

YOUR GUISE 351

Chapter 351

Suddenly, Raymond smiled as he didn't expect such a reason. "Why?"

Seeing that they were alone, Ezra decided to share more. He began to explain slowly, "You see, I had another daughter aside from Pearl's mother, but she was a recluse. Most people didn't know about her, so they thought I had only one daughter, but..."

Ezra's expression shifted, his gaze growing intense. "One night, Richard's uncle took liberties with her when he was drunk, driving her insane. That very night, she jumped off a building and ended her own life. Given this history, I cannot allow Pearl to marry Richard under any circumstances."

This tragic incident had been buried for a long time, and Ezra had always dealt with it coldly. Back then, he had made great efforts to send Richard's uncle to jail and keep the matter hushed up, as it was a deeply embarrassing family affair. Consequently, the younger generation remained unaware of it.

A pang of sorrow gripped Ezra as he recounted this painful memory.

Raymond, sensing Ezra's grief, found it inappropriate to dwell on the matter further. He offered some casual advice and took his leave.

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In the days that followed, Ezra would frequently praise Raymond whenever he met Pearl. However, Pearl was reluctant to engage in this topic with him, and eventually, she decided to stay in the hospital to take care of Blake.

Lying in the hospital bed, Pearl snacked on nuts and played mobile games, enjoying her leisurely time.

Stunned, Blake asked, "Could you be a bit more considerate, Pearl?"

Pearl, focused on her game with earphones on, hadn't heard him. It was only when Blake tugged at her earphones and said, "Can you show me some respect, Pearl?" that she finally noticed him.

Still absorbed in her mobile game, she replied absentmindedly, "What's wrong, Blake? I rushed here to take care of you."

"But you took over my bed. What about me?" Blake complained through gritted teeth.

Having achieved a Pentakill, Pearl turned to Blake. He stood there in a hospital gown, IV drip in hand, his expression gloomy.

In stark contrast, Pearl had been lounging comfortably in Blake's hospital bed...

Catching a glimpse of her phone screen, she flashed an awkward smile and quickly got up from the

bed. "I'm sorry. I'm used to lying in bed while playing mobile games."

Blake grumbled, "You took over my bed while I was in the bathroom. Aren't you supposed to be taking care of me..."

"Alright, I was just lying down for a moment. Don't be so stingy."

Blake's smile returned, though traces of gloom still lingered in his eyes. "Humph!"

While they bickered, a white-clad figure briskly entered the room.

Upon seeing Raymond, Pearl realized that she would have to confront him sooner or later.

Raymond greeted her, saying, "You're here too, Pearl?" He had adjusted the way he addressed her, transitioning from the formal "Miss Pearl" to using her name directly.

Pearl mustered a forced smile and replied, "Why can't I be here?"

Her retort didn't seem to faze Raymond, who maintained his composure. "Of course not. It's written in stars for us."

"Really? I think it's bad luck," Pearl rudely talked back to him.

Blake's smile stiffened because of Pearl's disgraceful words. He thought that even if she disliked Raymond, she didn't have to be so rude.

However, Raymond appeared unconcerned by her behavior. He turned his attention to Blake and asked with concern, "Are you feeling better? I meant to visit you when I heard about your injury, but other matters got in the way."

Chapter 352

"I'm fine. Thanks to Pearl," Blake reassured Raymond. Given their families' long-standing friendship and their shared childhood, he found Raymond quite friendly.

Pearl, however, couldn't hide her disdain and sneered, "If I knew you two were teaming up, I would have added something extra to make you feel even worse!" She had assumed Blake was on her side, only to discover that he was childhood friends with that hypocrite.

Blake grinned slyly, clearly enjoying the situation. "I'd be the first to support Grandfather if he decided to pair you two up!"

His comment earned him incredulous looks from both Pearl and Raymond. Raymond appeared surprised, while Pearl's gaze was... filled with malice.

“Don’t forget, Blake, I still have control over your treatment. If you keep pushing it, I might accidentally prescribe something that’ll poison you to death,” Pearl threatened.

Blake quickly lowered his voice and hunched his shoulders. “I’m only thinking of you, Pearl. Raymond is filthy rich, and he’s my childhood friend. I can vouch for his character...”

Brandishing a fruit knife, Pearl’s smile was devious. Blake immediately kept quiet upon seeing the knife.

‘Alright, I’ll take my leave if Pearl doesn’t want me here,’ Raymond said, rising to his feet with a serious expression.

Pearl smiled. “Bye.”

Blake watched Raymond’s retreating figure thoughtfully. Finally, he remarked, “I’ve never seen him like that before. In the past, he would have sought vengeance on anyone who dared to bully him.”

Pearl feigned surprise. “Is he a gangster or something?”

Blake rolled his eyes. “I’m just saying, Pearl, I think it’s not good for you to be with Richard.”

“Why’s that?”

Blake let out a sigh. "You know Grandfather doesn't like Richard. If you two end up together, you'll face many obstacles, and it won't be just you suffering."

Touched by Blake's concern, Pearl nodded.

"Do you think there's trouble for Waldorf Enterprises for no reason? You're smart, Pearl. I'm sure you can figure it out," Blake continued.

Pearl began to understand more after his advice.

"Listen to Grandfather if you care about what's best for Richard. Richard's the one who's going to struggle in silence." Even though Blake wasn't fond of Richard due to his weird temper, he kept his opinions to himself since Richard was genuinely kind to Pearl. Besides, he wasn't the type to interfere in someone else's relationship.

"Why are you so concerned about Richard? Did he give you something good?" Pearl raised an eyebrow, curious about Blake's unexpected interest.

Blake's lips twitched. "Can't you see it in a positive light, Pearl?"

Confused, Pearl tilted her head and asked, "Ugh, are you in love with him?"

For a moment, Blake was at a loss for words, then eventually chose to stay silent on the matter.

Despite this, he did encourage Pearl to return to Enswood.

After bidding Blake farewell, Pearl headed to Bodgow Airport alone. After purchasing her ticket and waiting at the boarding gate, she was approached by members of the Jordan family's staff, who had tracked her down.

The family's butler stepped forward, wiping his brow nervously. "Miss Pearl, please stop running around. Come back with me, if you will."

Chapter 353

"So, you're telling me that I can't go anywhere now, and I have to stay in Bodgow?" Pearl questioned the butler with a cold stare.

The butler was struck speechless before he carefully explained, "Well, yes, technically you should stay in Bodgow, but in reality..."

Pearl stood up, her irritation evident. "What's your plan then? Are you going to grab me and drag me back?"

"No, I would never-"

"Then don't meddle in my affairs. I am the granddaughter of the Jordan family, not a criminal on death

row," Pearl snapped, her patience wearing thin. It was the first time she found the butler so

bothersome, and her frustration showed.

"Please, Miss Pearl, don't make things difficult for me. I'm just an employee trying to make a living for my family. I don't know what to do if you act like this..." The butler's appeal came out softly, but it was a public scene, and his distress was palpable.

Pearl had not expected the butler to create a scene, especially as he was in his fifties. Although he was not raising his voice, it was undeniably embarrassing.

"Fine, I won't leave. Stop crying. How can you cry like this in public, considering your age?" Pearl relented, feeling a mixture of annoyance and pity for the butler.

Relief washed over the butler when Pearl gave in. "Okay, let me give you a ride back home, Miss Pearl."

"Home?" Pearl mused, tapping her chin. She asked thoughtfully, "So, as long as I don't leave Bodgow, that's what Master Jordan wants?"

The butler nodded in a daze, puzzled by her question.

“So, he can’t interfere no matter how much time I spend outside, right?” Pearl continued, seemingly leading the butler into a trap.

The butler, seemingly unaware, subconsciously nodded.

Pearl tore up the plane ticket she was holding and discarded it into a nearby trash can. Alright, I’ve torn up the ticket, and I won’t go anywhere. You can stop following me now.”

However, the butler was dubious. “You’re not lying, right?”

“Of course not.” She felt her main task now was to placate the butler rather than defy him, considering she couldn’t defeat the group of people he had brought with him.

“Okay, Miss Pearl. I’ll go back now,” the butler said, appearing satisfied as if he believed Pearl had grown more obedient.

Little did he know that he would later regret having such thoughts when he had to search the city for Pearl. He should have forcibly taken her home then.

When Pearl returned to the hospital, she saw Blake sitting in bed and watching a game. She stood at the door and accused him coldly, “Did you rat me out, Blake?!”

“What? What are you talking about?” Blake was taken aback by the sudden accusation, his agitation

apparent.

Pearl leaned against the doorframe, trying to affect him. "Oh, so you admit you did it?"

Blake reiterated his innocence, "What are you even talking about?"

"Oh, are you offering me a private helicopter ride, then?"

"What would you need a helicopter for?" Blake narrowed his eyes suspiciously. "Let me guess. You wanted to go back to Enswood to see Richard, but Grandfather's men intercepted you, right?"

"You're smart." Pearl gave Blake a thumbs-up.

"You're daring, Pearl. You know that Grandfather is keeping a close watch on you, yet you still want to return to Enswood at this critical point."

Chapter 354

Blake knew Ezra very well, and he was aware of the risks involved in Pearl's plan. He also recognized that Pearl's actions might even infuriate Ezra.

Smirking, Pearl said, "I've thought it through. Although he's forbidden me from returning to Enswood, he can't keep an eye on me all the time. You can tell him that Glenn has borrowed your helicopter for some fun. When Master Ezra asks about me, just say that I've been staying here with you."

Pearl was the only one who could come up with such a bold idea.

Heaving a sigh, Blake commented, "I don't know who you take after. You're so stubborn and willful."

Stunned, Pearl tried to figure that out. Her father, James, had always been gentle and had a knack for mediating conflicts when he was in town. It led her to believe that she might have inherited her mother's fiery temper.

"Stop hesitating, Blake. It's a deal!"

Blake agreed, even though it would be the first time he had ever told such a big lie to Ezra. Yet, he felt surprisingly calm, almost exhilarated by the thrill of doing something forbidden.

Coincidentally, Blake's helicopter was at Glenn's place, so Pearl headed there.

When Glenn saw Pearl, a flicker of emotion crossed his eyes. "Blake just called me. Are you planning to sneak back to Enswood on this private helicopter?"

"Yeah, I haven't been back there in a long time, and I miss the people and things there," Pearl replied eagerly, eager to return to Richard as quickly as possible.

Glenn couldn't help but chuckle. "You don't need to explain. I know it must be because of Richard."

Acknowledging it, Pearl smiled at Glenn. "Yes, absence does make the heart grow fonder."

"Mhm, you're right," Glenn agreed, but a trace of sadness clouded his gaze as he stared at the fallen leaves on the ground.

Sensing that something might be bothering him, Pearl decided not to press further. "Alright, I won't keep you any longer. Bye."

After getting the private helicopter, she was about to leave.

"Pearl," suddenly Glenn stopped her. She turned around abruptly, her charming face a painting in his eyes.

He wanted to ask if she would have fallen in love with him had he met her first, but the words wouldn't come out. Instead, he simply said, "Call me if you need anything. Safe travels."

He had resolved to be her friend and offer help whenever she needed it.

"Okay, bye!"

Unaware of this, Pearl continued on her way, not noticing the usually bright and optimistic Glenn had suddenly become melancholic behind her.

A few hours later, Pearl landed at the Cerubleu headquarters. She had acquired a flying license while

abroad and was quite skilled at flying.

Wayne had suggested throwing a welcome party for Pearl, as he had learned of her return. However,

Pearl brushed off the idea and headed straight for Waldorf Enterprises, wanting to surprise Richard.

What she encountered when she opened the door to the president's office, however, left her

momentarily speechless. She hadn't expected to find another woman there.

She managed to stammer, "Richard, what a surprise!" It was beyond her imagination that the woman

that she was worried about finally appeared.

Jenny, Richard's first love, was seated near him, playfully holding onto his arm. On the other hand, the

man Pearl had been yearning for appeared visibly annoyed and gloomy.

Upon seeing Pearl unexpectedly, Richard pushed Jenny away, who had been clinging to him, and

rushed over to hug Pearl. "You're back!"

Pearl purposely hugged him tightly and teased, "Yeah, I came back to see how you fool around with a

vixen behind my back."

Chapter 355

"Pearl, I have nothing to do with her." Richard gave Pearl a firmer hug to reassure her. Confident in his

innocence, he had no reason to feel timid.

After that, he turned and drove Jenny away. "You should leave, and don't make me repeat myself." The contrast in his attitude was clear.

Pearl released her hold on Richard and took a seat on the sofa. "Isn't this Jenny? I know her. Don't send her away just yet since she's come all the way from afar. We should be hospitable to our guest."

Richard was aware that a potential storm was brewing, even though Pearl didn't display any immediate anger. He understood the reason behind it.

Gracefully, Jenny approached Pearl and greeted her with a friendly smile. "Hello, I'm Jenny Sullivan."

She extended her hand, behaving like a noble young lady.

However, Pearl didn't shake hands with Jenny and instead sneered, "Miss Jenny, you're quite polite.

Why were you acting so flirtatious with someone else's boyfriend?"

Undaunted, Jenny seemed hurt but continued, "Miss Pearl, I understand that you're Rick's girlfriend, but we're just good friends. I'm sure you won't be jealous of his friend, right?"

Pearl couldn't help but notice the contradiction in Jenny's words. How could she justify holding her

friend's hand and swaying it coquettishly?

Pearl didn't want to expose Jenny, but she also couldn't tolerate her behavior. So, she let out a

sarcastic comment, saying, "Today, you're just his friend, but who knows what you'll become tomorrow?"

It's the kind of thing we see on TV all the time. Well, Miss Jenny, you sure know

how to have fun.

"

"Miss Pearl, I understand you're upset, but how can you be Rick's wife if you can't accept my current friendship with him?" Jenny seemed to derive pleasure from Pearl's irritation.

She had been away for only a few years, and Richard was already involved with someone else. It was something she couldn't accept. However, she couldn't be as confrontational as Pearl. Her strategy was to use gentleness to win over Richard and make him see her as the most caring and considerate person.

"I don't want to hear her explanations, Richard. I want to hear yours," Pearl said, casting a coquettish look in Richard's direction.

Richard completely ignored Jenny, saying indifferently, "She and I aren't even friends."

"Rick, am I really that unbearable?" Jenny asked through gritted teeth, her eyes welling up with tears.

Richard remained silent, and his silence was an indirect confirmation of her words.

This caused Jenny to break down, and she began crying, her shoulders trembling. "Rick, I can accept what she said, but don't misunderstand me. We've been together for so long. You should know me the best--"

"You abandoned our love for the sake of so-called prospects. That's who you are," Richard said coldly.

He then walked over to Pearl, his icy expression replaced by warmth as he smiled

affectionately at her. "Are you tired?"

Jenny found this intolerable, as Richard was showing no interest in her. There was nothing she could

do now except suffer in silence. She believed that she had to endure all these grievances to win

Richard back

"No, I'm not tired, but talking to this woman is exhausting." Pearl playfully stuck out her tongue, looking

adorable and genuine. She was clearly a stark contrast to Jenny's

pretentiousness.

“Alright, let’s go grab a bite.” Richard did not even look at Jenny.

“Where are you going to eat? It just so happens that Hugo wants to meet up. How about we...”

Jenny looked eager, hoping they wouldn’t spend time alone with each other.

Chapter 356

Pearl turned and smiled. “Richard, the little b*tch wants to eat with us. What do you think? Should we invite her along?”

Richard draped his jacket on Pearl and said indifferently, “I don’t like eating with a b*tch.”

After that, he hugged Pearl and led her away.

“Wait, Pear!!” Watching their backs, Jenny hoped to scratch Pearl’s face so the latter could not seduce

Richard.

At that moment, her phone began to ring. When she saw the caller ID flashing on her screen, the

hatred in her eyes gradually gave way to a smile.

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At the restaurant, Pearl’s smile faded as she spoke to Richard. “Richard, Jenny mentioned that Hugo

wanted to meet up with her. Since when does Hugo show so much interest in a woman?”

“Before Jenny and I started dating, Hugo would always find excuses to spend time with her. But one day, he came back looking gloomy and stopped going out alone with her after that,” Richard recounted, vaguely recalling that Hugo might have had feelings for Jenny at some point.

It could be that Hugo never openly expressed his feelings or simply lacked the courage to do

1.

“I guess Hugo’s frustrations and resentment have been building up over the years,” Pearl mused, about to inquire further into the past when she heard familiar laughter.

“Oh, there’s my dear brother and Pearl!” Hugo’s voice rang out as he walked over with Jenny.

Observing them chatting as they walked over, Pearl couldn’t help but think that Hugo and Jenny made a good pair, disregarding Jenny’s ulterior motives regarding Richard.

“It’s been a while. Why don’t we all sit together?” Hugo suggested politely, reaching for a vacant seat.

Jenny moved to sit down as well, but Pearl interjected, “Did we agree to that? Why are you joining us?”

She didn't believe that Hugo wanted to get closer to them. Plus, she suspected he might be seeking retribution for her having secretly taken his ginkgo.

To her surprise, Hugo paid no attention to her and instead looked past Jenny, smiling broadly. "Here you are. Come and take a seat!"

Pearl followed Hugo's gaze and saw the other three sons of the Waldorf family. What could have brought them here?

Jenny's discomfort seemed to dissipate instantly, and she smiled, saying, "The Waldorfs treated me very well when I was dating Rick. Now that I'm back, I thought it would be nice to invite them for a get-together and share a meal..."

Mobius, who had a quick temper, couldn't help but mock Hugo when he saw his forced smile. Why is this ungrateful Hugo here?"

Sean, who had come because Jenny had been kind to him in the past, smiled and jokingly said, "I guess there's one non-Waldorf among us."

Jenny had heard about their family issues, so she tried to mediate. "Hugo isn't what

I invited you all here to mend the relationships among you, as brothers..."

you think

Pearl couldn't stand Jenny's feigned peacemaking expression. She retorted, "What does an outsider

like

you know about their family matters?"

Chapter 357

"I had good intentions. Besides, you're an outsider too, Pearl..." Jenny said, her head hung in a guise

of grievance.

"She's my fiancée. How can you even compare to her?" Richard's statement silenced

everyone.

Jenny was the one hurt the most by his words, and she cried as if she had been wronged. "Rick, our

feelings for each other in the past were genuine, even if you dislike me now. Why are you being so

cruel to me?"

Pearl couldn't resist making sarcastic comments about Jenny's behavior. "Miss Jenny, you're talking

about past feelings in front of his girlfriend. Why don't you explain the reason behind his cruelty?"

Of course, Richard was visibly disgusted.

“1...” Jenny looked down, hiding the hatred in her eyes.

Hugo stepped forward as a peacemaker. “Let’s put the past behind us. After all, Richard and Pearl are a couple now. I’m sure Jen wishes them well too.”

Jenny nodded with gratitude.

Hugo continued, “Dad’s birthday party is coming up in a few days. I plan to go home and celebrate with him.”

Mobius clenched his fists. “Go home? How dare you even think of it, Hugo? You angered Dad so much the other day, and I haven’t held you accountable for that. You have the audacity to come back to us!”

Sean gave Hugo a cold glance and remarked, “Stop bothering with such a shameless person. I don’t even know what he’s up to.”

It appeared that the Waldorfs had long considered Hugo an eyesore.

However, Hugo paid no attention to their comments, and he departed with a gentle and composed smile. “Well, it’s settled then. I’ll be on my way. See you the day after tomorrow.”

After that, he got up to leave.

The atmosphere among the other Waldorfs improved once he was gone.

Jenny quickly served some food onto Mobius's plate to save face. "Come on, eat. Don't just sit there. I

remember that you love roast pork the most..."

Mobius was still in a daze as he replied, "Thank you, sis."

"You're welcome. Enjoy your meal," Jenny beamed, behaving like the gracious hostess, then turned to

look at Pearl smugly.

Sean, quick on the uptake, gave Mobius a stern look. "What did you say?"

Mobius realized his mistake and awkwardly glanced at Pearl from the corner of his eye. "I'm sorry, I

misspoke."

Pearl couldn't hide her disgust for Jenny. She narrowed her eyes and taunted, "Why is Miss

Jenny acting so natural in serving others? If I recall correctly, I'm the one paying for this meal. If I don't

like it, I can ask her to leave."

Everyone knew exactly what she meant, and Jenny would have to be incredibly dense not to catch

that.

Unfortunately, Jenny pretended to be confused. "But I remember Rick went and paid for it just now. I'm

sure... it's not your treat, right, Miss Pearl?"

Pearl playfully nudged Richard with her shoulder and raised an eyebrow. "It's my treat, he's footing the bill. Is that a problem?"

but

Richard wiped his mouth and calmly replied, "No." His response was a clear show of support for Pearl.

Enraged, Jenny stood up and sobbed. "If you all hate me this much, then I'll leave."

Slowly, Pearl answered, "It's good that you're aware of that, but it's a little too late."

As Jenny took her first step towards leaving, she slipped and fell in Richard's direction.

Despite his dislike for her, Richard couldn't ignore her falling and moved to help her...

Bang!

Quick as lightning, Pearl reached out and prevented Jenny from hitting the floor face-first.

Chapter 358

"I know that I've exposed you, Miss Jenny, but there's no need for such a humble bow. You're a star.

You shouldn't be torturing your face like this," Pearl said, her expression innocent and harmless, which

filled Jenny with indignation and helplessness.

Lying on Pearl's lap, Jenny was in a pitiable state. She forced herself to get up and attempted to smooth her disheveled hair, hoping the ground would swallow her whole. Falling in front of so many people was a deeply humiliating experience.

"I'm leaving," Jenny announced, her urgency more pronounced than Hugo's departure, making it seem like she was running away.

After Jenny had left, Mobius kept his head down with an apologetic expression. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to address her that way..."

Unconcerned, Pearl waved it off. "It's okay. You're still a kid."

Mobius rolled his eyes in response. "No, I'm not. I'm all grown up now."

Staring at him, Pearl asked, "How's Este doing?" It had been a while since she had last been in touch with Esther, and she wasn't aware of her recent activities.

"Her cousin isn't actually her biological cousin and was always at her house. She couldn't take it anymore, so she's currently staying at one of my villas," Mobius explained.

Shocked, Pearl questioned, "You guys are living together?"

Mobius turned beet red. "I said she's staying in my villa, not that we're living together!"

"Este is still young. Please don't take advantage of her," Pearl admonished.

Of course, everyone understood what she meant.

Sean playfully patted Mobius on the head and wore a mischievous smile. "I don't have a girlfriend yet,

but you're living with yours. You're really something."

Mobius blushed even more, with his ears and the back of his neck turning red.

Pearl then shifted the conversation back to a more serious note. "Alright, I won't tease you anymore.

Take her back home tomorrow because I need to talk to her about something."

Mobius nodded and remained silent, avoiding any further awkwardness.

"It's getting late, and we've almost finished our meal. Let's head home," Hanzel, who had been quietly

sitting in a corner, suddenly spoke up.

It was then that Pearl finally noticed him. Feeling guilty, she asked, "How has it been at Brilliance

Entertainment lately?"

"Pretty good," Hanzel replied, although he now seemed more reserved compared to his previous

charming and seductive attitude.

Pearl didn't press for more details and decided to leave it at that. She returned to the Waldorf Residence with the four brothers.

Upon arriving home, Dustan appeared uneasy when he saw Pearl.

"I've been away for quite some time, Mister Dustan. Did you miss me?" Smiling, Pearl sat near Dustan, striking up a conversation with him.

Dustan's smile seemed forced. "Welcome back, Pearl."

"What's the matter? You don't look well." Pearl noticed something amiss in Dustan's expression.

Dustan shook his head. "I'm fine. It's just that it's been a while, and I'm not sure what to say."

Of course, it wasn't what Dustan had said that concerned Pearl. For now, she decided to keep it to herself and smiled, pondering the situation.

Chapter 359

For the next two days, Dustan inexplicably avoided Pearl, leaving her feeling confused and helpless.

Dustan's birthday party soon arrived, and it attracted many upper-class attendees due to the Waldorfs' respected and renowned status in Enswood.

The four young Waldorf brothers dressed in suits, standing in the grand hall, drew the attention of numerous young women.

“The Waldorf brothers are so handsome. They really have great genes.”

“Indeed. Aren’t you jealous of Pearl? As the Waldorf family’s fiancée, she can have any one of them.”

“But she’s already dating Richard, the most outstanding one among them. The others are still single, though. Doesn’t that mean we have a chance with them?”

“I’ll choose Hanzel. He looks so charming when he smiles!”

Listening to their banter, Pearl turned to Richard and clicked her tongue. “The most outstanding Richard, quite a bold praise!”

Richard, with a calm expression, glanced at her, and his face turned serious. “Is there something wrong with their comments?”

“Well, I didn’t know you were such a narcissist.” But Pearl stopped there because, in all honesty, Richard was indeed outstanding.

Suddenly, the entrance doors burst open, and all eyes turned to a woman in haute couture attire and

delicate makeup. Applause and cheers filled the room as she entered.

Jenny, wearing a bright smile, greeted everyone warmly before making her way to Dustan and

presenting him with a gift. "Wishing you a long and prosperous life, Mister Dustan."

The gift she handed over was an exquisite watch adorned with rare gems, a one-of-a-kind piece that was difficult to obtain.

Grinning from ear to ear, Dustan said, "You're so thoughtful. Thank you, Jen."

"That's the least I can do. After all, you treated me like a daughter when I was dating Rick. I'm truly grateful to you."

Reporters immediately surrounded them, their cameras flashing and recording, as Jenny's statement was newsworthy. The fact that Jenny, a famous star, had once dated Richard, the eldest son of the Waldorf family, was sure to be a hot topic.

However, the young women in attendance had mixed reactions. Some began to look at Pearl differently.

"Ugh, do you think Pearl is a homewrecker? Jenny is so pretty and graceful. She's a star too. Everyone adores her!"

Esther was among the group and couldn't help but interject, "What are you talking about? Pearl is so excellent. How would she be a homewrecker?"

"Jenny is an international superstar with fans worldwide, even in Fuance. Pearl is just known in our country. There's no comparison, really."

Furious, Esther refuted, "Pearl is far superior to Jenny in many aspects. Besides, she doesn't aspire to be a star. If she did, Jenny would be easily surpassed."

"Yeah, but Jenny was Richard's girlfriend once, and there hasn't been any scandal about Richard since then. Jenny is his first love..."

First love was always hard to forget and let go. Even a man like Richard was no exception.

Esther was left speechless and turned to Richard and Pearl for support.

Standing nearby, Richard and Pearl had heard everything. However, Pearl didn't seem bothered. In

fact, she appeared quite pleased, as if nothing had happened.

Chapter 360

Curious, Richard leaned into Pearl's ear and whispered, "Aren't you mad?"

"Do you think I'm that worse off?" Being generous, Pearl felt that it was unnecessary to get angry since

her boyfriend was not snatched away.

Chuckling, Richard agreed, "Yeah, you're not bad."

Pearl was a woman of many talents-a top hacker, a skilled car racer, a talented singer, the president of Cerubleu, a designer, and a good e-sports player. With these accomplishments, she didn't need to argue with anyone. Her charisma spoke for itself.

"I'll just ignore them since facts speak louder than words, and justice will be on my side. But if they can't understand, then..." Pearl shrugged, indicating that it was pointless to argue with those who couldn't understand.

"Exactly the woman I fell in love with." Richard smiled and affectionately hugged her waist. Their intimacy caught the attention of those around them, silencing the discussions.

Richard excused himself to the restroom, leaving Pearl sitting on the sofa, checking her social media.

Seizing the opportunity, Jenny approached Pearl after congratulating Dustan. "Pearl, what did you get for Mister Dustan?" Her loud voice attracted the others.

Pearl smiled. "Nothing much. Just a small gift."

“A small gift?” Jenny asked, exaggerating it. “It’s Mister Dustan’s birthday, and you only got him a small gift? Considering how kind he’s been to you, that’s rather thoughtless.”

Pearl didn’t want to engage with Jenny, but it seemed the latter enjoyed provoking her.

“I see,” Jenny continued, taking advantage of the situation. “Perhaps Mister Dustan doesn’t care much about you because he’s always thinking of me. I can’t help it either...”

“Are you done?” Pearl spoke calmly. “What kind of gift did you buy then, Miss Jenny?”

“Oh, it’s nothing much,” Jenny said casually. “I bought him a watch.” Then, she emphasized, as if to ensure Pearl was aware, “It’s called ‘Rupert’s Heart.’ It’s not very expensive, but it’s one-of-a-kind in the world. I thought it would suit Mister Dustan.”

Pearl’s eyebrows twitched as she burst into laughter. “Didn’t that ‘Rupert’s Heart’ watch have a mysterious buyer last year, and its current whereabouts are unknown? I wonder where you managed to find it, Miss Jenny.”

“Well, I happen to be friends with that mysterious buyer,” Jenny replied confidently, slightly tilting her chin up. “He was abroad at the time, and we happened to cross paths. He then sold me the watch.”

“What a coincidence!” Pearl smirked, thoroughly enjoying herself. “That mysterious buyer happens to

be the vice president of my company. Are you friends with Wayne?"

Wayne had a habit of collecting watches, and he would often show off his new acquisitions to Pearl.

Jenny, of course, had no knowledge of Wayne, but she nodded as though she did. "Yeah, that's him."

"Great, I'll give him a call right now to confirm," Pearl said as she reached for her phone. "We can also find out where the watch actually is."

Stunned, Jenny realized her lies would be exposed if Pearl made that call. She wasn't that foolish, so she desperately tried to stop Pearl. "Wait, please. It's been a long time since I saw him. He might have forgotten all about me if you ask."

"Miss Jenny, you're a big star. How could he forget you?" Pearl replied, unfazed. She didn't stop and began looking for Wayne's WhatsApp.

Jenny's smile stiffened. She felt that Pearl was intentionally trying to humiliate her.