

## **YOUR GUISE 651**

### Chapter 651

That voice made Jenny's expression change drastically.

In the distance, Hugo slowly came over. He walked past Jenny without noticing her and went straight to

Pearl.

"Are you full, Pea?" He touched Pearl's hand and sounded loving. It felt like they had a deep

relationship.

Jenny got angry but didn't want to argue in public. She softened her tone and asked, "Why are you

being distant, Hugo? Did I do something wrong?"

Slowly, Hugo turned to Jenny indifferently. "I don't have anything to do with you. Aren't you in love with

Rick? So why are you trying to get close to me?"

Many cameras from the media were filming them during the fashion show, so Jenny couldn't say much.

She awkwardly smiled and said, "We're still family, even though I like Rick. You don't have to be so

cold to me."

"That's unnecessary." Hugo forced a smile at Jenny.

“Pea, I saw something interesting there just now-” Hugo began, but Pearl suddenly tensed up before he could finish.

He looked over in the same direction and found Richard standing not far from them, looking grim.

“Calm down. Didn’t he forget about his feelings for you?” Hugo leaned close and whispered to her gently, “He won’t mind even if we do something.”

Pearl broke out in a cold sweat the moment she saw Richard. She could tell from his intense gaze that he was very angry and might want to hack Hugo into pieces.

However, Hugo seemed oblivious. He moved closer to Pearl and nearly hugged her.

Anxious, Pearl whispered to Hugo, “Okay, stop. Don’t get too close.”

Hugo raised an eyebrow. “What’s the matter? You’re not still thinking about him, are you?”

Pearl knew she couldn’t let Hugo discover that Richard had feelings for her again, or there might be trouble.

“You’re my companion today so we should be closer. I think it’s not out of line.” Hugo held her wrist and felt the smoothness of her skin. It moved him.

Smiling,

Richard, who had walked over, found Hugo holding Pearl's wrist an eyesore. "It's not a good idea to be so affectionate in public."

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Panicked, Pearl quickly pulled away and stood to the side. "No, we're not."

Finally, Richard was satisfied.

Hugo was sharp, and he began to suspect something. He wondered if Richard had regained his feelings for Pearl.

His doubt grew, and he decided to test it. He pulled Pearl close and looked at Richard provocatively.

"Rick, is it right for you to meddle in my relationship with my partner?"

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All eyes were on the stage as the fashion show began. Richard, knowing they were alone, spoke honestly, "It's because the woman standing beside you is my fiancée."

"What do you mean? Did you forget that you called off your engagement?" Hugo found it amusing and

wondered why Richard was so forgetful.

Pearl didn't like bringing up that past affair. Although she felt hurt because of Richard's indifference, she knew he had no feelings for her at the moment. She had left him cruelly, so his actions were reasonable.

Richard confidently replied, "Why don't you ask her who she's going to choose? You or me?"

Chapter 652

Hugo turned to Pearl since it made sense to him.

Quickly, both Hugo and Richard looked at Pearl closely.

Panicked, Pearl didn't understand why they wanted her to choose. It was driving her crazy.

She stared at them, feeling helpless. She couldn't find her voice.

At that moment, Jenny, who had been quiet all this time, stepped in to help Pearl because she wanted the men's attention. "Rick, do you like Pearl?"

Jealousy consumed her as she heard them compete for Pearl's favor. She wondered what was so great about Pearl that two great guys were fighting for her.

Besides, they used to be interested in Jenny. She felt that Pearl had snatched everything away. So,

she couldn't hide her hatred toward Pearl

"I don't think it's any of your business," Richard spoke harshly and didn't want to talk to Jenny.

"Rick, I—"

Hugo didn't want to pretend anymore. He said lazily, "Yeah, it's none of your business. Stop meddling in it."

Jenny couldn't accept their dismissive attitude because nobody had treated her that way. She forced a smile. "I just—" Before she could claim he was concerned about them, they looked away indifferently.

She teared up—she couldn't accept this kind of rejection. She didn't care about the importance of the event and ran away.

She would never forgive Pearl

No one knew where Jenny went or when she left. Both Richard and Hugo kept their focus on Pearl.

Hugo was almost sure of his suspicion. Richard had feelings for Pearl again and wanted to win her over.

But Hugo wasn't ready to give up on Pearl easily. After all, she was at his mercy.

Pearl couldn't make such a difficult choice as it involved her mother's health and her love life. It was a

tough situation for her.

However, Richard and Hugo were unaware of each other's thoughts, so they made Pearl decide.

With a smile, Pearl changed the subject. "Look at the woman on stage. Her clothes are so pretty.

Should I ask her about the materials later?"

Richard's eyes turned cold. "Don't change the subject now."

Hugo also ignored the woman on stage as he kept his eyes on Pearl. "Pea, you should make up your mind soon, or I can't keep my promise to you."

Pearl felt a sense of threat in Hugo's smile. She pursed her lips and retreated.

It felt like she was drowning. She couldn't make a choice.

Chapter 653

Pearl had never faced such a difficult situation.

She felt Richard's intense stare and gritted her teeth. Then, she grabbed Hugo's arm and said, "It's long over between us. You said so yourself. Please don't approach me again."

After that, she hurriedly dragged Hugo away, afraid that Richard might say something bold and reveal that he had remembered everything. "Well, didn't you say you wanted to show me something

interesting? Let's go check it out."

Hugo was shocked when Pearl pulled him away, finding it hard to believe she had chosen him.

But now that Pearl had made her choice, Hugo looked at Richard with a smug expression. He felt like the winner of that battle.

Pichard looked gloomy and couldn't understand what Pearl was thinking. There had to be a reason she did that in front of him. He decided to ask her later. He took a deep breath and hid his displeasure.

But seeing Pearl holding Hugo's arm irritated him....

Pearl guided Hugo to a spot near the stage. She felt relieved when she couldn't see Richard anymore.

"You're acting weird today," Hugo teased Pearl, not forgetting himself even in his happiness.

"No, you said that, didn't you? He gave me up first. I just granted his wish." Pearl pretended to dislike

Richard. She had come to the event not to resolve things with him but to meet Owen Adley and get his machete.

Hugo noticed Pearl looking around and asked, "Who are you looking for?" She certainly wasn't looking

for Richard after leaving him just now.

“I’ll tell you, but you must promise to keep it a secret,” Pearl said regretfully, knowing she had to pacify him due to his suspicions.

Hugo frowned because he didn’t like her doubting him. “You can’t doubt me like this just because I wasn’t nice to you.”

“I can’t predict your mood swings,” Pearl admitted. She couldn’t figure out his temper.

Hugo was surprised by her caution. He raised his hand and made a vow since Pearl was wary of him.

“Alright, I promise. I won’t harm you if you don’t harm my interests.”

With their peace treaty established, Pearl felt relieved. “Okay, I’ll tell you. I work at the red- light district to find herbs to cure Gigi. There’s a boss who wants Owen’s machete. I heard he’s coming to this fashion show, so I’m going to try to get it from him.”

Hugo’s expression changed at her words. He whispered, “Be frank with me. Are you planning to steal it from him?”

Pearl shook her head. “No, people like him have a lot of bodyguards. I’ll get myself killed if I do that.”

“What are you going to do then?” Hugo was relieved. Pearl was right; she never acted impulsively and

must have thought this through.

“Well... I want to convince him to give it to me willingly.” Pearl smiled brightly.

Hugo caught on to her plan when he saw her familiar smile. “Don’t tell me you’re going to charm him into giving it to you?”

Pearl scoffed. She continued chatting with him while glancing around.

Finally, she spotted a plump man. “Okay, I gotta go. He’s over there.”

Chapter 654

After bidding Hugo goodbye, Pearl confidently walked over to Owen and pretended to say in an unnatural tone, “Gosh, that pink outfit is really annoying.”

She immediately noticed that Owen was looking at her with curiosity. She had done her research and found out that Owen disliked pink, especially light pink.

There were rumors that he would have trouble breathing if he wore pink clothes. Although it was just a rumor, it seemed clear that he didn’t like pink.

Pearl added, “It’s hard to look stylish in pink, especially this light pink. It’s just ridiculous!”

Hearing this, Owen walked over to her and asked politely, “Miss, do you also hate this pink outfit?”

Just as she expected, he fell right into her trap.

Pearl nodded, feeling a bit sorry for him. “Yes, I didn’t expect this. I liked the previous outfits, but this one is just not my taste.”

“Well, it seems we share the same taste. I also don’t like pink, especially the light shade.”

Pearl could hold a conversation well in Ealdasy. If one didn’t know her, they might think she was a Crique who had lived abroad for a long time.

Owen began to admire Pearl, not just for her looks, but because they had the same taste. Despite his less-than-ideal reputation, he was cultured, having grown up in the Adley family.

For the first time, he had no impure thoughts about a beautiful woman. All he felt for Pearl was admiration. “Would you allow me the privilege of taking you out for a meal?”

Pearl hesitated, wanting to appear reserved, but she didn’t refuse because she worried he might lose interest suddenly. “Sure, but I have plans for tonight. Can we meet up tomorrow?”

She was indirectly asking for his contact information.

Enlightened, Owen pulled out his business card and handed it to her. “Here’s my contact. Give me a

call when you're free."

Pearl played her part well, knowing she had successfully piqued his interest when he looked

disappointed. "Of course, I'll call you."

She took his business card carefully and put it in her bag. Then, she pretended to notice her best

friends not too far away and acted surprised. "Oh, my friends are waiting for me over there. I should go

and talk to them."

Owen looked in the same direction and saw a group of seemingly important men. But he couldn't show

his displeasure,

"Why don't you tell me your name and number instead? I'll call you," he suggested, not wanting her to forget about him.

Pearl smiled. "Sure."

She had successfully lured him into her trap.

Chapter 655

The next morning, Pearl was still asleep at ten o'clock when her phone rang and woke her up. She

answered it impatiently and immediately perked up when she heard the familiar voice on the other

end.

“Miss Pearl, I’d like to take you to lunch. Is it a good time?” Owen was quite polite.

Pearl’s annoyance at being awakened vanished. She quickly got up and dressed properly before heading downstairs.

Hugo was sitting in the living room, looking curiously at Pearl when he saw her in a black off-shoulder dress. “You look so elegant. Are you meeting Owen?”

“Yeah, today’s the deadline Mister Zinedine gave me. He might not give me the herbs if I fail.” Pearl twirled, and her dress billowed around her.

After some time, she had fully understood what kind of person Zinedine was.

“Do you need me to go with you?” Hugo offered to accompany her, which was rare.

“No, it’s too conspicuous if we go together. I’ll go alone.” Pearl casually grabbed a piece of toast from the table and took a bite to satisfy her hunger. “I’m not that kind of fool.”

“I don’t want him to take advantage of you,” Hugo replied gently.

“Don’t worry. He can’t do that.” Pearl knew how to handle such a pervert.

When she got downstairs and walked a bit, she saw a black Maybach at the door.

A sudden bad feeling gripped her. She quickly walked to the car. Her expression changed when she saw the person in the car.

Richard was sitting in the car, staring at her with a grim expression.

Darn it! He had found her.

Pearl reluctantly got into the car because she knew he would insist if she refused.

"Can you explain why you're here?" Richard sounded calm, but Pearl could tell his dominance.

"I... can explain." Pearl swallowed and whispered, "Hugo is using something against me, so I have to stay here."

"It's related to your mother, right?" Richard guessed correctly. He had heard that Hugo was treating a Jordan. Unexpectedly, it was Pearl's mother.

"I can help you find the best doctor in the world to treat her. Why do you have to deal with him?"

Richard frowned at Pearl and expressed his desire to help.

Pearl raised her brows and replied gently, "I don't want to be here, but no one else can cure my mother's illness except him."

Richard then put aside what he wanted to say. "What about your mentor? Can't he do anything?"

“Yeah.” Pearl sighed helplessly and weakly.

“I’m running out of options. That’s why I lied to him and let him cure my mother. Then, I’ll see how things go.”

Her words filled Richard with gloom. It seemed like something bad was about to happen. “Lied? How did he threaten you?”

Chapter 656

“He wants to get engaged to me,” Pearl answered honestly.

“And you said yes, didn’t you?” Richard’s expression changed and became icy. He was heartbroken by the news, even though he knew she did it for everyone’s benefit.

“I had no choice. I had to lie to him. Besides, you forgot your feelings for me and treated me coldly. I had to say yes.” Pearl quickly looked away, staring out the window in front of her because she couldn’t bear to look into his eyes.

“What are you going to do now? Are you going to meet Owen?” Richard’s dissatisfaction grew because of Pearl’s bewitching and sexy clothes.

“Yeah, I’m meeting him.”

“Then I’ll go with you.” Richard didn’t want that obnoxious man to have any ulterior motives toward Pearl.

“Okay.” Pearl grabbed her hair in frustration. She knew she could refuse Hugo, but not Richard. His gaze alone was terrifying.

Reluctantly, Pearl went to the restaurant with him. However, Richard waited at the door as it was inconvenient for him to go in.

Pearl went inside and took a seat near the window, facing the car so Richard could see what was happening in the restaurant.

After a while, Owen arrived and gave Pearl a strange smile, clearly appreciating how she had dressed up.

“It’s been a while, Miss Pearl.”

In reality, it had been less than twenty-four hours, but he was trying to be polite. Pearl replied tactfully,

“Yeah, it’s been a while.”

“You probably know why I asked you out, Miss Pearl.”

Pearl raised her glass and sipped some red wine. “Please go ahead.”

Owen didn’t beat around the bush and said straightforwardly, “I was very interested in you when I first saw you. After our conversation yesterday, I’d like to get to know you better. Would you be willing to spend some time with me?”

It was a clear proposal.

Pearl frowned, feigning displeasure with his words. “Mister Owen, I didn’t have such intentions when I agreed to meet you.” She maintained a composed tone.

Owen knew that it was too sudden, so he smiled, his chubby cheeks jiggling slightly. “That’s alright. I can try to win you over.”

His simple words turned their equal relationship into a one-sided pursuit. However, Pearl was more interested in obtaining his machete than becoming his girlfriend.

Unfortunately, Owen was unaware of her thoughts. Her frown made him assume that she was still hesitating. So, he added, “Don’t worry. I can buy anything for you as long as you like it.

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Pearl looked better now. "I appreciate your sincerity, but you might not want to give me the thing I want."

"What is it?" Owen frowned.

"I'd like to have..." Pearl pointed at the machete hanging at his waist and said, "That."

Chapter 657

Owen's expression changed. "Oh, I'm afraid I can't give this to you." It was his family heirloom. How could he give it to someone else easily?

Pearl looked disappointed. "That's a shame."

Curious, Owen asked, "Can you tell me why you want this machete?" The machete was merely an ancient and ordinary weapon, so he wondered why she took a fancy to it.

Pearl realized her rudeness and sighed while covering her mouth. "I apologize. I shouldn't have asked.

But it reminds me a lot of my father's collection, so..."

Seeing Pearl's downcast mood, Owen softened his tone. "Well, I can give it to you if you like it so much. But... I keep its box at home. Would you like to come with me to get it?"

It was the best result that Owen yielded.

Pearl noticed Owen's smugness and sensed there might be a catch, but she happily nodded. "Of

course, I'd appreciate it if you could let me have it. Why wouldn't I go with you?"

"Great, let's go."

They left the restaurant promptly. When they reached the door, Pearl instinctively glanced in the

direction where Richard had parked his car, only to realize he was long gone. She wondered when he

had left.

Owen courteously opened the car door and invited Pearl inside while she was still confused.

"Let's go, Miss Pearl."

Pearl nodded and got into the car with him. She couldn't be bothered about Richard at this moment.

The car sped along until they arrived at a place Pearl had never been before. During the ride, she

absentmindedly touched her ring. Seeing this, Owen smiled reassuringly, assuming she

was nervous.

"Don't worry, Miss Pearl. I won't harm you."

Pearl returned his gentle smile. "No, I'm not worried."

Unbeknownst to Owen, Pearl was trying to send her location to Richard and reach out to him.

However, Richard didn't respond to her messages, which left her flustered. But she decided to proceed with her plan, even if Richard wasn't around.

Owen came from a family with a long and influential history that spanned centuries. The mansion they arrived at looked as grand as a castle, designed in a medieval gothic style, albeit with a somewhat gloomy and eerie appearance.

Owen got out of the car first. "This is my home, Miss Pearl. I'll take you in. You'll be received as an honored guest."

He guided Pearl inside, leading her to the reception hall. However, as soon as she entered the hall, she couldn't hide her surprise.

Sitting next to the main seat was none other than Richard, who had mysteriously gone silent earlier.

Richard noticed her too, but he appeared calm, as if he and Pearl weren't particularly close.

Owen, on the other hand, was puzzled by the presence of the man sitting across from him. He asked his father politely, "Dad, may I know who this is?"

For some reason, Owen could sense a hint of displeasure from the handsome man from Caplein.

“He’s our VIP. He’s here to discuss a potential business partnership with us. Besides, his grandmother was your grandfather’s best friend.”

Shocked, Pearl discovered for the first time that Richard had such a connection.

Chapter 658

Richard said gently, “That’s more like it. I hope to work with you, but you need to give me the machete, your family heirloom.”

Pearl was bewildered, wondering why Richard also wanted the machete.

Owen became dissatisfied with Richard’s request. “Dad, this is our family heirloom. How can we just give it to a stranger?” He had just promised to give the machete to Pearl, and if his father handed it to someone else, Pearl would think less of him.

Anthony Adley couldn’t accept his son undermining him in front of others, and he was on the verge of getting angry. “You’re young. Don’t meddle in this.”

Owen held the machete tightly. “No, I refuse!”

Pearl found herself in a dilemma. If Richard hadn’t intervened, she might have gotten the machete.

Now, she was unsure how to get herself out of this situation.

“So what? Take him away. I don’t want him embarrassing me here,” Anthony ordered, and a few burly men emerged to drag Owen away.

Owen tried to resist but couldn’t break free, so he reluctantly left.

Before leaving, he shot Pearl a remorseful glance, as if apologizing.

Pearl’s eyes filled with disgust as she watched those men haul the plump Owen away. What an absurd farce!

However, Pearl felt a bit awkward now. She was about to leave when Anthony stopped her.

“Are you my son’s new lover?

Anthony showed Pearl no respect, as he had long gotten used to such situations.

Humiliated, Pearl’s smile disappeared. “No, he invited me here as a guest. Since he’s gone, I won’t stay either. Bye.” The way Anthony labeled her made her speechless.

Anthony scoffed and watched Pearl leave.

After Pearl had left, Anthony turned to Richard and smiled apologetically. “I’m sorry about that. My son can be quite headstrong. He often brings his women home. I apologize if it caused you any

discomfort.”

Richard was annoyed by Anthony’s assumption that Pearl was Owen’s woman. “It’s fine. Just discipline him.”

“About our collaboration...”

Richard smiled. “We’ll proceed as we discussed. My family is willing to work with you despite this hiccup.”

“I’m glad to hear that.” Anthony laughed and raised his glass to Richard before gulping the wine down.

“I’ll make sure the machete reaches your house by tomorrow at the latest.”

Richard nodded and got to his feet. “I’ll take my leave then.”

After bidding Anthony goodbye, Richard walked outside and saw a familiar figure standing under a nearby tree.

When Pearl saw Richard, she flew into a rage. She pointed at him and complained, “Do you have any idea how miserable you’ve made me?”

“What do you want me to do then? Do you want me to watch another man take advantage of my

woman without consequence?” Richard kept a cold gaze. “I can’t be that generous.”

## Chapter 659

Seeing Richard stubbornly hold onto his stance, a helpless sigh escaped Pearl. She knew that it was

futile to keep on arguing with him. “But Owen won’t easily give up the machete if you do this.”

Richard seemed to realize the complexity of the situation and softened his expression. He gently ruffled

her hair. “There, there. Don’t worry about it. He’ll give me that machete.”

Owen’s opposition was ultimately meaningless because his father wouldn’t pass up opportunity to

elevate their family’s status.

“Fine.” Pearl sighed again. “That seems to be the only option now.”

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Unbeknownst to them, as they conversed downstairs, Owen had witnessed everything. Anthony had

confined Owen to an upstairs room.

He felt increasingly confused due to their intimacy. Suddenly, his phone rang, and he picked it up, even

though the caller’s number was unfamiliar.

“Are you Mister Owen? I heard you’re with Miss Pearl now, is that correct?” The caller eagerly inquired

about him and Pearl.

Owen was vexed, witnessing his woman about to leave with another man, and now another woman was prattling on the phone needlessly, further irritating him. "What's it to you?"

The female caller realized that she was right and ignored his displeasure, continuing cheerfully, "Well, I'll share a secret with you, in that case."

Owen's curiosity was piqued by her words. "What secret?"

"Listen Pearl has ulterior motives when it comes to you!"

Owen frowned. "What do you mean?"

"Did she ask for that machete from you? Don't be fooled. She's engaged, and her fiance is Richard Walford! She got close to you because she wanted your machete, not because she wanted to be with you."

Owen glanced at the intimate couple downstairs, and a sudden realization dawned upon him when he connected the dots. Shockingly, they had conspired together to deceive him and take away the family heirloom

Rage surged within him rapidly.

“Don’t let her off the hook for lying to you,” the female caller urged.

Owen snorted. “That’s a given. I have many ways to deal with this kind of woman.”

“Yeah, make her pay a price.”

Owen’s curiosity increased when he heard the caller’s smug laughter. “But who are you? Why did you tell me this?”

That caller suddenly calmed down. “That’s not important. Like you, I just hate cunning women like her.”

Owen decided to let it go since she had divulged this information. He hung up and started plotting against Pearl.

He intended to make her pay a steep price.

The following morning, Pearl was still asleep when she was abruptly awakened by a phone call.

She reached for her phone and saw it was Richard calling. After a brief conversation, she learned that he had brought the machete downstairs and asked her to come down to get it. Quickly, she mustered her energy, put on some clothes, and rushed downstairs.

## Chapter 660

When Richard saw Pearl, he handed the box containing the machete. "Take this to Mister Zinedine."

"Thank you,

Richard," Pearl expressed her gratitude sincerely.

"It's my duty to do something for you since you're my future wife."

Richard never said romantic words, so Pearl blushed, feeling overwhelmed by his unexpected declaration of affection.

After that, Richard simply asked her to be careful, then drove away since he had something else to do.

Pearl returned upstairs to dress up properly. She then called Hugo and asked for a car before heading toward the red-light district.

Since it was morning, the area was almost deserted.

Upon arriving at her destination and finding the door closed, Pearl called Zinedine. "Mister Zinedine, I'm here with the machete. Are you in the club?"

Zinedine's voice came through briefly, and Pearl could hear background noise. "Oh, it's you, Pearl. I'm currently occupied outside and not at the club. Why don't you return later? It's perfectly fine if you give

it to me tomorrow.”

Pearl was accustomed to Zinedine’s unpredictable nature and agreed to come back another time. She hung up the call and turned to leave. However, as she walked away, she heard laughter behind her.

“Oh, what a coincidence!”

Pearl turned to see Owen, who appeared even more gloomy than the previous night. It seemed he was still upset about being locked up.

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Several men who resembled Owen followed behind him, presumably his bodyguards.

“What brings you here, Mister Owen? Are you here by chance?” Pearl pretended to be demure and compliant.

“Yeah, I wouldn’t have known you were talking to Mister Zinedine on the phone if I hadn’t come,” Owen replied, wearing a fake smile as he approached her. “I wouldn’t have discovered your little scheme!”

Pearl panicked.

Now that Owen knew, there was no point in pretending now. She tried to speak sincerely, “I did want

your machete, but I needed it for a specific reason. I didn't intend to deceive you, and I genuinely want to be your friend."

"Friend? I don't need friends. You knew how I felt about you." Owen seemed to have recalled something and smiled. "By the way, you're engaged. How would you fall for me?"

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He even knew of her engagement. Pearl sensed that something was amiss and that she had fallen into a trap. Someone had informed Owen about everything.

"I don't know what you're talking about, Mister Owen." Nervous, Pearl started to retreat. There was no one around to help her, and screaming wouldn't change that fact. She needed to stay composed and think of a solution.

"You don't have to know. Just come with me." Then, Owen gave a look to the men behind him.

His henchmen understood what Owen wanted and walked over to grab Pearl.

Realizing that they intended to force her, Pearl made a quick decision and bolted, running away from them.