

YOUR GUISE 621

Chapter 621

“You must have misheard,” Pearl replied, deliberately keeping her response vague.

Sean nodded, seemingly satisfied with her answer. “Alright then, if you don’t want to share, I won’t press you.” He continued, “Do you think we’ll die here today?”

“Die here? Why would we?” Pearl was annoyed by Sean’s question.

Sean’s smile grew mischievous. “So, you mean you’ll protect me?”

Pearl felt the urge to punch him but refrained. “Don’t even think about taking advantage of me.”

As they engaged in their banter, someone quietly observed them.

Pearl had a feeling she was being watched and turned around to find Gigi, whom she hadn’t seen in a while.

Gigi stared at Pearl in disbelief. “You... You’re still alive?”

Pearl felt awkward, as she hadn’t informed anyone about faking her death. She wasn’t sure how to handle the situation now that someone had spotted her.

“Yes, I’m still alive, but-”

Gigi quickly caught on and interrupted, "So Madam Beah is with you, right?"

Pearl realized Gigi was in shock and decided not to lie to her. She nodded, saying, "Yes, my mom is with me."

Gigi chuckled sadly. "Doctor Hugo suddenly said he was going to take her abroad, and I was worried her condition had worsened. I'm relieved she's with you."

She had wanted to accompany Madam Beah but wasn't included in Hugo's plans. She had accepted it, as she wasn't related to Madam Beah.

Seeing the distress in Gigi's eyes, Pearl remembered something and asked, "Are you doing well in the Jordan Residence?"

Gigi had blended into the crowd, and the noise around them made it hard to hear. She took a few steps closer, preparing to speak with Pearl.

Suddenly, a loud crash from above caught everyone's attention. A burning piece of plank, which had been on fire for too long, fell from the ceiling, landing right where Pearl was standing.

Pearl braced herself for the worst when, out of nowhere, a pair of hands pushed her out of harm's way.

Looking up, she saw that Gigi had saved her but was now trapped beneath the fallen plank.

“Gigi!”

Pearl immediately tried to lift the plank using her clothes-wrapped hand, but it was too heavy for her alone. She managed to shift it slightly, but it was not enough.

Sean rushed over to help when he saw the dire situation. Others in the vicinity also saw this and joined in to help. Together, they managed to lift the plank.

Pearl quickly pulled Gigi to safety. Fortunately, she hadn't been trapped for too long, and the flames hadn't reached above her neck. However, her clothes were burned, and she had suffered some burns on her skin.

“Are you alright?” Pearl was anxious.

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Pearl's mind was still in turmoil, thinking about Gigi's selfless act of saving her. She sounded anxious

as she replied, "I need to see Gigi at the hospital."

Saan nodded. "I'll go with you." He had forgotten about the date they were supposed to have. Pearl declined his offer, her tone turning cold. "I can go alone. I need to investigate how this fire started, and once I find out who's behind it, I won't let them get away."

Sean had never seen this side of Pearl—so determined and ruthless. He had seen her gentle side, her cheeky side, and her confident side, but this was the first time he saw her seeking Terrence

"Alright, I won't insist it that's what you want," Sean conceded. "I'll send you the cargo ship's details later. It's set to sail at 3 pm the day after tomorrow. Just go to the dock and tell them

my name

Pearl smiled. "Thank you."

"Don't mention it. Just make sure to let me know when you're safely back." Sean smiled because he was now free

"I'll never forget the help you gave me, Sean."

Chapter 622

Pearl never imagined that someone like Gigi, who wasn't closely related to her, would sacrifice herself

by taking her place under the fallen plank.

Gigi managed a forced smile, her lips turning pale. "I'm fine, but my bones ache a little," she said, wincing in pain. She touched her face and asked, "My face hurts, Pea. Do you think it will be disfigured?"

Hearing a familiar voice from outside, Pearl reassured Gigi, "Don't worry, I'll take you to the hospital, and we'll get you treated. Your face won't be disfigured. I'll make sure you stay beautiful."

Gigi nodded weakly and lay on the floor, unable to stand.

The members of Evil Spirits quickly rushed in to help.

"Primo, get Gigi to the hospital now!" Pearl pointed at a tall man and gave her orders.

"Yes, ma'am!" Primo replied. He gently lifted Gigi off the floor, cradling her in his arms, rushed out of the fire.

and

Pearl directed the others, "Everyone else, grab some water and fire extinguishers. Follow me if you want to live."

With Pearl leading the way, the hesitant people gained confidence and followed her. Together, they successfully evacuated from the fire. Only a few sustained minor injuries, while the rest escaped unharmed, which was a positive outcome.

Once they were out, to avoid drawing attention, Pearl and the members of Evil Spirits quickly left the scene.

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“Alright, I won’t insist if that’s what you want,” Sean conceded. “I’ll send you the cargo ship’s details

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Pearl smiled. "Thank you."

"Don't mention it. Just make sure to let me know when you're safely back." Sean smiled because he was now free.

"I'll never forget the help you gave me, Sean."

Sean's heart ached at her words. "It's fine. There's no need to remember the good side of me."

Reflecting on their history, he realized he hadn't been kind to her from the start. Initially, he had been harsh, and later, when he tried to compete with Richard, he had only pushed her away.

His current actions were driven by the feelings he had for her, but they didn't define who he was. All he wanted was for her to be happy.

As he watched her walk away, Sean tightly clutched the bracelet in his hand. It was the same bracelet Susan had accused Pearl of trying on when she first arrived. He remembered that it caused an allergic reaction on her arm, making it swell.

Now that Pearl was leaving, disappearing from his life, all he had left was the warmth

lingering on the bracelet—a token to remember her by.

Chapter 623

Pearl rushed to the hospital as quickly as she could.

Gigi had been taken to the emergency room, and Pearl sent Primo away, deciding to wait for her alone.

After what felt like a long wait, the light outside the emergency room was still on, and a serious-looking doctor emerged.

“Do we have the patient’s family here?” he inquired.

Pearl walked over. “I am.”

The doctor delivered the news with a somber tone, “The patient sustained serious burns. While we were able to stabilize her, we can’t completely heal her burns.”

Pearl understood that this was the best outcome. “That’s alright. Just make sure she stays alive.” She would take care of the rest.

Gigi was wheeled into the room, and when she regained consciousness, only Pearl was by her side.

“Pea...” Gigi’s voice was hoarse, as if she was extremely dehydrated.

Pearl picked up a glass of water and offered it to her. Gigi took a few gulps and calmed down.

“Do my burns look horrible?” Gigi seemed concerned about her appearance, and Pearl understood that she must be feeling terrible right now.

“They don’t. Don’t worry, I told you I would help you with your recovery.”

Hope flashed across Gigi’s eyes but quickly faded. “I... Never mind. You’re going abroad in a few days.

I’ll just be a burden.”

Pearl tugged on the corner of Gigi’s blanket and scolded her gently. “Don’t talk nonsense. You’re not a burden. I’m going abroad, but I can just bring you along.”

Gigi frowned. “No, if I go abroad with you, Master Jordan will notice.” She was well aware that Pearl had her reasons for faking her death. She wouldn’t want Ezra to find out, so if she went with her, he would start questioning.

Pearl had an idea. “Let’s fake another death.”

Gigi paused. “What do you mean?”

“You ‘died’ in this fire.”

Gigi immediately grasped the plan but remained uncertain. “Would that really work? What if he finds

out?”

“Don’t worry. I’ll arrange for all information about the fire to be sealed. Since you were visibly injured and brought to the hospital in front of witnesses, it will appear as if you were hurt. All we need is for the hospital to provide a fake death certificate.”

Gigi remained skeptical, shaking her head. “But what about the hospital? Can we trust them to go along with it?”

Pearl chuckled. “I can’t do it, but Hugo can.”

Gigi finally understood. Yes, Hugo was a doctor, so he would be able to do that.

“So, I can go abroad with you then?” she asked, her voice filled with hope.

Pearl nodded and cupped her face, “Yes, you’ll be reunited with your Aunt Beah soon.”

“I thought you might hate me for keeping your mother all these years,” Gigi confessed, unable to meet

Pearl’s gaze.

“Why would I hate you? I’ve said it before, you’ve taken care of my mom for years so I should be

thanking you. There’s no reason for me to resent you.” Pearl playfully tapped Gigi’s hand.

“I’m sorry for being so petty before this.”

Pearl held her hand, “Don’t worry about it. After this, we’ll be a family and live happily together.”

Three days later, their group was ready to leave.

Chapter 624

Pearl had informed the Jordans about Gigi’s death, but Ezra showed little interest in her and accepted the news nonchalantly.

When they arrived at the dock, Pearl saw the person Sean sent over.

The person saw Pearl and nodded in her direction. “Miss Pearl, you’re finally here. Mister Sean asked me to personally escort you to the ship.”

Pearl calmly nodded and walked over with Beah, while Hugo helped Gigi walk behind them slowly. Gigi hadn’t fully recovered yet, so she couldn’t walk quickly.

Hugo couldn’t stand watching her struggle, so he picked her up, causing Gigi to gasp and her face to turn red. “Ah!”

The four of them boarded the ship, and the man led Pearl to the VIP suite.

“Here you go. Mister Sean instructed me to arrange the most comfortable and luxurious rooms for you.”

He smiled and spoke with a flattering tone.

“I know. You can leave now. Don’t disrupt our rest. Just leave the food at the door, knock, and you can go.” Pearl didn’t want anyone interrupting Beah’s rest.

The man, realizing that his attempts to please Pearl had fallen flat, obediently followed her orders and left.

The four of them had a room to themselves. Pearl allowed Beah to have the largest room, and no one objected. Pearl chose the room nearest to Beah’s, ensuring that she could keep an eye on her. If anything were to happen to Beah, Pearl wanted to be the first to know.

Fortunately, the journey over the next few days was uneventful. They soon arrived at Solvosin, and a car was waiting to take them to the airport as they disembarked from the ship. It was another arrangement made by Sean.

“I never expected Sean to be so attentive, especially to girls. That’s surprising,” Hugo teased his brother, appreciating the convenience provided by Pearl.

It was a windy day, and Pearl’s hair was tousled by the wind. However, it gave her a unique and striking appearance.

Pearl pushed her wind-blown hair behind her ears and glared at Hugo. "Enough joking around. Get in the car. Our flight is at 2 pm. I'll hold you accountable if we're late."

Hugo pursed his lips and got into the car. "Boring."

Pearl heard his comment and turned to him with an evil smile. "Say that again, and I'll kick you out of the car."

Hugo never expected his hostage to turn the tables and challenge him. "Fine, fine. I won't say anything else," he conceded in a lazy tone. He felt oddly content despite being bullied.

Pearl couldn't fathom what was going through Hugo's mind. She was preoccupied with thoughts of how she would deal with him when they reached Mernaut. Would she play along as his fiancée and later marry him?

Deep in thought, Pearl pondered her upcoming choices as the car sped away, leaving a trail of dust behind.

Chapter 625

They proceeded to the airport, took a connecting flight, and eventually landed in Mernaut.

Hugo led them to his residence in Mernaut, a grand villa that left Pearl with a hint of suspicion in her

eyes. It wasn't just a villa; it was an estate!

Pearl couldn't help but question, "You rarely leave the country. How did you manage to have such a huge place here?"

Hugo ignored her, took out his keys, and led Gigi and Beah inside.

"Hugo, did you take out a loan for this?" Pearl followed them, yelling her question.

Hugo, who thought she was stupid, turned around with an annoyed face. "My dad bought this!

'Dad?'

Pearl initially thought of Dustan Waldorf, but she quickly remembered that Hugo was no longer a

Waldorf. Could the mysterious man be Kingsley Harrison?

Pearl pondered this as she followed them inside. The interior decor didn't seem to match Hugo's taste.

She had been in his room at the Waldorf Residence, which was monochrome and lacked coziness. In

contrast, this villa had warm tones and exuded liveliness.

"Stay here for now because I don't come back often," Hugo said.

Pearl was curious. "Where are you going then?"

Beah, noticing her daughter's curiosity, tugged at her sleeve. "Alright, we're guests here. Don't interfere in Doctor Hugo's affairs. He has his own plans."

Guests? More like hostages. However, Pearl refrained from saying that aloud.

Hugo raised his chin at her, as if challenging her.

"Whatever. I don't care even if he dies," Pearl grumbled.

"How could you say that? Apologize to Doctor Hugo," Beah admonished.

Beah was upset because, from her perspective, Hugo had gone to great lengths to bring them abroad, saved her life, rescued her daughter from misery, and even helped treat Gigi. He was practically a saint.

However, her daughter didn't seem to appreciate his efforts.

Seeing the stern look on Beah's face and not wanting her to get too agitated and possibly have a heart attack, Pearl offered a half-hearted apology. "I'm sorry, Hugo. I shouldn't have said that."

Although it wasn't a sincere apology, Hugo didn't seem to mind. He smiled and replied, "That's alright. I wouldn't hold a grudge against a child."

Pearl shot daggers at him, thinking, "Who are you calling a child?"

Hugo returned her glare, replying silently, "You."

Pearl refrained from displaying her anger in front of Beah, so she walked away, chose a room, and brought her luggage inside. She then closed the door and isolated herself.

Beah sighed and turned to Hugo. "Doctor Hugo, that's just how Pea is. Please forgive her."

"That's fine. It's quite adorable."

Hugo's face softened with a loving smile, and Beah suddenly had a thought. Was this doctor interested in her daughter?

She was determined to help him.

After arriving in Mernaut, Pearl locked herself in her room for three days.

Chapter 626

Hugo would prepare food and call out to Pearl, but she never came out of her room. He started to worry that she might starve herself.

Just when he thought Pearl was going to die, her door suddenly swung open. She appeared dressed nicely, with tidy hair and healthy-looking skin.

"I thought you were going to starve yourself to death." Hugo leaned against the door, looking casual

with a cigarette between his fingers.

Pearl scoffed. "Don't worry, Gigi brought me food every night."

Hugo shifted his gaze to Gigi, who stood nearby. She lowered her head in shame and scratched her head.

Her scars were healing, and the burns were fading. New skin was growing, and she was recovering well.

"Pea said she didn't want anyone bothering her and didn't want to see you either," Gigi explained, taking Pearl's side.

"Good job. You sisters have each other's back, so I can't win this argument. It's fine if you don't want to see me, I just won't cook for you."

Pearl glared at him. "Don't then. The food you make isn't half as good as what Gigi makes."

Gigi blushed and felt embarrassed. "The food I brought to you were leftovers."

Hugo grinned. "Should I make more so you have leftovers?"

Pearl blushed when she saw him smiling like he was flirting, then turned away. She knew she should

thank him but felt too embarrassed, so she changed the subject.

“After a few days of consideration, I’ve decided to work at the red light district.”

Red light district?

“Don’t you know what kind of place that is?” Hugo’s smile disappeared instantly, alarmed. How could she even consider working there? Was she trying to throw her life away? “You’re not allowed to go!”

Even Gigi turned pale. “Pea, you shouldn’t do that. We all know what kind of place the red light district is. You can’t go!” If Beah found out she was planning to work there, she would be furious.

“You’ll probably be chewed up and spat out there.” Hugo felt the urge to hit her for even thinking about it.

“It’s not what you think.” Pearl protested when she saw them reacting as if she were walking into a lion’s den. “I said I’m going to work there, but not as an escort. Why are you so nervous?”

“You weren’t?” Hugo let out a relieved sigh, though he couldn’t explain why he was so worried. Hearing her initial statement had made him feel like someone was squeezing his heart, leaving him breathless.

Soon, his relief gave way to anger at the idea of her cheapening herself.

Gigi, however, remained steadfast in her opposition. “I won’t let you go to a place like that! If you do, I’ll

tell Aunt Beah!”

Pearl felt the stress mounting. This girl, who usually appeared so fragile, had suddenly become so tough.

Tell me what?”

The voice that came from behind made the three of them freeze.

Chapter 627

Hearing that voice, Pearl looked at Beah awkwardly, her voice betraying her guilt. “Nothing. I’m just thinking about finding a job.”

Beah smiled, “That’s great! It’s about time you started working. We can’t have Doctor Hugo paying for all of us,”

Hugo chimed in gently, “It’s fine, I can afford it.”

Beah, however, felt embarrassed, “No, that won’t do. Even though your family is wealthy, we can’t let Pea be a freeloader.”

‘Freeloader?’

Pearl was even more determined to start working, “I’ve decided that I’m going to work, so starting

tomorrow, I'll only come back once a week."

Hugo calmly suggested, "You can work at my company." He knew exactly where she wanted to work and made the counteroffer, clearly going against her decision.

Pearl just wanted to punch him.

Beah nodded in agreement when she heard Hugo's suggestion. "If you work there, at least someone can look out for you, and I won't worry as much." Then she realized something and asked, "But Doctor Hugo, is your company in the medical field?"

"Yes,"

Beah smiled, pleasantly surprised. "Perfect. Pea has medical training so she'll fit right in."

"Mom, I'm not going to work there." Pearl could only sigh. "I've found the place I want to work at, and I'll

start tomorrow."

"The place you're talking about is the red light district, isn't it?" Hugo knew he couldn't stop her, so he stated it openly for Beah to decide.

Beah nearly fainted when she heard that Pearl planned to work in the red light district.

Observing her mother's reaction, Pearl reached out to help her sit down, but Beah pulled her arms away, saying, "How could you even think of working in a place like that?" She leaned against the railing to steady herself. "I know you want to work, but I also believe you wouldn't do something so foolish. Please, tell me why you want to go there."

Pearl took a deep breath. "I didn't want to worry you so I kept it a secret. But I found out we need a specific medication that can only be obtained from the private vault of the owner of the red light district."

"So, you plan to take the risk and steal it?" Hugo couldn't accept that idea and clenched his fists, glaring fiercely at Pearl

"It would be great if we could purchase it, but if not, we'll have to try this." Pearl gave Hugo a look, urging him to calm down, and continued, "Don't worry, I won't do anything reckless. I'll protect myself."

Despite her reassurance, the others still looked at her skeptically.

Gigi was touched by Pearl's willingness to help but knew this wasn't a minor matter. "Pea, I don't need to have my face treated. Looks don't matter that much, as long as you still like me, right?"

Pearl glared at her. "You were only hurt because of me, so if I can't help you fully recover, I'll never forgive myself."

Beah knew Pearl was stubborn and couldn't be easily dissuaded. Hugo, on the other hand, continued to scrutinize her with his eyes.

In Enswood, Richard was working in his office, but his thoughts were elsewhere.

Chapter 628

He hadn't been doing well for the past few days, and it was obvious to everyone around him. Even his staff avoided bringing their problems to him during this time.

There was something he couldn't quite comprehend: why did Pearl, who had loved him so deeply, suddenly want to sever their ties and disappear from his life?

His feelings for her were gone, but he couldn't forget the memories they had created together. They had been so close and had gone through so much. So, why did she decide to take such a step?

His assistant stood outside his office, observing him engrossed in his work, not wanting to disturb him.

However, Richard sensed someone's presence and glanced up, recognizing his assistant. He gestured for him to come in.

“Sir, we have a new order.” The assistant placed the agreement document on Richard’s desk and stepped back respectfully.

Richard picked up the agreement and began flipping through its contents, his brows furrowing as he saw the name on it—Sapphire Group,

“Isn’t this the company that recently established itself overseas?” he asked.

“Yes, sir. Sapphire Group was relatively small before, but it seems they have been thriving since their eldest child returned,” the assistant replied.

Richard pinched the bridge of his nose. “Why would a foreign company want to collaborate with us?”

The assistant wasn’t entirely sure either. Their company, Waldorf Enterprises, wasn’t a major player in the medical machinery industry, so it was puzzling why Sapphire Group would choose them.

“Maybe... it’s because our company has a positive growth outlook?” the assistant ventured,

Richard tapped his fingers on the desk thoughtfully. “I don’t think it’s that simple.” However, he didn’t intend to reveal too much to his assistant since he wasn’t a regular staff member.

“If they are interested in working with us, then let’s arrange a meeting with their president,” Richard decided.

The assistant appeared apprehensive. "Sir, their president has conveyed that he won't meet with us until the agreement is signed."

"That's unusual," Richard mused, suspecting that there might be something more to this. It sounded like a trap.

"Tell them we'll want thirty percent of the revenue if they won't meet us."

"Thirty percent!" The assistant started sweating. The president was doing daylight robbery. What an unscrupulous businessman!

Richard looked coldly at him. "What's on your mind?"

The assistant was nervous as he was suddenly called out. "You're really clever to do that. They mentioned that as long as our demands aren't too excessive, they are willing to accept them."

Richard's interest was piqued. "In that case, I'm even more inclined to meet their president."

"So you're saying-" the assistant began but was interrupted by Richard's actions.

Richard examined the agreement document, finding nothing amiss, and picked up his pen. He signed his name in cursive: Richard Waldorf.

After signing it, he casually instructed, “Arrange for flight tickets to Mernaut. We’ll be meeting with their president.”

Chapter 629

Pearl woke up early that morning, having already made all the necessary arrangements the night before. Her only task now was to ensure she arrived at work on time.

During the daytime, the red light district was relatively quiet, as its liveliest moments occurred during the night. Nevertheless, Pearl had arrived early to acquaint herself with the area’s layout and understand its intricacies.

While obtaining information was relatively easy, navigating the complexities of the red light district was proving to be more challenging.

The district in Mernaut was situated a bit further from the city, requiring a ten-minute car ride to reach it. Here, such activities were legal, and the presence of police was minimal. Instead, one could see satisfied but tired-looking men preparing to head home.

Pearl couldn’t help but feel disgusted by the scene but managed to suppress her disdain as she continued walking. However, her progress was interrupted when a man whistled at her.

Turning around, Pearl faced a blonde man with blue eyes who had a somewhat devilish appearance.

He possessed an average build and could be considered a pretty boy there.

The man had whistled due to Pearl's beauty. "Hey, hottie, are you alone?" he inquired with an accent.

Pearl glared at him. "Don't even try. I'm not someone you can offend," she replied in Ealdasy.

The man, noticing her fluency in Ealdasy, inferred that she must have lived abroad. He became more reserved, adopting a somewhat annoyed expression. "I just want to be friends with you. No need to be rude."

Though he claimed to want friendship, his expression appeared scornful. He had a fair idea of the kinds of women who frequented this place, and he assumed Pearl wouldn't be much different, either seeking to engage in business dealings or working as a prostitute.

Pearl balled up her fists and regarded him with interest. "Why? Don't you have friends?"

The man's face turned purple with anger. "Watch how you talk!"

Pearl had just arrived and didn't want to create too much trouble. While the man irritated her, she decided to calm herself and proceed with her day. "I don't want to argue so please just be more

respectful.”

She turned away, flipping her hair in his direction as she left, a gesture akin to a dismissive slap. The

man seethed with anger but realized he couldn't win an argument, so he just ground his teeth in anger.

Knowing that fighting in the red light district was prohibited and would lead to arrest, Pearl had dared to

challenge him. With that in mind, she briskly walked away in search of her workplace.

Using her connections, she identified the person in charge. The lingering atmosphere of the previous

night's activities clung to the area, and the cleaners responsible for disinfecting it filled the air with the

unpleasant smell of cleaning agents.

There weren't many people around, so Pearl approached one of the cleaners, a modestly

dressed woman. Attempting to speak in Ealdasy, she asked, “Hello, ma'am. Is Mister Zinedine here?”

Hearing that, gloom flashed in the woman's eyes. “This place isn't for you.” When she spoke, her face

trembled, like a piece of shrunken dry skin—a rather unsettling image. Puzzled by the woman's

response, Pearl took a few steps closer, hoping for clarification.

Chapter 630

“No! Stay away! Stay away” The woman suddenly waved her broom at Pearl after the latter got a clear

look at her face.

“Um-”

“You’re her child. Get out of here!”

Pearl quickly realized she was talking about her mother, Beah.

“Do you have a grudge against my mother?” Pearl politely inquired despite the woman’s hostile attitude.

The woman managed to calm down somewhat upon realizing what had happened, but she still sounded annoyed. “I told you not to come here. I don’t like you so stop talking to me or asking me any more questions.”

Pearl finally noticed that although the woman wore a cleaner’s uniform, she exuded an air of refinement. Could this woman have come from a well-off family in the past?

“Ma’am...”

The word seemed to be a trigger, as the woman immediately flew into a rage upon hearing it.

“I told you so many times, stop calling me that!”

Pearl nodded as she watched the woman pack up all her cleaning equipment and quickly left as if she were running away.

‘What a weird woman.’ Pearl thought it was odd. Since she was wrapped in thick clothing and only her face was partially shown, she couldn’t tell if she knew the woman.

Regardless, if the woman refused to speak to her, Pearl would have to find answers on her own.

She ventured further in and eventually came across a place where she could potentially gather the information she needed. Compared to the other establishments in the area, this particular one appeared relatively small.

According to rumors, Zinedine was as wealthy as some countries and served as the leader of the district. It was surprising that the establishment he operated was comparatively modest. Upon entering, Pearl was greeted by luxurious decor that offered some insight. While many shops tried to attract customers with elaborate exteriors, only to have standard interiors, this one was different. Despite its small size, the interior was tastefully decorated and alluring.

Pearl was mesmerized when a voice interrupted her thoughts.

“Are you the newly hired escort?”

Startled, Pearl turned around to face a pair of old yet clear eyes.

At 2 am, Richard disembarked from the plane, where a waiting car transported him directly to his hotel.

After unpacking, he retired for the night, expecting to meet with Sapphire Group's

Chale \$30

representatives promptly. However, it seemed that the executive they had dispatched wasn't in a hurry to engage in discussions.

In the meeting room, Richard regarded the man with a greasy face with disdain.

"Our president mentioned that we would commence our partnership talks once the agreement was signed. Is he going back on his word?" Richard's assistant expressed frustration upon realizing that only an executive had been sent.

The man appeared unperturbed and maintained his composure even after the assistant's outburst.

"Well, our president has been quite occupied lately, so they sent me to entertain you first."

The man emphasized the word 'entertain' as his eyes gleamed with amusement.