

## **Your Guise 1071**

### Chapter 1071

Richard almost said no, but Pearl quickly grabbed his hand, stopping him from sending the text.

"Agree to it. I want to see what he has planned," she said.

Richard gently touched her hair, noticing she looked tired. "I'm just worried he'll say something nasty to you." Richard wasn't one to hide his feelings, and his blunt honesty was sometimes off-putting. His intense gaze alone could make others feel uneasy.

Pearl, however, smiled confidently. "Don't worry, I've got a plan. Besides, he won't be smirking much longer." That Saturday afternoon, they decided on a tandem met at Sapphire Group's office. It was their first visit there.

The office's monochromatic design was more unsettling than welcoming. It seemed Hugo liked making people feel on edge, even with his choice of decor.

The receptionist recognized them immediately, nodded, and led them to Hugo's office.

Upon entering, they saw Hugo, who was nonchalantly spinning a pen, not bothering to stand or offer a warm greeting.

"Is this how you welcome your guests who call the way here?" Richard asked.

"You've traveled far, but we're old friends here, not guests. Make yourselves at home," Hugo replied, his attention fixed on Pearl since they arrived.

Richard stepped in front of Pearl, shielding her from Hugo's gaze. Hugo's smile faded a little.

"I'm sure you know why we're here." Richard led Pearl to a couch and sat down.

Hugo nodded. "Of course. Everyone here is interested in buying Waldorf Enterprises." His tone dripped with sarcasm, suggesting they were desperate, but Richard chose to ignore it and get straight to the point. "What's your offer, Mister Hugo?" Hugo, playing coy, wasn't ready to dive into business. "Rick, we're like family here. No need for formalities, just call by my name, like old times." Content belongs to Św Pearl took the chance and nodded with a smile. "I'm your sister-in-law then." "Sister-in-law? But weren't you two divorced?" Hugo questioned, staring at them intently to try to see through their actions.

The news had portrayed their relationship as strained, especially after the divorce. Yet, their current closeness suggested otherwise. Were the rumors a strategic move to distract everyone? Hugo looked anxious.

et "We may be divorced, but we still respect our past," Pearl explained, looking at Richard but addressing Hugo. "Is it easy for you to just forget someone?" Hugo's tone went cold. "You have a point. I can't just forget someone who's always on my mind. However, I think my chance is coming soon." "Opportunities are made, not waited for."

## Chapter 1072

"I agree with you, but don't get too ahead of yourself," Hugo replied.

Pearl shook her head. "We're not here to chat about who likes who. We're here to discuss buying Waldorf Enterprises." Hugo raised his hand. "Tell what you want, and I'll see if it works for me." "15 billion dollars." Hugo couldn't hide his shock. "15 billion? That's daylight robbery." Richard shrugged. "Waldorf Enterprises is having strouble, sure, but it's still worth about 45 billion dollars. I'm only asking for a third of that, so it's a good deal for you." Waldorf Enterprises was a big opportunity. With the right management, it could make much more than 15 billion dollars.

However... coming up with 15 billion dollars wasn't simple. Even for a company as strong as Sapphire Group, it was a challenge. Hugo stopped fiddling with his pen and thought hard. "Let think about it." "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Other companies are interested too, but since we're close, I'd prefer to offer it to you first," Richard said, tapping his fingers on the table. "Just make sure you decide quickly and don't miss out." Hugo had a feeling this was a trap. He tried to read Richard's expression for any sign of nervousness that would indicate he was lying, but Richard was as calm as ever.

It seemed likely that Waldorf Enterprises was indeed in trouble.

Hugo wanted a face-to-face meeting to get a better read on Richard, but he couldn't tell if Richard was just good at hiding his feelings or if he was worrying over nothing.

Hugo said cautiously, "Let's talk about this again in two days." Richard lazily stood up. "Alright, we'll wait for your decision." Pearl also stood up, staying quiet the whole even more suspicious, et è time. This madey as she intended. S Hugo didn't say anything further and just gestured for his assistant to show them out.

Richard and Pearl left, exchanging a knowing smile. Things were about to get interesting.

\* Meanwhile, James found a chance to tell Sabrina that his mother, Agnes, went to see Esther. He el.ne invited her over to the firm so they could speak in person. S Esther was very glad about that.

They sat on the sofa waiting when Esther's stomach started growling.

"Hungry?" James saw her pressing en her stomach and smiled. "I down on have cupcakes upstairs in the fridge.

Letgo get them." S Esther stood up, smiling back. "No worries, I can go get them. I'll see what else is there to eat." James nodded and watched her go up the stairs, feeling happy.

Soon after, a slim figure showed up at the door.

## Chapter 1073

In a cute outfit with her hair up in two buns, making her look youthful, Sabrina walked in.

"What took you so long? Was there traffic?" After hanging her bag on the rack, Sabrina flopped onto the sofa. "Guess who I bumped into today?" When Sabrina mentioned her encounter, James, who was making tea for her, paused.

"The dad of your son?" Sabrina glared at him. "What dad? My son has nothing to do with that man." "Okay, the sperm donor. Did he recognize you?" Sabrina rolled her eyes. "Yes, at a stoplight. He was in the car next toand recognized me. He even smiled in a weird way. I thought he was about to jump out and cover." "He even said I'm trying to look young in this cute outfit, even though I'm not young anymore," Sabrina said, annoyed. "Can you believe him? And his taste in cars is as bad as his comments." James handed her the tea and smiled. "Maybe he's still into you and followed you here. He could be parked outside watching right now." Sabrina nearly leaped up, panicking. She peered outside,

feeling a bit shaky. "Do you see a Bentley out there with the plate WA953? I forgot my glasses and can't see clearly..." James checked and then nodded. "Yeah, he followed you." Sabrina looked distraught. "Can you help please? I don't want anything to do with him..." "If that's the case, why do you remember his plate number?" Sabrina blushed a bit. "Because that's my birthday..." "I think you still have feelings for him. Why keep avoiding him? Think about what's best for your son." Sabrina stayed quiet, her gaze lingering outside toward where the Bentley was supposed to be.

"Stop looking. I lied," James admitted with a shrug.

"So, he's not here? Why do you keep lying to me?" James didn't know how to respond. He had known her for so long; how could he not feel something for her? Only he understood that she was just a polite diplomat, but to him, she was a quirky young woman. This charm might attract others, but not him. "And where's your little girlfriend? She's not here? Has she decided to move on?" Before James could explain, someone came down the stairs, catching Sabrina's attention.

"Still the same?" Sabrina whispered to him, touching his arm, then louder, James, you said that girl wouldn't come to the office anymore. You broke your promise." She tugged at his arm, making her point. Even Esther, who knew the truth, was surprised.

James immediately started sweating. "No, you said..." "I'm not going to listen to your excuses. Kick her out!" Esther's lips twitched. "What's going on here?"

#### Chapter 1074

"She misunderstood." James pulled away from Sabrina and looked Esther straight in the eyes. "I told her to stop acting." Right away, Sabrina calmed down, and her face turned serious. "What? Why didn't you just say so? I ended up hitting myself without realizing." James didn't feel as awkward. "You didn't give a chance to talk. You kept talking about your sperm donor since you got here." Sperm donor? Esther suddenly felt a bad chill, and she began to see Sabrina in a different light.

Sabrina saw the confusion on Esther's face and quickly explained, "Oh, no, it's not like that. He's not a sperm donor. He's my son's father!" "You mean... you're pregnant?" Esther couldn't hide her shock as she pointed at Sabrina's stomach.

"Yes, it's actually pretty normal these days. Haven't you and James...? But I guess that's okay. James may be good-looking, but he's actually a virgin. He's never dated anyone and throws away any love letters he gets without a second thought. He's just not experienced." Sabrina gently reassured Esther, "Don't break up with him just because he's inexperienced, okay? I think he should be fine with a little training." Esther

looked at James. Putting aside his lack of experience and cold expression, it was surprising that anyone had the guts to write love letters to him.

"Alright, stop making people worry and focus on your own problem," James said, not really concerned about Sabrina and Esther's conversation but wanting to avoid any .

Esther quickly realized what James had meant about him and Sabrina not being interested in each other. It looked like they could start arguing any minute, so it was surprising they got along at all.

She didn't want them to argue and gently stopped James. "Let's not fight. And remember, Sabrina is pregnant. We shouldn't upset her." She then smiled at Sabrina. Sabrina nodded and held Esther's arm. "You're such a sweetheart, Esther. I can't see what you find in James. If you two ever split up, I'll set you up with someone great I met so many handsuys while I was studying abroad." James pulled Esther behind him, warning Sabrina, "Instead of getting involved in someone else's relationship, why don't you find someone to take you in?" "Just make sure you keep an eye on your precious Esther. She's too sweet." Sabrina lost interest and put her phone away. "Focus on yourself," James retorted.

Just as they seemed ready to argue again, Esther noticed someone at the door and shook James's arm. "Look, you have a guest." James looked over and squinted.

A very classy-looking man in a suit approached. He had a kind of elegance that made you want to look away, incredibly hands with a serious gaze.

When the man saw Sabrina, he stopped, a polite smile on his face.

Sabrina immediately froze the moment she saw him, and without thinking, her hand went to her lower belly. She remembered she was just under two months pregnant and it wasn't visible yet, so she felt relieved. "What are you doing here?" she asked him, her tone colder than before.

The man, accustomed to her attitude, simply asked, "Trying to escape?"

Chapter 1075

"What do you mean 'escape'? | just cback to my own country. Why can't | do that? We have nothing to do with each other

anymore." Sabrina stood taller, crossing her arms as if to make herself seem more imposing.

"There's a misunderstanding here. We have something going on, and it's serious." He looked up a bit and spoke in a low voice,

though loud enough for others around to hear him.

Taking a step closer to James, Sabrina gave Esther a reassuring look, then took James's hand. "Don't make things up. I'm engaged

and will be married soon. It's only right to respect that."

She then subtly pinched James, signaling him to play along.

James remained silent, studying the man's face carefully. Despite his smile, it was clear there was bad blood. The man Sabrina had

gotten involved wasn't just random person.

James slowly reached out his hand. "Nice to meet you."

His gesture left things ambiguous, letting the man draw his own conclusions.

The man, however, was not deterred and accepted James's handshake. "Pleased to meet you, Mister Crawford. My name is Claude

Savary."

Claude Savary...

Hearing the nClaude Savary made James inwardly react; he knew this man was someone big.

The Savary family was a powerhouse in the business world, and James, who was involved in politics and business himself, knew

better than to cross them.

He felt annoyed but didn't understand why he was getting involved because of Sabrina. Not only was it a waste of time, but he had

to look after her too.

"Okay, baby, let's not entertain him. Didn't you say we're going out to eat? I'm in the mood for something exotic..."

James cringed internally at being called 'baby.' He wasn't worried about Claude seeking revenge; it was the pet nthat irritated

him.

He glanced at Esther, expecting her to be jealous, but she was already sitting back, watching the unfold with interest,

wanting to stay out of the fray.

Claude, sharp as he was, saw through Sabrina's act. "Baby?"

"What's so strange about that? We're engaged," Sabrina retorted, leaning in closer to James. "Just go back to Soliris and leave us to

our date," she added briskly.

Claude chuckled. "Sabrina, have you become so bold from too much freedom? Should I discipline you for dating someone else or...

for lying to me?"

He walked closer, his presence imposing.

Chapter 1076

"I'm not lying. We're a couple. I..." Claude wasn't someone you could fool easily. He stood there with his arms folded, his gaze sharp and full of warning. "Fine, I'll believe you, but only if you kiss him right now." Sabrina glanced at James, who looked pretty upset. "I can't do that, especially not with his girlfriend right here. You're being mean." Esther, who was unexpectedly mentioned, felt a shiver of surprise. "Oh, um..." "James and Esther have been all over the news. Their love story is famous. Did you really think I wouldn't know about it now that I'm here?" Claude stared at Sabrina's determined face, growing even more annoyed. He pinched her cheek hard, causing her to wince in pain. "I wish I could see what nonsense you're filling your head with." "Alright, we've had enough of this arguing." James took Esther by the shoulders and led her away, leaving Sabrina calling out in a mix of pain and desperation.

What was supposed to be a two-day wait turned into three days.

Richard and Pearl remained calm throughout. Following their divorce, Pearl decided to move back to her own house.

Gigi watched Pearl pack her things and asked worriedly, "Are you really leaving, Pea?" Pearl gave her a gentle smile. "Now that we're divorced, it doesn't seem right to stay together. I'm going back to my place." Gigi grabbed her luggage, looking serious. "Let's go with you. I can help out with your mom and do chores around the house. Please don't leave here by myself." Gigi had always liked the house because it was set up just the way she wanted, thanks to Damian's efforts. Yet, she felt out of place there now and preferred the idea of staying with Pearl. Pearl, who had always been supportive, now seemed distant as she gently refused. "No, Gigi. My mom's health is getting worse, and I need to focus on her care. I can't look after you too right now." "I won't be a burden," Gigi pleaded, fearing she would be abandoned, especially when it came to a relationship she appreciated.

"How could you be a burden? I just need to make sure everything is perfect for my mom's treatment. If you really want to come, wait a few days. Let's see how she's doing first, okay?" Although Pearl softened her tone and even compromised, Gigi still thought something was off.

Things had changed, and although Gigi couldn't pinpoint what it was, she felt it and reluctantly stepped back, watching Pearl leave.

Saule, sitting next to Pearl in the car, had a troubled look. "Pearl, why didn't you let Gigi cwith us?" She could see Gigi was hurt and knew Pearl had her reasons for not wanting Gigi to join them, so she didn't press further.

"You could tell too?" Pearl considered her response carefully, knowing she needed to protect Saule by telling her the truth. "What do you mean?" "Something is wrong with Gigi." Saule immediately turned pale. "What? What's wrong?" "Do you remember passing out after you cback from the market? And then, all of a sudden, there was news online that you were still alive."

#### Chapter 1077

Saule knew all that. She had been recovering in the hospital, so she wasn't keeping up with things outside. But she was worried about one thing.

"Does this have something to do with Gigi?" "Yes. She purposely got close to you, then gave you something to make you pass out. She also had someone take those pictures of you. She ran into you on purpose so those people could confirm who their target was." Pearl made it sound really scary, and Saule suddenly understood what had happened.

"That's why you didn't want her to cwith us." Pearl looked unsure for a moment. "I don't think Gigi is mean. I'm not avoiding her, but a lot has happened lately, so I had to keep her close to the Waldorfs." Saule's eyes lit up. "What happened?" Pearl took a deep breath and held the steering wheel tight. "I can't tell you now. I'll explain after everything is sorted out." Sault could tell Pearl had her reasons, so she didn't push her and just nodded.

\* Three days passed quickly.

Hugo, with his assistant, visited Waldorf Residence to discuss their business.

As soon as he walked in, he noticed nothing had changed and felt a rush of emotion.

This place would soon be his.

Richard and Pearl weren't here; only Susan was there. When she saw him, she almost cried but held back.

Hugo no longer saw her as his mother but still played the part of the good son.

"Hi, Mom." Susan was moved when he called her mom. She had taken care of him since he was little, and even though they weren't related by blood she still loved him. "Why are you here?" Susan didn't know Hugo was trying to take over Waldorf Enterprises. She thought he was just visiting because he missed them.

She even wanted to cook for him.

"No, Mom. I'm not here for food. I need to talk to Rick." Susan smiled, curious. "What is it about?" "You'll find out soon." Hugo shook his head. He didn't want to worry Susan with his plans, so he changed the subject and went to Hanzel's room. He didn't have any special ideas about Hanzel, but he noticed a cute pink Melody sticker on his door which was definitely not Hanzel's style. Thinking about it, Hugo walked up to the door.

## Chapter 1078

Hugo had something he wanted to clarify, so he went ahead and opened the door. Right away, he noticed the room didn't have the colors Hanzel would use.

Susan was at a loss for words. "This room was supposed to be Hanzel's, but Pearl moved in so she lived there temporarily." It was pretty much what Hugo had thought.

He stepped inside, took a good look around, and then his eyes fell on a framed drawing. The drawing was adorable, like Pearl just doodled it without thinking much.

He touched the frame and couldn't take his eyes off it.

Susan watched Hugo and felt a bit uneasy. Did he have feelings for Pearl? She tried to dismiss the thought, but it just wouldn't go away.

"Hugo, didn't you say you needed to talk to Richard about something?" Susan couldn't help but ask.

"I want to buy Waldorf Enterprises," Hugo revealed.

Susan was shocked. "What? What's going on with the company? Why do you want to buy it?" Hugo pretended to look sad. "On the outside, it seems like Richard's doing a great job, but really, the company's just barely holding together. It was Dad's life's work. I can't just watch it fall apart." He made himself sound like a hero.

But Susan was no fool. She knew there was more to the story.

"Hugo, that's your brother you're talking about. You can't be this harsh." Susan tried to sound gentler. "Don't you remember how hard your brother has worked to look after you? And now you're turning on him and burning bridges?" "Burning bridges, you say?" Hugo laughed out loud. "Missus Waldorf, I call you 'mom' out of respect, but haven't you always favored xx me?" Content belongs to Śwhim over swn Hugo would never forget how Dustan and Susan had sent Richard to the company for training, making him the heir, while Hugo, not being blood-related, wasn't even allowed in. Content belongs to swñovelThey said office work wasn't for him and it was all for the best. Richard was more suitable and would take care of everything later. What a joke.

"If you can't treat us equally, I had to do what I could," Hugo said.

"Hugo!" Susan reached out to him, wanting to offer sadvice, but he shook her hand off.

"Don't touch me! I'm going to buy Waldorf Enterprises today whether you like it or not." Shocked, Susan fell to the floor.

"What's going on here?" A furious voice cfrom behind.

Hugo turned to see Richard and Pearl quickly approaching, both looking angry.

"What? I didn't do anything."

Hugo shrugged and casually sat on the couch.

Pearl went over to help Susan stand up, then made sure she was fine before she relaxed.

"Hugo, this woman took care of you for twenty years. Even a dog would show more gratitude than what you've done." Pearl lost control of her emotions.

"Stay out of this, Pearl. You don't understand," Hugo replied with a shrug, then turned to Richard. "You know why I'm here." Richard just said, "Naturally." Hugo got straight to the point. "I've made up my mind. I'll accept your deal, but only if you agree to my condition-you have to quit the business world starting today." Richard had a business degree and was being groomed to take over the family business. Not being able to work in business anymore would be as good as cutting off his arms.

Hugo knew this would put Richard in a tough spot.

"Don't push us too hard, Hugo." It was clear Richard was in a bind.

"I'm agreeing to your price. You want 15 billion, and I'll give it to you happily. That's not a small amount," Hugo pointed out.

Pearl chuckled, as she saw this coming.

Richard looked a bit less tense but still argued, "Your condition is too harsh." "Too harsh? Remember how I was banned from the company. Dad spent all his training you, and you still failed to protect the company." Hugo raised his chin, looking down on everyone else proudly. He wished Dustan could see how low Richard had sunk, having to hand over the family business to someone else. And he, the underestimated third son, not only created his own successful company but was now about to take over. How the tides have turned. "Do you have the money?" Hugo frowned "I don't know how you managed Waldorf Enterprises. I never thought you cared that much about money. Tsk tsk, maybe I was wrong. I thought you were a more serious rival..." Turned out Richard was just a businessman willing to do anything for money. "Every cent, so don't worry. But first, sign the agreement." Hugo pushed the document over to Richard with a satisfied grin. Richard picked it up, flipped through it, then smirked. "What a good brother. Your outrageous terms were written very well." "I wouldn't dare hide anything from you. I laid them out clearly." Hugo thought about being more subtle so Richard wouldn't notice

everything But then he thought Waldorf Enterprises was nearing its end, so even if he was upfront, it wouldn't cause more trouble and Richard couldn't complain. So, he spelled it all out.

"You've done so many bad things. Aren't you worried about karma?" Richard asked.

Hugo smirked. "Why should I be worried? Seems like you're the one who should be worried."

## Chapter 1080

Seeing that Hugo wasn't repenting, Richard pushed the document off the desk and said, "I'll never sign it." Hugo dropped all pretense and got really angry. "Richard, I'm trying to be nice to you, but you're throwing my kindness away. I'm trying to help because I still think of you as my brother. If someone else takes over Waldorf Enterprises, do you think others will let you off easy? You have many enemies waiting for a chance to strike!" He made it sound like he was trying to help Richard, but it wasn't true.

Richard scoffed and looked at Hugo with disappointment. "Hugo, you just want the Waldorf property and to take over Waldorf Enterprises for yourself. Stop acting like you're the good guy." "Don't be arrogant, Richard. I have good intentions, and you shouldn't worry about the rest. You're the one who messed up the company, so don't preach to me." Hugo looked down on Richard as he had already won.

Richard was smart, but something happened, and now the company was in shambles.

"I have one more question for you," Richard said.

"Just ask. Don't waste my time." Hugo frowned. He clearly wanted Richard to sign the paper and was not interested in anything else.

"Did you know Mobius had an accident during a race?" Hugo looked away for a moment, then casually replied, "Of course. I sponsored that race." "Did you have anything to do with his death?" Richard pressed.

Hugo laughed dismissively. "You think I would harm my own brother?" "You framed me, so I wouldn't put it past you." Richard then clapped, and Wayne came with a man, throwing him to the floor.

The man groaned in pain, but he got up when he saw he wasn't alone.

Seeing the man, Hugo's expression darkened.

"Tell us how Mobius died, race organizer," Richard demanded.

The man, clearly scared, confessed without lying. "I didn't want to do it. Mister Hugo threatened my family and madetamper with Mobius's car didn't mean for him to get hurt!" Hugo could only curse at the man.

The man didn't dare make another sound after snitching on Hugo.

"Do you know what happens when you frsomeone?" Hugo tried to scare the man.

But it didn't work because Pearl calmly said, "There's no point scaring him. I've moved his family to a secured location." Hugo started to panic because his plan was falling apart.

et "So what? The company is in a bad situation, and you're focusing on something else," Hugo said mockingly. "Richard, I suggest you act like you don't know anything, or I can't guarantee the safety of Waldorf Enterprises." S He was threatening Richard, implying he would do something if Richard didn't stop.

"The one who should really care isn't me, Hugo. I can't believe you would harm Mobius, the most innocent among us, just for your own gain You're disgusting, and people like you should go to hell," Richard said, looking toward the door with an ominous expression.