

YOUR GUISE 441

Chapter 441

So it was about Leah.

“She’s got the punishment she deserved. Let’s plan our trip now,” Richard said.

Pearl suddenly smiled mysteriously. “But before that, why don’t you explain to me why you hugged her?”

Richard was ashamed that Leah was still hung up on that incident. “That was when Hugo went on a field trip with her. Leah fainted from heatstroke, and we happened to run into each other. Hugo asked me to take her to the hospital, so I reluctantly gave her a lift and put her in the car.”

Richard explained with genuine sincerity that Pearl withdrew her skeptical gaze. She looked at him with a scrutinizing expression and asked, “Is there nothing more?”

“After that, I washed my hands more than ten times and even had the car cleaned.”

Pearl smirked, “You really didn’t hold back, did you?” However, her lingering discomfort vanished instantly. “Before we go on our trip, can we make a quick visit to see Este and the others? They’re still here filming.”

Richard wasn't thrilled about others disrupting their vacation plan and responded reluctantly, "Can't we skip it?"

"But I haven't seen them in a long time. Besides, they're artists from my company. Originally, the investors were only me and Raymond, but he's always at home with Angela. If I don't go, there won't be anyone managing them."

Richard didn't want to hinder Pearl, so he nodded helplessly.

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On the set, Pearl immediately spotted Mobius holding a cup and giving water to Esther. After spending so much time together on set, the crew had become accustomed to it, but it was unusual for Richard and Pearl. Witnessing this moment, their eyes widened in surprise.

Pearl was shocked by how quickly their relationship had progressed, while Richard had never seen this gentle side of Mobius before. Mobius wasn't just giving her water; he was also gently wiping her mouth.

They appeared even sweeter than Pearl and Richard, the official couple.

Pearl sighed. "Youth is a wonderful thing."

Richard misunderstood her and thought she wanted to be treated similarly. He turned his head with a

puzzled expression. "Do you also like to be pampered like this?"

"No, I don't like it. I like money. Can you buy me some gold?"

Richard frowned. "But all my money has been handed over to you for safekeeping. I can't afford gold anymore."

Despite being a CEO, he was surprisingly frugal. He even had to ask Pearl for the money to buy the radiator yesterday.

Although there was no gold, Pearl was still content. "This shows that you're not hiding any secret funds.

Well done, keep it up."

Their conversation disrupted the lovebirds who were taking care of each other. Esther blushed instantly, looking at Pearl with a shy smile, feeling a mixture of emotions in her heart.

Pearl walked over and patted Esther's head "What's wrong? It seems like you're not very happy to see me."

Esther shook her head vigorously. "No. How could I be unhappy? I miss you so much."

Pearl looked around. "Where are Hanzel and Clem? Are they okay?"

Hearing this, Esther hesitated for a moment. "Hanzel's fine, but Clem... He..."

"What happened to him?" Pearl felt a sudden sense of dread.

Esther gritted her teeth. "He's in trouble.."

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Pearl's face turned pale. "What?"

At this point, Esther's gaze turned sad "After the truth about the poisoning incident came to light, it was revealed that the person behind it was someone from 'The Melody of the West' production. Clem went to confront them, but he ended up being brutally beaten and thrown out. They even warned that everyone despises his CEO now, so they advised him and his associates not to stir up trouble again, or they might kill him if they see him again..."

"The Melody of the West.." Pearl thought to herself, "It must be Jenny!"

She looked at Esther, and her expression had a touch of reproach. "Why didn't you tell me about this sooner?"

Esther hesitated for a moment before responding, "Because you weren't doing well at that time, and

Clem was fine. He told me not to bother you with this ”

“Where’s Clem now?”

“He’s at the hospital.”

Pearl immediately went to the hospital with Richard.

Coincidentally, the hospital Pearl went to was where she had been treated for her seafood allergy. It

was surprising that they had never crossed paths before.

Pearl entered the ward where Clem was staying. Hanzel was by his side, giving him water. When they

saw Pearl approaching, both of them exchanged guilty glances.

“Oh, you’re still drinking, huh?” Pearl didn’t say much, but her icy glare was intimidating.

Clem trembled and chuckled submissively. “What brings you here, Pearl?”

“If I hadn’t come, how would I know our esteemed Mister Clem is practicing immortality here with one leg up?”

Clem’s injuries were somewhat severe. It appeared that he had a fractured leg, so he had to hang it in

the air, which looked somewhat comical “The doctor said it will take a hundred days to heal my strained

tendon and fractured bone, so I’m just taking good care of myself. I’ll try to return to work as soon as

possible so I don't waste any more time here."

The next moment, Clem looked at Esther behind Pearl with a questioning expression, as if asking why she had disclosed this matter.

"Stop glaring at her. If she didn't tell me and I found out, I'd scold her too." Pearl's words were chilling, and Esther felt a tinge of fear, shrinking behind her. She was too afraid to utter a word.

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"Alright, I think you guys took it too far. You confronted them when I wasn't here. Weren't you afraid of getting beaten up? Pearl thought about what they had done and got a headache. "Could you please explain why you suddenly felt the need to pick a fight?"

"You see, Pearl. Before the police took that person away, she kept saying it wasn't her idea. Someone from another production assigned her the task, and she didn't expect it to become such a big deal, so..."

Pearl frowned. "That's why you went there?"

Clem scratched his nose. "We were just upset about Esther being falsely accused. In fact, Hanzel went there with me. Man, it's different when you're young. He didn't get hurt at all, and he even took down a couple of them."

"What about you, the helpless Mister Clem? Why didn't you lock anyone down?"

Clem cleared his throat. "It's not that I didn't try to fight back, but we had a bit of an advantage.

Unfortunately, their b*dyguards arrived later and kicked us out.

When Pearl thought about the scene where they were both thrown out, she couldn't help but feel embarrassed.

"Both of you grown men are acting like lads, especially you, Clem. You're in your thirties already, and still behaving so immaturely. Your son will have a good laugh when he sees you like this."

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Clem coughed lightly. "My son has visited me, and he even praised me as a hero."

At this moment, Richard, who was standing beside them, suddenly put his arm around Pearl's shoulder and said, "Our son won't be so silly in the future."

Pearl nodded in agreement.

Clem looked puzzled.

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Pearl's eyes narrowed as she looked at Clem's swollen foot. "Did they do this to you?"

"Uh..." Esther was about to say something from behind but was silenced by Clem's stern look. He

quickly put on a smile. "Nah. I'm fine, really..."

Pearl glanced at Esther, who was behind her. "Tell me about it."

"Well, Mister Clem... He sprained his foot when he came back."

Clem blushed. "Alright, let's not dig into my private affairs anymore."

Pearl couldn't help but chuckle.

"Stop laughing. I know it's funny," Clem said, laughing at himself. After all, he didn't sustain any injuries

in the fight, but he sprained his foot on the way back, which was quite amusing.

As they continued talking, everyone in the room burst into laughter. The atmosphere lightened, and

Pearl no longer pressed

the issue with Clem.

After chatting with Clem, Pearl and Richard returned to the hotel, while Esther went back to the set with

Hanzel.

Seeing that Pearl seemed distracted, Richard asked, "What's wrong?"

"It's likely Jenny's doing. I won't go easy on her," Pearl said with a cold tone and a steely gaze in her eyes.

"What are you going to do then?"

Pearl rubbed her chin and replied, "I want to teach her a lesson."

Richard raised an eyebrow. "What do you mean?"

"You'll find out when the time comes." Pearl chuckled with a plan in mind.

The next morning, a social media post announced that 'The Melody of the West' would be postponed and wouldn't be

released with 'When I Met You.'

'When I Met You' was the campus romance drama starring Esther and Hanzel.

Many fans started complaining about this news, saying they had waited so long and couldn't believe it wouldn't air as scheduled. However, some of them began speculating about the reasons behind this

delay.

At noon, Jenny disclosed that she had developed acne on her face and provided a medical certificate from the hospital, indicating it would take at least two weeks to clear up. As a result, her work schedule would be disrupted, leading to a delay in the shooting.

Then someone said, “Since she can’t film, why not replace her?”

This question instantly ignited everyone’s thoughts.

A single pebble could stir a thousand ripples. Everyone began debating fiercely.

“I think Jenny’s acting skills are really subpar. Look at the few dramas she’s been in, they’re really cringeworthy. They’re not worth watching!”

“Jenny’s appearance isn’t that distinctive either. Maybe it’s just me, but I don’t get her appeal at all.”

“Jenny doesn’t suit historical dramas, right? Have you seen the stills? She looks really ugly, my goodness. They should replace her. Otherwise, it’s bound to flop!”

Jenny, who was in the hospital treating her acne, had hoped to receive some care and sympathy from netizens. But reading these comments, she felt like she was about to explode!

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Jenny was trembling with anger. When she woke up, she discovered unexplained red spots on her face. This not only disrupted her filming schedule but also left her confined to the hospital. To her surprise, there were numerous people online criticizing her!

Feeling down, Hugo suddenly called.

Jenny stared at the name flashing on the screen, feeling annoyed. But she answered the call anyway.

“Hey, Hughie. What’s the matter?”

Hugo’s voice sounded slightly anxious, but he concealed it well. “What’s going on with you? What are these online comments about?”

Thinking it was just her bad luck, Jenny replied with distress, “I don’t know either. I just found myself like this when I woke up. And those online comments? They must be Pearl and her team’s work, trying to discredit me!”

“Did it ever occur to you that Pearl might be behind your acne too?”

Jenny frowned. “I don’t think so. She should be in Enswood right now. Besides, does she even have the means to pull off something like this?”

Hugo, familiar with Pearl's shrewdness, smirked. "You know, Pearl isn't as simple as you think. You have no clue about her true identity."

Jenny thought he was exaggerating Pearl's abilities and didn't look pleased. "So what? Even if Pearl has extraordinary skills, she can't mess with my face. I just talked to the doctor, and he said I'm allergic to plants. It should be-

"What if I told you that Pearl is the apprentice of the renowned physician, Simon Freeman?"

Jenny's expression turned instantly malicious. "I get it now. What should I do then?"

Hugo replied, "You shouldn't make a fuss for now. Take this time to recover in the hospital. When the time's right, I'll help you deal with it."

Hearing this, Jenny's tone softened instantly. "Thank you, Hughie. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't know what to do..."

Hugo smirked again. "In that case, why don't you come and see me tonight?"

Jenny understood what he meant. His suggestion to meet was not for an ordinary meeting.

"You're so naughty." Jenny pretended to be shy, but she felt a wave of disgust in her heart. Once she

took care of that wretched Pearl and dumped Hugo, Richard would surely regret what he did!

Meanwhile, Pearl couldn't help but burst into laughter while reading the comments.

Richard lounged on the couch, casually peeling an orange for Pearl. Noticing her happy expression, he

smiled and teased, "What's with the big smile? You look very pleased after dealing with Jenny."

"Jenny brought this upon herself. Everyone is roasting her online. It's hilarious."

"Exactly, she's just getting what she deserves. After stirring up all that trouble, it's only fair she faces

some consequences." Richard felt no sympathy for Jenny. Her actions had completely erased any

good impression he once had of her.

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"You don't feel sorry at all? She used to be your beloved girlfriend." Pearl thought about Richard's past

and felt upset.

"I think I should explain a few things to you," Richard said, looking serious.

Puzzled by his sudden seriousness, she asked, "What's going on? If it's about Jenny, I was just kidding

earlier. I didn't--"

"First, when I was with Jenny, it wasn't a passionate love story like Hugo described. She wanted to

chase her dreams, and we just had different life goals, so we broke up. Second, I stopped caring about her a long time ago after she left. I didn't really have strong feelings for her, so my obsession with work afterward had nothing to do with her.

"Third, I did have some lingering thoughts about her because I wanted to understand why she abruptly ended our relationship to pursue her dreams. Later, I found out she had a new boyfriend abroad, and he's a director who helped her become famous."

Pearl heard Richard say these words for the first time and was left stunned.

Afterward, Richard looked into Pearl's eyes and asked, "Do you have any more questions?"

"Does that mean.... you got cheated on?" Pearl's thinking was quite unique, and even Richard was surprised.

He gritted his teeth. "Does that even matter?"

Pearl noticed a change in Richard's tone and couldn't help but laugh. "You know, the famous CEO, Mister Richard, got cheated on. That's some juicy gossip."

Richard's expression instantly soured.

"Alright, I won't tease you anymore." Pearl looked at Richard's serious expression and smiled, shaking

her head. "By the way, I talked to Este today, and she mentioned that her production hasn't been filming for a few days. Mainly because they couldn't find a suitable replacement after the poisoning incident. They've been struggling to find the right person."

"Don't you have any actresses at your company? You could have a few of them audition." If he remembered correctly, it was just a supporting role, not that important..

Pearl looked at him and sighed. "It's just unfortunate. All the actresses fit for the role are booked now, and I can't find the right one."

Richard thought for a moment and then focused on Pearl. "Why don't you step in?"

"Me?" Pearl stared at Richard, her smile fading. "I don't think I'm cut out for acting, and honestly, I have no passion for it. Besides, I can't stand the environment there."

Yup, she was just lazy.

"Not cut out for acting? Pearl, do you remember how popular that scene you did in "The Melody of the West" was? If you're not suited for acting, I can't find anyone else in the entertainment industry who is."

Pearl scratched her head. "That was just to compete with Jenny. In fact, I can't act."

“We’ll see. I believe you’re a great fit. Plus, your last scene left a strong impression on so many people.

It could also give the production a nice popularity boost.”

True to his business acumen, every word he spoke was tied to profit.

Pearl had no choice. “Fine, I’ll do it.”

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The next day, Pearl joined the production.

Mister Derek was surprised to see Pearl come in person. “Miss Pearl, are you here to act yourself?” He

had seen the scene where Pearl slapped Jenny. From a professional point of view, it was undeniably

fantastic.

With her looks and acting skills, she could become a star in just three years. But why would someone

as talented as her audition for a supporting role?

“Yeah, isn’t there an open spot for this role? To be fair, I’ll give it a shot, and you can see how it goes,”

Pearl replied.

“Okay, we’ll give it a shot. Mister Derek broke into a sweat. The other production couldn’t even cast

Pearl as the lead role. What made him think he could get her for a supporting role?

The scene Pearl was auditioning for was one where the supporting actress had to carry the

unconscious female lead to the hospital. Seeing Pearl's slim figure, Mister Derek hesitated, "If you can't

carry her, we can put her on your shoulders instead."

Pearl glanced at Esther, who was pretending to be unconscious on the ground. "With her petite size,

how could I not carry her?"

Mister Derek hesitated for a moment. "Recently, Esther gained some weight for this role. She's now 105

pounds, and many guys on the set tried but couldn't carry her except for Hanzel..."

"That's because they're all amateurs! Is there any other guy on the crew besides Hanzel?"

Richard chuckled. "Indeed, they're amateurs."

An actor standing nearby overheard and said, "What are you guys talking about? Esther gained weight.

With her current weight, who can carry her?"

Esther's eyes flickered, showing a hint of disappointment, but she still smiled. She hadn't gained the

weight permanently; it was just for the role, so she wasn't bothered by it.

Pearl couldn't help but mutter, "Such a lightweight."

The guy widened his eyes. "Who are you calling a lightweight?"

Pearl rolled her eyes, ignoring him. "When do we start, Mister Derek?"

"Oh, well..." Mister Derek chuckled awkwardly. "You may start now."

Pearl took a deep breath and quickly ran to Esther. As she looked at Esther's unconscious form, her

usually calm gaze was now filled with concern

"Are you okay, Emma?" Seeing the blood on Esther's head and her closed eyes, Pearl reached out and

effortlessly lifted her.

It was a simple, effortless lift. A princess carry wasn't as simple as it looked.

Everyone around, especially the guy who had mocked Pearl earlier, widened their eyes. He blushed,

wishing he could find somewhere to lude.

The acting, lines, and everything else were flawless. She got it right on the first try, and the director

shouted 'cut' with satisfaction.

Pearl approached the guy, raised an eyebrow, and said, "When I was a boxing champion, you were

probably still learning your ABCs in school You should hit the gym more often and not embarrass

yourself here.”

‘Boxing champion? The guy’s ears turned red. He hadn’t paid attention to boxing but never expected this delicate-looking lady to be a champion!

Pearl noticed everyone’s surprised expressions and tilted her head in confusion. “What’s the matter?”

Esther was amazed, and her eyes lit up with excitement as she explained, “You look amazing, Pearl! A boxing champion? You’re the coolest person I’ve ever met!”

“What a goofball.”

“Hey! It’s impressive that you picked me up so effortlessly, much better than those guys!” Esther lowered her voice and added, “Actually, that guy liked me. It’s just that after he found out I was with Mobius, he got all embarrassed and that’s why he keeps dissing me every day.”

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Pearl looked indifferent, saying, “I told you, those guys are just amateurs.” She then turned to look at

Richard, who couldn’t hide his complex expression either. “Right, Richard?”

Richard nodded and hesitated. “Yeah...” He had quite a spirited wife. Well, how should he put it... She was pretty independent.

Yup, she was his type.

“Don’t worry, I won’t beat you up.” Pearl said with a smirk as she reached for his hand.

Richard whispered in her ear, “You couldn’t beat me anyway.”

Pearl glared at him. “What did you say? How about we give it a try here?”

Richard was at a loss for words.

Pearl passed the director’s test and officially joined the production.

Even though no one dared to have any bad intentions towards her, Richard couldn’t leave her alone on the set. Everyone knew she was his girlfriend, so he had to stay by her side.

“Aren’t you feeling hot standing under the sun?”

They were filming at a man-made beach, and the temperature was exceptionally high. With Richard’s tall, lean figure standing in the sun, he looked handsome but also pitiful. It was nearly 40 degrees Celsius, no joke.

Richard replied, “Nope, I’m just keeping an eye on you.”

His concern was somewhat justified. Soon, they filmed an awkward scene where a guy who had secretly admired the supporting actress for a long time suddenly k*ssed her on the beach, taking away

her first k*ss.

Richard's expression soured as he read the script. The chill in the air was palpable, making everyone around him shiver.

Just as they were about to k*ss, Richard intervened and abruptly stopped the shoot.

"What are you doing, Richard?"

Richard remained unfazed. "No k*ssing scenes."

Pearl sighed helplessly. "But it's just acting. It's not real, okay?"

"No."

The guy in the scene seemed suspicious, and his flushed face couldn't hide his ill intentions. It was clear he had ulterior motives.

"How about we fake it?"

Richard's response was even colder, "No!"

"What do you suggest, then? There are twenty-three k*ssing scenes coming up. Do you expect me to

cut them all?" Pearl felt helpless. It was Richard's fault for not reading the script carefully and getting her into this mess. He brought this upon himself!

Richard looked uncomfortable. "Cut them all."

The director looked distressed. "But Mister Richard, this drama is meant to be a light campus romance.

Without a few intimate scenes, no one will watch it!" He didn't want to cut them. He was so anxious that

he almost burst into tears.

Suddenly, Richard lowered his head, his eyes betraying a long-standing inner conflict.

"I'll play that guy's part."

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Mobius grabbed Esther by the collar, pulling her before him. "What are you up to, Esther?"

"Mobius, if you do this to me again, I'm breaking up with you!"

Mobius chuckled. "I never agreed to be with you. You must be dreaming!"

Esther's eyes widened. "That's not fair!" She remembered being drunk and asking Mobius if he would be her boyfriend, and he clearly said yes!

"You can't seriously think that we're together, do you? That's why people in the production have been

giving me strange looks lately. Did you start spreading rumors?" Mobius let out a frustrated laugh and then pinched Esther's face.

Esther pouted with a hint of resentment. "That's because I like you. I thought you were serious."

Mobius recalled that night with Esther. Her face flushed from alcohol, she staggered toward him with a bottle in hand, then threw herself into his arms.

"Can you be my boyfriend, Mobius? I like you so much!"

Mobius watched her radiant smile and quirked his lips, "Sure."

The next moment, Esther, who was somewhat conscious, suddenly passed out in his arms.

Thinking of this, Mobius couldn't help but shake his head. "Alright, let's not bring that up again. All I remember is you throwing up on me, and I still can't forget that smell."

Esther glared at him in embarrassment.

"It's okay, Esther. Stay with the crew, and I'll go with Richard."

Esther scoffed, "This man used to bully you. You forget about that so quickly and even ditch your friend for him?"

Pearl cleared her throat. "That's not the case. Richard can take a beating this time."

Richard's eyebrows furrowed at her words. "Huh?"

Pearl didn't know what to say. She pretended she needed to use the restroom and made a quick exit.

Seeing Pearl leave, Esther glared at Richard. "I'm warning you. Don't you dare bully Pearl, or I won't let you off the hook!"

Richard looked at Esther, who barely reached his chest as if he were dealing with a little kid. "Don't worry about it. All you need to do is think about how to handle Mobius."

Esther was fuming, but there was nothing she could do. After all, Richard was Mobius's brother.

With this matter temporarily resolved, Pearl brought Richard to the 'Melody of the West' set early in the morning, pretending to borrow the set.

Esther noticed Pearl's high spirits and couldn't help but see the same determination her mother had when she went shopping. It seemed like she wanted to make the most out of it.

As Pearl walked in, the director was calmly enjoying his tea. When he noticed her approaching, he gulped nervously and asked, "What brings you here, Miss Pearl? Is there something you'd like to discuss?"

“Yes, there is something. Is it possible for us to borrow your set for a scene? It’s a small segment and will only take a day to film.”

“Well...” The director appeared troubled. “The thing is, we’re not done with the shoot yet so we might not be able to lend it to you.”

Pearl sneered after hearing him out. “I heard that your production has filmed all the scenes except for those involving Jenny, who’s been in the hospital for what feels like an eternity. Why can’t we borrow the set?”

Considering that Pearl was Leonard’s apprentice, the director explained with some hesitation, “The main issue is Miss Jenny... she’s the one who won’t allow it!”

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“Why? Are you afraid that Jenny might threaten you?” Pearl found it somewhat amusing. The director in front of her was a well-known filmmaker in the country, yet he was a coward.

“It’s not Jenny I’m afraid of, but the person backing her up. You might not know, but this person has tremendous influence even abroad. He’s quite extraordinary.”

“What’s the story? Why don’t you fill me in on this person and their influence?”

The director mentioned a name, but Pearl remained silent and asked directly, "Where's Jenny?"

"Jenny is recovering in her secluded villa. Do you want to see her?"

"Of course. Since you won't lend us the set, I'll have to go see her myself."

The director felt embarrassed and could only rub his hands together while nodding. "In that case, you may go ahead. I'll send you the location."

Pearl didn't say much, but she sneered in her heart. After she got the address, she immediately headed to Jenny's villa.

Richard glanced at Pearl and asked, "Aren't you going to see her?"

"Not now, of course." Pearl stretched and added with a lazy smile, "I'll go when everything's ready."

Richard knew she had a plan, so he didn't say much.

In the evening, Pearl went to Jenny's villa. She knocked politely at the door, and it didn't take long for a woman in casual attire to come out.

Indeed, it was Jenny. The acne on her face hadn't completely disappeared, somewhat affecting her appearance.

When Jenny saw Pearl, her expression changed instantly. "It's you! How did you find this place?"

"If I want to find you, I'll locate you," Pearl replied casually, her gaze fixed on Jenny's somewhat

troubled expression. "So, care to tell me why you're not allowing the director to lend us the set?"

Upon hearing this, Jenny let out a disdainful snort. She made her way back to the living room, took a

seat on the couch, and nonchalantly turned on the TV. "I suggest you don't bother trying. You've

crossed me one too many times. Even if you beg on your knees, I won't lend you the set so you better

give up on that idea."

"Who said I'm here to beg you? I came to demand something from you."

Jenny was furious. "This is ridiculous. If you think you can threaten me into lending the set to you,

you're wrong!"

Pearl remarked sarcastically, "I heard that your benefactor is quite influential, huh?"

When Jenny heard what Pearl said, she smirked with satisfaction. "That's right. You can't

afford to cross paths with the person backing me!"

Geez. How powerful can that person be? She was indeed something.

Pearl smiled. "Why don't you introduce me, Jenny? How amazing is this person you're talking about?"

“These are heights you’ll never reach in your life. Do you honestly believe you can steal my spotlight?

Or is it that Richard can’t keep you in line anymore, so you’ve come here for some attention?”

Pearl was undeniably attractive, with her fair and dainty complexion, oval-shaped face, and eyes that were downright captivating. If she came face-to-face with that person, Jenny would unquestionably consider it a huge threat.