

YOUR GUISE 261

Chapter 261

Esther, accustomed to attending grand events as a star, found herself facing an unprecedented situation. Pearl initially intended to approach Esther and offer her support, but the dense crowd prevented her from reaching her friend.

Standing amidst the commotion, Esther appeared vulnerable and distressed, struggling to maintain her composure.

Suddenly, Esther's gaze landed on a figure in the corner, intensely staring at her. To her surprise, it was none other than Mobius, her crush. His gaze conveyed a silent message of reassurance, seemingly telling her not to be afraid.

Empowered by his unspoken encouragement, Esther's voice steadied as she addressed the crowd.

"We will thoroughly investigate this matter. If any of you have information about what happened, please

come forward to help prevent severe consequences." She conducted herself with the grace befitting a noble young lady of the Sanders family.

However, the immediate priority was to identify the woman involved in the incident. News reporters

raised their phones, capturing the chaotic scene, which was bound to become tomorrow's headline.

Richard couldn't help but worry when he realized Pearl was not by his side. He feared that she might be framed by others. However, he soon calmed down when he saw that woman's smooth straight hair.

A security guard approached the woman and carefully turned her around. She had fainted from the ordeal and bore numerous bruises on her fair skin, but her face remained recognizable.

"Sophia?" Several women who knew Sophia couldn't help but cry out. Despite the horrifying situation, they still managed to identify her.

Immediately, news reporters seized the opportunity, snapping endless photos of Sophia. Given the prominence of Arnault Enterprises, there was curiosity about how they would handle this scandal.

Inevitably, people assumed that Sophia had a wild lifestyle since she had such an indecent affair with several men in another's

house.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please calm down. Let's help... Miss Sophia to rest in another room."

Esther, upon realizing that it was Sophia, felt relief and ease. She had never held any affection for

Sophia, who was known for her flattery and habit of framing Pearl. Esther found her behavior repulsive, and the turn of events brought a certain satisfaction.

On the other hand, it was beyond Pearl's imagination that the woman involved was Sophia. It led her to a revelation, which she greeted with a wry smile.

Sophia had likely orchestrated this scheme against Pearl, but it had backfired spectacularly.

As the crowd gradually dispersed, Richard finally located Pearl at the rear. A sigh of relief escaped him as he saw that she was unharmed, but concern quickly overtook his features. "Where were you all this time? What happened?"

Pearl looked around and, finding themselves alone, smirked mischievously. "Sophia drugged me earlier, but luckily, I always carry an antidote. I managed to neutralize the effects. I initially intended to investigate what she was up to, but unexpectedly, that waiter led me to the wrong room. That's how Sophia got into trouble instead of me."

Sophia likely never anticipated that her scheme would turn against her, as she was unfamiliar with the layout of the house. Karma had caught up with her, and she was now reaping what she had sown.

Chapter 262

Richard scowled at Pearl, his concern evident. "Don't do it again and make me worry."

When Pearl saw his terrified look, she smiled mischievously. "What would you have done if it had been me in there?"

"I would have gouged out their eyes and thrown them into the sea," Richard responded with a fierce tone, but his underlying protective concern for Pearl was unmistakable.

Pearl chuckled confidently. "Well, it wasn't me. I'm smarter than most people." She paused for a moment before asking, "But how did you know it wasn't me in there?"

Pearl and Sophia shared some similarities in appearance, making them easily mistaken for each other.

Without even blinking, Richard answered casually, "Her hair is different." Sophia had smooth, straight hair, while Pearl's was black, glossy, and wavy. Additionally, their temperaments were distinct.

Pearl then remembered that the people in the room were n*ked and quipped, "You didn't peek at her, did you?"

Richard's expression changed, but it wasn't one of embarrassment. Rather, it conveyed deep disgust and disdain. "She's not

my type.”

He had quickly discerned that it was Sophia’s scheme and that Pearl had narrowly avoided being drawn into it. This revelation left him thoroughly disgusted.

Respecting Richard’s feelings, Pearl refrained from teasing him further. Instead, she took his hand and returned to the

downstairs hall with him.

Following the incident, the birthday party came to an abrupt end.

Just as everyone was preparing to leave, the heroine of the incident regained consciousness. She hastily wrapped herself in a thin blanket and dashed downstairs, with no one able to stop her.

Sophia had never anticipated that she would be the one taken advantage of in the end. In tears, she cried out, “There’s an injustice here!” Being the culprit herself, she wanted to shift the blame to others.

Curious, Pearl listened in the distance. She found something amiss as she nibbled on a slice of cake from her plate.

As Sophia fixed her wicked gaze on Pearl, she vehemently accused, “It was Pearl! She lured me into

that room as part of her plot!” Her voice quivered with feigned distress.

Several people in attendance were Sophia’s devoted followers, unwilling to see their idol suffer humiliation. When they heard about the perceived injustice, they promptly rallied to her side.

“Yeah, Sophia will never do that kind of vulgar and shameful thing! Someone must be behind this!”

Their description of the incident as vulgar and shameful stung Sophia, but she remained resolute, having faced numerous hardships before.

However, Pearl’s unexpected laughter caught the attention of the crowd, leaving them bewildered as to why she found the situation amusing.

“Are you absolutely sure you want to tempt fate, Sophia?” Pearl’s words served as a final warning to Sophia. If she persisted in causing a scene so audaciously, she would ultimately pay the price.

But Sophia couldn’t accept such a defeat and insisted on implicating Pearl.

Chapter 263

“No, I’m not. You framed me, and I want to seek justice for myself!”

Pearl narrowed her eyes and frowned. “Could you at least put on some clothes before seeking justice for yourself?”

Sophia realized all too late the impropriety of her attire, but Esther didn't prepare any clothes for her.

The snickers and laughter from the onlookers deepened her embarrassment.

Caught in this awkward situation, Sophia could only grit her teeth and endure the humiliation. She

turned away from Pearl and accused, "Are you trying to divert attention away by changing the

subject?"

This was the first time Pearl had encountered a culprit who shifted blame so brazenly. It prompted

another chuckle from her. "Do you even have any shame, Sophia?"

"I placed so much trust in you and respected you when we worked together at the company. I

considered you my senior, and I didn't hold a grudge when you played a part in my dismissal. But why

did you plot against me again here today?" Sophia began to sob, her feigned distress adding to her

allure.

She had a plan in mind. As long as she could shift the blame onto Pearl, she'd appear as a mere

victim. Even if the reporters reported the incident, she'd be the innocent party, with the men involved

unaware of her true identity. Pearl would have no evidence to counter her claims.

"Just a moment. Let's clarify one thing. I didn't frame you or cause your dismissal from the company.

You were fired because of your involvement with several men, which ruined their families,” Pearl stated firmly, her words bearing the truth.

This led to onlookers gossiping and casting disdainful glances at Sophia. Some women who had experienced family breakdowns due to home-wreckers also voiced their condemnation, calling Sophia derogatory names despite her innocent appearance.

Stubborn, Sophia refused to give up. “You can say whatever you want. Losing my job I could endure, but now I’ve lost my reputation. My father is a symbol of kindness and peace. How do I explain this to him?”

Sophia’s words painted her as a loving and dutiful daughter, a picture of gentleness and kindness.

However, her target was Pearl

“So, you acknowledge that you’ve wronged your father?” Pearl chuckled. “Today, I’ll teach you a lesson on your father’s behalf.”

Sophia’s unease was evident in her widened eyes.

“Do you admit that you hired some people to harm me? It was supposed to be me in that room, being humiliated, right?”

Pearl’s questions left Sophia shaking her head vehemently. “That’s absurd! Why would I do that? And why would I willingly suffer if that were my plan? None of this makes any sense!”

The reporters, captivated by the unfolding drama, were thankful they hadn’t left the scene earlier, as they would have missed such an interesting show.

Pearl, however, didn’t linger on the subject and turned to Esther. “Can you ask all your waiters to come out?”

Esther nodded and summoned all the waitstaff.

“When the incident happened, Richard had ordered his b*dyguards to secure the entire house. I’m confident that no one could have escaped,” Pearl explained slowly, filling Sophia with trepidation.

Chapter 264

1/1

Richard had his men surround the Sanders Residence, just in case he couldn’t find the suspects if something happened to Pearl. As luck would have it, their presence became handy now.

“I still remember the waiter who had led the way for me.” Pearl casually scanned the surroundings, her gaze landing on the waiter who had led her to the room. The poor man’s legs went weak, and he began to tremble.

“Why are you so nervous? I haven’t accused you of anything yet,” Pearl remarked, crossing her arms.

Seeing the waiter’s profuse sweating, she decided she had seen enough. “Listen, did Sophia ask you to take me to that room?”

However, the waiter refused to divulge the truth, fearing the consequences for himself and his innocent child. “No, I don’t know Miss Sophia. I led you there because you seemed drunk and asked for help.”

Raising her brows, Pearl asked, “Aren’t you going to tell the truth?” She felt no sympathy for him since he chose not to cooperate.

“It didn’t have anything to do with me. Please don’t involve me in this,” the waiter implored.

Sophia, feeling smug, said, “See, Pearl? Karma is waiting for you.”

Pearl understood that Sophia would face the consequences of her actions later, but it was not her concern at the moment. Observing the waiter’s clothes, Pearl smiled and asked, “You have a daughter,

don't you?"

Stunned, the waiter didn't understand why Pearl raised that question. But when he saw her looking at his collar, he asked, " How did you know?"

"Your clothes are neatly pressed and have a pleasant scent. It indicates you're married, and your wife likely takes care of your clothing. Additionally, when you panicked earlier, you inadvertently revealed your phone's lock screen, showing a charming little girl who bears a resemblance to you. I assume that's your daughter, correct?" Pearl explained.

The waiter was surprised by Pearl's keen perception but remained stubborn. "What does my daughter have to do with any of this?"

"Your daughter is relevant because Sophia is using her to blackmail you," Pearl declared, her logical analysis making Sophia

uneasy.

"Nonsense! I don't even know this man. How could I possibly threaten him with his daughter?" Sophia retorted.

Silently, Pearl gestured, and Esther handed her a bag.

Sophia's eyes widened. "Isn't that my bag? Give it back to me!" She made an attempt to snatch it, but

her sudden movement caused her blanket to slip, and she belatedly realized her exposure.

After being exposed in front of everyone twice in a row, Sophia felt a profound sense of humiliation as

she hastily wrapped herself in the blanket.

From Sophia's bag, Pearl retrieved a pink and adorable hairclip adorned with a pink rabbit. "Is this your

daughter's hairclip?"

The waiter squinted his eyes and, after a fierce internal struggle, finally nodded. "Yes."

Sophia, filled with spite, glared at him. "Ridiculous! I've never even met your daughter!"

Overwhelmed by hate, the waiter gave up denying the truth. "Yes, she forced me to drug your drink,

Miss Pearl. But I forgot the way and led you to the wrong room. Then, Miss Sophia entered that room

herself. You can punish me, but please save my daughter. She's been kidnapped."

He fell to his knees, repeatedly and humbly banging his head against the floor.

Chapter 265

The waiter's deep fatherly love for his daughter moved everyone present, except for Sophia, whose face had turned grotesque. "No, I didn't do it. You all conspired to frame me!"

"Conspired? You're still making excuses, Sophia. It's better to admit your involvement now to receive a less severe punishment."

Wrapping herself in the blanket, Sophia curled up slightly.

Being one head taller than Sophia, Pearl looked down on her with a judging gaze.

"I didn't harm anyone. I didn't..." Sophia had a mental breakdown as she looked at Richard and lunged at him, grabbing onto his trouser legs. "I like you so much, Rick Can you say something for me?"

However, Richard kicked her away and turned to hug Pearl's waist. "Don't touch me. You're disgusting."

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"You think I'm disgusting? You didn't say that back then, Rick. You said I was pitiful and wanted to take good care of me..."

Pearl immediately recalled that night when Sophia had slowly leaned into Richard's arms under a tree's shade, and he hadn't immediately pushed her away. On the contrary, he had seemed stunned for a

moment before retreating.

Thinking of that, disappointment overwhelmed Pearl. She struggled briefly, but Richard held her even tighter.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about, but please don’t ruin my reputation. I never said you were pitiful

and that I wanted to take care of you. It was all your imagination.” Then, he turned to the reporters, who

were left speechless by the unfolding drama. “I apologize for using public resources, but I must clarify that I’m now dating Pearl. I hope that’s clear, and those with ulterior motives should understand it.”

His reference to Sophia was obvious, and he was openly humiliating her.

Sophia’s face turned pale, and seeing Richard’s composed demeanor, with his focus solely on Pearl, ignited jealousy, pain, and madness within her, driving her to lose her reason.

Suddenly, she grabbed a paring knife from the table, intending to stab Pearl.

However, Sophia couldn’t even touch Pearl due to Pearl’s exceptional martial arts skills. Pearl skillfully evaded the attack, causing Sophia to fall hard on the floor and lose her grip on the knife, which skidded

across the hall.

“You better release his daughter and stop this madness, or you’ll end up behind bars with more than just civil liabilities.”

Sophia was in excruciating pain, her fall having caused her to hurt her l*ps, leading to her vomiting and feeling utterly

defeated.

“I only took the haircl*p. I didn’t kidnap his daughter. He was just scared and mistakenly believed that I had kidnapped her. If you don’t believe me, call the kindergarten and confirm if his daughter is there attending class...”

The waiter, enlightened, dialed the kindergarten. As expected, his daughter was safe and sound. His fear had led him to be manipulated by Sophia.

At this point, Sophia had given up all hope, unable to comprehend how her passionate love for Richard had led her to such a predicament, despite having earned his appreciation.

She now found herself implicated and facing a grim future. Her reputation was in tatters, and even if no one reported her to the police, she could never thrive in the upper class of Enswood after this incident.

Her bewildered gaze as she sat on the floor made Pearl reconsider reporting her to the authorities.

However, Richard was not as forgiving He signaled, and two bodyguards helped Sophia to her feet.

He couldn't quell his anger because Pearl was almost taken advantage of. At the same time, his cold

and ferocious gaze hurt Sophia deeply. "It's not over yet. I'm still going to settle this with you."

Chapter 266

Sophia's heart seemed to freeze when she noticed something amiss in Richard's expression. "What do

you want,

Richard?"

"What do I want? Of course, I want you to pay for what you did."

1/1

Sophia's wide-eyed gaze darted around the room. "Richard, this is illegal. Plus, there are reporters

everywhere. You can't escape the consequences if this gets out!"

However, Richard was unruffled. He scanned the room slowly and asked, "Did anyone see anything?"

Richard was a well-known figure in Enswood, a powerful man who didn't hesitate to wield his influence.

There was a story of a man who had slandered Richard after a business failure, and the next day, he

and his family were forced to leave the city. Richard's true power was a mystery, but people always treated him with respect and awe.

Given Richard's stature, it was unwise and naive for Sophia to boldly threaten him...

Being sensible, everyone present deemed it unwise to cross Richard. They chose to keep the incident a secret, hoping to gain favor with Richard for potential business opportunities. The reporters, too, put away their phones and cameras, pretending they hadn't witnessed anything.

Sophia had momentarily forgotten the extraordinary influence Richard held in Enswood, and now no one was willing to antagonize him.

Desperate, she collapsed and allowed others to lead her away.

After she was gone, some began to lighten the mood to avoid awkwardness. "Yeah, Miss Pearl... Ah, no. At a glance, I can tell that Mrs Waldorf is a prudent person. She'll never frame others."

In a matter of seconds, everyone rallied behind Pearl.

Pearl sensed that it was likely due to Richard's influence as she listened to the flattering comments.

Obviously, Richard was pleased by how the others had addressed Pearl as his wife.

Once the ordeal was over, everyone else departed, leaving only the Waldorfs, the Sanders, and Pearl behind.

Curiosity piqued Pearl's interest as she observed Richard's nonchalant expression. "Where did you take Sophia? Did you have her tied up and subjected to a harsh beating?"

"No, I just let her taste what real pain is," Richard replied casually, but a hint of malice lingered in his tone. Sophia might not even survive the experience.

But Pearl felt no need to sympathize with Sophia. After all, Sophia had initiated the conflict and Pearl was not one to back down when falsely accused.

Esther breathed a sigh of relief knowing that Pearl was unharmed. "I'll install a security system in my house to prevent such incidents in the future!" Her indignation drew chuckles from the others.

"That may not be necessary. Just ensure you can protect yourself and stand up to bullies." Mobius rolled his eyes in response to Esther's determined fist-pumping. "Don't always rely on me to save you. I'm too busy for that," he added.

Esther pouted playfully. "What's wrong with your future wife asking for help? After all, we'll be married soon. Is it such a big deal to save your future wife, huh?"

Her bold and open declaration brought a flush of color to Mobius' cheeks. "You have no shame! You don't have to say everything in front of others!"

Chapter 267

1/1

"I'm old enough now, and in two years, it'll be legal for me to marry. Plus, you're exactly the man I want.

Naturally, I won't let you sl**p* away easily." Unfazed by Mobius' reaction, Esther's eyes narrowed into a sly smile.

"How unreasonable!" After holding back for quite some time, Mobius found himself unusually tongue-tied and couldn't come up with a retort.

"Who's being unreasonable here, you or me?" Esther shot back at Mobius.

It was the first time Pearl had witnessed Mobius acting this way. Suppressing a smile, she waved her hand. "That's enough, Este. Don't tease Mobius too much. He's shy, and you might scare him away with more of your teasing."

Being exposed, Mobius turned beet red.

“By the way, I’m sure that incident will make tomorrow’s headline. Do some public relations measures to avoid any accidents.”

Disagreeing with this, Esther said, “No, I don’t think we need to worry about any mishaps. Richard has taken care of everything, and Sophia’s scandal won’t matter even if it’s reported tomorrow.”

Esther’s naivety and gullibility brought out a sigh from Pearl.

However, Pearl chose not to reveal what she had seen earlier since the others were unaware of Esther and Mobius’s k*ss. Instead, she offered a subtle piece of advice. “Just be careful. There’s a reason why I said that.”

Esther, naturally, heeded Pearl’s advice.

After some brief conversation, Pearl bid Esther farewell as it was getting late. At that moment, Mobius noticed a familiar figure seated on the sofa behind him.

It was Christian, who appeared to have no intention of leaving as he watched TV.

“Why isn’t he leaving?” Mobius was still uneasy even though he knew that Christian was Esther’s cousin

Knowing that Mobius was talking about him, Christian looked up and smiled. "I live here. What's it to you?"

"What do you mean? It's inappropriate for a man and woman to be alone together" Besides, Esther was wearing such revealing clothes Christian might see something he shouldn't at night, and Mobius fretted at the possibility.

"She's my cousin, and it's perfectly normal for us to be together. You're overreacting. Don't tell me you're attracted to my cousin. Let me be clear, I don't approve of this marriage. You better not harbor any wild thoughts."

Mobius snorted. "You don't have to tell me that. I'll never fall in love with her."

"That's for the best, because she deserves someone exceptional, not just any ordinary man."

"Whatever."

During this exchange, Mobius's stubbornness prevented him from noticing the fleeting moment of sadness that passed across Esther's face.

"Alright, stop arguing. It's late. Go wash up and get some sleep," Esther interjected, turning coldly toward Mobius. "Who's in my house is none of your concern. Just go home."

Being driven away, Mobius was upset. After noticing that he had crossed a line, he left without saying

another word.

Pearl forced a smile, feeling that Mobius was insincere and stubborn. Clearly, he had feelings for

Esther but lacked the courage

to admit them.

Chapter 268

Pearl gave Esther a reassuring look and tried to calm her down. "Don't overthink it. Mobius always talks

like that, so don't

take it to heart"

Hearing that, Esther's defenses collapsed, and tears welled up in her eyes. "I'm okay," she sniffled,

attempting to appear

strong.

"Don't worry. I'll teach him a lesson for you when I get back," Pearl assured her.

"Okay. Thank you, Pearl."

Pearl was concerned that being around Richard might make Esther think about Mobius and become

emotional, so she quickly

left with Richard.

Once they were in the car, Pearl noticed Mobius sulking in the back seat.

“Why did you say that? You really don’t like her?” she asked.

“Yes! Who would like such a foolish and silly woman?”

“You’re just stubborn. Pray tell me why you care if there’s a guy at her house or not. I never knew you to be so protective.”

Mobius waved his hand dismissively, and Pearl continued, “Besides, you’re upset now because she

lacked you out and kept hanging out with that guy, aren’t you?”

Her question left Mobius speechless.

“Stop assuming things. Tyler is probably still sound asleep there. You’re overthinking it

Richard, however, noted Pearl’s casual remark

On the other hand, Mobius had to admit that he couldn’t stand the thought of Esther being alone with

another guy, even if it was her cousin. But he could only stew in frustration, as he had no right to

interfere in her life. He couldn't quite figure out his feelings.

Suddenly, he looked up at Richard. "Take me to Dark Bar, Rick" Uncertain about his own emotions, he

hoped that a little wine

might help him sort things out

Understanding Mobius's request, Richard didn't object. He drove Mobius to Dark Bar and watched him

go in. After that, he turned to Pearl with an odd look on his face.

Pearl felt a chill run down her spine from his strange gaze and asked, frowning, "What's the matter?"

"Tyler is sleeping soundly? How did you know?"

Hearing that, Pearl's heart skipped a beat. Knowing that it was too late to lie, she explained honestly,

"Wasn't I led to a room? It happened to be Tyler's room, and that's how I saw he was sleeping.

Relief washed over Richard, but a hint of displeasure still lingered

"Why are you still upset?"

Quietly, Richard moved closer to her, but Pearl instinctively pulled back in fear.

"I'm jealous," he confessed.

Stunned, Pearl couldn't comprehend his jealousy. "Why are you jealous?"

Richard's tone softened, but his expression remained somber. "You were alone with him in a room, and you even saw him sleep. I'm jealous of that." He added, "You've never watched me sleep."

Pearl was baffled by his words and found them inexplicably childish

Chapter 269

Richard had shed his solemn attitude and appeared more like a pitiful child who had lost his candy. He even looked at Pearl with a hopeful expression. The stark contrast was rather amusing.

Pearl swallowed slightly before explaining, "That was an accident, and I only took a quick glance. I didn't stare at his face, and I left the room right away."

Satisfied with her explanation, Richard nodded and sat up straight, then drove them back home.

After the exhausting night, they were both still sleepy when they got back. They decided to wash up early and head to bed.

The next morning, when Pearl woke up, she was startled to find Richard sitting before her in a suit.

"F*ck! You scared me!" Pearl cursed, her heart racing from the surprise.

Ignoring her reaction, Richard said, "Both Mobius and Esther are in trouble."

His words instantly banished any lingering sleepiness from Pearl. Wide-eyed, she asked, "What

happened?”

Richard opened his phone’s social media app and showed Pearl the screen without saying a word.

Pearl could see some large, red, and bold words on the screen.

[Young celebrity Esther’s boyfriend caught being intimate with another woman at a late-night bar.

Scandalous!]

The post included details about how Esther and Mobius had met, along with some pictures. There were

images of Esther and Mobius, their accidental k*ss, and a curvaceous woman sitting next to Mobius

while he was having a late-night drink at the bar. Their faces were blurred, but it wouldn’t be difficult for

anyone who knew them to recognize them.

Panicked, Pearl realized that this was a more complicated situation than the accidental k*ss. The post

had already gathered a lot of comments, many of them hurling insults at Esther.

[She’s not a star but a pathetic b*tch.]

[Yeah, she looked bright and charming, but she secretly dated a guy and even got cheated on. Serves

her right!]

[What? My idol is in a relationship? Oh, I don't want to be her fan anymore.]

[Get a grip! You can't date her even if she's single.]

There were also people trying to make matters worse.

[I told you so! She's a wild b*tch. A few days ago, I saw her with her arm around a guy's shoulders near a high school. They seemed quite close, and I'm sure it wasn't Mobius!]

This comment was accompanied by a photo of Esther and Christian from behind.

Despite some people defending Esther, their comments were drowned out by the uproar. Mobius and the unknown woman didn't receive as much criticism, as they weren't public figures with fans. Most of the troublemakers were haters of Esther, seizing the opportunity to tarnish her image.

Pearl first attempted to call Esther, but her line was busy. She then tried calling Mobius, but there was no answer. He might still be asleep, given his intoxication. As for Esther, her agent and fans were probably blowing up her phone by now.

Richard, not well-versed in the entertainment industry, was feeling overwhelmed by the situation.

"Let's go to Esther's house now. Richard, you should also find Mobius and make sure he's not being manipulated again. This must be someone's deliberate scheme. I'll contact Wayne to help investigate

the culprit and get in touch with the public relations department to handle this.”

Pearl’s calm analysis was met with a deep gaze from Richard, which felt somewhat unsettling.

“What’s the matter? Was it... very complicated?” she inquired.

Shaking his head, Richard’s gaze remained fixed on her face. “It sounds like you’re quite familiar with

the dark secrets of the

entertainment industry. Have you ever set up an entertainment company?”

Chapter 270

Chuckling, Pearl found it troublesome since Richard had started doubting her identity again.

Although Richard had no concrete evidence, Pearl couldn’t help but break out in a cold sweat. “No, I

was just being rational. I’m sure it’s not a problem to think fast.”

Richard looked away and spoke casually, “Well, you sounded like someone who runs an entertainment

company.”

Pearl coughed, feeling a bit breathless. “Why would I work for you if that were the case? Stop

overthinking.”

But this time, Richard didn’t agree with her and continued to ponder.

“Alright, let’s stop discussing this. We need to hurry to Esther’s house. After last night’s birthday party, many people now know that she’s the young lady of the Sanders family. I’m worried there might be a crowd outside her house.”

Nodding in agreement, Richard drove Pearl to the Sanders Residence.

The scandal involving Esther caused a five percent drop in the shares of the Sanders Group, a significant hit in the stock market. Tyler, upon learning of the incident, rushed to the company early in the morning to address the crisis. After all, it concerned his beloved sister, and he couldn’t afford to ignore the situation.

Esther, waking up early and reading the news, was on the brink of a mental breakdown. She felt sadness not only due to the negative publicity but also because Mobius had spent the night drinking at a bar and being intimate with another woman.

Seeing Esther’s distress, Christian offered his support by hugging her shoulders and letting her lean into his arms. “It’s alright, Este. Stop worrying. This won’t affect your career. Don’t fret too much.”

Shaking her head, Esther was downcast. “I’m not worried about that.”

but “What are you worried about then? Is it Mobius, who was out late with another woman? I told you he’s not a good guy, you didn’t listen. See, I was right.” Christian’s words did little to comfort Esther and only added to her sadness.

Suddenly, a housekeeper knocked and entered the room. Seeing Esther’s gloomy expression, she said, “There’s a lot of people out there, Miss Esther, making it hard for Miss Pearl and Mister Richard’s car to come through.”

Esther’s face lit up instantly. “Pearl is here?”

“Yes, they’re outside. I wanted to ask if we should open the back door to let them in.”

Esther nodded. “Please do. Tell them to be discreet so the others won’t notice.” If those fans and reporters knew that Pearl and Richard were here, they might be implicated too.

Christian, displeased, watched as Esther eagerly awaited Pearl’s arrival and snorted. “Quit overthinking it. Mobius probably had too much to drink last night and can’t come now.”

Esther lowered her head, a hint of disappointment flitting past her eyes.

So, when Pearl and Richard walked in, they found Esther sitting on the sofa, looking utterly dejected.

“Oh, Pearl.” Esther spotted Pearl and threw herself into her arms, sobbing uncontrollably.

“Don’t cry. I know what happened, and it’s going to be fine. We’ll find a way to resolve this.”

Esther shook her head. “I was on the phone with my agent, and the company is threatening to terminate my contract if I can’t resolve this scandal within three days. What should I do? I don’t know how to fix it.”

Every photo was real, including her feelings for Mobius. Everything was real except that she was not dating Mobius. It would be impossible for the public relations department to explain that.

“Let me ask you one thing, Este. Did you tell others about this?”

“About what?” Esther was stupefied.

“About you having a crush on Mobius.”