

The Unwanted Daughter: When Love Comes Too Late

#Left Behind 31 - Read The Unwanted Daughter: When Love Comes Too Late Left Behind 31

Chapter 31 The Footage

64%

+10 Free Coins

Liam seemed like he wanted to say something else, but when he caught Andrew's sharp glance, he quickly shut his mouth.

When Tracy stepped into the living room, she saw a crowd already waiting.

Benjamin and Daphne sat with Erin on one side, while Edmond Dunn and Ursula Dunn gathered around Simon, whose arm was wrapped in thick, white bandages. The way everyone was arranged made the room feel less like a family gathering and more like a courtroom about to start a trial.

As soon as Ursula spotted Tracy, she jumped up, her face dark with anger. "You beat up my son, and you still have the nerve to show up?"

Tracy's eyes slid over her, calm and steady, before dropping down.

She stayed silent, already knowing they didn't care about her side—they were just looking to make her say what they wanted.

And sure enough, Daphne spoke first. "Tracy, why would you hit Simon so hard that he ended up in the hospital?" Her voice was sharp, full of accusation.

"You're not a kid anymore. The manners I taught you weren't so you could go around fighting."

Tracy lifted her head and met her gaze. "If I said he started it and I was just defending myself, would you believe me, Mrs. Jackman?"

"You're just making excuses!" Daphne's face twisted with clear disappointment. "Erin told me everything. Simon couldn't stand how you treated her, so he tried to teach you a lesson."

"Sure, he was impulsive, but he was standing up for Erin. And this all started because of you. How could you hit him so hard?"

Tracy didn't even flinch. "If you've already decided it's my fault, why bother with this? Just tell me what you want me to do."

In her mind, she thought, *If they've already labeled me guilty*

, nothing I say matters. Why pretend to ask why?

|||

<

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept O

Chapter 31 The Footage

64%

+10 Free Coins

Benjamin, however, took her calm tone as arrogance. Pissed, he slammed his hand down on the couch armrest, making a loud crack.

"So many people saw what happened, and you still deny it? Should I get the hotel's security footage for you to finally admit it?"

At the mention of security footage, Simon and Erin froze, their faces stiffening.

They knew exactly what the cameras caught. If that footage *got*

out ...

Tracy hadn't planned to waste so much breath on them.

She knew they didn't care about truth or her explanation—they just wanted to pin it all on her and humiliate her.

She almost decided to go along with it. But then she caught the nervous flicker in Simon and Erin's eyes and changed her mind.

"Sure," she said, a mocking smile curling on her lips. "Let's see the footage. I'd love to find out what terrible, unforgivable thing I supposedly did."

Benjamin expected her to break down, apologize, maybe cry after his outburst. Instead, she talked back. His anger flared.

"What kind of attitude is that? How dare you talk back to me like that!"

Just then, the Jackman brothers walked in, catching the end of his yelling.

Benjamin had always been the strict father here—when he got mad, no one dared argue, not even Liam, who usually caused the most trouble. Even he stayed quiet by Daphne’s side.

Andrew, though, stood his ground. “Dad, don’t get so worked up.”

He frowned at Tracy. “You’re not a kid anymore. Don’t you know how to show some understanding for your parents? Go apologize to Dad right now.”

That was always Andrew’s way. No matter what, his first thought was to tell Tracy to be considerate, admit fault, and say sorry,

Tracy answered calmly, “Mr. Benjamin said to get the footage so I could see my mistake. I agreed. But he’s still angry. Isn’t agreeing with him being considerate?”

|||

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept O

Chapter 31 The Footage

64%

+10 **Free** Coins

Andrew had heard them talk about the footage earlier and assumed it showed Tracy doing something wrong—something she didn’t want to admit. That explained why Benjamin was so mad.

But if she agreed to show the footage, and he was still upset... That didn’t add up.

It must be her attitude that Dad *has an issue* with.

Ever *since* she came back, *she’s been sharp and sarcastic with us—never humble, never sorry*. No wonder Dad is *upset*.

Andrew’s voice hardened. “That’s not being considerate. That’s deliberately going against him. We sent you to the etiquette academy to learn to be better, not to learn how to talk back.” He gave her a pointed look.

“With the Jackmans’ status, if that footage got out, reporters would be on it in seconds. The only one who’d look bad would be you.”

His voice was thick with disappointment. “Why do you think we didn’t just pull the footage earlier? We were protecting you. It was for your own good.”

Tracy had had enough of those four words—for your own good.

Her tone turned icy cold. “Thanks for doing all that ‘for my own good, but I’d rather watch that footage myself and see exactly how embarrassing I was, than have you keep pretending you’re protecting me.”

Liam couldn’t hold back any longer. “Andrew, if she won’t appreciate it, then let’s just show the footage. No need to save her any face.”

Andrew frowned but didn’t argue or agree. He just stood there, weighing his options.

Chapter 32 Never Kneel Again

Chapter 32 Never Kneel Again

+10 Free Coins

Benjamin was seriously pissed. Without missing a beat, he snapped, “I guess you don’t get it until it’s too late! Fine, we’ll pull the hotel footage like you want. But when the reporters catch wind of this, don’t come crying to us to fix your mess.”

As if he was scared Benjamin might change his mind, Liam quickly jumped in, “Leave it to me!”

Since the incident, someone from Jackman Enterprise had already gone to grab the security footage. After all, this was about the Jackmans’ reputation, so there were people handling this stuff behind the scenes.

Liam was about to pull out his phone to request the hotel footage when Erin stopped him. “Liam, don’t do that. I believe Tracy just acted on impulse. She didn’t mean any harm.

“Tracy just got back, and if this blows up, how is she supposed to live in Cloudville? Simon’s really hurt. If things get worse, Tracy might even get arrested.”

The two who least wanted the footage pulled were Erin and Simon.

Hearing this, Simon quickly spoke up. “Yeah, if she gets arrested, reporters will definitely zero in on Jackman Enterprise, and that could tank our stock.”

Negative news about the family could seriously hurt the company.

Benjamin knew this well. For him, Jackman Enterprise was the most important thing. So, his plan to get the footage vanished just like that.

Erin looked at Simon with gratitude, "Simon, you're hurt so badly but still thinking about the company. You're so kind."

Simon puffed up a little but kept it cool. "We Dunns are part of Jackman Enterprise too. My dad acts like he's half Jackman. Of course, we put the company first."

Edmond, proud that his son knew the family game, smiled and stepped up. "Simon's right. His getting a little hurt isn't a big deal. Just don't let it hurt Jackman Enterprise."

Edmond wasn't really here to get justice for his son. But seeing him beaten like

|||

O

<

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept (

Chapter 32 Never Kneel Again

that, he wasn't letting it slide.

After standing for a while, he could tell Tracy had long lost favor with the Jackmans. They actually enjoyed seeing her fail.

+10 Free Coins

Edmond said with a forced kindness, "As long as Tracy truly admits her mistake and apologizes to Simon, we'll call it even."

Simon quickly agreed, "Yeah, if she sincerely apologizes, I can forgive her. But she also has to apologize to Erin for pushing her.

"Her last apology wasn't real. This time, she needs to kneel to show she means it, or it's not enough!"

No one argued with Simon. Judging by their faces, making Tracy kneel was already pretty nice of them.

A cold shiver ran down Tracy's spine. She nervously twisted her fingers behind her back.

These people used to be her closest family. Edmond and Ursula once looked at her with warm smiles and told her privately they wished they had a daughter like her.

But now? They wanted to crush her dignity, stomp on every bit of respect she had left.

Tracy almost hurt her skin from twisting so hard, but her eyes stayed fierce and strong.

Her pride had been stomped flat during those two years at the Angelic Etiquette Academy. The proud, bright Tracy she used to be was gone,

Kneeling to apologize was the smallest insult she'd seen there.

But someone once told her that once she decided to stand and fight, she should never kneel again.

So Tracy stood tall, her voice steady as she said, "I'll sincerely apologize to Mr. Simon and Ms. Jackman, but I won't kneel."

She bowed slightly to Simon and Erin, her tone honest and respectful.

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept ti

Chapter 32 Never Kneel Again

74-64%—

+10 Free Coins

"Mr. Simon, I'm sorry I fought with you. Ms. Jackman, I'm sorry I pushed you."

She put everything into that apology—more honesty than she ever showed when her "classmates" forced her to say sorry at the academy.

She just wanted to be done with the Jackmans, even if it meant admitting things she didn't do.

Since turning 18, she'd lost count of how many things she was forced to own up to that weren't true.

Tracy said sorry way too quickly, and everyone who figured she'd never change was a little thrown off.

She already
said *no to kneeling and apologizing, right? So isn't she supposed to get loud, say she*
did nothing *wrong*

, and then get mad, telling us we're being unfair?

That's how she always *acted—*
sometimes even accusing us of favoring Erin. So why is she all of a sudden saying
sorry?

They all just stood there, frozen, watching Tracy stay bent over like she was waiting for whatever verdict they'd give. Not a single trace of the anger they'd seen before -the kind that made them want to rip into her.

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept

Chapter 33 Won't Mind Helping

Erin's face twisted in frustration the moment she saw Tracy's apology.

64

+10 Free Coins

Suddenly, she stepped forward and shook Simon's hand. "Simon, since Tracy already apologized, let's just forgive her. She apologized so fast, as if she's scared we'll change our minds. She must really mean it."

Simon snapped out of it and quickly patted her hand. "Erin, you're too naive. She apologized that quickly not because she's sincere, but because she's scared."

Liam caught on too and nodded. "Exactly. She's just scared I'll pull the hotel footage and embarrass her all over Cloudville. So when you guys said an apology would stop it, she rushed to say sorry.

"I'm not buying it! I'm definitely pulling the footage today and sending it to the media. Everyone needs to see what she's really like!"

Simon's expression froze.

Why is the footage thing coming up again? And sending it to the media,

too...

Simon was thinking hard about how to stop it when Erin quickly pressed down on Liam's hand before he could reach for his phone. "Liam, don't be reckless. Simon and I can take some heat, but if the footage gets out, it'll hurt the company badly."

Then she lowered her voice. "Dad might not run the company much now, but Jackman Enterprise is his life's work. If anything happens to the company, he'll be really upset and that's bad for his health."

She seemed to be expressing her care for Benjamin's health, when in fact, she was reminding Liam that Benjamin would be upset if this matter impacted the

company.

Though she spoke softly, everyone could hear her clearly,

Edmond sighed. "Erin's such a devoted daughter—she's willing to suffer just thinking about her father's health. Mr. Benjamin, you've got a great daughter."

Ursula nodded. "I wish I had a daughter like that. But I'm not so lucky—I got a little troublemaker instead."

|||

O

<

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept D

64%

Chapter 33 Won't Mind Helping

+10 Free Coins

As Tracy listened to their warm, peaceful talk, her lips twitched into a bitter smile.

But since she was still bowed, no one noticed.

It was clear they weren't planning to let her off easy.

Simon turned his anger back on her. "Tracy, don't think you can just get away with what happened today.

“Erin’s kind and won’t hold it against you. But I’m not letting this go!” He sounded fake and righteous. “Today, you need to kneel and apologize to me and Erin. If you don’t, I won’t mind helping you.”

Tracy straightened, her eyes sharp and cautious. “What do you

Her face went a little pale, and she took a step back instinctively.

“I’ve heard ‘I won’t mind helping you’ too many times.”

mean?”

Every time, it meant some kind of torture disguised as help, all from those so- called “classmates.”

Simon looked at her with the same creepy eyes the bullies from her past had.

“I don’t mean anything else, just want you to kneel and apologize to me and Erin,” Simon said with a nasty grin.

He didn’t move but turned to Benjamin. “Mr. Benjamin, pulling the footage will hurt Jackman Enterprise for sure. I don’t want that either. But Tracy needs to learn a lesson.

“People like her, who don’t learn from their mistakes, might do something even dumber next time. And next time, we might not be lucky enough to deal with loyal people like the Dunns.

“I know you care for her after raising her for 18 years and don’t want to be too harsh. I can help since I’m the biggest victim today, and I’ll speak up for Erin too.”

Benjamin, already furious at Tracy’s attitude, didn’t hesitate and nodded. “Fine. Consider this your chance to vent. She needs a serious lesson.”

Simon is right. We got lucky this time facing the Dunns. Next time, if Jackman

Enterprise

|||

O

<

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept

Chapter 33 Won’t Mind Helping

meets a real enemy, who knows what could happen?

Tracy's face drained of color as she looked around.

64%

+10 Free Coins

Edmond and Ursula looked cold. Benjamin and Daphne showed nothing but disappointment. Simon's eyes were filled with cruelty.

Andrew stood silently to the side. Liam's eyes glinted with pleasure at her trouble. Erin looked sympathetic but didn't step in.

So many people, yet no one stood by Tracy.

In this family, she was always alone, completely isolated.

Soon, the Dunns arrived, with bodyguards waiting just outside.

With Benjamin's permission, Simon called them in. "Hold her down. Make sure she kneels and apologizes.

"If she resists, hit her hard!"

His fierce look made it clear he wanted to make her suffer for everything she'd done—twice over.

No one thought Simon's orders were wrong. Even after seeing his cold, ruthless face, no one felt he was going too far.

epr

Chapter 34 Grovel and Beg

Chapter 34 Grovel and Beg

64%

+10 Free Coins

The reason Simon wanted to deal with Tracy was simple—she had the nerve to go after Erin, the family's favorite.

When those tall, cold-faced bodyguards marched toward her, Tracy's first thought

was to run.

But this was the Jackman Villa—servants were everywhere inside, and guards stood at every exit. There was no way out.

“Let me go! Let me go!” Tracy shouted, struggling hard.

But the fragile girl in their grip looked more like a fierce kitten—scary at first, but harmless when picked up by the neck.

Each guard grabbed one of Tracy’s hands, pressing down hard, not caring if they might hurt her thin arms.

When she kept refusing to kneel, two guards kicked her knees like they wanted to shatter them.

Thud!

Her knees hit the floor with a painful thump.

I don’t *understand... I escaped that nightmare,*

the Angelic Etiquette Academy, so why am I still trapped in the same torture?

Tracy fought to break free, pulling at her hands and trying to stand up.

But the guards pressed down like mountains, making it hard to even breathe.

Finally, she knelt. Simon strutted up, grinning like he’d already won. “I thought your knees were tougher than this. But here you are—on the floor.”

He stood over her, full of arrogance, chin high. “Since you’re so unwilling, I bet your apology isn’t real. So you’re going to grovel before me and Erin and promise it won’t happen again.”

Tracy’s pale face tightened, eyes locked on Simon with a fierce glare. She didn’t

Chapter 34 Grovel and Beg

answer.

+10 Free Coins

It was the same look she gave those classmates who stepped on her to get the teacher’s favor, always finding new ways to humiliate her.

Simon's heart skipped. He couldn't forget that night at Sometime Hotel when Tracy had gone crazy, trying to hurt him.

His anger flared, and he raised his hand to slap her.

"What's with that look?!" he yelled. "I've given you chance after chance, and you just don't get it!"

Andrew's face darkened in surprise. He never thought Simon would actually hit her.

No matter what, Tracy was still one of the Jackmans. Even if Benjamin gave Simon the right to discipline her, slapping her in front of them felt like slapping the whole family.

Edmond quickly stepped in. "Simon, how can you hit someone? Even if you're hurt and mad, losing control like this isn't right."

His words cooled Simon down and even stopped the words that were about to slip out of Andrew's mouth.

Simon hurried to explain, "Dad, I don't want to hit a woman. But look at her—no sign of regret.

"I can handle the pain. It's just a minor injury, and I'll be in the hospital for a couple of months—but she pushed Erin. She clearly meant to hurt her.

"If Erin hadn't been lucky, do you think she'd still be alive?"

His words reminded everyone of Erin's injury as they turned to look, only to find her biting her lip with her head down, fighting back tears.

Andrew stopped himself from speaking. He glanced at Tracy's swollen cheek and frowned.

Seeing no remorse from her, he felt that she definitely needed a serious lesson.

<

11:53 Tue, 2 Sept t

Chapter 34 Grovel and Beg

As the Jackmans softened, Simon relaxed a bit.

64%

+10 Free Coins

He grabbed a fistful of Tracy's hair and pulled her closer. "Forget apologizing to me -I'm a guy, I don't care. But today, you're groveling before Erin and admitting you're wrong."

He dragged her toward Erin. "If I don't teach you a hard lesson today, you'll keep bullying Erin, and I won't let that happen."

The sharp pain in her scalp changed Tracy's expression, but she bit her teeth and stayed silent.

Simon pulled her closer, and the guards let go, letting Tracy be dragged in front of Erin.

"Grovel and beg Erin to forgive you—right now!"

Simon shoved her head toward the floor.

But Tracy grabbed his hand and yanked it down hard.

Without the guards holding her, she refused to let Simon bully her anymore.

Suddenly, Tracy lunged at Simon, ignoring the pain in her scalp, and bit his arm hard.

"Arghh!"

Simon screamed in sharp pain, and the cold faces around them finally shifted.

"Simon!"

"Tracy, what are you doing?"

"Tracy, let go, now!"

Everyone panicked and rushed forward. The guards snapped out of it and tried to pull Tracy off.

But she held tight, refusing to let go of Simon's arm. When they pulled, Simon screamed louder, scaring the guards from trying more.

|||

O

<

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept ti

Chapter 34 Grovel and Beg

୫ ୨ ୫, 64

+10 Free Coins

Edmond and Ursula looked heartbroken. They didn't dare pull Tracy, so instead, they started hitting her with their fists over and over.

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept

Chapter 35 Almost

"Let go

of my son, you bitch! Let go right now!" Ursula barked.

64%

+10 Free Coins

Simon yelled in pain, pounding Tracy's head with his hand while begging her to release him.

But no matter how everyone reacted, Tracy held on tight, her grip fierce like she wanted to tear off a chunk of flesh.

She didn't even notice what was happening around her; in her mind, a voice repeated, "Tracy, don't be scared. Even if you can't win, bite a piece off. Only when they're scared will they stop bullying you."

Benjamin and Daphne stepped back to protect Erin, worried she might get hurt. Andrew stood in front of them, shocked and cautious of the wild, crazed Tracy.

He'd never seen her like this before. She looked like an angry stray dog—once she bit, she wouldn't let go, no matter what.

Liam had already seen Tracy's wild side today, but still felt shaken. "Tracy, y—you're crazy! Let go, now!"

The fierce look in Tracy's eyes didn't fade, and her mouth stayed locked around Simon's arm.

In her world right now, there was only one thought—*bite down and never let go.*

If I let go, they'll just keep torturing

me...

Liam was frozen by her fierce stare, chills running down his spine.

I don't get it. How *did Tracy become this in just two short years?*

"Liam..." Erin's scared voice came softly. "Tracy looks so scary right now. Can you stop her? I'm really scared

Liam snapped back and quickly promised, "Don't worry, Erin. I won't let her hurt you." Then he ran to help pull Tracy off.

Unlike the Dunns, Liam didn't hit Tracy, but he didn't stop them either.

|||

O

<

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept ti

Chapter 35 Almost

64%

+10 Free Coins

After several failed tries, he looked for something to use, his eyes landing on the ashtray on a nearby table.

Without thinking much, all he wanted was to stop Tracy from going crazier—he couldn't let her hurt Erin.

He grabbed the ashtray and raised it, ready to smash it on Tracy's head.

Just as he was about to bring it down, a panicked voice shouted, "Stop!"

Bang!

Someone slammed hard into Liam, sending him stumbling toward the side table. The ashtray barely missed Tracy's ear and shattered on the floor.

Everyone turned to see Franklin being supported by Walter as he appeared at the door. The man who knocked Liam over was one of Franklin's bodyguards.

Franklin—didn't look at anyone else. His voice trembled as he pointed at Edmond and Ursula. "Get them off of Tracy! Don't you dare bully her!"

His bodyguards stepped forward, pulling Edmond, Ursula, and their guards apart. No one dared move Tracy, who still held onto Simon fiercely.

Supported by Walter, Franklin shakily walked toward Tracy, eyes full of pain.

Liam, still hurting from the collision, hurried to stop him. "Grandpa, don't come closer! Tracy's gone crazy! She—"

Slap!

A loud slap cut off Liam's words.

Franklin seemed to put all his strength into it, chest rising and falling with rage.

His disappointed eyes locked on Liam. "That's the girl you called your sister for 18 years, and you just tried to hit her with something so hard?"

"Do

you want her dead or what?!"

Liam froze, eyes falling on the broken ashtray on the floor. Realizing what he had just done, his face drained of color.

|||

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept 1.

Chapter 35 Almost

I *almost ... almost...*

64%

+10 Free Coins

Franklin didn't say more. Instead, he rushed to Tracy's side, shaking off Walter's hand and practically throwing himself onto her.

He gently stroked her hair, voice shaking as he whispered, "Tracy, don't be afraid. I'm here now. It's okay..."

Tracy looks menacing now, but to Franklin, it broke his heart.

My dear Tracy, once bright, gentle, and obedient—how much pain has she suffered to become like this?

Franklin felt like his heart was being squeezed so tight he could barely breathe.

“It’s my fault. I didn’t protect you...”

“1

His voice cut through the fog, breaking into Tracy’s world. Slowly, she started to come back, unclenching her tightly pressed teeth.

Freed, Simon yanked his hand back and scrambled away like he feared she’d bite him again.

Tracy’s eyes focused on Franklin, clearing.

“Grandpa...”

Her voice held hurt and fear, like a lot was bottled inside her, wanting to come out.

After a long pause, she asked softly, “Why are you here? Are you feeling okay?”

The doctors had told them Franklin shouldn’t leave the hospital or overexert himself.

Chapter 36 The Toughest to Crack

2 ¼, 64%L

+10 Free Coins

Franklin’s face was full of pain. “Why are you still worried about an old man like me at a time like this?”

A few days ago, Tracy told him she’d visit the hospital today, so he made sure the doctors finished all his treatments early and even changed into clean clothes because he didn’t want to upset her when she saw him.

But he waited and waited at the hospital and never saw her. He didn’t know how to contact her either.

Tracy never broke a promise to visit, so he couldn’t help but remember the fear he felt when he almost lost her two years ago.

Ignoring the doctors’ advice, he hurriedly asked Walter to take him home to check on things.

*Thank goodness I came back—
otherwise, who knows what would have happened to Tracy ...*

Just thinking about what he saw when he walked in made Franklin shiver.

This old man, used to a life of discipline, couldn't stop tears from falling. "Silly child, why didn't you come to me when you were hurt? Does it hurt?"

Tracy's nose stung, but she forced a smile, even though it made her cheek ache, and shook her head firmly. "It doesn't."

With Franklin caring about her and protecting her, she barely felt pain.

But seeing her swollen, puffy cheek broke Franklin's heart.

*Tracy used to cry for ages, even if she just banged her hand on the
table. How could she not be hurting now?*

Tracy wanted to say more, but after all the injuries she got at the hotel and Simon hitting her head so many times just now, her emotions slipped away.

Her vision darkened, and she fainted.

"Tracy!"

Chapter 36 The Toughest to Crack

+10 Free Coins

Franklin panicked and quickly told the people with him to get her to the hospital.

Walter supported him as they prepared to leave, ignoring the cold silence from the others nearby.

Benjamin was surprised Franklin didn't even look at him; after all, there were outsiders here.

He quickly called out, "Dad," trying to get his attention.

Franklin snapped angrily, "Don't call me Dad! Watching your own daughter get bullied and doing nothing? I have nothing to do with a cold and cruel man like you!"

His words were harsh and painful, and Benjamin felt slapped in the face, embarrassed and ashamed.

Andrew knew his father well and spoke up. "Grandpa, you're misunderstanding. Tracy went too far.

"If she hadn't hurt Simon first, if she hadn't bitten him and refused to let go, Liam wouldn't have lost control. And he didn't hurt Tracy; Simon was-

"1

"What do you mean he didn't hurt her?" Franklin's anger flared again despite trying to stay calm. "If I had been one second later, you really think he wouldn't have hurt Tracy?"

Andrew fell silent.

Anyone with eyes could see that if Franklin had been later, the ashtray would've hit Tracy's head for sure.

Seeing his proud son getting scolded, Daphne muttered softly, "Well, it didn't hit her...

Her quiet words cut through the tension. Even Simon's whimper was silenced by Ursula's hand, making Daphne's words clear.

Franklin stared at Daphne in disbelief. "Wh-what...

"1

How could a mother say

that?

O

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept t.

Chapter 36 The Toughest to Crack

64%

+10 Free Coins

Gripping his chest, Franklin struggled for breath, then suddenly passed out.

Just before he fainted, Franklin was especially glad Tracy had lost consciousness

earlier.

Tracy used
to *cling to Daphne so much; if she heard that, I can't imagine how hurt she would be!*

No one expected Franklin to faint. Everyone moved to help, but Walter stopped them.

He'd been by Franklin's side for decades and knew him best.

If these cold-blooded people helped, Mr. Franklin would probably get angry again once he woke up.

Walter ordered the bodyguards to take Franklin and Tracy to the hospital and followed behind.

Before leaving, he glanced back at the people in the living room.

After living with the Jackmans for decades, he suddenly felt they were strangers.

Ms. Tracy is *family—they*

raised her, and she lived with them for 18 years. How could they be so blind and reckless?

"You all..."

Walter didn't know what to say. He sighed deeply and quickly walked away.

He just hoped they wouldn't regret this later.

Franklin left just as swiftly as he came.

Everyone watched the speeding car, feeling something they couldn't quite explain.

Walter had been with Franklin since Benjamin could remember.

Though just a butler by title, the Jackmans always treated Walter like an elder.

That hesitant look Walter gave as he left made everyone uneasy.

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept O

Chapter 36 The Toughest to Crack

64%

+10 Free Coins

Erin noticed the Jackmans' gazes and almost ground her teeth in frustration.

*Everyone in the Jackmans is easily fooled—
except for that stubborn old man and his loyal dog. They're the toughest to crack!*

Chapter 37 Where Did They Really Send You?

+10 Free Coins

Erin took a deep breath, trying to calm the sharp anger building inside her. In the thick, tense silence, she spoke carefully, "Grandpa hasn't been home in two years, so why would he suddenly show up today? The timing's uncanny ..."

Her words hit everyone like a splash of cold water.

..

Since Tracy was sent away, Franklin had promised he wouldn't come back to the Jackmans until she was brought home.

Even during the New Year, when the whole family visited Franklin in the hospital, he refused to return.

But now, almost a month after Tracy's return, Franklin suddenly showed up—and just happened to catch her getting bullied.

Watching everyone's faces, Erin knew they were already thinking exactly what she wanted.

She hurried on, "If Tracy doesn't want to apologize, she should just say so. I wouldn't blame her, but why keep pushing everyone's buttons?"

"If she hadn't made Simon so mad, he wouldn't have hit her, and Grandpa wouldn't have gotten so upset that he fainted.

"I think she did it on purpose!"

Benjamin was boiling with anger, and now, with what he thought was proof, he exploded, "She pushed us on purpose, made us angry, just so your grandpa would see us hitting her with his own eyes."

Daphne nodded eagerly. "Simon got hurt so bad but didn't pass out. Tracy's the one who fainted. She's definitely faking. Maybe she even called Franklin beforehand and planned this whole thing!"

Andrew's gold-rimmed glasses couldn't hide the disgust in his her to get this sneaky."

“I didn’t expect eyes.

Liam said nothing—just covered his face, still stunned from Franklin’s slap. For a moment, his eyes were blank.

|||

O

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept 1.

Chapter 37 Where Did They Really Send You?

Tracy doesn’t have a phone; she couldn’t have called

Grandpa.

64%

+10 Free Coins

And if Grandpa hadn’t arrived right then, the ashtray would’ve smashed into Tracy’s head.

Who would risk their life to fake something like this?

Erin, worried, stepped over and asked, “Liam, are you okay?”

Liam came back to himself and saw everyone angry except Erin—she was the only one checking on him first.

His heart softened, and his hate for Tracy only grew.

Both

are my sisters; Tracy lived with me for 18 years, but her care doesn’t even come close to Erin’s.

Erin looked at his swollen, red face with pain. “Tracy’s really something. Even if she’s mad at me, she could at least take it out on me. Why make Grandpa hit you so *hard*?”

Liam touched his sore cheek, anger rising.

Grandpa never hit me this hard before, and now he did. It’s

definitely because Tracy stirred things up.

“Ah, my hand! The skin’s coming off! Mom, take me to the hospital!” Simon yelled, staring at his bloody arm.

Only then did everyone snap out of their anger and realize the most urgent thing was to get Simon and Liam to the hospital.

Mentioning the hospital, *Erin*

eyes flickered.

Suddenly, she clutched her chest in pain, her body wobbling like she might fall.

Andrew was quick to catch her, worry written all over his face. “Erin, what’s wrong?”

Her voice was weak. “I—I think I’m in shock. It’s not Tracy’s fault; my body’s just too weak.”

“How is it not her fault?” Daphne came closer, worried. “If she hadn’t taken your

|||

O

T

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept i

Chapter 37 Where Did They Really Send You?

🔒, 64%

+10 Free Coins

identity and made you suffer so much outside, your body wouldn’t be this weak.

“Erin, it’s okay. I’m taking you to the hospital now.”

The group surrounded Erin, gently hurrying her to the hospital like she was a fragile treasure. Even Liam, with his swollen face, got pushed aside.

But he didn’t mind—it felt right to him.

Tracy had no idea how long she’d been unconscious.

She felt trapped in endless darkness. Not a single ray of light anywhere. No matter which way she she couldn’t escape.

ran,

After a long time, Tracy finally broke free from the blackness and woke up.

She stared at the bright white ceiling, the sharp smell of disinfectant hitting her nose. She stayed still for a long moment.

Then a voice rang out beside her. “Hey, there. Do you feel any pain?”

Walter sat by the bed, his face full of care and worry, gently helping Tracy sit up.

As soon as she sat, Tracy noticed she was wearing a hospital gown, and her expression changed.

She instinctively grabbed the fabric and looked up at Walter.

Walter understood right away,

Remembering the injuries he saw when the nurse changed her clothes, his heart clenched painfully.

He looked at Tracy seriously. “Ms. Tracy, be honest with me—where did they really send you these past two years?”

Tracy tightened her grip on the gown without meaning to, but her voice stayed calm. “They sent me abroad.”

Chapter 38 Happy Now?

+10 Free Coins

Tracy looked Walter straight in the eyes, smiling gently, with no sign that she was lying.

But Walter didn’t believe her. “Really? Then how do you explain those wounds on your body?”

He’d only seen bruises on Tracy’s arms and legs—those marks didn’t appear overnight. The nurse even mentioned that her whole body was covered in injuries.

Tracy forced a weak smile. “When I first got to that foreign country, I didn’t speak the language, so maybe I got picked on a bit. But after that, it stopped.”

Even though she sounded convincing, Walter had been through so much with Franklin in business—he wasn’t about to be fooled by a few soft words.

“Even if you were bullied, how did they leave you looking like this ...”

Thinking about those deep bruises made Walter’s heart ache. “After you went abroad, how much allowance did they give you each month?”

Even if the Jackmans were cruel, sending Tracy overseas and then ignoring her, they should have at least given her some money!

If she had cash, she wouldn’t have been bullied so badly.

Talking about this made Tracy’s h

meaning to.

ache as well, and she shivered without

A year after Erin came back to the Jackmans, Tracy never got any allowance again.

They said she was living too well and had time to pick on Erin, so they gave all her money to Erin instead, claiming it was what she owed Erin.

Later, Tracy barely kept herself afloat by selling some old luxury items.

Then they sent her to the Angelic Etiquette Academy.

There, money still mattered.

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept O

Chapter 38 Happy Now?

0¢ 3, 64%E

+10 Free Coins

You could buy a hot dog with a thousand bucks. If you had enough cash, maybe you’d avoid becoming “stray dogs.”

But she had no money.

The Jackmans had frozen all her accessible funds long ago, and when they sent her to the Angelic Etiquette Academy, they took all her belongings.

For Tracy, who once spent six figures on a casual shopping trip, she couldn’t help but feel wronged.

Still, she knew it didn't matter what she felt—she had no right to complain anymore.

Tracy smiled up at Walter. "I'm really okay now. It's all in the past. I'm doing fine now, aren't I?"

Though she smiled, Walter still felt pain looking at her pale little face.

Tracy tried to sound casual. "Does Grandpa know about these wounds on me?"

She wasn't afraid of the suffering she'd gone through at the Angelic Etiquette Academy, nor of the Jackmans misunderstanding her or causing trouble.

The only thing she feared was Franklin knowing what she went through these past two years.

Walter knew exactly what she meant, and that ache in his chest only deepened.

This silly kid...

She's suddenly grown so *mature—she must have been through a lot these* past two years.

Walter gently patted Tracy's shoulder. "If you don't want him to know, then don't."

After *all*, those *memories* weren't good *ones*. Let them *stay in the* past, and from now *on*, we'll protect *this child*.

Walter comforted her softly, "Don't worry, Mr. Franklin doesn't know about any this."

Seeing Tracy's wounds made Walter so sad that he almost cried.

of

|||

O

64%

11:54 Tue, 2 Sept

Chapter 38 Happy Now?

+10 Free Coins

You could buy a hot dog with a thousand bucks. If you had enough cash, maybe you'd avoid becoming "stray dogs."

But she had no money.

The Jackmans had frozen all her accessible funds long ago, and when they sent her to the Angelic Etiquette Academy, they took all her belongings.

For Tracy, who once spent six figures on a casual shopping trip, she couldn't help but feel wronged.

Still, she knew it didn't matter what she felt—she had no right to complain anymore.

Tracy smiled up at Walter. "I'm really okay now. It's all in the past. I'm doing fine now, aren't I?"

Though she smiled, Walter still felt pain looking at her pale little face.

Tracy tried to sound casual. "Does Grandpa know about these wounds on me?"

She wasn't afraid of the suffering she'd gone through at the Angelic Etiquette Academy, nor of the Jackmans misunderstanding her or causing trouble.

The only thing she feared was Franklin knowing what she went through these past two years.

M

Walter knew exactly what she meant, and that ache in his chest only deepened.

This silly kid...

She's suddenly grown so *mature—she must have been through a lot these* past two years.

Walter gently patted Tracy's shoulder. "If you don't want him to know, then don't."

After all, those *memories* weren't good *ones*. Let them *stay in* the past, and *from now* on, we'll

protect *this child*.

Walter comforted her softly, “Don’t worry. Mr. Franklin doesn’t know about any this.”

Seeing Tracy’s wounds made Walter so sad that he almost cried.

of

|||

O

1:54 Tue, 2 Sept

Chapter 38 Happy Now?

If Mr. Franklin knew, he’d be crushed. His health is fragile now; he can’t handle big emotional shocks.

Tracy finally let out a breath of relief.

64

+10 Free Coins

She reached out and lightly tugged on Walter’s shirt. “Can you keep a secret for me?”

This was something Tracy had done many times as a kid, but back then, it was always because she was hurt, clinging to his shirt corner, pouting and complaining.

This time, she was asking him to keep her pain hidden.

Walter’s nose tingled. He quickly turned away to wipe his tears.

“Okay, I promise.”

Tracy pretended not to hear the catch in his voice.

She ate a little and, after finishing her last medicine bottle, planned to visit Franklin.

Walter had told her about Franklin fainting from anger. She wouldn’t feel at ease until she saw him herself.

Tracy’s room wasn’t far from Franklin’s—both were on the same floor.

But as she stepped out of her room, she didn’t expect to run into Liam.

Liam didn't *expect* it either. After a brief surprise, his anger flared. "Where do you think you're going? Planning to cause trouble for Erin again?"

Tracy instinctively stepped back, eyes wary.

Liam was impulsive; when angry, he often picked fights. Tracy had cleaned up after him plenty of times.

Seeing her scared reaction, Liam's anger suddenly caught in his throat.

"What's with that reaction?" His face darkened. "Are you trying to put up a show and frame me again?"

11:55 Tue, 2 Sept ti

३२६, 64%

Chapter 38 Happy Now?

If an outsider saw this, they'd think I was bullying her again.

Liam glanced around quickly but saw no one.

+10 Free Coins

He sighed in relief, then looked at Tracy with a mocking smirk, like he could see right through her. "You played a damsel in distress in front of Grandpa, and he beat me up. Happy now?"

Chapter 39 I Want to See Grandpa

Chapter 39 I Want to See Grandpa

Tracy finally noticed Liam's face was a bit swollen and red on one side.

Grandpa actually hit him?

A sharp pain rose in Tracy's chest.

+10 Free Coins

Liam was the youngest Jackman, and Franklin loved him just as much as he loved her.

But now Franklin had hit Liam and even fainted from anger. That showed how furious he was at the Jackmans.

Seeing her staring at his face, Liam pushed out his swollen cheek.

Every time he'd gotten into fights before, Tracy would patch him up and ask if it hurt, promising to teach whoever hurt him a lesson.

Even
though *this time she's the reason I got hurt, if she shows some attitude and says sorry first, I might forgive her.*

Still, she bullied Erin *and scared her so badly that she ended*

up in the hospital. That's *not* something I *can just forget—she needs to apologize to Erin!*

Liam lifted his chin, snorting coldly/"If you really say sorry to me, I won't blame you for faking it and making Grandpa hit me. But you still gotta apologize to Erin ..."

Before he finished, Tracy didn't even look at him. She just turned and walked away,

The way she looked at him before she left—with those cold, calm eyes—it was as if he were a stranger. There was no sign of the care she used to show.

Liam froze for a moment before reacting.

"Stop right there!"

He rushed forward and grabbed her hand.

The sudden touch startled Tracy. She pulled away, bumping hard against the wall,

III

Chapter 39 I Want to See Grandpa

but didn't react, watching him carefully.

His brow furrowed. "Why are you still pretending? I said I don't blame you framing me, but you'd better not push it!"

+10 Free Coins

for

He looked at her with disgust. "How did I never see you were such a good actor? You even fooled Grandpa. Not only did I get hit, but Dad got yelled at too.

“Why can’t you learn from Erin? She’s always been sick, but your fake crazy act gave her so much shock that she’s been admitted to the hospital. She even wanted me to come visit you. If I hadn’t stopped her, she’d have dragged herself here, sick as she is. And you don’t feel even a little sorry.”

Tracy just laughed at him. “Mr. Liam, you’re always going on about how much you care about Ms. Jackman, saying she’s sick and ended up in the hospital because she was scared. What about Grandpa, then?

“The doctor said he can’t handle big shocks. He fainted right in front of everyone, and he’s in the same hospital. Have you gone to see him or even asked how he’s doing since you showed up?”

I don’t mind that *they don’t care about me. After*

all, we’re not blood-related. But Grandpa is family. How could they not care at all?

Liam was stunned by the questions.

Of course, we’re *worried about Grandpa fainting.*

Although we haven’t *lived* with Grandpa for two years, we’ve kept in touch with his doctor and checked on *his health*

.

Grandpa’s health has gotten *worse since the fall two years ago, but nothing serious.* This fainting was a *surprise*, too.

If anyone is to blame, *it’s Tracy.*

Liam’s tone suddenly turned self-righteous. “If you hadn’t put up the show earlier, Grandpa wouldn’t have fainted!

“Grandpa treated you so well, but you used him to fight for Erin’s attention, making him so angry he got sick. Tracy, you’re just cruel!”

111

<

11:55 Tue, 2 Sept i O

Chapter 39 I Want to See Grandpa

Tracy didn't expect him to say that.

9.64%@

+10 Free Coins

She knew the Jackmans would always side with Erin, but she hadn't thought they would still only focus on Erin's interests when it came to Franklin.

Suddenly, she didn't want to argue anymore because it wouldn't change anything.

"Think what you want." Tracy turned to leave.

But her cold attitude made Liam furious. "Stop right there! Who said you could walk away?"

He reached to grab her, his angry face looking more like he was facing an enemy than someone he'd lived with for 18 years.

Just as he was about to catch her, a sharp voice cut in.

"Stop!"

Walter suddenly appeared, rushing over to pull Tracy behind him.

He stared at Liam with a fierce warning. "Mr. Liam, what do you think you're doing?"

Liam had never seen Walter look at him so strictly. He panicked. "I—I wasn't doing anything..."

Walter had seen him swing that ashtray at Tracy and knew the cruel look on his face. Of course, he didn't believe Liam.

Silence stretched. Tracy then tugged on Walter's sleeve from behind. "I want to see Grandpa."

Walter's face softened instantly. "Alright, I'll take you to him."

He ignored Liam and led Tracy away.

This calm move shocked/Liam.

Walter was officially the Jackmans' butler, but even Benjamin treated him with respect.

Chapter 40 Warm Scene

@x64%

+10 Free Coins

Even so, Walter kept his professionalism. Whenever he saw the Jackmans, he'd address them politely.

But this time, he ignored Liam completely, clearly showing his annoyance.

What kind of spell did Tracy cast to make Walter act like that?

Liam's dislike for Tracy only grew stronger as he quickly followed her.

I wanna see for myself how she fooled Grandpa

!

At Franklin's hospital room door, Liam didn't go in but stood at the slightly open door, peeking inside.

Tracy sat beside Franklin, her face calm and peaceful, and the cold, distant look she'd had since coming back was replaced with warmth and kindness.

Liam was stunned.

He suddenly remembered Tracy used to look at them just like that. *What changed after she came back?*

What did she learn at the Angelic Etiquette Academy during those two years?

1

Walter noticed Liam at the door, and his smile vanished.

He stepped out and firmly shut the door.

"Mr. Liam, may I help you?"

Though he said "Mr. Liam," his tone was cold, still holding anger.

Liam quickly answered, "I came to see Grandpa."

Walter stayed calm but firm. "Mr. Franklin is in good spirits now. Maybe come back another time."

Liam understood what that really meant—his visit would upset Franklin. Recalling the slap, he knew Franklin was still mad at him.

111

64%

Chapter 40 Warm Scene

+10 Free Coins

But what I did it wasn't on purpose. If Tracy hadn't lost control like that, how could I have reacted the way I did?

"Walter, don't be fooled by Tracy. She called Grandpa early to get him to come back and then timed everything to put on a show," Liam hurriedly said.

Walter knew how much they misunderstood Tracy, but he didn't expect Liam to say that.

"Mr. Liam, you and Ms. Tracy have always been the closest in the Jackmans. Is that really how you see her?"

Disappointment showed on his face. "Ms. Tracy always says she's been doing fine with the Jackmans. But if Mr. Franklin hadn't felt something was wrong and insisted on leaving the hospital, you wouldn't even know how much worse things are now than two years ago!

"You said Ms. Tracy called Mr. Franklin to tell on you all, but if she hadn't come to the hospital on her own, Mr. Franklin wouldn't have reached her at all. Mr. Franklin has called her countless times since she left, but the number was always disconnected. Did you even try her old number?"

Walter's voice was quiet but sharp, like a careful question from just a door away.

Liam's face turned pale.

He knew Tracy didn't have a phone/

How have I suddenly forgotten?

Inside the room, the grandfather and granddaughter didn't seem to notice the noise outside—or maybe they just didn't care.

Franklin looked at Tracy's cheek with pain. "Does it still hurt?"

Tracy smiled and shook her head. "I already had medicine on it. It doesn't hurt anymore."

Franklin knew she was saying that to keep him from worrying.

Tracy, who used to be scared of pain, couldn't possibly not hurt after being hit like that.

But he didn't press her for more. "From now on, I'll get you more bodyguards-

O

Chapter 40 Warm Scene

only the best.

+10 Free Coins

"I will never let what happened two years ago happen again!" He squeezed her hand, full of promise.

Tracy knew Franklin worried about her, but she couldn't have bodyguards following her around. If she did, Franklin would find out she was working and planning to move out of the Jackman house.

Thinking that Franklin wasn't healthy enough to stress over her, she quickly refused. "Grandpa, since the Jackmans brought me back, they won't send me away again. I don't need bodyguards."

Franklin didn't agree.

The shadow of what happened two years ago was deep in his heart. Since Tracy returned, he'd been preparing to find the strongest bodyguards for his precious granddaughter.

But Tracy wouldn't budge.

Franklin knew he could never win against her, so he

gave

1. in.

Still, he warned carefully, "You have to give me your new number and call me every day. No matter what, make sure I can always reach you."

If anything like yesterday happened again, his aging, weak body wouldn't hold up.

This time, Tracy didn't refuse.

Her paycheck was coming *soon*, and she planned to buy a phone right away.

Liam didn't know how he left, but he kept hearing Walter's questions in his head.

He went downstairs to Erin's hospital room.

The door was open, and Liam immediately saw a warm scene inside,

Andrew stood by the bed, looking at Erin with loving eyes, talking softly. Erin sat on the bed, laughing and smiling at his words. Daphne sat nearby, smiling warmly while peeling fruit in her hands.

|||