

YOUR GUISE 581

Chapter 581

The flowers in the garden appeared vibrant and lively. To the untrained eye, they might seem like mere decorative flowers, but to people like Pearl, who were knowledgeable about herbs, these were

medicinal plants.

Pearl bent down and plucked a white flower, holding it to her nose to take in its faint, herbal scent.

“This is Orgrutro. It’s used to improve lungs.”

Damian raised his brows. “Looks like old man Simon taught you a thing or two,”

“Let’s go in and take a look. This seems to be the most suspicious area we’ve come across,” Pearl

suggested.

Damian nodded. “Agreed. Let’s proceed.”

They moved carefully, tiptoeing around and leaping over the wall to enter the inner garden. It looked

worlds apart from the outer garden. They walked along the wall to avoid any potential hidden traps.

As they took a few steps, Damian let out a small yelp, then looked down to see a tiny snake next to his

foot. Fang marks were clearly visible on his calf.

Pearl kicked the snake aside and saw Damian’s skin turning purple. She frowned, took out a knife, and

quickly stabbed the snake..

The snake's bile, combined with the medication Pearl administered, would temporarily counteract the toxins.

Just as Pearl grabbed the snake, a woman's voice spoke up. "Please don't touch my snake. The voice had a crisp, almost childlike quality to it.

Pearl turned to find not a child but a young lady, around seventeen or eighteen years old. Her skin was smooth, and her face possessed a timeless beauty, as if she had been shielded from the harshness of the world. However, her voice sounded remarkably like a clueless child's Pearl felt annoyed and replied, "But my friend is injured, and I'm trying to save him." She meant to convey that the snake had harmed her friend, so the girl should hand over the snake to save his life.

The girl appeared to understand and nodded. She took out a bottle and handed it to Pearl.

Pearl knelt down beside Damian, applied the substance to his wound, and after a short while, the pain began to subside.

Damian attempted to stand up and thanked the young lady. "Thank you."

The girl blushed, her innocent expression making her look even more adorable. Pearl couldn't help but feel that this girl was harmless, like a timid bunny.

Damian, noticing the girl's neat attire, asked, "Do you live here alone?" Curiously, he peered past her into the darkened house behind her, but the girl moved to block his view.

"No."

Chapter

The girl appeared shy, her fair skin still flushed from embarrassment. "I... live with a lady."

"A lady?" Pearl grew anxious. "Could you be more specific about that, young lady?"

"She's asleep right now. I couldn't sleep, so I came out to look at the moon, and that's when I found you," the girl explained. Her eyes sparkled with innocence.

"Does the lady's last name happen to be Jordan?" Damian inquired.

The girl nodded. "Everyone here is a Jordan."

That was certainly true.

Pearl struggled to find the right words to ask whether the person inside the house was her mother. The girl seemed quite serious and unlikely to make things up.

"I'd like to know if the woman in there is named Beah Jordan?"

Chapter 582

Damian couldn't hold back any longer and decided to use his charming looks to his advantage. The girl

had likely been isolated for quite some time, causing her to stutter while talking to a man, but she

appeared to be honest. "I... Yes, that's her name," she stammered.

That was easy.

Pearl was still in shock, but then, a moment later, they heard noises from outside.

"I saw two people approaching. I think they've found this place!"

"Have you checked the surveillance? Where did they come from? Is this an assassination attempt?"

"I did. They were dressed in black, and we couldn't see their faces. Master Jordan doesn't allow

anyone to come here so we must catch them!"

Pearl and Damian exchanged glances and prepared to leave.

However, before doing so, Pearl suddenly remembered something. She tightly placed the two

necklaces she had been holding into the girl's hand. "Could you please give these to the sleeping lady?"

She'll understand when she sees them. Don't worry, we mean no harm."

“Alright, I will.” The girl couldn’t tell if these two people in black were good or bad, but Pearl’s eyes seemed clear and confident. She decided to label them as good people.

“Thank you. I’ll come back tomorrow night.”

The girl hesitated and looked at Damian before asking, “Will both of you be coming?”

“Yes,” Damian replied before Pearl had a chance to respond.

Pearl glared at him. “Who says I want you here?”

Damian smirked and playfully tugged at some of Pearl’s hair. “Who else would you come here with?”

“You’re funny.”

Pearl felt infuriated and wanted to retaliate, but Damian quickly grabbed her wrist and frowned.

“Enough of this. We need to leave now. Those people will be here soon.”

“Fine, fine.” Pearl nonchalantly agreed and leaped over the wall. “I’ll distract them, and you

your escape.”

make

Damian balled his fists in frustration. “Why are you the distraction?”

“Because you can’t remember the way.”

Damian’s expression darkened because it was the truth.

He then climbed over the wall, but as he was mid-air, he caught sight of a pair of bright, clear eyes fixed on him.

Once they both left, a voice came from the door.

“Gigi, what’s going on out there?”

Gigi’s eyes darted around, and she quickly hid the necklaces she was holding. “I don’t know.

There was suddenly a lot of noise.”

“Don’t stay out there then. It’s quite cold. Come back inside and rest.”

Gigi felt warmth in her heart.

П

Three years ago, Beah had taken her in, and she had been living there ever since. Beah had cared for her with the utmost kindness.

The lady who had just arrived looked remarkably similar to her, so Gigi suspected they were related. If

the lady returned, would Beah still...keep her?

She didn't want to find out, so she didn't tell the truth. She knew the lady would come back to see

Beah, but she would rather drag this out.

She then tucked the necklaces inside her inner shirt. "Alright. I'm coming back to sleep."

Chapter 583

Pearl and Damian met again outside Jordan Residence, exchanged smiles, and shared a light

moment. She teasingly removed a piece of grass stuck in Damian's hair and burst into

laughter. "You didn't have to use the doggie door, you know."

"Do you think I wanted to do that? There were people all around. How else could I get over the wall?"

Damian was clearly annoyed and furious.

They walked over to their car, and Pearl's curiosity got the better of her. She inquired, "How did you

know she wasn't living alone?"

Damian ignored her question, climbed into the car, started the engine with a sly grin, and said, "You'll

never get it. The girl's clothes fit her well and were very clean. It was obvious someone was taking care

of her."

"I never took you for someone so observant."

Damian rolled his eyes. "Should I be as reckless as you? How would we find your mom then?"

"Shut up." Pearl snapped, not wanting to continue the conversation as she glared at him.

Despite their banter, Damian had a soft spot for Pearl. She was a skilled hacker, and her cautious nature was admirable. Yet, riling her up was always entertaining for him.

As they continued their drive, Pearl suddenly fell into a deep slumber in the passenger's seat, leaving Damian deep in thought. He glanced at her sleeping peacefully and couldn't help but reach out to gently touch her hair.

"Pearl, why don't you trust me instead? I'll protect you," Damian whispered to himself, a soft smile on his face, avoiding using the word "love."

Meanwhile, in Enswood, Richard sat alone in his empty house, feeling inexplicably sad and lonely.

Ramona placed his meal on the table and grumbled, "Sir, Mister Dustan and Missus Susan are going on vacation, and young Master Mobius is at school today, so you'll be dining alone."

Richard asked, "Where's Pearl?"

Unaware of the recent developments between them, Ramona thought he had forgotten and replied,

“Miss Pearl went to Bodgow yesterday. Have you forgotten?”

“Bodgow?” Richard frowned.

It had almost slipped his mind. Pearl had left for Bodgow yesterday, and he had watched her leave.

Although he no longer had feelings for her, he couldn't help but feel a pang of sadness when he saw her with Damian, who seemed to love her.

Suddenly, Richard remembered his meal. He sat down, picked up a slice of toast, and took a bite just to realize it was tasteless.

He suddenly remembered the eggs and bacon Pearl had cooked back then. Although he didn't remember the full details, he remembered it was salty and the eggs tasted weird. He gave that to Mobius who kept saying it tasted good, and it was funny.

Without realizing it, a faint smile appeared on his face.

Before he could take another bite, a sweet female voice interrupted his thoughts. “Rick, it's the weekend, and the weather is lovely. Let's go somewhere.”

Richard's smile vanished. He watched as Jenny leaned closer, her collar provocatively open and her cleavage intentionally emphasized. He frowned and replied, “No, I have work to do. You go ahead.”

why are you

Jenny looked at him in disbelief. "Rick, you've never turned me down before. so cold now?!"

Chapter 584

Looking at Richard's handsome face, Jenny felt herself falling even deeper in love, even

though she knew he had stopped loving her a long time ago. Their breakup had been quiet and without

any reluctance on his part.

However, that didn't mean anything. As long as Pearl never returned, Richard would

eventually fall for her again in a matter of time.

"We've broken up, Jenny. Have you forgotten?" Richard reminded her.

Jenny recoiled and pretended to wipe her tears away. "I know you don't have feelings for me anymore,

but why does it matter? You will love me again, right?"

"No, we've moved on, and I won't fall for you again," Richard stated firmly, trying to make her

understand. "You need to learn to let go and find your own happiness."

"I don't believe you. I can't believe that you feel absolutely nothing for me." Her face was stained with

tears, and she looked pitiful.

Richard was growing increasingly annoyed with Jenny. He turned his head away from her, his mind

drifting to another woman. "Why can't all women be as sensible as Pearl?"

Jenny immediately broke down when she heard that.

"Pearl? What's so good about her? You don't have feelings for her anymore, yet you still think about

her!" She ground her teeth in hatred and continued, "She's in Bodgow now. Do you know why she left?

Because she doesn't want to see you. She doesn't love you anymore, so what's the point of holding

on?"

Richard thought he would be fine with that, but hearing those words still caused his heart to ache. "It's

none of your business." He stood up and coldly added, "From now on, don't come here anymore."

"Why? This isn't like you. You used to be so kind to me. You even took me home," Jenny protested, her

heart warming at the memory of his kindness.

Growing up, Jenny hadn't received much care at home. Her younger sister's fragile health had gotten

all the attention, and although she was jealous, there was nothing she could do about it.

She had met Richard in college, initially drawn to his good looks. She had helped him in various ways,

finding excuses to bump into him—saving an abandoned cat, slipping on a rainy day, or forgetting her ID tag while having lunch at the cafeteria. After half a year of effort, she had finally made Richard her boyfriend.

Richard had brought her home, and the Waldorf family had embraced her, with the exception of Susan, who had remained neutral. But that hadn't bothered Jenny. She knew that once Richard graduated, she could get married and move out, and she wouldn't have to care about Susan.

Their relationship, however, had been lukewarm, with no kisses exchanged in the six months they had been together. That was when a rich and powerful man showed up, and she jumped into his arms without hesitation.

However, she still felt Richard was her best option. That was why she had returned to try and get him back!

"I did all that just to repay you. Don't you get it?"

"Well, why did you choose to save me the other day?" Jenny still wouldn't believe him.

Without hesitation, Richard replied, "Because you were closer to me."

Jenny's heart shattered into pieces.

Chapter 585

Richard's rationality frustrated Jenny. She held back the screams in her head and declared, "I'll make you fall for me again!"

Suppressing the jealousy gnawing at her heart, Jenny turned and walked away.

Richard's eyes gleamed, his thoughts consumed by a familiar face. What was Pearl doing in Bodgow?

And why was she with another man? Annoyance surged within him.

He quickly made a phone call and said coldly, "Get me a ticket to Bodgow."

In the dead of night, Pearl prepared to return to Jordan Residence. Damian accompanied her, and they stood outside the compound, apprehensive about what lay ahead.

"Why do I have a feeling that the traps have changed?"

Pearl rolled her eyes. "Of course. After the commotion we caused yesterday, they would have increased security measures."

"But—" Damian attempted to argue.

The eerie silence enveloping the place felt like walking into a trap.

“No ‘buts.’ Even if there are traps tonight, I’m going in,” Pearl asserted resolutely.

Her determination to find her mother was unwavering, but she worried about Damian, whom she had always seen as aloof but had recently discovered had no sense of direction.

“Why don’t you go home and wait for me there?” she suggested.

That annoyed Damian. “No way. I’m coming with you,”

“Fine, then. Stay close.” Pearl couldn’t be bothered to argue, so she climbed over the wall and ventured forward in the darkness.

As they both scaled the wall, they reached the familiar garden. Surprisingly, there were no guards around, and even the young lady they had encountered the other night was absent. Pearl briefly considered whether they had underestimated the estate’s defenses.

However, just after they entered the garden, the house lit up

1. up.

Pearl’s gaze locked onto a man slowly approaching her, causing her stomach to churn.

“We meet again, ma’am,” said the butler, who appeared to have lost weight since their last encounter.

He must have been tired.

Pearl scoffed. "You're quite persistent to follow me all the way here."

"Ma'am, you should have taken the easy way, rather than this path. Did you intentionally want to get caught?" The butler's tone rose in excitement at her presence.

"So you knew it was me all along?"

"Of course. Who else would come here in the middle of the night?"

A smile from someone else flashed through Pearl's mind. "Does that mean Mister Ezra knows too?"

Chapter 586

"Of course, ma'am I strongly recommend you come back with me," the butler insisted. He looked to the

side, and a few pumple walked over "I'd advise against restating an you don't get hurt."

Damion positioned himself in front of Pearl, challenging their captore "What business does Pearl have with your family, apart from blood? Why do you have to lords her up? Are the Jordans now in the kidnapping trade?"

The butler's face reddened with irritation as Damian taunted him. He cleared his throat and retorted,

“Do you lack manners, Scott? Your family no longer casts so you should watch your words.”

“What does my family’s existence have to do with me? If the Jordans have all gone extinct, should the butler take his own life?” Damian countered.

The experienced butler chose to ignore the provocation and maintained a smile. “I’m going to let this slide. You take the lady away and the rest of you lock this man up in the mast wing”

“You’re going to detain non–Jordans as well?” Damian’s anger flared as he glared at the middle aged men who had gathered around.

“Of course not. However, in prevent you from abducting Miss Pearl, the master instructed us to temporarily confine you and only release you after the lady’s wedding”

“Wedding / Didn’t Raymond reject the wedding? Why are we getting engaged again ?” Pearl ?” exclaimed in disbelief.

The butler smiled mysteriously. “The master has decided to hold a wedding to prevent you from running away. I can’t disclose the identity of your future husband just yet, but rest assured, he has chosen a suitable match for you.”

Outrage boiled within Pearl. "I am Richard's fiancée, Marrying someone else is out of the

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The butler smiled indifferently. "That's not a problem. We will send someone to cancel your engagement with the Waldorfs. You should prepare for your upcoming wedding" As if he were weary of talking, he waved to the men behind him. "Let's go."

The butler had assembled the most capable men at his disposal. Even though they might not match the skills of Pearl and Damian, their sheer numbers could overpower the two.

Instead of using her energy on futile resistance, Pearl decided to preserve her energy and use it to figure out a way to escape.,

Damian realized what she was doing, nodded, and didn't resist either.

"Very well. We will deliver your meals daily. Your soon-to-be husband will arrive in ten days," the butler stated.

Leading Pearl toward her cottage, he secretly confiscated all her communication devices, except for the tiny ring she had managed to slip to Damian.

Once they were separated and the butler had left, Pearl settled into her room and began speaking to

Damian through the ring.

“Damian.”

Hearing her familiar voice, Damian glanced around to confirm that no one was monitoring him before feeling relieved. “Are you in your room now?”

“Yes, but I have a suspicion. How did the butler know it was us?” Even if they had merely visited Beah’s cottage, it should not have been discovered so quickly.

Damian closed his eyes and, after a lengthy pause, responded, “It’s quite simple. Someone told them so we would get caught.”

“You mean... the girl?” Pearl recalled the girl with her innocent gaze. It was unfathomable that someone who appeared so kind and unassuming could betray them. “Why would she do that?”

Chapter 587

“I don’t know the reason for now, but I’m sure it was her.”

Pearl felt conflicted. “She didn’t look like a bad person so how could she do that?”

“It’s hard to read people’s minds. You’ve learned that by now,” Damian replied, lying on his bed and staring at the ceiling while deep in thought. “I’ll investigate and find a weak spot to get you out of

here.”

“Don’t joke around. Even if you could escape, there’s no way I could. The old man won’t release me.”

Her room was constantly guarded. Not even a fly could sneak past them.

“Tell me,

who does the old man intend to marry you off to? Why does he hate Richard so much?” Damian was

surprised. The Waldorfs were one of the wealthiest families in Enswood, nearly on par with the

Jordans. Richard was a business prodigy and managed to elevate Waldorf Enterprises to the top ten

companies in the country within two years.

Richard was destined for greatness, so Ezra’s behavior didn’t make sense.

“It’s because of an incident that happened many years ago,” Pearl explained, sighing as she recounted

the story.

Damian’s jaw dropped after hearing that, and he nearly tumbled out of bed. “You have a dark past. Tsk,

tsk. No wonder he refuses to let you marry Richard. I wouldn’t either.”

‘Enough of that. I’m going to speak to Wayne and have him find a way to get me out of here. I also

want to discover who I'm supposed to marry." Pearl glared and didn't want to talk to him anymore.

Damian suddenly perked up. "The few families suitable for a Jordan would be the Waldorfs, the Yorks, and myself." They would need to search for potential matches from abroad aside from these options.

Pearl chuckled at his narcissism but then froze. It was true, so who could it be? Before she could ponder this further, Damian had already fallen asleep.

That was fast...

Feeling tired, Pearl stood up to end the conversation, tidied up, and went to bed as well.

Early the next morning, Pearl received a call from Wayne.

"I've found a lot of information. The person you're marrying is from..."

Pearl interrupted him upon sensing his hesitation. "Which family?"

"The Coopers."

Pearl's eyes went wide in disbelief. "Who? The Coopers?"

That was outrageous. Everyone in the Cooper family was aware of her engagement to Richard. Has Reese lost his mind?

“Is it Drew?” Drew had never displayed any unusual interest in her and was engaged himself. Who else could it be?

“Sean.”

Pearl felt like the world was crumbling around her, and her smile froze. “Sean? That evil man? Why would he want to marry me? He hates me!”

“Calm down, Pea. He might want to compete against Richard and-”

Chapter 588

“Compete? Who would use their own marriage as a competition? Sean isn’t even a Waldorf anymore. So, what’s the point of competing?” Pearl couldn’t figure out what Sean could possibly gain from marrying her.

“Maybe he really likes you?” Wayne hesitated but still voiced the possibility.

“No

way. Sean probably hates me the most among the Waldorfs. Why would he like me?” Sean’s derogatory remarks about her continued to linger in Pearl’s mind. There was no logical reason for him to have affection for her.

As Pearl's headache intensified, she began suspecting that Sean had ulterior motives. "Did you find out anything else?"

"Yes, Mister Ezra has announced that his granddaughter will be marrying into the Cooper family in ten days, and he claimed that you're doing it willingly."

"And what about Richard? Did he do or say anything?" She still wanted to know about Richard, even if he no longer loved her.

"Yes, he initially booked a ticket to Bodgow but later canceled it."

Pearl rubbed her nose bridge, feeling that the situation was becoming increasingly complicated.

"Alright, arrange for someone to help me escape on my wedding day."

Wayne suddenly chuckled. "Why don't you just go through with the marriage? Sean is a decent looking guy, and Richard doesn't have feelings for you anymore"

Before Wayne could finish his thought, the call abruptly ended. Pearl was clearly angry again. Pearl wasn't one to sit idly by. After hanging up, someone showed up at her door.

"How have you been, Pearl? Are you settling in comfortably?"

Pearl frowned and felt annoyed as she looked at Ezra. She let out a lazy yawn. "I thought you'd only

show up on my wedding day. Are you here to make sure I don't run away?

"You're wrong about me, Pearl. Do I look like that kind of person? You're the daughter of my

Of course I want you to marry into a good family."

beloved daughter, my granddaughter

Ezra looked kind and friendly, but Pearl was well aware that he had ulterior motives. "Oh? Is this how

you treat your beloved daughter? By locking her up and making her disappear for years?"

Ezra's face dropped and after some time, he smirked. "I guess you found out."

"Yeah, my mom has been missing for years because you locked her up."

Ezra's expression changed, but his experience allowed him to quickly regain his composure. "I just

wanted to protect my daughter. Your dad cast her aside because he didn't want to waste her time. Your

mom is rather naive. After leaving home, she wanted to go back to your dad to spend the rest of her life

with him. Don't you think that's quite foolish?"

Pearl's heart ached knowing the depth of her parents' love, but Ezra's interference had

severed their connection. She glared at Ezra with a newfound hatred. "If that's true, why did you

prevent me from seeing her?”.

Bera froze, then chuckled. “I didn’t. You could have just walked through the front door to see her. Why did you have to scale the wall? Besides, your mom has some psychological issues. She’s not always in the right state of mind, and I feared she might hurt you.”

Pearl’s heart ached even more, but her alarms were raised. Ezra might be lying “Let me out. I want to see my mom.”

Chapter 589

Ezra appeared somewhat flustered as he hadn’t expected Pearl to want to see Beah so soon. “I mentioned earlier that your mom has some psychological issues. I’m concerned that your sudden presence might affect her condition.”

Pearl didn’t pay much heed to Ezra’s explanation and made her intentions clear. “I’m a trained medical professional, so my purpose is to help her, not harm her. Rest assured, I won’t worsen her condition because I’m a doctor.”

Ezra’s expression soured further as he momentarily forgot that Pearl had a medical background. “But every doctor has their own methods of treatment...”

“Do you really think I would hurt my own mother?”

Ezra swallowed his reservations.

“Didn’t you say I’m going to be married in ten days? I have a condition. I get to see her during this time and I get to do it whenever I want to, or I won’t get married.”

Pearl sounded resolute, catching Ezra off guard. “Are you sure you’re willing to marry?”

Pearl’s eyes darted around, and she put on an innocent smile. “Of course, I’m willing to marry into a good family. Richard has lost his memories, and he no longer loves me, Staying with him would just be a waste of time. It’s better to marry someone else.”

Ezra wasn’t entirely convinced but accepted her answer. “Very well. I’ll permit you to see your mother, but you cannot take her out of this place. You can only stay there.”

Pearl’s eyes shone. “Deal. Take me to her now.”

Ezra instructed the butler to escort Pearl to a garden on the east wing and then left for work.

A rush of emotions overwhelmed Pearl as she walked on the dried leaves. She hadn’t seen her mother in years, and she couldn’t recall her appearance.

She had heard that they bore a strong resemblance to each other. Pearl was eager to see the face that

had captured Bodgow's heart and give her a check-up.

She extended her arm to stop the butler from following her inside. "I'll go in by myself. Wait here or leave. There's tight security here, and I won't be able to escape. Why are you even worried?"

П

The butler was placed in a difficult situation. "But the master instructed us to stay with you."

"If you follow me like this, it will only affect my reunion with my mother. Go tell him that I want to be alone with her. If he doesn't allow that, our agreement is off." It was a thinly veiled threat, but Pearl was determined not to back down. Her resolute gaze was almost terrifying.

The butler had little choice but to sigh and say, "Very well, I'll inform him now." He then led the group away from the garden, leaving Pearl to enter the cottage.

In front of her was a bed of cockscomb flowers. As she took a few steps further, she noticed that the inner garden was distinct from the outer one, which was strewn with leaves. This one was well-kept.

As she readied herself to proceed, a clear voice called out to her. "What are you doing?"

Pearl turned around to find the girl from the previous night. Recalling the necklace she had asked her

to deliver, Pearl decided to lower her guard. "I forgot to ask for your name earlier. What's your name?"

The girl looked away. "Gigi."

Chapter 590

"Gigi, did you give the necklaces I asked you to?" Pearl inquired, her eyes fixed on the girl.

Gigi, taken aback by Pearl's sudden appearance, was flustered and couldn't muster a lie. She stuttered

nervously, "I... I forgot."

Pearl's gaze bore into her. How could she have forgotten something so important?

"Take me to see her now and give the necklaces back to me."

Gigi panicked. "Aren't you getting married? Why are you here?"

Noticing that Gigi evaded her question, Pearl suspected something else "Did you intentionally not give

the necklaces?"

Gigi shook her head hard. "No, I really forgot."

"Surely, you must remember where you kept them, right?"

Gigi paused and realized that she had kept the necklaces in her clothes. However, two days had

passed, and she couldn't find them anymore. She had assumed that it didn't matter since she believed

Pearl would never return. Now, her assumptions had been proven wrong.

“I lost them,” Gigi admitted. It was the truth she really had no idea where they were,

Pearl’s heart ached as those necklaces held great sentimental value to her, given that they were her

father’s legacy and a keepsake from her mother.

“Take me to see my mom then.”

Gigi’s heart raced as she hesitated. “L...”

Pearl noticed Gigi’s nervousness and couldn’t help but chuckle. “Don’t worry, I won’t trouble you or

report you.

Gigi looked at Pearl with gratitude. “Alright then, come with me.”

Pearl nodded, prepared to follow Gigi, but as she was about to move, a white silhouette appeared at

the top of the stairs.

“Pearl?”

The voice had a mix of nervousness, overwhelm, sadness, and hopefulness.

Pearl looked up, and her heart skipped a beat. The woman before her possessed a striking beauty, a

slender figure, and facial features similar to hers. Despite being in her forties, she appeared as youthful

as someone in their twenties. However, her appearance indicated at prolonged illness.

Pearl had been separated from her mother for so long that she had almost forgotten her appearance.

She couldn't bring herself to call her "mom" just yet. But upon seeing her, a strange emotion welled up

within her, possibly due to the natural bond between mother and child.

Her hands worked quicker than her mind. Pearl approached the frail-looking woman and pulled her

into a tight embrace.

Beah was very excited and said in a hushed tone, "Don't come too close, I don't want to infect you."

"I'm not afraid of this." Pearl held her even tighter and sobbed. "I've been searching for you for so long,

but you were here all along. Why wouldn't you see me?"

Beah sighed. "My dear child, it's not that I don't want to. I just didn't dare."

Pearl was curious. "Why not?"

"Because I'm just a puppet in this place," Beah replied with a sad smile. "I've always kept your

existence hidden from your grandfather. He didn't know about you, so even when I secretly visited you,

I could only watch from afar."