

## **YOUR GUISE 641**

### Chapter 641

Pearl kept pounding Richard with her fists, demanding, "Let go of me, Richard! I told still have things to do..."

you I

Richard paid no heed to Pearl and calmly ascended the stairs, unruffled. "I've discussed it with your boss. You'll be working exclusively for me this month."

"You jerk!" Pearl struggled to free herself from his grip but was firmly held in his arms. A faint, familiar fragrance surrounded her; it was his signature scent.

"Either you come with me willingly now, or I'll knock you out and carry you," Richard warned, presenting the first option as the preferable one.

In response, Pearl became more obedient, nestling in his arms, behaving sensibly.

Richard carried her to the third floor, entering the room at the far end of the hallway. He pushed open the door to reveal a luxurious suite.

He then tossed Pearl onto the bed, and the soft sensation immediately enveloped her.

Pearl recognized this room. It was a VIP suite that required a minimum spending of over 150 thousand dollars.

She asked sarcastically, "Why are you so familiar with this place? Are you a regular here?"

Richard ignored her comment and tossed a towel to her. "Go wash up. I've prepared some clothes for you in the bathroom."

Pearl looked at him, irritated by his instructions. "Why should I?"

"Because I don't want to see you dressed like this with all that makeup," Richard replied, clearly annoyed with her revealing outfit and heavy makeup.

"Why are you so nosy?"

"If you don't want to shower, I can help you," Richard said, glancing at Pearl, who immediately fell silent.

Seeing her standing still, Richard bent down, his right leg blocking her path, fingers gently caressing her face. "Are you doing it or not?"

Although reluctant, Pearl feared that Richard might actually drag her into the bathroom and even help her shower. With no other choice, she pushed him away, grabbing the towel before heading into the

bathroom.

The sound of running water came from the bathroom. Richard stood outside, looking at the traces of their struggle on the bed, lost in thought.

Pearl walked out of the bathroom with her makeup removed and wrapped in a towel. The moment she appeared, a shadow flashed across Richard's eyes.

Her skin was fair and smooth, comparable to a delicate flower petal.

Pearl wiped her hair, the ends still a bit damp. She frowned and asked, "Where are the clothes you got for me? I didn't see them."

Richard's Adam's apple bobbed, his gaze involuntarily lingering on Pearl's body. "I asked my assistant to get them. He's probably not back yet."

Pearl had no idea she was like a lamb walking into the wolf's den. Her exposed skin was so smooth, and tempting. Any man would find it hard to resist, especially Richard, who had been suppressing his desires.

As he stepped closer, Pearl finally sensed a hint of danger. Richard's current state was far from

normal

She took a few steps back, trying to maintain a safe distance. "Richard, why don't you go out first? I

don't think it's appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone.

Pearl's suggestion was nothing but a joke to him.

"A man and a woman shouldn't get too close only when they have nothing to do with each other, but

we're a couple," Richard said, more seductive than ever. His voice was low and dripping with

seduction.

Pearl swallowed nervously. "No, we're not."

Richard was tired of hearing that. He stepped closer, lifting her chin with one hand. "Let's give it a try,

and you'll know."

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The next moment, Pearl's eyes widened in surprise as she felt Richard's soft lips on hers. His lips were soft yet firm, almost like he was punishing her for not listening.

Finally, he bit her lips hard, marking the end.

While they had kissed before, Richard had never been this intense.

Breathless from the kiss, Pearl forcefully pushed him away when he stopped. "What are you doing,

Richard?"

"Nothing much. Isn't this what normal couples do?" Richard remained unusually calm, looking at her swollen lips with a hint of amusement.

Pearl had planned to continue her protest, but she froze when she met his gaze.

Richard's eyes no longer reflected the calmness from before. They held tenderness, a familiarity from a distant past.

'No way...'

Pearl couldn't describe the sensation. She suddenly felt weak, as if something she had been holding onto for a long time had completed its mission, and she relaxed completely.

She slumped onto the bed, unable to calm down for a long time.

After what felt like an eternity, she spoke slowly, "You remember everything now, don't you?"

There was no denying it, so he could only answer truthfully, "Yeah."

Pearl looked at him calmly. "Did you just remember them today?"

Richard's gaze turned slightly colder. "No."

“Then when was it?” Pearl felt like she was being played with. He had openly admitted not liking her.

Now that he had recovered, he was hiding the truth just to toy with her.

“Yesterday.” Richard then fell silent. He didn’t know how to explain himself.

The moment she appeared at the entrance yesterday, all his emotional memories came flooding back.

Seeing her fitting in so easily with everyone around her, he felt a burning anger inside him, so he kept

this to himself and deliberately obstructed her.

Pearl couldn’t help but laugh. “You remembered them yesterday, and you’re only willing to admit it

now?!”

She felt wronged, a towering grievance. All the grievances she had suffered before suddenly erupted.

“I’m sorry.” Richard was willing to give in because he not only remembered everything that had

happened before but also recalled how he had treated her.

He tried to put himself in, her shoes. If it were him, he might have felt completely hopeless, so her

current reaction didn’t surprise him at all.

“What’s the use of apologizing now?” Pearl angrily tossed the towel she had been using to dry her hair

at him. “So what if you recover now? We’re over.”

Richard stepped closer and held her tightly in his arms. "I know I messed up. I forgot about us, but it wasn't intentional."

"Richard, do you know how hurtful your actions were before?" Tears welled up in Pearl's eyes, and she spoke with a reddened gaze, seeking justice for herself.

Richard lowered his gaze, his eyes filled with remorse. "I know, I know everything."

Chapter 643

"Why are you meddling in my business? You're pretty smart. You must know why I'm here, right?"

Pearl looked at him, sensing his guilt. Her frustration eased a bit, but she knew Richard had intentionally disrupted her plans multiple times. It wasn't a coincidence.

Richard's reason was straightforward. "I don't want to see you alone with other men."

"But I can take care of myself." Pearl glared at him, unable to hold back her frustration. "Besides, you're the one who wronged me, and I haven't forgiven you yet. So, you can't interfere with my affairs."

Even though he lost that relationship due to circumstances beyond his control, he did hurt her.

Therefore, she wouldn't forgive him easily.

"How can I get you to forgive me?" Richard patiently tried to coax her.

"That will only happen in the next lifetime!"

Pearl pushed him away and tried to run, but the next moment, she felt a chill on her body. She froze,

looking down, realizing she was completely naked. The towel had fallen during the struggle.

“Ahh!” She screamed as Richard stared at her intently.

Even though Richard was aware of the situation, his face turned red. He turned away, facing the other

direction, but the stimulating image from just now was still vivid in his mind.

Hmm... His fiancée was quite something.

“If you want to scream, go ahead. This room has good soundproofing.”

This almost teasing remark completely ignited Pearl’s anger. “It’s all because of you! If it weren’t for

you, I wouldn’t be in this miserable situation!”

With no clothes around, Pearl rolled onto the bed, wrapping herself tightly in the blanket. Huddled

under the covers, her eyes blazed with anger. Even in her lower position, she still exuded a powerful

presence.

“Go get me some clothes now.” The clothes she was wearing were soaked and couldn’t be

worn anymore.

Richard cleared his throat. “No worries. My assistant will bring some clothes over shortly.”

Pearl relented and stayed in bed, still facing off with him from under the blanket.

Just as they were talking about this, there was a knock on the door.

Pearl was naked, so she stayed huddled under the blanket without moving.

Recognizing the familiar knock, Richard knew it was his assistant. He strode over to open the door, and

his assistant stood there with a bag of clothes, looking curious.

The assistant heard everything from the outside just now because it had been quite loud. The president

and his wife were probably having a private conversation in the room. When a man and a woman were

alone in a room, it was bound to be passionate and intense...

He was still fantasizing about the image in his mind. The next moment, the president’s cold

and stern voice came from above.

“Give me the clothes and you may leave.”

The assistant obediently handed over the clothes, but his eyes couldn’t help wandering inside.

Richard noticed the subtle expression on his face and turned sideways to block his line of sight.

The assistant didn’t see any explicit scenes, but he could vaguely see the messy sheets at the foot of

the bed. That was thrilling enough for him.

“What are you looking at? Keep staring, and I’ll gouge your eyes off.” Richard couldn’t tolerate another man’s gaze on Pearl. Even curiosity was out of the question.

Chapter 644

The assistant knew Richard was determined to protect his wife. He grinned and cheered,

Keep it up, Mister Richard!”

With that, he quickly left.

Richard closed the door, tossed the clothes onto the bed, and gestured to Pearl, saying, “Here you go.”

Pearl grabbed the bag and blushed. “Turn around.”

Richard obediently turned his back to her.

Pearl managed to put on the clothes very fast, and they fit her perfectly. As she stared at the back in front of her, she felt a small wave of relief—he actually knew her size.

However, her sense of gratitude didn’t last long. When Pearl stood up, Richard’s face darkened as he looked at her in the white low-cut dress.

Pearl stood up, twirled around, and seemed to like it. “Your assistant sure knows how to pick clothes.”

Richard smirked, a coldness in his eyes. “Yeah, he’s quite good at it.” It seemed like he needed to transfer his assistant to one of the subsidiary companies.

The assistant, who knew nothing, was feeling happy, thinking he had done something good. Little did he know, he would soon be thrown into a tough subsidiary company for training.

Changing the subject, Richard looked at Pearl’s face and asked, “So, can you tell me why you had to work in a place like this?”

Pearl shrugged helplessly. “I didn’t want to work in a place like this, but I needed a specific medicine.

Only Zinedine has it, so I made a deal with him. I’ll help him get what he wants, and he’ll give me the medicine.”

Hearing about the deal, Richard’s brows furrowed. “What does he want?”

“The Adley family’s Aegis machete is in the hands of their youngest son, Owen Adley. He carries it with him every day. All I need to do is to hold him hostage and threaten him to hand over the machete.”

But Richard didn’t think it was that simple. “You’re overseas now, and the Adleys are incredibly

powerful. Even Zinedine doesn't dare to mess with them. If he sent you, the purpose couldn't be more obvious."

It was clear that Pearl had been used as a pawn. If she could get the machete, no one would be able to trace it to Zinedine. And if she couldn't get it, Zinedine could still clean himself of any evidence.

"I know. He also told me these tasks come with risks, but that medicine is very rare in this world. I must get it."

Richard disagreed. "Then you should find someone skilled to do this dangerous mission for you."

This brought up a concern for Pearl. "It's not that I insist on doing this myself. The main

reason is that Owen is easily swayed by beautiful women, and among those skilled in Evil Spirits, there's only Fifi and me. I can't bear to let Fifi suffer as she's just reached adulthood." Pearl wasn't

wrong, so Richard nodded and reluctantly accepted the excuse, but then he asked, "Then where are you staying now?"

Pearl's back stiffened suddenly. She was staying in Hugo's place, and her dealings with Hugo were all based on the assumption that he had already given up on any romantic feelings between them.

If Richard found out that she was living in Hugo's place and intended to marry him, he would probably

explode.

“Well, I-”

Before she could finish her sentence, a phone call interrupted their conversation. Richard took out his phone and answered it.

“Surprise!” Jenny’s voice was crisp and pleasant. “Rick, I’ve just arrived at the airport in Mernaut. Can you come and pick me up?”.

Chapter 645

Richard didn’t say anything. He casually muted his phone and turned to look at Pearl behind him.

“Jenny has even chased you here. It seems she’s really not giving up on you.” Pearl recognized that voice. She was sitting by the bed, and her expression immediately turned serious.

“What is it? Are you jealous?”

That comment had a hint of teasing, but Richard found it quite amusing. He smiled and tucked a strand of her hair behind her ear, holding it playfully.

Pearl pushed Richard’s hand away with force, straightening her hair, and answered sarcastically, “Me?

Jealous? No way! By the way, did you mute your phone because you're afraid she'd hear me here with you?"

"No, I just didn't want to cause you any trouble." Richard leaned over and pinched her cheek, his voice tinged with helplessness and indulgence.

Pearl snorted in disagreement.

On the other end of the phone, Jenny became even more anxious when there was no one responding to her. "Rick, I'm here for the Fashion Week and I happened to remember you're in this area. I'm not familiar with this place. Can you come and pick me up?"

No man could have refused this, but Richard remained composed. "I'm busy right now. How about I send my assistant to pick you up?" It was obvious that he was just trying to brush her off.

When Pearl heard this, she let out a satisfied 'hmph.'

However, Jenny immediately picked up on it. "Who's over there with you, Rick? Why do I hear a woman's voice?"

"I'm in a meeting."

Richard said he was in a meeting, but his hands were anything but obedient. He traced along Pearl's

pointing finger and couldn't help but play with her fingertips.

"Richard!" Pearl lowered her voice, pushed him away angrily, and scolded, "Can't you behave yourself?"

Men can be so mischievous!

"You're my girlfriend. Why should I hold back?" Richard countered. Her hands were surprisingly soft.

Then, he lowered the volume of his phone and casually tossed it aside. With one hand, he pulled Pearl closer, wrapping her in his arms.

"Let go of me." Pearl pushed against his chest as he drew nearer, smoothly changing the subject.

Richard lowered his head, his eyes obscure in the dimly lit room.

Pearl happened to meet his gaze. Her heart skipped a beat, and the next moment, Richard's lips pressed onto hers like a sudden storm.

The phone was left on the soft blanket and emitted a faint sound, but it didn't affect what the two were doing at all.

After a while, the phone's sound gradually faded, finally falling silent.

Just as Richard was about to take things further, Pearl reached out and pressed against his chest. "That's enough for now."

"Why don't we go on?" Richard had no intention of stopping at all.

Pearl glared at him fiercely. "What if you suddenly lose your feelings for me like before? What am I supposed to do?"

Only then did Richard relent, suppressing his inner emotions. He gently wiped the corner of her mouth

and said, "Okay."

"What about Jenny?"

Now that Jenny was in Mernaut, it was obvious that she was here for Richard. She was probably going

to cause trouble again. Thinking of this woman gave Pearl a terrible headache. "Don't worry. If she

dares to do anything to you, I won't let her off the hook"

Chapter 646

Richard's firm decision left Pearl feeling unsettled. "So you're not going to the airport to pick her up?"

"Why would I go to the airport to pick her up? She has nothing to do with me."

Richard's expression changed, and Pearl nodded in satisfaction. "Alright then, I gotta get back to work."

With that, she started to get up.

However, Richard suddenly pressed her down on the bed. "Didn't I tell you? You're not allowed to work in a place like this."

Pearl sighed. "I promise you, once I get the machete, I won't stay in a place like this anymore, okay?"

Hearing her promise, Richard's expression finally softened. "Okay. If you need anything, I can help you."

Jenny had been waiting for half an hour in the airport but still hadn't seen any sign of Richard.

The weather in Mernaut was especially cold this season. To leave a good impression on Richard, she had chosen to wear a short skirt with stockings. Now, standing among people bundled up in winter coats, she looked somewhat ridiculous and pitiful.

"A-choo-"

Jenny couldn't hold back a sneeze, and her frustration intensified. She wasn't lying when she said she didn't know her way around here.

But now, as time passed with no sign of Richard, she knew he probably didn't want to come and pick her up. Plus, she could faintly hear a woman's voice in the background, making her almost certain that Richard was currently with Pearl.

The more she thought about it, the more agitated she became. Frustration built up in her heart, and she

quickly dialed Hugo's number. "Hughie, I'm at the airport now. Can you come and pick me up?"

Right now, Hugo was cooking in the villa, contemplating everyone's dietary restrictions. Hearing this, he

felt a bit annoyed. "I'll have my assistant pick you up."

It was a familiar response, one she had heard many times before.

Jenny's frustration flared up inside her. "Why is everyone so busy?"

Hearing this, Hugo understood that she must have asked Richard first. Since he didn't agree, she

settled for him as a second choice.

Hugo's tone got colder. "Does everyone have to just sit around and wait for you?"

Jenny had never seen him with a cold tone and indifference in his attitude. But ever since he came

abroad with Pearl, his demeanor took a 180-degree turn.

It was Pearl again! They all ditched her for Pearl!

Jenny's sense of superiority vanished instantly. She felt completely embarrassed for the first

time in her life, and her resentment towards Pearl intensified.

Frustration building up inside her, she angrily threw her phone to the ground, its loud sound catching everyone's attention.

Jenny suddenly felt a blow to her pride. Glancing around, she noticed people giving her strange looks.

She flushed and hastily left the airport.

When Pearl returned home, Hugo was in the kitchen cooking. He wore an apron, long and elegant as he casually stirred the pot.

his fingers

Although his movements seemed casual, it was clear that the food in the pot was incredibly tempting.

"Go wash your hands." Hugo finished the last dish, turned around, and noticed Pearl at the kitchen entrance. "Mrs. Emma and Gigi left early this morning to go shopping."

Chapter 647

Pearl went to the washroom to wash her hands, then briskly walked into the kitchen to help bring the food to the table. Without hesitation, she sat down, picked up her utensils, and took a bite of the food.

"I have to admit, the food you cooked is quite delicious."

"Besides cooking, I have other qualities, you know. How come you don't seem to notice them?"

Hugo took off his apron, placed it on the nearby table, and joined her for the meal.

With Pearl's mouth full of food, she mumbled, "Sorry, but you haven't made a very good impression on me so far."

"I'm speechless." Hugo picked at the food in front of him but hesitated to take a bite.

Seeing that Hugo appeared somewhat displeased, Pearl quickly changed the subject. "By the way, did you know that Jenny has come to Mernaut?"

Hugo paused. "How did you know?"

Realizing her slip, Pearl tried to salvage the situation. "Oh, well, isn't she here for the Fashion. Week?

It's already in the news."

Hugo gave her a skeptical look, picked up the remote control, and switched on the TV.

The news was just reporting about Jenny's arrival in Mernaut. Pearl froze for a moment, realizing the timeline didn't match up. She rolled her eyes and quickly covered up, "I heard it from some insider's sources."

Hugo didn't expose her and simply smiled. "Where did you get that info? It's quite accurate. I'd like to know."

“I’m one of the world’s best hackers. Is there anything I wouldn’t know?” Pearl had access to some of the most advanced surveillance tools in the world, so keeping track of such matters was a piece of cake for her.

“So what if she’s here?” Hugo continued savoring his meal.

Observing his nonchalant reaction, Pearl expressed a hint of disbelief. “You used to be like Jenny’s lapdog. Aren’t you happy about her being here?”

Hugo’s mouth twitched. “When you’ve been a lapdog too many times, it loses its appeal. Unrequited love should have its limits.”

He swore he was just saying that to make Pearl feel better.

But when Pearl saw his slightly lonely figure, realizing she had hit a nerve, she patted his shoulder and

said, “Come on, don’t be sad. What’s wrong with being loyal? It’s not

embarrassing. If you follow one person, you’re a follower. But if you follow a group, you’re a team! Let’s not be Jenny’s followers, but a team for all the pretty ladies!”

Her words were bold and spirited, and Hugo couldn’t help but burst into laughter. He put down his knife

and fork, looked at Pearl seriously, and with a mischievous smile, he said, " Then can I be your loyal follower too?"

"Sure..." Pearl started to agree but immediately withdrew her hand in excitement. "Wait, what? I was just comforting you. Don't twist my words!"

He wanted to be her follower? She would rather not have that!

Hugo stared straight into Pearl's eyes without blinking. "But suddenly, I feel like you're even more adorable. Can't I like you?"

Pearl immediately declined, "Save that affection for Jenny. Not everyone can handle the weight of such intense love."

This was the first time Hugo heard that. He looked puzzled and asked, "Oh? Is my love that demanding?"

"Of course. If it wasn't, why would she choose Richard over you?"

Comparisons could be hurtful, and this statement immediately darkened Hugo's expression. " Can you please stop bringing up that person in front of me?"

"Sorry, hit a nerve there." Pearl wasn't too bothered. She pretended to feel guilty and apologized, then

stuffed a piece of chicken into her mouth. After that, she slipped around the corner of the stairs, saying,

“I’ll head back to my room now. Can you please help with the dishes?”

Then, she entered her room and forcefully closed the door.

Hugo stared at the mess on the table, then glanced at her departing figure, unable to hold back his

laughter.

This woman was much more entertaining than Jenny.

#### Chapter 648

Pearl got back to her room to avoid further distractions. She immediately powered up her tablet and

started searching for information about Owen Adley.

[Owen Adley, male, 28 years old. Into horse racing, golf, nightlife, and drinking.]

Golf was fine, but horse racing...? Wouldn’t his bulky body, looking like over 200 pounds, crush the

poor horse?

But that wasn’t her concern. The information mentioned that on weekends, usually the next day, he’d

head to the racecourse to hang out with a lady. They’d then ride together, venture into the woods at the

racecourse, and typically come back after an hour. What they did during that time was self–

explanatory.

A chill ran down Pearl's spine, but she pushed aside the goosebumps and kept reading.

Owen happened to have time to be there this weekend. In other words, all she had to do was become

an employee at the racecourse he frequented. If he chose her, she could complete the mission.

This seemed like a good plan to her.

Without wasting time, she directly asked Zinedine for a day off, planning to visit the

racecourse tomorrow to check if she could work part-time.

Pearl slept through the night. Not having to work in the nightclub, she had no obligation to wake up at

night.

However, a knock on the door annoyed her.

"Who is it?"

"It's me." Hugo's warm voice came, immediately dispelling Pearl's morning grumpiness.

"I just woke up. Will you please leave me alone?"

"Would you like to come with me for tomorrow's Fashion Week? I can get you an invitation." Hugo

completely ignored her temper and calmly played with the envelope in his hand.

‘Fashion Week?’ Pearl’s eyes lit up instantly, forgetting all about her grumpiness. She opened the door and asked, “Really?”

“Of course.” Hugo nodded, then glanced around. “But you have to do as I say.”

“Why should I?” Pearl’s excitement deflated.

“Because I’m the one with the invitation.” Hugo raised the envelope triumphantly. “You’ll pretend to be my companion, and we’ll show up together.”

“If that’s the case, won’t I just be your pawn?” Pearl thought about becoming an unwitting tool to anger Jenny and felt uncomfortable.

Jenny was attending this Fashion Week. If he forced her to be his companion, it was probably to irritate Jenny. Judging by his attitude, he seemed to be holding a grudge for not getting ahead and was likely harboring some resentment.

Hugo rubbed his chin and chuckled. “You’re pretty smart.”

“Go away!” Pearl slammed the door.

Lying on the bed and staring at the information on the tablet beside her, Pearl hesitated for about a split

second, then decisively chose to give in.

## Chapter 649

Pearl found out that Owen Adley would also be at Fashion Week. The sooner she could get in touch with him, the better her chances.

It didn't matter even if she was used as a pawn. Completing her mission was the priority.

The next morning, Hugo woke Pearl up.

Irritated, Pearl yawned and stood up, looking at the man who had just lifted her blanket, her anger flaring. "Hugo, you—"

"What about me?" Hugo interrupted Pearl. "I'll be heading to Fashion Week in a bit. If you don't get up soon, you might have to find your way there."

It wasn't easy to hail a cab here compared to Enswood, and Hugo happened to have only one car. She wondered if he did it on purpose!

Pearl turned around reluctantly, seeing a huge box on the table that looked like a gown. "Is this for me?"

When she opened it, the black fishtail gown was low-key, luxurious, and sophisticated. It was a style

that Pearl might like.

Hugo nodded. "Of course. Who else would wear this dress?"

Pearl looked at him suspiciously. "How did you know

my size?"

"Um..." Hugo blushed all of a sudden. "I figured it out by regularly observing your figure. Don't forget,

I'm a doctor, and my observational skills are quite sharp." He couldn't tell her that he snuck into her

room and took a dress.

Pearl let down her guard, smiled, and picked up the gown. "Fine, I'll believe you for now."

"Hurry up and get ready. We're about to leave." Hugo left the room after saying that.

Pearl dressed up quickly, aiming for a look that was neither too flashy nor too casual. When she was

done, they went out and drove to the location.

Fashion Week is a major event. Given Pearl's sensitive status in the country, she decided not to attract

too much attention and wore a pair of sunglasses.

Walking arm in arm, they immediately caught the attention of those around, who started snapping

pictures. Although they didn't recognize Pearl, Hugo was a well-known figure.

Hugo was only twenty-five when he led the Sapphire Group to its peak, and his name had only become widely known in the past six months.

Suddenly, everyone developed an intense curiosity about the woman beside him.

"Who do you think she is? How come we've never seen her before?"

"I heard Hugo was into a celebrity named Jenny. How did he get a new girlfriend so quickly?"

"Well, men are like that, always after something new."

These comments reached Jenny's ears. She watched Hugo arm in arm with Pearl, chatting and laughing, which infuriated her.

Chapter 650

How could Pearl possibly replace her in Hugo's heart? She knew very well that Hugo could never like Pearl!

But watching the two of them with their weird chemistry, Jenny suddenly felt less certain, a kind of strange sense of crisis creeping up.

Unable to hold back any longer, Jenny took a few steps forward, getting close to Hugo. She tried hard

to show a closer connection between them. “Hughie, why didn’t you give me a heads up that you were coming?”

“This was just a coincidence.” Hugo’s tone was aloof, clearly signaling he wanted some distance.

Suddenly, Jenny had a feeling that she couldn’t quite figure out. She pouted in frustration and then glanced at Pearl beside Hugo. “But you used to invite me to be your companion for events. Who’s this next to you?”

She didn’t need to guess. Even with the sunglasses on, she could tell it was Pearl.

“This is my new companion. She’s just an ordinary person, not anyone famous.” Hugo grinned, positioning himself in front of Pearl, shielding her completely. He intentionally stressed the last sentence, as if cautioning Jenny not to disclose Pearl’s identity.

It was like he was openly protecting her.

Mentally preparing for potential trouble, Pearl figured Jenny would likely be angered by Hugo’s words.

In case Jenny revealed her true identity, things could become particularly tricky.

Jenny suddenly panicked. “What’s gotten into you, Hughie? Are you mad at me?”

“I’m not mad at you, you’re overthinking it,” Hugo replied, appearing a bit annoyed by the conversation.

He turned around, putting his arm around Pearl's shoulder. "You mentioned you were hungry, right?"

Let's grab something to eat."

Pearl could only nod obediently and follow him.

As they reached a corner, a middle-aged man approached to talk to Hugo.

Finally, someone diverted his attention, and Pearl inexplicably breathed a sigh of relief. Raising her

sunglasses, she noticed Jenny not too far away, glaring at her with resentment. She quickly looked

away, pretending not to have seen her.

She didn't come here for Jenny but for Owen Adley. She began scanning the place for the latter.

Yet, there was no point in Pearl hiding. Jenny came over and stood in front of her, arms crossed,

wearing a smug smile. "Well, well, isn't this Pearl?"

Knowing that Jenny had recognized her, Pearl didn't bother concealing it. She simply took off her

sunglasses, revealing her calm gaze. "I didn't provoke you, Jenny. Can you stop bothering me?"

To be frank, this woman was really persistent.

Jenny raised her wine glass and swirled it around, her delicate face carrying a hint of mockery. "You've

seduced Rick, and now you're getting close to Hughie. Why do you act like a b\*tch?"

"B\*tch?" Pearl exaggeratedly widened her eyes. "I hooked up with them? Why don't you say that they're the ones who are bothering me?"

"I'm the one Rick loves! But you used some enchanting trick to steal his heart. Luckily, Rick doesn't like you anymore. As for Hughie, there's no way he could like you!"

Finding Jenny's words amusing, Pearl decided to hit her where it hurt. "Why are you so confident that Hugo won't like me?"

Jenny took a sip of her wine with unwavering confidence. "He likes me! He's been into me for a solid five years. You don't seriously think your appearance will make him change his feelings, do you?"

Pearl couldn't be bothered to argue with her. Who Hugo liked had nothing to do with her.

Just then, a voice came from behind.

"Who said I won't fall in love with someone else?"