

## **YOUR GUISE 431**

### Chapter 431

“I’m not jealous, Rick” Pearl giggled, but the icy look in her eyes sent a chill through Richard’s heart.

“Talk normally ”

“This is how I talk, Rick”

“Pearl Leighton

Pearl immediately stopped her playful tone. “Okay, fine, I’ll stop.” Despite agreeing, she was still

irritated because she felt like Richard was the one who kept attracting women.

Sensing her annoyance. Richard couldn’t help but smile. “She’s interested in Hugo.”

“You don’t need to explain anything. I can tell,” Pearl replied with a scoff, hiding under the blanket.

However, Richard pulled her out a moment later. “Are you going to listen to my explanation?”

“Sure, sure, just don’t pull my shirt,” Pearl pleaded.

Richard released his grip on her shirt after rolling his eyes.

Pearl had a sense that she shouldn’t be testing him too much. She rubbed her neck and analyzed

quietly.

“Leah likes Hugo. They’ve known each other for a long time.” Richard stopped talking at that point.

Pearl watched as he sent a file to his assistant and then engaged in a short video conference. She

inquired cautiously, “Are you angry?”

Richard remained silent.

“Don’t ignore me. I need to know why before you kill me.”

Richard still didn’t respond.

“Oh, I’ll stop talking like that woman.” Pearl sighed in exhaustion, but Richard couldn’t help but scoff.

“You know how you ended up here,” he said.

It was due to her seafood allergy. Pearl felt defeated because this man never focused on the right

topics.

That afternoon, the red spots on Pearl’s skin had disappeared, so she suggested going outside to get

some sun.

Richard wasn’t fond of the sun, especially in December. Even if it were sunny, it would be cold, and he

worried they might

catch a cold.

Nevertheless, Pearl insisted, so he reluctantly agreed to accompany her, hoping she wouldn't get into any more trouble. They strolled through the garden, and Pearl noticed that the garden was overrun with weeds. She couldn't help but gulp nervously.

"What's caught your attention?"

Pearl was about to reply, but a moment later, she sneezed hard.

"I told you it's cold. You're the only one who would want to walk around in December weather," Richard remarked.

His cold demeanor was something Pearl had grown accustomed to over time. She approached the withered vegetation and suddenly became excited. "Look, it's dragon's breath!"

"What's dragon's breath?"

"It's a plant that has health benefits."

Hearing that name and Pearl's expression, Richard understood. "Alright, you've spent too much time outside. Come back inside with me "

As they approached the door of their room, they overheard an argument. One of the parties involved

was Leah.

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Leah's face was flushed from the heated argument. "You need to be more sensible. His illness won't be cured that easily. Even with the best doctors in the world, his condition won't improve overnight."

The man pointed a finger at her and raised his voice, "Do you even know who's in there? Even if he's not getting better, he shouldn't be getting worse!"

"His condition is heavily influenced by his emotional state. You might have agitated him, causing his condition to deteriorate.

The man scoffed. "Bullsh\*t! Even if it worsens, it shouldn't be like this. He was speaking normally this afternoon, and now his face is suddenly paralyzed. Is this the quality of care in this hospital?"

Pearl couldn't help but click her tongue. "That's right. This is the best hospital in Hazleton. It's quite famous."

Thinking she wasn't speaking too loudly, Pearl didn't realize that Leah had heard everything and pointed directly at her. "You think our treatments are ineffective? Well, if you think you can do better, why don't you give it a try? She's a doctor too, and apparently, she's quite good at it."

Pearl froze. What did this have to do with her? She had no intention of getting involved in this mess, but just when she thought she could escape, someone called out to her.

“If she’s better than the doctor’s here, we’ll let her take over!”

Pearl couldn’t fathom why she had become the subject of this wager.

The person approached her quickly, gazed at Pearl, and then made a polite bow. “Hello, ma’am. Could you please examine this man?”

“1. I can’t.” Even if she could, she didn’t want to be forced to do it.

“You can,

“I can’t.”

“You can!”

“I can’t!”

ma’am.”

After Pearl’s rejection, the person’s eyes welled up, and he pleaded quietly, “Ma’am, I have parents, children, and now a sick wife. I need to earn a living to support them. Can you please agree?”

“How many people have told this same story?” Pearl was amazed at how effortlessly he could spin a

tale.

The person scratched his head awkwardly. "Just a few, but it never worked."

Richard glanced at her pitiful expression and said, "You're not well either. There's no need to help others."

Pearl appeared as if she were gearing up for an argument. "Saving a life is more important than anything else. I'll do it."

Upon entering the room, Leah started taunting Pearl. "Do you want to check the charts so you don't make things worse?"

"If you know what you should do, why don't you just do it?"

Leah seemed taken aback by the sudden attack and begrudgingly handed over the charts.

Pearl went through them and then looked at the unconscious man in the bed. "You've been treating him for a month, and his condition is worsening. Yet you're blaming the patient?"

Leah clenched her fist. "We're genuinely trying to help him, so how can it be our fault? The patient has a rare ailment. You're just too arrogant. Why don't you try treating him then?" She was interested in

what Pearl would do.

Pearl inspected the man's face, and her mocking expression faded. "Is there a remote for the air

conditioning in the room?" The man grew frustrated. "They took it away, saying it's centralized. They

won't allow us to adjust it."

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Pearl couldn't believe such a ridiculous situation. "The patient's facial paralysis is due to prolonged

exposure to the air conditioning blowing directly onto his face. In a large hospital like this, you should

be aware of this."

The man expressed his frustration. "I knew it! How could a normal person suddenly have facial

paralysis?"

Leah, although suspicious, still doubled down "I asked you to treat him, not to argue. You talk too

much!"

Pearl rolled her eyes and retrieved a set of silver needles engraved with 'F' for Freeman. Simon had

given them to her, and she found them beautiful, so she carried them with her everywhere.

Examining the man's face, she selected one of the needles and gently inserted it into his face. After a short while, the man's lips twitched, indicating he might be waking up.

Leah scoffed. "Is that all? I expected a complete cure."

"Calm down. I'm not done yet"

Pearl took out another needle and inserted them all over the man's body, then everyone in the room waited in silence, not wanting to disrupt the process.

After some time, the man regained consciousness, but perhaps not accustomed to speaking suddenly, he coughed, and a dry, hoarse voice emerged from his throat. "What happened?"

Pearl approached, poured a cup of water, inserted a straw, and allowed the man to drink.

"Young lady, you are-

"

The man was overjoyed and interrupted her introduction, "Dad, this is your savior. Her name is... is..."

Turning to Pearl, he asked, "What's your name, young lady?"

Pearl sighed "My name is Pearl Leighton."

"Yes, Pearl Leighton, that's her name." The man looked at the elderly patient and began to cry. "The



doctors in this hospital are unbelievable Miss Pearl here cured your facial paralysis.”

The elderly patient seemed to remember something and became cheerful. “You’re the famous Pearl Leighton.”

“I don’t know if I’m famous, but some people know me,” Pearl replied with a smile.

The elderly patient’s voice was strong and full of energy. “I donated ten thousand diamonds during your livestream.”

Pearl was stunned. A single diamond was worth 450 dollars, so ten thousand diamonds amounted to...

450 million! She couldn’t believe she had saved a generous donor

“I’ll work hard to treat you then. Those ten thousand diamonds will be your medical fee.”

Leah, hearing this, was bitter “What kind of treatment costs that much? You’re so greedy.”

“Why don’t you treat him, then?”

Leah was left speechless..

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After gathering more information, Pearl realized that the man she had just treated was none other than

Daniel Blumenfeld, the richest man in Hazelton. It became clear why he had generously rewarded her with ten thousand diamonds.

Leah, on the other hand, was envious. While she was aware of Daniel's status, she had treated him coldly, believing he was on the brink of death and there was no need to be polite.

However, she never expected him to recover and even let Pearl take over his treatment. When she addressed him, she tried to appear flirtatious "Mister Blumenfeld, are you feeling better?"

Daniel, who remembered that Leah had not been helpful and had even made things worse, responded with a cold tone, "I feel much better thanks to the treatment the hospital provided."

His response was laced with sarcasm, which made Pearl giggle and left Leah speechless and pale.

Pearl decided to intervene, gently pointing Leah toward the door. "Alright, Leah, you should continue your rounds. Aren't there other patients to attend to?"

Leah scoffed and stormed out, realizing that she couldn't win over Daniel's favor.

Even Daniel couldn't help but comment on Leah's behavior, "This woman is so arrogant. I can see why she's just a doctor making rounds"

Pearl was secretly delighted by this comment, hoping Leah heard it before leaving. She assured

Daniel, "I'll take over your treatment after this so you don't have to worry."

Daniel looked at Pearl with increasing admiration. "You're such a kind young lady. Here's my business card. Feel free to call me if you need any help. By the way, do you have a boyfriend?"

Pearl glanced at Richard, who had been quietly observing, and smiled. "Yes, I do."

Daniel finally noticed Richard and smiled awkwardly. "I thought you were single and was going to introduce you to my less- than-impressive grandson. But never mind, you youngsters have your own ways."

Richard, who had been silent until now, stood up and sounded a bit confrontational. "I'm taking Pearl back She's still in recovery"

Daniel sensed the tension and nodded. "Of course, go ahead."

Taking Pearl by the hand, Richard led her back to her room. In the corridor, Pearl sensed the coldness emanating from Richard and remained silent

When Richard finally broke the silence, he called her name. "Pearl."

Startled by his sudden address, Pearl replied, "Yes?"

“When can I marry you?”

Pearl chuckled. “Didn’t I say I’d consider engagement after finding my mom?”

Richard wasn’t entirely satisfied with that response. “Let’s get engaged first. When we find your mom, we’ll get married.”

Surprised by his sudden urgency, Pearl asked, “Why the rush? Remember, you agreed to my terms before.”

Richard lifted her off the floor and pinned her against the wall. “I don’t want others to covet you. I want everyone to know that you belong to me.”

Pearl was stunned. Did Richard feel insecure about their relationship?

“Do you want to get engaged to me then?” In the dimly lit corridor, Pearl couldn’t see Richard’s face clearly, but she could see the glimmer in his eyes.

Under the dim lighting, Pearl couldn’t clearly see Richard’s face, but she could see the twinkle in his eyes.

“Yes.”

“Then let’s get engaged ”

“Yes.”

“And let’s do it before the new year.”

“Yes,” Pearl replied with a smile, and under the soft lighting, she k\*ssed his l\*ps.

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In the restaurant, Leah’s anger from the previous day had vanished as she looked at Hugo. She suddenly felt much better.

“How have you been, Leah?”

Leah lowered her face shyly. “I’ve been quite well. The hospital promoted me to a manager, so I’m catching up to you.” She had aspirations of working alongside him and becoming a great doctor.

“But I’m not a doctor anymore.” Hugo sighed, his disappointment evident.

“What?” Leah couldn’t believe that the man she had been pursuing had given up his passion for medicine. “Why?”

“Because... Rick and Pearl hate me, and to avoid them, I had to sell my hospital and work for a different company.” With just a few sentences, Hugo managed to paint the image of a young man who

had been wronged by his brother and future sister-in-

law

Leah wholeheartedly believed him. As she gazed at his handsome face, her heart ached, and she felt a

deep sense of indignation “Don’t worry too much about it. Someone will help you reclaim what you’ve

lost!”

Hugo knew his manipulation was working, so he smiled and nodded. “It’s fine. I’ve gotten used to it.

Besides, I’ve come to terms with reality.”

“Why should you just go along with their wishes? I thought Rick was a good person, but he’s helping

that woman bully you!” Leah’s anger intensified as she spoke.

“Do you have any issues with Pearl?” Hugo sensed the intense dislike from Leah, which was exactly

what he had hoped for.

Leah exploded at the mention of Pearl. “When we were studying abroad, I was the one who found

Simon Freeman first, but he chose Pearl over me. He said they were destined to meet. I think Pearl

bribed him. I can’t stand her at all!”

Hugo muttered, “That’s great...”

Leah didn't hear his comment clearly and asked, "What?"

"Nothing Let's finish up here, Leah. If you ever face any mistreatment, don't keep it to yourself. Let me know," Hugo said with a reassuring smile.

Leah was delighted to hear that. "Don't worry, I won't let anyone bully me. And you shouldn't let anyone

push you around either!"

With his mission accomplished, Hugo didn't say anything more to her. He simply smiled and left.

Leah clenched her fist as she watched him walk away, determined to protect Hugo from anyone who tried to bully him.

The next day, Leah received a summons to the hospital director's office.

"I have a question for you, Leah," the director said, his voice low.

Leah noticed that he was in a bad mood. "What is it?"

"Did something happen between you and the patient in room 360? They've sent over two plaques."

"Plaques?" Leah's anxiety grew because she knew something was amiss, having witnessed the events of the previous day. The director scoffed. "See for yourself!"

Leah looked at the plaques, and her face turned pale. The first one read: "Miss Pearl, the best doctor,"

while the other one said: "Why hasn't Leah Moore retired yet?"

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Leah had never been so humiliated in her life. Frustrated and embarrassed, she expressed her

grievances to the hospital director. "He's blatantly humiliating me!"

This time, the director didn't take Leah's side. She looked at Leah's angry face and sneered, "Do you

know who he is? He's the richest man in Hazelton. Can you afford to offend him?"

Leah was at a loss for words, struggling to explain, "..."

The director continued with a stern tone, "So let me tell you what you should do. You better apologize

to him right now. If he decides not to keep you, even I can't save you!"

The director's words were a wake-up call for Leah. She replied meekly, "I... I understand."

Leaving the director's office, Leah clenched her fists and thought for a long time before heading to

Room 360.

As she arrived at the room, she ran into Pearl. Despite Leah's disheveled appearance, Pearl found her

deflated demeanor quite amusing



However, Leah paid no attention to Pearl and went straight into the room. She stood before Mister

Blumenfeld, lowered her head, and sincerely apologized, "Mister Blumenfeld... I've come to apologize.

I know I've caused you trouble, and I hope you can forgive me."

Daniel wasn't harsh in his response. Seeing Leah in this state, he abandoned his scheming but had no

intention of forming a friendly connection with her. "It's okay, I don't want to intentionally trouble a young

girl. I'll tell you what. If you have no other matters, you may leave now."

His dismissal couldn't have been clearer.

"Okay," Leah said, swallowing her pride. Seeing Pearl's smug look, she didn't want to stick around any

longer.

After Leah left, Pearl turned to Mister Blumenfeld, puzzled. "What have you done?"

Leah's sudden change of heart indicated that he had orchestrated something behind the scenes.

Mister Blumenfeld didn't hide it from her. Seeing that she had no clue at all, he told her everything-

Pearl burst out laughing.

"You think it's funny, don't you, Pea?" he asked.

“I just can’t believe someone your age can still be so mischievous.”

Mister Blumenfeld blushed. “Well, it was just a small punishment. I don’t really want to make things hard for her.”

Though Pearl’s words weren’t particularly harsh, Mister Blumenfeld couldn’t help feeling uneasy as he watched her calmly sipping her tea.

“Don’t worry. People like her need to learn their lesson.” Pearl’s words were like sending a signal to Mister Blumenfeld.

“I get it. You mean it’s okay to mess with her, right?”

Pearl was speechless. When did she imply that?

“But from what I understand about Leah, she’s the type who might try something. Whether it’s directed at you or me, we should be cautious.”

Mister Blumenfeld nodded. “Don’t worry. Her petty tricks won’t bother me at the moment.”

“That’s good. Now, take your medicine.” Pearl went through a lot of trouble to prepare the medicine. It couldn’t go to waste.

Mister Blumenfeld grimaced at the thought of the medicine. "Can I skip it? I really can't bring myself to swallow it."

"No, you can't. Medicine may taste bitter, but it's beneficial for your health. I'm sure you've heard that saying before, haven't you?"

Mister Blumenfeld complained, "I really can't take the bitterness."

"Embrace the bitter to savor the sweet."

Mister Blumenfeld scolded, "Why do you speak in such a contradictory manner?"

"Actually, the medicine could have been sweet, but I thought you might not like that, so I made it bitter on purpose."

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Mister Blumenfeld was utterly bewildered. "Why didn't you make it sweet for me?!" He acted like a mischievous old man.

Pearl smirked. "Because when I examined your b\*dy, I found that you have two cavities."

That shut Mister Blumenfeld up.

"Alright, take your time with the medicine. I'll get going now." Pearl was afraid he might complain again,

so she left immediately.

Back in her ward, Pearl found Richard busy with packing. She approached him from behind and wrapped her arms around him.

“Richard, did you miss me?” Pearl asked, a hint of playfulness in her tone.

Richard was a bit puzzled “You just went out for an hour, and you weren’t far away. Why would I miss you?”

Pearl pouted, clearly dissatisfied with his response. “I was thinking about you the whole time while talking to Mister Blumenfeld”

“What were you thinking about me?”

Suddenly, Pearl seemed to remember something, and her expression changed. “Right, there’s something I need to tell you.”

Richard turned around and hugged Pearl. “What is it?”

Pearl began to explain, “Leah apologized to Mister Blumenfeld this morning. At first, I found it strange, but Mister Blumenfeld said he sent a plaque to the hospital with ‘Why hasn’t Leah retired yet?’ written on it.”

Richard couldn't help but chuckle. "Mister Blumenfeld is quite the dandy."

"But when Leah left, her expression was really scary. I have a feeling she's up to something." Pearl was

very cautious. It

wasn't a mere illusion.

In the afternoon, Pearl woke up from her nap and noticed that the room was unusually cold. She

glanced over at Richard, who was dozing on the couch with his head propped up. He seemed

unperturbed by the chilly environment, as if he were impervious to the cold.

Pearl had a strong suspicion that the sudden drop in temperature was not a mere coincidence. She got

out of bed and woke Richard. "Richard, it seems like the radiator is broken."

Richard opened his eyes, his gaze clear, indicating that he hadn't been asleep. "It's probably not

broken. Someone intentionally turned it off."

Both of them knew they didn't need to mention the person responsible; it was clear who was behind

this.

"Wait here. I'm going to see the director," Richard said.

Pearl followed him closely and held his hand. "I'll go with you."

In the director's office, the director looked at the two sitting on the couch, speaking humbly, "May I know what brings you here?" She often watched the news and knew the person in front of her was from the influential Waldorf family.

Richard's tone was cold and direct. "I want to know who's responsible for the radiator in the ward."

"Well Leah has always been in charge of this. Is there something wrong with your room's radiator?"

Pearl nodded. "Yes, the radiator in our ward hasn't been turned on at all."

The director was somewhat surprised and understood that this might be one of Leah's tricks. "This might be an accident. Why don't you go back and take a look? It might just be a maintenance issue."

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Saying it like that, even the director's words seemed somewhat forced.

Pearl understood that the director wanted to protect her employees, so she didn't make a big deal out of it.

As they were about to leave, Leah walked in sternly and asked, "What are you guys doing here?"

"Perfect timing, Leah. What's wrong with the radiator in Miss Pearl's ward?"

Leah explained without a hint of guilt, "The radiator in their room burned out this afternoon, so we had to shut it off. I was just about to get someone to fix it."

Hearing this, the director's expression softened a bit. "See, it was all just a misunderstanding."

Pearl couldn't find any proof at the moment, so she just nodded and followed Richard back to the ward.

Upon their return, they realized that the room's temperature hadn't improved, despite the hours that had passed. Pearl, who

was sensitive to the cold, began to shiver. Richard quickly wrapped her in a blanket.

"Leah is really vengeful, and she's targeting me of all people," Pearl complained with irritation.

"I'll talk to the director again."

Richard was about to leave when Pearl grabbed his wrist. "It's okay, it's not that cold. Besides, going to the director won't solve anything."

Pearl had a point.

"Give me a minute, I'll make a call" With that, Richard stepped outside.

After more than half an hour, Richard returned with four men carrying a large rectangular object.

Standing by the door, Richard instructed, "Take this thing in and get it installed."

Pearl was surprised. "What is this?"

"This is the new radiator that I just bought. Since the hospital's radiator isn't working, let's just dismantle

it and replace it with a new one," Richard explained firmly.

His words left Pearl momentarily speechless, surprised by his assertive action.

Shortly after, the director called Richard. "M-Mister Richard, I heard you're planning to replace our radiator with a new one?" The director found it unacceptable.

"It's been hours, and the radiator still isn't fixed. Your efficiency is pretty low. As for the employee in charge of the radiator, you can just fire her," Richard retorted, his tone laced with sarcasm, showing no hesitation.

"But you're changing the radiator without authorization now. Isn't that unreasonable?"

"I was just about to allocate 15 million dollars to your hospital. From the look of it, it seems unnecessary now," Richard interrupted smoothly. He was skilled in the world of business negotiations and knew how to wield his influence effectively.



The director, who had been hesitant just moments ago, quickly adopted a more flattering tone. "As long as you're happy, feel free to make any changes you want. You're the greatest gift to our hospital. So when do you plan to..."

Richard, however, didn't appreciate the director's directness and interrupted her. "Whenever I feel like it."

In other words, the 15 million dollars would be wired immediately if he was in a good mood, but it could easily be withheld if

The director, realizing she needed to tread carefully, gritted her teeth and offered a concession, "Alright, I'll have Leah apologize to you guys. If she still doesn't listen, then I'll fire her!"

Richard glanced at Pearl, as if he was seeking her opinion.

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Pearl raised an eyebrow. "At this point, do you still believe Leah will come to her senses?"

Richard understood what she meant and replied solemnly, "I don't need her apology."

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The director caught the implication in his words. It wasn't that he didn't need her apology, but that he despised Leah and didn't want her anywhere near him.

"I know what to do, Mister Richard. Don't worry, I'll give you an explanation."

After ending the call, the radiator was nearly fully installed, and the room began to warm up. Pearl could finally feel the comforting warmth seeping in.

"Are you really planning to donate 15 million dollars to the hospital?" Pearl questioned, genuinely surprised that a profit-driven businessman like Richard would consider such a charitable act.

"Of course not, but if she fires Leah, I might consider giving her the money."

"Why?"

"Because anything that benefits you is worth doing."

Richard's words might not have been romantic, but they still touched Pearl deeply. She gazed at his determined and earnest face, unsure of how to respond.

"Alright, get some rest. You'll probably be discharged tomorrow."

Pearl nodded, a sense of happiness welling up inside her heart.

That night, Pearl bid farewell to Mister Blumenfeld.

Aware that Pearl would soon leave, he couldn't hold back his tears. "As an old man, I don't have much to give you, and money is too tacky. How about this? I'll offer you something that represents my identity. It will ensure your smooth journey in Hazelton!"

With great care, he took out his pendant and placed it in Pearl's hand.

Pearl's heart warmed at the meaningful gesture. To her, money was just a string of numbers, but a cherished keepsake and identity was priceless.

"Remember to visit me often..."

While the words were sentimental, Pearl couldn't help but find them somewhat amusing. She stifled a laugh and reassured him, "Don't worry, you'll be discharged soon. When you're out, let's grab a cup of coffee. You won't miss me then."

Pearl made a valid point, but Mister Blumenfeld looked at her with teary eyes and said, "You simply don't want to deal with an old man like me. I get it."

Pearl was speechless.

The following afternoon, when Richard arrived to complete the discharge procedures, Pearl was

already packed and ready to leave. However, Leah unexpectedly appeared at the door.

Seeing that Pearl was prepared to depart, Leah couldn't contain her anger and shouted, "Pearl, you

b\*tch! You stole my position back then, and now that I've worked hard to become the department head,

you're forcing the director to fire me. What's your game?!"

Pearl wouldn't tolerate her twisting the truth and responded with a cold smile, "Oh? Aren't you

responsible for all of this yourself?"

Leah, feeling guilty, couldn't maintain eye contact and appeared uneasy. "What nonsense are you

talking about? I haven't

done anything to you."

"Well, that's even better, Leah. Care to explain the radiator issue? I've been waiting all afternoon, and

no maintenance personnel have shown up."

Leah couldn't provide a valid explanation and murmured, "I was busy and forgot..."

"Since you're so busy, let's lighten your burden then," Richard said confidently as he entered the room.

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"T-This woman framed me, Rick. You must help me!" Leah implored, her eyes brimming with grievance.

She remembered that Richard had once held her in high regard. If it weren't for Pearl, there was no

way he could have abruptly turned against

her like this!

However, she hoped that if she begged, perhaps Richard would soften towards her.

Richard gazed at her tearful expression, torn by indecision. Was he truly close to this woman?

Pearl scrutinized Richard's expression and knew what he was thinking. She couldn't help but burst into

laughter.

"Why are you laughing?" Leah was perplexed by Pearl's amusement and retorted, "Do you think just

because you've spent some time with Rick, he'll listen to you? Let me make this clear. He's a man of

principles and won't be swayed by your tricks!"

Richard observed Leah's face and spoke icily, "In my book, Pearl is the principle."

Leah's face instantly turned pale "Rick, how could you take Pearl's side? We've known each other for

so long. How can you favor a woman you've only just met?"

Leah couldn't comprehend it, and her jealousy consumed her. She had never been infatuated with

Richard, primarily because he had seemed unattainable, like an ideal that was too perfect for anyone to compete with.

However, one day, that ideal was abruptly taken away. How could she not feel jealous?

“Are you two close, Richard?” Pearl asked at the right time.

Richard walked over to Pearl and put his arm around her waist. “Not at all.”

“Not at all. Rick, have you forgotten that you’ve hugged me-” Before Leah could complete her

sentence, she felt the intensity of Richard’s cold gaze, causing her to falter. The sheer murderous intent sent shivers down her spine.

“Do you want to clarify things? Did I hug you?” Richard’s tone remained icy.

Leah was rendered speechless. It wasn’t a hug at all. It was simply a moment when Hugo had handed her to Richard during her heatstroke incident. She would never forget Richard’s disgusted expression and how he had immediately washed his hands afterward without hesitation.

Pearl yawned. “If there’s nothing else, we’ll be on our way. Leah, if you have any concerns, feel free to discuss them with the director.”

Leah clenched her teeth. It was Pearl who had urged the director to fire her. How could she possibly listen to her now?

Nevertheless, Pearl had no intention of prolonging the conversation.

Three men dressed as maintenance workers entered the room. Pearl directed them, saying, "Please assist in removing the radiator. We've purchased it, and it wouldn't be fair to leave it with the hospital."

Leah was taken aback. 'Why is Pearl so frugal?!"

"By the way, Miss Moore, this radiator malfunctioned under your supervision. The director mentioned that if I want to take it away, you'll need to provide a replacement of equal value."

Leah gritted her teeth in frustration "Pearl!"

"Don't bother calling me. Since your source of income is gone, you should focus on figuring out how to compensate for it." Pearl then smiled and waved as she led the workers out of the room.

Richard glanced at Leah and added, "Take care."

They left Leah standing there in shock.

After returning to the hotel, Pearl felt much more relaxed.

Looking at how happy Pearl was, Richard smirked. "What's the matter? You seem incredibly happy."

“Leah is just plain wicked so I don’t think meting out a bit of punishment is unreasonable, do you?”