to believe her?

The doubts were all in their heads, and they were the ones refusing to trust her side. If they wanted to accuse her, they should be the ones proving it.

At that moment, Tracy felt like she'd broken free from some chains, gaining a clear sense of what was real deep inside her.

Meanwhile, Erin's face turned pale.

She looked around at the other guests, who were casting sideways glances at the Jackmans with some disgust.

The Jackmans just stared blankly at Tracy, guilt flashing on their faces.

Erin suddenly panicked, like something she'd depended on was slipping away from her control.

She quickly stepped forward and said, "I don't think Tracy did this. It's gotta be a misunderstanding. Let's all calm down."

Her voice got everyone's attention. If one listened closely, one would notice a tremble in her tone.

But no one picked up on that. They only saw her eyes reddening with tears, which pulled at their hearts for a moment.

Erin walked over and softly shook Benjamin's hand. "Dad, I believe Tracy. She said she's been on camera the whole time since she came into the hotel. I trust her.

"Maybe, like Tracy said, the camera outside the gift room didn't catch her. If we start showing footage, it'd just look like we don't trust Tracy. That would be embarrassing, right?"

Benjamin hated being made a joke of. He took a moment, looked around, and frowned slightly.

He had invited the media to the party to celebrate his daughter's birthday. Whatever happened today was bound to get out, and there was no stopping it now.

All he could do was try to limit the damage.

He turned to Tracy. "Since you were my slaughter. I'll let this slide this time. I won't blame you. Just leave."

2:31 pm BGG

Chapter 145 Are You Kidding Me?

His words sounded generous, but his eyes were cold and dark as he looked at her.

s

Daphne, who had stayed quiet until now, finally spoke up, following Benjamin's lead. "Tracy, you may not be our real daughter, but we raised you all these years. We've always treated you like family.

"To me, you're just as important as Erin. So behave yourself and stop causing trouble."

She looked torn and heartbroken, like a mother hurt deeply by her child. But with that endless motherly love, she was ready to forgive and take her rebellious kid back.

If it had happened two years ago, Tracy might've been moved by that.

But now? She felt nothing but distance and discomfort. She didn't want to get close to Daphne at all.

Ronald, who had been silent, watched Tracy closely and noticed her discomfort right away.

He didn't hesitate and let out a sarcastic laugh. "Mrs. Jackman, your motherly love is something else.

“When CeeCee was being wronged and even hit, you just stood there doing nothing. Now that she’s standing up for herself, you step in with your so-called parental favor, trying to guilt-trip her into backing down and stopping the fuss.

“Are you kidding me?”

Ronald’s words were brutally blunt. For someone like Daphne, who saw herself as upper class, it felt like a slap in the face.

As the Jackmans’ expressions changed, Tracy couldn’t help but let out a laugh.

Her sudden laugh broke the silence, immediately grabbing everyone’s attention.

To Daphne, that laugh was just as insulting as Ronald’s harsh words.

“You... you...

She trembled, pointing at Tracy. Her face flushed, but she couldn’t finish her sentence.

Andrew quickly stepped up to support Daphne, who looked like she might faint from anger. Then, he turned to Tracy with a cold, disappointed look. “Haven’t you made enough of a scene already?

“You’re just jealous because Erin got so many gifts and you only got the one from Grandpa.

“I know you think it’s unfair, but have you ever thought why? If you hadn’t acted so foolishly and wrongly. maybe you’d have some friends.”

Maybe Ronald’s blunt words had knocked some sense into her. The harsh things that used to hurt her no longer bothered Tracy.

Before Ronald could say anything back, she gently pulled him aside.

2:31 pm

Chapter 146 The Truth

Chapter 146 The Truth

s

Ronald turned around and immediately guessed what Tracy was about to do just from her expression.

Without hesitation, he swallowed his following words and even stepped back, letting her take the lead.

Tracy didn't hold anything back. She said, "Even after everything, you still won't check the surveillance and just keep blaming me."

"You keep saying it's for my good, telling me to stop making a fuss, but you're just trying to force me to admit something I didn't do."

"Are you seriously that clueless, or do you just want to blame me no matter what?"

Her words weren't as sharp as Ronald's. But for Tracy, who had been pushed down and crushed by the Jackmans for so long, it felt like she was finally standing up for herself.

The Jackmans were stunned.

It was like they were seeing Tracy for the first time, their faces full of shock and confusion.

Was that the same Tracy who always put them first, swallowed her pain, and accepted all the blame just for their approval?

They were furious, expecting her to cry, deny everything, and beg for forgiveness humbly.

Was that the Tracy they knew?

Liam was also dumbfounded.

Unlike the others, he thought the current Tracy felt more like the real person he remembered deep down.

She was proud and defiant. Even when they stomped on her, she refused to admit defeat.

When did the girl in his memories change into someone else?

For a moment, Liam felt lost, like he was trapped in fog. But in that fog, he saw a faint light.

No one noticed that Erin's face went even paler.

It was like her soul had just been drained, and she couldn't hide the panic as she glanced at Liam.



The Jackmans still stood frozen, staring at Tracy as if they hadn't quite recovered from being confronted by her.

Ronald was the first to break the silence. "CeeCee, don't waste your energy on these people.

"They want to blame you and refuse to check the footage to find the truth. I'll handle that myself"

His eyes briefly passed over the Jackmans before settling on Winona.

He kept his bright smile with dimples showing, making him look young and lively. But somehow, Winona

felt a chill.

2:31 pm GGG

Chapter 146 The Truth

s

Before she could react, Ronald looked away and called out, "Don't you want to see who sneaked into that room and ruined the gifts? Turn around and watch for yourselves."

Following his words, everyone turned to the big screen that had been showing birthday wishes for Erin. Suddenly, it flickered and switched to hotel surveillance footage.

Everyone recognized it immediately-it was the camera facing the gift room.

Winona's face instantly turned pale.

Ronald's smile grew even wider. "To make sure you see everything clearly and can't blame CeeCee, I put it on this big screen. Pretty thoughtful, right?"

Nobody answered him.

Everyone's eyes were glued to the screen as they watched Winona sneak into the room and leave after some time.

The video sped up, clearly showing that no one else went in until Andrew showed up.

He didn't go inside but stood at the door a while, then stormed off angrily.

Everyone knew what happened after that.

Andrew hung his hands by his side, shaking uncontrollably. Only then did he feel the sting from the slap he'd given Tracy.

Had he been wrong about her?

When the footage ended, all eyes turned to the pale Winona.

She staggered, barely able to stand. "It's not me. I didn't ... "

She tried to explain in a panic, but she stumbled over her words and couldn't finish a sentence.

Erin, still holding Winona's arm, finally seemed to realize what was happening and pulled her hand away sharply. "Winona, I never thought you'd do this. You were my best friend. Why would you do something like this?"

Her face showed disappointment and hurt, like someone deeply shocked by betrayal. Anyone seeing her would pity her as the victim.

Winona stared at Erin, still seeming confused. "Erin ..."

Before she could say more, her shoulder was grabbed and pulled aside.

Andrew's face was dark. "Speak! Why did you do this?!"

Erin had always been kind and trusted Winona as her closest friend.

Because he cared about Erin, Andrew had never doubted Winona. That was why he misunderstood Tracy and even hit her in public.

At that moment, Andrew didn't dare meet Tracy's eyes, feeling like her stare was burning him alive.

2:31 pm BBB

Chapter 147 A Strange Feeling

Chapter 147 A Strange Feeling

s

Andrew had misunderstood Tracy and now needed to figure out the truth so she could forgive him.

Among the people in Cloudville, Andrew stood out. People like Winona, who acted recklessly because of her family's money and ignorance, were always super careful around him.

With Andrew giving her that fierce stare, Winona got scared and turned even paler. She quickly tried to defend herself, "It wasn't me. It was ..."

"Andrew!" Erin suddenly shouted, rushing forward to grab his hand and shield Winona behind her.

"Andrew, maybe this is just a misunderstanding."

"The surveillance footage is right here! What misunderstanding are you talking about?!"

It was the first time Andrew had cut Erin off mid-sentence, and his tone showed how annoyed he was.

She looked shocked by his outburst, her eyes quickly filling with tears. "Andrew..."

Her trembling voice cooled off his anger like a splash of cold water.

He took a deep breath to calm down. "Erin, I'm not mad at you, but Winona truly crossed the line."

Seeing his anger fade, Erin relaxed a bit, but her voice still had a soft sob. "You always care about me. I know you're upset because of me."

"But you're the CEO of Jackman Enterprise. I don't want you to lose face in front of everyone just because of me."

Her gentle and understanding tone softened Andrew's heart.

Having such a thoughtful sister felt like a blessing he must have earned in a past life, and he promised himself to always treat Erin well.

Erin had a calming effect on him, quickly wiping away his anger and making him forget about blaming Winona.

She sighed in relief and said again, "Winona and Tracy have never gotten along since they were kids. Winona probably just messed up this time. She knows she was wrong, and I don't blame her. So please, let's cut her some slack."

With her innocent, teary eyes, she looked at everyone, making her seem so pitiful that it softened their

hearts.

“Ms. Jackman is so kind and beautiful! If it were me, I’d be furious if my birthday got ruined.”

“Yeah, I’ve never met someone as kind as Ms. Jackman.”

“We’re all guests here. Since Ms. Jackman said it’s fine, we shouldn’t say anything more.”

“Today is her birthday. It’s such a wonderful day. Let’s just forget all the bad stuff.”

2:31 pm BGG

## Chapter 147 A Strange Feeling

s

Everyone praised Erin and quickly brushed the whole thing off with a few kind words.

Smiles returned to faces, and the mood warmed up, as if all the earlier tension had disappeared.

Watching such a scene, Tracy’s eyes grew a bit wider, and her pupils trembled.

She’d seen that happen before.

Even when she had proof she was innocent, Erin’s few tearful words always stole the spotlight, letting everyone forget about the real issue.

No one ever apologized for how badly Tracy was treated. Even when those things came up later, she still got blamed.

Back then, Tracy felt completely abandoned by the world. Her sadness and grief overwhelmed her, leaving no room for anything else.

But now, going through it again, it all felt so strange.

It was like a cold, creepy wind crawling up her spine.

Maybe because she sensed Tracy’s stare, Erin suddenly turned and met her eyes.

She pouted, her expression aggrieved yet forbearing. “Tracy, I’m sorry for Winona. She framed you because she was confused. Can you please not be mad at her?”

Erin’s eyes were red and locked on Tracy, like she might start crying if Tracy didn’t agree.

Maybe because of that weird feeling from before, Tracy instinctively stepped back, her face guarded.

Seeing Tracy's reaction, Erin instantly looked sadder, her voice trembling even more like she'd been wronged. "Tracy ... "

Liam, who'd been slow to react, stepped up quickly, frowning. "Tracy, don't push it too far.

"Erin is the one who has been wronged here. She's willing to take the blame and back down. So why are you still being so stubborn?"

Liam was always impulsive, so it wasn't surprising he was the first to defend Erin.

But over the years, it was the first time he talked to Tracy without yelling or being harsh.

Since the kidnapper had recanted his testimony, Liam always felt a little guilty when he faced Tracy.

Ronald had been watching the Jackmans carefully the whole time. He knew the first to speak up would be the brainless Jackmans, and he was ready with some sarcastic comments.

2:31 pm GGG

Chapter 148 It's Me

Chapter 148 It's Me

Before he could say anything, a sneer suddenly came from beside him.

s

Tracy's smile was still there, but her eyes were full of sarcasm and sadness, which tugged at Ronald's heart.

More than that, though, he felt a sense of relief.

Whenever he saw Tracy dealing with the Jackmans, even though she knew they weren't worth it, her eyes always showed a hidden pain and sadness she never said out loud.

But this time, all he saw in her eyes was disgust and irritation.

She'd finally let go of the Jackmans.

Realizing that, Ronald swallowed the sharp words he was about to say.

Still, he stayed firmly by Tracy's side, like nothing could push him away.

Just like he promised her-as long as she held on to him, he'd never betray her.

Tracy didn't know what he was thinking. She just shot Liam a sarcastic look. "Mr. Andrew accused me in front of everyone without any proof and even hit me. Now that there's clear evidence proving I'm innocent, he didn't say sorry or even question Winona. Instead, he just calmly asked why she did it. Is it because she's Ms. Jackman's friend?"

'I've stood here without saying a word. I didn't demand an apology from Winona, who set me up. So how am I the unreasonable one?"

It was a simple question, but Liam was so shocked he had no idea how to answer.

He'd seen Erin get hurt and had jumped to her defense without thinking.

But hearing Tracy put it like that seemed to wake him up. He looked at Winona, whose relief hadn't fully

set in yet, and her face went even paler.

Today's plan hadn't been perfect, but Winona had pulled off worse before, so she never worried about

cameras.

Why did it fail this time?

Winona instinctively looked toward Erin, her eyes frantic and begging.

Tracy caught the reaction immediately.

Derek once told her that when someone's caught doing something wrong, they instinctively look for their

partners in crime.

It turned out Winona wasn't the one who framed her.

No wonder. Even though Tracy and Winona had been at odds since they were kids, Tracy knew Winona wouldn't be dumb enough to ruin Erin's birthday gifts just to get her in trouble.

2:31 pm

## Chapter 148 It's Me

Besides, they'd recently agreed not to pick fights without reason.

s

But Tracy had already backed off for Erin and had nothing left to give. So why was Erin still pressing her so hard?

Stepping forward, Tracy's voice was firm as she asked, "Winona, who made you do this and frame me?"

Winona, nervous and tense, flinched at Tracy's shout. "I ... I ... "

Her eyes darted toward Erin again.

This time, not only Tracy noticed that, but others did too.

Anger almost broke Erin's calm, but she fought hard to keep it together.

Feeling everyone's eyes on her, she bit her lip and said, "It was me."

Everyone was shocked, even Tracy hadn't expected Erin to confess right away.

But then, Erin said, "It's all my fault. If it weren't for me, Tracy would still be the Jackmans' beloved daughter, and Winona wouldn't have messed up at this party.

"Now that the guests' good vibes are ruined, the Jackmans are embarrassed, and everyone's mood at the birthday party is shot. It's all my fault. I never should have come back to the Jackmans."

Erin suddenly burst into tears, crying desperately.

Her fragile, helpless look instantly pulled at everyone's sympathy.

Winona, still shaking and overwhelmed, couldn't keep her emotions in check and rushed over to Erin, her face full of worry.

Even Tracy was caught off guard for a moment, her doubts and questions fading away.

She'd seen Erin use those tears and that familiar act more than once.

It was like Erin's secret weapon-something that made everyone instantly take her side no matter what.

Tracy felt her chest tighten, then quickly glanced over at Ronald beside her.

She wasn't sure if he, who had promised to always believe in her and stand by her, would react like everyone else.

Ronald tilted his head, looking confused. "CeeCee, what's with that face?"

He felt that she looked a little scared just now.

"You..." Tracy tried to say something, but her voice cracked a bit.

After a pause, she asked, "Do you think Erin makes people feel sorry for her?"

2:32 pm GGG

Chapter 149 She Faints

Chapter 149 She Faints

Ronald was super sensitive.

At first, he was taken aback by Tracy's question, but he quickly figured out what scared her.

He couldn't help but chuckle softly. "CeeCee, you have so little faith in me?"

s

He faced her, leaning down a bit to meet her eyes. "I've told you before-as long as you don't let go of me, I'll always stand by you, no matter what."

His voice was soft, but every word hit hard, breaking the chains that had held Tracy's heart captive since she was 18.

She wasn't sure why Ronald's reaction was so different from everyone else's. But somehow, she felt relieved.

It wasn't like she'd never been chosen firmly by someone before.

Franklin, Walter, friends from the Angelic Etiquette Academy, and Ronald...

Many people had stood by her in tough times. So why did she keep getting stuck on the Jackmans' unworthy choices?

Even though she promised to let go of her obsession with them, it always got hard in the critical moments.



It felt like someone had forcibly branded an illogical obsession into her heart.

After she let go, a weird feeling rushed through her.

Then, thinking about something, Tracy quickly shifted her gaze to Erin, who was surrounded by people.

‘It’s all my fault. I shouldn’t have returned to the Jackmans.’ Erin sobbed. ‘I’m leaving Cloudville for good and won’t show up in front of Tracy ever again.

‘Dad, Mom, Andrew, Liam, please don’t blame Tracy. Stop arguing with her. If someone has to be blamed,

it’s me.’”

She shook off Winona’s supporting hand and tried to walk away,

Of course, the Jackmans weren’t just going to let her leave. They tried to stop her. But before they could say anything, Erin’s eyes rolled back, and she suddenly collapsed.

‘Erin!’”

Andrew’s face turned pale with fear as he caught her before she hit the ground.

“Erin? Don’t scare me! Erin!”

He called her name frantically, but her eyes stayed shut-she had fainted.

The girl who always looked up to him, trusting and depending on him, was now as pale as paper, stabbing

at Andrew’s heart.

2:32 pm GGG

Chapter 149 She Faints

s

Daphne, full of worry, completely forgot the guilt she felt toward Tracy just moments ago. She glared at Tracy like she was an enemy. “Erin has suffered because of you for 18 years. Her health was fragile already, and now look at her! What will it take for you to be satisfied?”

Tracy didn't fall into her usual trap of defending herself weakly. Instead, she fired back, "I was just protecting myself. I didn't attack anyone like Mr. Andrew did. So why am I the one getting blamed for how Ms. Jackman is?"

"You..."

Daphne's shock quickly turned to deep disappointment. "Tracy, how did you become like this?"

"We threw you a birthday party, treated you and Erin the same, and didn't ask for anything in return after all these years. All we wanted was for you to let go of your greedy ideas and stop competing with Erin for everything. But what have you done?"

"Are you only happy if you ruin us completely?!"

Daphne's tearful words made it sound like Tracy's actions were unforgivable.

Even the guests joined in the condemnation.

"Tracy has gone too far-stealing Erin's place and being ungrateful on top of that."

"I've never met someone so cruel. They gave her a birthday party, and she just gets jealous of Ms. Jackman. How dare she even stay with the Jackmans?"

"Ms. Jackman has already let it go, and she still keeps going. She's just plain wicked and dumb."

They seemed to have completely forgotten the sympathy they once felt for Tracy along with their plan to simply watch the drama unfold; now they were all fiercely defending Erin.

Even with thousands of eyes pointed at her, Tracy stayed calm, like none of the accusations were aimed at her.

But she unconsciously clenched her hands that hung by her sides.

Although she was slowly adjusting to life outside the Angelic Etiquette Academy, she still hated being stared at by so many people-especially when those looks were full of hate,

Then, Ronald suddenly broke the silence, "You all are seriously ridiculous. Hanging around the Jackmans has made you all lose your minds, hasn't it?"

His voice grabbed most people's attention, but he didn't stop there. "You keep saying this birthday party was for CeeCee. So, tell me what part of this party was actually for her?"

"You claim you treat both daughters the same. But when you got all those birthday gifts for Erin, did you even think about CeeCee? Even if you didn't give her anything, did you say happy birthday to her at all today?"

Ronald's questions stripped away the Jackmans' last bit of cover, laying bare their double standards and hypocrisy right in front of everyone.

2:32 pm BB

Chapter 150 Suspect

The room suddenly fell into an eerie silence.

s

Erin, though "unconscious," was so anxious inside that she wished she could snap awake right away.

Normally, whenever she "felt sick," the Jackmans would drop everything to take care of her, rushing her to the hospital without a second thought.

Moreover, she was genuinely worn out now.

But instead, the Jackmans were busy chatting with Tracy, even ignoring Erin because of an outsider's words.

All their promises to love and spoil her forever? Obviously fake!

Just as Erin hesitated whether to "wake up" and act, a sudden noise caught everyone's attention.

Everyone turned toward the door, where several uniformed police officers walked in with serious looks.

They scanned the room and headed straight for Tracy.

Everyone assumed the police came because of the incident where Tracy called them after being accused of ruining gifts.

Winona was terrified and stepped back, her face going pale as the surveillance video that could convict her still played on the big screen.

But things didn't go as expected. The officer who approached Tracy showed his badge and said firmly, "Ms. Tracy Yarwood, we have information that you might have hired someone to kidnap a person. Please come with us."

'Kidnapping?' Ronald stepped forward, shielding Tracy. "Officer, there has to be some mistake. Who did Tracy kidnap?"

He glanced at Liam, sensing something was off.

Liam, remembering the kidnapping case he'd been working on with the police, quickly moved up. "That can't be right. She's the victim in the kidnapping case."

The police stayed calm, like they'd seen such scenes before. "Mistake or not, we'll find out after investigating. We can't share more now, but Ms. Yarwood needs to come with us."

Ronald frowned, his tough features tightening, but he stood firm in front of Tracy.

He'd expected the Jackmans to bully her today and was ready to back her up, but this sudden twist caught him off guard.

Everyone else was stunned and confused. Only one person was quietly pleased.

Erin didn't know the details but guessed it was Felicia's doing.

Since Liam had suddenly started digging into her and Tracy's kidnapping, she'd teamed up with Felicia.

2:32 pm

## Chapter 150 Suspect

Erin had just wanted to distract Liam and quickly hide the truth without letting her secrets slip.

But Felicia's plan went way beyond that-she actually managed to pin the blame on Tracy.

Erin couldn't help but smile a little as her pale face brightened.

No one noticed her strange behavior. All eyes were glued to Tracy and the police.

Benjamin was the first to recover from the shock.

He stared at Tracy in disbelief. "So it was you behind Erin's kidnapping all along!"

Now that the police were involved, he couldn't let this mess ruin the company's reputation.

Luckily, it wasn't his daughter causing trouble. Otherwise, the Jackmans would be even more embarrassed.

Daphne suddenly remembered the nearly forgotten incident, looking shocked and angry. "I can't believe it was you. I thought it was all a misunderstanding, and I've felt guilty for so long. Tracy, you've let us down so badly."

She acted like a heartbroken mother, clutching her chest and leaning on Benjamin, tears welling up in her

eyes.

She treated Tracy like her daughter. So, she couldn't understand how Tracy could still be so greedy and jealous, not even coming close to Erin's character.

Andrew, still holding Erin, glared at Tracy with pure hatred.

"Tracy, you've hurt Erin so many times. We've had enough! If anything had happened to Erin today, there's no way I'd ever forgive you!"

With that, he scooped Erin up and rushed out like he suddenly remembered he needed to get her to the hospital.

Daphne followed close behind, tears in her eyes.

Even though she talked about treating everyone fairly, she never even thought to check on Tracy, who was about to be taken away by the police.

Benjamin, however, stayed behind to deal with the guests.

Nobody else paid attention to Tracy's kidnapping, so outsiders didn't know a thing.

Since the Jackmans kept Erin's kidnapping under wraps, outsiders were also in the dark.

It wasn't until Benjamin brought it up that everyone finally caught on.

"I never thought Tracy could be so scheming!"

"I always figured she was just greedy and jealous, but planning a kidnapping? That's on another level.

"She needs to be taught a lesson. Who knows what she might try next?"