

## **YOUR GUISE 661**

### Chapter 661

Pearl was filled with panic as the group chasing her refused to give up, quickly closing the distance between them. She knew that things would end badly for her if they caught her.

While running, she unexpectedly stumbled over a stone and fell forward, her knees taking a painful hit and starting to bleed.

“Stop struggling. Just give up,” Owen taunted as he approached, reaching out to grab Pearl.

However, before he could reach her, someone pushed him forcefully to the ground.

“Who are you? How dare you push me!” Owen protested, his pride hurt by the fall. But as he looked up, his eyes widened when he saw Esther, who was clearly furious.

His expression immediately brightened. The young woman in front of him appeared purer and cuter than Pearl. Moreover, she and Pearl seemed to know each other...

A wicked idea began to take shape in Owen’s mind as he smirked.

Pearl was utterly shocked to see Esther and couldn’t understand why she was there. There was also a man standing behind her, backlit by the sunlight, and Pearl could barely make out that it was Mobius.

“What are you both doing here? Mobius, didn’t I ask you to take good care of Esther? Why did you bring her here?” Pearl scolded, especially given the dangerous situation. Her actions could have easily implicated Esther in her troubles with Owen.

Nervous, Pearl noticed Owen’s suggestive expression and became even more apprehensive about his intentions.

Mobius remained silent, looking embarrassed due to Pearl’s reprimand. He had only sought Hugo’s help and came here because Esther insisted on seeing Pearl while participating in a fashion show in Mernaut.

“I missed you so much, Pearl. The internet said you were dead, but I never believed it. You’re too clever to be caught. I always thought you were living secretly somewhere, and now I’ve finally found you,” Esther exclaimed joyfully upon seeing Pearl again, unaware of the impending danger.

“This girl looks so radiant...” Owen’s voice trailed off.

But Esther couldn’t understand Ealdasy. Irritated, she responded in Capleiner, “What are you saying?”

Despite the language barrier, she could tell from Owen’s lecherous gaze that he had bad intentions.

On the other hand, Mobius understood Owen perfectly well and his expression darkened.” Who are

you? How dare you covet my fiancée?”

Mobius looked fierce and resembled Richard, who had visited Owen’s home the previous day, further infuriating Owen.

“Fiancée? She’s mine when she’s in my hands. How dare you try to take her from me?” Owen declared angrily, then instructed his men, “Hey, catch both of them!”

There were only three people on Pearl’s side, including the weak Esther.

Pearl in to prevent any harm to them. “Don’t hurt them. It’s not their fault. Just go gave and capture me.”

ahead

Owen sneered, “No. I’m sure they’re very important to you.” She had lied to him and taken something valuable from him. So, it didn’t seem out of line to him to target those who were important to her.

“They come from more influential backgrounds than me. If you want to bring trouble to your family, go ahead and kidnap them,” Pearl asserted with indifference.

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Pearl was absolutely right; Esther and Mobius had no part in this situation, and Owen remained

oblivious to their backgrounds. Given that Owen had already broken his father's rules by coming out

secretly, he reluctantly agreed, "Alright, you have my word. Just come with me."

He signaled his men to capture Pearl while leaving Esther and Mobius alone.

Pearl slightly shifted her body to evade their grasp. "Don't touch me. I can walk."

Esther, overwhelmed by anxiety, was on the verge of tears. "Pearl, don't go with them!"

Pearl maintained an indifferent expression and responded, "It's none of your concern where I'm going."

With that, she turned away, locking eyes briefly with Mobius.

Owen's patience wore thin as they hesitated to part. He finally shouted, "Alright, let's go! Stop wasting time."

A black car quickly pulled up and stopped in front of them. Owen instructed his men to push Pearl into the car before he followed suit. Then, the car sped away, leaving behind a trail of dust.

"What do we do now, Mobius? They took Pearl away!" Esther was beside herself. She had traveled a considerable distance to meet Pearl and ended up witnessing her being kidnapped.

"Don't worry," Mobius tried to comfort her and managed a gentle smile. "Pearl can take care of herself."

We should tell Rick about this now.”

Esther was stunned. “Is Richard here in Mernaut too?”

“Yeah, Pearl mouthed something to me earlier, saying that I should go to Richard.”

Without hesitation, Esther smacked Mobius lightly. “Let’s go. If we’re late, that pervert might do something to Pearl!”

Mobius nodded and joined Esther in the car. He quickly dialed Richard’s number.

Richard picked it up, sounding tired. “What is it, Mobius?”

“Rick, Pearl’s in trouble!”

Richard’s tiredness swiftly disappeared when he heard of Pearl’s name. “What did you say?”

“Someone took Pearl away at the red–light district. She mentioned it’s the Adley family...”

At that point, Richard understood what was going on. He took a deep breath, trying to control his anger.

“Alright, return immediately and stay in the hotel.”

“Okay.”

They hung up after a brief conversation.

Richard’s expression darkened. He grabbed his coat and headed out, determined to confront Anthony

and find out what his son intended to do.

knockout incense.

Thankfully, Simon had always forced her to ingest various self-made supplements, claiming they could improve her immunity. Otherwise, she would have likely lost consciousness by now. Nonetheless, they had still tied up her limbs, leaving her entirely at their mercy.

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Pearl mustered her strength to endure and observed their surroundings carefully while mentally mapping out the routes they had taken.

After some time, the car came to a gradual stop, prompting Pearl to squint and look around. Her heart sank when she recognized the distinctive building at the entrance—it was the Adley family's residence.

Owen sure was bold by bringing her back to his house once again.

With a sudden bang, the car door swung open. Pearl promptly feigned unconsciousness as two people carried her away.

The paths grew darker as they advanced. Concealing her awareness, Pearl discreetly opened her eyes and observed her surroundings as they carried her to a small, concealed door. Someone awaited their

arrival by the entrance, which added to the secrecy of the place. The room's dimly lit interior felt

suffocating. Pearl couldn't help but notice the stark difference from the previous location; this wasn't the

path to the main hall.

Curiosity piqued, she wondered where Owen was taking her as they brought her to yet another, even

more concealed, door. It would have gone unnoticed if one didn't scrutinize it closely.

A sense of foreboding gripped her as she pieced the clues together.

Narrowing her eyes, Pearl surveyed the room once more. As expected, it was a cellar. Shock replaced

her calm facade, and she failed to notice Owen's approach.

Suddenly, he slapped her across the face and let out a sinister laugh. "Alright, stop pretending. You'll

wake up soon if you don't smell that knockout incense."

Pearl's heart skipped a beat. It was useless to keep on pretending, so she slowly opened her eyes.

"Do you know why I didn't search your body, Miss Pearl?" Owen's gaze was filled with greed as he

looked at her, his intentions clear.

"Why?" Pearl intentionally wore a helpless and frightened look.

Her weakness convinced Owen. "It's because I installed a signal-blocking device. No one will hear you down here."

"So, what do you want?" Although Pearl looked terrified, she found this cunning man disgusting.

"I'll drop the act since you're here. Give me back my machete, Miss Pearl. And... spend one night with me. I'll let you go then. What do you say?" Owen kept his lecherous grin, a disgusting sight.

'Machete?'

Pearl got distracted and realized she had forgotten about the machete in Zinedine's club... "The machete... I don't know where it is." Pearl acted dumb.

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"Quit pretending, I heard everything. You wanted to give that machete to Mister Zinedine, didn't you?"

"Yeah, I did say that. But I never said it was your machete, did I? Also, I don't even have it, Don't you remember your father gave it to someone else yesterday?"

Her response seemed logical, but it wasn't easy to fool Owen. He furrowed his brows, seemingly deep



in thought, but his fury flared when he recalled something.

“Stop lying! What are the odds? You asked for the machete, and he wanted it too. You even know each other. He’s your fiancé, isn’t he? A woman told me everything!”

Tears welled up in Pearl’s eyes. “Yes, Richard was my fiancé, but he called off our engagement for another woman’s sake. And that woman despises me and constantly harasses me. Is that woman called Jenny?”

It could only be Jenny, Pearl had grown irritated with her relentless targeting of her, no matter where she went.

Her tears successfully made the angry Owen helpless. He said impatiently, “I don’t know who that is but stop lying to me. I won’t trust you again.”

Pearl sobbed, “You can just get her here to confront me to see if I’m lying or not. Please don’t let her fool you. You’re always a rational man to me, Mister Owen,”

“Fine, I’ll call and get her here!” Owen didn’t care about that. All he wanted was Pearl.

She nodded and smiled bashfully. “Thank you, Owen.”

Pearl’s coquettish acts made her more charming and irresistible. Impulsively, he inched closer, taking

her hand in his and caressing it. "Don't worry. If you're telling the truth, I'll make her pay, I won't let that woman off the hook."

"Okay." Gloom filled Pearl's eyes. Although Owen had complied with her request, she felt disgusted when he touched her hand so recklessly.

Owen made a call, putting it on speaker mode in front of Pearl. The latter wore a bashful smile. as she looked at him.

Jenny answered the call quickly, eagerly agreeing to come over, relishing the opportunity to witness Pearl's misery.

Half an hour later, Jenny arrived at the cellar.

She was filled with joy upon seeing Pearl on the floor, her hands bound. Her voice turned sharp as she mocked Pearl, "Well, well, isn't this Pearl? Tied up so miserably?"

Pearl smiled and ignored Jenny's taunts, making her infuriated.

Jenny squatted down to look at Pearl, suppressing the urge to slap her. Instead, she pinched Pearl's

chin harshly while saying in a gentle tone, "Hey, why so arrogant now that you're tied up? I feel so sorry

for you, Pearl,”

Pearl simply turned her affectionate, tearful eyes to Owen,

That glance moved Owen’s heart, and he couldn’t bear to see Pearl in such a state. He

forcefully pulled Jenný aside. “I didn’t ask you to come here and torment Pearl. I’ve got some questions

for you.”

Jenny’s jealouey drove her mad,

dering hove Pearl could bewitch all the men around her.

Chen still took Pearl’s side even though Pearl had done that kind of thing.

Despite her anger, Jenny had to pretend and act docile in Owen’s presence. “Of course, go

ahead and ask you questions. I just hope you won’t be fooled by her.”

Certainly, she was very willing as long as Pearl was punished.

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Owen turned to Jenny and asked seriously, “So, everything you’ve told me is true?”

Jenny widened her eyes in disbelief. “Of course. I’d be in deep trouble if I lied to you!”

Owen’s expression improved. “What’s your relationship with her?”

Jenny's face stiffened momentarily. After a pause, she lifted her chin proudly and responded, " This woman has always been targeting me because she likes Richard, but Richard likes me.

Pearl refrained from refuting Jenny as she observed Jenny slowly falling into her own trap. Of course, all she felt for Jenny was contempt, so she had no intention of defending herself against Jenny's false claims.

Jenny's words enlightened Owen. As expected, Pearl was right. Jenny had been using Owen to get rid of Pearl.

Fury welled up within Owen, but he maintained a calm and gentle expression. "Miss Jenny, right?"

Jenny kept her head low shyly, misunderstanding her own notoriety. "I didn't expect you to know me, Mister Owen. I'm honored."

Pearl couldn't help but burst into laughter when she heard that.

Jenny felt humiliated and turned to glare fiercely at Pearl. Then, she put on a smile for Owen and said,

"She's always like this—weird. Please don't mind her. By the way, how are you going to punish her?"

Sending a few men to ruin Pearl would be ideal. Even if Pearl survived and returned to Richard, he

would never love her again. After all, no one liked a promiscuous woman.

Owen nodded thoughtfully. "If you're telling the truth, I should punish her properly."

Jenny's eyes lit up. "Yeah, you must!"

But in the next moment, Owen said, "Hey, untie Pearl."

Jenny's smile disappeared. "What do you mean? Aren't you going to punish her? Why are you untying her?"

She was still confused as a few men approached her slowly.

"No, you must be mistaken," Jenny stammered, her heart pounding, when those menacing men drew near.

Owen helped Pearl to sit down since she was bound and couldn't stand properly. He then turned to

Jenny with a cold stare. "You sowed discord between us and wanted me to hurt her. Dream on!"

All he felt for Pearl now was guilt and heartache. If he hadn't trusted Jenny, he and Pearl might have had a good relationship. As a result, Pearl had lost any positive impression she might have had of him.

Of course, Owen had no intention of letting Jenny off easily. At that moment, two men restrained Jenny and pinned her to the floor, rendering her immobile.

Jenny looked up and screamed frantically, "Why are you capturing me instead of Pearl? What did she say to you, Mister Owen? Don't give in to her lies!"

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Owen found Jenny noisy and crazy, vastly different from Pearl. It was easy for him to make a judgment, and he naturally took Pearl's side.

"What's the matter? Are you doubting my judgment?" Owen found Jenny very annoying.

Jenny was in a state of panic. She had come to revel in Pearl's misfortune and couldn't understand how things had turned against her.

Given the circumstances, she needed to think fast. She managed to calm herself and spoke more gently, "Listen to me, Mister Owen. It's not what you think. Did she manipulate you?"

Owen snorted. "Stop explaining. I don't want to listen to your crap now!" He then turned his gaze toward Pearl and offered her a flattering smile. "Miss Pearl, I'll lo

you decide what to do with her since she's targeted you. How should we punish her? I'll go along with

your choice.”

Jenny realized that she was now at Pearl’s mercy. She was certain that Pearl hated her to the bone for the way she had treated her. Desperately, she shook her head and pleaded, “Please don’t do this to me!”

Seeing that begging Owen was futile, she crawled toward Pearl and clutched the hem of her dress.

She begged pathetically, “Pearl, we’re both women facing difficulties. Can’t you find it in your heart to let me go?”

Surprisingly, Pearl felt no pity for Jenny despite the latter’s sorry look. She even mocked Jenny, “You pushed my patience to its limits again and again. Have you ever thought of this ending?”

She massaged her sore wrists and lifted Jenny’s chin with a single finger. Jenny’s makeup, which had been meticulously applied, was now smeared due to her tears, making her look pitiful.

“Pearl, I know you’re a kind person, aren’t you?”

Pearl scoffed, withdrawing her hand from Jenny’s face. “I wouldn’t target others if they left me alone. I’ve never claimed to be a kind person.”

Pearl’s words only deepened Jenny’s uncertainty. She knew that Pearl wouldn’t let her off easily.

Resigned to her fate, Jenny sat on the floor, crying. She remained silent as fear overtook her. She

couldn't predict her future, but she understood that it was bleak.

Despite Pearl's desire to witness Jenny's suffering, she had more important matters to attend to at the

moment. People outside were unaware of her condition and believed she had been kidnapped. She

needed to return soon to ease their worries.

Hence, she glanced at Owen and smiled gently. "I'm feeling a bit unwell, Mister Owen. I'd like to go home and rest. I'll leave this to you." She leaned over and gently squeezed his shoulder to express her concern.

It was the first time Pearl took such initiative toward Owen, giving him the impression that they had

grown closer due to this incident. As a result, he agreed, "Go home and rest. Don't worry. I'll make

sure she learns her lesson."

Pearl smiled and left the cellar with the bodyguard Owen had assigned to her.

Once Pearl was gone, Owen finally turned his attention back to Jenny. Jenny retreated and widened

her eyes when she saw the bloodthirsty gleam in Owen's eyes.

Chapter 666

After Pearl had safely left the cellar, she avoided Owen's men and headed straight to Zinedine's club.



Zinedine had been waiting there for a long time. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw Pearl return unharmed. "I never thought you'd manage to come back from him in one piece."

Pearl was stunned. "How did you know he kidnapped me?"

Zinedine smiled and pointed at the surveillance camera above them. "I saw the footage and learned he was here today."

"What about the machete?" Pearl asked urgently, worried that someone might have taken it.

"Don't worry, I got it," Zinedine assured her, praising her for her efficiency. "You did a great job getting it so quickly!"

But Pearl couldn't take all the credit, as she knew it was largely thanks to Richard.

She brought up her earlier request since Zinedine seemed to be in a good mood. "So, does your promise still stand? Will you give me the herbs?"

Zinedine was amused by her serious look. "Of course, I always keep my word." He then walked over to the counter, retrieved a small box from a drawer, and handed it to her. "Here you go. The herbs are right here."

Pearl carefully stashed the box away and smiled at Zinedine. "Thank you, Mister Zinedine. I won't bother you again."

Zinedine playfully teased her, "Oh, what a shame. My club is losing another great employee."

Employee... Pearl recalled her time working there and felt awkward. She wished the ground would swallow her up. "You're too kind."

Zinedine stopped teasing her and smiled. "I mean it. You left quite an impression on those guys who couldn't take their eyes off you."

Pearl checked the time on her wristwatch, eager to change the subject. "Well, it's getting late. I should get going."

"If there's ever a chance, we can work together again."

Pearl nodded and left, relieved to escape his weird smile. She returned to Hugo's house, quickly went upstairs to her room, and tried to call Richard. However, he didn't answer.

Feeling helpless, she sent him a text message: [Are you there, Richard?]

Richard had been discussing matters with Anthony when he received Pearl's text. His heart skipped a beat, and he quickly replied: [Yeah, are you okay now?]

Pearl responded promptly: [I'm out of danger. Where are you now?]

Richard heaved a sigh of relief. [I'm at Anthony's house.]

Pearl was shocked but understood that Richard had gone to see Anthony. [It's okay. I'm back.]

Anthony noticed the change in Richard's mood. "You seemed upset earlier. Is everything okay now?"

With Pearl out of harm's way, Richard didn't want to sit there and chat with Anthony any longer. "Yeah, it was just some business matters. It's resolved now." He absentmindedly toyed with his teacup but didn't drink from it.

Anthony could tell that Richard wanted to leave. "Very well, Mister Richard. I won't keep you any longer."

Richard got to his feet and smiled at Anthony. "Thank you for your time."

However, as he turned to leave, he didn't notice the strange expression on Anthony's face.

The butler nearby saw his master's expression and whispered, "Is something the matter, Mister Anthony?"

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Anthony appeared quite upset. "I suspect Owen has caused trouble again. Go check if he's in his room, and if not, search the cellar."

The butler was stunned. "Mister Anthony, how do you know it's related to Mister Owen?" "Richard mentioned Owen's name five times just now. Just go and find out what's happening!" He wasn't about to let Owen's foolishness jeopardize their partnership with the Waldorfs.

Half an hour later, Richard arrived at Hugo's house.

Pearl walked out of the house and got into Richard's car, as Hugo wasn't at home.

"What happened? Did he hurt you?" Richard immediately examined Pearl for any signs of injury.

Pearl shook her head and smiled reassuringly at Richard. "I'm perfectly fine, can't you Richard ignored her attempt to comfort him and inquired further, "Did you promise Owen anything?"

Pearl contemplated the question and shook her head earnestly. "No, I didn't."

see?"

Richard's eyes gleamed with anger. "You didn't use your beauty to manipulate him?" His gaze was penetrating, as if trying to expose her true intentions.

Pearl didn't dare to lie under his intense scrutiny and nodded honestly. "Yeah, I did."

Richard's anger flared, picturing the image of Pearl charming Owen. But he decided to swallow his anger silently, after all, she was his fiancée.

"Promise me you won't be so careless again. Don't you realize how worried I get when you put yourself in danger?"

Pearl was at a loss for words. His reprimand stung, and she pouted while defending herself, "I was alone, and I couldn't take on five or six of them."

Even though her acting was less than convincing, Richard couldn't help but feel guilty." Alright, I won't blame you." He caressed her hair. "I'll accompany you wherever you go, okay?"

Pearl thought she had escaped his wrath, but his words took her by surprise. "You don't have to do that, right?"

"Fine, let's drop this topic. How long are you going to stay at Hugo's house?" Richard's gaze turned cold.

Well, it all depended on Hugo's attitude...

Furthermore, they had been at Hugo's house for half a month, and he had yet to start treating Pearl's

mother,

“I’ll urge Hugo to treat my mother’s illness. I’ll leave once she’s cured.”

Richard was finally satisfied, and the coldness in his eyes disappeared.

Suddenly, a notification chimed on Richard’s phone. He looked at it and became solemn after reading the text.

It was from Jenny, and the message was just two words: [Save me!]

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After that, there were no further messages from Jenny.

Pearl noticed the change in Richard’s expression and asked, “What happened?”

“Jenny is in trouble,” Richard replied, showing her the text message as he had no intention of hiding it.

However, Pearl glanced at the text and then looked outside the car calmly. “I know.”

“You do?”

Richard tilted his body and glanced at her, detecting a hint of mockery in her eyes. He could deduce the situation quite accurately—Jenny must have provoked Pearl once again.

Clearing his throat, Richard started the car quietly.

“What’s the matter? Are you going to rescue her?” Pearl assumed he wanted to save the damsel in distress, and she turned around with a touch of sarcasm.

“Am I going to be the knight in shining armor? No, I’m taking you there to watch her misery.” Richard drove fast. Sitting in the front passenger seat, Pearl watched the scenery outside as it rushed by. She unexpectedly found herself feeling more composed.

Using the IP address from the text message, Richard quickly located Jenny’s location. However, it wasn’t the same cellar where Pearl had been held; it was an abandoned gas station.

Upon their arrival, they got out of the car and were met with a strong, pungent smell of gasoline.

Pearl wrinkled her nose and covered her mouth, muttering, “Something doesn’t seem right.” “Agreed.”

Richard held her hand tightly, and she could sense his unease.

“Ha! Ha! Ha!”

Suddenly, sarcastic laughter rang out.

Pearl abruptly turned around at the sound. As expected, it was Jenny.

“I didn’t expect you to come after my casual text,” Jenny remarked, her clothing disheveled and her

appearance appearing severely distressed, suggesting she had endured serious torture.

“Why do you need me to save you then?” Richard glanced at Jenny calmly, showing no sympathy.

Jenny felt a deep pang of anguish at seeing Richard’s coldness. “You’ve remembered everything now, haven’t you?”

“Yeah, I did.” At this point, Richard didn’t hide his thoughts any longer and openly nodded. “Hmph!”

Jenny laughed bitterly, her anger evident. “I knew it. You wouldn’t care so much about Pearl if you hadn’t suddenly recalled your feelings.”

Richard had no desire to engage in that conversation with Jenny and displayed a disgusted expression.

“So, why did you ask me to come here?”

“Rick, I love you so much. Why do you cling to Pearl?” Jenny wore a cruel smile on her dirt- smeared face. “I can do everything she can! I can even give up my life for you!” She sounded desperate.

However, true love was never about making someone your possession.

Pearl’s emotions swirled with every word Jenny spoke. “Jenny, you won’t win Richard. Yes, you managed to get him when he forgot about the past, but you never truly won his heart. No matter



how many years pass... you will still lose!”

Rage filled Jenny’s eyes as she lunged forward, grabbing Pearl’s wrist and pressing a knife against Pearl’s neck.

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Everything happened in the blink of an eye, catching Richard and Pearl off guard.

Richard’s gloomy expression twisted into one of anger. “What are you doing?”

Jenny inched the knife closer, her bloodshot eyes locked onto Richard’s. “Would you feel this nervous if it were me in Pearl’s place?”

Pearl’s skin was more sensitive than most, and Jenny’s actions caused her to bleed as the knife pressed against her neck.

“Do you know you’re committing a crime?” Richard’s voice dripped with icy disapproval.

The chilly wind blew through, tousling Jenny’s hair, making her look unhinged as she laughed. “I’m not even afraid of death. Why would I care about the law?” She used her free hand to cruelly scratch

Pearl’s face, leaving a red mark. “Your skin is so soft! No wonder he likes you so much.”

“You’re insane!” Pearl scolded Jenny through the pain.

“Yeah, I am. You know what? Owen had a bunch of guys with STDs take advantage of me. You were supposed to go through that, not me. Why did it have to happen to me?” Jenny tightened her grip around the back of Pearl’s neck.

“I told you I’d get my revenge.” Pearl looked at Jenny calmly.

“How can you say that? You were the one who ruined our relationship! Rick and I were so happy together, but you came and ruined everything!”

Pearl couldn’t be bothered to talk with Jenny. She signaled Richard to prepare himself. When Jenny laughed involuntarily, Pearl seized the opportunity to grip Jenny’s hand that held the knife

In the next second, Pearl forcefully pulled Jenny’s hand apart and disarmed her.

Richard walked over, carefully shielding Pearl, and kicked Jenny away.

“Are you okay?”

Finally, Pearl felt the pain around her neck, but it was tolerable. She nodded. “Yes, I’m okay.” On the ground, Jenny looked up and saw Richard’s deep concern for Pearl. She had never experienced that kind of care from him, nor had she seen such worry in his eyes.

All her feelings for Richard disappeared in that instant. In their place, a profound hatred took root.

“Richard, you’ll regret choosing Pearl!”

Richard glanced at Jenny coldly. “No, I won’t. But you’ll be going to jail.”

Jail?

Jenny heard the sound of sirens approaching.

“So, you hate me this much. I’m such a fool...” Jenny wiped away her tears and looked at Richard with a grave expression. “Let me ask you one thing. Answer me honestly. Did you ever love me?”

There was no denying it. Richard responded without hesitation, “No.”

“I’m your

first love. But you never loved me?”

Richard struggled to recall their past together. It was hazy, and he could barely bring those memories

to the forefront of his mind. “It was just a passing infatuation. Once you betrayed me, there was nothing left between us.”

Richard's cold words seemed to knock some sense into Jenny. She looked up at him with a newfound, intensified hatred.

"Well, you guys have to go to hell with me then!"

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Jenny struggled to her feet, swaying as she fished a black box from her pocket.

When Richard saw that, he quickly dragged Pearl back a few steps and got closer to the exit.

Pearl immediately recognized the object in Jenny's hand. "She's got a lighter!"

Anxiety washed over Richard as the scent of gas grew stronger in the air.

"Damn it! I think she wants to set this gas station on fire!"

Pearl and Richard exchanged a look before bolting out of the place as fast as they could.

"Do you really think you can escape?" Jenny slowly retrieved a piece of paper and ignited it. She then placed the burning paper on a pile of firewood she had prepared earlier.

The fire spread rapidly, gradually engulfing the surrounding objects.

Jenny found an abandoned bucket of gasoline nearby and poured it onto the fire, intensifying the blaze as if she wanted it to burn even fiercer. The flames roared, consuming everything in their path.

Boom!

A deafening explosion followed the loud roar as the fire raged on.

The flames crept up Jenny's body from her burning clothes, causing her excruciating pain as she squatted down. She laughed through her agony as the two figures in front of her grew faint.

They couldn't escape!

But the pain was so unbearable... If her body hurt so much, maybe her heart wouldn't hurt anymore.

The pain made her break out in a cold sweat, yet she smiled in satisfaction and contentment.

People would often recall something on the verge of their death.

The first thing that came to her mind was her younger sister. Since childhood, her sister had been frail and received constant affection from their family. One day, she had arrogantly gazed at Jenny and declared, "You'll always be worse than me!"

Next, Jenny thought of her biased parents. They would say things like, "Your sister is sick. You should

let her have her way. Give her whatever she wants. Besides, she's better than you in every aspect. She

gets better grades, she's more likable, and she even won an international ballet award. You, on the other hand, are just an unknown performer..."

Lastly, she thought of Richard. She recalled the brilliant man she had bumped into at college. On that day, he had worn simple, neatly arranged sports attire. As he hurried past her and saw her crying miserably on a bench, he had gently said, "There's nothing we can't overcome. When life hits us hard, it's to help make our lives more stable."

Jenny had held onto that memory for a long time and had tried her best to become his girlfriend.

Unfortunately, she had ultimately callously left him and thrown herself into someone else's arms in pursuit of fame.

She asked herself now if she regretted it.

Of course, she did.

She had spent her entire life chasing fame, yet when she was on the brink of death, no one had any sympathy for her. Moreover, she had pushed her beloved further away. She had manipulated those who loved her, but she had been unable to free herself from those relationships to find warmth.

Looking back on it now, she found it all so absurd. She wondered what she had truly been pursuing.

She had been far too greedy. Love and fame couldn't coexist.

It was her fate.

The fire crackled and roared, but it oddly brought her a sense of calm.

Boom!

With a final explosion, the gas station turned into a massive inferno.`

When Esther arrived with the police, they were confronted with a distressing scene.