

YOUR GUISE 141

Chapter 141

“Don’t worry, Pearl. I’ll take good care of Mobius.”

Esther’s words earned her a glare from Mobius. “I don’t need you to take care of me!”

Pearl nodded. “Okay, just go.”

After bidding Mobius and Esther goodbye, Pearl went to the hospital alone. It had been three days, and the DNA report might be ready by now.

However, when Pearl received the report, she didn’t immediately check its contents. She knew it was likely a lie made by Susan to manipulate Richard into breaking up with her. Besides, Pearl felt that it was impossible that she was Richard’s biological sibling.

When Pearl got home with the report, she stumbled upon Hugo, who had come home to change his clothes.

Seeing the report in her hand, Hugo raised his brows and smiled profoundly. “Where have you been, Pearl?”

Pearl, still upset about their previous encounter, gave Hugo a stern look. “That’s none of your business.

Don't you have anything else to do, Mister Hugo?"

Hugo's face paled, but he understood that Pearl's anger was justified. After regaining his composure,

he replied, "You don't have to be angry with me, Pearl. You'll see that being with me is the right choice."

Pearl mocked him because of his blatant lie. "The right choice? I'd never dare to be with you. What if you do something to me and kill me in the future?"

The memory of Renee and Jennifer's deaths still haunted her.

"Richard isn't your perfect match, Pearl. He loved Jenny so much in the past, but now he easily moved on to you. Do you think you can trust him?"

He continued, "And there's something you should know... Jenny will be back soon. Even if Richard wants to

be with you, I'm sure Jenny will have an impact on him. By the way, you really resemble Jenny. Both of you are so stubborn." Hugo still attempted to manipulate her.

"That's enough. We know what's on your mind," Pearl said, taking a step back. She continued in a cold tone, "I think you have your own affairs to attend to. I won't bother you any longer. Bye." With that,

Pearl went

upstairs.

Shaking his head with a helpless smile, Hugo felt that Pearl wouldn't bend to his will without

experiencing suffering.

Later in the evening, all the Waldorfs were gathered at home.

After dinner, Pearl retrieved the DNA report from her bag, as she believed it was the right time to

address the

matter.

"Madam, there's something we need to clarify," Pearl stated, placing the report in front of Susan. "I

must inform you that I am not Mister Dustan's biological daughter. Furthermore, some things are better

left unsaid. I conducted a DNA test between Richard and me. I hope you understand that my mother

had no

relation to Mister Dustan either."

Richard ate silently while listening to Pearl's explanation.

Pearl knew it was wiser to frame the situation as if she were doing it for her mother, who was a wonderful and virtuous woman, rather than for herself. Such an outstanding woman like her mother couldn't be easily slandered by others.

"Humph... No one knows if you've done anything to the report or not," Susan retorted, unwilling to admit the truth, and prepared to find various ways to dispute it.

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Surprisingly, Hugo threw in some nice words for Pearl. "Just take a look at it, Mom. What if you got her Wrong? You would have accused her wrongly."

However, his words earned him a glare from Susan. Susan didn't expect that Hugo, who was usually gentle and peace-loving, would say those words. He even took Pearl's side.

His support left Susan in a sour mood.

Hanzel couldn't bear to see Pearl unjustly accused. "Mom, don't make baseless accusations. How could Pearl

be Dad's child?"

Mobius chimed in as well, "Yeah, Mom. I'm sure Pearl's mother wasn't that kind of person."

Even Sean, despite his silence, couldn't fathom why his mother was causing such a scene.

As a result, Susan perceived Pearl as a manipulative woman who had deceived her sons and sowed doubt in their minds.

"Madam, my mother was a kind and honest woman who is now missing. I can't stand by and let her be falsely accused. Please conduct a thorough investigation into this matter," Pearl asserted, pushing the DNA report toward Susan.

Reluctantly, Susan paused and picked up the report to examine it. All she needed to see was that Pearl was not Richard's biological sister to know that her scheme had failed.

"So, Madam, was I right? Mister Dustan is not my father," Pearl queried.

Susan hesitated and stammered, "But... What if it's true? Dustan was in love with your mother. Even if you're not his child, how could you be dating Rick?"

Hugo was taken aback by Susan's statement. He knew it was impossible. He had manipulated the DNA test results. The report should have indicated that Pearl and Richard were siblings.

Furthermore, Pearl wouldn't have had the time or motivation to arrange for a second DNA test, and

Hugo

had indeed tampered with the results.

Hugo found himself grappling with an unsettling notion. Perhaps either he or Richard was not truly a Waldorf by blood.

This thought made him break out in a cold sweat. If Richard was not a Waldorf, it could mean the end of his ascension to power.

However, if it turned out to be him, marrying Pearl would secure his position as the head of the Waldorfs, preserving all his hard work and ambition.

This realization compelled Hugo to keep his tampering with the report a secret and console Susan. "It's alright, Mom. Pearl is engaged to our family and will be a part of it in the future. If you insist on this, it'll seem like she can't marry any of your sons."

Susan, upon recognizing her wrong statement, paused and sighed.

"I believe you understand what I mean, Pearl. It's not that I want to drive you away from our family, but I've already chosen Abby as Rick's fiancée. It's unfortunate that you've suddenly meddled in it. You

should know

what I'm talking about, given your intelligence."

Chuckling, Pearl replied, "We're living in the twenty-first century, Madam. Arranged marriages and parental matchmaking are outdated practices. If you believe that Abby is the ideal daughter-in-law for your family, why not ask Richard for his opinion? Ask him if he wants to marry Abby or me." It was the first time Pearl expressed her stance.

Hearing that, Richard couldn't help but smile, admiring her for her ability to stand up for herself.

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Trembling in anger, Susan found it hard to refute Pearl, given the latter's glib tongue.

"Mom, stop. I like Pearl, and it's always been her." When Richard confessed his feelings, he glanced at

Pearl

with his head tilted.

At that moment, Pearl appeared nonchalant, but the tips of her ears turned slightly pink.

Richard found her cute, and this bold idea was entirely new to him, taking him by surprise. It was an unprecedented feeling for him.

“I will never agree to you being with her, no matter what you say!” Susan suddenly stood up. “I deeply regret letting Pearl into our home. If I hadn’t, you all wouldn’t have defied me.”

With that, she ascended the stairs on her own, leaving the six of them to look at each other in dismay.

Hanzel’s reaction was the most dramatic. He interrogated Pearl, “Pearl, have you really fallen in love with

Richard?”

Looking at his indignant face, Pearl smiled and asked, “What’s wrong?”

“I took a fancy to you first. How could you like Richard?” Hanzel frowned. “And Rick, how could you snatch her away from me? I asked you before, and you told me you didn’t like her...”

“Hanzel, don’t you want to be a star anymore?” Although Richard’s gaze was furious, he still remained calm.

Hanzel, hearing that, became timid. “Rick, you’re threatening me with this again. Alright, fine! I don’t want to be a star anymore.” However, he had to admit that Richard had helped him a lot in his career.

“Okay, come to the company tomorrow. We need a technical director at Tespeyna. You can go and work there.

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Richard’s words left Hanzel flabbergasted. “Rick, I don’t want to work there... Why don’t you find someone else for that role? Besides, I think being a celebrity is quite good.”

Richard glanced at Pearl, and Hanzel suddenly grasped the situation. “Although Pearl likes you, I won’t give up easily. Pearl, let me know if you ever feel wronged here. I’ll take you away immediately.”

“You want to be Plan B?” Richard sounded dangerous.

Hanzel lowered his head in response to Richard’s fierce expression. “I’m just kidding...” At most, he just found Pearl a novelty and would regret it if he fell out with Richard because of her.

Amused, Pearl found that Richard was the only one who could discipline Hanzel, the stunningly handsome man.

This matter was quickly resolved.

Susan stormed off, and Hugo was displeased. However, it revealed the romantic connection between Pearl and Richard, filling the air with an amorous atmosphere.

When Pearl woke up the next day, she heard Abby's voice.

Even though Richard had rejected Abby, she brazenly showed up under the pretext of visiting Susan.

However, her true intentions were far from Susan.

When she saw Pearl descend downstairs, she said hypocritically, "You're awake, Pearl?"

Pearl couldn't understand how Abby could speak to her calmly despite their serious conflict.

"It's amazing that you can pretend to be close to others even after a fallout, Miss Abby."

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Stretching her b*dy a bit, Pearl found Abby's greeting ridiculous.

"If you don't have anything else to say, I'm going back to bed." Pearl turned to go back to her room,

Susan stopped her.

"Pearl, a moment." Susan then went upstairs and signaled Abby to accompany her.

but

"Pearl, I really do like you. You're smart and pretty, and many men like you. Why do you want to be with

Rick I hope you'll be sensible and leave him soon. Then we can get along well with each other. Don't

worry, all of my sons are exceptional. You can choose any of them except Rick. If not, I can even

introduce you to a few young rich heirs. I won't be unfair to you." She sounded quite tactful, and Pearl

would appear unreasonable

if she refused.

However, Pearl took a step back and smiled. "I made myself very clear, Madam. I don't have a say in

who Richard chooses to be with. And neither do you. His choice of a spouse is his business."

Fuming with anger, Susan wanted to slap Pearl, but Pearl acted fast and tilted her b*dy to dodge

Susan's

hand.

Unsteady, Susan nearly tumbled down the stairs, but Pearl immediately grabbed Susan's wrist.

"Hold on tight, Madam."

Despite their conflict, Pearl wouldn't stand by and watch Susan roll down the stairs.

Meanwhile, Abby stood nearby with a wicked smile, observing the situation.

"I sincerely want to marry Rick, Madam. I hope you can understand me. You're willing to make some

sacrifices for me, right?"

Hearing Abby's words, Susan looked at her in disbelief.

Suddenly, Abby shoved Pearl, causing Pearl to let go of Susan's wrist.

Pearl managed to regain her balance, but Susan lost control of herself and rolled down the stairs, screaming piteously.

Witnessing Susan's fall, Abby was taken aback and screamed, "Ah!"

As a result, panic swept through the house, and everyone was startled when they saw Susan lying on the floor.

After a quick assessment, Hugo frowned and said, "Mom lost consciousness right after falling down the stairs. I suspect she has multiple fractures. Hurry up and call for the ambulance!"

Richard promptly made the call and explained the situation. Then, he looked at Pearl and Abby.

"What happened?"

Still stunned, Pearl wanted to explain, but Abby spoke up first. "Rick, it's my fault. Madam got upset with Pearl because of me, and that's why this accident happened. It's all my fault." As she spoke, Abby cried piteously. "But Madam is innocent. She won't be able to bear it if the culprit gets away with it."

Abby distorted the facts because she believed Susan couldn't testify against her after such a fall from the high stairs. She felt that Susan might be either dead or seriously injured.

On the other hand, Pearl anticipated that Abby would make such a claim. She gave Abby a cold look and said, "You did that on purpose to frame me, didn't you?"

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Frightened by Pearl's intense glare, Abby hid behind Richard. "I'm sorry, I didn't do it on purpose.

Please don't push me.." She acted as if she were still gripped by fear from witnessing Pearl supposedly push Susan

down the stairs.

"You indirectly caused Madam to fall down the stairs, didn't you? You pushed me from behind, causing me to release my grip on Madam. Stop pretending "Pearl accused.

Tearfully, Abby defended herself, "Pearl, Madam raised me. Even if I got hurt, I would never harm her.

Plus, you had a conflict with Madam. I would never be the one to harm her!"

Richard couldn't help but feel uncertain due to Abby's convincing act, although he didn't fully believe her. Analyzing the situation, he grappled with mixed emotions, aggravated by Pearl's distant attitude.

“Don’t tell me you doubt me too, Richard?” Pearl was infuriated by Richard’s questioning gaze.

“Rick hasn’t said anything yet, so why are you so agitated, Pearl? Are you feeling guilty?” Abby

prodded, attempting to to make the situation worse and sow discord between them.

“It’s not that I’m doubting you, Pearl,” Richard replied solemnly after a pause. “But my mom is lying

here,

and I don’t know who I should believe.”

His words left Pearl feeling wounded. She hadn’t expected Richard to begin doubting her integrity

today, especially after expressing his desire to marry her just the day before.

“Okay, I did accidentally cause this since you don’t believe me,” Pearl admitted, leaving Richard feeling

helpless.

“That’s not what I meant, Pearl,” Richard clarified, but it seemed Pearl had misunderstood him. “You

know I

didn’t mean it like that.”

Pearl took a deep breath and said, “Then please explain what you meant. You’re standing here, looking

at me with doubt. Do you think I haven’t noticed?”

Richard averted his gaze.

“So, you should be more cautious when making promises, Richard,” Pearl said, closing her eyes as she chuckled bitterly. “It’s quite funny.” Her laughter was tinged with sadness. “I’m leaving, okay?”

Abby rejoiced in their conflict, but she didn’t think it was enough. Thus, she added, “Don’t leave in a hurry. This could be a criminal offense, and you might face legal consequences.”

Richard clenched his fists, his expression cold. “Enough, Abby.”

“Why? How can you be so biased toward her when she’s harmed Madam? Your mother is the one lying here, isn’t she?” Abby couldn’t understand why Richard was still concerned about Pearl and seemed indecisive when his mother was in such a critical condition.

“I’ll handle it. Just stay out of it.”

“Rick, you should let her prove her innocence. I’m willing to apologize to her if she can prove she’s innocent. If not, I’ll never forgive her for doing this to Madam.” Abby’s forceful tone almost made Pearl believe her nonsense.

“Pearl.” Richard turned to Pearl with a pleading look.

Pearl understood that he wanted her to provide some evidence to prove her innocence.

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Richard probably thought that Pearl could resolve the disaster given her wits, but he was wrong. The

feelings, truth, and evidence all seemed to point to her guilt.

Surprisingly, the spacious residence was not equipped with a surveillance system.

“I don’t have evidence,” Pearl admitted.

Richard looked grave in response.

As the ambulance arrived and paramedics placed Susan on a stretcher, Richard briefly glanced at

Pearl from the corner of his eye before lowering his gaze and departing.

Pearl didn’t offer much of an explanation, as she was left with feelings of despair and disappointment.

Smiling bitterly, she seemed to understand something. Perhaps Hugo had been right. The typically

aloof and ruthless Richard would not easily show kindness to someone.

Furthermore, it was clear that Richard didn’t fully trust her. If that was the case, Pearl felt that there was

no reason for her to stay any longer.

Heartbroken, Pearl was overwhelmed with pain. Staring at the chaotic house, she felt that she was

always an

outsider.

Since it seemed that everyone disliked her, she decided it was best to leave.

In the end, she left quietly.

Melancholic feelings hit Richard when he learned of Pearl's departure while he was in the hospital.

Meanwhile, Abby mistook his disappointment for concern that Susan might never wake up. So she

quickly reassured him, saying, "Don't worry too much, Rick. I'm sure your mother will be fine. You

shouldn't stay here all the time, especially since you've been here the entire night."

She felt very sorry for Richard when she saw his stubble and dark circles under his eyes.

"I'm alright. Sean has to manage the company, and Hugo is busy with surgery. Hanzel and Mobius both

have their careers and studies to focus on. If I don't stay here, no one will take care of Mom," Richard

replied

sensibly.

He observed Abby yawning repeatedly and suggested, "You've been here with me the whole night as

well. You should get some rest.”

His words made Abby smile. “I’m glad to keep watch here, Rick. Madam has always been so kind to me, and I

can’t leave her alone in her time of need.”

“Thank you,” Richard said sincerely.

Abby sensed his guilt and waved it off. “No need to mention it, Rick. We’ve been childhood friends, even if

you

don’t have romantic feelings for me. You don’t have to say that.” She was indeed a pretentious person.

As expected, Richard began to wonder if he had been too harsh towards her in the past. Most women

would have left in tears after such a cold rejection from him. Yet, Abby remained undeterred and even

willingly took

care of Susan.

“Rick, what do you plan to do about Pearl?” Abby asked tentatively, but her question only irritated him.

"I told

you,

don't meddle in her business." Richard was annoyed again. Naturally, the forbidden topic left him in a foul mood.

Realizing that pressing further would tarnish the good image she had just built, Abby decided to drop the subject. "Alright, don't be upset. I'm hungry. How about grabbing a bite to eat with me?"

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Icily, Richard turned Abby down. "No, I'm not hungry. Go grab a bite on your own."

Abby sensed that she should leave, given Richard's sour mood, so she hastily got up and left.

The room was quiet again.

Richard instinctively reached for his phone and attempted to call Pearl, but he was met with surprise when he discovered that her contact no longer existed.

Stunned, a pang grabbed his heart, momentarily setting aside his internal turmoil. He dialed Hugo's number and asked him to take over for Pearl before heading to the company.

Normally, Pearl would have been at the company by that time, diligently attending to her work.

However, upon arriving at the company, Richard received a call from the HR department.

“Mister Richard, I received a call from Miss Pearl just now. She requested to resign and has already sent her formal resignation letter via email.”

When Richard checked his email, he found Pearl’s formal and cold resignation letter. It made him realize that she had really disappeared.

In a state of disbelief, he reached out to Wayne, but Wayne’s tone on the phone was impatient. “Mister Richard, did you call me to discuss our next season’s collaboration?”

Richard replied solemnly, “No, I’d like to ask you where Pearl is.”

“Pearl?” Wayne snorted. “Isn’t she staying at your place, Mister Richard? I don’t know where she is or what she’s even thinking.”

Richard was struck speechless.

“Alright, I’ll end the call if there’s nothing else. You’re always too busy with work to talk about anything else with me.” With that, Wayne hung up abruptly.

At that moment, Pearl’s voice chimed in, surprising Wayne. “Bravo! Tonight, you’re having a drink with me.”

Startled, Wayne nearly dropped his phone. “Miss Pearl, please spare me from joining you for a drink.

I’ll get exhausted.”

“You don’t want to?” Pearl narrowed her eyes and sounded a little dangerous.

Being threatened out of the blue, Wayne broke into a cold sweat. “No, I want to. Absolutely!”

He couldn’t offend her, fearing that she might torture him with several dangerous tasks.

“Okay, let’s go now!” Pearl made up her mind and dragged him to a bar. She deliberately avoided Dark

Bar, which she frequented to avoid running into Richard.

“It’s unnecessary. Richard wouldn’t come to the bar to drink because his mother is critically ill in the hospital.”

Pearl gulped down her wine. “Yeah, but he still thinks I’m the culprit.”

Wayne widened his eyes. “He looks so smart. But why is he so stupid at such a critical time? You would never

do that kind of thing. Alas, does he really like you? Why does he doubt you every day?”

Playing with her wine glass, Pearl smiled. “I have no idea myself. He sees me as a culprit, even if it’s

an

accident.”

“Then why did he look for you?”

Tilting her head, Pearl’s eyes lit up as she sipped her drink. “Maybe... he’s afraid that I’ll run away.”

“Pfft...” Wayne nearly spat out his wine.

How could Pearl say that?

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“What’s your next move?” Wayne frowned. “You can’t just leave under this false accusation. It’s like you’re trying to escape punishment.”

Laughing, Pearl said, “Of course not. I won’t stand for this false accusation. Right now, the most important thing is to find proof that Abby pushed Richard’s mother down the stairs.”

Wayne tilted his head thoughtfully. “What’s your plan?”

“There’s no surveillance system in the house, and there were only three of us at the top of the stairs at that time. I don’t have eyewitnesses, but Abby said something harsh before pushing Richard’s mother.

I’m certain Richard’s mother heard it. So...”

Enlightened, Wayne interrupted, "So, we should wait for her to wake up and have her testify against Abby."

"Pretty close." Pearl smiled and shook her head. "What we need to do is make Abby confess her wrongdoing and secretly record her statement, as I can't guarantee she won't attempt anything against Richard's mother again."

Her words made Wayne frown. "She's so cruel that she might even harm the woman who took care of her."

"People can be blinded by love, but Abby has taken ruthless measures."

Wayne commended her, "Miss Pearl, you did a very good analysis. But how do you feel about Richard?

You don't seem very pleased, given that you're drowning your sorrows in wine."

Pearl undoubtedly felt disappointed and hurt.

She smiled, taking a sip of the bitter wine. "Let's not dwell on that. I need your help with something right

now."

Leaning against the sofa languidly, Wayne suddenly straightened up at her request. "Go ahead. What

is it?"

"Help me gather some people to keep watch over Richard's mother to prevent Abby's people from approaching her. Abby might find someone to do something to her. If Abby succeeds, Richard's mother might never wake up."

Pearl believed that given Abby's character, she was capable of such actions. After all, Susan was Richard's mother. Though Pearl had her reservations about Susan, she still respected her as an elder.

She didn't wish any harm upon Susan because it would devastate Richard. Furthermore, Pearl had experienced the anguish of losing her parents and didn't want Richard to endure the same pain.

"Richard got you wrong. Why are you so concerned about him and helping him? He doesn't deserve your kindness." Wayne rolled his eyes, sensing that Pearl had transformed into a lovesick fool.

Clearing her throat, Pearl explained, "She's the mother of the five Waldorf brothers. Some of them are close to me, and I don't want to let them down."

However, this explanation sounded far from convincing because Wayne knew her well.

"Okay, I understand."

After a few more glasses of wine, Pearl began to feel dizzy, her stomach churning. She decided to

head to the

restroom.

As she reached the restroom, she spotted a familiar figure. She wondered if it was Richard and why he

was

there.

But before she could address him, the figure turned around. While he resembled Richard, it wasn't

him.

A sudden desire grabbed the man's reason when he saw the drunk woman getting close to him.

"Hey, pretty. Where are you from? Why did you drink so much? I feel sorry for you."

Pearl found him familiar but couldn't recall who he was. She staggered and took a step back as he

approached.

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Pearl finally saw the man's face when he got uncomfortably close to her.

After searching through her memories, Pearl's eyes widened when she recalled seeing him at the bar

beside Richard. He seemed to have been present when she had a few drinks and playfully teased

Richard not long ago. He was clearly close to him.

“You look familiar... Hey, aren’t you Pearl? Why are you drinking alone? Isn’t Richard with you?” He

was a

little timid when he realized her identity but became bolder again when he noticed that she was alone.

While talking, he subtly placed his hand on her waist. Since Pearl was wearing a dress with a waist slit,

he could feel her fair and smooth skin, arousing him.

Pearl struggled but failed to break free. She glared at him. “What do you think you’re doing?”

Despite being a bit crude, he had handsome features, and Pearl surmised he might be a rich young

heir.

Pearl’s resistance made him more excited.

“Pearl, allow me to introduce myself. I’m Tyler Sanders. I’m sure you’ve heard of the Sanders Group.

It’s my family’s business. If you agree to be with me, I’ll make sure you have a worry-free life.”

Tyler Sanders...

Looking at his face, Pearl smiled charmingly at him.

Bewitched, Tyler was about to say more when Pearl suddenly stepped on his foot ruthlessly.

“Ah!” He let go of her and was about to reprimand her for her aggressiveness, but Pearl promptly

seized his

ear.

“Who do you think you are? How dare you harass me? Do you think I’m a pushover?” The influence of

the wine had caused Pearl to lose her usual restraint.

Given the events that had transpired between her and Richard, she was naturally in a foul mood, and

Tyler happened to provoke her during her discontent.

Being a frivolous heir to a wealthy family, Tyler was scared out of his wits. Covering his ear, he started

wailing.

“I’m sorry, I was wrong. Really! I won’t dare to do it again. Please let me go!”

He pleaded incessantly, never expecting that she would be such a formidable woman. He had only

playfully teased her, yet she had retaliated with such force, filling him with deep humiliation.

However, just as Pearl was in the middle of teaching the pervert a lesson, another familiar voice

chimed in from behind her.

“Pearl, what’s going on?”

Pearl turned and saw Esther, though she nearly failed to recognize her due to the heavy makeup.

Esther was adept at ensuring her fame didn’t give her away at the bar, thanks to her heavily altered appearance. She managed to transform from the innocent girl-next-door into a seductive vixen.

“What are you doing here?” Pearl was confused.

When Esther was about to explain herself, her lips twitched upon seeing Pearl pinching Tyler’s ear mercilessly.

“Pearl, you’re...”

“Oh, he’s a creep. He harassed me, so I’m teaching him a lesson,” Pearl explained curtly.

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Tyler shrieked miserably, “No, I just accidentally touched you! You’re not going to make a big deal out of it, are you? After all, if Richard doesn’t want you, why would someone like me feel the same!”

His words made Pearl’s eyes turn cold. In response, she tightened her grip.

“Ouch! That hurts! My bad, okay? I won’t touch you again. Just let me go, please?” Tyler found himself

trapped in an unfortunate encounter with an unreasonable shrew.

“Tyler, you’re here flirting with women, aren’t you? I’m calling Dad right now to report this. I’ll make sure

he grounds you,” Esther threatened as she reached for her phone.

This sent Tyler into a state of panic. “My dear sister, please, not that. Dad’s going to kill me!”

“No, he’ll just give you a mild punishment, maybe a few days of grounding at most. Nothing too severe,” Esther replied matter-of-factly.

However, Tyler wanted to avoid reliving those dreadful days of punishment he’d experienced before, so he reluctantly agreed. “Alright, I’ll apologize to her. Please, don’t tell Dad!”

Making his promise, Tyler turned to Pearl and extended an apologetic gesture. “I’m truly sorry. It was my

fault. I hope you can forgive me.”

Pearl, who had been observing their exchange, finally realized that they were siblings. Esther’s behavior

towards Tyler made it evident.

Esther wore a slight frown because Pearl hadn't responded. "Pearl doesn't forgive you. Keep on

apologizing to her, or else, I'm still going to tell Dad!"

Her words put Tyler in anguish. "Huh? Why? Didn't I say I'm sorry?"

"No, you weren't sincere. Do it again!" Esther insisted.

"No, Esther. Don't cross the line. Haven't you forgotten that I have something on you? Remember that

thing you... Ugh!" Before Tyler could divulge anything further, Esther covered his mouth with her hand.

Their squabbling helped dispel Pearl's earlier annoyance, and she even found it somewhat amusing.

"Alright, stop fighting. It's okay now."

Esther released Tyler, then proudly remarked, "Nob*dy ever holds him accountable. That's why he's so

spoiled."

Tyler wanted to refute her words, but a stern glare from Esther silenced him.

"So, Pearl, what brought you here today?"

"Oh, I'm just here for a drink." While talking, Pearl had become quite sober.

"I heard about the issues with the Waldorfs from Tyler. Don't overthink it. I know you're not that kind of

person, and I'll always stand by your side!"

Esther's words touched Pearl deeply but also filled her with a sense of bitterness because even Esther

had unwavering faith in Pearl, while Richard...

Shaking her head, Pearl wondered why she recalled that issue again.

"Oh, right. Why did you come here today? Aren't you afraid of being recognized?"

Tyler immediately chimed in, "She's here because of that Waldorf kid. She follows him around like a

fan. If her fans find out she's stalking a man like this, she might lose them."

"Mobius?" When Pearl said that name, she could see Esther blush.

"Pearl..."

"Tell me why you're stalking him here."

Embarrassed, Esther struggled to explain herself.

Unable to bear it any longer, Tyler said, "I invited him here because it's my birthday today, but I've got

plenty of young women around. She's worried that some woman might steal him away, so she tagged

along."