

YOUR GUISE 601

Chapter 601

Pearl naturally followed Hugo into the villa, but a sharp voice sounded unexpectedly.

“Hughie? Why did you bring Pearl here?”

Hugo smiled, masking his disappointment. “Well, wasn’t I supposed to bring her here as part of the kidnapping plan?”

Jenny’s tone improved slightly when she heard “kidnap,” but she remained dissatisfied because Pearl was unrestrained. “Shouldn’t you tie her up?”

“What’s the matter? Are you happy only if I’m all tied up?” Pearl sneered sarcastically. Although Hugo had brought her as a hostage, she sounded unusually confident.

Enraged, Jenny gnashed her teeth. “You’re a hostage now. Why are you so smug?”

“Why didn’t you ask Hugo why he was so kind to me then? Isn’t it possible that kiss-*ss hates you too?”

your so-called

Pearl’s words infuriated Hugo. “Pearl, you’re quite the talker!” Though angered, he didn’t react as

aggressively as he had in the past.

Jenny noticed the change, and her heart skipped a beat. “Hughie, her words are hurtful. Aren’t you mad?” She tried to make them fight, but Hugo was a different man now.

“It’s fine. After all, she’s under my control. Just leave her alone,” Hugo responded indifferently, his tone almost doting on Pearl.

“But...” A sense of emptiness filled Jenny as she considered Hugo’s words. It seemed that the person who had been willing to sacrifice everything for her was about to leave her soon.

“Stop overthinking. I brought her here as part of our plan,” Hugo reassured Jenny, approaching her as usual and tenderly ruffling her hair. However, his actions were superficial.

Pearl burst into laughter because she had seen through it.

This enraged Jenny. “What are you laughing at?”

“Nothing. I just find you both silly and cute.” Pearl’s sarcasm was obvious.

“Alright, stop arguing with her. You’re soon going to be Mrs. Waldorf. Don’t take a prisoner’s words seriously.”

Hugo’s words filled Jenny with confidence and joy.

But shortly after, panic set in. Hugo had been reluctant to see Jenny marry Richard in the past, but now he seemed indifferent. Jenny wondered if Pearl was right and that Hugo no longer loved her.

“What’s your plan, Hughie?”

Hugo sneered and glanced at Pearl. “I’m going to take her abroad.”

Pearl was stunned when she heard that. She had no prior knowledge of his plan, and he hadn’t sought her agreement

“As long as I take her far away from you all and make sure she can’t interfere with you, you

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can be with Richard without worries,” Hugo smiled bitterly. “And you won’t have to concern yourself with me. I’ll disappear from your world and never trouble you again.”

Hugo seemed to be very concerned about Jenny.

Suddenly, guilt overwhelmed Jenny. She had doubted Hugo, but he sincerely wished for her happiness.

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Even though Jenny had her reservations about Hugo, she couldn't help but be moved.

She felt a sense of regret. If circumstances were different, if there were another life or if she weren't with Richard, she might have chosen Hugo.

With eagerness,

she got to her feet. "Thank you for helping me so much, Hughie. I'll do my best to help you in the future." Her sincerity was genuine, though her newfound kindness felt a bit out of place.

Impatience flickered in Hugo's eyes, but he quickly replaced it with tenderness and adoration to avoid arousing Jenny's suspicion. "Okay, I got it."

Pearl found herself at a loss for words as she witnessed their affectionate exchange. She walked over to a nearby couch, sat down, and turned on the TV to watch some dramas. After all, she was a prisoner there, so she might as well make herself comfortable.

Since it was already past six in the evening, Jenny realized it was time to leave. She stood up to straighten her clothes, but an inexplicable rage welled up within her when she saw Pearl sitting comfortably with her legs crossed, engrossed in the TV.

“Hughie, I hate this woman very much. You must help me teach her a lesson.” While talking, Jenny held Hugo’s hand and playfully swayed it, showing a cute and aggrieved expression. She even pressed her body against his arm.

In response, Hugo placed his hand on her waist, his face showing tenderness. “Why don’t you stay a little longer?”

Since Jenny had regarded herself as Richard’s fiancée, she didn’t want to engage in any questionable behavior with Hugo. She blushed, scolded him playfully, and gave him a light punch.

Then, she put some distance between them and said apologetically, “It’s already six in the evening. If I stay any longer, my agent might get suspicious. Plus, my career is just taking off. If paparazzi catch wind of me being in a strange man’s room, it could cause trouble again. I’ll come visit you again.”

She put her arms around Hugo’s neck and planted a kiss on his lips before leaving.

Hugo nodded, watching her leave.

After Jenny departed, Pearl, who had been leisurely watching TV, playfully winked at Hugo from the couch. “You’re quite the charmer with the ladies, aren’t you?” She could sense that Hugo had lost all interest in Jenny, yet he was still willing to play along.

“Would you like me to charm you too?”

Hugo’s words irritated Pearl. “Hugo, watch your tongue.”

“Why did you come with me, then, if you know I’m not a nice guy?” Hugo chuckled. “Oh, I forgot. I

kidnapped you and brought you here.”

Pearl became flustered. “How dare you ask me that!”

Hugo was careful not to provoke Pearl further, as things could become difficult to handle. Unlike Jenny, Pearl was no pushover; she was like a wildcat, and one wrong move could result

in sharp claws.

“Alright, let’s make a deal.” Hugo finally revealed his purpose for bringing her there.

Pearl sat up straight and muted the TV, asking with curiosity, “Finally, you’re going to tell me what you

want. Why do you want to take me abroad?”

“Why? I want to upset Richard because the love of his life is in my hands.” Hugo smiled. “And his

beloved... is going to be engaged to me. Do you think he’ll be heartbroken when he becomes aware

of his feelings and learns about this one day?”

Pearl’s expression changed at the mention of an engagement.

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“Why do you think I’ll agree to that?” Pearl leaned against the couch, a sneer on her face. She couldn’t help but think that all the men in the Waldorf family were crazy. There didn’t seem to be a single normal person among them, except for Mobius.

Hugo stared back at Pearl, smirking confidently. “Suit yourself. But remember, I’m the only one who can cure your mother’s illness now. Do you want to see her die so soon?”

“The nerve!” Pearl couldn’t believe Hugo’s audacity. “Cure her illness? How are you going to do that?”

“Isn’t Simon your mentor? You can ask him to come and check on your mother. You’ll find out if I’m telling the truth or not.” Hugo then leaned back on the couch opposite Pearl, crossing his legs arrogantly.

Pearl’s heart sank as she considered Hugo’s words. She had already consulted her mentor, Simon, about her mother’s condition, and it was a complex and unusual illness that she couldn’t treat on her own. If Hugo had a solution, he could use it to manipulate her.

Hugo noticed Pearl’s hesitation and seized the opportunity. “Once you promise to get engaged to me, we can go abroad, and I’ll easily cure your mother.”

Pearl was still skeptical. "What if you break your promise after I agree to get engaged to you?"

"No, I won't do that."

"Why?"

"I owe you a debt, and I won't be so heartless as to let your mother suffer."

Pearl chuckled as if she had heard a preposterous joke. "Don't you think it's very funny to mention that now?"

"Believe it or not, there isn't much time left for your mother."

Pearl clenched her fists, her nails digging into her palms as she asked, "How long does she have?"

"About three months. She'll have an attack in three months, and at that point, not even I can save her."

Three months...

Pearl's heart ached at the thought of losing her mother. She realized that her family was more important to her than any romantic relationship, even if it meant giving up on being with Richard.

With determination in her eyes, she looked up at Hugo. "Alright, when are you going to take her out of

there?"

Hugo raised his brows and smiled. "So, you've agreed."

"Cut the crap! When are you taking my mother abroad to cure her?" Pearl asked, her tone filled with disdain for the devious and scheming Hugo.

"It's quite simple. Once I tell Master Jordan that I can save his daughter, he'll hand your mother over to me." Hugo had studied psychology. Since Ezra had once lost his beloved daughter, he would never give up on his only daughter.

Pearl discreetly breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed that Hugo wasn't completely heartless." Okay, do it as soon as possible," she said, her emotions a mix of relief and determination.

"Oh? Are you in such a hurry to get engaged to me?" Hugo couldn't resist teasing her.

Pearl shot him a fierce glare. "Don't be ridiculous! I just want you to cure my mother as soon as possible." She then asked, "Where's my room, by the way?"

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"You can choose any vacant room upstairs, except for the first one on the left," Hugo replied.

Curiosity got the better of Pearl, and she asked, "What's wrong with that room?"

Hugo smirked and mouthed a few words to her.

Blushing furiously, Pearl shot him an annoyed glare and quickly made her way upstairs to choose another room. She couldn't be certain if the room had good sound insulation, so she closed the curtains and locked the door before discreetly taking out her ring.

Previously, she had been hesitant to use the ring in front of Hugo, as he was a cunning and perceptive man, with sharp insight, especially as a doctor.

She attempted to contact Damian to ask about his condition. To her surprise, he reacted with shock, exclaiming, "Pearl? You're alive?"

Perplexed, Pearl responded, "What do you mean? Why would I be dead for no reason?"

Damian and Wayne exchanged bewildered glances. "The Cooper family announced this morning that you had suffered a relapse of your old illness last night and had passed away due to it."

A relapse of an old illness... and passing away...

Pearl's lips twitched. It sounded like Sean's style. While he had helped her avoid a forced marriage, spreading such malicious news was a cruel move.

"Hasn't the Jordan family demanded an explanation?" Pearl was concerned about Ezra's condition.

“Yeah, the Jordans are furious. I heard that Master Jordan is very angry. He even fell seriously ill.”

Ezra lay on his deathbed, and despite the villainous acts he had committed, Pearl couldn't help but be worried.

However, she wouldn't let herself feel sorry for him.

Damian suddenly made an unexpected observation. “You know, it seems like the Coopers are helping you.”

“Why do you think so?”

“Just think about it. No one goes from getting engaged to married in just ten days. It's too rushed. I

think Sean was trying to help you escape from the Jordans as quickly as possible. Since you were only

nominally married, Master Jordan can't force you to marry someone else. You'll be able to break free

from their control, no matter how they announce your 'death'.”

Pearl's heart softened as she considered Damian's words. If that was the case, everything

made sense now.

She had initially assumed that the Coopers might have turned a blind eye to her escape. It had never

crossed her mind that they were actively trying to help her.

It made sense, though. Reese had always doted on Pearl, and he would never force her into a marriage she didn't want. Drew, being an intelligent man, would not support such a scheme either.

As for Sean... He likely valued his reputation, which was why he didn't hold her accountable.

For some inexplicable reason, a bitter feeling welled up inside Pearl despite this revelation. She wanted to call the Coopers and express her gratitude, but she refrained, not wanting to disturb them after they had willingly let her go.

Damian's voice brought her back to the conversation. "By the way, where are you now?"

"I'm at-" Pearl stopped herself abruptly. She couldn't reveal her location to Damian just yet.

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Pearl tried to avoid revealing too much and said, "I'm fine. It's a pretty safe place, but my helper asked me not to tell others about my location, or it might bring him trouble."

If she told Damian about her dilemma, he would gather people to rescue her. This might infuriate Hugo, and the treatment for her mother would be delayed.

Damian was in disbelief. "Really?"

“Yeah, when did I lie to you?” Pearl chuckled, sounding indifferent.

Damian’s anger began to flare up as he recalled past incidents. “When did you lie to me? You lied to me three years ago when you asked me to give you some toilet paper in the public restroom, and you told me that you were alone. But a group of women scolded me for being a pervert. And four years ago, you didn’t pay for a meal, and you blamed it on me...”

Pearl hurriedly apologized, “I’m so sorry. It was all my fault. I know you’re generous and forgiving.

Please forgive me. But I didn’t lie this time.”

She could hear the noise from his side, indicating he might be in a bar. Fearing he might humiliate her in front of others, Pearl decided to de-escalate the situation.

“Okay, I’ll trust you this time.” Damian suppressed his mounting anger.

Wayne, who had been silent during their bickering, was concerned about Pearl’s well-being. “Miss Pearl, when are you coming back?”

The question made Pearl realize the uncertainty of her return. She forced a smile and replied, “I guess it won’t take long. But I need to lay low for now. I’ll go back once everyone forgets about this incident.”

Wayne understood her caution and stopped pressing her to return. He asked her to take care of

herself.

“Do take good care of Cerubleu during this period and help me watch over Damian. Report to me immediately if there’s any issue. And if he bullies you and says that you’re a sneak, tell me. I’ll teach him a lesson.” Laughing, Pearl scolded Damian briefly.

Damian became impatient and rolled his eyes. “Okay, we’re going back to drinking. The girls here are waiting for us.”

Pearl couldn’t help but tease him, “Your girlfriend is pregnant and waiting for you, but you’re drinking at a bar.”

Damian quickly corrected her, ‘No, she’s not my girlfriend. She drugged me and got pregnant with my child accidentally. I didn’t admit that it’s my child.”

Pearl was surprised by his indifference toward the situation. “But your girlfriend has traveled far and gone abroad...” But she immediately stopped, realizing that she had spoken too much.

Damian put two and two together. “I got the news that she’s in our homeland. Why did you say that she’s abroad? Do you know where she is?”

“That’s your girlfriend, not mine. Her location isn’t my business. How could I possibly know where she is?”

Pearl hurriedly changed the subject and wanted to hang up, but Damian interrupted her angrily. “You can’t hang up on me until you make things clear today.”

With no other choice, Pearl reluctantly explained, “Oh, it’s like this. Drew saved me from the sea a while back, and I went to Cooper Residence. Katie is Drew’s fiancée, but she doesn’t like him very much. She insists on canceling the engagement.” She felt guilty for not revealing this to Damian earlier.

Pearl had kept it a secret as she didn’t want it to affect Katie’s relationship with Damian. However, it turned out that Damian didn’t have romantic feelings for Katie, making it an unrequited love on her part.

The silence on the other end of the line was deafening, and Damian’s anger was evident.

“I’m sorry. I didn’t mean it,” she apologized.

As Pearl spoke, she heard footsteps approaching her door. She quickly covered herself with a blanket and lowered her voice, sounding somber, as if she were a child who had made a mistake. “That’s all I

know. I don't know anything else."

Chapter 606

Damian assured Pearl, "'s okay. I don't use you to draws, he rubbed the place between he brows

"What are you going to do next?" Pron was concerned about Damian because he was her friend who

had gone through fire and water with her. Of course, she cared about her friend's love affair.

"I think I can't watch over you during this period. I need to go to Solvosin."

Relieved, Pearl breathed a sigh of relief. "Okay, got it. Just go. I'll be fine."

Damian seemed to be in a dilemma. "Pearl, you know that I don't care—"

Naturally, Pearl understood him. She smiled and avoided that topic. "Okay, just go. I'm busy. Bye" She

then hung up on him decisively.

Left in a daydream, Damian stared at his phone quietly, surrounded by a few women who tried to get

his attention.

"Mister Damian, come. Let's drink together."

"Mister Damian..."

"Get lost!" Damian, who had previously smiled seductively, suddenly turned violent and angry, causing

the women to scatter in fear.

Only Wayne knew why Damian was angry

Pearl endured three unbearable days living under the same roof as Hugo, primarily due to his outrageous daily routine.

Every morning at five o'clock, he would wake up and loudly run around the villa, shouting slogans.

Although his voice was pleasant, his actions were annoying.

On the fourth morning, Pearl couldn't take it anymore. In her pajamas with messy hair, she ran downstairs when she heard Hugo's heavy footsteps outside. She pointed at him and sternly warned,

"Hugo, can you please stop disturbing my sleep?"

Hugo, calmly flipping a steak in a pan as he made breakfast, replied with a smile, "My routine is normal and healthy. I'm sure everyone's awake by eight o'clock in the morning."

His sarcasm infuriated Pearl, who had the urge to pounce on him and confront him.

"Okay, stop messing around." Hugo gripped her right hand and lowered his head to hide his smile. "I've got something to do later."

Pearl looked up and glared at him. "What is it?"

"I'll go to Jordan Residence to pick your mother up later."

Chapter 607

"Really? You're going to Jordan Residence today?" Pearl held Hugo's hand excitedly. She had

expected to wait for a long time, but Hugo agreed quickly.

"Yeah, someone might cause a scene at my house if I don't show up." Hugo glanced at their hands

briefly and withdrew his hand with a hint of disdain.

"Who's going to make a scene?" Displeased, Pearl picked a cherry tomato from a salad bowl and threw

it into her mouth. She would let him off the hook for now since he was helping her mother. "Okay, do

you need me to go with you?"

Putting the spatula down, Hugo watched her casually pick up the salad and said contemptuously,

"You? Aren't you afraid of getting caught again if you come with me?"

"Tsk!" As Pearl finished her salad, she put aside her suggestion. She knew Ezra wouldn't let her go.

"Alright, you go ahead."

Hugo finished grilling the last steak, sprinkled some black pepper on it, and served it on the dining table

outside. "Bring the plate of fried eggs, and we can start eating." He ordered her around as if it were

perfectly normal.

Baffled, Pearl wondered why she should obey him, especially since she wasn't his housekeeper. She

turned around stubbornly as if she hadn't heard him.

"Get the plate now, or you won't be eating."

"Can't you do..." Pearl gritted her teeth, ready to argue with him, but then thought of her mother

possibly arriving soon. If her mother found out she hadn't eaten breakfast, she'd worry. So, she

reluctantly went to the kitchen to get the plate of fried eggs as Hugo had requested.

At the dining table, Hugo served Pearl a fried egg. "There you go. Here's your reward."

"Hugo, why are you talking to me like this?" Confused, Pearl accepted the fried egg, noticing a huge

change in Hugo's attitude toward her.

Despite her recent infuriating actions, he hadn't been angry with her. In the past, he would get. people

to teach her a lesson, but now he didn't seem to mind how unreasonable she was.

How... baffling!

"What's the matter? Don't you like it this way?" Hugo elegantly ate his steak and smiled.

"No, I don't like it. We're not that close. Stop trying to get close to me." Pearl rolled her eyes, avoiding

Hugo's gaze. She focused on eating her fried egg, all the while using her fork and spoon with a bit more force, creating a bit of noise.

"So, what? We're getting engaged soon. Isn't it normal for an engaged couple to talk like this?

Hugo didn't give up teasing her.

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'How disgusting!' Pearl complained inwardly.

But she had to force a smile. "Alright, let's drop that topic. Finish your meal quickly so you can go pick up my mother,"

Hugo raised an eyebrow. "You're using me?"

"Isn't it a deal? Why would you say that?" Pearl had finished her breakfast, wiped her mouth with a tissue elegantly, and smiled. "Okay, I'll wait for your good news."

She then proceeded to tidy up the table, gathering the cutlery and plates before taking them back to the kitchen.

It was rare for Pearl to do that. Watching her busy herself in the kitchen stirred a peculiar feeling in

Hugo.

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Hugo hadn't realized that Pearl seemed less annoying.

Hugo set off for Jordan Residence to expedite their plan to go abroad.

Ezra, who had recently lost his only granddaughter, appeared worn out and had even more gray hair.

Cautiously eyeing Hugo, he asked, "You want to take Beah abroad for treatment?"

"Yeah, her illness is quite unusual, and she needs specialized treatment overseas." Hugo tried to persuade Ezra in a friendly manner.

"What do you need? I can arrange to have things brought from abroad." Ezra rubbed the place between his brows, sounding reluctant.

"Well, certain medical equipment and the recovery environment here can't be easily replicated abroad.

Even if we bring everything and everyone here from abroad, it may not yield the best results." Hugo

then smiled and sipped his tea, adding, "And why do many people go abroad for treatment if they can be easily cured here?"

Gradually, the crease between Ezra's brows smoothed. "Can you ensure my daughter's safety if I leave her in your care?"

“I can’t guarantee her safety, as I’m a doctor, not a bodyguard.”

“Why should I leave her in your care if you can’t protect her?” Ezra flew into a rage and got up, smacking the table.

“But I can suggest someone who could help protect your daughter,” Hugo said calmly.

“Who?” Ezra stared at Hugo.

Fearlessly, Hugo met Ezra’s sharp gaze and replied, “Deathly Pearl.”

“The leader of Evil Spirits, Deathly Pearl?” Ezra was shocked beyond words.

In the afternoon, a black, elongated Lincoln pulled up in front of Hugo’s villa.

Pearl stood on the balcony and peered down, spotting a very familiar silhouette inside the car.

When that person stepped out of the car, her eyes welled up with tears. She covered her mouth and hastily closed the curtain, fearing that she might be seen.

After calming herself down, she waited for that person to come over.

When the door was opened, Pearl looked at Beah, deeply moved. “Mom...”

“Oh, my dear girl, what are you doing here?” Beah approached excitedly and grasped Pearl’s hands tightly. “The internet said you were dead. When I heard that terrible news, I felt like I was dying with

you.”

Beah’s words made Pearl’s heart skip a beat. She held Beah’s delicate wrists, feeling the

coldness of her palms. Crying, her tears fell on her hands. “I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have caused you so much worry.”

Beah reassured her, “It’s alright, it’s alright, dear. I’m just glad to see you alive and well.” She began to

speak incoherently, repeating herself, and gazed at Pearl lovingly, as if she might disappear at any

moment.

“Don’t worry. I’ll never leave you.” Pearl pulled Beah into a tight embrace.

As she felt Beah’s frail and slender body, she made a silent vow to protect her. She wanted Beah to

live a healthy and happy life, even if it meant sacrificing everything she had.

Chapter 609

Fury welled up inside Richard as he read the newspaper on the table.

He found it utterly unbelievable.

Pearl had been alive and well just over ten days ago. How could she have suddenly fallen seriously ill

and quietly passed away in such a short time?

Richard couldn't bring himself to believe it, or perhaps he didn't want to.

His assistant, noticing his grim expression, hesitated to speak.

After a long pause, Richard crumpled the newspaper into a ball and tossed it into the trash bin. The

once tense and oppressive atmosphere in the room instantly dissipated.

"Mister Richard, the manager-"

Richard glanced at his assistant. "Tell him to handle it on his own."

His assistant broke into a cold sweat. This matter was no trivial affair. He wondered if Richard really

wanted the manager to handle it.

At that moment, Richard seemed detached and indifferent to the world around him.

After a brief contemplation, his assistant turned and left.

Left alone in his spacious office, Richard loosened his tie as if struggling to breathe. He couldn't shake

off the unsettling feeling that he shouldn't have cared about Pearl.

However, the news of Pearl's sudden death had stirred something in him. The lively Pearl had

vanished, and he couldn't articulate the strange emptiness he felt.

He should have been indifferent, but it seemed like he cared more than he would admit.

A surge of anger had consumed him when he learned of Pearl's impending engagement just seven days ago. He wondered why she agreed to the marriage willingly as reported in the news, since she had claimed that she wholeheartedly loved him.

As expected, women were heartless and fickle.

He had contemplated going to Bodgow to confront her, but the newspaper article had derailed his plans. Nonetheless, he couldn't quite understand his own emotions, as if some kind of immense void engulfed him.

It felt like he had lost something important...

Finally, he clicked on a website to book a plane ticket to Bodgow.

"Pearl..."

Meanwhile, in Hugo's villa, the atmosphere was far from peaceful.

Beah looked at Pearl in confusion. "Aren't you in love with Richard? Why would you suddenly agree to get engaged to Hugo, even though he seems nice too..." Unaware of Hugo's past actions, she held a favorable impression of him as a kind doctor willing to treat her illness without conditions.

Pearl couldn't help but snort at the thought of Hugo being 'nice.' After all, he had coerced her into jumping into the sea.

However, Pearl had to withhold these details from Beah. She feared that revealing the truth might make Beah reluctant to accept the treatment, thinking that Pearl had been forced into this engagement with Hugo.

"Mom. well... matters of the heart can be quite complicated," Pearl replied with an awkward smile, sidestepping the topic with a vague excuse.

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"I can't stop you, since that's what you want," Beah said, patting Pearl's hand, her gaze shifting to Hugo nearby. "Just don't break things off too easily now that you've chosen him. You're getting engaged, after all. Take it seriously."

Beah had finally come to terms with the situation.

First, Pearl had faked her own death to escape a forced marriage. Now, she was planning to take Beah abroad and get engaged to someone else. Beah found Pearl's life more exciting than her own youth.

But it was for the best. They were about to leave for abroad, and it seemed unlikely that Ezra would

easily find Pearl now. Beah could temporarily escape the Jordan family's control, which was a welcome development.

"He's quite the catch," Beah remarked, casting a sidelong glance at Hugo. She was thoroughly satisfied with him and considered him a perfect match for Pearl.

When Hugo noticed Beah's admiring gaze, he tried to convince her, saying, "Madam Beah, I've just examined your condition, and you're temporarily stable. We should depart tomorrow. The sooner, the better, as we can't afford to delay your treatment."

"Very well," Beah replied. She trusted Hugo, and if he recommended this course of action, she was willing to go along with it without question.

Observing Pearl, who seemed lost in thought, Beah asked, "Pearl, is there something else on your mind that you haven't shared?"

Hugo scrutinized Pearl closely as well.

"No, there's nothing else. I was just lost in thought," Pearl replied.

Beah decided not to press further, rubbing her temples wearily. "Pearl, I'm exhausted. I'll head upstairs to rest."

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“Okay, Mom. Rest early.”

Once Beah was gone, Pearl glared at Hugo with frustration.

Puzzled, Hugo questioned, “Why are you looking at me like that?”

“I don’t know. I just find you an eyesore!” Pearl exclaimed, venting her frustration by repeatedly smacking a pillow.

Enlightened, Hugo leaned back lazily on the sofa and made an accurate guess. “I see. You must be thinking about Richard and wondering why he could forget about you, let alone come looking for you.

You can’t accept it...”

Pearl was both stunned and helpless. He was right.

“But so what?” Hugo continued. “You can’t be with him.” His eyes widened as he watched Pearl. He had never seen her cry before.

It was the first time Hugo saw Pearl’s tears. She cried without much visible sorrow on her face, but it moved him.

Unlike other women he had encountered, Jenny included, Hugo found himself sympathizing with Pearl.

An inexplicable sense of guilt hit him as he wondered if his words had been too harsh earlier.

“You’re right. I did think about that,” Pearl admitted, wiping away her tears and trying to sound composed, though her voice still quivered. “I know it’s impossible between him and me. You don’t need to keep reminding me.”

”

Everyone kept reminding her of the same thing. Yes, she was fully aware of it. But those memories were etched deeply within her, causing her immense pain.

How could she forget Richard, the aloof man who had shown her his gentler side? She might never forget him.

Pearl looked up at Hugo with a serious expression. Her voice, clear yet tinged with sorrow, sounded out, “Hugo.”

“What?”

Pearl sniffed slightly, her nose reddened from crying. She then mustered a smile. “Let’s reschedule