

## **YOUR GUISE 381**

### Chapter 381

Esther pouted. "Did you hear what she said to you yesterday? Why was she so arrogant? She's not even his girlfriend yet she's so proud!" She had always had a fiery temper, but it rarely flared up unless someone provoked her. Now that she had Jenny in her sights, her sassiness was on full display.

Pearl shrugged. "It's okay. I'm curious how well she could act anyway. Let's go and see for ourselves."

"Alright." Esther nodded, though somewhat reluctantly.

They approached the filming location, and Jenny immediately spotted Pearl. However, she couldn't say anything as she was in the middle of filming. All she could do was give her best performance to prove her acting prowess.

Pearl scoffed. "What do you think of her acting, Esther?"

Esther, being relatively inexperienced compared to Jenny, struggled to articulate her thoughts but managed to say, "It's not bad "

'It's not bad' meant it was very good.

Pearl shook her head. "In my opinion, her acting is average. Her looks make up for a lot of her flaws."

Despite not having experience in acting, she had her own perspectives on it, which surprised Esther.

“Oh.”

“Plus, she seems to be putting in too much effort in her performance, and her b\*dy language is a bit off.”

Esther fell silent, processing Pearl’s insights.

During a break in filming, the crew’s chatter reached Jenny’s ears, making her furious. “Why does Pearl think she can judge my acting? Has she ever acted? How dare she criticize my performance.”

Her manager chimed in, attempting to console her. “She’s an outsider who knows nothing about acting.

Just ignore her and focus on your work”

Jenny couldn’t let it slide, so she stood up and approached Pearl. “I heard you were saying my acting wasn’t good?”

Pearl hadn’t anticipated that her comments would reach Jenny, so she responded casually, “I didn’t say your acting was bad. I just suggested that you could use more practice.”

“What do you know about acting? Have you ever acted? Did you attend acting school?” Jenny fired

back. “You know nothing about this field, yet you have the audacity to comment on my acting. You’re

just jealous because I'm better than you!"

Pearl was unfazed by Jenny's accusations and decided to be straightforward. "You're right. I've never acted before."

Jenny sneered. "I knew it. You should apologize, or I won't let this slide."

Pearl couldn't help but think that Jenny was acting like a spoiled brat. Was this really Richard's type?

She rolled her eyes internally and replied in a neutral tone, "I wasn't making things up when I mentioned that you used too much force in the action you just performed."

Jenny's eyes widened in surprise. "What action are you talking about?"

"When you were supposed to gaze lovingly into the male lead's eyes, you could have just slightly lowered your head and conveyed a demure look. It would have been more in line with the period setting. However, the way you stared at the male lead, he couldn't even remember his lines"

Pearl then chuckled. "Acting is about immersing yourself in the scene and creating genuine emotions.

So, Miss Jenny, did you manage to do that?"

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"Anyone can talk about it. Why don't you do it instead?" Jenny was unwilling to admit that her acting

was subpar.

The director soon caught wind of the situation. He wasn't ready to concede that the actress he had chosen wasn't performing well, so he challenged Pearl, saying, "If you have such insights, why don't you show us how it's done?"

Knowing that Pearl had no acting experience, this challenge seemed more like an attempt to humiliate her..

Jenny, confident in her assumption that Pearl couldn't act, raised her chin defiantly, prepared to see how Pearl would struggle.

Esther knew Pearl never acted too, so she stood in front of Pearl. "You're just bullying her. She's not an actress so why would she know how to act?"

"I thought Miss Pearl came here to teach us something, considering how knowledgeable she sounded.

Turns out she's just a coward," the director retorted, clearly irritated.

Pearl chuckled. "I'm just concerned that the male lead might struggle."

“The male lead is an actor I personally selected. He could be an award-winning actor. You’re the one who might not be up to the task,” the director said, thinking that Pearl was being overly confident.

“Fine, let’s give it a try,” Pearl agreed.

The director quickly arranged for a costume for Pearl, but she declined, saying, “I don’t need a costume.”

“The male lead won’t be able to get into character if you’re not in costume. We’re offering you an opportunity, so you should take it seriously,” the director scolded, annoyed that his offer was turned down.

“Hello, I’m the male lead, Benjamin DuPont,” a man introduced himself as he approached them. When he saw the pearl, he smiled gently.

Pearl exuded confidence and charisma, even more so than Jenny. She was a breath of fresh air, and Benjamin eagerly anticipated her performance.

Pearl recognized him as one of the rising actors who was on par with Hanzel.

“Let’s start from here,” Pearl said, taking the script and fl\*pping through it before settling on a scene.

“Here. The general is going off to war, and the female lead is bidding him farewell.”

Jenny scoffed. "That's the easiest. I knew you wouldn't be confident."

Pearl smiled but didn't say anything. Instead, she walked over to Benjamin and spoke in a gentle tone,

"Shall we begin?"

Despite being the same person, Benjamin felt that she was already in character at that moment. Her

voice had a gentleness reminiscent of a lady from the past.

Benjamin nodded in agreement.

Pearl looked at Benjamin's face with a longing expression. "When will you be back, Theodore?"

Benjamin frowned, then lowered his gaze as he pondered. "You know that serving the country is the

most important duty, Wendy."

"I understand that the country holds a special place in your heart, but I still don't want you to leave,"

Pearl said, and her tears began to fall, landing on her clothing.

The sight of a beautiful woman shedding tears evoked sympathy from everyone present.

Benjamin started to panic, feeling his heart ache at the sight of her crying. "I'm sorry, I-" Before he

could finish, a hand covered his lips.

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“As long as you don’t forget me.” Pearl whispered, her eyes still glistening with tears as she bowed. “I have no requests, but I have four wishes: I hope you live a long life, that you get the recognition you deserve, and that you don’t forget me, and we’ll meet again one day.”

Benjamin was deeply moved by her heartfelt words and couldn’t help but grab Pearl by her waist. “I’m not leaving, I’m staying. I don’t need recognition!”

Pearl gently pushed him away, her tearful expression transforming into a faint smile. “Thank you, Mister Benjamin.”

The emotional intensity of the farewell scene left a lasting impact on everyone who witnessed it.

“Cut!” The director finally snapped back to reality and ended the scene.

Benjamin, as if waking from a dream, realized what he had said and done, and his face turned pink with embarrassment.

“What are you doing, Benjamin? Your line should be, ‘I’ll remember that. I’ll marry you when I return.’”

“Where did that come from?”

“I’m sorry. Miss Pearl’s acting was so convincing that I couldn’t hold back,” Benjamin confessed, his cheeks still flushed with embarrassment as he hung his head.

“Not at all, your acting is great.”

But Pearl’s intention was not to act alongside Benjamin. Instead, she looked at Jenny, who stood behind her with wide-open eyes, clearly in disbelief.

Pearl couldn’t help but smile when she saw Jenny’s bewildered expression. “Although I’ve never acted or received formal training, I have empathy. Once you understand the true essence of acting, as long as you can memorize the script and don’t suffer from stage fright, how can you not perform well?”

Jenny felt bitter after being put in her place. She had majored in acting, yet here she was, being lectured by an outsider. She couldn’t help but feel humiliated.

Pearl continued with a smile. “Well, I do have some knowledge. When I was studying abroad, I met an old man named Leonard Freeman, and he took me under his wing. I learned a lot from him.”

She didn’t really want to learn because she wasn’t interested in acting. However, Leonard was Simon’s younger brother. He knew she was learning medicine but wasn’t happy that she was biased, so he made her learn about acting and forced a lot of knowledge on her.



“Leonard Freeman?” The director was suddenly excited. He left the fuming Jenny and went over to

Pearl to ask, “The drama professor from Ancard University, Leonard Freeman?”

Leonard Freeman’s name sent shockwaves through the director. He was renowned for his selective mentorship, accepting only five students each year, and his mentees were destined for greatness, often receiving awards. It was an incredible honor to be chosen as one of his students.

Leonard had only one known protege, and their identity had always remained a well-guarded secret. To learn that it was Pearl who had been mentored by him was a revelation that left the director in awe.

The director, eager to have Pearl on board, began to grovel. “Would you consider acting in this show?

I’ll give you the role of the second female lead. What do you think?”

Pearl shook her head and proudly replied, “No.”

“Um then the female lead! I’ll make you the female lead!” The director was desperate to have Pearl join the cast, as her connection to Leonard Freeman would bring unparalleled attention to the production.

Just the mention of his mentee’s involvement would draw thousands of viewers.

Jenny, infunated by the director’s favoritism, protested loudly, “I’m the female lead! You can’t just give

away the role! If you do this, I'll ask Richard to withdraw his funding!"

Caught in a difficult situation, the director didn't know what to do.

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"I'm not going to act, I won't be part of the industry either." Pearl turned the director down and winked at

Jenny. "So, Miss Jenny, did you remember what I said?"

Jenny felt like she was just a backup, only getting what Pearl didn't want. Her frustration grew. She took off her costume and threatened to leave the set.

The director, being cunning, knew he couldn't convince Pearl. So, he quickly changed his tune and started being nice to Jenny. "Please don't leave, my dear. You're the main actress. I can't give your role to anyone else."

Richard had put 1 million dollars into this show, being the biggest investor. He almost forgot this when he was trying to hire

Pearl.

"You prefer Pearl's acting, don't you? Well, I'm done acting. We're pulling out the funds!" Jenny was furious. She dialed her phone, pretending to cry. "Rick, they're bullying me on set. Can you come

over?”

She hung up and looked smug. “Just wait. Rick will be here soon, and we’re going to withdraw the funding. Let’s see how proud you’ll be then!”

Pearl waited quietly, feeling uneasy when she heard that Richard was coming.

Richard arrived quickly and spotted Pearl and Esther in the crowd.

“Rick, they were bullying me. Pearl even tried to steal my lead role. Worst of all, the director agreed to it. Let’s withdraw our funds. I don’t want to be part of this anymore!” Jenny rushed over to Richard, trying to be charming.

“Pearl wants to be the lead actress?” Richard found that hard to believe.

Jenny’s expression changed. “Yes, she wants the lead role.”

Pearl ignored her. She could say whatever she wanted.

But Esther couldn’t stay silent and called her out. “What do you mean ‘steal’? The director didn’t want you because your acting was subpar. Now you’re lying through your teeth.”

Richard looked over, and when the director heard this, he shrank back and said, “I didn’t. I stopped

considering it because Pearl wasn't performing to her potential."

"I invested 41 million so Jenny could act here happily. Now you want to switch to Pearl? Don't you want the money anymore?" Richard wasn't loud, but his tone was commanding.

Pearl felt the pressure.

Esther protested loudly, "What are you doing, Richard? Are you helping your ex bully your girlfriend?

You're such a jerk!" Richard's expression remained unchanged. "Was anything I said wrong?" He was

simply protecting his investment. He had invested because of Jenny, so if Jenny couldn't act, he saw it as a loss.

Pearl understood that, but she couldn't understand why Richard was so kind to Jenny and seemed to be ignoring her. Was it true that Jenny's claim about him not getting over their past relationship was accurate? Did he want to get rid of her now that Jenny was back?

She looked into his eyes. They were as calm as rocks, but for a split second, there was a curious look in them, although it quickly disappeared. She thought her eyes might have tricked her.

"Let's go, Esther." Pearl didn't want to dwell on it, and now that she had put Jenny in her place, she was done. Esther glared at Richard and left as well.

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The director tried really hard to apologize to their most important star, almost hitting his head on the floor as he got down on his knees to beg for forgiveness.

Jenny scoffed. "Okay, that's enough. I'll stick around and keep shooting since you're so sincere."

The director finally smiled. "Oh, thank you, Miss Jenny!"

Richard paid no attention to what was happening. Instead, he watched Pearl leave, his mind a whirlwind of emotions.

"Rick, what's bothering you? You're not thinking about Pearl, are you?" Jenny tried to sound gentle and caring. "Look, Pearl doesn't care about you anymore. You should just break up and let her go."

Richard didn't even look at her. "It's none of your business."

Jenny froze for a moment. It was fine. She was just waiting for her time to become Missus Waldorf!

Richard did as she asked, and she was thrilled. "Rick, you should head back to the hotel. I need to keep filming, so I won't have time for you."

Richard nodded.

Jenny watched him leave and smiled confidently. Richard would be hers in the end!

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Pearl and Esther returned to their set, and the director asked to speak with Esther. So, Pearl sat there, lost in thought.

Clem was there too, and when he noticed Pearl looking distant, he asked, "What's wrong? You seem sad."

Pearl managed a slight smile and replied, "It's nothing."

"Nothing? I can tell." Clem seemed to understand. "I've been your age before so I know. It's about love, isn't it?"

Pearl rolled her eyes. "It's all over the news. Everyone knows, alright?"

Richard was spending time with Jenny, and since Jenny was a celebrity, nothing was a secret. People thought that Richard and Pearl had broken up, even though they hadn't officially announced it. They believed they had stopped talking to each other.

Clem smiled awkwardly. "I'm trying to console you. Listen, there are plenty of good men out there, and besides, you're an amazing woman. There are better men than Richard, so don't be sad over a scum."

Pearl knew that, but she was hoping to hear something from Richard.

“Alright, read a book, listen to some songs, go for a walk, and you’ll start feeling better,” Clem advised.

He could only offer these words of comfort. No one else could really help her; Pearl had to go through this on her own.

Pearl nodded and looked into the distance.

Clem shook his head and sighed, taking out his phone to scroll through X, but then he saw something trending. He turned to Pearl with a concerned expression. “Pearl, did you run into Jenny just now?”

“Yes, what’s going on?” Pearl was still lost in thought, staring into the distance. “Snap out of it, check your phone!” Clem urged, pulling her back to reality.”

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Pearl unlocked her phone, and the first thing she saw on the trending topics was “Breaking News.”

[Acting Scene Turns Dramatic: Pearl Provoked on Set, Richard Comes to Jenny’s Defense.]

In the photo, Pearl stood opposite Richard and Jenny. There was a clear boundary between them, like two different worlds

colliding

'What a nice shot!'

"What's happening?" Esther took a break, sipping her water. Seeing that Pearl didn't look well, she leaned in to read the news and burst out in frustration, "I'm sure this was Jenny's idea! She's trying to make it look like you provoked her intentionally. That woman is just trouble!"

"It's okay, let's not get worked up. What they're saying isn't true," Pearl said, trying to calm her down while tugging at her sleeves.

"You have a big heart. I couldn't stand this if I were you!" Esther pointed at Richard in the picture with clear disgust. "He defended Jenny in front of everyone. Doesn't that show he's deliberately ignoring you? What on earth is Richard up to?!"

Seeing Richard's behavior infuriated Esther. But looking at Pearl's indifference, she felt a mix of anger and sympathy. "How about we announce that you've broken up with Richard? It might be better than being ridiculed online for being dumped."

Richard really lacked integrity. He wasn't much of a man!

Pearl shook her head. "It's fine."

"So, what's your plan? You can't let everyone think you provoked Jenny on purpose, right?" Esther was



furious, imagining Jenny gloating on the sidelines.

Pearl narrowed her eyes, a glint of determination in them. "I've got an idea."

Since there were no surveillance cameras on the set, they couldn't search for footage.

Suddenly, something struck her, and she grinned slightly. "Esther, do you remember those people who were standing near you at that time?"

Esther thought for a moment. "I think I do. One of them had heavy makeup and didn't look too great.

She seemed shocked watching your performance and even took out her phone to take photos..."

As she recalled, she suddenly understood something and revealed a delighted smile. "You're so smart, Pearl!"

Pearl stood up and stretched. "Alright, I'm heading out. If all goes well, I'll be back in about half an hour.

Focus on your acting, and don't worry about this."

Esther trusted Pearl's judgment. With that, she nodded and happily returned to the set.

No one else knew where Pearl had gone except Esther.

In the afternoon, a video suddenly surfaced online, showing the scene where Pearl was acting. The

video quality was excellent. This caused a massive stir in the entertainment industry as people flocked to watch and share their thoughts.

“Pearl’s acting skills are amazing. How is this provocation? She’s just outshining Jenny!”

“I’ve seen the dramas Jenny acted in, they’re pretty average. So what if Pearl provoked her?”

‘One of the crew members said that Pearl looked stunning and acted brilliantly. Even the male lead couldn’t keep up with her performance.’

Moreover, some people revealed Pearl’s identity further.

“Do you guys know that Pearl is Mister Leonard’s only apprentice? No wonder her acting is outstanding!”

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“Mister Leonard is a really important person. His apprentice should be at least at the level of a master.

Giving advice to Jenny’s acting shouldn’t be a problem, right?”

“Jenny is such a drama queen. She gets sensitive over just a few words. She’s just acting like the innocent victim.”

Esther watched the online sentiments change instantly and joined in making fun of Jenny. She was

typing away on her keyboard energetically.

Clem smirked. "As a public figure, shouldn't you stay out of this?"

Esther shot him a look. "How old-fashioned! Who said public figures can't gossip? I have four different accounts. If one gets banned, I'll switch to another. I must stand up for Pearl!"

Clem and Hanzel were left speechless.

Pearl came back and saw two grown men frozen in shock while Esther enthusiastically typed on her keyboard. She couldn't help but chuckle. "What are you guys up to?"

"You don't know, Pearl. Jenny brought this upon herself, and so many people are criticizing her!" Esther finally felt relieved and was enjoying her moment.

"Rumors can be scary. We need to be more careful from now on, especially you. Once you're hated, it can ruin your reputation completely."

Esther had heard these words countless times, and her ears were practically calloused. "I know, I know. But Pearl, what do you think Jenny is doing now?"

Pearl furrowed her brows slightly. "No idea."

In the hotel room, Jenny's face was filled with resentment as she called Richard to pour out her

grievances. "Rick, Pearl is bullying me again...'

"If you don't provoke her, why would she bully you?" Richard knew Pearl too well. She wouldn't bother others unless provoked. Cross her once, and that's it.

"But I swear I didn't do anything this time. I was targeted for no reason. The online news is full of criticism against me. I'm afraid to even go out..." Jenny expressed her frustration emotionally.

Richard sighed, feeling a headache coming on. "Okay, I understand. I'll find a solution for you.'

After hanging up, Jenny clenched her fists and gritted her teeth in frustration. Pearl, along with that meddling Esther, both seemed determined to cause her trouble. She would make them pay!

With this thought, a malicious smile appeared on her face.

Before this issue could escalate further, other news took the spotlight.

Esther looked grim. "I don't get it. How can someone be this idle? Do you think Richard's behind this?"

Without batting an eye, Pearl fanned herself with a folding fan. "It's probably him."

Esther gave a disapproving look and said, "Fine. End things quickly, and don't let him string you along any longer!" "Alright, since we can't easily take down Jenny right now, why don't you focus on your

acting? Don't worry about this. Your drama and Jenny's will probably be released at the same time. If yours doesn't do well, there's no turning back."

Pearl appreciated Esther's concern and was indeed disappointed. But Richard's sudden change must have a reason behind it. Without knowing the reason, she would regret breaking up with him hastily.

Esther couldn't help but wear a bitter smile. "You don't know Hanzel is a very innocent guy. He said this is his first on-screen

k\*ss, his 'debut k\*ss,' and it's with me. He wasn't really willing to do it. The director wants me to break his psychological defenses within two days and shoot this scene."

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"Can't you use a stand-in?" Pearl wondered.

Esther rolled her eyes. "I wish, but Hanzel just wouldn't agree. He said the distance was too close and it made him uncomfortable "

'Hanzel.. so innocent. Wait a minute, is he really that pure?' Suddenly, Pearl remembered Hanzel's passionate k\*ss planted on her forehead during his last concert. That was surprising

"Pearl, you're close to Hanzel. Can you please persuade him for me?" Esther blinked, trying to win

Pearl over.

“Okay, I’ll talk to him in a bit.”

True to her word, Pearl looked for Hanzel shortly after.

Hanzel was sitting by the lake, relaxing. His face turned red when he saw Pearl approaching. “What’s up?”

“I heard there’s a lassing scene between you and Este, right?”

Hanzel nodded. “Yes, but I really don’t want to do it.”

“Hanzel, it’s just part of acting. Sooner or later, you’ll have to do it.” Pearl wasn’t sure how to convince him, especially when it came to k\*ssing a stranger, even if it was acting.

Hanzel lowered his head and said, “But not now.” There was a knot in his heart. Memories of a girl with wavy hair and a radiant smile lingered, making it hard for him to make a decision.

“Can you tell me why?” At that moment, Pearl became a caring sister.

Looking at Pearl’s face, Hanzel was about to speak his mind when Clem suddenly rushed over, looking anxious. “Pearl, something’s wrong! Someone has food poisoning!”

“What?” Pearl’s brows furrowed instantly.

Clem took Pearl and Hanzel to the scene.

Pearl looked at the ground where a supporting actress in the drama lay. She had almost as much screen time as the second female lead.

Seeing Esther with a pale face but unharmed, Pearl was glad that she wasn't the one who was hurt.

But the next moment, Esther's words sent a chill down her spine. "Pearl, I don't know what happened.

She took a bite of my snack, and she suddenly collapsed. They're saying she's been poisoned, that I did it on purpose to steal the limelight, but I... I didn't..."

Pearl knew Esther's character. She wouldn't be jealous, let alone poison someone casually.

After hearing Esther's statement, it seemed that she had just taken out a snack from her bag and was ready to eat it. Then the third female lead came over and took a bite. She immediately felt unwell and passed out.

Her lips turned black, and her face was pale as if she had been poisoned.

The director stood nearby, looking troubled. "What should we do? We finally started filming, and now everything has to be put on hold again."

The third female lead needed to be taken to the hospital, and the female lead was the prime suspect. If this got out, the whole production would be canceled!

The police arrived swiftly and took Esther away.

Seeing Esther in tears, Pearl couldn't bear to leave her alone, so she followed her to the police station.

Naturally, Hanzel was worried about Pearl and followed along

Before leaving, Pearl looked at Clem and whispered, "Check the surveillance footage for me."

Clem's eyes flickered slightly "Got it."

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Pearl accompanied Esther to the police station to give a statement. The policeman was captivated by

Pearl's beauty and found it difficult to be tough on her. He turned to interrogate Esther instead, saying,

"You claim it wasn't intentional, but do you have any evidence?"

Esther shook her head. "I don't know. Maybe the snack was poisoned, but I swear I didn't do it. I was

even about to eat it."

The policeman frowned. "That explanation isn't very convincing."

Seeing Esther's pale face on the verge of tears, Pearl spoke up, "Officer, I have something to say."



“Go ahead.”

“I suspect someone framed her.”

The policeman suddenly became interested. “How so?”

“First of all, if she wanted to harm someone, she wouldn’t wait for the girl to approach her with the food.

Instead, she would approach the girl, as offering food makes the other person vulnerable. No sensible person would do it this way.”

The policeman nodded thoughtfully. “You make a valid point.”

“Besides, while that girl may be considered beautiful, the difference compared to Esther isn’t substantial. Esther has a good reputation in the production team. You can ask around. There’s no reason for her to act out of jealousy.”

After hearing this explanation, the policeman smiled. “Although your explanation sounds reasonable, you have no evidence, Miss Pearl.”

Pearl clenched her fists. “I know I don’t have any evidence, but I hope you won’t detain Esther until then.”

“But that’s against the law.” The policeman had to follow protocol and couldn’t show favoritism.

“Esther is a public figure. If news spreads that she’s detained at the police station, it will affect her career.”

“That’s not our concern.” The policeman was committed to his duties and refused to be swayed, despite admiring Pearl’s eloquence.

Hanzel stood nearby with a stern expression and interjected, “What now? Has the Waldorf family lost its influence in these matters?”

“Mister Hanzel, we’re just doing our job. Besides, the influence of the Waldorfs doesn’t extend to our police department,” the policeman acknowledged, smiling at Hanzel’s evident displeasure but offering no substantial reassurance.

If Hanzel were detained, they might consider releasing him, as no one wanted to offend the Waldorfs.

But Esther appeared to

be out of luck

As the tension escalated, a voice suddenly echoed in the police station. “What about the York family?

Do the words of the Yorks carry any weight?”

Pearl frowned slightly. "What are you doing here?"

"Well, I heard about it from the production team. After all, it's a script I invested in. I need to show some concern." Raymond York walked in with a smile that didn't reach his eyes.

"Of course, they do. What brings you here, Mister Raymond?" The policeman's attitude immediately changed. While the Waldorfs might be swayed by diplomacy, the Yorks' long-standing military background carried considerable weight and authority.

Seeing the change in the policeman's behavior, Pearl felt disgusted. 'What a snob!'

"I've invested in a drama, but the female lead of this drama is detained at the police station. What do you..."

Before Raymond could finish his sentence, the policeman nodded courteously "Release her, release her now!"

It wasn't until Esther left the police station that she seemed to fully grasp the situation and thanked Raymond, saying.

Thank you, Mister York."

Raymond gave Pearl a meaningful glance and said, "Thank Pearl instead."

Esther immediately understood that Raymond's feelings for Pearl were different. She smiled and whispered in Pearl's ear, Pearl, look how nice Mister York is. On the surface, he saved me, in reality, he actually cares about you. Why insist on getting entangled with Richard when you could choose Mister York?"

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Pearl shot her a glance. "Your matter hasn't been resolved yet, and you're so eager for gossip. I should have just left you at the police station earlier."

Esther immediately pulled a face. "Oops, my bad."

"Anyway, thank you for helping Este today." Despite thanking Raymond, Pearl's expression remained composed.

Raymond suddenly gave a somewhat suggestive look. "How about offering yourself in gratitude?"

"I'd rather pledge to your grandfather," Pearl spat out, unwilling to offer any favor to this person.

Raymond frowned. "My grandfather is eighty. Isn't that a bit too much for you?"

Pearl glared at him. "Get out of here."

Raymond didn't bother about what Pearl said. Instead, he smiled happily. "Alright, I have some matters to attend to. I won't keep you any longer."

"I couldn't have asked for more. Bye!"

After Raymond left, Pearl noticed that Hanzel's expression wasn't quite right. "What's wrong?"

Hanzel shook his head and sighed. "It's nothing, I just feel useless." Previously, he couldn't compete with Richard, and now he was no match for Raymond. It seemed like he would never be worthy of standing by Pearl's side.

"Come on, you're an artist. If you had influence in the police station, the entertainment industry would have blacklisted you long ago." Pearl's words were teasing yet comforting.

Hanzel managed a forced smile. "Alright, I get it."

Just as the three of them were about to get into the car and return to the set, a sharp voice suddenly rang out.

"Esther Sanders!"

Two words, gritted through clenched teeth.

Esther was terrified and hid behind Pearl. She dared not come out.

Mobius Waldorf walked up to Pearl, grabbed Esther by the collar, and yanked her out. "You left me behind secretly, and I was thinking of forgiving you. I planned to visit you in a while, but I didn't expect you to cause such a big commotion."

Esther swallowed. "How did you find out?"

Mobius's anger surged up. "Why? Are you not planning to tell me what this is about?"

"No." Esther lowered her head and saw a hint of uneasiness in Hanzel's eyes not far away. She immediately understood everything. "Hanzel Waldorf, did you tell him?"

Hanzel touched his nose, looking composed. "I didn't."

"At a time like this, shouldn't you explain to me what's going on?" Mobius pinched Esther's face a bit forcefully, causing her to cry out in pain.

Pearl watched them create a scene and felt a headache coming on. "Let me tell you. Jenny's probably the one behind this poisoning incident."

"Jenny?!" The three of them spoke in unison.

Pearl looked at the three astounded faces and smirked. "What's wrong? Didn't you ever suspect her?"

Mobius thought for a moment, speaking somewhat hesitantly, "Although Jenny is a bit delicate, she's a good person. She's very kind to us Waldorfs so I don't think she'd do something like this."

Pearl teased. "Is Esther part of the Waldorfs?"