

YOUR GUISE 741

Chapter 741

"Get the PR team on this immediately. We can't afford any delays on this matter." Pearl was about to call Wayne when her phone was suddenly snatched away. "Why did you take my phone?"

"Why do we need PR?" Silas was eager to make it public.

Pearl sighed in exasperation. "You're currently in a PR stunt with Celine. Obviously, we can't have rumors about you being intimate with other women."

Silas was notorious for his stubbornness, making it futile to argue with him. If this scandal were confirmed, it would not only damage his popularity but also harm Celine's reputation, causing significant losses to the company.

The ripple effect that would follow was unpredictable, making it essential to handle the situation delicately.

Silas, seemingly unfazed, flirted with Pearl, proposing an unconventional idea. "Then let's not stir things up with her. Find someone else. I think you're not bad, sis. How about pairing up a young heartthrob influencer with a domineering female president? I heard age-gap relationships are quite popular these days."

Pearl's expression turned grim. Through gritted teeth, she retorted, "Nobody wants to have an age-gap romance with you!"

She decided not to engage in further arguments and snatched her phone back. As she was about to make the call, she suddenly had an idea, her eyes filled with excitement.

Silas looked intrigued. "What's wrong? Having second thoughts?"

"You know what? Since it's all just a PR stunt, why can't this woman be Celine?"

The prospect of this scandal involving both of them seemed appealing to Pearl, but Silas was not on the same page. His hopeful expression quickly faded. "I disagree."

Pearl casually shrugged. "Your disagreement won't change anything. I'm the boss."

Silas, however, made a weak attempt at negotiation. "Well then, how about you handle the PR and say the person in the photo is my sister?"

Pearl rolled her eyes. "The Quinton family's lineage only passes through males. Where did you get a sister from?"

"You've got my family all figured out, and you're still saying you don't like me."

"I just did some basic investigations about you." His lack of basic knowledge about his own family left Pearl unimpressed.

"Why investigate me and not others? I'm sure you like me."

Silas's argument was quite a stretch, leading Pearl to scold him further. "If you keep spouting nonsense like this, I'll fire you immediately."

Frustrated, Silas glared at her. "You're just settling a personal score."

Pearl smiled slyly. "So if you want to stay in the company, you better behave and listen to me."

Silas, who had been trying to control his temper, slouched and finally admitted defeat. "I get it. You can handle things however you want."

Pearl was feeling quite pleased with herself when Silas unexpectedly reached out and gently cupped her face, speaking earnestly, "You have to remember that I'm so patient with you only because I like you, not because I'm afraid of you."

"Don't try to act like a domineering president at your age," Pearl retorted, slapping his hand away with a loud smack.

"That hurts. Are you trying to kill your future husband?" Changing the topic abruptly, Silas made an unexpected request. "But if you really want to put it out there that the girl was Celine, you have to grant me a wish."

This request made Pearl slightly uncomfortable, but she nodded. "As long as you don't go overboard."

"I want you to pretend to be my girlfriend and accompany me to a family dinner."

Pearl's eyes widened in surprise. Pretend to be his girlfriend?!

Chapter 742

"What's the matter? It's just an act, not real. The main issue is that my grandpa is determined to meet my girlfriend. How am I supposed to find a girlfriend who will satisfy him at this point?" Silas explained, his eyes assessing Pearl from top to bottom, seemingly approving of her appearance. "I think you're pretty good. Besides, my grandpa kind of likes you."

"Why would your grandpa like me?" Pearl was puzzled.

Silas struggled to hold back his smile as he replied, "Everyone in Enswood knows that the president of Cerubleu is a woman with both beauty and brains. I bet there's a line of suitors wrapping around the city, eager to marry you."

"Really now?" Pearl knew she had her share of admirers, but she didn't think it was as exaggerated as he described.

Unbeknownst to her, before she got together with Richard, Wayne had effectively discouraged her suitors. After her relationship with Richard, no man dared to challenge his authority, further solidifying her belief that men didn't particularly like her.

"Of course. After I told my grandpa that I liked you, he was so happy that he insisted on meeting you," Silas replied, pouting slightly. "If you don't help me this time, my grandpa will lock me up at home when I go back. Are you willing to let go of a cash cow like me?"

Pearl sighed at Silas's antics. His words seemed exaggerated, but there was some truth to them. Silas was incredibly popular in the company, and his departure would be a significant loss.

Taking a moment to weigh the pros and cons, Pearl finally relented, nodding. "Okay, I'll help you out."

Silas visibly relaxed and reached out to tousle her hair playfully. "In that case, I'll let you handle the PR and say that the girl in the photo was Celine."

Pearl slapped his hand away. "It's not that easy. Even if I handle the PR, we need to make sure that Celine is willing to go along with it."

Silas chuckled, recalling Celine's behavior around him. As far as he knew, she practically wanted to be with him all the time. "Don't worry, there's no way she wouldn't agree."

"Alright, enough stalling. Let's go to the office now." Pearl got into Silas's car.

Silas was pleased to see her finally willing to sit in his car. "Yes, ma'am!"

With that resolved, Pearl and Silas hurried to the office. Celine, however, burst into the room, tears streaming down her face.

Seeing Celine in tears, Silas felt annoyed deep down. He turned away, refusing to look at her.

"What's wrong? What happened?" Pearl asked, concerned.

Celine sobbed as she explained, "Someone commented on my video, saying I'm meddling in someone else's relationship and intentionally trying to create a PR stunt with Silas. They're calling me a homewrecker."

Silas couldn't help but think, "Well, isn't that the truth?" He had grown tired of Celine's constant presence and her attempts to get close to him.

Celine became more upset. Deep down, she knew the woman in the photo was Pearl, her boss. Pearl also knew that the two of them were in a PR stunt, yet she chose to get so close to Silas, even getting photographed with him in an intimate way.

She had never experienced such injustice. She had always portrayed herself as a pure and innocent girl in front of others, and now, she was being attacked. She had lost hundreds of thousands of followers, and her comment section was filled with hateful words.

"Don't worry too much about this. I have a new plan," Pearl comforted Celine patiently.

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Chapter 744

Silas felt a bit exasperated at the idea of a couple's date. He worried that if they continued with this plan, netizens might start believing that he and Celine were in a real relationship.

What he truly wanted was Pearl, not the scheming Celine.

Hearing this, Celine blushed and lowered her head. "Wouldn't that be inappropriate? I've never been in a relationship before."

However, Celine hoped that by pretending to be in a relationship with Silas for the first time, even if it was fake, she could make it seem real and eventually win Silas's heart.

Little did she know that the man beside her had mentally scolded her countless times. Frustrated at her schemes, he snorted and decided to change the subject. "There's another condition."

Pearl immediately understood that the condition he mentioned referred to accompanying him to the family dinner. But what could this other condition mean?

"What else do you want?" she asked.

Silas smirked. "I want you to stay at my place for a few days. If you agree, I'll happily go along with filming the video."

His hidden agenda was clear: he wanted to keep Pearl close and nurture their relationship.

Celine, who stood nearby, was shocked and couldn't speak, wondering if she should allow this.

Pearl noticed Celine's reaction and chuckled awkwardly. She clarified, "He's just asking for help, not what you're thinking."

Celine sullenly replied with a "hmm," realizing that pretending otherwise might not be wise. Wasn't Pearl practically telling her that their relationship was extraordinary?

So, Pearl agreed to Silas's unreasonable request, thinking it wouldn't be too much of an issue with friends and family around.

Silas readily agreed, saying he would film as many videos as needed.

With Hugh abroad, Pearl had to take on the role of a videographer herself. Luckily, she had learned quite a bit about the job from Hugh during their time overseas, so making a video wouldn't be a problem.

The three of them quickly tidied up and prepared to start shooting at the office.

Pearl intentionally captured moments of intimacy between Silas and Celine at the office, such as Silas helping her tie her hair or those moments when they shared smiles. The overflowing tenderness practically overwhelmed Celine.

For instance, Celine playfully fed Silas a mouthful of apples, and the latter responded with a smile, ruffling her hair and saying, "Thanks."

He truly lived up to his reputation as a charming character among all the roles he played, nailing these scenes effortlessly!

However, Celine took her role seriously and nearly got carried away, while Silas, despite the affectionate smile on his face, didn't quite have the same sparkle in his eyes. This left Pearl disappointed.

When the shoot ended, Pearl looked at the footage she had captured and nodded in satisfaction. "I'm going to edit these clips now and send each of you a copy to post on your social media."

Then, as if she remembered something, she reminded them, "Don't forget to tag each other."

"Got it." Relieved that it was finally over, Silas sighed and took a sip of water.

Celine's face instantly flushed. "That's my cup."

Silas nearly choked on his water. "Sorry, I just grabbed it without thinking."

Chapter 745

Celine nodded, then shook her head, saying, "It's okay."

Silas raised his chin at her, expressing gratitude for not holding him accountable. However, from Celine's perspective, it seemed like he was openly flirting with her.

She clenched her fists tightly. This man was the most outstanding one she had ever met, and she was determined to win him over.

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After editing and sending the videos, Pearl returned to her office.

Suddenly, she received an email. She casually opened it and froze when she saw the recipient's name.

After reading the email, Pearl stood up and walked out.

Downstairs, a dark blue sports car was parked. Pearl looked at the familiar license plate and got in the car.

The man's smile became even more radiant in the driver's seat, and the scar on his brow was especially noticeable. He couldn't help but feel a hint of nostalgia as he gazed at Pearl. "Long time no see. Have you been well lately?"

Pearl remained cold and distant, deliberately keeping some distance between them. "Hugo, whether I've been well or not has nothing to do with you."

Hugo noticed her deliberate effort to distance herself from him and couldn't help but feel uncomfortable. "Don't be so cold. You'll probably be interested if I tell you what I'm about to say." Pearl gave him a cold glance. "Didn't you already make it clear in the email?"

She hadn't expected this man to be so persistent. Even though he had returned to the country without any attachments, he still managed to find all kinds of clues to threaten her.

"Well, looks like my email is very effective. After all, you came to see me, didn't you?" Hugo gave her a charming smile. "Honestly, I don't have any ulterior motives. I just missed you and wanted to see you."

During their time apart, life suddenly became dull without Pearl. Back when they lived together, there were arguments, laughter, and fun. He hadn't even shown much interest in taking over Waldorf Enterprises. He realized he had indeed developed feelings for this woman and wanted to make her his.

Unfortunately, just as they were about to reach their goal, Richard suddenly reappeared out of nowhere and disrupted all of his plans. Pearl then left him.

This feeling of being out of control was indeed terrible.

"Don't you find it disgusting to say these things now?" Pearl interrupted his sincere confession with a hint of disgust in her tone, expecting he would say these things to manipulate her as usual. "Do you think I'm disgusting?"

Pearl feared that saying too much would infuriate him, so she kept quiet.

Hugo suddenly laughed, catching her off guard. "Why do you think I came back to the country with you?" On his somewhat insincere face, he carried a lingering hint of a smile that didn't feel natural.

"You're not going to tell me you came back this time just for me, are you?" Pearl retorted. That would be incredibly insincere and disgusting.

Hugo shook his head helplessly. "Of course, it's not just because of you. I have more important things to do, but it's related to you."

Pearl frowned, sensing a sudden hostility coming from him. "What is it?"

Hugo grinned cunningly. "To take over Waldorf Enterprises and make sure Richard has no right to have you!"

Chapter 746

"You must be out of your mind." Pearl couldn't help but find it amusing, wondering where his confidence came from.

"Yeah, you can see it that way," Hugo said solemnly, locking his gaze on the woman in front of him, whom he had thought about for a long time. "I'll make sure you'll willingly come back to me."

Pearl frowned in disgust, prepared to get out of the car, only to realize that the door had already been locked.

"We're not done yet, and yet you're so eager to leave." Hugo's usual warm eyes turned dark.

"I don't have time to put up with your madness." Pearl's tone changed from gentle to cold.

"What if I tell you that I know your mother's and Gigi's whereabouts?"

Hearing those two familiar names, Pearl hesitated for a moment.

Her subtle pause didn't escape Hugo's attention. "You see, no matter where we are, these two vulnerabilities will always make you fall in line."

Pearl's hand, placed at her side, curled slightly. Her gaze was unwavering this time as she spoke slowly, "You're really shameless."

"I advise you to choose your words carefully, or else... I can't guarantee what I might do to them," Hugo warned.

"Well, then spill it." Pearl couldn't easily trust him, and she was sure things weren't as simple as he made it sound.

Hugo averted his gaze and said, "You've been back almost a month now, haven't you? Can't even find where they are?"

"Stop pretending. You don't actually know either." Pearl chuckled. Her network of information was much more powerful than Hugo's, so if she couldn't find them, he couldn't either. Trying to deceive her was a fool's errand.

"Sometimes, when women are too clever, it's not a good thing."

Pearl had secretly found the hidden latch to open the car door. Without hesitation, she slapped him.

"You disgust me, Hugo!" With that, she seized the opportunity of his momentary surprise and made a run for it.

Hugo watched her escape and felt a ripple of emotion in his heart.

Great. He was determined to see this bold and arrogant rose bend to his will.

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Back at the office, Pearl noticed an additional presence in her workspace.

Silas, with a playful demeanor, fiddled with his phone and teased, "I was wondering why I haven't received the video yet. Turns out, you were out meeting some guy."

"You saw me?" Pearl crossed over to her chair.

Silas lifted his head, gesturing to the computer screen. "Yup. You didn't turn off your computer so I saw the email."

Pearl suddenly flushed. The email was about Hugo's threats and coercion, along with a forceful demand to meet him in person.

She wanted to say something about it, but Silas blocked her at her desk, staring at her intensely. "You're being bullied, and you didn't tell me?"

Pearl's heart skipped a beat, suddenly feeling at a loss. "Why would I tell you?"

"To keep you safe, of course! What's with all the fuss?" Silas was smiling, but underneath, he was seething with anger, barely holding it back.

"I've known about his little tricks all along. I don't need protection at all." Pearl waved him off nonchalantly, trying to push him away.

But Silas didn't budge. "You still should have told me."

His posture was like a stubborn child throwing a tantrum, leaving Pearl amused and exasperated.

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"I got it. I'll keep you in the loop next time."

Silas stood up, satisfied. "Good, I've got his name down. I'll make sure to deal with him properly."

Pearl asked, "How do you plan to deal with him?"

"Don't worry about that." Then, as if remembering something, he added, "Hurry up and send me the video, and get ready for the family dinner tomorrow."

Pearl was surprised. "Tomorrow? So soon?"

"Tomorrow is the weekend, and there's no work. It's just perfect." Silas smirked. He wasn't going to tell her that the so-called family dinner was actually a lie to trick her into meeting his parents.

Pearl nodded, somewhat skeptical. "Alright, I got it."

Satisfied with her response, Silas turned around and left.

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As soon as the new video was released, it immediately created an even bigger sensation.

Netizen A couldn't help but exclaim, [Just as I expected, their relationship is doing well. How could they possibly cheat on each other?]

BananaRadishLovesEggplant chimed in, [Nothing's impossible. This video looks staged, just for show.]

PinkBubblePig fired back, [What show? This is the real deal. If you keep talking nonsense, I'll kick you out.]

AppleCiderVinegar added, [I still think that woman from the other night looks a lot like Pearl...]

Regardless, the controversy was temporarily swept under the rug, and the relationship between Celine and Silas had reached a new level.

That was until the Quintons called Silas.

Feeling annoyed, Silas stared at the constantly flashing phone number on the screen, but he reluctantly answered. "What can I do for you?"

On the other end of the phone, Silas's father was frustrated. "Didn't you say you found the president of Cerubleu to be my future daughter-in-law? How come it's just some low-class internet celebrity?"

He saw the news early this morning that a female influencer named Celine was rumored to be having an affair with his son. It almost gave him a heart attack.

Silas replied, "It's just a PR stunt, nothing more. Besides, do you really think I'd be interested in an average internet celebrity?"

Luke was still worried. "Just be careful not to overdo the publicity. What if the president doesn't like you anymore?"

Silas couldn't help but twitch his lips, thinking his father probably didn't know she had forced this whole PR stunt. But he couldn't say that, so he smiled and said, "Don't worry. I'll be bringing her home tomorrow. Get ready, and don't keep her waiting."

Hearing this, Luke's worries disappeared, and he immediately smiled. "Great! Make sure to find out what she likes and doesn't like to eat. I need to plan accordingly."

Silas nodded. "Don't worry, I'll send it to you shortly."

After hanging up the phone, Silas was surprised to see someone standing beside him—Celine. He was startled at first, but he quickly regained his composure.

He noticed her reddened eyes and forced smile, asking, "What's wrong? Did someone bully you?" If Pearl hadn't asked him to be nicer to Celine, he wouldn't have too much interaction with her.

"Oh... it's nothing." Celine took a deep breath and handed him a file, saying, "This is the president's plan for our next quarter. She asked me to deliver it to you personally."

Silas responded with a kind smile. "Alright, I'll have a look at it."

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If Silas had smiled at any other time, Celine might have fallen for it. But now, his smile seemed fake to her.

Given their work relationship, she hesitated to be upfront about her feelings. Besides, talking about it wouldn't help her.

She couldn't help but feel Pearl was affecting her chances of becoming Mrs. Quinton. If Pearl weren't so impressive, maybe Silas might have noticed her.

Celine's mind was in turmoil. She didn't know how to control her thoughts.

"What are you thinking about, Celine?" Silas noticed Celine had spaced out, her expression a mix of fear and anticipation. It felt unsettling.

Celine snapped out of it and shook her head, looking at the man before her. "Nothing. Well, since I've already given you the contract, I'll get back to work now."

Silas nodded with a smile. "Alright."

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Pearl initially thought things were settling down after the recent chaos, but another problem arose. A social media account named "PearlProber" suddenly appeared, posting a detailed article with images.

She frowned as she read the well-structured post.

The article claimed that Pearl was the person who vomited outside the bar that night. It even compared photos of Pearl and Celine, emphasizing that Pearl had a slightly slimmer waist.

Getting involved with this could be risky, so Pearl created a fake account to argue with the article's author.

Pearl: [It's just a matter of angles. You can't judge it based on someone's waist. Otherwise, you must have extraordinary eyesight.]

Author: [Isn't it obvious? From body proportions to various details, everything points more to Pearl than Celine.]

Pearl: [You must be a pervert to scrutinize a girl's body so closely.]

Author: [I'm just trying to reveal the truth. How does that make me a pervert?]

Pearl: [It was so dark that hardly anything was visible. How can you be so sure it was Pearl? You talk like you know her well.]

Author: [Heh. If I don't, do you?]

Pearl was so enraged she nearly revealed her identity. But she knew that would cause more problems.

Pearl: [If you're so sure it's Pearl, do you have any other evidence?]

Author: [Of course, there's more. She had dinner with Silas and watched the concert with him.]

Pearl: [From what I know, nothing has mentioned Pearl's activities or whereabouts. How do you know these things?]

This question left the other person silent.

Meanwhile, online spectators watched their intense argument. Seeing that the author didn't respond, they assumed the other party was guilty.

Pearl: [Why so quiet now? Weren't you arguing fiercely just a moment ago? Are you a stalker or a liar?]

The other party remained silent. At this point, admitting to either accusation wouldn't work in their favor.

If they were a stalker, they'd seem creepy. Even if they were telling the truth, no one would believe them, thinking they had hidden motives.

If they were a liar, it would discredit their claims.

Pearl knew she had won the argument, but her heart grew colder with every passing moment.

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Pearl didn't tell anyone about everything that had happened.

Silas was a carefree guy, not someone who looked for trouble. This didn't seem like something he would do. So, there was only one person...

Pearl narrowed her eyes, contemplating a different perspective.

Two minutes later, the author with the username "PearlProber" suddenly deleted the post.

The situation now favored Pearl, and everyone believed that Celine was the person in the photo. Furthermore, both of them gained more fans and became more popular.

Right after that, Pearl called Celine. When Celine answered, she sounded flustered.

"What's up, Celine? I'm just checking in. Why do you sound so nervous?" Pearl asked with a smile.

"I'm fine. What's going on, Miss Pearl?"

"Oh, nothing serious. I'm just wondering why you haven't posted that video yet. Silas has already posted his, and it seems you haven't."

Celine had a bit of sweat on her forehead. "Uh... I got busy and forgot about it."

Pearl probed, "What kept you busy? I don't remember assigning any tasks to you."

Celine's voice sounded somewhat nervous, "No, these are some things I planned for myself. I can't just sit around, right?"

Pearl nodded thoughtfully. "Fair enough. So, show me what you've been working on. If it's good, I might even give you a reward."

Celine guessed that Pearl might have found out something, but she still wanted to make a last-ditch effort. "Miss Pearl, I—"

Pearl chuckled. "Why are you so nervous? I'm not here to scold you."

"Miss Pearl, did you... find out?"

Pearl didn't expose her but instead gave her advice, "Remember, you're still part of the company. If you start doing things you shouldn't, I can't guarantee what might happen."

She wasn't a saint—she believed in getting even when wronged. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

Celine broke out in a cold sweat. It seemed she was right. Pearl knew!

Pearl chuckled again. Playing with her ring, she casually said, "You did really well this time. I'm thinking of rewarding you with 150 thousand dollars. Go get it from the finance department later."

This statement left Celine even more puzzled. She had done something wrong, so why was she getting a bonus?

"Miss Pearl, I did—"

Before Celine could finish her sentence, Pearl interrupted, "What did you do? Didn't you shoot a video with Silas, solving the issue with last night's photos perfectly? There's no reason to penalize you."

Celine finally understood. Pearl was pretending not to know, giving her a hint.

"Thank you, Miss Pearl."

"You're welcome. But if you ever get the chance, maybe learn some computer skills from me. You couldn't even hide an IP address."

Celine's eyes widened, almost forgetting that this seemingly harmless and smiling president was once a fearsome top hacker!

"I-I got it." She hung up the phone nervously.

Celine then stared at the account that had just logged out on her computer screen. She had mixed feelings and a lingering fear, like narrowly escaping a disaster.

Chapter 750

The next day, Pearl noticed a flashy red sports car parked by the roadside. She hadn't paid much attention to the cars parked outside before, remembering that Silas's cars were usually ordinary and didn't attract much notice.

Then, a man in casual brown clothes got out of the car. He wore a bright, mischievous smile, but something about his expression seemed a bit odd.

With a familiar voice, he said, "Pea, I'm here to pick you up after work. Can you come home with me today?"

Pearl snorted coldly, thinking that changing his clothes didn't change his demeanor. He still acted as if she was about to meet his parents as the future daughter-in-law.

Well, if she had to play along, she might as well do it convincingly. She replied bluntly, "I haven't brought any gifts, and I'm not dressed for the occasion."

Silas pointed to the back seat, where there were already a bunch of gifts. "I've got everything ready for you. Plus, you're a guest, so don't worry about formalities. Enough talking, get in the car."

Pearl shrugged indifferently and got into the car.

Soon, the red sports car pulled into the Quinton Residence. The place looked fancy, with a tall entryway, a grand entrance, big arched windows, and fancy stonework, all showing off luxury and elegance.

Pretty impressive. No wonder Silas, from such a wealthy family, oozed luxury in every way.

Even before Pearl stepped out of the car, she noticed a red carpet on the lawn. There were servants on either side, holding trays filled with flower petals.

Looking at this setup... were they sure it wasn't a wedding?

Pearl cautiously got out of the car. As soon as she stepped onto the red carpet, the servants started showering her with flower petals. She found herself covered in fragrant petals, feeling somewhat dumbfounded but resigned to the situation.

She glanced back at Silas and saw he was calm and happy, as if he expected all this. She glared at him, but he just gave her a reassuring smile.

"Alright, no need to worry. Just follow me." Silas took a few steps forward and held her hand, ready to lead her inside.

Pearl tried to pull her hand away, not used to his touch, but she couldn't break free.

"Hey, stop struggling. Do you want more surprises?"

The earlier surprises were already a lot for her, and she didn't want to imagine what else was in store.

Pearl grinned at how different she was acting today and let Silas lead her inside.

When they entered the hall, a pleasant fragrance filled the air. Before she could figure out who was in front of her, a woman excitedly grabbed her hand.

"You must be Pearl! You're so pretty. I think you look even better in person than on TV!"

The woman was a bit plump but had a charming presence. The way she looked at Pearl felt like she was assessing a potential daughter-in-law. Pearl couldn't help but feel a little uneasy.

"Hello, Mrs. Quinton. You must be Silas's mother, right?"

The woman smiled warmly. "Yes, that's me. You've got a sharp eye, Miss Pearl. Impressive!"

With that, she kicked the man beside her, and Silas's seemingly soft-spoken father joined the conversation. "Yeah, yeah. Miss Pearl is as beautiful as a flower and has a gentle personality. No wonder Silas adores you so much."

Silas's father was straightforward, saying what everyone was thinking.

Pearl realized she had been played, but with Silas's parents and even the elderly patriarch present, she had to keep her composure.