

## YOUR GUISE 681

### Chapter 681

"Of course they do. You're buying herbs here to treat illnesses. If you make a mistake and someone asks for the source of the medicine, it will lead back to us. | have to make sure." The man was just following protocol.

He added, "I noticed you're from Enswood, so | believed you more, and that's why | asked you so many questions. If it had been anyone else, | would have kicked you out a long time ago."

"I'm really sorry. | can't tell you my mentor's name, but | will definitely be able to cure the ailment." Pearl realized that she might have been too intense and had made the man angry.

"If that's the case, you can't buy anything from us." The anticipation in the man's gaze disappeared. Human life was at stake, so he couldn't just take a chance.

Seeing that the man was about to turn around and leave, Pearl said, "Then can you send the person with you away? | can only tell you."

The man stopped walking. He glanced at the foreign man beside him from the corner of his eyes, and the latter understood immediately.

Although the middle-aged man was a little reluctant, he left.

"Okay, go ahead."

Now that they were the only people there, Pearl said, "My mentor's name is Simon Freeman." As soon as the name was spoken, the man's face froze. "Are you sure?"

"Yes, do you know him?" Pearl's heart skipped a beat, and she suddenly had a bad feeling. Judging from his reaction, it seemed he wasn't happy like he was going to meet a close friend, but rather disgusted to meet an enemy.

As expected, the man's face immediately darkened. "I can't sell the herbs to you then." With that, he turned around and left angrily.

Pearl took a few steps forward and finally had no choice but to grab his wrist. She was so strong that the man couldn't pull away, and for a moment, he didn't even know what to say.

"What? Didn't I tell you I won't sell to you?" Pearl was a little anxious. "I really need the herbs. I hope you can sell some to me and disregard your personal grudges." The man scoffed. "You don't even know the whole story, yet you think it's just a personal grudge?"

Pearl was momentarily speechless. "You decided not to sell the herbs to me just by hearing my mentor's name. Isn't that personal?"

The man took advantage of her momentary distraction and quickly shook her hand away. "Okay, I get what you mean. Do you really have to buy them?"

Pearl nodded. "Of course."

"In this case, you'll need to pass my test first." The man held out a satchel, "I'll give them to you instead of selling them."

That sounded too good to be true. Is there such a good thing? Nonetheless, Pearl nodded again. "Sure, how do you want to do this?"

"I'll ask you to prepare a medicine. You can use any of the herbs. Once you're satisfied with the outcome, I'll give you the herbs as promised."

That wasn't too difficult, but it wasn't easy either.

When she was learning from Simon, the old man made her prepare a medicine every day. Over time, she memorized the ingredients of some medicines without even looking at the formula.

"But if I'm not satisfied... I'll have someone escort you out."

## Chapter 682

At first, what he said sounded fair, but then it turned into something subjective. Pearl couldn't help but feel stressed. If she failed and he kicked her out because he didn't like her mentor, what would she do?

"Am I that kind of person?" The man seemed a little hesitant as he looked at her. Suddenly, he realized what she might be thinking and got angry.

Pearl smiled awkwardly, secretly thinking it was pretty clear what kind of person he was from what he had said. But seeing how angry he was, she didn't dare say it out loud. She cleared her throat and said, "No, you're not that kind of person."

After hearing this, the man snorted with satisfaction.

He then led Pearl into the huge medicinal warehouse. Pearl looked around and thought a place this big should have what she needed.

"Alright, now go and get medicine for typhoid fever," the man said, checking his watch. The minute hand pointed to 3. "You have half an hour."

"Half an hour is a bit too long. I just need ten minutes." Pearl knew he was not making things difficult for her, but she didn't want to waste too much time.

The man's eyes widened. "I'm giving you half an hour after taking into account the time you need to find the herbs. Ten minutes? Are you trying to be a flop?"

The word 'flop' was new to her. Pearl didn't expect someone who had traveled across the ocean to use that word. "It really isn't necessary. Half an hour is too long," Pearl insisted.

The man nodded. "If you're that confident, I won't pressure you. You have ten minutes then. I'll check it after that." He thought she was a little too arrogant, so he added, "I'm looking for the best quality. Don't just make something basic."

Basic? Simon would be furious if he heard that. He would always say that anything he made would be of the highest quality! However, if Simon's formula wasn't good enough for this man, she would terminate their relationship when she returned.

But these thoughts would have to wait.

The countdown began.

The man sat down in a chair and sipped his tea while watching Pearl work nearby.

Pearl looked at the thousands of herbs in the warehouse and

excited. She, thought fadn g nore HersWould be tough, but it turned out they were arranged almost the same as Simon's.

Could it be... She had a daring thought but decided to push it aside for now. What was important was making the medicine quickly.

She searched through the warehouse and picked up some herbs.

Every time she took something, the man raised an eyebrow. If anythi

she sure knew rire birnsete) wee allvaltab ble oe he didn't have the heart to use. Thinking of this, his suspicious gaze turned into admiration.

Pearl didn't notice his gaze. She ene selected the h tbs, recalling eve ing Sita had taught her. She r bared it all perfectly.

Eight minutes in, Pearl brought a box of herbs and put it on the table next to him.

Chapter 683

"I'm done." Before the man could finish his tea, Pearl stood confidently, waiting for him to check her work.

The corner of his lips couldn't help but twitch. So fast? Even his students took half a month just to remember where the herbs were kept.

However, he couldn't blindly trust that everything Pearl picked was correct. He stepped forward and carefully examined each herb she had chosen.

After checking, he frowned. The first two ingredients were fine, but the other two would counteract the effects of the first ones. This medicine would likely cause diarrhea.

"Did you remember the formula wrongly?" he asked. Pearl looked up at him with an innocent expression. "No way, this is the right formula. Don't you know it?"

"I've been a doctor for forty years so I know the basic prescriptions for typhoid fever." The man didn't expect that she would question his own skills, his expression not looking pleased.

Pearl burst into laughter. "Well, I guess you haven't updated your knowledge or innovated for a long time." She was challenging his expertise!

The man's expression suddenly changed. "That's impossible. I mixed these herbs together before, and it turned out to be useless!"

"It's probably a problem with the way you prepared it then." Pearl shrugged, showing no signs of nervousness at all. The man narrowed his eyes, looking confused. "Are you saying you've successfully made this medicine before?"

Pearl had to explain herself. "Simon used to treat me with this when I had a cold. I've had it so many times that I can tell what's in it just by tasting it."

Her explanation sounded outrageous but made sense. When the man saw the confident yet humble look on her face, he couldn't help but sigh. "You'll be a force to be reckoned with in the future."

How could a girl like her be Simon's apprentice? The thought of Simon made him angry, and his expression changed from appreciation to regret.

"So did I pass?" Seeing the quick change in his expression, Pearl couldn't figure out what was on his mind.

The man cleared his throat. "I... If you want to pass, I have another condition."

"What is it?" Pearl asked, her suspicion growing as she noticed his unnatural expression. "If you stop being Simon's apprentice, I'll give you the herbs."

Pearl was dumbfounded. Having this man as her mentor would mean *ayaa*) owning all the *pechgier*tte CO *warerause* and his other apprentice would be left out. That guy wasn't very capable anyway...

"You can't afford to hesitate. If you reject this offer, you risk *ene aan* everything!" "The *oan* banning *naddr as euent* and his face seemed to glow more with each word.

Pearl couldn't tell what the man was thinking, and she hesitated. though *wea* was quite *@nn6y*ng, she

Woe to cut ties with *hin eeu* request is a bit too much. I won't do it."

The man snorted coldly. "If you don't want to, forget it. Please leave!" He was angry because the apprentice he was so close to having was leaving.

However, Pearl's expression suddenly turned into a sneer. "But... if you're not going to give it to me, I'm going to get it the hard way."

Chapter 684

The man was slightly stunned, seeing the young lady who was as obedient as a little rabbit suddenly staring at him fiercely. He felt a strange thumping in his chest.

"What are you going to do?" he asked. "Nothing," Pearl said, though she cracked her knuckles and walked toward him.

"You better not touch me. I'm—" The man almost revealed his identity in his panic, but he quickly stopped himself and turned pale.

Pearl paused, watching the man's rapidly changing expressions. "Who did you say you were?" "I'm nobody. Fine, what do you want?" he finally conceded.

It was too late, as Pearl stepped forward and grabbed his wrist. Only then did he realize that her grip, which had been gentle half an hour ago, was now tight and constricting.

The man gulped and realized he couldn't control this woman. "Just give me the herbs I need." The man sighed. "Not a chance!"

"You're under my control, and it's just the two of us here." Pearl shrugged, seemingly unconcerned. "Why do you think you can boss me around?"

The man sneered. "Listen, there are security mechanisms in this warehouse..."

Pearl moved behind him, found a button near his foot, and pressed it. She held it up in front of him, pretending to be surprised, and asked innocently, "You mean this?"

The smile vanished from the man's face, replaced by disbelief. "How did you know about that?" His suspicion grew. He hadn't shared information about this mechanism with anyone, not even his own apprentices.

Pearl paid no mind to his thoughts. "Can you call for your men now?"

Only then did the man realize that this lady was not only determined but also somewhat sinister. She was cunning, just like Simon Freeman!

The man was thin-skinned and couldn't stand being shamed, so all he could do was grumble. "Let me go, and I'll do my best to help you find what you're looking for."

Pearl ignored him and proceeded to tie him securely to a chair with a rope. "Thanks for the affey part '! rpajage ran) Bwn, | know my way around here," she said with a tilted head and a smile, before disappearing into the warehouse.

Ten more minutes passed, and Pearl found a bag to fill with the herbs. She returned to the man, who looked even gloomier. She couldn't help but chuckle. "I'm sorry about this."

The man gazed at the bags of herbs, his heart aching as if sliced by a knife. Stil, he oe afetdiunt Bu) aie Fil hough his face was flushed. ategt now that you've got what you wanted, can you untie me?"

Pearl shook her head. "I'm sorry, but you'll have to stay tied up ali lam longer.' faite ewasorstinia If She let inilge! would definitely grab her. It was better to let his men save him.

Pearl smiled mysteriously at him and then left the warehouse.

The man was left regretting his actions, shouting in frustration.

## Chapter 685

Pearl kept her promise and, after a few minutes, the man from earlier entered the room. He saw the other man tied to the chair and asked in a panic, "What's going on, sir?"

The man clenched his jaw and gestured for him to untie him.

The man quickly realized the situation and began untying the bound man. "Why were you tied up? Didn't the lady say you were looking for me and asked me to come in to see you?"

The man glared at him. "We were both tricked!"

"What?" the other man exclaimed.



"The woman wasn't at all what she seemed. She was strong and knowledgeable about medicine, but..."  
But she was Simon's student!

The man felt a bit disappointed upon discovering that fact.

The other man was angry too. "What should we do then, sir? Should I send someone to deal with her?"

The man shook his head. "Firstly, you're not her match, and secondly, I won't forgive you if you ruin someone with so much potential."

Despite his irritation at being tied up, the man remained rational. Pearl had a strong personality, but when it came to herbs, she was a prodigy.

That's why he allowed her to choose the herbs and didn't activate his second line of defense. How could such a large warehouse have only one security mechanism? He had simply let things unfold.

He wondered if that woman knew she owed him one. He sighed as he absentmindedly played with his beard.

The other man was still puzzled by the situation. Why was he being scolded when it was the woman who had stolen the herbs?

Pearl returned home with the herbs and found Hugo cooking in the kitchen.

She realized that he loved to cook. Although he could be unpredictable at times, he had a genuine passion for food. All his temper seemed to melt away when he was in the kitchen.

Seeing him cooking in his apron didn't look annoying at all to Pearl. She stretched and yawned, causing the man in the kitchen to turn around. "Go freshen up. Dinner is almost ready," Hugo said.

For a moment, Pearl thought of someone else

What was Richard doing now? Had he left the city and returned to hearing the pua d'fill'tings she had said? Would he meet a soft-spoken woman and eventually get married?

No, she scolded herself. What was she even thinking?

Pearl shook her head to clear her mind. It didn't matter how Richard was doing for her to spend her life with him. It was better that they went their separate ways...

Chapter 686

While Pearl pondered, Gigi, who happened to pass by, reached out and patted her shoulder. "What's on your mind, Pea?" Seeing Gigi's innocent smile, Pearl suddenly felt happier. "Nothing. I was just wondering why the food smells so bad today." Suddenly, a bell pepper hit her head.

Turning in the direction of the pepper, Hugo stood not too far away, wearing an eerie smile.

"What did you say?"

Pearl realized she had spoken too loudly, so she quickly lowered her voice and glanced at Gigi. The two of them exchanged looks and smiled.

"I think it's pretty good..." Gigi sniffed, looking suspicious.

Pearl smiled and patted her head. "Okay, I was just kidding. Go wash your hands and get ready for dinner. I need to go to my room."

"Is there any progress with the medicine?" Gigi's eyes lit up. She was smart enough to guess it right away.

"Well, don't spoil the surprise." Pearl pouted and tousled her hair.

Gigi touched her face, covered in spots, and shook with excitement. "Thank you, Pea!"

"Don't mention it." Pearl was glad. "It's all for you. You wouldn't have gotten hurt if you hadn't saved me."

Gigi nodded and scratched her head shyly. "I'll wait patiently."

"Good." Pearl returned to her room feeling content.

As soon as she stepped into her room, her phone rang.

Pearl took out her phone and saw two words on the screen: Damian Scott. She hesitated but eventually answered it. "Where are you?" Damian's words sounded like an order.

Pearl pretended to be annoyed. "What's with the tone?"

"What have you done behind my back? Where are you?" Damiano \\ \\ Ss ate woadFarel irritated Oh hearing how casual Pearl sounded.

"I'm overseas, getting treatment for my mom," she replied vaguely. Damien squinted. "| found out Aunt Beah was taken by Hugo. So, are you with him?"

Pearl was about to explain when her phone was snatched from her. Hard e logkedayp arid Saw ugo holding it-wearing a faint smile.

"Yes, she's with me," Hugo said to Damian.

Damian's worried tone was instantly

replaced with anger. "H go, doorit!

vais think about getting with Pearl. re not good enough for her!"

Hugo wasn't bothered by the threat and instead countered with a pointed question, "Do you think you're good enough then?"

#### Chapter 687

Both Damian and Pearl were taken aback by Hugo's words. "What do you mean?" Pearl suddenly realized something and used her eyes to signal Hugo not to say more.

Hugo, however, remained indifferent and casually continued, "It's irresponsible to impregnate someone and then run away. If I'm not good enough for Pearl, do you think you are?"

He ignored her and revealed the truth! "What does this have to do with you?" Damian looked confused. After all, he had said it in front of Pearl, and it pained him.

"Then why do you care if I stay with Pearl? You should mind your own business. The child is gone, and you, as the father, are still hiding in your country."

It was a harsh truth, and Pearl was sure Damian had never suffered such an insult in his life. But for some reason, there was silence on the other end of the line. A heavy, suffocating silence.

Just when Pearl thought Damian was immersed in the pain of losing his child, he suddenly spoke with a hint of relief in his voice, "Where is she?"

"Now you want to see her. Damian, you're not a real man. I don't believe it. With all your connections, how could you not find a pregnant woman?" Hugo didn't answer his question and hung up the phone.

Pearl glared at him angrily, "Why did you hang up my call?" As she said that, she slapped him hard a few times.

Hugo had no intention of fighting back and wasn't even angry. He just tossed the phone onto the bed casually and asked, "You should reconsider why you would have feelings for a man like that. He has no sense of responsibility at all."

Pearl could empathize with Damian. He didn't like Katie. He had been drugged and forced into a situation that led to the child. Even someone like Damian might want to escape such a situation.

But Hugo was right. Damian didn't seem very responsible. Pearl didn't want to explain further, so she just cleared her throat. "Let's put this aside for now. It has nothing to do with me."

"How could it have nothing to do with you?" Hugo stretched out his hand and pinched her cheek. "He's trying to get to my fiancée. Don't tell me you have no idea what he's trying to do."

Pearl slapped his hand away and rubbed her reddened cheek. She took a few steps back, accidentally bumped into the edge of the bed, and yelled out in pain. "Ouch... Hugo, stay away from me. Nothing good comes from you."

Gloom flashed across Hugo's face but was replaced by a hint of a smile. "Forget it. Since you won't listen to any advice, I won't give you any. The engagement ceremony is tomorrow. You might have time to invite Damian to join."

Pearl raised her eyebrows, "How do you know he would come?"

Hugo shrugged. "If he's not willing to come, then he truly has no right to be with you. He's an irresponsible and oblivious coward."

Pearl couldn't see the connection between Damian's actions and her own choices. She curled her lips and pushed him out of her room. "Leave. You're not allowed to enter my room without my permission!"

Hugo was surprised by her shoving. "Your door was unlocked." "Then you should have knocked!" The door slammed shut with a loud bang. Hugo stood at the door, dumbfounded.

Now that she was back home, Pearl could finally focus on preparing for the wedding.

She picked up her phone to search

for information but  
news list. When ie

she saw the top news headline, she  
  
was shocked.

[President of Waldorf Enterprises in days']

Enswood, President of Waldorf Enterprises...

Richard?

Chapter 688

Pearl felt a pang in her heart, but since she was the one who pushed him away, she had no right to blame him. She forced herself to keep her emotions in check and soon finished the medicine Gigi needed.

She then went downstairs for dinner. However, she had no appetite, and it was clear in her distant expression.

Hugo noticed her distraction and knocked on the table to bring her back to reality. "I know you won't be able to accept the news, but reacting this way won't change anything."

Pearl found his comment heartless. Why would he scold her when he saw her like that? She scoffed and ignored him, grabbing some bread and stuffing it into his mouth. "Eat your food. Don't talk." Seeing Pearl's outburst, Gigi became worried and quietly continued eating without saying a word.

Realizing that her anger might be affecting Gigi, Pearl calmed down and turned her attention to her. She took out the medicine she had in her pocket. "Gigi, start taking this medicine today. With the lotion I gave you previously, your scars will fade away in about half a month."

Gigi was elated and put down her fork to accept the medicine. "Thank you, Pea. I'll take it diligently."

"Alright, we're a family. There's no need to be so formal." Pearl glanced at Hugo when she said that and saw him eating as if he hadn't noticed anything. This angered her, so she raised her foot and stomped it on his.

Hugo, who was focused on eating, felt the force from her foot but didn't show any reaction except for raising his eyebrows. "What's wrong? Don't you like the food?"

Pearl smiled and said, "Hugo, when are you going to start treating my mom?" She had realized that he wouldn't answer her in private, so she decided to ask him publicly.

Hugo anticipated this and calmly looked at Beah, smiling. "I've been treating Aunt Beah since the first day." Beah nodded in agreement and then glanced at Pearl suspiciously. "Don't you know about this, Pea?" Pearl gave an awkward smile. He had tricked her again. "I was busy and forgot about it, so I didn't bring it up."

Pearl quickly changed the subject, and when Beah lowered her head to eat, she stomped on Hugo's foot again, this time with more force, as if asking him why he had lied to her.

However, Hugo continued to ignore her.

After they finished dinner, Gigi volunteered to wash the dishes because he was in a bad mood. Beah was watching TV on the sofa, and Pearl decided to step outside for some fresh air.

Seeing Pearl's back as she walked out the door, Beah signaled to Hugo with her eyes. "Doctor Hugo, Beah is in a bad mood. Why don't you go out and try to cheer her up? There are just some things that are difficult for me as her mom to ask..."

In addition, Pearl and Hugo were about to get engaged, and she was in favor of this because this might help improve their relationship.

"Okay, Aunt Beah. I'll go talk to her." Hugo casually picked up a coat from the couch and followed Pearl outside.

## Chapter 689

The winds were strong during that season, and the chill in the air was palpable.

Hugo noticed Pearl sitting on the stairs near the garden, looking fragile as if a strong gust of wind could easily knock her over. She appeared thin and not dressed warmly enough for the weather.

Hugo draped the coat he had been holding over her shoulders, and as she felt the weight of it, she didn't look up. "Cry if you have to. I know you must be feeling terrible after finding out."

Pearl spoke calmly, "I'm not upset at all."

"I'm sure you know if you're upset."

"I said I'm not."

"Alright. If you want to put on a strong front, I won't force you to do otherwise."

Pearl stood up and tossed the coat back to him. "How could you be so heartless?"

Hugo took the coat and regarded her with a faint smile. "Life would be dull if everyone was nice."

"That's a ridiculous perspective." Pearl didn't want to spend a second more with him. Just standing around him would make her feel cold.

Hugo, however, didn't seem bothered by her distance and took a seat on the stairs next to her. "Let me ask you something. What kind of person do you think I am?"

Pearl tilted her head and then settled down at a distance from him. "Cold-blooded. You always make jokes, but they tend to be cruel. You're a wolf in sheep's clothing, and you can be quite unpredictable at times."



As she spoke, another word came to her mind: possessive. Hugo's expression remained unchanged, and his tone was even. "Is that all?" "That's all," Pearl replied, knowing she should stop there to avoid pushing things too far.

Hugo toyed with his phone, allowing the moonlight to illuminate his face, revealing a clear and pristine complexion. "Do you know why I'm like this?"

Pearl smirked. "Why else? Because you're only interested in your own gain."

Hugo laughed. "Who told you that? Richard?" Pearl froze. Richard seemed to have given her that idea, but was it wrong?

In terms of memories, Hugo had much more to share. "What he said is true. When I was growing up, I wanted to connect with him in many ways due to be chubby and not as good-looking as he was. As time passed, the gap in our intelligence became evident. I was quite anxious, but he was simply too exceptional." It wasn't pleasant to reminisce about those memories.

"I'm sorry, I shouldn't have brought up those memories," Pearl said, feeling like she had touched upon a sensitive topic.

That aside, Hugo was indeed a highly motivated person. It was useful that his sparse interests were somewhat unconventional.

"Don't try to change your mind about me just yet. I'm really not a good person," Hugo continued, turning his head to meet Pearl's gaze with deep and calculating eyes. "I've framed him numerous times since we were children."

Pearl paused, a sense of coldness creeping into her heart.

Chapter 690

"We had the same exam papers, but he scored one point more than I did. However, I had to face discipline when we got home, and I wasn't allowed to have dinner, all because I didn't get first place," Hugo recounted, his emotions shifting noticeably.

Pearl felt her breathing becoming difficult. She had never known that the Waldorf children were disciplined in such a severe manner.

"There was one time when I stole his answer sheet and burned it," he continued, speaking about it without any hint of hesitation or guilt, as if it were a minor issue.

Pearl couldn't help but ask, "What are your intentions now? Do you plan to continue framing him like you did in the past?" Hugo responded with a cryptic smile, "Why do you assume I was trying to frame him?"

"You said it yourself," Pearl retorted, finding his behavior rather erratic.

Hugo seemed to sense her thoughts and appeared defeated as he said, "I'm just defending my dignity."

Pearl couldn't help but think that Hugo had lost his way. She could see the ambition within him, but she also recognized that nothing she said could change his mindset at the moment, because he firmly believed in one principle: don't judge someone until you've walked in their shoes.

Despite that, it pained her to witness him sinking deeper into this madness. She couldn't deny that, despite his past wrongdoings, he had been very kind to her family.

"Hugo," she called his name, and his eyes met hers, filled with both anticipation and questions.

"I think the food you cook is really delicious," she continued, steering the conversation away from their previous topic and offering a compliment that was unrelated.

However, Hugo understood. Was she trying to show him a way out?

"I'll cook for you all the time then," he replied with an affectionate smile. "You should just marry me." Their conversation was laced with subtle but unmistakable hints.

Pearl shook her head. "I'm just saying you have a good side too."

In Hugo's cold and deep eyes, countless emotions swirled, complex and subtle, making it hard to decipher his thoughts. Though he was touched, his reaction was akin to throwing a feather into a lake—it didn't create any ripples.

"You shouldn't worry about me." Hugo stood up, dusted off his clothes, and handed Reed the Goat! ypcsenaciatine to come and cheer you up, but | don't think it helped much. It's getting a bit chilly, so you should keep the coat."

With that, he walked back to the house, leaving Pearl with mixed emotions.

After some contemplation, she came to a realization. If she why should

shé attempt to solve others' problems?

Pearl sighed, took out her phone, and found Richard's chat. She no iggq the picture of the profile picture had been changed to a couple's photo.

It was a clear message intended for her.

The walls she had built to contain her emotions in her heart finally crumbled, and tears began to flow like a waterfall.