

YOUR GUISE 361

Chapter 361

“Yeah, you’re a big star. I’m sure he won’t forget about you. You’re just too humble, Jenny,” one of

Jenny’s fans chimed in.

Another added, “Yeah, no one could be that forgetful! I would remember you for the rest of my life if it

was me!”

The young women surrounding them were devoted fans of Jenny. They believed she was simply being

modest when they saw her conflicted expression.

“See? Everyone thinks you’re just lacking confidence... Ah, no, they think you’re humble. I’m just going

to make a quick call, Miss Jenny. It won’t be a big deal.” Pearl smiled brightly.

Jenny gnashed her teeth and didn’t dare to say anything more.

When the video call connected, Wayne was at home, trying to catch some sleep. Despite his

drowsiness, he still looked handsome.

“What’s wrong, Miss Pearl?”

Jenny had been hoping it might be her contact, but she was disappointed when she saw Wayne’s

face.

“Do you have Rupert’s Heart with you?” Pearl asked.

Wayne sipped some water to wake himself up. “Yeah, why?”

“There’s a woman here who claims you sold her the watch. Can you verify if it’s her?” Pearl turned her phone’s camera toward Jenny as she spoke.

Wayne observed Jenny’s awkward smile and immediately frowned. “Who is this woman? I never sell the watches I collect. You know that, right?”

“Okay, can you show us that watch?” Pearl wanted to make sure no one would accuse her of lying.

Things would get worse if Jenny tried to fool others and slander her.

“Okay.” Although Wayne was puzzled, he took out the watch from his collection cabinet.

Everyone was thunderstruck the moment he opened the box. The watch gleamed with an extraordinary luster, emitting a faint blue glow, and had a ruby embedded in the center. It was even more dazzling than the one Jenny had given Dustan.

“Alright, I’m going back to bed,” Wayne said, waving before hanging up.

“Eh?” Seeing Jenny’s displeased expression, Pearl asked in confusion, “Where did you get that watch

from, Miss Jenny?”

Jenny stammered, “I... I did buy it from someone, and I spent a few tens of millions. But I didn’t expect...”

“Yeah, it’s not important whether you bought a counterfeit item or not,” Pearl interjected. “What’s important is whether you knowingly bought a counterfeit item. That’s the most disgraceful part!” She wore a wicked grin. “Why do you look so upset, Miss Jenny? Are you going to faint? Well, it might be for the best. You won’t have to worry about what others think.”

“Of course not. I’m willing-” Jenny was about to faint, but Pearl’s words left her at a loss. If she fainted, she’d fall right into Pearl’s trap.

“You’re willing to apologize, right? You’re a public figure, and it wouldn’t look good if the media exposed this.” It looked like Pearl was reminding Jenny, but she was reminding the reporters nearby that they could make a big story out of the incident.

Immediately, the reporters caught on, raising their cameras to snap photos and take notes.

“Go ahead and apologize before the media gets hold of it,” Pearl urged Jenny with a fake smile.

Resigned to her fate, Jenny hung her head and began sobbing pitifully. "I'm sorry. I didn't knowingly buy a counterfeit item. I just wanted to give Mister Dustan a surprise..."

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When the surrounding people saw Jenny's tears, their hearts softened.

"Why don't we just stop making a fuss about this? She meant well, and she couldn't have known it was fake."

"Yeah, Jenny isn't that kind of person. I trust her."

Jenny felt a sense of relief as those around her empathized with her tears, so she continued to cry, hoping to gain even more sympathy

Pearl stepped forward and attempted to comfort Jenny. "Come on, Miss Jenny, please stop crying.

People might think I'm bullying you!"

Jenny sniffed. "Pearl, I know you hate me, but there's no need to be so harsh."

Pearl burst into laughter. "I'm harsh? Miss Jenny, shouldn't you have had the item appraised for authenticity right after you bought it? You're a public figure, and any mishap could affect your career.

Jenny couldn't take it anymore. She had to feign weakness even though she was panicking inwardly.

"Look at Pearl! She always speaks so harshly, but Jenny is always so gentle. So what if she bought a fake item? Who can guarantee they won't make a mistake in their lifetime?"

"So, are you saying you've bought a fake item before?" Pearl turned to the young woman who had spoken. She came from a privileged background but dressed in a flashy manner.

The young woman snorted. "Well, yes, everyone makes mistakes sometimes, and it's just an accident."

Pearl found it quite amusing and looked at the young woman with disdain. "I'm sorry to break it to you, but not everyone is like you. I passed the appraiser test when I was sixteen, and I've never bought a fake item. Not everyone is careless and unapologetic about it."

The young woman felt humiliated but couldn't come up with a retort.

Jenny, feeling defeated, kept her head down. "Pearl, people make mistakes. Try not to be so harsh."

But how could Jenny ask Pearl to be lenient, considering their history?

Looking at Jenny, Pearl offered some advice, "You should be more cautious in the future, Miss Jenny.

Don't let yourself be caught in such situations again."

Jenny shot Pearl a fierce glare and left, feeling crestfallen.

When it was over, Pearl stretched and noticed that Richard had returned. He could tell from her victorious expression that something had happened

“Did she give you trouble again?” Richard picked up a cake from a tray nearby and fed it to her.

Satisfied, Pearl narrowed her eyes. “Yeah, but it’s fine. She can’t defeat me.”

“I know, but try not to confront her.” Richard knew that Pearl was strong-willed, but he still had his concerns.

Pinching Richard’s cheeks, Pearl playfully dismissed his worries. “What’s the matter? Are you feeling sorry for your first love and afraid I’ll bully her?”

“No, I’m just worried about you. She’s now a famous star in the country. Her stupid fans won’t let you off the hook if you offend her.” Richard shook his head, and all he could see was the adorable woman in front of him.

However, Pearl wasn’t afraid in the slightest. In fact, she was more concerned that Jenny’s antics would harm her own reputation in Enswood.

“Hugo is coming today, isn’t he?” Pearl asked.

Pursing his lips, Richard’s expression turned serious. “Yeah, but I’m not sure if he’ll show up or not.”

Shocked, Pearl wondered how Hugo would react in the presence of so many reporters if he did come.

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Speaking of the devil, before Pearl and Richard could chat further, there was suddenly a bigger

commotion at the door. Hugo, dressed in a white suit, stood tall and conspicuous.

However, instead of greeting Dustan, Hugo approached Pearl and Richard. “I heard from Jen that Pearl

deliberately targeted her just now. What’s the meaning of this?”

Jenny had apparently complained to Hugo about the incident, and he had come to scold Pearl.

How ridiculous!

“No, I didn’t deliberately target her.” Pearl yawned and said calmly, “She came over to provoke me, so I

responded. It just so happens that her birthday gift to Mister Dustan turned out to be a fake.”

Hugo forced a smile. “Even if her gift was fake, her intentions were good. You know she’s a public

figure, but you always humiliate her in public”

Pearl couldn’t understand why she was in the wrong. Staring at Hugo with disdain, Pearl said harshly,

“Hugo, it’s your business if you want to defend her because you like her. But I don’t. Please don’t mention her in front of me again.”

Pearl’s unexpected harshness caught him off guard. Stiffening, he muttered, “What a vulgar woman you are!”

“Excuse me?” Suddenly, Richard’s eyes turned icy. He stepped in front of Pearl, clearly displeased.

Hugo ignored him and coldly glared at Pearl before turning and walking over to Dustan.

Dustan, who had been busy attending to guests, heard that Hugo had arrived. He had mixed feelings when he saw him approaching

“Dad, I’m here to celebrate your birthday with you.”

Upon hearing that familiar word, Dustan’s heart skipped a beat. “Hugo!”

When Hugo left, he had addressed Dustan as “Mister Dustan,” which had broken his heart. But now, he was willing to call him “Dad” again.

Dustan couldn’t help but wonder if Hugo was genuinely seeking reconciliation.

“Dad, I was wrong. I misjudged you all, and I even said I wanted to cut ties with the family. It was my mistake, and I hope you can forgive me because I still want to call you Dad.”

Hugo's heartfelt words moved everyone present, except for Pearl and Richard.

"Do

you think Hugo is here to make up with us?" Pearl couldn't help but feel that it wasn't that simple, as

she observed Hugo's teary eyes.

Richard fed Pearl a lychee after peeling it. "Most likely, he's doing it for the sake of wealth and power.

The status and identity our family offers are far more prestigious than what he could achieve on his

own.

"Does this mean he might be plotting something again?" Pearl absentmindedly chewed on the lychee,

too distracted to savor its sweetness.

Richard wiped his hands, his expression inscrutable. "I don't know, but it seems like he's up to no

good."

The other Waldorfs weren't as cautious as Richard. Sean was skeptical, but Hanzel and Mobius had

put their doubts aside. They approached Hugo and embraced him.

"I'm glad you're back"

“You’ll always be our brother, blood or not.”

Indeed, severing ties that had spanned decades wasn’t that simple.

Touched, Hugo cried while reporters captured the moment with their cameras. Tomorrow’s headlines

were practically decided Pearl couldn’t help but sneer at the irony of it all

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When the party was over, Dustan suggested having a reunion dinner in a private room at the hotel to

celebrate Hugo’s return. As the dishes were being served, a person rushed in hastily.

“I’m sorry I’m late.”

Pearl frowned, puzzled about why Dustan had invited Jenny to the dinner.

Smiling, Dustan explained, “I invited Jen. She came all the way back from abroad and put in so much

effort to celebrate my birthday. I couldn’t not invite her.”

To ensure everyone understood the situation, Hugo added, “Jen didn’t just give Dad that watch. There’s

also a Moana Pearl, but it was delivered here late ”

Pearl quickly grasped Hugo’s intention. He must have been trying to help Jenny by gifting the Moana

Pearl to make up for the fake watch.

Dustan grinned "It's okay. I appreciate it, even if it's a fake. You're very considerate, Jen."

Jenny kept her head down, feeling guilty. "Please don't say that, Mister Dustan. If I had known it was fake, I wouldn't have given it to you."

"Alright, let's all take a seat and enjoy the meal."

Once Jenny was seated, Richard suddenly spoke up, "Dad, are you turning into an old fool?"

His question earned him a stern look from Dustan. "What are you talking about? I'm perfectly fine. Why would you say that?" "Then why are you doing this?" Richard had noticed that Dustan had been avoiding Pearl lately, and now he was acting unusually close to Jenny. It was hard for Richard not to be suspicious.

"Rick!" Dustan rebuked. "It's my birthday today. Watch your tongue."

Seeing this, Richard stood up and pulled Pearl with him. "We have some matters to attend to, so we'll leave you guys to enjoy your meal. Bye."

Stunned, Pearl struggled out of Richard's grip. "Alright, Richard. It's Mister Dustan's birthday. Please don't be impulsive." Richard remained silent, his anger somewhat subsiding because he could see how much Pearl wanted to keep the peace. "What's gotten into you, Rick?" Dustan was surprised, not

expecting such rebellious behavior from Richard. Ignoring Dustan, Richard continued to drink his wine.

It had been a long time since Richard had been humiliated like that. Hugo, on the other hand, was in a cheerful mood and couldn't hide his smile.

Throughout dinner, Dustan chatted with Jenny, making Pearl feel like an outsider at times.

"What have you been doing abroad, Jen?"

Smiling, Jenny replied, "I've mainly been shooting movies abroad. I'm sure you've heard of them, Mister Dustan."

"Of course. You're an international superstar, and I've seen all your movies, especially the one called 'Napoleon's Salvation.' It was amazing."

"You flatter me, Mister Dustan. I'm just a humble actress and can't be compared to Pearl. She's truly outstanding. No wonder Rick is so taken with her." Jenny smiled, but her heart was filled with resentment towards Pearl. She had never even heard of Pearl while she was abroad, and she felt that a woman with limited fame had no right to compete with her for Richard.

Dustan gave an awkward smile. After all, Jenny had been Richard's girlfriend in the past, and it was

uncomfortable to compare her to Pearl, Richard's current girlfriend.

"Yeah, both of you are amazing. By the way, Jen, when are your parents coming back? Didn't they go abroad for business?"

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Jenny turned gentler. "Yeah, they're doing business abroad and haven't returned yet. But I can call and ask them to come if you want to see them."

Dustan waved it off. "No need for that I just mentioned it. Plus, your father and I are good buddies who used to share drinks when we were young!"

They continued to chat and laugh heartily, with Hugo occasionally joining in. They enjoyed their lively conversation while Richard and Pearl were ignored.

Keeping his head low, Richard leaned in and whispered into Pearl's ear, "You're really not upset?"

Pearl was filled with a mix of emotions. Forcing a smile, she replied, "I'm fine."

Sensing that something was bothering Pearl, Richard left the hotel with her as soon as the gathering ended.

Once outside the hotel, Pearl let out a melancholic sigh.

“I can tell that my dad’s attitude towards you has changed.” Richard held Pearl’s hand firmly, his worry evident.

Pearl laughed. “Yeah, even you can tell. I’ve definitely noticed it too.”

Richard stopped and looked at her seriously. “But don’t worry. He can’t just suddenly start disliking you.

There must be something on his mind.”

Pearl understood that perfectly well. She decided that she would talk to Dustan about it later that night.

Suddenly, as they walked on the bridge, it began to snow.

Pearl was momentarily taken aback, realizing that she hadn’t checked the calendar in a while. It

seemed like New Year was just around the corner.

Before Pearl could fully process this thought, Richard handed her a bouquet of plum blossoms. They

may not have been as delicate and elegant as roses, but they had their own unique charm.

“Don’t tell me you picked these from someone else’s garden?” Pearl teased, though she secretly liked

the gesture. Richard looked at her calmly. “There are stalls by the bridge. Didn’t you notice the plum

blossoms being sold there?”

Pearl turned around and saw a stall selling plum blossoms right where she had been standing

moments ago. She had been lost in thought and staring at that very stall.

“I don’t like...” Pearl began, but she was interrupted by a sudden sneeze. Before she could finish her sentence, she noticed Richard’s stern gaze.

“You’re saying you really like plum blossoms a lot?”

Pearl quickly corrected herself and nodded enthusiastically. “Yeah, I like them a lot.”

Seeing her shivering, Richard frowned. “You’re cold?”

What?! It was because of his tone that the weather felt colder.

Pearl sneezed again while looking at her thin clothes. “No, I’m not cold.”

“Then why are you shivering?” Richard glanced down and immediately took off his coat, draping it over her shoulders. “Let’s get you home.”

Pearl flashed Richard a grateful smile. “Thank you for your kindness, Mister Richard, but my legs have gone numb”

Speechless, Richard squatted down, allowing Pearl to hop onto his back.

Suddenly, Pearl became quite talkative now that she didn’t have to walk. “Richard, I heard that if two

people walk in the snow together, they'll be a couple forever."

"I'm not so sure about that, but we'll definitely end up in the hospital if we stay out in the snow for too long," Richard replied matter-of-factly.

Richard's indifferent remark made Pearl dissatisfied. She felt that he was quite unromantic.

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When they both got home, Dustan was in the living room watching television. When he saw Pearl returning, he appeared as if he was about to leave, but Pearl stopped him.

"What's going on, Mister Dustan?"

Dustan forced a smile. "Nothing. You're overthinking things, Pearl."

Pearl...

She noticed the change in the way he addressed her. Unable to get any more information from him,

Pearl decided to investigate further. She headed back to her room, but Richard was summoned into the study by Dustan.

No one knew what was discussed between them, but the following day, Richard seemed noticeably quieter.

Pearl noticed his mood and asked, "What's bothering you?"

Richard shook his head. "I'm going to the office. If you don't have much going on, you should go to

Ceruleu earlier as well."

"You're telling me to go to my office?" Pearl was confused. He seemed perfectly fine the previous day,

but now he was distant

all of a sudden.

Richard didn't say anything and just pressed his lips together.

Pearl felt an overwhelming discomfort in her heart and insisted, "Tell me what's going on, Richard.

Don't keep it from me."

"I'm fine. There's work to be done, so I need to head out," Richard replied, looking sad as he walked

away.

Pearl clenched her jaw and followed him to Waldorf Enterprises.

When she arrived, she realized all her things had been cleared out and her desk was taken by the new

design director.

Entering the office, she saw Richard working as if everything was normal but appeared highly

stressed.

“Richard, can you tell me what is going on?”

Richard looked up, his eyes filled with emotions that Pearl couldn't decipher. “I'm fine. However, according to the rules, you can't be here anymore.”

Pearl scoffed. “You once said that Waldorf Enterprises would be mine if I stayed with you. Was that just a lie?”

Richard shook his head “No.”

“So, what's really going on?” she pressed.

Richard sighed. “If you want to stay here, I'll give you a new place.”

Reluctant to delve deeper into the matter, Pearl nodded and allowed Richard to arrange a new office for her

Richard allocated the farthest office from his own for Pearl. While it was considerably better than her previous desk, the distance felt like she was being pushed away.

Around noon, Richard would usually have lunch with Pearl. However, when Pearl looked over, she saw

Jenny Sullivan in his office instead. It was a familiar scene: Richard sitting at his desk, Jenny waiting on his couch for him to finish work

Though their interaction seemed platonic, Richard's silence felt like a dagger in Pearl's heart.

"What are you doing here, Pearl?" Jenny sounded curious. It made Pearl feel like she was an outsider.

Pearl didn't bother looking at her. "I'm here to see Richard. Don't think it's any of your business."

Jenny covered her mouth as she chuckled. "Pearl, if you're planning to have lunch with Richard, forget about it. He promised

to have lunch with me."

Pearl couldn't believe her ears. She turned to Richard and calmly, yet firmly asked, "Richard, is she telling the truth?"

Richard didn't say anything, but his silence was an answer.

Jenny confidently grabbed Richard's arm and smirked. "See, there's no need to put yourself in such an embarrassing situation. You're only making things difficult for Richard."

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Richard moved Jenny's hand away and just calmly said, "This is what Dad wants."

“Am I still your girlfriend. Richard?” Pearl’s eyes turned red, tears welling up, but she fought to hold them back

Richard clenched his fists when he saw her on the verge of tears. He began, “Pearl, I-” but stopped, unable to continue.

Jenny raised her chin arrogantly “I told you, Pearl. Uncle Dustan likes me. You’re nothing compared to me.”

Every word felt like a dagger to Pearl, though she desperately wanted to disbelieve them. “Are you telling me to be smart and step aside so I won’t stand in your way?”

“I never said that...” Jenny’s face froze because she was spot on.

Pearl scoffed. “I’m sorry, but I’m Richard’s girlfriend. Please stop coveting him.” As long as Richard didn’t break up with her, she wouldn’t hand him over to this woman.

Jenny, undeterred, challenged Pearl, “I’m going to have lunch with him. Do you want to join us?”

But Pearl agreed with surprising calmness, “Sure, where to?”

“To... Fojushu.” Jenny wanted to take back her words. Why did she have to invite Pearl along?

Pearl knew that Richard had a sensitive stomach, and Fojushu served Jenovian cuisine, which might

not be suitable for him. She suggested, "Let's go somewhere else."

Richard, to Pearl's shock, calmly said, "We can go there."

Pearl stared at Richard in disbelief, but he averted his gaze, avoiding her eyes.

Jenny, feeling increasingly triumphant, tightened her grip on Richard's arm. "Rick used to go there with me when we were in university. He loves the tuna there."

Richard didn't like someone grabbing his arm, so he pulled it away.

Pearl spoke with a neutral tone, "Richard developed gastric issues after he started working, and that kind of food might not be good for him "

Jenny had been away for years, so she wasn't aware of this. Feeling a bit awkward, she suggested,

"Let's choose a different place, then..." She fancied Richard and didn't want him to suffer, so she suggested going elsewhere.

Richard said, "It's fine, let's go there."

"Alright, as you wish, Rick." Jenny looked at him with gratitude. This wasn't the first time he had shown her respect in front

of Pearl.

Pearl was angry Under normal circumstances, she would have questioned Richard, but she had a feeling he was avoiding her. She refused to throw a fit and leave.

The trio went to have lunch, but Pearl felt like a third wheel.

Jenny ordered Richard's favorite dishes and then turned to Pearl, asking, "What do you like, Pearl?"

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Before Pearl could say anything, Richard said, "She loves fresh fish and fried food."

There was a brief moment of silence between the three of them after Richard's statement.

The meal was excruciating. Other than Jenny cutting up some food for Richard, nothing much happened.

Pearl noticed Richard stealing glances at her whenever she looked up, but he quickly averted his gaze.

This further solidified her suspicion that he was keeping something from her.

After finishing their lunch, Pearl decided to leave them. Jenny likely assumed that Pearl couldn't tolerate how nicely Richard was treating her, so she left, holding onto Richard's arm.

Just as Pearl was leaving, she received a call from Esther, and it sounded urgent. She could even hear

cats screaming in the background.

“Where are you?” Pearl asked and immediately heard Esther crying on the other end.

“Pearl, I’m in Mobius’s villa! I don’t know how Chris found this place. Mobius isn’t home, and he kept banging on the door!”

“Send me your location. I’ll head over now.” Pearl was relieved. No wonder she heard some faint banging.

Esther quickly sent her location, and Pearl made her way there. When she arrived, she found a group of men attempting to break down the door. Upon closer look, she recognized Christian as the one leading them.

The driver, alarmed by the commotion, asked, “Should I call the police?”

“It’s fine, there’s no need for that. I’ll take care of this.” Pearl got out of the car and confronted the group

of men. “What are you doing, Christian? Starting a band?”

Christian stopped, panting heavily. He had been relentlessly trying to break down the door for half an hour, but the girl inside refused to come out. “What are you doing here, Pearl?”

He was panicking, wondering how she had gotten here so quickly from Bodgou.

“How dare you make a scene here?”

Christian, feeling defiant due to having supporters, replied audaciously, “So what? I’m here to take

Esther with me today!”

Pearl took a step forward and grabbed Christian’s hand, which was about to strike the door again.

“Why don’t you tell me why you want to see Esther?”

“I’m her cousin. What’s it to you if I want to see her? You, on the other hand, have nothing to do with

this, yet you keep interfering!” Christian retorted brazenly.

Pearl, annoyed, delivered a slap to Christian’s face. The resounding slap echoed, and everyone

present froze, especially Christian. It was the first time he had been struck by a woman. He

contemplated retaliating but hesitated when he saw Pearl’s intense and intimidating expression.

Nonetheless, because there were onlookers, Christian had to save face. He gritted his teeth and yelled,

“How dare you hit me? Get her!”

Pearl responded by kicking the first person who rushed toward her and then stepping on him. She

issued a challenge, “Who else wants to try? You’ll end up the same way!”

Seeing her formidable fighting skills, no one dared to advance further. The group of small-time thugs

had never encountered this level of resistance before, and they were petrified.

Esther, watching the commotion from the balcony upstairs, yelled down to Pearl, "Stop fighting, Pearl!

Chris is out of control. I've already called the police, and they'll be here soon!"

When Chris heard the police were coming, he spat. "You called the police? We'll come back tomorrow

then!"

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After Christian left, Pearl texted Esther to open the door.

"What's going on? How did he find this place?"

As soon as Pearl entered the house, Esther rushed into her arms, sobbing uncontrollably. "I don't know.

I think someone told

him."

Pearl comforted her, patting her back gently. "You're safe now. I also need to talk to you about

something I forgot to mention during the birthday party."

Esther wiped away her tears and looked curious. "What is it?"

“It’s about you joining Brilliance after your contract ends.”

Esther’s eyes lit up with surprise and disbelief. “Really? Can I really join Brilliance?”

“Did you forget who owns Brilliance?” Pearl knocked on her head gently.

“I won’t say no then.” Esther bumped her shoulder against Pearl’s, fully aware that the latter’s recent revelation meant she was now the president of Brilliance. Only she would know how it feels to have a best friend suddenly turn into her boss.

Pearl knew what she was thinking and smiled. “Come with me now.”

“Sure!” Esther eagerly agreed, tidied herself up, and accompanied Pearl to Brilliance.

Upon arriving at Pearl’s office, they found Clem, who appeared frazzled while reading a script.

“What’s troubling you, Clem?” Pearl approached him with a warm smile and patted his shoulder.

Despite her young age, her demeanor exuded maturity.

Clem didn’t feel the need to hide anything from her and confessed, “I’m searching for a script for Hanzel, but I can’t find anything suitable.”

Finding a role that matched Hanzel’s image was no easy task. Despite his gentle appearance, all the

actresses they had considered so far either didn't fit the role or didn't possess the required aesthetics.

"Is it because of the lead actress?" Pearl accurately guessed. A male lead with Hanzel's looks would be able to steal countless hearts with just a wink. There was no way he couldn't get a role unless there wasn't a good partner for him.

Clem nodded. "Yes, none of the female leads would work. I can't find an actress who could be a good match for him."

Pearl dragged Esther, who had been standing behind her. "What about her?"

Clem felt a bit awkward, given that he had kidnapped Esther earlier, but he quickly composed himself.

"Esther? But she's not from our company, is she? It might be troublesome to negotiate with her current agency for her release." From Brilliance's perspective, this approach wasn't ideal.

"Esther's contract with her previous agency has already ended, and I'm planning to sign her with Brilliance. What do you think?" Pearl shook her head.

Clem had a sinking feeling "Are you suggesting that I should manage her too?"

Pearl grinned and snapped her fingers. "Bingo!"

Clem groaned, clearly not thrilled at the prospect of managing two talents. "Managing Hanzel alone is

giving me a headache. If I have to handle Esther as well, you might as well put me out of my misery now.”

Pearl, undeterred, offered an enticing incentive. “I’ll double your salary.”

Clem hesitated but was still not entirely convinced. “But-”

“Triple ”

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“Alright, I’ll manage her!” Clem suddenly felt a surge of determination, realizing that going the extra mile

for the company was every employee’s responsibility, and he shouldn’t reject this opportunity.

He turned his attention to Esther, assessing her clean image and youthful appearance, which seemed perfect for a high school

-themed series.

“I recently came across a show that requires both male and female leads. I highly recommend that

Brilliance acquire the copyright for this series. Trust me, it’s going to be a hit!” Clem was confident in his taste.

Pearl shared his enthusiasm and nodded in agreement. "I agree. Just head to the finance department and request the necessary funding for your ideas. There's no need to consult with me beforehand."

Clem felt touched by the trust Pearl had in him, as this was the first time someone trusted him so much.

He couldn't wait to showcase his ideas and talents.

Pearl then turned to Esther and proposed, "Your current residence isn't safe anymore. Would you like to stay here instead? We have a suite on the third floor. Ask Clem to book any one you prefer, and it will also make commuting to work easier for you."

Addressing Clem, she added, "Regarding the agreement, please print it out, Clem. The stamp is in the safe in my office, and the password is six eights."

With that, Pearl left her office, leaving Clem and Esther behind. The casual sharing of her office safe password raised some eyebrows.

Pearl didn't return to the office that afternoon. When she found Richard at home during working hours, she was surprised and puzzled.

"Where did you go?" Richard's voice sounded cold.

Pearl could sense that he was relieved to see her but was maintaining his aloof attitude. "Why are you

talking to me now?"

He turned away nonchalantly. "I just came home to get some documents."

Pearl noticed that he wasn't holding any documents, sensing he was lying. "I don't know what's going on, Richard, but remember, if you still have feelings for me, you can talk to me. We'll work through it together."

She expressed her sincerity, but it seemed like he didn't hear her. He walked away and didn't return home that night. During dinner, Mobius prodded the ribs on his plate and asked, "Why don't I see Mom at home anymore? Where is she?"

Dustan smiled. "Your mom has gone on a trip with her friend. You won't be seeing her for a while."

"I called her the other day, but she didn't pick up. Why wouldn't she answer if she's on a trip?" Mobius expressed his doubt, frowning his brows.

Dustan rolled his eyes. "Your mom rarely goes on trips. Just let her enjoy her vacation and stop bothering her."

Mobius thought about it and found them reasonable. Susan had rarely taken trips and had always been

busy taking care of their family

“You’re right. Once Rick marries Pearl, Mom will probably be taking care of her grandchild at home.”

Mobius made a lighthearted comment, but everyone fell silent.

Pearl bit her lip and stayed quiet, while Hanzel appeared concerned for her.

As for Dustan, he attempted to lighten the mood with a chuckle. “Yes, your mom would need to take care of her grandchildren after this.”