

Your Guise 1051

Chapter 1051

Richard sensed Pearl wasn't asleep yet. He called her again, but she didn't answer.

Refusing to give up, he dialed her number once more.

"Hello," came the reply, with two voices somehow in the background. Richard wondered if he had missed her too much and brushed it off as his own tipsiness. "Pearl," he said lovingly.

"Why are you calling so late?" Pearl's voice sounded on the other end.

"I miss you."

"Have you been drinking?" she asked.

"I did... because I missed you."

"Nonsense."

"No, I do miss you."

This conversation did not match Richard's style, so Pearl chuckled, giving away her location.

Richard turned around to find her behind him, watching him with amusement.

"You're home?" he asked, trying to keep calm as they continued talking.

"Yeah."

"I thought you were staying at Esther's tonight," Richard remarked.

Pearl shrugged helplessly. "I couldn't do it. They were too lovey-dovey, and I didn't want to disturb them."

But she was lying. She had actually insisted on leaving. Esther had tried to stop her, scolding her for being a love-struck fool.

Pearl knew better, though. She had responsibilities in her marriage and had to handle her relationship with care.

"I'm sorry," Richard suddenly said, out of the blue.

Pearl let go of her worries. Moving closer, she lifted her chin, and Richard understood, leaning down for a kiss. It was late, his lips cold from the wine.

Pearl shivered, but Richard held her tenderly and kissed her gently, as if he were begging for her forgiveness.

Pearl responded, deepening the kiss briefly before pulling back. "I didn't terminate the pregnancy on purpose. I couldn't keep the baby because of my current condition," she whispered.

Richard nodded understandingly. "I know."

He regretted his doubts and impulsive behavior, realizing he should've trusted her. After spending such a long time with her, he should have known that she was not that kind of person.

Jealousy, he thought, was a terrible thing.

"Hugo found out and told me something," Pearl continued.

"What?" Richard asked, a strange feeling gripping him.

"When Mister Howard treated me, he didn't fully cure me. I can't have children," Pearl revealed.

So, Howard had played a cruel trick.

Richard's face contorted with anger.

Chapter 1052

"So, you're saying that there's a very serious problem with your body?" Richard instinctively reached out to touch Pearl, but she gently pushed his hands away.

"I'm fine, Richard. It's just that I can't have babies. I need to see Simon for a check-up to understand more," Pearl explained.

"If there's anything you need, you have to tell me."

Suddenly, Richard winced and held his head.

"What's wrong?" Worried, Pearl checked on him.

"I drank too much," Richard admitted sheepishly, gesturing to the wine bottles scattered around the floor.

Pearl sighed, noticing the mess. "You can't do this again."

"Okay." Richard hugged her waist and gently nudged her neck. "Let's go to bed."

"But I—"

"I just want to hug you and sleep."

"Okay," Pearl relented.

Back in their room, Richard hugged Pearl from behind, noticing her cool skin. He felt sorry for her.

"Why are you this cold?" he asked.

"I've always been like this."

But Richard sensed something wasn't right. Perhaps Pearl was feeling the effects of her recent abortion, making her feel colder than usual.

Pearl didn't seem bothered, but Richard gently rubbed her hands in his, trying to warm her up. "Let me warm you up a little," he murmured.

"Richard, you wanted this baby very much, didn't you?"

Pearl felt Richard's emotions that afternoon. His intense desire for a child overwhelmed him, leading to a loss of control and the harsh words he said after discovering her abortion.

Although Pearl was sad, she could tell the right from the wrong.

Richard nodded, guilt evident in his voice. "Yes, but I don't want you to harm yourself just to have a baby. You're the most important person to me. I cherish you more than anything."

He added, "I'll get to the bottom of things in the future. I won't let that kind of thing happen again."

"Okay, got it," Pearl said softly, caressing his face. She curled up in his arm and found a comfortable spot.

"We'll have kids one day."

Pearl looked up and kissed his stubbled chin.

A spark seemed to ignite in Richard's eyes as he tightened his embrace around her.

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Meanwhile, Damian woke up early and found Gigi busy in the kitchen. He walked over casually and looked at the food on the table.

"I didn't think your cooking skills would still be the same after half a month," he remarked, clicking his tongue.

"What? I think my food tastes great," Gigi retorted, stomping her foot. She was annoyed by his criticism. "You like the food I make!"

Damian shook his head in shock. "I never said that. You just thought so." Suddenly, he laughed. "But you're bold. How dare you talk back to me like that."

"What's the big deal? You're only six years older than me," Gigi shot back, serving the food on the table. "Anyway, I just made this. Since I'm handling the cooking, you'll have to eat what I make, even if you think it's not good."

Chapter 1053

Whatever! Damian didn't have to eat the food if he didn't like it.

Gigi took off her apron and sat down. As soon as she started eating, she made a face.

She had put too much sugar in the roast pork. It was way too sweet.

Damian noticed Gigi's reaction and decided to join her. Although he usually didn't mind sweet stuff, this pork was oddly sweet.

"Look at this pork..." But seeing Gigi look sad, he quickly added, "It's okay. I was just saying something. Try again next time. It's not too bad."

Gigi touched her chin hesitantly. She knew she was a decent cook but had tried to make something new to impress Damian, but she ended up messing it up. Roast pork was always a tough one for her.

"Just don't make it if it's hard—"

Damian tried to be helpful, but Gigi cut him off. "No, I can do it."

She felt the same way about him. She was determined to win him over.

"Why do you have to trouble yourself so much, Gigi?" Damian understood what she meant but wanted to prevent her from wasting her effort.

He would never fall in love with her, no matter how hard she tried.

Gigi looked somber but didn't back down. "How do you know you won't like me if you don't give it a chance?"

"Do I have to? I don't like you, and that won't change, no matter what. Plus, don't you know I like—" Damian stopped himself before saying Pearl's name.

She was married now, and even though he liked her, he couldn't do anything about it.

Gigi knew he would say that to make her stop trying. He always did that. To her, it was getting old.

"I know you like Pea. But do you really want to spend the rest of your life like this?"

Gigi refused to give up. She stood up and leaned over, slowly approaching him. "Aren't you afraid your feelings will cause Pea problems? She doesn't need your love."

At first, she seemed to be putting him down, but then she sounded like she was mocking him.

Damian's expression turned cold. "I know that. You don't need to remind me."

"I'm not!"

Gigi grabbed his face, insisting, "You could let her go and try with someone else. I believe I could like you more than she ever could."

Damian sneered, which made her lose her nerve. Her fingers started trembling.

"Go on." Damian tilted his head and looked at her, his expression calm but scornful, as if she was just a silly joke.

"I... That's all I wanted to say."

Then, Gigi let go. The warmth in her palms made her feel weak.

"I'll do the dishes."

Feeling anxious, she accidentally dropped a bowl, smashing it.

Chapter 1054

Disappointed, Gigi bent over to pick up the smashed pieces on the floor.

Suddenly, Damian squatted down beside her. "Be careful," he said gently, showing concern.

Gigi looked up helplessly, tears welling in her eyes.

"Why are you crying? It's just a broken bowl. I'm not mad." Damian tenderly wiped away her tears. But his touch only made her cry harder.

"You cry so easily. It's like a leaky faucet that won't stop," he remarked with a hint of amusement.

Damian had seen her cry many times before. She was a crybaby, and he was used to it. But whenever she cried, he felt he couldn't do much but wait for her to stop.

This time, Gigi cried for a shorter period, which was unusual. After she finished crying, she sniffed and tried to sound more calm. She managed not to twitch at least.

Gigi sniffled, trying to compose herself. "What would you do if it was Pea crying?"

Damian smirked, finding her question hilarious. "She wouldn't cry over something like this."

To him, Pearl was always strong and resilient, like a rose. But Gigi was different, more fragile like a daisy in the wind.

Besides, Gigi cried a lot, which made Damian feel like he couldn't help her.

Gigi shook her head. "She would cry. Just tell me what you would do."

Damian thought about it. What would he do if Pearl cried? For sure, he would hug her and try to make her feel better, even though comforting people wasn't his strong suit.

This was just him hoping. He knew he would never really get the chance to comfort her.

Yet, he didn't want to believe this. So, he stood up and silently threw the pieces away into the trash bin.

Gigi grew anxious because of his silence and stood up. "Answer my question."

"I don't want to."

"Why can't you share some of the gentleness you have for her with me? Is it because I'm an orphan? My family background isn't as great as hers. I'm not as special or pretty as her..."

But she apologized quickly, her voice trembling. "I'm sorry, Dame. I was over the line."

Gigi sounded like she was about to cry again.

Damian suddenly felt very sorry for her. He truly felt bad, but he knew he couldn't let that show. Otherwise, she might misunderstand him.

He couldn't give her something he didn't have.

"It's okay. Just be careful next time," he said stiffly, retreating upstairs to hide his conflicted feelings.

He didn't know how to stop this inexperienced young woman, but he knew he couldn't let her go any further.

He started to regret giving her a month to try to win him over. She might become too attached.

As Damian closed the door behind him, he heard the sound of running water and muffled sobs from the kitchen. Guilt almost overwhelmed him, but he couldn't allow himself to give in to those emotions.

Chapter 1055

Damian regretted provoking Gigi.

He went back to his room and sat at the table, fiddling with his phone to pass the time. After a while, there was a knock on the door.

"Come in."

Damian didn't turn around, avoiding looking at Gigi as she entered. He was unsure how to face her.

Gigi entered timidly, carrying a tray with a cup of milk. "I want to say sorry, Damian. Earlier, I..." She placed the milk on the table gently.

"It's okay. You're young. I won't argue." Damian still didn't meet her eyes. "By the way, I bought a villa in Enswood, near Waldorf Residence..."

Gigi couldn't control her emotions. "It's not even been a month. Can't you wait to get rid of me?"

Damian found the one-month agreement difficult to handle. He was about to explain it when Gigi asked, her voice trembling, "Do you hate me?"

Hate her? No way.

But Damian decided to keep his distance, ignoring her hopeful expression. "I'm sure you understand how I feel about you. Don't you get it?"

Gigi was at a loss for words.

"I don't hate you, but I don't want to see you. I'm nice because Pearl asked, but I don't want to be close. Understand?" Damian's words were harsh.

Blood drained out of Gigi's face. She wanted to speak but found herself speechless, her throat hoarse.

Damian had never said such cruel words to her. For a moment, she wanted to cry again.

"I was just joking with you when I promised you one month. Did you take it seriously? I apologize if I gave you the wrong idea. I'm not interested in you—not now, not ever."

Damian's words came across as a warning, as if he was trying to push her away.

Gigi felt humiliated. She thought Damian was criticizing her, and she couldn't argue back, no matter how harsh he was.

Her feelings for him seemed like a joke to her. If she said she liked him, it would sound silly.

"Damian, you..."

"My last compromise is for you to move to the place I mentioned. And give up on that silly idea. We can still be friends. But if you keep on with this, I don't think we should see each other anymore."

Damian glanced at her. Seeing her distant look made him feel guilty. He wondered if he was too mean, as she usually didn't act like this.

"You probably hate me now. Just remember me as this annoying person..."

Damian was still speaking when Gigi suddenly said calmly, "I don't hate you. I don't know how to hate you, but..."

She had loved him for so long. She wouldn't start hating him that easily.

Besides, she couldn't tell if he was being honest or not.

"Are you telling the truth?"

Chapter 1056

"Certainly." Damian sounded firm.

"Am I not good enough?" Gigi asked with a big smile.

Damian saw her smile and made up his mind. "Do you think you're the only nice person to me? Do you really think you're the only one who likes me? I could get anyone to be with me just by asking. Can you do that? Don't think too highly of yourself. Remember where you stand."

It was clear he was trying to embarrass her. Right away, Gigi felt upset, even though she had just calmed down.

She stared at Damian, her eyes red and tired but determined. "Okay, let's see then. I've heard people get excited if it's someone they like..."

Damian sensed something was off in Gigi's words. He became alert.

Gigi slowly undid the buttons on her chest, looking gentle and shy.

Damian watched her take off her shirt and reveal her pink bra. Then, he realized what was happening. He quickly grabbed his coat from the chair and covered her with it.

"Georgia Lockwood!"

It was the first time Damian was so angry that he used her full name.

Gigi was trembling, maybe from the cold or maybe from fear.

But she felt a bit happy because she had managed to make Damian so mad. It showed she meant something to him.

"This is the last time you do this. I don't want to see it again," Damian said, looking mad but not really sounding like he cared. "Or else, I'll have to tell your sister."

"Can you please stop bringing her up?"

Gigi looked serious when she heard his last words. Her anger couldn't be held back anymore as she pushed him away. "Damian, it's okay if you don't like me. But can you not use my sister to shut me up?"

"Why don't you listen to me? I didn't say that to shut you up..." Damian rubbed the place between his brows. When he saw the tears in her eyes, he gnashed his teeth and made up his mind. "And what if I did? Your sister is attractive, confident, and way more interesting than you. You're just not my type."

"Damian, I get it. You don't want me to like you. But this is too much..." Gigi cried as she spoke. "She's pregnant. How can you still think about her? You say I'm boring, but you're the most boring person I know!"

Her words almost turned into a shout, but they moved Damian. He stood up and grabbed her shoulders. "What? She's pregnant?"

"Yes, she's pregnant with Richard's child. It has nothing to do with you." Gigi tried to stop her tears but realized she was crying a lot.

Damian turned very pale and slowly let her go. He suddenly remembered something and left quickly.

"Where are you going?"

Gigi shouted after him, but he didn't seem to hear as he hurried down the stairs.

She tried to follow him, but he was too fast. From the second floor, she yelled, "Damian, can you not be so foolish? You always call me stupid. But look at what you're doing now!"

Damian paused briefly before rushing off.

When the door was slammed, Gigi collapsed on the floor, tears streaming down her face.

Chapter 1057

Damian's coat didn't fully cover Gigi as he had thrown it in a hurry, so a large part of her body was exposed.

But Damian was not even interested in her. All he ever cared about was Pearl, a woman he'd loved since he was young.

He could easily lose control because of Pearl, even knowing she was married and expecting a baby.

Gigi started to question herself. She leaned on the stair railing, feeling suddenly more at peace.

If she was causing problems for Damian, maybe... it would be better for her to leave.

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Damian rushed to Waldorf Residence, almost storming into the living room.

Richard and Pearl were cozied up, watching TV and laughing together. They were shocked to see Damian.

Richard's face turned cold. "Why are you here?"

Caught off guard, Damian had gone there in a hurry without thinking of an excuse. Seeing Pearl gave him an idea. "I need to talk to Pearl about something."

Pearl straightened up, trying to stay calm. "What's it about?"

"It's about Gigi."

Pearl's expression changed. "Is she okay? Did something happen?" She was worried Gigi might have been in an accident, given Damian's hurried arrival.

"No, she's fine. I just think it's not right for her to keep staying with me. It could hurt her reputation. So, I bought her a house near here. Maybe she could stay there, and you guys could keep an eye on her..."

Damian had thought this through, but Pearl knew about Gigi's feelings for Damian.

"You know how Gigi feels about you," she pointed out, trying to see if Damian felt the same way. Staying together with unreturned feelings could be hard.

"That's exactly why she shouldn't stay with me. I don't want to lead her on." Damian took a deep breath and finally opened up.

But Richard was not happy, suspecting Damian had ulterior motives. It was fine if Damian didn't like Gigi, but why did he keep glancing at Pearl?

Pearl sighed. "Alright, we'll do as you said. Gigi can move today."

Richard chimed in, "And please, don't bother Gigi or come here, Mister Damian. It's for the best if she can move on without being reminded of you."

He claimed it was for Gigi's sake, but he was also trying to protect Pearl from Damian.

Damian nodded, heartbroken. "Okay, I won't come around."

Chapter 1058

Pearl grabbed Richard's finger tightly to stop him from saying harsh words.

Richard didn't argue with Damian much, wanting to keep Pearl happy.

"I heard that you're pregnant?"

Pearl was surprised Damian knew about her pregnancy. She figured Gigi must have told him since Gigi saw Pearl's pregnancy test recently.

"I aborted the child."

Pearl sensed Richard was upset by this.

"Then, make sure you rest up," Damian said, surprisingly calm. He didn't feel as upset as he thought he would. "Would it bother you if I brought Gigi over today?"

"Just bring her. I'm okay with it," Pearl assured him, and Damian was relieved.

"Alright, I'll go home now."

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But when Damian got home, calling out in the living room, no one answered.

Feeling guilty, he thought Gigi might be upset because he had asked her to move out. He went to her room and knocked.

"Gigi, we need to talk," he said, but got no answer.

"Come out, Gigi. I have something to say."

But still, no one responded to him.

Worried, he opened her door and found the room empty and tidy. Then, he saw a note on the table.

His heart skipped a beat.

[Damian, I get that you don't like me. I didn't leave to make you mad. It's fine if you don't want me around. I'm an adult and I can take care of myself. I won't bother Pea or anyone else. I'll get a job. I have some money saved up, so I'll be okay. Bye.]

Damian was stunned and couldn't believe Gigi had left.

He knew he had to tell Pearl first, and then he'd ask his men to look for Gigi.

Pearl was shocked when she heard Gigi had run away. "What did you say?"

"Gigi ran away from home."

"Why did she leave?" Pearl couldn't believe it because Gigi was always so good and never did anything like this.

"I guess... I might have been too harsh this morning," Damian admitted, feeling it was his fault.

"She's still young. If you don't like her, you should tell her properly. She'll understand..." Pearl began to ramble because of her anxiety.

Damian was not in a hurry to defend himself. Helpless, he rubbed the place between his brows and said, "Don't worry, I'll find her."

He then realized Pearl had long hung up when he heard the busy tone.

He didn't waste time either. He started looking for Gigi at various places where she might work.

She was a young woman who had not gone to college and had little working experience. Where would she go?

Suddenly, an idea struck Damian about where to go next.

Chapter 1059

Early in the morning, the Dark Bar was almost empty, yet the air was thick with the scents of cigarette smoke and alcohol.

When Damian arrived, he immediately spotted a woman from behind who reminded him of Gigi. She was dressed in a maid's uniform and carrying a tray. Rushing over, he spun her around only to be met by a stranger's scared face, leaving him disappointed.

He made his way back to the bar and questioned the staff member on duty.

"Have you seen a woman about her height but thinner, with long, straight black hair and big eyes?"

Damian did his best to describe Gigi, but the staff member thought for a moment and then shook his head. "No, haven't seen her."

Damian's worry grew as he clenched his fists.

He began to regret his harshness. He should have considered Gigi's feelings before speaking so bluntly. But right now, finding her was all that mattered.

Where else could she be?

Then, another place came to mind.

Ten minutes later, Damian arrived at another popular spot, Spirit Bar.

He entered and immediately noticed a slim figure near the stage.

It was Gigi!

Despite her heavy makeup, her youthful face was unmistakable.

What was she doing there?

Gigi was shocked. She was aware of Damian's power. Did Damian care enough to find her so quickly?

But her hope faded quickly.

How could that be? It was just his sense of duty.

Gigi quietly watched him.

"Do you realize what you're doing here? Why leave without saying goodbye? Why work in a place like this?"

Gigi was eighteen and knew the implications of her choice. However, she still took a risk and went to work in a bar. Damian couldn't understand why.

"I..." Gigi bit her lip. "I'm an adult. What's wrong with working here? Plus, Pearl worked in a place like this before..."

Mentioning Pearl made Damian understand but also angry. "Are your situations the same?"

His words hurt Gigi deeply, and she turned pale.

"I know I can't compare to her," she said, her voice shaking. "But shouldn't I learn by doing? As long as I work here—"

"Enough! This is nonsense. Let's go home," Damian interrupted, grabbing her wrist.

But she yanked her arm away. "No, I'm serious about this. It's my life, not yours. You can't control what I do."

For the first time, Gigi stood up to him.

Bewildered, Damian found himself speechless. After a long while, he took a deep breath to calm down.

"Why do you insist on comparing yourself with her, Gigi?"

Chapter 1060

"It's because you like her and care only about her. And I can't make you like me, no matter what I do."

Gigi almost screamed out as she cried hard.

She couldn't understand why Damian wouldn't stop thinking about Pearl, even though she was already married and expecting a baby. Every time he spoke about Pearl, his eyes lit up with pride and trust, which scared Gigi.

Pearl was truly something special, and Gigi felt she couldn't ever match up to her. Plus, it seemed clear to her that Damian would never have feelings for her.

This made Gigi feel very desperate and hopeless.

"There are lots of other guys out there. We're just not right for each other. You could find someone much better."

"No, you're the best choice for me." Gigi stared at Damian, hoping he would respond.

"Gigi, stop this. Get changed, and let's head back. Your sister's waiting for you." Damian didn't want to be too harsh and upset her, so he tried to speak gently.

But Gigi's expression immediately turned cold when she heard that. "If you don't want me, just leave me alone."

Then, some guys nearby started making a lot of noise.

"Come on! You said you wanted to dance. Why'd you stop?"

"Who's that guy? He's ruining our fun."

"Go away! Don't make trouble here."

Gigi gave Damian a seductive smile, unlike any he'd seen before.

She confidently walked onto the stage, gave a shy nod to everyone, and then started dancing.

It was obvious she hadn't been taught by a professional dance teacher; she had just practiced a lot by herself.

Although her moves might not have been smooth, she was young and pretty, and her shy smile won the crowd over. They cheered her on.

"Awesome dance!"

Damian saw the men cheering and then looked at Gigi, feeling more serious.

After the dance, Gigi came down from the stage and looked at Damian as if she wanted his approval.

"How was my dance?"

Damian coldly replied, "Vulgar."

Gigi tensed briefly and pouted. "But Pea used to dance at a bar too..."

Damian couldn't stand it anymore. He grabbed Gigi's wrist, looking very serious. "All you talk about is Pearl, Pearl, Pearl. Can't you see? It's not going to work between us. It's not about her. Even if Pearl wasn't here, I still wouldn't have feelings for you."

Gigi was stunned. "That's not true. You would like me if she wasn't here."

"No." Damian finally said clearly, "Don't waste your time on me, Gigi. It's not going to happen."

Finally, Gigi burst into tears. Damian being so direct was unexpected.

Suddenly, Gigi regretted pushing him for an answer. Maybe if she hadn't, she could've still had a chance to be with him.

But now, she had made things worse. She had lost him.

She squatted down on the floor and sobbed for a while, then stopped and went quiet.