

YOUR GUISE 591

Chapter 591

Bealy's thoughts wandered back to her life in seclusion after escaping her own wedding, her feelings a mixture of nostalgia and sadness,

"I understand what you're saying," Pearl replied. She recognized that Heah was merely trying to shield her daughter from potential harassment by the Jordans, given her first hand experience with Master Jordan's personality.

"But you're naive too," Beal remarked, gazing at her nearly as tall daughter. She let out a sigh and continued, "Why did you come searching for me? You could have continued with your life, perhaps already married to your beloved and starting a family "

Pearl shook her head, dismissing the notion "I can only begin my own family with peace of mind after finding you."

"Alright, let's not be too cynical on our first meeting Come, I'll make some tea." Beal was a genteel and cultured woman who found solace in brewing tea as part of her daily routine. Whenever she had guests, she would serve them tea

Pearl gladly accepted the offer and noticed Gigi, who had been trying to remain inconspicuous nearby

She seemed to sense something was afoot.

“Gigi, come inside with us.”

Gigi hadn’t expected Pearl to invite her in for the mother daughter reunion. With Pearl’s return, Gigi

was uncertain about her role and

steps.

plated her ne

are you standing, there? I haven’t properly thanked you for taking care of my mother all

these years.

Gigi blushed and lowered her head. “It’s nothing, really. Beah has looked after me and provided for me.

I haven’t really done much.”

Pearl realized that Gigi, being sensitive, might have been anxious that Pearl would take everything

away from her. She chuckled helplessly, “You’re now like a half–sister to my mother and me. You’re

practically my little sister. Come on, we’re family.”

Gigi heard the word ‘sister’ for the first time, and tears welled up in her eyes. She had never imagined

having a sister and a family one day.

“Come here, sister.”

Gigi’s gaze grew determined, and she walked toward Pearl, boldly taking her hand. “I brought you some cookies.!!

Beah smiled at her daughter’s kind gesture, pleased with the budding connection between. them.

The three of them entered the house, and Pearl took in the antique and charming interior, savoring the scent of sandalwood that enveloped the space. It gave her a sense of tranquility.

“How have you been all these years?” Beah inquired, feeling somewhat embarrassed. “I may have worried too much. It appears you’ve been doing well, considering what I’ve seen.’

Pearl was surprised. “You mean you’ve been secretly watching me all these years?”

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Beah sipped her tea before responding, “Yes, I was the one who sent you flowers after your performance and the person you met at the hospital. It was all me.”

Pearl’s eyes widened in astonishment. “I had my suspicions about those incidents before, I never imagined they were true.”

but

“There’s more. I’ve been visiting you in secret all these years, and after seeing that you’re thriving, my worries subsided. You truly are a Leighton, always making your father proud.”

As Beah spoke, her gaze seemed to drift into the past. During those days when Max fell gravely ill and did everything he could to drive her away, Beah had left in anger. However, she couldn’t bear to

abandon her beloved and their child.

She had considered returning but was warned by Master Jordan that if she dared to come back, he

would have someone kill Max.

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At the same time, Master Jordan sent people to take her and confined her in a yard that felt like a

prison. It was only after Max’s passing that Master Jordan finally eased up, removing the guards and

granting her freedom.

Unfortunately, Max would never return.

“It’s okay, Dad will always be watching over us from heaven,” Pearl attempted to console her mother.

“Don’t worry, it’s all in the past now.” Beah sighed with relief. “By the way, I recall you have a fiance,

right? How are things between you two? Is he treating you well?"

The mention of Richard immediately soured Pearl's mood. "He's forgotten about our relationship and doesn't care about me anymore."

Beah's smile suddenly disappeared. "Huh? How did things turn out like this?"

"I don't know, but it doesn't matter. I'm going to marry someone else anyway. It might be at relief for him." Pearl didn't actually intend to marry Sean, but she felt that if the man she married wasn't Richard, then marrying someone else wouldn't matter much to her.

She simply didn't care.

Beah patted her hand and said, "You know, feelings are wonderful things. If you approach him with sincerity, he might fall in love with you again."

"I gave it a shot, but it didn't work." Pearl forced a smile, "I'm about to get married, and he'll probably think I'm a fickle woman. There's no way he'll love me again."

Beah sighed. "Well then, let's take it one step at a time for now."

Pearl glanced at the clock. It was six in the evening, and it was time to head back. "If there's nothing else, I'll visit you again tomorrow to check on your condition and figure out what's causing your illness."

Now, she needed to return and discuss the details of the escape plan and timing with Wayne. If her escape succeeded, she could take Beah with her to ensure she received the necessary treatment.

Reluctantly, Beah gave her daughter one last look, comforted by the thought of seeing her again the next day. "Alright, I'll have Gigi accompany you out."

Gigi escorted Pearl to the door and then returned to prepare some medicine for Beah.

Seeing her mother in relatively good health put Pearl's mind at ease. As she walked away, her steps felt lighter.

However, before she had gone far, a familiar figure suddenly appeared not too distant. A spark ignited in her eyes when she recognized who it was.

Pearl took a closer look. It was Hugo!

What was he doing here?!

"Pearl, oh, Pearl. It must be tough being confined here, huh? Tsk, tsk. You're even forced to marry Sean now. I wonder if Richard would be utterly repulsed if he knew."

Hugo had changed significantly from his previous self. He looked worn out, with a weary appearance and a long beard. He was a far cry from the young, clear-eyed man he once was. Pearl's expression immediately turned cold. She didn't want to engage in an argument and asked, "Why are you here?"

"Why am I here? You should ask your grandfather about that," Hugo replied with a chilling smile, a hint of malice in his eyes. "Surprisingly, I'm the only one in this world who can cure your mother's illness.

Quite unexpected, right?"

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"I've seen your medical skills, Hugo. While you're not bad, you're nowhere near my level. Do you really expect me to believe that only you can cure this illness?" Pearl naturally didn't buy into Hugo's claims.

If this disease could only be treated by him, it would imply that all the great doctors worldwide were merely his followers.

"Believe it or not, this illness is quite unique. Currently, I'm the only one who possesses the knowledge to treat it." Hugo wore a confident smile, adding, "Otherwise, why would your grandfather have only invited me to help treat your mother?"

A shiver ran down Pearl's spine. She had to admit that Hugo had a valid argument.

“Nevertheless, whether she receives treatment and when is entirely up to me.” Hugo took a step closer, a smug smile on his face as he loomed over Pearl. “If you ever cross me, I can’t guarantee your mother’s survival.”

Pearl stood her ground, crossing her arms, showing no signs of vulnerability. “If you can’t cure it, you won’t just offend me. You’ll have the entire Jordan family to contend with. Why bother making threats like this?

To her surprise, Hugo didn’t seem afraid at all. Instead, he burst into wild laughter, sounding somewhat deranged. “Do you think I’m afraid of death in my current state? You and Richard teamed up to make me like this. What have I got left to fear?”

“What about Jenny? Have you stopped caring about her too?”

At the mention of this name, Hugo’s eyes narrowed. “You’re not even worthy to mention her

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Pearl sneered, “Honestly, you’re just Jenny’s puppet. What do you gain from being so blindly devoted to her?”

These words sent Hugo into a fury. He advanced, firmly gripping Pearl's throat. "I told you. You're not worthy of mentioning her name. I assure you that you won't survive if you dare slander her again."

Pearl was nearly choked, gasping for air. She coughed repeatedly, her face turning crimson.

After all, they were still within the Jordan Residence, so Hugo couldn't take things too far. He released his grip on Pearl when he saw her in distress.

Pearl fell to the ground due to the force.

Starting today, if you ever dare to lay a finger on Jenny again, I won't show you any mercy." His gaze drifted downward, noticing Pearl's slightly disheveled attire. Suddenly, he froze." How.... How do you have a birthmark that resembles a pear blossom on your chest?"

"You're insane, Hugo!" Pearl looked up, shooting an enraged glare at Hugo Quickly, she rearranged her clothing, preparing to stand up.

However, Hugo crouched down, forcefully pulling open her neckline to examine the birthmark on her chest.

Pearl realized his intent and slapped him across the face. "Are you out of your mind?!" Even this slap failed to snap Hugo back to his senses. He gazed up at Pearl's furious

countenance, his voice quivering. "Did you come to Enswood eight years ago?"

Initially, Pearl thought he was attempting to humiliate her, but seeing his serious expression while inquiring about that memory lessened her anger somewhat.

"So what if I did? And what if I didn't?"

"Tell me. Did you come to Enswood or not?" Hugo grew more agitated, and his tone became significantly more intense.

"Yeah." Pearl nodded, recalling, "Yes, I did. I was planning to study abroad so I visited Enswood..."

"Did you save a chubby little boy under an old locust tree on the outskirts of the city?"

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This memory felt somewhat distant, and Pearl had to wrack her brain to remember it.

About eight years ago, when she was around fifteen, she took a bus from Lynxville to Enswood, which was quite a distance. Back then, she was a moderately skilled but slender girl who kept to herself at school.

She excelled in her studies, which made her a target for bullies. The principal's daughter took advantage of the situation and got her expelled. Left with no other options, she had to use some of her

father's inheritance to prepare for studying abroad.

During her journey, she had to switch buses somewhere near the border between Lynxville and Enswood, requiring a bit of walking. During this walk, she came across a group of people surrounding a chubby little boy who appeared plump but cute.

As a former victim of bullying herself, witnessing this scene ignited her anger. Luckily, only a few boys were among the bullies, while most were haughty teenage girls. She quickly knocked down one of the boys and shielded the little boy behind her.

"If anyone wants to bully him again, you'll have to go through me first."

The boy, who had been knocked down, cried out in pain.

Seeing this, the others didn't dare to say anything and ran away. Some of the timid girls even cried.

"If any of you dare to bully him again, I won't hold back."

This statement scared the group of kids, as they couldn't understand how a seemingly younger, slim girl like her had such strength and skills. But to avoid getting beaten up, they fled and didn't dare look back

After the bullies left, Pearl turned to the little boy behind her and said calmly, “Well, starting today, they shouldn’t bother you for a while,”

The little boy sat up, tears slowly streaming down his face. He was crying while thanking her.

Pearl looked at the bruise on his eyebrow and couldn’t help but feel sorry for him. She advised him,

“These kids can be little devils. If they ever bully you again, tell your parents. Once they get a good talking, they won’t dare to bother you anymore.”

With that, she left him with a confident stride, swiftly boarding the approaching bus.

Pearl shifted her focus back to the present, eyeing the scar on Hugo’s eyebrow. “So, what’s the point of all this? Are you trying to tell me that the boy who was bullied back then was you?”

Seeing Hugo standing in silence, Pearl chuckled in disbelief, “No way!”

Though she found it hard to believe, Hugo’s bewildered response made it seem like an undeniable truth. Moreover, she didn’t expect that the chubby little boy who had cried while being pinned down back then had grown into a handsome young man.

But his personality... Could it have been influenced by the bullying he endured in his early years? This thought stirred a blend of sympathy and regret in Pearl.

Hugo took a while to respond. "Impossible! It couldn't have been you! How is that even possible?"

The person who had saved him back then was clearly Jenny! It had been Jenny who had bravely stepped in and rescued him. How could it suddenly become Pearl?

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Pearl must be lying!

"That's enough. Quit with the lies," Hugo retorted coldly. "These tricks won't work on me."

Pearl found this man utterly baffling. She obviously saved him, and he recognized her, yet he pretended not to acknowledge it..

"Believe it or not," Pearl flexed her muscles and chuckled, "you're no longer the chubby kid from back then. You've turned into the scheming and ruthless Hugo!"

Hugo's defenses started to crumble. "You can't possibly be the same person from back then!" Even though a voice inside him shouted loudly that it was indeed Pearl, he couldn't believe it. Could the person he had been helping for all these years be an imposter?

A part of his heart shattered into pieces.

“Why? Don’t tell me you think Jenny was the person who saved you.”

Hugo’s expression changed. “Alright, stop talking.”

Seeing Pearl was about to continue pressing the issue, Hugo shook his head and hastily fled.

Pearl watched his strange departure and sighed. She had definitely saved the wrong person back then.

If she had known that Hugo would turn out like this, she might have just watched the bullies torment him and applauded their efforts!

She looked in the direction he had gone and returned to her yard.

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In the following days, Pearl spent her days consulting her mother about her illness and discussing escape plans with Wayne. In her free time, she talked on the phone with Damian, keeping him company and cheering him up.

All in all, it was a relatively relaxed period.

Soon, it was her wedding day. She had to force herself to get up at five in the morning.

The day kicked off with a lengthy session of makeup and preparations.

After the makeup was applied, a team of helpers assisted her in donning a stunning white gown.

Originally, they had planned for a modern—style wedding, but Master Jordan insisted on adhering to traditional customs, leading them to opt for a classic wedding instead.

A grand tiara was placed atop Pearl's head, covered with a delicate white veil.

Surrounded by attendants, Pearl was guided into a carriage that would take her to the newly acquired Jordan family mansion in Bodgow.

To the outside world, it appeared as a joyous and lively occasion, but Pearl found it all rather absurd and inexplicable.

Sitting in the dimly lit carriage with attendants following alongside, Pearl dared not speak too loudly.

She could only lower her head, displaying the ring on her finger, and whispered to Damian, "Where are you now?"

Damian had been released a few minutes after Pearl left in the carriage. He was now standing outside the Jordan Residence, flexing his wrist. "I've been released. I'll find Wayne, and we'll rescue you together."

Pearl rolled her eyes. "Make sure to tell Wayne to try not to provoke anyone. You've seen the Jordans'

guards. They're just as formidable as Evil Spirits." If something went wrong on Wayne's end, her chances of escaping might be jeopardized.

Damian nodded. He understood the gravity of the situation and wasn't in a playful mood. Don't worry.

I'll get you out safely."

Pearl cut off the communication on her end and lifted the veil on her head to look at her surroundings.

This wedding was being hailed as the wedding of the century in Bodgow, symbolizing the the

union of two prominent families, the Jordans and pers. That was why the streets were

filled with a bustling sea of people, all gathered to witness the spectacle.

Pearl herself couldn't quite decide how she felt about it all.

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The wedding day had arrived, and Master Jordan had certainly stationed guards, making it at daunting task for Wayne to rescue Pearl.

Nonetheless, they were determined to give it a shot, no matter how tough it seemed. Pearl was resolute in her decision not to marry Sean.

The carriage moved at a steady but slow pace since it was horse—drawn. This leisurely pace granted

Wayne valuable extra time to execute their plan.

After a while, Pearl's mind was in turmoil, lost in thought. Suddenly, the carriage came to an abrupt halt, causing Pearl to lose her balance on the seat.

As she wondered about the cause of the sudden stop, she heard a familiar voice. "Hand over the

person inside the carriag

It was Wayne! Pearl froze and observed the situation.

Wayne was dressed in all black with his face covered, making it impossible to see his face. Beside him

was another slightly taller man, also dressed in black. Those striking, bright eyes indicated he was

Damian, freshly disguised.

"Who are you people? Don't you know that this is the Jordan family's carriage?" The guards' leader

clearly didn't understand why these people dared to challenge the authority of the Jordans.

Wayne didn't respond but said, "Get her out of here, and don't worry about the others. Come on!"

The man in black behind him moved swiftly, immediately taking down the guards in front, and reached

out to the carriage.

The men who were in charge of the carriage were no pushovers either. They pulled out sharp silver needles and aimed them at the attackers.

Wayne frowned and immediately ordered his men to retreat, but it was too late. As the silver needles pierced into their bodies, they all cried out in agony.

“Damn it! The needles are poisoned!” Damian watched as the people around him fell one by one.

Worried that the situation might not turn in their favor, he had to make a tough call and ordered his men

to withdraw.

Wayne said anxiously, “We can’t retreat. This is our only chance. If we can’t save her, Miss Pearl will be forced to marry Sean today!”

Damian took a deep breath and retorted, “Do you realize that if we keep this going, our brothers will be wiped out? Besides, the Jordans’ men will be here soon. By then, not only will they kill us, but we’ll all die here!”

Wayne hesitated, at a loss for words,

Damian took matters into his own hands, grabbing Wayne’s collar from behind and dragging him away.

“Trust Pearl. She’ll find a way to handle this. Remember, she’s Pearl.”

Wayne made the difficult decision to leave.

Before leaving, Damian looked in the direction of the carriage.

Pearl peered out from the carriage, resplendent in a magnificent wedding gown adorned with a grand

tiara. She looked exceptionally beautiful on this special day.

She couldn’t help but playfully roll her eyes at him.

After Wayne and the others left, Pearl started thinking about her plan for the evening.

The earlier chaos didn’t have a significant impact, and the panicked crowd had returned to their lively

revelry.

The place was bustling with people and excitement.

However, inside the carriage, Pearl clenched her fingers around a sharp dagger she held tightly in her

hand.

It seemed like tonight, she would have to face the situation on her own.

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Pearl found herself being pulled into the mansion, where she was compelled to go through the wedding

ceremony with Sean. Eventually, she was led into their bedroom.

A couple of sturdy maids instructed her to take a seat by the bed and quietly left the room.

“What a hassle. Both Wayne and Damian aren’t good,” Pearl muttered, rolling her eyes.

Despite her foul mood, she kept her attention fixed on the door. If Sean dared to enter through that door, she wouldn’t hesitate to use the dagger against him without mercy. After all, he had played dirty.

As Pearl contemplated dealing with Sean, she heard a creaking sound at the door. She quickly hid the dagger behind her back and stared at the door.

The door opened, revealing a familiar face.

“Hugo?! What are you doing here?”

Pearl sighed in relief, rising from her chair and causing the dagger in her hand to fall to the floor with a loud clatter.

“If Sean hadn’t proposed to you like a lunatic, I would never have shown up here,” Hugo replied, his gaze shifting from her face to the fallen dagger. “Looks like you really didn’t want to marry him.”

Although Hugo had barged into the room, he strolled in casually as if it were no big deal. He

sat next to Pearl.

“What are you up to?” Pearl didn’t entirely trust Hugo, and she was convinced he was not better than Sean. She took a few steps back, putting some distance between them..

“Don’t worry. I’m not here to hurt you. I’m here to help.”

Hugo’s words almost made Pearl burst into laughter. Everyone knew about his tricky nature, and he probably couldn’t find a way to get to her while she was with the Coopers. Therefore, he likely planned to trick her into leaving.

Pearl stepped back, her hand reaching behind her as she remained vigilant. “I don’t need your help.”

“Really? Then why have you been clutching that dagger the whole time?” Hugo’s charming. eyes held a playful glint as he poured himself a glass of wine.

Pearl slowly loosened her grip, knowing she had a second dagger behind her. Surprisingly, Hugo didn’t expose her and just enjoyed his wine.

He raised the glass to his nose and took a whiff. It looked good, but it had a hint of magnolia fragrance.

“Can you believe it? Sean actually drugged your wine.”

“Drugged my wine?” Pearl’s eyes widened. She was so focused on escaping that she hadn’t expected

Sean to go to such lengths. Had she attempted to appease Sean and consumed that glass of wine,

she might have succumbed to its effects.

That was... terrifying.

“But why on earth are you here?” Pearl wiped the cold sweat from her forehead, watching Hugo

closely.

“Didn’t I tell you? I’m here to rescue you, no hidden agenda.

“Rescue me?” Pearl naturally didn’t believe him. “We’ve been enemies for so long. You don’t have to

say these to deceive me. Are you trying to tell me that you’ve turned over a new leaf?”

Just a few days ago, Hugo had looked at her with disgust. Today, he seemed completely different, and

his gloomy aura was gone.

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“Turn over a new leaf? I didn’t think what I did before was wrong.” Hugo snorted, bringing Pearl back to

reality.

He seemed just as he always had, but today, for some unknown reason, he insisted on rescuing her.

“But you’re my savior, Pearl. After all, I owe you a favor so I genuinely want to help you get out this

time.”

Hugo stopped drinking and stood up, slowly approaching her.

Although Pearl knew that Hugo might not have ill intentions at this moment, she remained cautious.

“You said you’re going to save me, but how will you get me out with the tight security here?”

“It’s quite easy, really. This villa used to belong to a friend of mine. I know every nook and cranny of the underground passages. Otherwise, how do you think I got in here?”

Pearl’s eyes widened. “No way...

Hugo was incredibly mysterious, and his entire being seemed shrouded in secrets.

“Who is this friend of yours?”

“I can’t tell you that for now,” Hugo replied with a faint smile that had lost some of its intensity.

While Hugo appeared to be the same person, something about his demeanor was entirely different.

The old Hugo had been deceptive, like a snake dripping with venom. Now, he emitted an air of mystery that even Pearl found hard to decipher.

“Come on. If we don’t leave now, we won’t have another chance when Sean returns later.”

A sense of urgency weighed on Pearl's heart. She stood up, removed the tiara from her head, and took off her wedding gown, leaving only a simple white inner garment for ease of escape.

"Let's go."

"I'll take you to the secret passage now." Hugo looked into her calm, piercing eyes, emotions a strange mix of familiarity and uncertainty.

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They opened the door and surveyed their surroundings. Pearl saw that Hugo had already drugged the people outside. He held her hand tightly and led her to a corner on the east side.

A stone moved away from the boulder, revealing a narrow pitch-black tunnel barely wide enough for one person to pass through.

"Go straight in, and you'll find the way out."

Pearl nodded, keeping her guard up in the back of her mind.

"You go in first. I'll seal this stone."

Hugo put on a seemingly concerned expression, but Pearl had her suspicions. "Are you sure you won't trap me in here and suffocate me?"

Hugo chuckled. "You're overthinking it. What would I gain by suffocating you? Let's see... If you marry Sean, and Jenny marries Richard, what good would it do for me?" His words sounded nonchalant but carried a genuine sentiment.

Pearl nodded and entered the tunnel.

True to his word, she saw a faint source of light ahead after the entrance was sealed. She walked toward it and soon emerged into the open.

It was evening, and the sky was dark.

Pearl looked back and realized she was quite far from the mansion. The massive structure had turned into a dim, faint dot in the distance

She took out her ring and tried to contact Wayne. Just as the connection was established, a tall figure appeared beside her.

"I was sent here to capture you!!

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Pearl narrowed her eyes and discreetly assessed the man's strength, feeling frustrated. She hadn't eaten all day, so her strength was definitely compromised.

“You can take me away.”

Pearl’s words left the man standing there, bewildered by her apparent lack of resistance. Her attitude seemed strange to him.

“I’m here to take you away,” the man said, confused by her behavior. He had been prepared for resistance but didn’t expect her to offer none!

“I know.” Pearl extended her hand impatiently.

“Isn’t this script a bit off? You should be saying, “Who are you? Why are you taking me? I’ll never go with you,’ and then we struggle or something.”

The man looked dumbfounded. He had been warned that Pearl was highly skilled and to handle her with care, but he never expected her to give in so easily! With no chance to display his abilities, the man couldn’t help but feel frustrated.

Observing him as

resist? You’re here stood there blankly, Pearl couldn’t help but feel disdainful. “Why would I

resist? You’re here to capture me, not to kill me. We can talk on the way. Now, please just take me

away. If the Coopers show up, neither of us can leave.”

“What is there to talk about? I’m here to capture you!” The man seemed to lose his temper and rushed forward to grab Pearl’s arm, intending to carry her.

Pearl quickly shook off his hand and took a few steps back. “No, no, no. I can walk by myself. You can lead the way.”

The man furrowed his brow, torn between annoyance and confusion. Completing this mission so easily made him wonder if something was off..

However, the orders he received were straightforward: bring the person back. As for how to do it, it didn’t really matter.

Besides, he was explicitly told not to hurt her. If he used force and the crazy woman in front of him suddenly changed her mind, they could end up in a nasty altercation, which would be a losing proposition.

The man nodded and led the way. They quickly got into a nearby van next and drove away.

Pearl’s ring briefly lit up and then quickly dimmed again.

Today was a big day for Sean and Pearl, a day Sean had been eagerly waiting for nearly three

years.

From the very beginning, he had taken a special interest in this witty and charming woman. Although he held a deep affection for her, he couldn't afford to display them openly to avoid ridicule from Richard.

However, to his surprise, Richard had managed to capture Pearl's heart quickly. Their feelings had quickly grown, allowing Sean to let his guard down.

Unexpectedly... Richard had lost his feelings for Pearl, and Sean had suddenly become the Coopers' eldest son. It seemed like luck was on his side.

Sean was thrilled today. He had finally surpassed Richard in one aspect. Initially, he had intended to get drunk, but he remembered that Pearl didn't like heavy drinks or sloppy men. So he had a few drinks, raised toasts, and retreated to the bedroom.

As he stumbled into the bedroom, he suddenly noticed several maids who had been guarding the door lying unconscious on the floor. A bad feeling washed over him.

He forcefully pushed the door open and found a messy room with scattered clothing and the grand

tiara. But most shockingly, the room was empty.

Anger ignited in his eyes. He hadn't expected that Pearl would manage to escape their marriage even under the watchful eyes of so many people,

Sean was rather disappointed, but he understood that this was typical of Pearl. He didn't feel too segretful.

After all, he had only been testing whether she truly wanted to marry him, and he respected. her decision.

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He wouldn't force her if Pearl didn't want to do anything with him in the bedroom tonight. He would respect her decision even if she wanted to call off the wedding.

He just wanted to try to see if Pearl would choose him. Now, it appeared that he had been overly optimistic.

Sean flashed a bright smile, closing the bedroom door behind him as he left. He returned to the ballroom, which was filled with lively chatter and people enjoying themselves.

"Hey, Sean. It's your wedding night. Why aren't you with the bride? What are you doing here?" Sean

chuckled. "My wife is tired and has fallen asleep. I came here to have a few more drinks with you guys."

Though his words sounded straightforward, they were somewhat brief.

"Oh, look at you. You're already calling her your wife!"

"Alright, since Mister Sean is showing his affection, we'll keep him company until he's drunk!

"Come on, let's fill up those glasses!"

Pearl followed the man all the way to a secluded villa area, which was relatively remote and not easily accessible by cabs.

"Whose villa is this?" Pearl asked.

The man sneered, "Someone asked me to bring you here. You'll find out once you go in." Then, he urged Pearl out of the car without further explanation.

As the car's exhaust raised a cloud of dust, Pearl couldn't help but twitch her mouth in annoyance.

There were so many houses in this area. How was she supposed to find anyone in particular?

Just as she pondered that, Pearl spotted a figure approaching her from a distance.

Hugo?!

"Why are you here so quickly?" Pearl was surprised and immediately became wary.

wary. “Did you intentionally bring me out here to capture me and end up in your hands?”

“I didn’t expect you to be this smart, Pearl. I admire that. I must have been blind not to notice how clever you are without being annoying.” Hugo responded, his lips curling into a half- smile.

Pearl couldn’t be bothered to listen to his nonsense and tried to slap him.

Hugo sidestepped with a chuckle. “What’s wrong? Resorting to violence? After all, I’m your savior now.

Is that how you treat your savior?”

Pearl snorted. “Savior, my foot! I saved you back then, and didn’t you turn on me after that?”

Bringing up that incident, Hugo’s mind wandered down memory lane. He had discovered an orchid– shaped birthmark on Jenny’s body by chance. When he Indirectly Inquired about it, she claimed to be the girl who had saved him.

For years, he had held a special place in his heart for Jenny, even though she only used him. Because of her, he had gone from merely disliking Richard to outright hating him.

But now, he had realized he had been wrong from the start. He was nothing more than a pawn for Jenny to deal with Pearl, a chess piece she used to connect with Richard and the Waldorfs.

With this revelation, all his lingering affection for Jenny vanished entirely.

Since that was the case, he might as well use her.