

## **YOUR GUISE 181**

### Chapter 181

Security quickly arrived, ready to escort Abby to the police station, but Susan intervened.

“Let her go. I don’t have the heart to do this.” Despite everything, Susan’s compassion for the girl she

had cherished for over

a decade remained.

“Our relationship ends here, Abby. Don’t you ever step foot in our home again.” Hugo, with an edge to

his voice, added, ”

Throw her out and make sure she doesn’t come back.”

“Yes, sir.” The guard dragged Abby away, leaving a tense silence in her wake.

Pearl checked Susan’s neck, which was still bleeding, and couldn’t help but ask, “Are you alright,

Madam?”

“It’s just a scratch. I’ll be okay.” Susan said, touched by Pearl’s worry. “Pearl, I realize my past

mistakes. I promise not to come between you and Richard. And if he ever wrongs you, I’ll set him

straight.” She then shot Richard a stern glance as a warning.

“What should we tell the Flores family then?” Richard asked. He and Abby had an arranged marriage since they were children, and now after what Abby did, there was no way they were going to go through with it.

Susan huffed, “Considering how well they’ve raised their daughter, I doubt they’d say a word once they hear about her actions. I’ll deal with them.”

Hugo clenched his fist, frustrated by how the events had made Richard and Pearl’s relationship stronger.

“Madam, you’re probably not fully recovered yet since you just woke up. We’ll leave you to rest,” Pearl said, noticing Susan still looking pale.

Susan nodded tiredly and laid back down.

Outside, in the tranquility of the garden, Hugo smiled and said, “I guess you can be openly together now.”

“It’s none of your business.” Pearl rolled her eyes, annoyed with his tone.

Hugo lowered his head to hide the emotions in his eyes. “Because I like you too. Now that you two are together, where does that leave me?”

Pearl retorted, "Enough with the games, Hugo. It's getting old."

Hugo didn't care about her—he was only interested in the benefits he could get from her. Although he had no idea what they could be yet, he kept persistently chasing her. Pearl knew things were as simple as they seemed.

But Hugo was undeterred. "It's not a game. In over two decades, my heart has only been drawn to one.

Don't just brush me off.

Hugo didn't make clear what he liked about Pearl but his eyes lingered.

"1

"Why don't you tell me what you want from me? I might be able to help you with it."

Hugo pretended he didn't hear that and asked, "Would you marry me?"

Exasperated, Pearl chose to disengage from the conversation.

At that moment, Richard stepped in, placing a protective arm around Pearl. "She's going to be your sister-in-law soon, so stay away from her."

Hugo scoffed. "Sister-in-law? We'll see."

Chapter 182

What Hugo said affected Pearl deeply.

Richard saw her zoning out and asked, "What's on your mind, Pearl?"

Coming back to the present, Pearl met his gaze. "What Hugo said made me feel..."

"You think it's not that simple too, right?" Richard looked into her eyes and read her mind.

"He used your mother's life to threaten me, yet he risked himself by grabbing the knife from Abby to protect her. Do you think he really cares for your mother?" Hugo's actions were unusual, so Pearl couldn't understand what was on his mind.

"What do you think?"

"I think he's just pretending to grab the knife."

Richard sighed. He and Hugo lived together for so many years, but he didn't know Hugo well and didn't have a good relationship with him.

However, when Pearl said that, even though he suspected that, he still asked, "Pretending?"

"Yes, of course he was pretending. Think about it. Why would a child take his mother's safety so

lightly? Do you really think the hospital removing Madam's breathing tube is an accident? The nurses

do rounds daily, and Hugo is the director of the hospital. Who would dare do something like that without

his approval?"

Pearl analyzed the situation and made a good point.

"My mom has always been very nice to him." Richard pressed his lips together and sounded serious.

"I know. Madam loves all her children, but after seeing what Hugo did, do you think he's a grateful

person?" Pearl remembered what he said and couldn't help but scoff.

"Let's observe for a few more days. I'd like to see what he's going to do next." Richard had lost all trust

in the brother he had lived with for decades.

"But before that, remember to take good care of Madam. Even if she's not in danger anymore, you

should still be cautious."

Richard nodded and suddenly had a bad feeling. "You need to be careful too."

"I know. If Abby is going to take revenge, I'll be ready for her."

Richard suddenly remembered something and put his arm around her shoulders. "If she does

something stupid, don't hold back. Do whatever you want."

“Alright.” Pearl felt glad hearing him say that.

“By the way, it’s going to be the five-year anniversary of Hanzel’s debut. I think he’s going to have a concert on that day. Let’s all go.”

Pearl remembered Hanzel mentioning it that morning so she nodded. “Sure.”

“There’s one more thing we need to do before that.”

Before Richard could finish, Pearl cut in, “You’re talking about the Lawsons?”

Richard gave a faint smile. “Yes. Since my mom is safe now, why don’t we take action today? My

assistant told me Mister Chet doesn’t have any meetings or appointments scheduled for tonight. Let’s

talk to him tonight.”

Chapter 183

Pearl burst out laughing. “Alright, I don’t have plans today anyway.”

They then called Chet to schedule a meeting.

Chet was still a little wary and distrustful of Richard due to the recent deception involving Waldorf

Enterprises. However,

when he heard that Pearl wanted to meet him, his eyes lit up.

This beautiful woman... How nice it would be if he could get his hands on her.

Before Pearl could say anything, Chet eagerly agreed to the meeting.

In a private room at the restaurant, Chet noticed Pearl sitting not too far away and couldn't take his eyes off her.

"Miss Pearl. How can I help you today? Have you finally realized you need my help?" Chet said as he

reached out his hand

towards Pearl.

Pearl skillfully evaded his attempt and smiled. "Let's discuss business matters first before we move on to other topics."

Chet's heart raced as he heard her sultry voice. He quickly nodded. "Of course, let's talk business first before anything else."

"I'd like to have a proper discussion with you regarding the plot of land," Pearl said with a slight pout, appearing somewhat reluctant. "We're no longer interested in it. Do you think it's possible for us to cancel the agreement?"

Chet hesitated because he didn't expect Pearl to skip the pleasantries and get straight to the point.

“Why do you no longer want it? Is there an issue with the land?”

“There’s a gold mine beneath that piece of land, and since we’re not in the mining business, we thought it would be best to return it to you.”

Chet’s eyes went wide. “A gold mine?” Why hadn’t he been informed of this? He had personally inspected the geological reports, and the land was deemed unsuitable for development.

Pearl widened her eyes and looked helpless. “Yes, weren’t you aware? We can’t construct anything on it because of the substantial gold deposits. It would disrupt our operations... Why didn’t the surveyor inform you of this?”

Pearl’s acting skills were so convincing that Chet began to worry. If there really was gold on that land, he would miss out on a huge profit. However, if Pearl had deceived them, it would be too late once they signed the agreement.

“Then... Can I check the geological records first? If it’s true, I’ll buy the land back.”

Pearl smiled. “That wouldn’t be fair, Mister Chet. We were the ones who discovered the gold mine, so the land rightfully belongs to us now. With a gold mine present, it only makes sense for the land’s value



to increase, don't you think?"

"Why would that be?" Chet took a deep breath because he hadn't anticipated Pearl to be such a tough negotiator. Not only was she not someone he could intimidate, but she was also attempting to outmaneuver him.

Pearl continued to smile. "You've been in this industry for several decades, so you should be well-versed in land laws."

"Although I admire you, Miss Pearl, I cannot agree to this. The land originally belonged to us, and I'm simply taking back what is rightfully ours. How did it suddenly become yours?"

Pearl leaned back and tilted her head at Richard, "Mister Richard, I believe it's best for us to forget about this."

Chapter 184

Richard replied, "Well, if Mister Chet isn't sincere about this partnership, we shouldn't continue this meeting." He then pretended to stand up after saying that.

Chet was worried that he had messed things up and stood up too, speaking to Richard in a hushed tone, "Mister Richard, there's always room for discussion. When Waldorf Enterprises bought this land,

you only spent 65 million dollars. How about this, I'll give you 130 million to buy it back. What do you think?"

Although it pained him, the potential value of the gold mine encouraged him to offer that price.

"Just 130 million dollars? That plot of land is worth much more than that," Pearl expressed her dissatisfaction with the proposed price and shook her head.

"That's a lot of money. If you're lying to me, I'm going to suffer a significant loss..." Chet looked anxious as Pearl's words troubled him.

Pearl stood up too. "Lying? If you think we're lying, we really shouldn't work together."

"Oh, no, no. I'm willing to pay whatever it takes, alright?" Chet ended up giving in and offered 195 million dollars to purchase the plot of land back

"We'll sign the agreement now to seal the deal then."

Alarms immediately went off in Chet's head. "There's no need to rush, Miss Pearl. Didn't we agree to discuss other matters after our business talk? If you're genuinely interested in me, we could start a relationship right away. I'd be willing to offer 325 million or even 390 million dollars!"

Pearl's smile froze. "You're really generous, but are you serious about it?"

Just looking at Chet repulsed Pearl, but to secure his signature on the agreement, she had to maintain her facade.

“Of course, darling, let’s get intimate...”

Chet attempted to grab Pearl’s hand and pull her into an embrace, but Richard pushed him away.

“What do you think you’re doing, Mister Chet?”

Chet felt annoyed and was about to respond, but suddenly, he felt dizzy and collapsed to the floor.

Pearl sighed in relief. “Finally. He’s so disgusting.”

Richard nodded. “I was surprised he came alone just to have a chance to take advantage of you.”

He sounded jealous, but Pearl didn’t catch that. She assumed Chet had simply let his guard down, so

she smiled. “Let’s proceed with our plan. We’ll leave him in the hotel room, and then...”

Pearl felt sick at the thought of the way Chet had looked at her. She didn’t realize how repulsive he truly was.

Richard left Chet in the hotel room and arranged for a woman to pose provocatively on top of him while

he took pictures with his camera. After that, they both found a place to spend the night, waiting for Chet

to wake up the next day.

Everything unfolded according to their plan. After Chet woke up, he hastily dressed and prepared to

leave. However, when he reached the door, people waiting outside immediately began taking pictures

the moment they saw him.

He was finally afraid.

Just then, his phone rang, and he answered it.

Pearl's clear voice came from the other end, "Did you rest well, Mister Chet?"

Chet froze, his voice trembling as he responded angrily, "What have you done to me? How could you

deceive me like this? Fine, you can keep the land or give it away. I don't want it anymore. Our

partnership with Waldorf Enterprises will end immediately!"

Mietre Chat Why don't we talk

Chapter 185

Chet's expression immediately changed when he heard the word 'wife'.

"What are you trying to say?"

"I've heard that your wife has quite a temper and can be quite jealous. If she were to find out you slept

with another woman, do you think she might ask for a divorce?”

Pearl found out that although Chet was proud in public, he was afraid of his wife. He was very good at hiding it so no one knew.

“You b\*tch!” Even if he wasn’t the sharpest tool in the shed, he realized he was being set up.

“I can imagine how you must feel right now. But if you tried to deceive Waldorf Enterprises, you should have expected us to seek revenge,” Pearl said with a smile on the other end of the phone.

Chet ground his teeth and said, “I’ll sign the agreement.”

The three of them sat down in a VIP room to sign the agreement. The moment Pearl got hold of the document, Chet glanced at her phone on the table and attempted to grab it.

Pearl stretched out her finger and gently pushed the phone toward Richard.

“What are you doing, Mister Chet? Trying to breach our agreement?”

Caught in the act, Chet awkwardly lowered his head. “Never mind. Now that you have the agreement, can you delete everything?”

Pearl shook her head. “There’s no rush. After the plot of land is transferred back, I’ll delete the videos and pictures.”

“I hope you keep your word!” Chet glared at them and left.

“It’s done, Richard.” Pearl smiled cunningly, waving the agreement in her hand.

“Yes, thanks to you, we managed to outwit that old man.” Richard chuckled. “But you promised me that once all this is over, we’ll be a couple. Is that still true?”

Pearl felt a little awkward and tried to change the topic. “He’s just easy to trick. Oh, by the way, when are we going to attend Hanzel’s concert? The ticket he gave me is for the twenty-ninth. What date is today?”

“The twenty-ninth.”

“So his concert is already happening?”

Pearl, unaware that she was running late, was eager to leave, but Richard wasn’t pleased to see her so anxious.

She promised him, yet now she was so anxious because of another man. There was no way he could be glad.

“Why are you so anxious to see his concert? You like him that much?”

“What?” Pearl was confused. They had it planned and everyone was going together. She shouldn’t be wasting time.

“It’s fine. I’ll send the documents back to the office and sort things out. You should go.”

Chapter 186

Pearl froze, and before she could react, Richard left.

Her phone suddenly rang. Glancing at the screen, she saw Hanzel’s name and promptly answered the call.

She heard Hanzel’s cheerful, deep voice. “Pearl, do you have any plans after work? Can you come to my concert if you’re free?”

Pearl nodded. “Sure, I’ll be there soon.”

The concert venue was packed, and she had to squeeze her way to the front row. After listening for a while, Richard still hadn’t shown up, but she was enjoying the performance a lot and was savoring the moment.

Hanzel was quite a good singer and had improved a lot since before.

“To thank you for your support, we’ve randomly selected a guest to receive a mystery gift from me.”

The stage lights immediately focused on her. There was no escape, and everyone's eyes were on her.

Hanzel smiled at her. "It's Miss Pearl. Could you come to the stage to receive the gift please?"

Pearl reluctantly made her way to the stage, sensing trouble ahead when she saw he was watching her with adoration in his eyes.

"My mystery gift is... a k\*ss!"

Hanzel's thousands of fans collectively screamed with excitement after he made the announcement.

"Why didn't he pick me?"

"I want a k\*ss from him too!"

"He's never k\*ssed a girl before. Is this his first k\*ss?"

Pearl looked at Hanzel with an awkward expression. "This... isn't a good idea."

Hanzel moved his microphone aside and whispered to her, "I had no choice. It was the company's request, not mine."

The company had only asked for a hug. He had decided to go for the k\*ss but didn't plan to reveal that to her.

Hanzel smiled and leaned in. "Pearl, this is my first on-screen k\*ss. Enjoy the moment."



Pearl stood awkwardly as he leaned closer and cupped her face. She couldn't escape, so she closed

her eyes, anticipating the k\*ss. However, the k\*ss she expected never came.

Instead, a k\*ss gently touched her forehead.

"Ahhhhhhh! He's so gentle!"

"So glad it wasn't on the l\*ps, or I might die of heartbreak!"

"That's so sweet I could die!"

Hanzel had managed to control his impulses at the last moment and k\*ssed her on the forehead

instead. He knew he couldn't rush things, or Pearl might become upset and hate him.

Pearl opened her eyes and saw Hanzel smiling at her, feeling relieved that it hadn't gone further. She

slowly returned to reality, only to notice a pair of intense eyes glaring at her.

She turned to see Richard standing there with a chilling aura, his gaze filled with anger.

When did he get here?

Pearl looked into her eyes, but he abruptly turned and left. She suddenly felt as if she'd been caught

cheating.

Chapter 187

Pearl felt increasingly frustrated. She walked off the stage, strangely wanting to explain herself to

Richard, even though she didn't really need to.

What could she possibly say? That she had no idea this would happen, and she couldn't just walk out

on Hanzel during his concert? She didn't want to ruin his performance.

Pearl hung her head and tuned out the world around her. All she knew was that Richard was angry at

her and ignoring her.

When they got home, Pearl finally saw Richard. He was sitting on the couch, working as if he hadn't

seen her at the concert.

Pearl tried to start a conversation on a random topic. "You went to the concert today?"

Richard nodded and didn't say anything more.

"Are you angry?" she asked.

Richard couldn't help but scoff at her questioning. "Why do you care if I'm upset? Weren't you enjoying

yourself with Hanzel?"

Pearl's anger rose. "There's nothing between me and Hanzel. Stop jumping to conclusions."

“So you think what I saw was just my imagination, huh?”

Pearl remembered the k\*ss and struggled to find the right words. “That was just part of the concert. I was put on the spot...”

“Put on the spot? You seemed to be enjoying it.” Richard was so angry when he saw the k\*ss that he lost all sense of logic.

Pearl’s eyes went cold. “Why are you so childish, Richard? This isn’t like you.”

Those words finally made him realize his own behavior. “I’m sorry for overreacting. I shouldn’t try to control you,” he said, then stood up and walked away.

Pearl stood there, feeling wronged and hurt.

Their strained interactions didn’t go unnoticed by everyone at home and even their colleagues at work.

They distanced themselves from each other, avoiding any conversation or eye contact.

Christmas approached, and during a meeting, Richard proposed designing couple’s rings to sell for the holiday season.

One of the employees, Sophia Arnault, a recent addition to the design team, stood up. “Can I take this project please?” She wasn’t usually outspoken, but on this day, she took the lead on the project.

Richard paused and asked, "Can you handle this project on your own?"

Sophia smiled confidently. "Of course. Pearl came up with an excellent proposal shortly after joining the company, so I'd like to give it a try too."

She then turned to Pearl and smiled. "Pearl, I wouldn't be stealing your thunder by doing this, would I?"

Pearl returned the smile. "What thunder? Go ahead."

Someone in the room scoffed. "Pearl is our internationally renowned designer Angel. Who do you think you are?"

Sophia looked down. "I know I'm not as accomplished, but... I want to make my mark in this company.

Also, I've heard the company is willing to give newbies a chance, so I'd like to contribute..."

Richard frowned and said to the person who just spoke, "Is that how we treat new employees here?"

The person looked away in fear, intimidated by the president's disapproval.

Pearl's heart felt a pang as she listened to the exchange.

“Very well then, Sophia will handle this project. Feel free to approach me if you have any questions. If

no one else has anything to add, we’ll conclude the meeting for today.” Richard’s tone signaled the end

of the discussion.

Chapter 188

After the meeting ended, the person who had mocked Sophia approached Pearl. “Pea, I think the

president is playing favorites!

”

Pearl was already feeling annoyed, so when she heard that, she raised her brows. “Why do you say

that?”

“This proposal was supposed to be yours. I don’t know what Sophia did to get such an important task

from him. I feel angry for you!”

Pearl didn’t mind, so she shook her head. “It doesn’t matter who writes the proposal, as long as it’s

done well.”

That person couldn’t stand it. “Pea, you’re so naive. You better keep an eye on that fox!”

Pearl smiled and didn’t say anything. Sophia was just a young woman trying to show her potential. That

didn't make her a cunning fox.

Suddenly, Pearl felt dizzy, likely due to the immense stress she had been under recently. She shook her head and took a few steps, but her vision went black, and she collapsed to the floor.

Richard saw her through the glass door and immediately rushed to her aid, opening the door to help her up. Pearl appeared unusually flushed, so he touched her forehead, alarmed by her warmth.

"How could you not realize you have a fever?" scolded Richard as he scooped her up, preparing to take her to the hospital.

Sophia saw what happened and hurried over. "Mister Richard, what happened to Pea?" She sounded genuinely concerned for Pearl.

"She has a fever. I'm taking her to the hospital."

Sophia looked at him eagerly. "May I come along? I want to take care of her. She's helped me a lot recently, so I want to return the favor."

Richard nodded, moved by her sincerity.

The three of them went to the hospital, and after a thorough check-up by the doctor, Pearl was placed in a room for IV treatment.

Richard went to settle the bill, and Sophia excused herself to use the restroom. This left Pearl alone in the room.

The door to the room slowly opened, revealing a shadowy figure who cautiously scanned the surroundings. Seeing no one else in the room, the figure approached Pearl's bed.

It was Abby, who had been gone for some time. She appeared weary, as if she had been through a lot.

She was wearing a white coat, pretending to be a doctor doing her rounds.

"Oh, Pearl, you've fallen into my hands in the end, haven't you?" Abby hissed, her face contorted with anger. "Look at what you've done to me. The Waldorfs have rejected me, and my father sent me out of the country, saying I'm a disgrace. It's all your fault!"

Abby's eyes fixated on Pearl's neck, and she extended her hands, seemingly intent on strangling her.

Suddenly, footsteps approached from outside, causing Abby to stop. She adjusted her coat and quickly

left the room.

Sophia returned from the restroom and noticed Abby walking out. "We have a different doctor?"

"Oh... The doctor sent me here to check on the patient's condition. She seems fine, so I'm heading back," Abby replied, head lowered to conceal her anxiety.

Sophia was confused but chose not to press further. She just nodded and went into the room.

Abby took a deep breath and quickly left.

It was at that moment that Pearl regained consciousness, and as she opened her eyes, the first thing she saw was Sophia, smiling down at her.

her

Chapter 189

"What are you doing here?"

Sophia said in a chirpy tone, "I came with Mister Richard. You have a fever, so we brought you here."

She emphasized that she came with Richard as if they were close.

Pearl couldn't help but feel annoyed at this. "Thank you so much."

Sophia smiled and continued, "Don't mention it. You're the best employee in the company, so Mister



Richard would be worried if you were sick”

Sophia seemed to imply that Richard’s concern was purely work-related, rather than personal. Her words carried hidden meanings, and it grated on Pearl’s nerves.

“If you care so much about the company’s sales, why don’t you go back to work? You should show Richard how valuable you are.” Pearl lacked the patience to engage in pretense with her.

Sophia chuckled. “I came here because I didn’t want you two to have time alone, Pearl.”

“Oh, why?”

“I’m going to be honest with you. Mister Richard is my target. I’m good-looking and well-educated.

Arnault Enterprises is one of the top players in the textile industry. If not for him, why would I be just a lowly worker?”

Another woman with an interest in Richard. Pearl couldn’t help but shake her head at how popular he seemed to be.

“It seems your relationship with Mister Richard is on shaky ground. I suspect his interest in you might be fleeting. After that, he might fall for me.”

Sophia appeared outwardly sweet and harmless, like a rabbit, yet this was how she talked in private.

Richard returned after settling the bill. Hearing his footsteps, Sophia instantly appeared as if she'd been mistreated. "If you hate me so much, Pearl, I can leave. There's no need to make your condition worse because of me."

When she heard the footsteps pause at the door, Sophia continued to play up the situation. "I know you never liked me, but I'm just trying to take care of you. I mean no harm."

Pearl noticed Richard at the door and maintained her composure.

Richard raised his brows. "What's going on here?"

Sophia dabbed at her eyes and quickly got up, keeping her head low. "It's fine, nothing happened."

"Did Pearl bully you?" Richard was a little hesitant. Pearl wasn't the type to bully anyone, especially when Sophia hadn't done anything wrong.

Pearl scoffed. "Why would I dare do that? You're so good at jumping to conclusions."

Richard sensed the hostility in her tone, and his tone changed. "She's just a newbie. Don't bully her."

"Would you believe me if I said I didn't do that?" Pearl looked at him with a serious expression.

Richard seemed momentarily tongue-tied, and after a long pause, he finally replied, "Never mind."

Pearl looked down in disappointment. "If there's nothing else you want to discuss, please leave. I'd like to rest."

The atmosphere became uncomfortably tense. Richard heard Sophia sobbing softly beside him and suggested, "Let's step outside, Sophia."

Pearl closed her eyes and turned around in bed.

Chapter 190

Pearl stayed in the hospital, unable to do much work, so Richard delegated all her work files to Sophia.

Pearl could only manage a sad chuckle when she found out. Was he trying to train Sophia to take over her role? She dismissed the thought and focused on resting.

When Dustan found out Pearl was admitted to the hospital and that no one was with her, he asked his five sons to take turns visiting her until she could be discharged. As for Susan, she was very concerned for Pearl, and she wholeheartedly supported

Dustan's decision.

It was Richard's turn to visit on the first day, but Pearl was so angry that she couldn't even bear to look at him.

“You’re a busy man, there’s no need for you to visit.”

Richard’s eyes darkened at her words. “My dad told me to take good care of you.”

Pearl found that amusing. “Did your dad threaten you with a knife to make you come? You don’t need to force yourself.”

Richard replied in a low voice, “I’m not forcing myself. I’m here on my own free will.”

“This isn’t important. You have a new colleague to take care of in the office. There’s no need to put on a show here.” Each time Pearl recalled how Richard had taken care of Sophia, it hurt her deeply.

“There’s nothing between me and Sophia,” Richard asserted.

Pearl scoffed. “Only you know if that’s true or not. Who wouldn’t like a kind and ambitious girl?”

Richard’s eyes turned cold. “That’s enough.” He couldn’t bear to hear her say that.

Pearl smiled. “Am I making you uncomfortable? Why are you reacting so strongly?”

After a lengthy pause, Richard simply said, “It’s nothing.”

“Good then. I don’t want to accidentally call you out.” Pearl realized she had been careless with her words and stopped.

Richard didn’t know what to say to her, so he stood up. “I’m going back to the office now. There’s work

to be done.”

“You know where the door is,” Pearl replied dryly, hiding under the blankets after he left and forcing herself to sleep.

The following day, it was Sean’s turn to visit her. He knew her relationship with Richard was strained lately, so he asked, ‘ Have you and Richard had an argument recently?’

“I

Sean had once suspected her of attempting to harm his mother, but he softened toward her when he remembered how she had helped his company.

Pearl simply replied, “No.”

“No? When you’re together, your faces are so sour we could make lemonade,” Sean quipped. “Did you suddenly realize I was the better choice, and Richard wasn’t worth your affection?”

Pearl’s head began to ache. She looked at Sean’s smiling face and couldn’t help but say, “If you have too much free time, you should go back to work. I don’t want to hear your banter.”

“Richard is quite heartless. He still has feelings for his ex. It’s quite intriguing,” Sean remarked candidly,

though harshly.

Pearl endured his conversation for a bit longer before politely sending him on his way.