

Your Guise 1101

Chapter 1101

"You're welcome. I'm just doing what is right." For the first time, James gave Chloe a really big smile. Chloe blushed a deep red because of it.

"Then, let give you a big reward," James said, changing his tone. "From today, my family will stop all business with your family, and we won't work with you again." That was a shock to Chloe. Her face went pale.

She had just made Richard and Pearl upset and thought she'd just have to say sorry to her family. At most, she would be grounded for a few days, but it would all blow over with a few nice words.

But involving James was a whole different story. Chloe was too scared to even think about it.

"James, I'm sorry. Please, don't do that... My dad will be really mad if he finds out!" "It's okay. I'll let Mister Damon teach you how the world works." Chloe was filled with fear. She hadn't thought standing up for someone would lead to such a disaster.

She tried to grab James' sleeve, but he stepped away.

"Take Miss Chloe home." James watched coldly, with a look of disdain.

"No, please! I'm begging you!" A few security guards quickly came, grabbed Chloe by the arms, and started to pull her away.

James then turned to Fiona, who had lost all pretense of innodetine.

after seeing James' harsh side She kept her head down, trying to stay out t of sight. Content belongs to Św"Miss Fiona," James finally said, "You didn't need to use someone et else to stir up trouble. I'll let it go this tfor Mister Elias' sake. But next time, I might not be so kind S Fiona, coming from a powerful family, knew it was bad news to upset her. So, James just warned her.

Fiona, realizing James' message, lost all her admiration for him. She gave a sad smile. "Mister James, you're joking! Of course... I won't do that." Content belongs to ŚwQUMS It was a public embarrassment, a big warning to her.

James then looked back at Esther on the stage, giving her an encouraging glance.

With James's support, Esther felt a weight lift off her shoulders. "Okay, let's move on..." Nobody wanted to mess with the Crawfords, especially since Richard and Pearl were backing Esther up. So, the issue was dropped.

A man sitting in the corner, watching everything, took a sip of his wine and smiled even wider.

Chapter 1102

After the engagement party, Claude slowly approached James from a corner. His face was hard to read. "Mister James, I would like an explanation."

James looked at Claude, noticing his serious look, and asked, "What can I do for you, Mister Claude?"

"Sabrina fell into the water earlier. Aren't you aware of that?"

Naturally, James knew about it but didn't know what to say just then. "So, what kind of explanation do you want?"

Claude played with the ring on his thumb and smiled a bit more. "I've been looking into what happened, and it turns out, I think you need to break up with your fiancée."

He smiled in a way that wasn't nice.

James was surprised and asked, "What do you mean?"

"My men found out who caused Sabrina's accident. It was someone from your family, and they said they did it because your fiancée told them to." Claude was hinting that Esther had planned the accident.

James's face turned cold immediately. "No, that's impossible. Someone must be trying to make her look bad.

"I'm telling you the truth. I came to you because I have proof." Claude thought James was just trying to protect Esther, so he became rude. "I kept quiet about this during your party out of respect. But if you keep defending her, don't get mad at me for speaking my mind."

Meanwhile, Esther rushed over to James. She hadn't expected that scene, so when she got a moment away from the party, she went to him and said, "Getting engaged is so exhausting."

"Mister Esther, you're just in time. Tell us why did you harm Sabrina."

Esther was stunned. "What are you talking about? I harmed Sabrina?"

Claude laughed sarcastically at her. "Really? You're playing dumb now?"

"What are you saying? Are you out of your mind? Weren't you just fine this morning? Why are you acting like this now?"

Claude took a deep breath, looking very angry.

By then, most of the guests had left, but Pearl and Richard came over to say goodbye.

Pearl was surprised to see Esther so upset. "What's wrong? Is this still about that previous affair?"

"No, Pearl. He's saying I hurt Sabrina.

I have

idea what he's talking

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Esther was really angry,

at Claude. Content Belongs

It looked like Claude was causing trouble for

Esther. Pearl found thinet

strange but was angry to see being treated poorly. Content

Esther

She said coldly to Claude, "Mister Claude, how much wine did you have? Shouldn't you watch what you say?"

"This doesn't concern you, Miss

Pearl. Stay out of it," Claude replied.

He

Connection to Pearl, so he

be mad at her. And the

problem didn't involve her anyway.

"No, it does concern me. You can't treat Esther badly in front of me. No one in Enswood would dare."

Chapter 1103

Pearl lifted her chin, making it clear she was there to stand by her best friend.

However, Richard was calm. "What happened?"

"I'm afraid Esther has something to do with Sabrina's accident earlier."

Esther thought back to that morning. She was really upset when she felt Claude didn't trust her. "No, Claude. Why would you think that? I was only trying to help her because it was the right thing to do. But now you're accusing me? That's not fair!"

"You think I'm being unfair? Seems like you'd have the most reason to do something like that."

Claude made a phone call, and soon a man came running over. He looked scared and didn't dare to speak up.

Pearl looked at him closely. He was strong but short, with tanned skin that shone.

Claude introduced him, "This is the guy. Miss Esther, do you know him?"

Esther glanced at him and scoffed. "Who is this? Are you trying to say he saw something?"

The man looked terrified when he heard that. "Miss Esther, you told me to do it, and now you're pretending you don't know me?"

"When did I ever ask you to do anything? Stop trying to paint me as the bad guy!" Esther turned to James, looking very upset. "I didn't do anything. I don't even know him."

James took a moment, then asked the man, "Diego, why are you making up stories about my future wife?"

Diego Avey was really nervous and started talking with a strong accent. "I'm not lying. I did something terrible. pushed Miss Sabrina into the water because I was being greedy. I'm so sorry, Mister James. Please punish me!"

He was so upset that he banged his head on the floor, as if he were admitting his guilt.

"Did you hear that? A witness is testifying against you. What else can you say? You should just admit to what you did." Claude had lost his patience.

"I didn't do it! How many times do I have to repeat myself?" Esther, enraged, approached Diego and grabbed his shirt. "I don't even know you. Tell the truth. Who's making you lie about me?"

"Just own up to it, Miss Esther." Diego looked guilty as he spoke to James and Claude. "I feel awful for lying."

"How can you talk about feeling bad for lying when you're lying right now? What a joke! James, your boatman sure is something," Esther said.

Pearl covered her mouth and couldn't help but laugh. The sound of her laughter was so loud in the quiet hall.

"How did you know he was a

boatman? I didn't say anything about that." Claude became suspicious. Pearl's laughter and knowledge that Diego was a boatman without being told made him think she might be involved in the plot too.

"Don't give me that look, Mister Claude. It's not hard to guess. He's dressed like someone who works on boats, and his skin shows he's

outside a lot. Plus, his accent

suggests he's from the South, right?"

Pearl grinned at Diego, as if she could see through his mind. It was unsettling for him.

Diego felt even more nervous under Pearl's gaze.

Chapter 1104

"You're really smart, Miss Pearl." Claude laughed and stopped doubting.

"So, do you have any proof that Esther told you to do this?" Pearl asked.

Diego was surprised by how clever Pearl seemed without even trying. It looked like she wouldn't be easy to trick.

"Of course, I've got proof." Diego pulled out his phone and showed her a bank transfer. "See? This is the money Esther sent me."

Pearl saw the transaction and noticed it was from a Sanders family credit card. She read the card number out loud and asked Esther, "Are you still using this card?" Esther went pale instantly. "Yes... I'm using that card."

Her father always put money on that card for her. So, she generally didn't care about the details of her expenses.

She quickly checked her card history and saw a 27 thousand dollars charge.

"I don't know what's going on, but I didn't send him money. I don't even know him." But she didn't sound convincing.

Claude decided Esther was guilty. "Miss Esther, just admit what you did. No need to cause a scene." He looked around, and some people looked ready to grab Esther.

James stepped in front of Esther, looking angry. "What do you mean by that, Mister Claude?"

"Well, she should at least apologize to Sabrina. Maybe even kneel down. If Sabrina is okay with it, I won't say more."

Even though it wasn't a big deal, Esther couldn't stand the thought. "I didn't do it. I'm not apologizing," she said firmly from behind James.

"You don't have a say in this, Miss Esther."

"Everyone,

Why are you trying to take her

said with a smirk, "This isn't over. Let's calm down," Pearl then belongs to sweet

now?"

"Isn't it over? The truth is out." Claude assumed Pearl was just stalling and started to think less of her.

At first, he thought they looked alike,

and

him.

would be as smart

Who lase

swnc

Spectedly, she was j

so-so.

Pearl didn't rush to argue. She just said, "Give me a moment. I'll find out the truth."

Claude was running out of patience. "Fine, you have ten minutes, Miss Pearl. Then, I'm taking her."

"Sure."

Pearl bent

You own with a smile, and asked,

Esther told you to do this.

4 x %% wly walked up to Diego,

When did you meet?"

Diego answered quickly, "The night before the engagement. She told me to push Miss Sabrina into the water."

It sounded logical.

But...

"Oh, the night before? Yeah... the time matched." Pearl nodded, looking thoughtful.

It seemed Diego was aware of Esther's routine. The time he picked sounded right.

Chapter 1105

Esther was furious. "What nonsense are you talking about? I was checking out my dress the day before. How could I have met you?"

Diego knew he might say something wrong if he kept talking, so he quickly looked at Esther and then looked away. "I'm telling the truth," he said.

"Okay, let's not stick to that. Next question," Pearl said, thinking. "Are you sure you're being honest?"

Diego nodded firmly. He had prepared well for this. His story was solid.

Pearl snorted and seemed unconvinced. "So, how did Esther know Sabrina would be on the boat?"

Diego gnashed his teeth and explained, "Miss Esther told me Miss Sabrina's family was from Streamville. That's why Miss Sabrina wanted to see the lake."

"Why would she tell something like that to someone she barely knows?" Pearl raised her brow, skeptical.

"How... would I know? Anyway, that was what she told me. I'm just a boatman. What you're saying is over my head," Diego defended his point.

Pearl shook her head, not buying it. "I'm sorry, but your story doesn't add up."

"What do you mean?" Diego was stunned.

Pearl laid it out for him. "First off, Sabrina and Esther never talked in private. Esther wouldn't know about Sabrina's family."

James nodded, confirming it.

"Second, only Sabrina's close friends know about her family's origin."

Diego snorted. "So? They might have talked. It's not my concern."

Pearl smirked, adding, "I saw Sabrina fall off the boat. I even saw who pushed her. My ring records video, and it's waterproof. I'm not kidding. If you don't tell the truth, you'll regret it?"

Pearl was smiling, but she looked fierce.

Diego panicked. He didn't see that Pearl was smarter and

more thorough than he

She

i had proof against him

Pearl stared straight into his eyes, waiting for him to talk.

Finally, he couldn't hold back anymore and admitted, "I'm sorry. I lied about Miss Esther."

Pearl shrugged and had long anticipated that.

Claude was shocked Pearl figured it all out so fast. He checked his watch. Only seven minutes had passed.

"Tell us everything you know." Esther squatted down and grabbed his collar, threatening aggressively.

James watched his fiancée getting

mad

floor. He helped her up from the

floor. He looked at Diego sternly. "Spill it! Who asked you to

lie?"

Diego was really scared. He could barely stay on his knees.

"Okay, calm down. Let me handle this."

"It's... It's Miss Fiona!" Diego finally revealed.

Chapter 1106

"Fiona?" James's expression darkened. "Why did she want to hurt Sabrina?"

"I don't know. I just did what she paid me for. Miss Fiona said she'd give me 270 thousand dollars when it's done."

Diego trembled a lot while kneeling on the floor. If he had known, he would never have accepted such a hard job. He couldn't believe he agreed to do something like that. Knowing James, he was definitely going to teach him a tough lesson.

Diego felt very worried, thinking about what was going to happen to him.

"What else did Fiona tell you?"

"She... She told me to make it look like Miss Esther did it, to make everyone think Miss Esther was the bad one."

So, Fiona's plan was just to accuse Esther wrongly. Now everyone knew the truth.

Pearl raised her brow and looked at Claude disdainfully. "Next time, make sure you have all the facts and evidence before you try to arrest someone, okay, Mister Claude?" Claude knew he had acted impulsively. He was really embarrassed.

So, he got really mad at Diego. "You harmed Sabrina and Esther, didn't you?"

Diego widened his eyes and denied it before things got worse. "I just harmed Miss Esther. But I didn't push Miss Sabrina into the lake,"

"So, you're saying Fiona pushed Sabrina into the lake, right?"

Diego kept nodding.

"Okay, got it." Claude signaled, and his bodyguards came and took Diego away.

Now everyone knew Esther did nothing wrong. She grabbed Pearl's hand happily. "Pearl, did you get that on video?"

Pearl had great foresight! She was awesome!

Pearl chuckled. "No, I wasn't that smart to record that beforehand. And a tiny ring can't do all that."

Esther was stunned. "So, you were bluffing?"

"Yeah." Pearl blinked. "That person was too dumb to tell."

Esther gave her a thumbs-up. "You're amazing. How did you know someone else pushed Sabrina?"

Pearl explained calmly, "He would

have

boated both hands to row t

couldn't have pushed

Sabrina. It didn't make sense."

the

Pearl had spent some time in Streamville before and knew that one needed both hands to use the oars of those wooden boats Diego didn't think of that.

"Fiona is really sneaky. First, she pushed Sabrina into the water and tried to make it look like I did it. Then she got Chloe to cause a scene at my engagement party." Esther was fuming with anger.

"There's one more thing."

Esther turned around and asked, "What is it?"

Pearl looked serious and calm. "How did Fiona take 27 thousand dollars from your credit card?" "Right, there was that 27 thousand dollars charge. How did Fiona do that?" Esther wondered.

Chapter 1107

James added, "Someone needs to provide the information even if they had hacked into your account."

Pearl looked fierce. "There must be something fishy with the people around you."

Someone close to Esther was paid off to spy on her.

"I haven't been around many people. Just you, James, and my assistant, Liora..."

Pearl quickly cut in. "What's your assistant's last name?"

"Farrow."

Then, it clicked for Esther. This was a serious issue.

James quickly said, "I'll look into the relationship between Fiona and Liora."

Claude narrowed his eyes. He didn't really care about all that; he just wanted to know who had harmed Sabrina.

"I'll deal with Fiona," he said.

She bullied the people on his side and nearly harmed his child. She was really asking for trouble.

Three days later, a video popped up online.

It showed a woman tied up and naked on a stool, with some gooey stuff thrown on her. Then, a bunch of big guys came in, said mean things, and tossed her onto a bed, assaulting her completely. But the woman looked like was enjoying it.

The video was shocking and quickly

got shared over 10 million times in just one day. The shocking part was that Fiona, from the Farrow family, was the woman in the video.

The Farrow family tried to take the video down, but many people had already saved it. Even after the original was taken down, it kept being shared in secret. Fiona's reputation was destroyed.

Pearl sighed inwardly when she read that news. Claude's methods were cruel and unfathomable.

But no man could just overlook someone who hurt their loved one and their child.

When Esther called Pearl, Pearl had just stopped watching that awful video.

"Did you see that video, Pearl?" Esther sounded a bit happy. "Claude really went all out. He made sure she got what she deserved. I doubt Fiona will cause any more trouble. But wasn't that a bit much? Fiona looks really pitiful."

Although Esther was glad, she felt it was too harsh for Fiona. It seemed too cruel.

But Esther was just being nice and a bit naive, feeling sorry for someone who wanted to hurt her.

Pearl, though, thought Claude did exactly what he should have. It was real payback, making the enemy feel the same pain.

"By the way, Sabrina is at the

hospital. Are you free today? Let's

visit her. Since the accident

happened at Esther's engagement

party, she felt they should see

Sabrina.

Pearl nodded. "Sure, let's go."

She quickly got ready and headed to Enswood Hospital with her bag.

Arriving there, she saw Esther's car. But when she got to the room Esther mentioned, she heard a loud crash from inside.

Pearl's heart skipped a beat as she opened the door and entered.

Chapter 1108

The scene in the hospital room left Pearl feeling helpless.

Claude was standing amid shattered glass, refusing to move.

"Why do you keep coming here?" Sabrina was visibly upset, her face flushed with anger. "I told you I don't want to see you. Don't you get it?"

"I..." Claude didn't plan on leaving. He wanted to go closer and hold her trembling hand.

"Stay away!" Sabrina was furious. She couldn't believe how stubborn he was. "I've told you I don't love you. We're only friends with benefits. Don't you understand that?"

"Sabrina, don't you think that's very disgusting?" Claude ignored the fact that he should be gentle with a pregnant woman and spoke his mind. "You say you've never loved me, huh?" "Yeah, I've never loved you."

Sabrina gripped the blanket tightly, trying to stay calm. "I've told you over and over. I wish you'd understand our situation. I even left the country to avoid you. Isn't that clear enough?" "I don't believe you. Then why are you having my child?"

At the mention of the baby, Sabrina sneered in disdain. "Claude, who told you I wanted to trap you by having your child? Do you really think I'd use the child to make you stay with me? It's just a child. My family can look after it.

"Besides, Mister Claude, do you really think the child is all that matters? That you want to bring it home?"

"You know that the baby isn't the one I care about."

But Sabrina seemed to miss his point. "Or is it someone who can have your children? I'm sure there's a long line of women for that—"

"How could you say that!"

"Don't you get what I'm saying?"

Then, she looked away from Claude

and

held

Clated to the door, her head st

"Please leave, Mister And don't come

Claude clenched his fists, his knuckles popping loudly.

"Don't just stand there. Do you want me to show you out?"

It was clear Sabrina wanted him gone. Then, the door slammed shut loudly, almost scaring her.

Claude had left.

Sabrina calmed herself down and then noticed Pearl watching her closely.

"Why did you lie?"

Sabrina touched her nose

awkwander Pearl's observant gaze. "No, I just wanted him to stop bothering me. I don't like him that much."

"Is that so?"

"Yeah... Anyway, let's not talk about him. Did you come to visit me, Miss Pearl?"

Sabrina and Pearl weren't close, but Sabrina was touched that Pearl had risked herself to save her.

And as for Claude... she preferred not to mention him.

"Yeah, Esther asked me to come and visit you. I came because I happened to be free. By the way, where's Esther?"

Pearl looked around but didn't see Esther.

Sabrina sighed. "Oh, they're so

lovey-dovey, and they came

me some fruits. They're pronet

empty handed. I asked them toget

still downstairs."

Chapter 1109

Right as they were talking about her, Esther's loud voice filled the room from the entrance. "Sabrina, we're back!"

"Awesome. Did you get the mangosteen I've been craving?"

Esther showed Sabrina a big bunch of fruits. She was all smiles. "Yes, I got every fruit you love. Can you believe it? James remembered them all!"

Sabrina's smile faded for a moment, but she quickly recovered. "I'm glad. We've known each other forever. I'd be upset if he forgot."

She looked over at James, relieved to see he was okay.

"I'll treat you to lunch tomorrow to make up for everything after you leave the hospital." Esther grabbed Sabrina's hand, their connection obvious. They had similar personalities, so they got along really well, always finding something to chat about.

Pearl, feeling a bit left out, coughed to make her presence known. Esther finally noticed her.

"Pearl! You're here!"

Esther looked excited to see Pearl, who stopped her with a finger. "Easy there. Watch it." Esther sat down beside Pearl and started eating a peach. "When did you get here, Pearl?"

"I've been around for about ten minutes."

Esther clicked her tongue. "Strange that Claude didn't show up today. He's usually around." "Ugh, does Claude come here often?"

Esther stopped eating her peach.

"Yeah, Claude never gives up. Even though he often fails, he keeps coming back, more determined each time."

"He was here."

Esther was stunned. She looked around, then realized. "Oh, that explains the mess. I thought Sabrina had an accident. No biggie. It clean it up later."

"What's going on between Sabrina and that man?" Pearl had been watching everyone and sensed something complicated. "It's a long story..."

Esther was about to start when Sabrina chimed in, "Hey, shouldn't I be the one to tell it? It's about me, after all."

Embarrassed, Esther gave her a sheepish grin. "Sure, go ahead."

Sabrina took a deep breath.

"It's like this..."

Pearl listened, finding the tale oddly familiar, as if she could picture it perfectly.

Sabrina left Enswood to study abroad four years ago, her first time being so far from home. Despite the distance, it was the right move for her dreams.

She bade goodbye to her parents and James, her neighbor, then left for her adventure.

Naturally, the Watson family, powerful and well-connected, ensured she wouldn't face hardships abroad.

But...

Chapter 1110

"What do you mean? Who are you calling ugly? You better explain." Chloe's expression changed. "I have no problem with you, miss. There's no need for you to attack me." She had been spoiled since she was a child, and no one had ever called her ugly before. The woman in front of her was much prettier, and she couldn't find anything to criticize about her, which frustrated her.

Pearl crossed her arms and casually glanced at Esther on the stage. "Then what's your issue with her? Why are you attacking her?" Chloe was stunned. She couldn't cup with a response.

"Today is their big day. If you insist on causing trouble here, don't blCerubleu for not treating the Bishops well in the future." In other words, if Chloe dared bully her friend, Pearl would not do business with the Bishops in the future.

Chloe wasn't entirely clueless. She knew a thing or two about the business world. She had heard her father mention the collaboration between Cerubleu and their family.

In other words, Pearl wasn't someone she could easily offend. But she had said she would stand up for Fiona, and it was awkward to back down now.

At a loss for words, Chloe could only stand there, embarrassed. "Well, I..." Seeing that things weren't going well, Fiona didn't want to miss this opportunity, so she quickly stepped in to cause more trouble. She cleared her throat, acting like she was struggling to say what bothered her. "It's alright, Clo. I know you're doing this for to letvent, but there's really no need for this. It's their big day. I know what they said embarrassed you, but if you ruin this engagement party..." Chloe was always hot-tempered and cared a lot about her reputation. Hearing what Fiona said to her, she couldn't hide her frustration when she realized everyone could see her embarrassment. "No way, I've got to help you out today." Putting her family business aside, Chloe said, "There's no need to threatenwith this, Miss Pearl. The Bishops don't need you as a partner." "If that's how you want it, you can count the Waldorfs out too." Richard, who had been quiet, spoke up to support Pearl. His cold gaze fell on Chloe, almost swallowing her whole.

"Uh..." Chloe hesitated, unsure how to respond.

She had now offended two parties. Panicked, she wondered if it was worth offending Richard and Pearl for Fiona.

Before she could decide, James, who had been helping guests nearby, noticed the situation and walked over with a glass of wine.

Seeing James in a white suit today, Chloe was speechless. Although she claimed to stand up for Fiona, she acted out her unspoken feelings.

She had a crush on James even before Fiona did. But she knew James wouldn't be interested in someone like her, and she also. wasn't as important as Fiona.. Instead of helping others, she preferred to support her friend.

"Causing trouble at my engagement party, huh?" James's eyes were calm, showing no emotion.

Chloe thought James wasn't serious about the engagement, so she n et boldly said, James, I... I know you actually have feelings for Fiona. Someone like Esther is not worthy of you. S-So I'm speaking un..." Talking to someone she had feelings for made her stammer. James smiled a bit, his voice calm but strong. "So, should I be grateful to you?"

