

## **Your Guise 1001**

### Chapter 1001

Then, he looked at the people nearby.

Immediately, those people understood and subdued Hugo and the driver.

"Don't forget this! You'll regret crossing me! You'll suffer for the rest of your miserable lives!" Hugo cursed, his voice filled with venom.

"Sure thing! Anytime you want to chat, just remember my name. I'm your daddy," the leader taunted, deliberately provoking Hugo.

Everyone burst into laughter.

Hearing their boisterous laughs, Hugo knew he couldn't escape. He watched helplessly as they stripped the driver and treated him roughly.

As a result, Hugo's once immaculate gray suit was now crumpled, his collar torn. He looked utterly disheveled, as if he'd been through a brawl.

Finally, they left Hugo and the driver on the east and south sides of Enswood, respectively. Despite the rain and sparse crowd, some passersby noticed them being pushed out of the car.

They gathered around Hugo, murmuring among themselves.

Covered in dirt, Hugo went unrecognized momentarily. But his disheveled appearance invited ridicule.

Slowly, Hugo got up amidst their laughter. It wasn't the first time Richard had subjected him to such humiliation. Similarly, Richard had ordered others to strip him and abandon him in a bustling street, allowing people to mock him without mercy.

The same thing happened again, one that filled Hugo with seething hatred. He struggled to control his rage, snapping, "Get lost!"

People either recoiled from his outburst or hurriedly walked away, fearing his crazy behavior.

Left alone, Hugo trembled with anger. Never before had he felt such intense hatred for Richard, to the point where he wanted to kill him now.

Gritting his teeth, Hugo resolved to find a way to eliminate Richard, to make him pay.

And as for Pearl, she wouldn't escape his wrath either.

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Richard silently watched people bandaging Pearl's wound.

Pearl sensed his somber mood and tried to console him. "I know you've been humiliated. But don't worry, we'll get our revenge."

Richard gently shook his head, taking her hand. "I'm not bothered by that. And you shouldn't have bowed down to Hugo for my sake. He wouldn't harm you, and you could've turned him down. You didn't have to sacrifice yourself for me."

Richard felt very uneasy seeing Pearl submit to Hugo on his behalf.

"So, what, you want me to just stand by and watch you suffer? Get beaten, yelled at, even killed?"

Richard smiled bitterly. "I couldn't bear to see you endure that. Pearl, I'm sorry you had to go through all this because of me."

Chapter 1002

Richard's words really touched Pearl.

"Okay, I'll be more careful, promise," Pearl said, her head still downcast in frustration. "But I took the blow for you. Can you please stop arguing with me about it?"

Seeing Pearl's swollen hand broke Richard's heart. It hurt him more than when he was hurt himself. "Please, don't put yourself in danger like that again. You know that nothing will happen to me."

It wasn't easy though, especially when Hugo tried to attack Richard. But Richard was fast and nimble, making it hard for Hugo to hurt him.

"But I couldn't bear the thought of something happening to you. If he had succeeded, he could've really stabbed you. I'd rather he cut my hand."

It wasn't just a wound. If the cut had been deeper and hit Pearl's wrist, she could've lost the use of her hand.

Richard took a deep breath. "Regardless, your safety comes first."

Stunned, Pearl smiled. "What's the second then?"

Without hesitation, Richard replied, "Our future kid, of course."

Pearl was taken aback, not expecting such an answer from him. "Do you want a child that badly?"

"No, no, don't worry. I mean, if we have a kid someday, then—"

Pearl interrupted him and hugged him tightly. "Then let's have one."

Richard was shocked by her sudden proposal. "What did you say?"

"Why? Don't you want that?"

"Of course, I do," Richard said sincerely. He had seen his colleagues start families and play with their adorable babies, and he wanted that too, especially with Pearl. The child would be the fruit of their love.

And when Pearl grinned and suggested it, his heart raced with excitement.

Nervously, he held her uninjured hand and asked, "Do you really want to have a baby with me? Or are you just saying it to make me happy? I'll be happy either way, you know. We don't have to—"

"Richard, I've known you for four years," Pearl interrupted, her voice muffled against his chest. "I know you well enough. I just want you to be happy. That's one reason why I want this."

He had always been the one to make her happy, so she wanted to do something for him this time.

"You won't regret it?"

"Never. When have I ever regretted anything I said..." Pearl suddenly punched him in frustration, forgetting he was holding her hand. She winced in pain, tears threatening to spill.

Richard wanted to laugh but felt sorry for her instead.

Chapter 1003

"Okay, stay put. Let's finish bandaging up that wound so we can head home and rest sooner," Richard said.

Suddenly, Pearl recalled something and asked, "Did you strip Hugo and leave him on the street?"

With heavy rain outside, Pearl worried that Hugo might get sick. And knowing his vengeful nature, he might come after Richard soon.

It was fine even if he did. But he would bring them a lot of trouble.

Richard shrugged. "That should be humiliating enough for him."

Pearl shook her head. "Hugo's all about his reputation. He's definitely going to be mad at you for this."

"He didn't like me much before anyway. But he had eyes on you. So, I had to make it clear that you're mine. No one's taking you away," Richard said firmly, a hint of coldness in his eyes.

"Okay, just make sure you're safe. Even though we shouldn't fear Hugo, he's a real headache. Watch your back," Pearl warned.

Richard raised an eyebrow. "I'll keep an eye out."

"I know you're not afraid, but still, you need to be careful..."

Richard smiled and nodded. "Sure thing, I'll listen to you."

It was quite amusing that despite being groomed to lead the Waldorf family, Richard was ready to follow Pearl's lead. Surprisingly, he had a knack for humor, which made Pearl burst into laughter.

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Days passed, and Hugo remained quiet. Pearl started doubting her judgment of him.

Richard found it weird too, but he figured Hugo was just biding his time.

Then one day, a shocking piece of news hit the internet. Pearl felt a surge of annoyance when she saw a photo of her and Richard at the old warehouse.

Hugo finally made a move.

Initially, Pearl thought it was just some smear campaign against her and Richard. But then she noticed a familiar name.

Winona?

That news exposed Winona's cruelty, how she trapped Pearl and Richard in the warehouse before leaving. It was clearly a well-planned scheme.

Reading through the article, Pearl realized they were painted as the victims. It was a relief that Hugo hadn't caused any direct trouble.

But it left her baffled. Why would Hugo try to frame Winona, especially knowing the Jesselton family supported her? If Hugo went against Howard, he'd make some powerful enemies.

Comments flooded in, condemning Winona and even her family. It put the Jesseltons in a tight spot.

Pearl couldn't shake the feeling that Hugo was stirring up trouble.

Just then, someone barged into her office. She recognized the voice before she saw the person.

"Pearl! Dad warned you not to mess with Winona, yet you framed her. You deliberately trapped her and took that photo to ruin her, didn't you? How could you be so evil?"

Chapter 1004

"I tried to stop Mister Martin, but he just pushed past me, Miss Pearl. I'm sorry!" Lily Green, Pearl's secretary, reported anxiously.

Pearl remained calm, taking a sip of her tea as if the situation didn't bother her. She had nothing to worry about since she wasn't the one behind the scheme.

In stormed Martin, Winona's father, his face twisted with anger as he glared at Pearl.

"Mister Martin, next time, please gather some evidence before accusing me. I have too much work to entertain these petty games," Pearl said calmly, though she was surprised to see Martin instead of Howard.

Then, she offered her hand with a smile. "If you're here to scold me, Mister Martin, save your breath. I have work to do. Please leave."

Martin hadn't expected Pearl's brazen attitude. She didn't seem the least bit guilty, which made him doubt the accuracy of the information.

But if not Pearl, then who? No one besides Pearl and Richard had a reason to hold a grudge against Winona.

"Even without concrete evidence, I'll uncover the truth. You can't escape," Martin warned.

Pearl sensed someone was manipulating Martin. "I'm not worried because I'm innocent. And I have no intention of running." She smiled calmly, which made Martin wonder if he had come to the wrong person.

"And you should think twice before acting. Do you really think Howard doesn't know what you know? If he didn't act, there must be a reason. Don't you realize that?"

Martin was left speechless by Pearl's pointed questions. Being lectured by a young woman half his age was embarrassing.

Though annoyed, he had to admit he was in the wrong.

"It looks like you finally understood." Pearl chuckled and asked, "You're done, right? Lily, please escort Mister Martin out."

Lily smiled and gestured for Martin to follow her. "This way, Mister Martin."

Taking a deep breath to compose himself, Martin adjusted his collar and left.

"Miss Pearl, you're awesome! You made him speechless with just a few words!" Lily grinned and gloated.

"I didn't say much. Plus, I didn't do that. I'm innocent."

Lily nodded. "Exactly. You didn't do anything wrong. But Winona's something else. She pulls a stunt like that, and her father comes after you instead. Ridiculous, blaming the victim."

"Let's ignore him. He's just trying to shift blame," Pearl said, stretching. "If there's nothing else, you can go, Lily."

"Alright, Miss Pearl," Lily said, turning to leave.

But Pearl stopped her. "Actually, can you arrange a meeting with Sean for me, Lily?"

"Okay."

Pearl could almost confirm that Hugo was behind Winona's scandal, using it to slander her.

Chapter 1005

Pearl thought Hugo had forgotten about that, but it appeared he had reserved such a trick up his sleeve.

After finishing her work at noon, she headed to the restaurant on the third floor for lunch. As she sat down with her plate of chicken chop, someone unexpectedly took a seat across from her.

Assuming it was just someone looking for a table, Pearl continued eating until she noticed the person's lingering presence. Looking up, she saw Hugo's arrogant smile.



"It's been a long while, Pearl."

"Not that long, just about a week. Feeling better, Hugo?" Pearl replied casually, unaware of the growing animosity in Hugo's expression.

Hugo had taken a few days off to recover, nursing a sprained arm from their recent encounter when he was pushed off a car. He felt embarrassed when Pearl brought up the incident as if it were a joke.

"Why are you here? And why the happy face? Came to watch me make a fool of myself?"

Hugo rubbed his chin. With few people around, he leaned in and said, "Heard Martin paid you a visit this morning, didn't he?"

"You're well-informed, Mister Hugo. Makes one wonder if you've got spies in Cerubleu," Pearl quipped.

"What are you talking about? I just have someone stalking the Jesselton family."

Surprised by his answer, Pearl set her fork down, intrigued. "And why did you do that?" She wondered if he wanted to see Martin exact revenge on her and revel in her downfall.

"Naturally, I'm worried about your safety since I've got someone keeping an eye on them," Hugo explained.

Pearl found his concern absurd. "Why should you care? Aren't you mad at me for taking that knife for Richard?"

"Why would I hate you? Pearl, I'm just devastated and jealous that you saved him. But I still care about you, and I want you back even more," Hugo admitted, becoming agitated and gripping her hand.

Her hand felt cold, making him feel hopeless.

But Pearl was not in a rush to pull away. Instead, she stared at him coldly. "Hugo, get real."

Hugo's passion dwindled at her words. "Aren't I? My goal has always been simple. I just want to have you."

Pearl withdrew her hand. "Your goal is to beat Richard and take over Waldorf Enterprises. Don't pretend to be some knight in shining armor."

She had never believed Hugo's love was genuine. He saw her as a pawn in his rivalry with Richard, and his feelings for her were secondary.

"I'm well aware of that." Hugo gnashed his teeth.

"You don't have to say such disgusting words," Pearl refuted, adding casually, "How long are you going to stay here? Richard's coming later. Want to meet him?"

After a short hesitation, Hugo reluctantly let go. He still refused to meet Richard.

"Just leave if you've got nothing else to say," Pearl said rudely, picking up her tray and leaving, her appetite gone.

Chapter 1006

In the afternoon, Lily approached Pearl and whispered, "Miss Pearl, I talked to Mister Sean. He said he wouldn't count it if I invited him. He wants you to invite him instead."

Pearl sighed, feeling a headache coming on. "Alright, got it. You can go now. I'll call him later."

Helpless, Lily left the office.

Pearl knew it might be hard to deal with Sean's attitude, so she decided to visit him instead of calling.

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At three o'clock in the afternoon, there was a knock on the door of Sean's hotel room. He opened the door in his pajama pants, no shirt on, showing off his muscles.

Pearl pushed him aside and walked into as if it were her own house. She saw a bra hanging on the couch and frowned. "That's pretty intense."

"What are you doing here?" Sean asked.

"What am I doing here? I came to see you." Pearl glanced into the bedroom and vaguely saw a woman's figure. "Why did you suddenly become like this? You even became a ladies' man."

Sean impatiently sat down and opened a bottle of lemonade. "It's none of your business."

"I didn't come to talk to you about this," Pearl said, looking into the bedroom again. "Why don't you ask her to leave first?"

Frustrated, Sean stood up and opened the door. A delicate woman was in the room, looking at Sean passionately but with fear.

"Get lost."

The woman hurriedly put on her clothes and grabbed her bag, then ran out of the room.

Pearl pointed at the sofa and commented lightly, "You haven't grabbed that yet."

The embarrassed woman grabbed her bra and stuffed it into her bag before running away.

"You scared her away," Pearl teased.

Unfortunately, Sean was not in the mood. He leaned against the bedroom door and asked,

"What do you want?"

"No need to rush. I'm going to tell you." Pearl took out a document from her bag and threw it on the table in front of Sean.

"What is this?" Sean asked but was not in a hurry to pick it up and read it.

"Don't ask me. Just take a look at it."

Sean frowned. "Can you stop beating around the bush?"

"Fine. This is the investigation report of Mobius' racing car."

Sean's expression changed drastically. "What?" He picked up the report and read it.

Pearl clicked her tongue. "So, you're not that smug. You do care about this."

"Someone did something to the car, didn't they?" Sean's expression turned livid.

"Yeah, even you doubted the car. Of course, we would know," Pearl said.

Chapter 1007

"I don't believe it." Sean's expression gradually eased. He threw the document on the table and said coldly, "Maybe you and Richard are trying to trick me. I won't be easily fooled."

"Why would we play such a trick?" Pearl asked.

Sean closed his eyes. "I don't know. Only you guys know."

"What do we know? Sean, sometimes you sound like you've read too many novels and lost touch with reality," Pearl said, amused. "Do you really think Richard would kill his brother just to get the family property?"

Sean looked uncomfortable, realizing Pearl had hit the mark.

"No, Sean. You're an adult too. Do you really believe such a far-fetched idea? Are you out of your mind?" Pearl continued.

Coldness gleamed in Sean's eyes. He harbored suspicions because of Richard's odd behavior. If Richard had been consistent in claiming foul play in the accident, Sean might not have doubted.

But Richard initially called it an accident before changing his story. That inconsistency raised red flags for Sean.

"I still can't fully trust you guys," Sean said after a moment of thought. "I think I need to investigate to find the truth."

Pearl couldn't argue further with his stubbornness. "Fine. I won't bother you if you're set on seeing your brother that way."

The negotiation failed, and Pearl sighed inwardly. If this continued, it could be manipulated by wicked people, with an uncertain outcome.

"Stop mentioning brotherhood. I don't see him as family. He's always been selfish and has no affection for us," Sean said firmly, stopping Pearl in her tracks.

"What?"

"You should stop Richard's hypocrisy." Sean seemed to have bottled up his resentment for a long time. He sounded hateful.

"I didn't expect you to dwell on it so much," Pearl remarked, crossing her arms. "Looks like I won't be leaving anytime soon. I need to help you deal with your bitterness."

Sean twisted the bottle and smashed it on the floor. "No, I don't need your help. Just leave."

"Do you hate me?" Pearl asked, getting closer and sounding lighthearted.

Sean was rendered speechless, clearly not wanting to answer.

"Fine, let's say you've misjudged Richard." Pearl sat back down and crossed her legs, waiting for his response.

"I haven't misjudged him. That's what he did. There's nothing more to discuss. If he's got a problem with me, he should come talk to me," Sean said, ending the conversation abruptly. He opened the bedroom door and walked in, closing it firmly behind him.

Despite Sean's refusal to talk, Pearl remained undeterred. She knocked on the door, unwilling to give up until she got answers. "Come out, Sean. Let's talk it out."

"I've told you, there's nothing to discuss between us. If you keep insisting, I'll have to use force," Sean warned, his voice strained with anger.

"Do you still hold a grudge against me?" Pearl asked, throwing him off guard.

Sean fell silent, his expression conflicted. Eventually, he opened the door again, looking perplexed. "What exactly do you want?"

Chapter 1008

"I want to improve our relationship and also your relationship with Richard."

Sean felt a little awkward. "There's nothing to improve."

"I know you've been holding a grudge since I ran away from the wedding. I understand you're hurt even though you pretended not to care. But we never got the chance to talk about it," Pearl continued.

Sean felt helpless as Pearl brought up the topic. His usual fierceness subsided, and he seemed to want to avoid it.

"I—"

"I know it meant a lot to you, so I want to apologize sincerely. I'm sorry for hurting your feelings and not returning your affection. I believe you'll find someone better, but it's definitely not the woman from earlier," Pearl said.

Complicated emotions filled Sean. He did care about what had happened.

Despite Pearl running away from the wedding, he didn't argue. Instead, he helped her escape temporarily to protect her reputation. He knew Pearl never saw him in that way, and marrying her wouldn't fix anything.

He just wanted her to be happy, even if it wasn't with him.

But Sean became uneasy when Pearl mentioned that woman. "Stop bringing her up."

"But you shouldn't behave like this."

In short, Pearl never truly hated Sean. Even if he had a vicious tongue, she saw it as his nature.

But the scene she witnessed made Sean feel helpless. It was like he was trying to numb his feelings, a fall from grace.

"I understand. I won't do it again." Sean then felt like Pearl was treating him like a child, making him look bad. "Why are you treating me like a child?"

Pearl found it amusing but refrained from provoking him. "I'm not. We're the same age. Why would I treat you like a child? You're overthinking."

"Okay. Are you done?"

"No, but if you can joke with me, it means you've let it go," Pearl said, clearing her throat. "Now let's talk about you and Richard."

"Can you stop bringing him up? We get along fine without any issues. Don't interfere," Sean said, his expression turning cold and harsh. "I used to have feelings for you, but that doesn't mean everything you say will sway me."

Pearl raised an eyebrow. "Do you know I'm Richard' wife? I'm a Waldorf too, and this is my family affair."

"So?"

"So, we must clear your misunderstandings about Richard."

Sean sneered disdainfully. "No, they're not misunderstandings. I know you like him and want to see him in a better light, but that doesn't excuse trying to absolve his crimes."

"Am I trying to absolve his crimes? Sean, I'm sure you're handling the Cooper family business, right?" Pearl changed the subject to the Cooper family.

For a moment, Sean was in a trance. He seemed puzzled.

"Do you think you're successful in the Cooper family because of your skills or because Mister Alan favors you?"

Chapter 1009

Although Pearl didn't explicitly state it, her message was clear.



Sean pondered for a moment and quickly grasped her meaning.

"If Richard hadn't secretly helped you sort everything out, you'd probably still be struggling in the Cooper family and wouldn't have had time to investigate Mobius' death." Pearl inwardly cursed him for his stupidity but didn't voice it.

Sean was taken aback by this revelation, blushing as he recalled his earlier words.

"You don't need to feel guilty. Richard did it willingly because he's your brother. But I don't want you to misunderstand him. It would be unfair to him if you saw him as ungrateful when he's done so much for you guys," Pearl said, staring at him intently.

"But what do you mean by 'you guys'?" Sean asked, catching onto the keyword.

"Hanzel was caught dating behind his fans' backs, and Richard handled it with money. And with Mobius, Richard arranged for him to train in Wyncrest."

Sean listened quietly, a new understanding dawning in his eyes.

He appeared calm, but inside, it was a shock to him. Richard had never mentioned any of those incidents before.

Their perception of Richard had always been skewed. They thought of him as a selfish and ruthless businessman, with Hugo hating him, Hanzel respecting him, and Mobius fearing him. Sean himself harbored deep resentment toward his brother.

But now, faced with the truth, Sean felt a mix of emotions—bitterness, sweetness, and guilt.

For years, he had misunderstood Richard.

"So, if you still think Richard doesn't care about his brothers, then you're mistaken," Pearl said. "Now, do you believe what we've found is true?"

Sean no longer looked fierce. Gradually, his expression softened, "Yes, I do."

"Then that's all that matters." Pearl finally heaved a sigh of relief.

"Why... did you come and tell me all this?"

Pearl looked up, her expression resentful. "I didn't want to ruin your day, but I had to warn you ahead of time because Hugo is always causing trouble. If he turns you against us, it'll cause a lot of problems. And even if you doubt us, it's fine, but don't drag Hanzel into it like you did..."

Sean remembered his confident words from a few days ago at Waldorf Residence and found them absurd now.

"No, I'll talk to Hanzel. I won't let him act recklessly," he assured Pearl.

Pearl smiled. "That's a relief. Okay, I'll leave you now."

Suddenly, Sean's phone rang. It was a call from Hugo.

Chapter 1010

Word got around fast. Hugo wasted no time in meddling with the situation as soon as he recovered.

Pearl sighed in relief. Luckily, she met Sean earlier. Otherwise, Hugo would have beaten her to it.

"Should I take this call?" Sean asked, holding his phone and seeking Pearl's opinion.

Pearl nodded. "Go ahead. Let's see what he wants."

Sean answered the call once Pearl agreed. "Hello. Why are you calling me?"

"I heard you and Richard had a falling out?" Hugo asked tentatively.

"There's no such thing. Where did you hear that from?" Sean deliberately put the call on speaker so Pearl could listen.

"You don't have to hide it from me. If you're on my side, I'll treat you well." Hugo laughed casually, sounding very confident.

Sean pretended to be frustrated as he rubbed his hair. "I already told you, there's no falling out. I don't know where you're getting this information. Leave me alone." Then, he hung up.

Pearl gave Sean an admiring look. "Nice! I didn't expect you to handle it so smoothly."

Hugo must be vexed. He had gotten some accurate information, but Sean shut him down.

"I never wanted to conspire with him. I was just being honest," Sean said, waving his phone. "You can trust me. I won't do anything shady with him."

"Yeah, I'm relieved. Looks like I didn't come here for nothing." Pearl grinned and patted Sean's shoulders, but he dodged her.

"Okay, if there's nothing else, you should head home. Richard won't be too happy if he finds out you've been here."

Pearl glanced at the messy room, which hinted at his recent intimate moments with the woman. Her cheeks flushed at the implication. "Um, yeah. I should go."

Pearl's nervous reaction gave Sean a strange idea. "You and Rick... Don't tell me you guys haven't —"

Before Sean could finish his sentence, Pearl interrupted him, her blush deepening. "Okay, stop talking!"

"Did I get it right? That's hilarious! I didn't expect you two to haven't done it yet. Rick needs to do something!" Sean's smile faded as a thought occurred to him. "Could it be that he... can't perform? He should see a doctor. Otherwise, it could affect your happiness for the rest of your lives."

Pearl rolled her eyes, not bothering to explain further. "Okay, that's it. I'm leaving."

After bidding Sean goodbye, Pearl went to Waldorf Enterprises.

With Wayne managing things at her company, she didn't have much to worry about. But she wanted to see Richard.

Previously, she went to Waldorf Enterprises under her own name, never as the wife of the president.

Armed with desserts and coffee, Pearl walked into the company. Most of the staff recognized her and jokingly called her Mrs. Waldorf.

However, there was an unexpected visitor in the company. Looking at that familiar face, Pearl didn't know what was going on.

"It's been a long while."