

The Unwanted Daughter: When Love Comes Too Late #Left Behind 251 - Read The Unwanted Daughter: When Love Comes Too Late Left Behind 251

Why Does Everyone Always Blame Tracy?

Jane put her phone down and said, "Okay, you're right."

While chatting with Sylvia, someone knocked on the lounge door.

It was the bodyguard.

s

"Boss, there's a girl outside claiming to be 'T. She says she wants to see you and apologize for earlier."

The moment they heard that nickname, Jane and Sylvia frowned. Erin immediately popped into their minds.

They exchanged a look and didn't need words-each already knew what the other was thinking.

Jane turned to the bodyguard. "Tell her I just got back to the country and I'm really busy. She shouldn't come looking for me again."

The bodyguard nodded quickly and passed on the message.

Tracy stood quietly, listening, but she didn't show anger.

Putting herself in their shoes, she could understand-if someone had ruined her carefully planned birthday party like that, she'd be mad too.

Still, she didn't make a scene. She just asked the bodyguard to apologize to Jane one more time.

When he relayed it, Jane and her niece exchanged a surprised glance. "Just apologize? She didn't say ... anything else?"

"Nope," the bodyguard answered.

Jane and Sylvia looked at each other, confused. This calm, simple apology didn't match the person they had just seen.

If it had been Erin before, she'd probably have used the apology as a way to explain the "misunderstanding" and get close to Jane again.

How could she be so different now?

After asking the bodyguard to pass along her apology, Tracy slipped out of the birthday party ahead of time.

To save time, she didn't even change out of her gown. She hurried to the testing agency with samples of Erin's and Tom's hair-and added her own too.

Waiting for the results wasn't too bad.

She had already endured a much tougher wait the year Erin returned to the Jackmans.

Tracy didn't care if Erin was really a blood relative of the Jackmans. She only wanted leverage over her.

And it seemed like fate had given it to her.

4:19 pm 2

Chapter 251 Why Does Everyone Always Blame Tracy?

s

Two test results came back.

One compared Tracy and Tom-it clearly said they weren't related.

The other compared Erin and Tom-it loudly said "Confirmed to be related."

Seeing those results, Tracy felt satisfied, but not overly excited.

If Erin really isn't a Jackman by blood, how had she fooled everyone all those years?

If Tom and I aren't related, who are my real parents?

Questions swirled in Tracy's mind like a storm.

She couldn't sort it out, and she couldn't make sense of it either.

But one thing was clear, these results could be useful if she played her cards right.

Tracy had no intention of shoving the results in the Jackmans' faces-that would be pointless and stupid.

After thinking it over, she decided to take the results to Liam.

She wasn't sure what was really going on, but she knew Liam felt guilty toward her and disliked-maybe even hated-Erin.

As expected, when she asked to meet him, Liam agreed immediately and even arrived an hour early.

What Tracy didn't expect was that he brought Norris with him.

Seeing Norris, Tracy's expression darkened instantly.

Noticing her reaction, Liam's heart raced. "I didn't invite him-he insisted, and I couldn't stop him," he explained quickly.

Truth was, he hadn't really tried to stop him-but that didn't keep him from quickly backing away from Norris.

Tracy had finally agreed to see him, and he wasn't about to blow that chance just because of someone else.

Norris knew Liam had been acting strangely lately, totally unreasonable, so he didn't argue.

He frowned at Tracy, clearly annoyed. "Tracy, I don't know what you did to make Liam pick on Erin, but stop before it gets worse."

A flash of regret crossed his mind. He hadn't meant to say that, but whenever Erin was involved, he couldn't control his temper.

Before Tracy could respond, Liam grabbed Norris.

"Are you crazy? Who said Tracy made me bully Erin?" Liam shouted, panicked that Tracy might get wrong idea.

the

He snapped at Norris, his voice sharp with anger. "I already told you-Erin's the one who lies nonstop, a total manipulator. I just found out the truth about her, and that's why I treat her differently now.

4:20 pm

A

Chapter 251 Why Does Everyone Always Blame Tracy?

“Why does everyone always blame Tracy for everything? It’s completely unfair!”

s

4:20 pm S

Chapter 252 Of Course I Care About You

Chapter 252 Of Course I Care About You

s

Lately, Liam had been fixated on getting Tracy to forgive him, and he kept dwelling on the past few years.

The more he thought about it, the more he realized just how much the Jackmans had hurt Tracy, and the more his guilt weighed on him.

He thought Norris came along today because he cared about Tracy. He figured maybe having him here. would help smooth things over. After all, Tracy used to like Norris so much.

But he never expected that Norris’s very first words would be a sharp question directed at Tracy, all for Erin’s sake.

Hearing Liam talk about Erin that way, Norris frowned. “Liam, Erin is your sister. No matter what your issues with her are, you shouldn’t talk about her like that.

“I’m not your older brother, and I won’t let you get away with disrespecting Erin. If you talk about her like that again, I won’t go easy on you!”

“Who needs you to go easy on me? I should never have brought you here in the first place.” Liam was so angry that his face turned crimson. “Norris, you’ll regret this one day!”

Liam was sure Norris would regret it eventually, just like he did now. How he wished he could go back and beat some sense into his former self for always hurting Tracy.

Since the moment they’d walked in, Tracy hadn’t said a word. She hadn’t even sat down yet before the two of them started arguing in front of her.

She couldn’t tell if they were fighting for her sake or just putting on a show, and honestly, she didn’t care.

She only looked at Norris after their fight ended, her voice cool and detached. “So you came all the way here just to lecture me for Erin’s sake?”

If she didn't have something important to discuss with Liam, she wouldn't have stuck around for any of this. She'd have left ages ago.

So if Norris just wanted to speak up for Erin, he could get it over with and leave-she didn't want to waste her time on this.

Her expression was cold, her tone even colder, and there was a glint of open disdain in her eyes. Her look felt like a needle stabbing right through Norris's heart, leaving him speechless.

They had loved each other once, so Norris knew how deeply Tracy had cared for him.

She had never looked at him that way, not once in all the years they'd known each other. But now ...

Back then, Tracy had really loved Norris.

Even after he tricked her into going to Angelic Etiquette Academy, she never blamed him after she got back. All she wanted to know was why he tricked her. She wanted to know if he would regret it after hearing about everything she'd been through there.

But then Ronald came into her life.

1:20 pm S

Chapter 252 Of Course I Care About You

He taught her that the only person she should really care about in this world is herself.

So whatever regrets or fixation she once had on Norris were already long gone.

Now, Norris was no different from the rest of the Jackmans to her.

s

But Norris didn't understand that. He still thought Tracy acted this way because she was jealous of Erin.

He had long since gotten used to scenes like this.

He figured that responding to Tracy's attitude would only make her push further, so he didn't bother questioning her about stirring up trouble between Liam and Erin.

With that in mind, Norris's face turned serious as he finally got to the main reason he'd come. "Tracy, the first time we met after you came back from the etiquette academy, you asked me if I knew what those two years were like for you. What did you mean by that?"

Tracy hadn't expected him to bring this up and couldn't help but let out a soft laugh.

So much time had gone by-now Norris wanted to act like he cared? Did he even realize how absurd that sounded?

This sudden show of "concern" could only mean trouble.

'Mr. Gill, do you really think that's a meaningful question to ask?' Tracy gave a cold laugh. "You were the one who tricked me into going to etiquette academy. Do you seriously care about how I was doing there?"

Norris thought her words were harsh. "Of course I care. Otherwise, I wouldn't have gone out of my way to see you today.

'I always remembered what you said, that I had no idea what those two years were like for you. So I looked into it myself. We grew up together, after all. If you were wronged, I should stand up for you.

'But you need to know, even though I care about you, I've always seen you as a little sister. I hope you'll stop being jealous of Erin, I—"

"You investigated Angelic Etiquette Academy?"

Norris hadn't even finished before Tracy suddenly interrupted him.

Her face changed in an instant, and she instinctively grabbed Norris by the collar, not caring when what she was holding fell to the ground.

Her voice was sharp and furious, as if Norris had done something unforgivable.

The intensity of her reaction left both Norris and Liam frozen in shock.

Norris was the first to recover. He frowned unhappily. "What's with your attitude? I'm just looking out for

you

He shook Tracy's hand off and looked at her like she was being ungrateful.

"Looking out for me? When did I ever need your concern?" Tracy glared back, her gaze practically brimming with hostility.

4:20 pm

Chapter 252 Of Course I Care About You

s

"If you've made your choice, then stop acting like you did everything for my own good and pulling these

fake stunts.

"If you really cared about me, you wouldn't have dumped me for Erin the moment she came back, and you definitely wouldn't have been the one to send me off to Angelic Etiquette Academy."

Chapter 253 She's Jealous of Erin

Chapter 253 She's Jealous of Erin

s

"Stop pretending you're doing all this for my own good, when it's really just to make yourself feel better. It only makes me sick!"

Tracy couldn't stand it any longer. She shot Norris a glare and stormed off.

The first time she saw Norris after coming out of the academy, she had lost control and blurted out that question, but she regretted it as soon as she did.

No one could ever find out what happened at Angelic Etiquette Academy.

The only reason Tracy managed to leave that place alive was because Derek and the others risked everything to get evidence, using it as leverage to drag her out of that hell.

But Tracy never dared to tell anyone what she'd lived through during those two years.

She knew that if she ever spoke up, no matter what evidence she had, the first thing those people would do was silence her for good.

Even after all this time away from Angelic Etiquette Academy, she knew every move she made was still being watched.

So she never mentioned anything about the place to anyone, and she never imagined Norris would actually try to investigate.

Knowing what Angelic Etiquette Academy was capable of, she knew it wouldn't be long before they came after her again. She had to be ready.

She didn't even have time to talk to Liam about what she'd planned-she just wanted to get home and make arrangements.

The scars Angelic Etiquette Academy left on her heart ran too deep.

But Tracy hadn't expected that right after leaving Liam and Norris, just as she was about to get in her car, someone would abduct her in the underground parking lot and shove her into a van.

As soon as she caught the familiar whiff of knockout drugs, a wave of terror swept over her.

The next thing she knew, everything went dark, like she'd been dragged back into that hell again.

Liam and Norris had no idea Tracy had been kidnapped right after leaving. They just stood there, staring at each other, still shaken from Tracy's outburst.

Liam looked at the folder Tracy had dropped in her hurry and bent down to pick it up.

Inside were documents about Tom's family, as well as the DNA test results for Tracy and Tom, and for Erin and Tom, along with a packet of Tom's hair.

"This can't be ... How is this possible..."

4:20 pm S

Chapter 253 She's Jealous of Erin

s

Liam's face turned ghostly pale. His hands shook as he held the documents, and his eyes widened in disbelief.

How could Erin not be related to the Jackmans by blood...?

He'd always believed Erin was a Jackman, which was why he'd treated her so well and ended up hurting Tracy so much.

Even after learning that Erin was a liar, he had only felt anger and disappointment, but he'd still thought of her as his real sister.

But now, the truth was staring him in the face-Erin and Tom were related by blood.

Liam knew exactly who Tom was.

Back when he investigated Erin's kidnapping, he had looked into Tom more thoroughly than the police.

But he never imagined Tom was connected to the Yarwoods-the couple who had raised Erin by mistake

years ago.

Erin had always claimed that after the Yarwood couple died in an accident, her relatives all abandoned her, so she had no family. The Jackmans felt sorry for her and treated her better because of it.

So why did she suddenly have a half-brother?

Norris saw what was in the folder, too. Though he was shocked, he didn't react nearly as strongly as Liam.

After reading through everything, he spoke without even thinking, "All of this is fake."

Liam looked at him in confusion, but Norris sounded certain. "After all these years, don't you know what Tracy's like? This is just another one of her tricks to get our attention.

"She's always been jealous of Erin, always trying to compete with her for everything. It all comes down to her being jealous of Erin's status as a Jackman daughter. That's why she forged all this stuff.

"Back then, your parents, your brother, even you-everyone had Erin's DNA tested by different agencies. There's no doubt she's really a Jackman. All of this is just nonsense!"

Norris was full of scorn, his anger and disappointment clear as he dismissed it all as another of Tracy's attention-seeking schemes.

Without hesitation, he grabbed the documents from Liam's hands, tore them up, and threw them in the trash.

"What are you doing?"

Liam shoved him aside, quickly retrieving the papers and carefully checking if anything was missing.

He didn't want to believe it was true, but deep down, he felt Tracy had no reason to lie to him.

Tracy had never lied to him about anything, but he'd never trusted her.

It was Erin who had always been the liar.

4:20 pm as ga

Chapter 253 She's Jealous of Erin

s

So...

"You're not actually buying this, are you?" Norris saw right through him and called him out directly.

He spoke with frustration and disappointment. "This is just another one of Tracy's tricks. After everything that's happened these years, you still don't see her for what she is? She's just a scheming, greedy person!"

4:20 pm

Chapter 254 Have You Forgotten?

Chapter 254 Have You Forgotten?

"Shut up!"

s

Liam turned and shot him a vicious glare, regretting more than ever that he'd brought Norris along today,

He was just as foolish and unreasonable as the rest of the Jackmans!

Liam carefully gathered up all the torn documents Norris had shredded, making sure nothing was left behind in the trash before placing them neatly into the folder.

He fixed Norris with an angry stare. "I'll find out whether these documents are real or not. It's none of your business.

"If you've got so much free time, why not spend it checking up on Erin? See for yourself what a habitual liar she really is."

With that. Liam turned and left.

Norris was stunned.

When he finally came to, his anger boiled over. "Liam, if you dare use this to make trouble for Erin, I'll be the first to come after you!"

In his heart, Erin was such a kind, innocent person. If she ever found out her own brother was questioning her bloodline, it would break her heart.

He couldn't stand the thought of Erin being hurt, so he didn't want Liam to confront her with any of this- and he certainly wouldn't mention it to Erin himself.

Liam, for his part, wasn't planning to go after Erin with this information either.

Much like Norris's reaction, even if Liam showed these things to the rest of the Jackmans, they'd only say Tracy was just trying to get attention.

Thinking back, every time Tracy had presented evidence, the rest of the family had always reacted the

same way.

That was why Liam had to find solid, indisputable proof-something so convincing that no one in the family could say a word against it. Only then could he prove Erin was lying.

Because of this, Erin had no idea her identity was even being questioned, so she'd made no effort to do anything about it.

The night grew darker.

Tracy, still unconscious, suddenly took a deep breath and snapped awake.

Her memory stopped at the familiar scent of chloroform She hadn't even gotten a clear look at her surroundings yet, and her face was full of fear and confusion.

She'd only smelled that scent once in her life.

4:20 pm &

Chapter 254 Have You Forgotten?

s

But it was that one time that nearly pulled her straight into hell-the hell known as Angelic Etiquette. Academy.

There was no way she'd ever forget it.

Tracy barely had time to process her surroundings before a vaguely familiar voice rang out by her ear.

The person let out a soft chuckle. "I thought you were living such a carefree life these days that you must've forgotten all about what happened at Angelic Etiquette Academy."

Tracy finally saw where she was.

It looked like a construction site in some remote spot-building debris everywhere, not another soul in sight.

She was tied to a chair.

The knot was tied in a way she recognized all too well.

And the person standing in front of her-she knew him, too.

It was such an ordinary face, the kind you'd lose in a crowd.

But to Tracy, it was unmistakable.

Back at Angelic Etiquette Academy, whenever a "student" stepped out of line, a "teacher" would personally deal out punishment.

The person standing before her now was one of those "teachers" responsible for discipline back then.

Even though she'd guessed who it was as soon as she caught the familiar whiff of chloroform, seeing him. standing before her still sent a wave of fear rushing through her.

After leaving Angelic Etiquette Academy, she'd told herself again and again not to be afraid, that she'd never have to go back.

But that bone-deep terror couldn't be erased by a few pep

talks.

Tracy fought to keep herself together, but she couldn't help letting some fear slip onto her face.

The man obviously noticed, and his smile grew even fonder. "How long has it been since I saw you make that face? As your teacher, I really did miss that expression."

Tracy's face hardened as she stared at him, stone-faced. "What do you want?"

The man stepped over. "Why don't you take a guess?"

He grabbed Tracy's chin, squeezing so hard it felt like he might shatter it.

"Number Ten, have you been living the easy life so long you've forgotten the terms we set when we let you leave?"

Of course Tracy hadn't forgotten.

4:20 pm

Chapter 254 Have You Forgotten?

s

The only way Angelic Etiquette Academy had ever let her go was on the condition that she keep her mouth shut and never reveal anything about the academy to anyone.

She hadn't been fully tamed, and if she hadn't had leverage over the place, she probably wouldn't have gotten out after two years.

Even after she left, she knew the academy was still watching her every move, probably even monitoring all her electronics.

She and the academy were stuck in a delicate balance.

If that balance could've lasted, maybe she could've lived out her whole life in peace. But Norris's reckless actions had shattered all that.

Tracy took a deep breath, forcing down her panic and fear, and tried to look calm as she met the man's eyes. "If you're talking about what Norris did, that has nothing to do with me."

"How can you say that?" The man let out a low laugh. "If it weren't for you, would he have tried to investigate the academy?"

4:20 pm S

Chapter 255 You Have Gotten Smarter

Chapter 255 You Have Gotten Smarter

s

He traced Tracy's chin with his fingers, his fingertips sliding across her skin like a cold serpent slithering along her body, making her break out in goosebumps.

His smile was nasty, and his eyes were full of lecherous intent. "You shouldn't underestimate the Gills. Mr. Gill has started looking into this personally. Do you even realize how much trouble you've brought the academy?"

"You made such a huge mistake. Don't you think you owe the academy some compensation?"

As he spoke, his hand slid down from Tracy's chin to her neck, and he just kept going lower.

The moment his hand brushed Tracy's collar, his wrist was suddenly seized.

In the blink of an eye, he stumbled backward, nearly falling over.

He stared in surprise-Tracy, who had been tied up in the chair and unable to move, had somehow managed to get herself free.

His surprise quickly faded as a realization dawned on him. "Number Seven taught you this, didn't she?"

Just mentioning Number Seven filled his voice with loathing and contempt, as if he'd just named something filthy.

Tracy's face stayed cold. "Don't call her Number Seven. Her name is Yvonne Burton."

Yvonne was one of the friends Tracy had met at Angelic Etiquette Academy.

She'd been an orphan who, through her own grit, worked her way up to become a star bodyguard at a security company.

Unlike girls like Tracy, who were sent to the Angelic Etiquette Academy by their own families, Yvonne had been dumped there by her employer.

Her looks had caught her employer's eye, but she'd turned him down.

Even though Yvonne was the company's prized bodyguard, in the end, she was just muscle for hire. When her employer offered more money, the company sold her out without a second thought.

She fought back hard and ended up injuring her employer, so he tossed her into Angelic Etiquette Academy for "training."

By staying close to Yvonne, Tracy really did learn a lot about self-defense and escaping dangerous

situations.

The man caught the chill in Tracy's tone, but he didn't care at all.

In fact, his sneer grew more mocking. "I really don't get what you strays are after. If you'd just behave and play the part of a dog, the academy would toss you a bone now and then. Instead, you push yourselves so far you're bound to lose your lives.

“Out of the ten strays, you’re the weakest one left. Even if you’ve got dirt on the academy, you’re barely

4:20 pm 3

Chapter 255 You Have Gotten Smarter

surviving, aren’t you?

s

“If I were you, I would’ve hanged myself already. Why keep living every day in fear?”

His voice was thick with manipulation, like he wished he could hand her the rope himself.

Tracy’s expression stayed cold and calm. She even let out a cold laugh. “If I’m dead, aren’t you worried that the evidence I have will go public the very next second?”

Upon hearing that, the man’s expression froze, and a cruel glint flickered in his eyes. But he clenched his fists and held himself back from actually touching her.

The evidence was the only reason they didn’t dare do anything to her. Otherwise, her body would have been picked clean a long time ago.

Facing her former “teacher,” Tracy tried to calm herself, but the fear deep down never quite left her.

Even so, she forced herself to meet his gaze. “There’s no need to put on a show in front of me.

“If you were really scared of Norris’s investigation, you’d go after the Gills first, then wipe me out.

You only kidnapped me to scare me and see if I’d give up what I know.

“I may not be as smart as Derek, but I’m not so stupid that I’d fall for your tricks.”

The Gills stood on equal footing with the Jackmans in Cloudville, and most people were wary of them, but Angelic Etiquette Academy’s reach went way beyond Cloudville.

Even if the Jackmans and the Gills joined forces, they still weren’t a match for the academy.

The man dropped his nasty grin and looked Tracy straight in the eye. “You really have gotten smarter.”

Tracy didn't respond. She just stared back at him.

Even with her face pale, there was still a stubborn defiance in her eyes.

After a long silence, the man finally lost his edge. "You'd better keep your promise and keep your mouth

shut, or else..."

He shot her a warning glare before finally turning and leaving.

Tracy kept her guard up, watching him until he was gone. Only then did she let herself relax and collapse onto the floor.

She gasped for air, so shaken she could barely breathe, fear gripping every inch of her.

She had no idea how much time had passed before night finally fell, and she managed to pull herself back together.

She wasn't sure if she was hallucinating, but she seemed to hear Ronald's voice.

She looked up and saw Ronald running toward her from the darkness, carrying a lamp.

He was like a knife cutting through the dark, letting light in.

4:20 pm

Chapter 255 You Have Gotten Smarter

s

Ronald knelt down in front of her, breathing hard and full of worry. "CeeCee, are you okay? Are you hurt?"

Ronald had always had people watching over Tracy, but no one had expected her to get snatched off the street like this.

4:21 pm

Chapter 256 Stop Digging

Chapter 256 Stop Digging

s

The moment Ronald got the news, he didn't care about exposing himself. He used every resource at his disposal to search for her.

But even so, it seemed he was still a step too late.

Meeting Ronald's worried gaze, Tracy suddenly felt a wave of grievance well up inside.

She meant to say she was okay, but as soon as she opened her mouth, her eyes started welling up with

tears.

She quickly lowered her gaze, blinked a few times, and shook her head, saying nothing.

Ronald could tell she wasn't hurt, but he could see she wasn't okay. He didn't ask anything-he just picked her up into his arms.

Tracy didn't resist. She wrapped her arms around Ronald's neck and buried her face in his chest.

She wasn't as tough or exceptional as everyone thought. She'd been holding on alone for so long, and she was just so tired.

So just this once, she let herself be weak.

Only for a little while...

That's what Tracy told herself.

Once Ronald brought her home, she collected her emotions and returned to her usual calm, indifferent self.

She smoothed her messy hair. "I'm going to wash up."

Without looking at Ronald, she lowered her gaze and started toward the bathroom, but her wrist was suddenly caught.

For the first time, Ronald brought up something Tracy had never wanted to talk about. "CeeCee, the people who kidnapped you-are they from Angelic Etiquette Academy?"

Tracy snapped her head up, shock and disbelief flooding her expression.

How did he know about Angelic Etiquette Academy?

She said nothing, but the look in her eyes told Ronald everything he needed to know.

So it's true...

Ronald's heart clenched. He didn't let go of Tracy's hand; instead, he pulled her down to sit on the couch

with him.

He explained, "CeeCee, before I met you, I was actually kidnapped in Jezelton. To avoid being tracked by my people, they transferred me to Cloudville.

1:21 pm

Chapter 256 Stop Digging

s

"When I was first caught, I overheard that I was being sent to a place called Angelic Etiquette Academy, so I started looking into it on my own.

"To the outside world, Angelic Etiquette Academy looks like a juvenile detention center, and you can't find anything shady about it. I never found anything until they suddenly made a move on you today."

He had just found a few clues, but then Tracy's situation happened, and he hadn't had time to investigate further.

He'd always known Tracy's story about "living overseas for two years" was a lie, and now, with the academy suddenly coming after her, he could piece together most of the truth.

Hearing his explanation, Tracy didn't seem all that surprised.

She knew Ronald was smart. With the facts he had, it wasn't hard to figure out the rest.

But she still couldn't tell him what she knew. Otherwise, things like today would keep happening-again and again—and Ronald would be in danger, too.

Seeing her remain silent, Ronald spoke again. "CeeCee, did you save me back then because to see me sent to Angelic Etiquette Academy?"

you

didn't want

Tracy still didn't answer. She just looked at him and said seriously, "I know you have your own network, and I know your reach goes deeper than the Jackmans', but Angelic Etiquette Academy is far more dangerous than you can imagine. Stop digging."

Ronald didn't miss the fear that flashed in her eyes when she mentioned the academy.

He knew that as long as that place still existed, the scars on Tracy's soul would never truly heal.

He gripped her hand tightly. "No matter how dangerous Angelic Etiquette Academy is, you still made it out, didn't you?"

"That's only because someone risked their life for me." Tracy's voice suddenly grew emotional. "You don't understand what they're capable of in there. Every evil you can imagine-or can't imagine-goes on in that place all the time.

"Not everyone is lucky enough to escape like I did. That place has been around for decades, and once your name's on their list, you never get out. I was the first-and they're never going to let me go!"

Tracy thought she'd already learned to hide her feelings, but seeing a familiar "teacher" today brought all her memories crashing back, like being dragged right back into hell.

Seeing her in pain, Ronald felt like his heart was being torn apart.

He pulled her tightly into his arms, holding her so close it was as if he wanted to keep her there forever.

'So

... after you saved me, you let me stay with you because you were worried Angelic Etiquette Academy might come for me too?"

He didn't know exactly what kind of place Angelic Etiquette Academy was, but he knew the only reason they let Tracy go was that she had something they feared.

He knew Tracy was kind, but she wasn't so selfless as to keep a stranger by her side for nothing.

4:21 pm D

Chapter 256 Stop Digging

s

She'd allowed him to stay not just because he was stubborn, but also because she wanted to protect him.

She was such a good person-why did life have to put her through this?

Tracy didn't say anything. She just buried her face in Ronald's chest, clinging tightly to his shirt, sobbing in silence.

4:21 pm S

Chapter 257 What Have They Done to CeeCee?

Chapter 257 What Have They Done to CeeCee?

A desolate sorrow spread silently, seeping into every corner of the house.

Tracy didn't know how long she had cried. Eventually, she cried herself to sleep.

s

Maybe it was the emotional upheaval, or maybe those deeply buried memories had been stirred up again. Tracy ended up falling ill.

She lay in bed for two days, feverish and dazed, waking from one nightmare only to slip into another.

In her dreams, she seemed to return to that hell called Angelic Etiquette Academy.

She never had enough to eat or wear, and she suffered endless insults and beatings. Besides, she always had to be on guard against the "teachers" and "classmates" who wanted her dead.

And then there was that pitch-black, grinning mask ...

"Get away from me! Don't come any closer ... Please, don't..."

As she slept, Tracy's brow was furrowed tight, as if she was caught in a terrible nightmare, muttering words of protest over and over again.

Ronald sat at her bedside, gently wiping the sweat from her brow.

He watched her with aching tenderness, wishing he could go into her dreams and chase away all her pain.

But all he could do was sit by her side and watch her suffer.

Ding!

The chime of a phone broke through Ronald's gloomy thoughts.

He set aside the handkerchief, took out his phone from his pocket, and tapped on it.

One glance at the message and he understood everything.

"He's in Cloudville."

Just three short words and nothing else. But Ronald understood right away.

He tightened his grip on the phone, his brows knitting together.

That guy had actually come to Cloudville in person?

When Ronald was looking for a doctor for Franklin, he'd already considered the possibility that his whereabouts would be exposed.

He figured most of his arrangements would be in place by then, so whether he was exposed sooner or later didn't really matter. He'd been ready for this.

He'd expected that man to make plenty of moves against him or Tracy, but he hadn't expected him to show up in person.

4:21 pm

Chapter 257 What Have They Done to CeeCee?

Knowing him, this could never be simple. Things would only get more complicated now.

Ronald quickly sent out a series of orders on his phone.

s

Once everything was arranged, he returned to Tracy's bedside, keeping watch as she remained trapped in her nightmare.

He held Tracy's tightly clenched hand in his and wiped away her sweat with the other, his expression somber and grave.

He knew now that this man had come to Cloudville himself, Tracy was bound to become his next target.

Still, Ronald couldn't bear to let her go.

He wanted so badly to hold on to her.

Ronald stared at the sleeping girl, his tone layered with complicated determination. "CeeCee, whatever you do, don't... don't let go of my hand. Don't leave me."

If she did, he figured he might lose his mind.

Maybe she heard him, because Tracy's grip on his hand tightened, as if she was answering him.

Ronald glanced down at their joined hands. The darkness faded from his eyes, and a faint smile appeared, his dimples deepening at the corners of his mouth.

Feeling the dampness in his palm and remembering how much Tracy had sweated, Ronald decided to change her clothes.

Even though he wasn't exactly a good person, he still respected Tracy's boundaries.

He lifted her shirt and was just about to avert his gaze when he froze.

There, on the skin of Tracy's stomach, was a crisscrossed web of scars-blattant and shocking to see.

Ronald recognized those wounds.

He had them on his own body. In fact, he had even more.

He could never forget the pain those scars had left.

Suddenly, Ronald remembered that in all the time he'd known Tracy, she'd only ever worn long sleeves and pants, never exposing any skin except her face, hands, and feet.

On impulse, he pulled up more of Tracy's clothing, exposing her arms and legs.

Even though Ronald had mentally prepared himself, he was still stunned by what he saw.

Every inch of Tracy's skin that clothes could cover was marked with scars, old and new, layered atop each other. They were so shocking that it was impossible to imagine what she'd gone through.

Ronald's self-control snapped in an instant. His dark eyes burned with rage and murderous intent, as though he wanted to destroy everything.

4:21 pm

s

Chapter 257 What Have They Done to CeeCee?

Angelic Etiquette Academy!

The Jackmans!

What have they done to CeeCee?

The scene before him cut into Ronald's heart like a knife.

He didn't know how long he stayed frozen, but eventually, he reached out and helped Tracy change out of her sweat-soaked clothes.

The whole time, his face stayed taut and unreadable.

That usually bright, gentle face now seemed shrouded in shadow, as if he might lash out at any moment.

After changing her clothes, he sat with Tracy for a while longer before finally leaving the room.

As soon as he stepped out, he pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

"Keep investigating Angelic Etiquette Academy. I don't care what it takes-I want that place gone forever!"

4:21 pm

Chapter 258 Three Percent of the Shares

Chapter 258 Three Percent of the Shares

s

The person on the other end was clearly taken aback by Ronald's words. He didn't say anything for a long while. When he finally did, he stammered, "Y-you're crazy. You spent all this time planning. You even used yourself as bait and almost lost your life.

"Now that you've finally made it to the endgame, why bother going after Angelic Etiquette Academy? Do you have some kind of personal grudge against them?"

"I do," Ronald answered without hesitation. "Angelic Etiquette Academy has to be wiped out. Completely.

The other person fell silent again.

After a while, he spoke, "Is this because of your CeeCee?"

Ronald said nothing, but his silence was as good as confirmation.

It was clear the other person understood Ronald's temperament well, because he sighed quietly. "Ron, haven't you already learned the consequences of trusting others too easily?"

Ronald's hand tightened around his phone, his lips pressed together.

He had. He'd suffered for it before-more than once.

But people who've spent too long in the dark can't help but reach for any sliver of light they find.

And he could tell that Tracy was different from the rest.

She was someone who always got left behind, but her heart still held a stubborn kind of sincerity.

She was just like him-so long as he didn't let go, she'd never let go either.

So, he chose to trust Tracy.

'Do as I say. I have everything planned out.'

With those words, Ronald hung up.

Tracy's illness dragged on for almost half a month before she finally got better.

During that time, she spent her days at home, painting and resting, but she still kept a close eye on what was happening outside.

So, when Andrew contacted her, she already knew what he wanted.

Matthew had agreed to help the Jackmans through their troubles, but he wasn't doing it out of charity.

Once things stabilized for the Jackmans, his first request was for a share of Jackman Enterprise stock from Tracy,

As the CEO of Jackman Enterprise, Andrew only held 20 percent of the shares himself. There was no way

4:21 pm 6

Chapter 258 Three Percent of the Shares

an outsider like Matthew could take all of Tracy's shares.

So, he tactfully asked for just three percent.

s

Three percent of the shares might not sound like much, but for a company as big as Jackman Enterprise, it was still a significant sum-far from something one would give away lightly.

But if those shares came from Tracy, and it could help Andrew build a connection with the Renaults, he thought it was worth it.

He didn't even bother to consult Tracy. Before they met, he'd already printed out the contract.

In the past, Tracy had refused to give up any shares, and he figured it was probably because she was jealous of Erin. But now, if it was for the benefit of Jackman Enterprise-and besides, the requested amount was two percent less than before-she shouldn't object if she was sensible.

Andrew was convinced of this and was ready to lecture Tracy about not being so selfish.

But as it turned out, he never even got the chance to see her.

In fact, before he went to see Tracy, he'd already heard from the company that she was calling an emergency shareholders' meeting.

By the company's policy, any shareholder with over ten percent could call a meeting, but Tracy had never involved herself in the company, nor did she have anyone on her side there.

Her sudden move to call a meeting seemed reckless and out of line.

It was Ronald's idea to call the meeting.

Tracy never cared for her shares in Jackman Enterprise. The only reason she accepted what Franklin left was to have something as backup in case Erin ever tried anything.

So after all that time, she did nothing with her shares, until Andrew tried to get them from her, again and again.

Finally, in a fit of frustration, Tracy decided she might as well step into Jackman Enterprise herself.

Erin's only advantage was being the Jackman daughter, and her backing was Jackman Enterprise.

If Erin lost that backing, maybe her secrets would finally come to light.

Thinking about it, Tracy decided joining Jackman Enterprise might not be such a bad idea.

But she'd never cared about business, and the only thing she was good at was art. Even if she forced her way in, Andrew would probably kick her out within a week.

After some thought, Tracy decided to ask Ronald for help.

Dealing with company affairs was as easy as breathing for Ronald, but he didn't say yes right away.

He was silent for a while, then asked, "CeeCee, if Jackman Enterprise went under one day, would you be

sad?"

4:21 pm 30

Chapter 258 Three Percent of the Shares

The question caught Tracy completely off guard.

s

She didn't know why Ronald asked, but she was sure he had plans for Jackman Enterprise-maybe he'd already started.

Tracy asked him outright.

Ronald answered her just as directly. "That project between the Jackmans and the Woodwards-it was a trap I set for them. But that's not the only trap I have for them."

The specifics were complicated, and Ronald didn't go into detail, but Tracy already understood.

Chapter 259 She Gets a Position

Chapter 259 She Gets a Position

s

Ronald was saying that the traps he set up for the Jackmans were enough to ruin Jackman Enterprise completely.

Would I be upset if the company went under?

She thought about it for a moment and realized-no, she wouldn't.

She no longer saw herself as one of them, so the company's fate had nothing to do with her.

"Even if I'm not sad, I still feel a little regret," Tracy admitted honestly. "That company was Grandpa's life's work."

Knowing how close she had been with Franklin, Ronald immediately understood.

After some thought, he said, "Then why don't you take control of Jackman Enterprise?"

"It'll still be the same company, but you'll be the one in charge. Mr. Franklin gave you shares because he saw you as his real granddaughter.

"Erin isn't even truly a Jackman, but those fools still put all their trust in her. They've already let her drag the family into chaos.

"If you want to keep Mr. Franklin's hard work from going to waste, why not step up yourself?"

Tracy had never even considered that before, so she turned him down right away.

She knew she wasn't capable of running a business. Compared to Andrew, she didn't stand a chance.

But Ronald pushed harder. "If you want Erin to lose her support, you either need to destroy Jackman Enterprise or take it for yourself.

"Don't worry, CeeCee. I'll back you up."

In the end, Tracy agreed. That was how she ended up calling an emergency shareholders' meeting.

But since Andrew had been in charge for years, her few shares weren't nearly enough to compete.

The only way in was to present something valuable to the company.

Ronald was indeed capable. Within two days, he prepared a new project and had Tracy walk into the meeting with it.

The shareholders didn't care about family drama. All they wanted was their dividends.

So, when Tracy showed up with a plan that promised real profits and asked to join, no one stopped her. She even walked out with a deputy CEO title that same day.

Normally, someone like her wouldn't get such a high position immediately.

But she made a bet with Andrew. If her project failed to deliver the promised results, she'd resign on her own and leave for good.

4:21 pm &

Chapter 259 She Gets a Position

So while the title sounded impressive, she had no actual power.

Still, thanks to Ronald's plan, Tracy got into the company with ease.

s

When the Jackmans got this news, Benjamin was pissed off. "I know what that bastard is capable of! This is outrageous!"

Andrew quickly calmed him down.

As for what they discussed in the study afterward, no one else knew about it.

Erin was also angry.

To her, Tracy should be nothing more than a rat hiding in the dark, watching her shine.

Tracy was supposed to be beneath her forever.

But now, Tracy had more shares than her and even got a deputy CEO spot!

Erin's rage nearly made her destroy everything around her. But with Daphne nearby, she had to keep her fake gentle image and swallow her anger.

The more she suppressed it, the more it burned inside her.

Finally, she claimed she wasn't feeling well and stormed back to her room.

She planned to vent in private, but the moment she opened her door, she saw Liam sneaking around by her bed.

Her heart jumped, and she rushed over. "What are you doing?!"

Startled, Liam dropped the box in his hand, scattering its contents across the floor.

It was a pair of exquisite earrings, gleaming under the light with an air of luxury.

Erin frowned, watching him warily. "Why are you in my room?"

Since their fallout, she had stopped pretending with him, and there was no sweetness left in her tone.

He hadn't been nice to her in front of the family, let alone when they were alone,

But now, Liam looked at her with a smile, as if none of their fights had ever happened.

"Erin, I came to apologize," he said awkwardly, scratching his head. "I was too embarrassed to say it face- to-face, so I thought I'd just leave a gift for you in secret, I didn't expect you'd walk in suddenly."

Erin didn't buy it right away. She suspiciously glanced at the bed, but nothing looked unusual.

Liam didn't seem to notice and kept going. "I know I messed up before. You're my real sister, but I said those awful things to you just because I believed Tracy's side of the story."

4:21 pm &

Chapter 260 A Grudge Against Her

Chapter 260 A Grudge Against Her

s

Then, Liam added, "Norris already taught me a lesson, and I've been thinking about it. We've gotten along all these years. How could some small issue ruin that?"

"Erin, will you forgive me?"

Liam's attitude was sincere as he looked at Erin nervously. He didn't look like he was lying at all.

But Erin wasn't convinced that he had changed his attitude without motive.

She looked at Liam warily. "Are you truly here to apologize?"

He quickly nodded. "Yes, Norris already set me straight."

Erin stayed skeptical.

Before, Liam would've rather been thrown out of the Jackmans than apologize to her. How could a few words from Norris change him?

Even when he first started acting softer and wanted to come back home, Erin felt something was off. That wasn't the impulsive, proud Liam she knew at all.

Now, seeing him in her room only made her suspicions stronger.

Still, she didn't call him out. She played along, letting out a small laugh. "Why would I blame you? You're my little brother."

Something flickered in Liam's eyes at that.

He kept smiling, and eventually seemed to relax. "I'm glad you're not upset."

He bent down, picked up the earrings from the floor, put them back in the box, and set it on the bed.

As he turned, he slid his hand into his pocket.

If Erin had noticed, she might have seen several strands of long hair that he hid.

But his body blocked her view, so she didn't see anything.

Liam turned back with a friendly grin. "Erin, keep this gift for now. I'll get you something better next time."

Erin nodded and returned a smile. "Sure."

They acted as if nothing bad had happened.

But once Liam left the doorway, Erin's smile disappeared.

She went over to where he had been standing, checking the bed and even flipping the mattress, but she found nothing out of place.

She then pulled out the earrings Liam had given her and dismantled the box, but she still found nothing out of the ordinary.

Chapter 260 A Grudge Against Her

Was she overthinking?

s

After thinking for a while, Erin suddenly spoke, "Can you find out what Liam was doing in my room just

now?"

Her voice echoed strangely through the space.

No one answered.

After a pause, she spoke again, her tone sharp and frustrated. "You're so useless! What's the point of having you around?"

She threw the box on the floor, venting the anger she felt after hearing Tracy had become deputy CEO,

Just then, her phone rang.

Erin, still fuming, picked it up and was about to hang up. But she stopped when she saw who was calling.

Matthew? Why is he calling me?

The Jackmans assumed Matthew was helping for her sake, but Erin knew perfectly well how little he cared about her.

After hesitating briefly, she decided to pick up the call, her voice softening immediately. "Hello, Mr. Renault. What's the matter?"

Matthew's voice was as gentlemanly as always. "Ms. Jackman, you've invited me to a meal a few times, and I've always turned you down. I happened to have some free time recently. Are you available?"

Erin was quite surprised.

She knew Matthew wouldn't ask her out without a reason. But whatever it was, she had no excuse to say no.

So the next day, Erin dressed elegantly and went to meet him.

They met at a fancy restaurant.

Maybe to show how much he valued her or for some other reason. Matthew had reserved the whole floor.

When Erin arrived, he even stood to pull out her chair, every action precise and gentlemanly.

She kept a graceful smile, acting like she was only there to have a meal with him.

After some polite small talk, Matthew finally got to the point. "Ms. Jackman, I guess your relationship with Tracy isn't great, right?"

A real daughter and a fake one were bound to clash.

Matthew's question left her a bit confused.

He noticed her guarded look and smiled lightly. "Honestly, I hold a personal grudge against Tracy, so ...

He poured her tea. "The enemy of my enemy is my friend, right?"

4:22 pm

Chapter 260 A Grudge Against Her

s

Erin's eyes lit up, and she couldn't hide her excitement. "You have a grudge against Tracy? That means you don't like her, right?"

Matthew studied her carefully.

He wasn't a fool. He could see how eager and tense she became when she heard he had a grudge against Tracy.

It seemed that she had been worried from the start that he might get close to Tracy.