

YOUR GUISE 71

Chapter 71

“Fire!” Someb*dy screamed, sending the entire company into chaos as people rushed to escape the building.

The elevators were not an option. As they hurried down the stairs, they soon realized the fire had reached the fourth floor. Thick smoke filled the stairwell, obscuring their vision and making it difficult to breathe.

Forced to retreat, they returned to their office on the eighth floor, gasping for air.

Meanwhile, Pearl didn’t join the frantic rush downstairs. When she turned around, she found Richard behind her, holding two wet towels.

“Use this so you won’t inhale the smoke.”

Pearl then dialed 911 and raised her voice to address the anxious crowd, “Calm down. Panicking won’t help. Anyway, we may be in danger, so listen to me if you don’t want to die.”

Despite their fear, everyone looked to Pearl for guidance.

“Grab some towels or clothes, wet them, and cover your mouths and noses. Drench your clothes

as well to protect against burns and to keep cool. We’ll line up and descend the stairs in an orderly man

ner. Don’t huddle together. If the fire becomes too strong, we’ll stop and consider other options.”

After that, everyone followed Pearl’s instructions and started going downstairs.

They were almost out safely, but a scared young woman at the back dropped her handkerchief when th

e fire got bigger. In an instant, she breathed in a

lot of smoke, started coughing hard, and her eyes rolled back

Frowning, Pearl gave her towel to that woman.

“Thank you, Miss Pearl. But what about you?” The woman covered her nose and mouth, expressing gr

atitude and concern when she saw Pearl using her hand to shield her face.

“It’s alright. I’m strong, and I can hold on.”

Though she said this, Pearl felt something unusual in her throat, as if she was about to cough.

Seeing this, Richard handed her his towel. “Use mine.”

Shaking her head, Pearl tried to give it back. “It isn’t right. I don’t want to use something you’ve used.”

But Richard wouldn’t take no for an answer. “I won’t repeat myself.”

Reluctantly, Pearl accepted the towel. She smelled a faint scent of mint, much like his toothpaste. She w

Soon, she found him falling behind, and he was getting weaker.

“Richard, are you okay?”

Richard pinched her hand to signal that he was conscious but unable to speak. When he attempted to w

Pearl’s hand was small but wrapped securely around Richard’s larger hand, providing him with a comf

Hand in hand, they slowly made their way out of the building using Pearl’s strategic approach.

The group managed to evacuate safely from the fire. However, the moment Richard stepped outside, he

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“What’s wrong with you, Richard? Hang in there. The ambulance will be here soon.”

Shaking his head, Richard managed to sound steady despite his weakness. “I’m fine.”

“This fire was too sudden. I’m sure it was Brandon’s doing.” Pearl’s gaze immediately became frosty at

the mention of

Brandon

Richard looked down, concealing the iciness in his eyes

“It’s alright. Once the investigation is over” He couldn’t finish his sentence as a sudden surge of pain hit

him, threatening

to knock him out.

When Pearl noticed that he was acting weird, she glanced at his back and found that a large part of his

shoulders was burned. It was gruesome, with melted fabric sticking to his flesh and blood.

Anxious, she scolded him, “Why didn’t you tell me about this burn, Richard?”

Richard had endured the pain without a word while escaping the burning building-

Heartbroken and guilty, Pearl examined his wound, recalling how he had selflessly given her his towel.

“There’s nothing to say.”

“What do you mean, Richard? Don’t you care about your b*dy? Do you think you’re invincible?”

Her sudden outburst left Richard momentarily speechless.

Luckily, the arrival of the ambulance prevented their argument, and Richard was rushed to the nearest

hospital for treatment.

After the

doctor inspected Richard's wound, he frowned deeply. "This burn is quite severe, and it won't fully heal.

We can, however, minimize scarring with medication."

Richard gave a nonchalant nod, not bothered by having a scar.

However, Pearl looked at Richard lying in bed and said seriously, "I can fully heal your scar, Richard."

"You can?" Richard questioned her after a brief hesitation.

After assessing the severity and size of the burn, Pearl came up with a treatment plan.

But her words made the doctor burst into laughter. "I know you want to save your man, Miss. I do, too,

but you can't talk nonsense just because you want to save him."

Richard was moved when the doctor mistook him for Pearl's boyfriend.

Pearl refused to give in. "I'm dead serious."

Stunned, the doctor mocked her, "You don't look like a medical student, Miss. Even if you are, curing his

"Just because you can't do it doesn't mean it's impossible for others. You're narrow-minded."

Pearl's words triggered the doctor's

competitive spirit and pride. He sneered and said, "You'll pay for what you've said." "I'm aware of that,
d

.. why you

The doctor's fury grew because of Pearl's calm look. "You think too highly of yourself, young lady. I don't

"Let's make a bet since you don't believe me," Pearl suggested, flashing the doctor a warm smile. "I'll ap

The doctor interrupted, agreeing, "I'll retire right away if you succeed."

Chapter 73

"No, you don't have to do that. I just want an herb from you," Pearl said with sparkling eyes.

The doctor, a renowned modern physician at the hospital, frowned upon hearing her request for an herb.

"What do you need

that herb for?"

"I need it for something. Just say yes or no,"

After some contemplation, the doctor nodded and agreed to it.

Smiling with satisfaction, Pearl took out a porcelain-white bottle from her pocket. It had a crystal-

like appearance with a slight bluish tint.

Pearl unscrewed the bottle, poured its green potion on Richard's back, and rubbed it on his back gently.

A cool sensation spread across Richard's back, and the pain from the burn lessened significantly.

“I’ll apply this on your back once a day, and in about a week, you’ll be nearly healed.”

The doctor’s eyes widened in disbelief. “A week? How is that even possible? You can’t achieve that even with a skin graft surgery.”

Pearl put away the bottle in her pocket. “Of course, a complete recovery in a week is unrealistic. It requires

long-term treatment. However, I can guarantee an eighty percent improvement.”

“Very well, I look forward to the result in seven days,” the doctor conceded.

“Very

Pearl raised her chin. “Let’s wait and see.”

After the doctor packed up his things and left, Richard fixed his somber gaze on Pearl. “Why did you make that promise?”

Although he recognized Pearl’s extraordinary abilities, he found it impossible for her magical potion to heal

such a large burn without resorting to skin graft surgery.

"It's because I know I can do it," Pearl replied confidently, her eyes gleaming with confidence and fearlessness.

"I hope you won't be embarrassed by then."

She scoffed. "We'll see about that."

Silent, Richard's mind raced with thoughts and doubts.

For the next seven days, Pearl diligently applied the potion to

Richard's back. Over time, the initial cold sensation subsided, and he began to wonder if the potion had lost its effectiveness.

However, he had no choice but to wait for the final result since he couldn't see his own back

When the seventh day arrived, as scheduled, the doctor visited Richard's bedside and lifted the back of his

"Are you the same person?"

The doctor had thoroughly examined Richard's severe burn earlier and had made a bet with Pearl because

Incredulous, he touched Richard's back and the faint scar. "Wow, it's like a miracle..."

He couldn't help but praise Pearl's remarkable medical skills and marveled at her incredible abilities, especially

considering her young age.

Richard naturally heard the change in Doctor Paul Jenkins' tone and was surprised too.

"Is our bet still valid?" Pearl inquired, eager to know whether Paul would honor their agreement.

Paul nodded excitedly. "Yes, of course it's valid. What do you want, Miss?"

Pearl touched her chin and thought for a moment. "I want Cuza Root."

Chapter 74

Paul appeared to be in a dilemma, stupefied by Pearl's request. "Oh..."

"What's the matter, Doctor Paul? A promise must be kept. Don't tell me you want to break your word."

Ashamed, Paul heaved a deep sigh. "Okay, come with me."

He led Pearl to the herb department, turning on the lights as they went, when an angry voice rang out.

"Do you want to die, Paul? Why'd you come in so suddenly?"

Paul gave Pearl an awkward smile and snapped at Roy, "We've got a colleague here, Roy. Can you sho

w me a little respect ?"

"Colleague?"

Hearing that, Pearl saw a figure approaching quickly, and in the next moment, that person tightly grabbe

d her hand.

“You’re that person Paul talked about?”

Pearl was rendered speechless. She was not acquainted with this person, but his grip on her hand was s

o tight that she couldn’t pull away.

“This young lady is awesome. She nearly healed a burn completely. It was the first time I witnessed such

a miraculous sight!”

Roy Fisher chuckled. “It’s not exactly a miracle. Burns can be treated quite effectively with herbs and trad

itional methods. But...” He turned to Pearl and asked, “Who taught you this, Miss?”

“My mentor is Simon Freeman.”

Roy’s expression changed at the mention of Simon. “Simon Freeman, that world–

renowned traditional physician? You’re his student?”

Still stunned, Pearl nodded.

World–

renowned traditional physician? Pearl knew Simon as nothing more than an old man who loved to drink a

nd would act shamelessly when he lost at chess.

Je wants Cuza Root Can we give it to her?"

Paul chimed in at the right time and raised Pearl's request.

"Hehe, sure, but Miss, can I borrow the burn medicine you used? I'd like to study it," Roy inquired eagerly

.

Roy had a great affinity for traditional medical practices and had been studying them for decades. He wo

uldn't pass up the opportunity to examine such a remarkable treatment.

"Sure," Pearl agreed to it without any hesitation.

It was almost impossible to make the exact same medicine without the list of ingredients and instructions

. If Roy did manage to make it, it would show his amazing skill, and he'd deserve to have that medicine.

Satisfied with obtaining the Cuza Root, Pearl left it in Wayne's care and returned to the hospital. However

, as she reached the entrance, she stumbled upon a heated argument involving two women.

One of them wore a mask, a hat, and glasses, giving her an elegant appearance. She responded patientl

y and gently, while the other woman behaved like a rude countrywoman, loudly berating her and using
vu

lgar language.

At first, Pearl had no intention of getting involved, but suddenly, the aggressive woman struggled to
brea

It seemed the woman was suffering from an asthma attack, likely triggered by her anger. She lay on the
g

The elegant lady,

clearly distraught, attempted to assist her friend. However, the friend pushed her away and continued
to b

Turning her attention to them, Pearl realized that the elegant lady looked quite familiar. She appeared
to b

had gifted Pearl flowers after she performed with Hanzel at his concert.

Thinking back to that encounter, Pearl felt compelled to intervene.

“Why don’t you let me try?” Pearl stepped forward and whispered.

“You? You look so young! Do you even know how to treat her? You can’t leave if something happens to
m

Chapter 75

Pearl ignored her rambling and went to help the ill woman. But as she was about to give first aid, someone grabbed her arm.

The woman scolded, "Didn't you hear me? Stop. You must be held responsible if you fail to save her!"

Her scolding earned her a cold glare from Pearl, who responded sternly, "Yes, you can hold me responsible, but you'll be the one in trouble if you keep stopping me and something happens to her."

Frightened by Pearl, the woman reluctantly let go.

Pearl squatted down to assess the ill woman's condition. She retrieved a pill from her pocket and placed it in the woman's mouth upon learning it wasn't serious.

That ill woman's friend screamed, "What did you give her?"

Losing patience, Pearl turned and said, "This is a hospital. If you keep yelling, I'll call security to take you out."

That woman became timid. "I... I won't. But what did you give her? What if it harms her instead of helping?"

Pearl ignored her and checked the ill woman's condition. But the woman's breathing got worse and she s hook hard, like she was reacting badly to the pill.

"See? I told you something would happen! You're overestimating yourself, Miss. You're going to kill her!"

Feeling vindicated, the woman finally felt confident enough to criticize Pearl. Then, she sat on the ground

dramatically, rolling and wailing loudly. "Help! She killed my friend!"

Pearl looked determined. "We don't know yet if she's fine or not."

Suddenly, the ill woman stopped her rapid breathing and slowly opened her eyes, clearly confused about

what had just

occurred.

"You're okay now. Make sure you keep your emotions in check and carry your inhaler with you at all time

s. You might not run

into someone like me next time," Pearl said, then rose to her feet.

Meanwhile, onlookers sighed with amazement at Pearl's ability to save the ill woman with just a small pill.

"This young lady is so cool, even better than my grandson who plays video games all day!"

“Yeah, she seems more capable than the doctors. Is she a doctor here?”

“Of course not. There aren’t any doctors this young. She looks like she’s still in high school...”

The crowd admired Pearl and made fun of the woman who had caused a scene earlier, remarking, “How embarrassing! She caused such a fuss for nothing.”

Feeling disgraced, the woman got up and walked away with her head down..

Pearl waved to disperse the growing crowd. “Alright, it’s over. Just leave.”

Gradually, the people left, leaving Pearl with the three women.

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The woman who had asthma looked embarrassed. “Thank you. I would be dead if it weren’t for you.

Pearl waved dismissively, “Don’t thank me. Thank her instead.” She pointed to the elegant lady nearby.

The woman widened her eyes. “Her?”

“Yes, I saved you because I know her.”

The elegant lady had once given flowers to Pearl, and today Pearl had the chance to return the favor.

After that, Pearl checked the time. “It’s getting late. I have to go.” She turned and rushed toward the ward

The elegant lady's eyes filled with tears as she silently watched Pearl leave, without the latter noticing.

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Chapter 76

Pearl came while Richard was working in the ward. Richard said gloomily, “The doctor said I’m almost f

ully recovered and can leave later.”

“That’s good.” Pearl nodded absent-mindedly.

Richard could tell her mind was elsewhere. “You’re thinking about the fire, aren’t you?”

“Yeah, I hadn’t dwelled on it these past few days, but it just came back to me now. I found it very weird

.”

Coldly, Richard agreed, “Of course, it’s weird. Our company’s security system has always been good a

nd was inspected every day. A fire like that should never have happened. Plus, it started on the first floo

r, which is the shopping mall. I suspect someone might have taken advantage of the crowd and caused

it intentionally.”

At the mention of that, Pearl narrowed her eyes. “Do you think it could have been... Brandon?”

“I’ve been reviewing the surveillance footage from the first floor these past few days, and I did spot him

in some hidden corners,” Richard said as he turned on his laptop and showed her the footage.

“It looks like he’s gone all out,” Pearl commented while snickering. “We should let him reap what he has

sown.”

After Richard

had returned to the company, Pearl went to the rooftop to make a call to Wayne. "Are you available?"

"What's wrong, Miss Pearl?" Wayne's voice came from a noisy place.

Raising her brows, Pearl teased, "Are you at a bar picking up women again?"

Her question made Wayne chuckle. "You're so smart, Miss Pearl"

"All right, I need your help with something." Pearl lowered her voice at the thought of Brandon's outrage

ous deeds. "I want you to deal with someone for me."

"Who?"

"Brandon Jones. He's the one who set the fire at the company. I'm sure you know what to do."

Wayne agreed, "Got it, Miss Pearl. I'll teach him a hard lesson."

After ending the call, Pearl returned to her desk at the company. Her colleague, Linda Davis, leaned ov

er with a mischievous smile, holding her phone. "You're on the news, Pearl!"

Puzzled, Pearl asked, "What news?"

Linda

turned on her phone and showed Pearl the top news. "Look, there's a news story about a woman who

saved an asthma patient at the hospital, but she didn't reveal her name. Even though they didn't captur

e your face clearly, I could tell it was you!"

People who knew Pearl would instantly recognize her because of her maroon, curly hair.

Even netizens had noticed.

[Isn't that Pearl, my idol?]

[She's pretty and kind. Plus, she can do anything!]

[Oh my! Can I marry such a perfect woman?]

[Hey, pull yourself together! Dream on!]

Pearl couldn't help but feel overwhelmed as she read the news.

Suddenly, she noticed the elegant lady in the corner of the photo, looking in her direction. While the lad

"Pearl? Pearl?"

Linda waved in front of Pearl because the latter was distracted,

"Ah? I'm fine." Pearl shook her head and smiled.

Linda heaved a long sigh. "Good. By the way, I heard that a TV station wants to interview you this aftern

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1/1

Curious, Pearl asked, "But what?"

Linda, looking around to ensure privacy, whispered, "But the host of that TV station is a huge fan of Hannelore. She'll definitely target you because of your romantic video with him."

Pearl, although unconcerned, was looking forward to the interview in the afternoon, "Well, I'm curious to see what she has in store."

As expected, the TV station dispatched a crew to interview Pearl at three o'clock.

The female host, dressed in a smart work suit, flaunted her curvy and attractive body, capturing the attention of the male staff. Some of them wished they were the ones being interviewed instead.

Sashaying to Pearl, she felt insecure upon seeing Pearl's striking beauty and elegant demeanor, accentuated by her delicate and flawless features. "So, this is my rival in love..."

"Hello, I'm Rebecca O'Brien, a host from the local TV station."

Smiling, Pearl nodded. "Hi, I'm Pearl Leighton."

"Let's get started, shall we?" Rebecca glanced at the photographer nearby and instructed him to start s

hooting.

“Could you tell us why you chose to save that lady, even though you had no prior connection with her?”

Pearl answered without any hesitation, “I was free at the time, and I happened to stumble upon the situation.”

“Did you accept her gratitude and money?” Rebecca probed further.

“No, her gratitude was more than enough for me.”

Rebecca added, “But didn’t you ask for anything in return?”

Her forceful tone made Pearl realize that she was targeting her.

Without missing a beat, Pearl posed a question of her own, “Will the government reward me for such a courageous act?”

Rebecca inwardly scoffed at Pearl’s apparent lack of sophistication but maintained her smile. “Of course, there would be a substantial reward ”

“Well, can I ask you another question? Can you answer that?” Pearl continued calmly.

Rebecca, confident in her abilities, replied, “Go ahead.”

“When will I receive this reward?”

Rebecca had not anticipated such a question, as it was not a typical line of inquiry for this interview. Sh

Unexpectedly, Pearl displayed quick thinking and successfully struck a nerve with Rebecca.

As a result, Rebecca's expression shifted slightly. "I'm not so sure about the exact timing."

Playing along, Pearl feigned confusion. "Ah? Didn't you say you can answer my question? Why didn't yo

"I..." Rebecca was rendered speechless, her face reddening in frustration.

"The government typically rewards such courageous acts with 130 dollars per

person. However, I didn't do this good deed for the money. I have no need for it. Miss Rebecca, I sugges

After that, Pearl glanced at the photographer with her brows raised. "Be sure to cut this out when airing

Chapter 78

1/2

Angry and with a livid expression, Rebecca almost lost control of herself.

The photographer replied awkwardly, "Ugh... this is a live show, not a recording "

"Hurry up and turn it off. Didn't you see how angry Miss Rebecca is?"

Rebecca was startled when Pearl suddenly addressed her by name. Realizing that the show was still li

ve, she quickly composed herself. "I apologize for my error during the live broadcast. I'm not pleased wi

th myself either. I hope everyone can forgive me. Okay, let's end it here. Miss Pearl, thank you for your cooperation. See you."

After that, Rebecca signaled to the photographer to turn off the camera.

At that moment, Pearl stretched and said lazily, "If there's nothing else, I'll get back to work."

"Wait, Pearl. You humiliated me on purpose!" Rebecca's gentleness disappeared, replaced by fury.

Shocked, Pearl couldn't figure out why Rebecca was shifting the blame onto her.

"You should know exactly why I said those things, Miss Rebecca."

Sneering, Rebecca refuted, "Oh, you're not that dumb. I'll drop the act since you're

aware. This is your final warning. Stay away from Hanzel, or I won't let you off lightly."

"Hanzel and I are just friends. You're overthinking, Miss Rebecca."

"Cut the crap! Just stop pretending. Friends don't make romantic videos together. Listen carefully. You'll

regret it if I catch you trying to get close to Hanzel again."

Unperturbed, Pearl glanced discreetly at the camera and casually

mentioned, "By the way, I forgot to tell you. It looks like your camera isn't turned off."

Rebecca froze upon hearing this. She turned to see the blinking red light on the camera, and the color drained from her face rapidly.

This meant that everyone had heard her

previous words. They were now aware of her feelings for Hanzel and her threats to Pearl

Rebecca moved closer to the camera and switched it off, then turned to glare at Pearl. “You did it on purpose, didn’t you? You wanted to see me make a fool of myself. You knew that it wasn’t turned off, didn’t you?”

However, Pearl smiled without a reply.

Even though the camera was no longer broadcasting, many people had a rough idea of what had happened.

Besides, a lot of people watched the interview because of Pearl’s popularity. Consequently, Rebecca’s reputation was ruined.

[Hey, this is Rebecca O’Brien, the gentle and sweet host you love. Tsk! Seeing is believing!!

[Oh my! It turns out she’s quite scheming. How sickening!]

[Just stop. I’m very disgusted. How could she like Hanzel? Hanzel would never fall for her.]

[But didn't you find Pearl very cool? She said she didn't need money. How awesome...]

Feeling deeply humiliated, Rebecca couldn't bear to stay any longer.

Pearl, on the other hand, didn't take Rebecca's threats seriously. Seeing that, Rebecca wiped away her

Observing Rebecca's departure, Pearl

shook her head with a helpless smile and then proceeded to the president's office with a document in h

"Richard, 1-" Pearl stopped talking when she saw Richard's phone on the table, showing the previous liv

She smiled brightly. "You watched my interview. Do you care about me that much, Richard?"

Richard exited the live show and replied, "It just popped out."

"Oh, your phone has a sense of timing, Mister Richard."

Smiling profoundly, Pearl asked, "Well, what do you think of my reply, Mister Richard?"

Chapter 79

"So-so."

"You didn't even admit you watched my interview secretly." Pearl flicked

her hair and flashed Richard a teasing smile.

"All right, get back to work now." Richard tried to drive her away to prevent any further awkwardness.

“Tsk, don’t be so cold. Are you even a man, Richard? You don’t even blush when such a pretty woman

flirts with you.” Pearl clicked her tongue and turned to leave when she saw Sean entering the office.

“A total of 100 people participated in the interview this year, and 20 of them passed the written test and are now waiting in the interview room. You can go there when you’re free.”

At first, Brandon was in charge of this, but the company struggled to find

a suitable replacement for the personnel department manager. Hence, Richard had to oversee the recruitment process.

Stunned, Pearl realized that it was the annual recruitment day.

“I’ll be there later.”

Seeing Pearl in the office, Sean teased, “Aren’t you two getting bored of each other by now? I think Pearl doesn’t have to spend time with the others. She can just marry you, Richard.”

Although Sean appeared to be playing matchmaker, Pearl detected some sarcasm.

Unfazed, Richard replied coldly, “You’re talking nonsense.”

Sean, now somewhat bored, shrugged and continued his playful tone, “You know, Pearl, Richard has quite a temper. You might end up getting bullied if you choose to be with him.”

Pearl faked a smile. "You don't have to worry about it."

"I was just looking out for you, but you said that. You're breaking my heart, Pea." Sean mockingly pouted but soon dropped his act when met with Richard's icy glare. He left the office, tail between his legs.

"I'm going to interview them. Do you want to come?" Richard's unexpected invitation made Pearl feel flattered.

"Me? Are you

sure? Didn't you find me an eyesore?" Pearl was puzzled as Richard often requested her to leave whenever she made a joke. He was indeed a very serious person.

Richard stood up and put on his

coat. "I believe your insights could be valuable. If you're interested, feel free to join."

With a smile, Pearl accepted the offer. "Okay, I'll come along."

The interviews took place on the company's second floor, where around twenty aspiring candidates awaited their turn.

"We'll call you in, one by one in a specific order."

After interviewing a few people, Richard kept his frown because of his dissatisfaction.

“Richard, aren’t you too strict? I think some of them are pretty good,” Pearl commented while resting her

“No, they either lack experience, display arrogance, or stutter when they speak. It’s not good to hire these

“Don’t hire them if that’s the case. You don’t have to make up the numbers.”

Pearl understood him, but Wayne had always managed her company alone and never

bothered her except for large issues, requiring her decision. The thought of that made her blush with shame

The next candidate was a woman with

a commanding presence and a pretty face, her long hair reaching her shoulders. She greeted them with

Pearl sensed Richard suddenly tense up.

“What’s the matter? Have you fallen for the pretty lady?”

Chapter 80

Pearl playfully teased Richard, but he suddenly snapped back to reality. After quietly flipping through the

document for a while, he looked up and asked, “Why did you come back?”

Stunned, Pearl realized that Richard knew that candidate.

“I think your question

isn't related to the interview, Mister Richard." The woman smoothed her hair and looked indifferent. Ma

ybe you should ask me something related to the job."

Thud! Richard closed the document with a livid expression. "I know you're not really here for the interview. Tell me why you came back"

ew. Tell me why you came back"

However, the woman covered her mouth while giggling. "Of course, I came back to see you for my elder sister, What do you think... my brother-in-law?"

Brother-in-law?

Brother-in-law?

Confused, Pearl looked at the woman and a sudden crisis dawned on her.

Richard's breathing seemed unsteady. "Stop it. I'm not your brother-in-law."

Raising her brows, the woman said, "Fine, it looks like you've forgotten about my sister. Very well, I won't waste your time any longer."

n't waste your time any longer."

Speechless, Richard seemed to have lost his cool.

"I'm leaving, and I'll also tell my sister to forget about you." The woman got to her feet and was about to

leave but Richard stopped her.

“Katie Sullivan, I no longer have anything to do with your sister. We’re only just strangers.”

Katie sneered. “Oh, strangers. My sister did fail to see who you truly are.” After that, she left without turning around.

Though Pearl was unaware of the exact circumstances behind the incident, Katie’s words implied that she might be the younger sister of Richard’s former love interest.

Besides, Richard might have broken up with his beloved under some force, but both of them still cared about each other.

Pearl’s heart skipped a beat when she witnessed the usually calm Richard lose control that way. Although Richard claimed they were now merely strangers, his actions betrayed his concern.

“Richard...” Pearl called out

Richard turned around, his usually stoic eyes now filled with pain.

“Are you okay?”

Richard raised his head, his eyes distant. “Let’s cancel the interviews and go back.”

Dazed, Pearl looked at him and nodded. Her emotions were complex, as Katie had effectively disrupted

After that, she decided against working overtime and returned to Waldorf Residence. She came home e

“Why are you here? Aren’t you supposed to be at the hospital?”

Chuckling, Hugo explained, “It’s my day off today.”

Pearl nodded and was about to head to her room, but she stopped in her tracks. She turned and said w

“Go on.” Hugo sipped his tea and sounded gentle.

“Did Richard... have a girlfriend before?”