

YOUR GUISE 111

Chapter 111

After giving it some thought, Pearl decided to drive to Dark Bar. However, finding the woman proved challenging due to the glittering lights and the crowd inside the bar.

With the help of her phone's location tracking, Pearl eventually found the woman nearby. To her surprise, the woman had transformed from her previous studious appearance into a maid costume, now serving and drinking with the bar's patrons.

So... this was the same young woman?

Pearl felt very sorry for the woman's predicament. The woman was forced into this situation, compelled to serve drinks and cater to the guests.

Moreover, Pearl felt a personal connection to her. She remembered her own father's demise years ago when the family couldn't afford his treatment. She had watched him pass away in a hospital bed, igniting her determination to earn money and become excellent to protect her loved ones.

Approaching the young woman, Pearl grabbed her arm, prompting her to stand up.

"It's you..." The woman widened her eyes.

“Renee, is she your friend?” a drunk man, captivated by Pearl’s beauty, inquired.

Renee O’Connor immediately shook her head, fearful that the man might take advantage of Pearl. “No, don’t know her. I think she’s mistaken.”

“Leave this place. You should be preparing for your college entrance exams. Do you understand?”

Pearl’s

tone was stern and commanding.

“Hey, it looks like you guys do know each other. Come on, Renee’s friend is our friend. Let’s have a drink, babe.” The man reached for Pearl’s waist, but Pearl forcefully pinched his wrist and yanked his arm down.

“Ah!”

Pearl had actually dislocated his arm.

“Stop screaming, or I’ll dislocate your other arm too!”

Suppressing his pain, the man made a call, and a group of b*dyguards promptly rushed over.

“You’re not going anywhere!” The man instructed his b*dyguards, “Beat her up!”

It was clear that Pearl would have difficulty fighting against those well-trained b*dyguards. Thinking

quickly, she seized a glass from a nearby table and smashed it onto the man before grabbing Renee's

hand

and making a swift escape.

"Damn it! Go after them!"

Pearl maneuvered through the densely packed crowd and led Renee to the second floor. Once there,

she left Renee in one of the rooms and prepared to leave.

"Where are you going?" Renee grabbed Pearl's sleeve, anxious.

"I'll lure them away. If we both stay here, we might get caught. I might as well leave you here."

"But--"

"No more buts. I'm sure they're looking for me since I punched so many of them earlier. Try to sneak

away when it's safe later. Don't let them find you."

After instructing Renee, Pearl slipped her Waldorf Enterprises business card into her hand, jotting

down her name and contact information. "Here's my phone number. Call me afterward, and don't worry

about

medical or surgery fees. I have more than enough.”

She then closed the door and turned to leave but ran into the people pursuing her.

“She’s here! Hurry up! Don’t let her escape!”

Pearl took a step back, turned, and ran in the opposite direction, but a sense of dread overcame her as the surroundings became more isolated.

However, she couldn’t let her guard down while running. She spotted a room with a door ajar, dashed into it, and quickly shut the door behind her.

But she regretted it the moment she closed the door. It appeared she had trapped herself in a wine cellar, where bottles were stored at frigid temperatures to preserve their quality.

“She’s in there. Why aren’t we going in?”

“It’s a cold storage room. We can just lock her in and let her freeze to death.”

“Heh, smart thinking.”

Pearl’s heart skipped a beat as she overheard their conversation. She tried to send her location to Wayne but realized that she had given the ring to Renee.

“Sh*t,” Pearl muttered under her breath. She then retrieved her phone only to find that there was no

signal in the cold storage room.

“Am I going to die here today?” Pearl whispered while anxiously watching the door.

The icy temperature made her curl up and hug herself, desperately trying to keep warm.

However, the intense cold made her drowsy. Whenever she felt her eyelids drooping, she resorted to

pinching herself to stay awake, using the pain as a countermeasure against sleepiness.

As time dragged on, Pearl gave up hope of rescue and began to accept her grim fate. In her fading

consciousness, her thoughts turned to Richard.

Yet, even in her dying moments, the pain she felt when thinking of Richard’s actions was excruciating.

“Richard...”

Richard was having dinner with Abby when his phone rang suddenly.

Unconcerned, he ignored the call, assuming it was a prank. However, the caller persisted, and the

phone continued to ring.

Reluctantly, Richard finally answered the call. The voice on the other end was that of a distraught

woman, begging for help through her sobs.

Startled, Richard abruptly left the table to rush to the bar.

“What’s the matter, Rick? We’re in the middle of dinner,” Abby said, bewildered and concerned.

“I’ve got something urgent. Continue eating without me.”

“But it’s been a while since we last had dinner together. Can’t you stay a little longer?” Abby insisted,

trying

to keep him there.

“I need to save someone,” he said firmly.

Abby was taken aback. “Who...?”

“Pearl.” With that, Richard ignored her and drove to Dark Bar.

Upon arriving, he discovered the locked door of the cold storage room. Richard kicked it forcefully, and

inside, he found Pearl lying on the ground, barely conscious and shivering.

Seeing her in that state caused Richard unbearable pain.

“Wake up, Pearl.”

Pearl heard someone calling her and slowly opened her eyes. When she saw Richard, she let out a

weak chuckle. “What’s going on... Why do I see you when I’m dead?”

Richard frowned. "What nonsense are you saying, Pearl?"

"No, really...it's strange. You seem to be everywhere," Pearl mumbled, "Am I really in love with you?"

"Don't talk, or you'll tire yourself out." Richard carried her and rushed her to the hospital.

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When Pearl woke up, she saw Richard sitting beside her bed as if he had been waiting there for a long time.

"What are you doing here?" Pearl wondered why she was still alive, then recalled what had happened in the cold storage room. "Did you save me?"

"You should rest more and avoid talking so much," Richard advised in a calm tone. He poured a glass of warm water for Pearl. "The doctor said you should stay in bed for two days. Just call me if you need anything. Don't push yourself."

Despite his stern tone, Pearl didn't resist him as much, given that he had saved her life. She refrained from arguing with him further.

Nodding, she sipped some water.

After a while, she asked curiously, "How did you find me? Did you put a tracking device on me?"

Richard looked puzzled. "What do you mean?"

"I didn't send you an SOS signal. How did you know where I was?"

WOLF

"A woman called me and told me about your accident at Dark Bar. She asked me to go and save you.'

Pearl instantly thought of Renee.

Renee must have guessed Pearl's identity based on the business card and obtained the president's

contact number from the company's customer service. She then called Richard. It seemed like she was

pretty smart.

Feeling warmed, Pearl smiled.

"Why are you smiling? You're so dumb. How could you get locked inside a cold storage room?"

Richard

scolded her.

Rolling her eyes, Pearl retorted, "I was trying to save a damsel in distress, okay? I think it's my

responsibility to help the young woman find the right path." Her excuse was rather exaggerated.

An inexplicable joy overwhelmed Richard when Pearl started teasing him again. As a result, they seemed to have grown closer to each other after today's incident.

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Pearl was resting alone when Richard went to spend some time with Susan. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

"I've come to see you, Pearl. I hope you won't be angry," Abby said.

Pearl couldn't even smile when she saw Abby.

"What's wrong?"

She couldn't even be bothered to chat with Abby.

Her indifference filled Abby with bitterness, and tears welled up in her eyes. "I'm just here to visit you,

Pearl. Can't you be a bit nicer to me?"

"It's fine to put on a show in front of others, but there's really no need to do it when we're alone."

Abby kept her head lowered, appearing as if she didn't understand Pearl. "No, I'm not pretending. I

really wanted to visit you because I want to get along with you. That's why I—"

“How are you going to explain the incident when we bought food for Madam?”

Pearl couldn't bring herself to trust Abby after the latter had shown her power on the third day that she

was

back.

“I... I don't know either. I just suddenly felt that she couldn't eat that kind of food when I went to the

restroom. I got so agitated, but I didn't intend to blame you,” Abby stammered.

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Abby's seemingly sincere words almost convinced Pearl.

Sneering, Pearl said, “I don't know what you're plotting this time, but don't provoke me again, or I won't

let you off the hook.”

A sinister light flitted past Abby's eyes as she kept her head down. Then, she abruptly raised her hand

and struck herself with a hard and forceful slap, startling Pearl.

“I was wrong, and I slapped myself as an apology. Plus, I came back this time to change everyone's

perception of me. I really don't have any ulterior motives.” Sobbing, Abby continued, “I know that Rick

likes you, so I won't try to snatch him away from you.”

But Pearl found herself amused by yet another of Abby's self-directed drama. "You're trying to make

Richard witness me bullying you again, huh?"

Covering her face, Abby cried pitifully. "No, I really don't mean anything else." Seeing that it was almost

time, Abby stopped saying anything else. "Okay, I'm leaving. Do take care of yourself."

"Bye."

Not long after Abby left, Pearl was ready to take a nap when Susan entered the room, accompanied by

Abby.

Susan immediately bombarded Pearl with questions the moment she came in. "What's going on,

Pearl? Did you slap Abby?"

Smiling at Abby, Pearl replied, "I didn't slap her, Madam. She did it on her own."

"Preposterous! Abby wouldn't slap herself for nothing." Susan was far from convinced. Besides, she felt

tremendous sympathy for Abby, who now bore a conspicuous red mark on her face. After all, she had

promised Abby's mother to look out for her. She couldn't simply dismiss this incident.

"But why would I randomly slap her?" Pearl's logical question left Susan momentarily speechless.

Yet Abby interjected when Pearl appeared ready to dispel Susan's doubts. "Madam, Pearl didn't do anything wrong. She simply doesn't like me very much because of the things I've done to her, and she hasn't forgiven me yet. I deserved it..." Abby's implication was that Pearl held a grudge and slapped her because of past transgressions.

Enraged, Susan started demanding an explanation. "Pearl, I understand that Abby wronged you, but she's not a bad person. She acted that way because she liked Rick too much, and she assured me that she would let you be with Rick. Look, she's turned over a new leaf. Why won't you give her a chance?"

Pearl, however, remained unmoved. "Of course, I haven't forgiven her, and I never will."

Susan rebuked angrily, "I'll never allow Rick to marry someone as heartless as you. You're so cruel that you won't even give a young woman a break!"

"Alright, if you doubt that I slapped her, I'll provide evidence." Pearl smiled as she pointed to the surveillance camera in the upper right corner of the room. "All the rooms in this hospital are equipped with surveillance systems. You can check with the hospital to verify whether it was me or not. Then you'll see who did it." Pearl's suggestion demonstrated her clear conscience.

Suddenly, Susan wondered if Pearl had really slapped Abby or not.

“Abby...” She turned to stare at Abby, making the latter rather uneasy.

Abby immediately explained, “I... I did slap myself, Madam. I just wanted Pearl to forgive me...” With her head hung low, Abby was about to cry again.

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Susan shot Abby a reproachful look, feeling that it was Abby’s vague words that had caused her to misunderstand Pearl.

“But... Pearl really hates me. I did it to make her feel better because I couldn’t stand her hating me.”

Abby bit her lip. “But I didn’t think she’d still refuse to forgive me even after I did that.” She feigned humility, making Susan feel sorry for her.

Knowing that Abby was telling the truth, Susan sighed. “Silly, you shouldn’t have slapped yourself. It must

have hurt.”

Pearl, raising an eyebrow, saw through Abby’s manipulation, using her apparent vulnerability to garner sympathy.

“Alright, if that’s all you wanted to say, please leave. Madam, please get some rest in your room.” Pearl

tried to make them leave while maintaining her composure.

Feeling awkward, Susan reluctantly left with Abby, realizing that her prejudice had misled her.

However, after a brief rest, Pearl heard another knock at the door.

"Come in."

Timidly, Renee walked into the room and looked at Pearl with guilt and distress. "I'm sorry, Miss. It's all my fault. You would be fine if I didn't insist on going to work."

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"It's not your fault, okay? I chose to help you. Besides, I got into this mess because I wasn't careful enough. You don't have to blame yourself." Pearl grinned while consoling Renee. She knew that she had done the right thing in assisting her.

"Ah, yes." Renee took out the silver ring from her pocket and placed it in Pearl's hand. "I don't want to work at the bar anymore, Miss. Can you help me?" There was a plea in Renee's innocent eyes.

Stunned, Pearl smiled and nodded. "Sure." She produced a gold card she had prepared earlier and gave it to Renee. "I have around 270 thousand dollars on this card, and the password is the first six

digits of my phone number. If it's not enough, don't hesitate to contact me. I think you have my contact information."

"Thank you, Miss. I'll definitely repay you." Renee held the card tightly, her eyes brimming with tears.

"No need to repay me. I don't need this money. Just focus on your studies and avoid places like the bar."

"Okay." Keeping her head bowed, Renee muttered, "But my mother still doesn't have the right bone marrow for her. I don't know what to do."

"It's okay. Just leave it to me." Pearl called Wayne and instructed him to find suitable bone marrow for Renee's mother.

In less than half an hour, Wayne successfully located a compatible donor nearby.

"Alright, your mother can have the surgery in about half an hour," Pearl informed Renee.

Surprised and happy, Renee exclaimed, "Really? My mother can have the surgery now!"

"Yeah, I'll get the best surgeon for your mother and ensure her safety."

Renee dropped to her knees. "Thank you, Miss. I don't know how to repay your kindness. Just tell me if you need me for anything in the future. I won't say no!"

Smiling, Pearl affectionately ruffled Renee's hair. "Don't worry about it. Go back and take care of your mother now."

Renee nodded and wiped away her tears before she left.

Of course, Pearl would not break her promise. She called Hugo after that and asked him to perform the surgery for Renee's mother.

Chapter 115

While Hugo was young, he was the most respected doctor in the entire hospital, surpassing many older doctors in the medical field. In short, he was considered a genius.

"But what's in it for me if I perform surgery on Renee's mother?" Laughing casually, Hugo's words filled Pearl with vigilance.

"It's just a small favor. It won't hurt you. Can't you do a good deed?"

However, coldness enveloped Hugo's voice. "Oh? Why should I be the one doing good deeds?"

"Whatever."

With that, Pearl abruptly ended the call. After all, there were plenty of doctors in the hospital who could perform the surgery.

But Pearl suddenly got a call from Renee before Renee's mother could undergo surgery.

Crying, Renee explained, "The doctor said my mother is losing a lot of blood, and she's in critical condition!"

"What?" Pearl wondered if it was Hugo's scheme, but it was beyond belief.

Yet, in this dire moment, everyone in the hospital seemed powerless. With no other option, Pearl went to Hugo's office to plead with him.

"Can you save Renee's mother, Hugo?"

"

"Didn't I tell you that you must give me a reason to save her?" Hugo leaned in and gazed at Pearl with smile.

"What are you trying to say? Just spit it out." Pearl realized that she hardly knew him anymore. He was not. the same person she once knew.

He used to be friendly and kind, but now he seemed like a shrewd businessman.

"I want..." Hugo took a deep breath. "I want you."

Pearl stared at him in shock. "Why?"

Naturally, Hugo would only lie to her. He chuckled and replied, "I like you. Maybe I took a fancy to you before Richard did."

"But you told me you didn't love me. Isn't it suffocating to be with someone you don't love?" Pearl was baffled by his sudden change, feeling that he just wanted something that didn't belong to him.

Hugo's eyes filled with desire. "Who said I didn't like you? I just answered your question before, but I never said I disliked you."

After learning that Simon was Pearl's mentor, his feelings for Pearl grew because he could manipulate her once she was in his grasp. It would benefit him even more.

But he couldn't act rashly, as Pearl was exceptionally astute and would see through his schemes. So he needed to win her over gradually.

"No, I can promise you anything except this." Pearl knew that being with Hugo would be difficult because

she felt nothing for him.

“I want nothing else but you.” Hugo stretched a little. “Think it over, but keep in mind that the patient may not hold on for long. You’d better hurry up and make up your mind.”

“Aren’t you a doctor? Why are you so heartless?” Pearl shot him a cold, angry look, her frustration simmering.

Hugo just grinned.

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“I’m a human before I’m a doctor. Like everyone else, I have desires,” Hugo said.

Pearl’s phone began vibrating intensely, displaying Renee’s caller ID.

Taking a deep breath, Pearl said, “Okay, you have my word.”

“Just make sure you don’t go back on your promise after the surgery. Renee’s mother will need treatment

for at least three months afterward.”

Pearl stared at him with a cold gaze. “Fine, go ahead.”

“Be gentler. After all, I’m your boyfriend now.” Hugo stood up and stretched. “Okay, I’ll perform the surgery now. Be nice and wait for me.” He pinched Pearl’s cheek playfully before leaving with a smile.

Pearl wiped her cheek vigorously, clearly disgusted. However, she couldn't easily refuse Hugo's advances, as she needed a favor from him. Moreover, she had finally saved Renee's mother, and she couldn't let Renee down.

So, she went to the surgery room to wait with the tearful Renee. She hugged her tightly and reassured her.

"My mom won't leave me behind, right?"

"No, she'll always be with you."

The surgery lasted for a grueling ten hours. By the time Hugo came out, night had fallen, and the city's lights were aglow.

Though Hugo was wearing a mask and a white coat, it was obvious that he was tired.

"It's a success. Don't worry," he informed Renee with a smile.

Relief washed over Pearl as she saw Renee smile.

"Pearl, come to my office with me," Hugo said, turning his gaze to her.

"Alright."

In his office, Hugo changed into casual clothes and took Pearl's hand, catching her off guard.

Shocked, Pearl instinctively tried to pull her hand away. "What are you doing?"

Hugo frowned. "What's the matter? We're a couple now, right? Why can't we hold hands?"

Pearl clenched her teeth in hatred but refrained from shaking his hand off. "We don't have to rush things."

"Relax. Just get used to it. It's not a big deal."

And so, Pearl held back and decided against shaking his hand away.

They left the office hand in hand and bumped into Richard, who had come to see Hugo.

"You guys?" Fury rose in Richard when he saw their tightly held hands.

Hugo, reveling in Richard's annoyance, grinned and suggested, "We're heading out for dinner. Would you like to join us?"

His provocation only intensified Richard's irritation. "What's your game?"

"Can't you tell, Rick?" Hugo gripped Pearl's hand tighter and swayed it before Richard.

Pearl remained silent, uncertain how to explain the situation to Richard, given his furious expression.

“Have fun,” Richard snapped.

Smirking, Hugo replied, “Sure, we’ll try to make it back tonight.”

The word “try” hung in the air, leaving Richard in a gloomy and tense state.

Chapter 117

“Stop. You want to grab a bite, right? Let’s go.” Pearl yanked Hugo’s sleeve to break the awkward situation.

“Alright, Rick. We’ll go first,” Hugo said to Richard.

Richard watched them leave the hospital, hand in hand.

But as soon as they stepped outside, Pearl withdrew her hand from Hugo’s grasp.

“Why? Are you mad?” Hugo kept his smile even when she was angry. “I know you like Rick, but you’re my girlfriend now. You can’t be mad at me because of another man.”

Pearl regretted asking for Hugo’s help. “Are you enjoying this, Hugo?”

“Yes, I am,” he replied, clearly pleased with his progress.

“What’s the point of all this? There’s no future for us.”

However, Hugo remained undeterred. “I can make you fall in love with me in three months.”

“That will never happen.”

Did Hugo take Pearl as a love-struck fool? She was certain that it wouldn't happen.

“Let's give it a try.”

Stepping back, Pearl continued, “It's impossible between us, so you better give up. I won't have dinner with you. I'm not hungry.”

“Come with me. You know what will happen if I get mad.” Hugo would not take no for an answer.

“I'm a patient, and I've been feeling unwell lately. Even the doctor advised that I stay in bed, So, I can't go. with you.”

Raising his brows, Hugo refuted, “I'm a doctor.”

“Hugo, stop pushing your luck.”

Hugo, realizing that he wouldn't get his way by pushing too hard, raised his hands in surrender. “Fine, go rest. I'll go by myself.”

Pearl felt a sense of relief and made her way back to her ward to rest. However, before she could reach the in- patient department's door, a figure in the corridor startled her.

Suppressing her emotions, she approached the figure and was left speechless by what she saw.

It was... Richard?

The glow of the cigarette he held was conspicuous in the darkness.

"Richard, what are you doing..." Pearl was taken aback as she couldn't recall Richard being a smoker.

"I'm smoking. I'll go home later."

A strange restlessness hit Pearl. She blurted out, "Are you feeling blue?"

"No, I think it's pretty good that you're dating Hugo."

Those words sent a dull ache through Pearl's heart.

"So, you think it's a good thing that I'm dating Hugo?" Pearl forced a smile. "Very well. As you wish."

As she turned to enter the department, Richard suddenly pinned her against the wall, his eyes blazing with anger. His grip on her waist conveyed his fiery fury, which seemed to burn her alive.

"You don't understand irony, do you?" he growled.

Pearl's heart raced, and indescribable emotions surged within her as she witnessed Richard, who was usually calm, losing control.

"I have my reasons."

“What’s the reason for you to be with him? You aren’t easily threatened, are you?” Richard’s voice was

filled

with frustration.

“I’ve told you there’s a reason, but I won’t be with him forever. When the time is right, I’ll break up with

him.

Richard remained aloof. “When is the right time?”

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Richard couldn’t bear it any longer, not even for a minute.

“I have to endure for two more days since he has something against me right now,” Pearl said, looking

up. She wasn’t sure why she felt the need to explain to Richard, but guilt overwhelmed her when she

saw him.

“What’s going on?”

“I helped save that girl’s mother, and now Hugo is threatening me with it. I need to transfer her mother

to another hospital before I break up with him. If not, he might do something in secret.”

Pearl had decided to send Hugo away for a few days and transfer Renee’s mother to another hospital.

Then she could break up with Hugo.

"I'll give you a hand," Richard blurted out impulsively.

"I can do it on my own."

Richard looked uncomfortable. Smiling, Pearl asked, "Are you... in love with me, Richard?"

Richard didn't immediately deny it but gazed at her earnestly. "I have to admit that I've really fallen in love with you."

Stunned, Pearl didn't expect him to confess his feelings so openly.

"Richard, you... like me?"

Stepping closer, Richard gently lifted her chin. "Yes, I don't want to see you with him because I like you."

He had initially thought of his feelings for Pearl as vague and insignificant, but seeing her with another man stirred up envy, sorrow, and confusion within him. It had been a long time since he had experienced such complex emotions.

"What about you? How do you feel about me?" Richard held her close, not allowing her to escape, and

demanded an answer.

Pearl realized she had been pondering over her feelings for a long time but hadn't been willing to admit them. Just as she was about to respond, a sudden light illuminated them.

"Stop making noise in the corridor. Hurry up and go back to your ward."

Pearl blushed at the intrusion into their intimate moment. She pushed Richard away and escaped.

Unbeknownst to them, Abby had overheard their conversation while hiding in a corner. She had come out in search of Richard and hadn't expected to witness this scene.

She was delighted to see Pearl dating Hugo, but Richard's confession had thrown a wrench into her plans. Panicking, she knew she had to act quickly to prevent Pearl from becoming Richard's girlfriend.

And so, Abby wasted no time and called Hugo.

At that moment, Hugo was drinking at a bar. He sent his location to Abby and agreed to meet her in person.

When Abby arrived at the bar, Hugo was deep in thought, contemplating his next move.

"I'm here to discuss something with you, Hugo."

Raising his brows, Hugo asked, "What is it?"

Abby gritted her teeth in frustration because of his nonchalance. "Let's work together."

Hugo chuckled, realizing he had successfully ensnared Abby. "I'm listening."

Chapter 119

"Do you know that Rick likes Pearl?" Abby continued when Hugo remained calm, "And Pearl likes Rick too. It'll be bad for us if they end up together."

She was making a calculated bet, suspecting that Hugo had ulterior motives concerning Pearl.

"I'm not worried because Pearl is my girlfriend now," Hugo responded, showing no interest in her proposition.

"But I heard Pearl mention transferring someone to another hospital and breaking up with you. Are you sure you can be with her forever?"

Hearing that, Hugo's expression changed. "What did you hear?"

Finally gaining his attention, Abby pressed on. "I think you should consider working with me so we can get what we both want."

She wanted Richard, and Hugo wanted Pearl. Their collaboration would certainly be a win-win situation.

As expected, Hugo flashed her a smile. "Okay, let's work together... since you put it that way."

Slowly, he extended his hand towards Abby, who chuckled and shook hands with him.

An uninvited guest arrived at Pearl's ward the next morning.

Pearl couldn't help but feel on edge as she observed the woman who bore a slight resemblance to

Abby.

"You are?"

"I'm Blair Dixon, Abby's mother." Looking elegant and noble, Blair sounded quite refined.

"May I know why you're here?" Pearl inquired, her suspicions growing due to Blair's confident and

smiling

demeanor.

She had a bad feeling about this, assuming that Blair must be a difficult person if she had raised a

daughter like Abby.

"Obviously, I'm here for Abby. I understand that she has caused you a lot of trouble due to her

infatuation with Richard. However, the Waldorf and Flores families are close friends, and Abby and

Richard have been childhood sweethearts. Everyone hopes to see them together. But now you've entered the picture, and Richard doesn't even care about Abby anymore..."

If Pearl couldn't comprehend Blair's intentions by now, she would be playing dumb.

"So, you want me to leave Richard so your daughter can be with him, right?" Pearl cut to the chase.

Blair smiled and replied, "I know you're smart, but I won't let you suffer either. How about this? Name your price. My family is willing to pay any amount as long as you leave Richard alone."

Any amount?

"Can I have the entire Flores Firms then?" Pearl countered, stating an exorbitant price that left Blair stunned.

"Miss Leighton, I sincerely want to negotiate with you. You can name a reasonable price." After smoothing her hair, Blair continued, "After all, it's for my daughter. I'm sure you can understand my feelings as Abby's mother."

Pearl remained calm as she explained, "But do you know that Richard had a first love? Even without me, wouldn't be with Abby. Don't you think a relationship between Richard and Abby is impossible?"

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Unexpectedly, Blair's smile widened. "That was because Richard was young and inexperienced.

Nobody remembers their puppy love. Furthermore, Abby was studying abroad and didn't have the

chance to spend time with Rick. It's only natural for him to fall in love with someone else."

"Are you determined to drive me away, then?"

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"No, I'm not trying to drive you away, but I want you to think it over. Don't do anything you'll regret.
After

all, you're still young, and Rick isn't the only man in the world. Why do you refuse to let Rick go?"

Suddenly, a fierce and cold male voice came from the doorway. "It's not that she refuses to let me go,

but I like her."

Richard was enraged when Blair tried to persuade Pearl to give him up.

"Oh, Rick, here you are..." Blair felt awkward, knowing that Richard had overheard some of her

conversation.

Hearing Richard's words, Pearl blushed, her emotions swirling within her.

“Stop bothering Pearl. It’s none of your business that I like her. Plus, I’ll never like

Abby, even without Pearl. You better stop trying to persuade Pearl.” Richard stood guard before Pearl coldly.

Blair’s disdain for Pearl grew stronger because of Richard’s infatuation with her.

“Your mother will never agree.” Blair dropped her gentleness and said fiercely, “You can only marry Abby.”

However, Richard smirked sarcastically. “Who I want to marry is my own business. My mother can’t meddle

in it.”

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“Very well. We’ll see about that.” Blair left angrily, slamming the door behind her.

“Isn’t it bad to offend her like that...” Pearl became restless, concerned about Blair’s anger. “I think she might go to your mother.”

However, Richard was unconcerned. As he helped Pearl tuck in her blanket, he said, “It’s okay. You

have me.”

After his impulsive confession of feelings for her, he seemed to have changed and become very gentle.

“Alright.”

Richard wanted to raise last night’s question again, but just then, someone else entered the room.

It was Abby. A pang of jealousy shot through her heart when she saw how close Pearl and Richard were. However, she remained composed. “How are you feeling, Pearl? Do you still feel sick?”

“Don’t bother, Miss Flores.”

“Rick, Pearl still hates me...” At first, Abby had planned to use her usual tactic of acting pitiful to create discord between them, but Richard didn’t even look at her.

“I think it’s best that you leave. Pearl needs to rest.”

Jealousy clouded Abby’s judgment as she witnessed Richard openly defending Pearl. She yearned to teach Pearl a lesson, but she couldn’t let on how much she cared about Richard. “I’m just here to check on Pearl, and I won’t disturb her-”

“But you’ve already disturbed me, Miss Flores.” Chuckling, Pearl stared at Abby with a warning look.

Abby was taken aback. She hadn’t expected both of them to stand up to her. It brought tears to her eyes, but she dared not cry here, given the frustration and impatience in Richard’s eyes. She wiped away her tears and

hastily left.

“Richard, you scared her.” Pearl touched her chin and playfully looked at him, grinning. “What happened? Why didn’t you scold me like you used to?”

“She can be quite noisy,” Richard replied, rubbing his forehead.

In the past, he had merely wanted Pearl to witness those scenes because he was curious about her reactions. However, everything had changed once Pearl became linked to Raymond.

“So, what do you think?” Richard asked seriously, leaning in.

“You confessed your feelings for me first, didn’t you?” Pearl responded with a question, leaving Richard bewildered.

“What’s wrong?”

“So, you’ll have to work hard to win my heart,” Pearl added with a mischievous smile.

