

YOUR GUISE 211

Chapter 211

Pearl chuckled. "I know. By the way, I have some new medicine for you. If you take it regularly, you'll recover faster."

"I don't want to get better," Hanzel mumbled under his breath.

Pearl raised her hand in a somewhat threatening manner upon hearing his response. "Don't talk nonsense. This medicine is quite expensive, and if you don't take it as prescribed, you'll have to answer to me."

"Fine." Massaging his throbbing head, Hanzel relented. "Also, you can look into becoming a good manager. Feel free to ask me any questions." He was excited when he found out Pearl was going to be his temporary manager.

Pearl didn't take his enthusiasm too seriously because, as the president of an entertainment company, she had a solid grasp of what it took to be a manager.

"Alright, I've spent enough time here today. I need to go home now."

Hanzel couldn't keep her there, so he simply nodded.

As Pearl walked out of the hospital, she spotted a car parked nearby, and Richard stood next to it. He didn't react but just calmly looked at Pearl and asked, "Can I have a word?"

Annoyed by his apparent composure, Pearl turned to walk away. "No. There's nothing to talk about."

Richard persisted, "You haven't been to the office for a week. I'm worried you've forgotten that you're my secretary."

П

Pearl scoffed at the irony. "Secretary? There are plenty of people vying for the chance to be your secretary, Mister Richard. Why do you care if it's me?"

"We'll dock one day's pay for each hour you've missed. So far, that's around fifty to sixty hours." Pearl was appalled. How inhumane was that? "Fine, I'll resign then."

"Sure, but you'll need to draft a three-thousand-word resignation letter and pay two years' compensation for violating the agreement.

11

Pearl was enraged. "Richard Waldorf, you're violating the labor law. I'll sue you for this!"

Richard didn't care about that. "I know, but I have connections in the labor department and the police

force. Plus, I have the best lawyer in Enswood. Your chances of winning are quite slim.”

“I don’t get it. You’re the one sending mixed signals, and now you’re the one who doesn’t want to let go.

What’s going on in your head?” Pearl’s patience was wearing thin.

Richard took a deep breath. “I don’t want you to leave.”

“Don’t you think it’s a little too late for that now?” His statement seemed to have a profound effect on

Pearl, as she fought back tears. “If I wanted to become the design director, would you replace Sophia

and let me take her position?”

Richard was silent for a moment before replying, “No.” Switching her into the role suddenly would

create office gossip and hinder the ambition of newbies like Sophia.

“There’s nothing more to say then.”

“What do you mean?”

“I mean you should calm down. The problem between us isn’t as simple as you imagine.” Pearl took a

deep breath to hold back her tears. “As for the resignation letter, I’ll email it to you later. Make sure to

read it.”

Richard didn't have a reason to stop her. His finger twitched as if he wanted to reach out to her but lacked the courage to do so.

Chapter 212

After resigning, Pearl focused on taking care of Hanzel to ensure his quick recovery.

During this time, she visited Laura in her room. However, Laura was asleep, and Pearl didn't want to disturb her, so she simply handed the cookies she had baked to Laura's father.

Once Hanzel was discharged from the hospital, he felt a strong urge to take Pearl out for some fun.

"Let's go to the amusement park today, Pearl. It's been ages since I last went!" Hanzel looked down, appearing both sad and eager.

Pearl, having matured earlier than her peers, had lost interest in amusement parks long ago. When she heard his suggestion, she turned him down. "No, you can go, but I'm not coming with you."

"Please, can you come with me? After all, I got injured because of you. How could you abandon your savior? What a heartless woman..." Hanzel feigned a pitiful expression, his eyes glimmering.

Pearl knew he was using guilt to persuade her and grew annoyed. "Don't save me then!"

Hanzel retreated when he felt her anger. "I'm sorry, please don't be upset. How could I not save you? I

would do it even if it meant losing my life.”

“You’ve been in the entertainment industry for so long and have seen plenty of beautiful women. Why do you care about me?” Pearl was genuinely confused, as she couldn’t fathom why Hanzel cared so much about her.

Hanzel always had a nonchalant attitude, but when he heard that, he turned serious. “It’s all about the feelings. Even if I’ve encountered countless beautiful women, you’re the only one in my heart.

His words might have been cheesy, but he was sincere.

In the end, Pearl gave in to his pestering and went to the amusement park with him.

“I need to have some fun before returning to work. Let’s go on the roller coaster. I love it,” Hanzel exclaimed enthusiastically as a roller coaster passed overhead.

“I’m afraid of heights,” Pearl confessed.

Hanzel tugged at her blouse and shook it. “Please. Go with me.”

“No, not even if you paid me.”

A passing child overheard their conversation and chimed in, “Mom, this lady is such a scaredy cat. She can’t even go on the roller coaster.”

Pearl was speechless.

“See, even the kid is laughing at you. Come with me.”

Pearl gulped as she looked at the towering ride and started crying in her heart. What had she gotten herself into?

They boarded the roller coaster and fastened their seatbelts. Pearl felt her feet dangling and fear creeping in. Regret began to gnaw at her.

“Don’t worry. If you’re scared, just hold onto my hand, and you’ll be fine,” Hanzel reassured her with a smile as he reached for her hand.

The roller coaster started moving, and Pearl’s heart raced. With each sharp turn, she lost control of her emotions, her face turning an unhealthy shade of green while her stomach churned.

Suddenly, the roller coaster stopped. At first, everyone assumed it was part of the ride and eagerly anticipated what would happen next. But after five motionless minutes, panic began to set in.

“Help. Is there something wrong with the controller?”

Chapter 213

“No way. We’re going to be hanging here like this?”

“Stop talking about it. Just be careful and don’t fall.”

“I’m too young to die!”

“I want my mom...”

”

Panic spread among the trapped passengers as they looked around frantically. Hanzel noticed that

Pearl didn’t look well and asked, “Are you alright Pearl?”

“I’m fine. I feel like throwing up from all the tossing around.”

Hanzel looked guilty. “I’m sorry. I thought it would be fine, but it seems you have motion sickness. Now

we’re stuck like this. I wish we didn’t come.”

“It’s fine. I wanted to come with you. Don’t worry, the crew will be here soon, so let’s just sit tight,”

reassured Pearl, despite feeling terrible herself.

Finally, the crew members realized there was a malfunction and called for a crane to come and rescue

them.

Hanzel sighed with relief as people started getting off. “Hang in there, we’ll be safe soon. I’ll find a

place for you to rest after this.”

Pearl nodded and then heard a familiar voice behind her.

“Dad, what’s happening to us?”

Turning around, Pearl saw Laura.

Allan Jordan, Laura’s father, anticipated that this situation might traumatize his daughter, so he tried to console her. “No, it’s just the crew putting on a performance for us. Isn’t it interesting?”

“Yes, I’m just a little scared. We’re going down from so high up. What if something happens?” Laura may have been young, but she wasn’t entirely naive. Looking down from the great height made her anxious.

“No, everyone is doing it. We’ll be fine,” her father reassured her.

Unable to contain herself, Pearl exclaimed, “Laura!”

Laura, who had been gazing downward, was startled and looked up in surprise. “What are you doing here, Pea?”

“I’m here to enjoy the rides,” replied Pearl.

Allan smiled. “What a coincidence.”

“Yes.” Pearl nodded.

“The cookies you gave were so yummy. Can you make more for me, please? I’m going back to Ancard soon and will only be here for a few more days.”

||

Pearl chuckled. “Sure, if you like them, I’ll send some to you.

The crane gradually lowered a large group of riders, leaving only Hanzel, Pearl, Laura, and her parents.

Suddenly, a crew member shouted, “The ride might drop due to the weight. We only have room for four more people. Are you ready?”

Pearl’s expression changed when she heard that. If only four could go, someone would be left behind.

“You can go ahead. I’m a grown man, so I should take this responsibility.” Allan immediately volunteered himself.

“No, you’re Laura’s dad. What would happen to her if something happened to you?”

Chapter 214

Pearl knew how much it hurt to lose a father, so she immediately shot down the idea.

“I’ll stay then. There’s no way I’m going to let you do it.” Hanzel looked reluctant to part with Pearl.

“You’ll remember me, right? I’ve saved your life twice.”

Pearl punched him. “Nonsense. We’re not dying yet. What if nothing happens?”

“Alright, I’ll stop.” Hanzel pouted. “But I’ve made up my mind to stay, and none of you can stop me.”

Allan sighed, touched by Hanzel’s decision. “Such a good man. I hope it doesn’t come to that.”

Pearl consoled him. “Don’t worry, Uncle Allan. The crane might be able to save all five of us.”

The crane soon reached them, and after the Jordans got in, Hanzel helped Pearl to get in, but she kicked him in.

Ignoring Hanzel, Pearl yelled, “We’re ready!”

The crane began to move away from the roller coaster.

Hanzel struggled to stand but found it difficult due to the shaking. “Pearl! What are you doing?”

“How could I face Mister Dustan if something happened to you?” Pearl waved at him. “Take care of yourself. I... might not be able to work as your manager anymore.

Her words sounded like a final farewell.

Pearl turned around and wiped her tears away. She never thought that after all she went through, her end would come at a roller coaster ride.

The roller coaster started shaking, and Pearl buckled and clutched the seat belt tightly. People who witnessed the commotion began sweating profusely.

“There’s one more person up there!”

“What? What are we doing to do? They’re not going to make it.”

“Yes, I remember it’s a young lady. She’s too young to die.”

“Call 911. Maybe she can still be saved!”

Suddenly, the roller coaster car jolted, with half of it sliding off the rails, as if it were about to plummet to

the ground. The onlookers gasped in horror.

“It’s going to fall!”

“The young lady is a goner.”

While they were panicking and talking, the roller coaster car descended. But luckily, the crew had moved everyone out of harm’s way, preventing any casualties.

When the car hit the ground, a cloud of dust rose into the air. It wasn't a big one, so when it dropped, there wasn't too much chaos.

The crew rushed over to check for injuries. However, to their surprise, the car was empty.

Hanzel was stunned. "What? My friend was in that car. How could it be empty?"

The crew looked around and then said, "There really is no one on it. Come take a look for yourself."

Hanzel was in no mood to argue. He looked up and froze. "Pearl is up there!"

”

Chapter 215

Why didn't he think Pearl would lie on the tracks and not fall?

"Pea is still there, I see her. Can you quickly go up and get her?" Laura saw Pearl and ran over to tug on a security guard's hand. The guard smiled and nodded when he saw such an adorable girl begging him. "Don't worry, we'll save her."

"Thank you. Okay, good people will have a lot of children."

The guard's smile froze. That didn't sound right, but it was funny.

Despite the awkward moment, the crew quickly rescued Pearl.

Pearl had a fear of heights and had to crawl quickly onto the tracks. As soon as her feet touched the ground, her b*dy went limp, and she collapsed.

“Pearl!” Hanzel rushed over and held her in his arms. His heart ached seeing her pale face, as if she was dead.

“I... I’m fine.”

Hanzel gently touched her face, aware of her attempt to appear unaffected. “Alright, I’m going to take you to the hospital now.

Pearl shook her head. “No, I’ve been there long enough. I’ll just rest somewhere.”

Allan overheard that and walked over. “Why don’t you come and rest in the villa we’re renting? It’s not far from here, just a five-minute walk.”

Pearl looked hesitant. “I shouldn’t intrude. I think I’ll just find somewhere to rest.”

Laura tugged at Pearl’s hand and stubbornly said, “Pea, come to our place. It’s quite big so you’ll have a good rest.”

“Please don’t refuse Laura, Miss Pearl. You helped us so there’s no reason to be shy.” Lindsay, Laura’s mom, was an understanding person and supported her husband when she noticed Pearl’s shyness.

“Alright then, thank you.

I

They got into the car and went to the villa.

Hanzel carried Pearl up the stairs to a guest room, and as soon as they entered the room, Pearl

attempted to free herself from his arms.

“Why? Do you hate me carrying you?”

Pearl mumbled, “I’m just not used to being carried around.”

Suddenly, a familiar memory of a comforting hug and the scent of that embrace washed over her,

making her heart ache. “Alright, you rest here. I’ll go downstairs.”

Pearl nodded. “Okay.”

As Hanzel left, Pearl felt the world around her grow quieter. She felt much better away from the noise of

the amusement park. Apart from the initial shock and her fear of heights, she was unharmed.

She took out her phone and as expected, news about the incident was trending. The paparazzi tried to

twist the truth and reported her as dead, showing a photo of her lying on the tracks.

“This reporter is an expert at distorting the facts.”

Annoyed, Pearl contemplated calling Wayne to help take down that news, but her phone rang before she could do so.

Chapter 216

“Are you alright, Pearl?”

Richard’s voice was filled with anxiety, and he sounded genuinely concerned. He immediately recognized Pearl as the person featured in the trending news, even from a distance.

Pearl was about to laugh when she decided to disguise her voice to prevent him from recognizing her.

She held her throat and changed her tone, saying, “I’m sorry, sir. The owner of the phone passed away half an hour ago. May I know who’s calling?” Richard’s voice froze. “I’m her boyfriend. Is she really dead?”

His voice sounded neutral, but Pearl had a bad feeling. “Yes sir. We’re going to cremate her soon.”

“Is this funny to you, Pearl?” Richard couldn’t stand it anymore and called her out.

Pearl was surprised. “How did you know it was me? I thought I was hiding it well.”

“How could I not recognize your voice?” He took a deep breath. “Don’t you lie to me again.” It sounded

like he was reminding his girlfriend.

“Too much time on your hands? Why do you care?”

Richard answered her question with a question, “The last picture in the news showed Hanzel holding you. Did you go to the park together?”

Pearl detected a touch of anger in his voice, and she thought it was awkward. “I’m going to hang up if you have nothing else to say. I need to make another call.”

Pearl immediately hung up and called Wayne. “Wayne, help me get rid of the news about me.”

Wayne, who was half asleep and groggy, opened his eyes, checked the news, and replied, “What?

There’s no trending news about you.”

“1

“What?” Pearl kept him on the line and checked the news again. Just as Wayne had said, there was no mention of her anywhere.

“Alright, there’s nothing for you to do then.”

A thought crossed Wayne’s mind, and he asked, “Was it... Richard?”

Pearl had considered the possibility but felt too embarrassed to admit it. “No way. Enough of your

nosiness, Wayne.”

“Tsk tsk, Pea. You probably guessed it was him too. I know you still see him in a bad light, but you have to admit that he has feelings for you...”

Pearl frowned. “Enough of your nonsense, Wayne, or I’ll send you on a business trip to Africa.”

“Oh, Pea, I’m really sorry. I’ll keep quiet, alright?”

Pearl coughed. “Alright, get back to work. I have stuff to do.”

After getting some rest, Pearl decided it was time to leave. She made her way downstairs.

Allan and his wife were engrossed in watching a TV series, and when they noticed Pearl, they greeted

her with smiles. “Did you get some good rest, Miss Pearl?”

“You don’t have to call me Miss Pearl, just Pearl.” She felt that “Miss Pearl” sounded distant and formal.

“Oh, alright, Pearl. Please stay for lunch. Laura wants to have lunch with you.”

Chapter 217

Pearl looked around but didn’t see Hanzel anywhere, so she shook her head. “I can’t. I have work to do.”

“Are you looking for Mister Hanzel? Laura brought him to the garden so they’re probably there.”

Pearl couldn’t help but smile as she imagined Hanzel playing with a child. “Alright, I’ll go take a look.”

Allan knew this meant they were staying for lunch so he gestured at Lindsay to start cooking.

As Pearl walked into the garden, she quickly spotted Hanzel sitting on a bamboo chair with a bunch of flowers in his hand. He was patiently weaving them into a flower crown.

Seeing the handsome actor engaged in such a playful activity amused Pearl. “I didn’t know you had that skill.”

Hanzel replied, “I learned it in elementary school. You might not know, but even though Mobius has a temper now, he used to be very shy and loved cute things. None of the older three brothers would make anything for him, and I’m the only one with a good temper, so I learned a few flower crown weaving techniques just for him.”

Pearl couldn’t help but laugh out loud, thinking the imposing Mobius used to love such things.

Laura ran over with more flowers and handed them to Hanzel before joining in to help with the crown.

She gazed at Hanzel with admiration and said, “Pea, your boyfriend is so nice. This crown is so

pretty!”

Pearl almost choked on her words. “Wait, who told you he’s my boyfriend?”

Laura innocently replied, “He did. He said he’s your boyfriend, and you’re getting married next year. It’s a shame because I wanted to introduce you to my cousin so you can be my cousin-in-law.”

Laura looked disappointed and sighed. “If that’s the case, you should love each other well. It’s not easy finding a boyfriend who can make flower crowns. You need to treat him nicely.”

”

Pearl was left speechless. “Alright, don’t listen to him. We’re not a couple.”

The child who was sighing immediately perked up. “Really? So you can be with my cousin? He’s really good-looking. Although he’s a little cold, a lot of girls want to be with him. He’ll be coming tomorrow to take me home, and I’ll bring you to meet him.”

Pearl didn’t know how to react to this sudden matchmaking attempt by a seven or eight-year-old.

“Don’t say yes!” Hanzel exclaimed, feeling anxious. While he hadn’t responded to Pearl’s earlier comment, he couldn’t stand the thought of a new love rival due to a child’s matchmaking efforts.

“Why are you yelling?” Pearl rolled her eyes, tempted to give him a light slap to clear his mind.

Seeing Pearl's reaction, Hanzel warned Laura instead. "Listen, if you try to set Pearl up with someone, I'll stop making this crown for you."

Laura, being clever, fired back with a threat of her own. "If you don't make it for me, I'll introduce her to someone!"

Pearl found herself caught in the middle of their exchange. She couldn't help but wonder if they had considered her feelings in all of this.

Chapter 218

Lunch was soon ready, so Laura stopped arguing with Hanzel and led Pearl by her hand into the house, leaving Hanzel there looking annoyed.

At the dining table, Allan kept zoning out as he looked at Pearl's familiar face. He finally spoke up, saying, "May I ask you a question?"

Pearl smiled and replied, "Your curiosity is showing. Go ahead, I'll do my best to answer."

Allan nodded. "What's your father's name?"

"My father..." Pearl's mind briefly wandered before she answered, "Max Leighton."

An awkward silence hung over the table.

”

Puzzled by Allan’s lack of response, Pearl inquired further, “Is something wrong? Do you know

“More than that, Pearl. Do you remember your mother’s name?”

Pearl was silent for a moment, then said, “Beah.”

my dad?”

Hearing that name, Allan’s eyes welled up with tears. He wanted to say more but refrained, considering

the presence of a child and Hanzel, to avoid making Pearl feel uncomfortable.

“That’s a nice name. I might have remembered wrongly.”

After lunch, while Hanzel and Laura continued working on their flower crown, Pearl went to Allan’s

room. Both Allan and Lindsay were present, and tears filled their eyes upon seeing Pearl.

“Pearl...”

Pearl seemed to understand the situation and asked, “So... I’m a Jordan too?”

She recalled her mother never mentioning any connection to the Jordans when she was alive. She had

believed that her mother grew up in a normal family, as her father was just a carpenter.

“Not only that, your mom is my sister, the only daughter of my dad,” Allan said.

Pearl had heard about the Jordans. Twenty years ago, the daughter had eloped with an unknown man.

Master Jordan, who deeply loved his daughter, was concerned about her reputation being tarnished, so

he had worked tirelessly to keep the man’s name and pictures hidden.

Eventually, the news faded, and the Jordans pretended their daughter never existed.

Pearl had never imagined that the news that had once shocked the entire Ancard was closely linked to

her.

“My dad searched for your mom for twenty years and never found any trace of her,” Allan explained

with tears in his eyes. She was the only daughter in our family, and she eloped with a man named Max

Leighton. My dad was so furious that it even led to his hospitalization.

Pearl was shocked by her mother’s bravery. Her mother, who seemed delicate, had been remarkably

courageous.

“Fortunately, Max was a well-renowned sculptor, so he would be able to take good care of your mom so

she wouldn’t suffer...”

Chapter 219

A sculptor?

Pearl frowned. "My dad was just a carpenter. How could he be a sculptor?" Contents belong to NovelDrama.Org

Allan was shocked. "Did he hide this from you? He was a world-renowned sculptor, and his alias was

Mangy. His work sold for astronomical figures. However, my dad didn't like him because he was an

artist and would always have to travel for inspiration. Dad thought he wouldn't be able to take care of

Beah..."

Pearl suddenly thought of her father, who had been a carpenter in a small town for more than ten

years, and couldn't help but sigh.

That was love, willingly giving up everything for the other person.

"By the way, you haven't told me where your parents are. Can I see them?" Allan asked eagerly.

"I'm sorry, there's something I haven't told you yet..." Pearl was a little troubled, but then she said, "My

mom is missing, and as for my dad... he passed."

Allan couldn't believe it. "Missing? How did that happen?"

Pearl didn't know the details behind that, but she told him what she knew. "My dad and mom argued one day, and my mom ran away, never to return."

"I knew we couldn't trust Max. When my sister eloped, I should have taken her back." Allan frowned as his anger rose.

"No, they argued because my dad was gravely sick and they couldn't find a cure. My mom sold the jewelry she loved to buy medication and my dad didn't want her to, so he chased her away. He still loved her and waited for her return.

"My dad had always been a proud man, but he was willing to work in a small town for my mom. Unfortunately, he fell gravely sick and had to let my mom leave so she could have a better life."

Allan was shocked. "Why didn't he let her take you with her?"

"1

Pearl shook her head. "I don't know, but I'm guessing that even though my dad was sick, he had time to take care of me. He didn't want to stop my mom from getting remarried because of me."

Allan sighed. "He's a good husband but not a good father."

Pearl refuted, "He's a good father, but he loved my mom so much. He did his best to make sure

everyone had a good ending.” Except for himself. He was sick, lost the love of his life, and when he died, his daughter wasn’t even by his side.

“Your mom wasn’t mature, but she was bright. She’s not missing, she’s only left.” Allan sighed. “I don’t know why she didn’t come back to us. Maybe she was worried we would force her to remarry.”

Pearl didn’t know the specifics of what happened, so she didn’t want to judge.

“Alright, let’s put this aside.” Allan looked at Pearl lovingly. “Dad doesn’t know the daughter of his daughter is a woman now. Why don’t you come back with us tomorrow so you can meet your family?”

Pearl’s heart ached. “It’s not the time yet. I have work to do. How about I visit Master Jordan later?”

“I know I shouldn’t put you on the spot, but honestly, Dad has had countless sleepless nights because of your mother. He would be overjoyed if you visited.”

Pearl took a deep breath. “I’ll go to Ancard in a few days to see him. How about that?”

Chapter 220

“Alright, that would work.”

They had a chat for a short while, and then Pearl left the room.

Suddenly, the sky started pouring rain out of nowhere, and Hanzel quickly rushed Laura back to her

room. Pearl couldn't help but laugh when she saw the two of them, completely soaked.

"You're so playful, Hanzel. Just like a kid," Pearl teased.

Hanzel smiled. "I'm not. The kid wants me to make twenty-two crowns because she wants to give it to twenty-two people in her class."

"You remembered to share." Pearl patted Laura's head. "Alright, Laura, go shower and change, or you might catch a cold." Laura nodded. "Okay."

Pearl turned her attention to Hanzel. "You should shower too, but I don't think there are any clothes for you here... I didn't bring your clothes along. What should we do?"

Going out to buy new clothes didn't seem feasible due to the heavy rain, which could be dangerous.

Allan took out a set of his clothes. "You can wear this. We're about the same height, and you're leaner.

It wouldn't be a perfect fit, but it's as good as it gets.'

Allan had good taste, and Hanzel wasn't picky, so the latter walked to the bathroom with the clothes.

Even after Hanzel finished showering, the rain showed no signs of letting up. Pearl felt a bit concerned because it was getting late, and they might not be able to return home.

“Don’t worry, we have a lot of guest rooms upstairs. You can stay here if you don’t mind. We have everything you need,” Allan reassured them.

Laura’s mom took out some blankets. “You can take these two rooms. Don’t be shy.”

Pearl looked at the pouring rain and reluctantly accepted their invitation.

That night, the rain started to slow down, but Pearl couldn’t sleep. She couldn’t stop thinking about her conversation with Allan that afternoon.

She was the only daughter of the Jordans’ only daughter. She thought she was just a normal person, but her mother turned out to be from a prestigious family.

What happens next? If the Jordans found out who she was, they would want her to stay there or force her to marry someone she didn’t love.

Pearl didn’t know anyone from the Jordans other than Allan, so she didn’t know what kind of family they were. She had no emotional connection to them, which was why she didn’t want to return.

Her thoughts swirled in her mind until exhaustion finally pulled her into a restless sleep.

The next day, Pearl got up early, and Lindsay was already preparing breakfast. Since they were heading back to Ancard that day, they began to pack their things.

After breakfast, Pearl and Hanzel planned to leave early to avoid bumping into the Jordans, but Allan saw them. “Pearl, my second brother’s son will be coming to get us later. Do you want to meet him?”

Pearl understood what Allan was trying to do. He wanted to build a relationship between the cousins by letting them meet. “It’s fine, we don’t know each other.” Pearl didn’t like meeting someone this way, so she turned him down.

Hanzel, recalling Laura’s promise to introduce someone to Pearl, chimed in, “No, we need to get back to work today, so we can’t stay any longer.”

Allan and Lindsay couldn’t say anything more, so they just accepted it.

As they stepped outside, the sound of an engine caught their attention, and Pearl felt a sinking feeling in her stomach. Just as

she suspected, a Porsche was parked outside, and a menacing-looking man emerged from it.