

YOUR GUISE 801

Chapter 802

Estrella adjusted her mood when she saw Pearl's puzzled look. She smiled and tried to hide her awkwardness. "Nothing, I accidentally dropped something."

Silas, who was outside the glass door, didn't notice anything. He walked over to Pearl and put his arm around her shoulders. "I've been calling you these days, Pearl. Why have you been ignoring me?" While talking, he didn't pay any attention to Estrella.

Pearl stepped back and removed his arm. "I've been busy."

"That's fine. I can visit you whenever I'm free. If you don't mind, I can come every day." Silas flashed a charming smile, which attracted the attention of the female photographers nearby.

Pearl felt helpless as Silas once again captivated everyone around him. "Okay, please don't disrupt the advertisement shoot."

"No, I'm not causing any trouble. I'm just here to see you." After that, Silas casually sat down on a nearby couch.

Pearl had never met someone so shameless. "So, you're not leaving?"

Silas crossed his legs. "Why are you in a rush to drive me away? I'm just here to see you. I won't bother you guys."

It seemed difficult to get rid of him, so Pearl simply ignored him. "Let's continue with the shoot."

However, Estrella was visibly distraught. Her performance suffered, with mistakes in her actions and expressions, even stumbling over her lines.

Concerned, Pearl asked, "Is something wrong, Esti? Are you feeling okay?"

Estrella remained silent.

Pearl suspected that it had something to do with the b*stard nearby. But she didn't want to expose Estrella's private issues in front of everyone, so she pretended not to notice.

"It's alright, Miss Pearl." Estrella was sweating, and she appeared a bit nervous. Seeing Silas had thrown her off balance, but she couldn't escape or hide while she was in the middle of the shoot.

Silas's presence made her feel extremely uneasy. She glanced at him several times, who sat on the couch playing games. Unexplainable emotions overwhelmed her when she looked at him.

But they had broken up, and it would be pointless to keep bothering him. After all, he agreed to date her back then because she had been persistent.

"Let's stop here if you're not in the right mood. We can continue when you've sorted things out." It was the biggest compromise Pearl could make for Estrella. She understood Estrella's feelings and empathized with her.

"Thank you, Miss Pearl." Estrella nodded with gratitude.

Shooting while being distraught wouldn't work, so Estrella decided to stop pushing herself and headed to her dressing room to change into casual clothes.

Rosalie also left after being informed that the shoot had been temporarily paused.

Now, only Pearl and Silas remained on the set. Although Silas appeared engrossed in his game, he had been keeping an eye on the shoot.

When he heard that they had paused the shoot, he had just finished his final round of the game. He stood up and approached Pearl with a playful tone. "Why did you stop when I just got here, Pearl? Do you miss me so much that you want to go out with me?"

Chapter 803

Hearing his chuckle, Pearl felt frustrated. "You're incredibly shameless."

Silas insisted, "I just want to get closer to you."

"No, there's no need for that. I don't want to get close to you." Pearl didn't want to stay. She turned to leave, but Silas held her wrist tightly.

"Don't be so cold," he said.

"I've been very clear with you."

In this standoff, they stared at each other, unaware of each other's thoughts.

"Miss Pearl."

Estrella's voice brought them back to reality. She had changed into her regular clothes and stood nearby, watching them with mixed feelings. "Miss Pearl, I've changed my clothes."

"Okay—"

Estrella interrupted Pearl. "I'll head back to the company since the shoot is paused."

But Pearl frowned when she saw Estrella was alone. "I thought you came with your assistant. Where is your assistant?"

At the mention of the assistant, Estrella explained thoughtfully, "My assistant had to return to the company due to an emergency, so I'll just go back on my own."

"How could you do that? This place is quite isolated, and you're a young woman. What if something happens?" Pearl then looked out of the window at the drizzling rain and said, "It'll be difficult to get a taxi in this weather."

Suddenly, she turned to Silas. "I'll ask Silas to give you a ride back."

Surprisingly, both Estrella and Silas refused at the same time.

"No, that's unnecessary!"

"No, I don't want to."

Estrella refused in panic. Seeing this, Pearl spoke firmly, "I'm not joking. Do you want to get hurt again?"

Estrella's anxious refusal weakened after hearing Pearl's concern. "But I feel bad inconveniencing others."

Silas, filled with frustration due to Estrella's whispered protests, added, "She doesn't want me to give her a ride. Why should I insist? Can't you see that I like you?" He declined the suggestion and confessed his feelings for Pearl.

Estrella's face paled, and Pearl could see it clearly. "I just want you to give her a safe ride home. I didn't ask for anything more. It's just a small favor. Why is a grown man like you this petty?"

Pearl's disdain and disappointment in Silas finally convinced him to reluctantly agree. "Alright, I'll give her a ride home, but I'm doing it because of you."

Pearl waved him off. "I don't care about the reason, as long as you make sure she gets home safely."

Silas put his hands in his pockets and shot Estrella a contemptuous look. "I'm taking you home. Why are you still standing there? Let's go."

Estrella replied politely with a "yes."

Pearl watched them leave, touching her chin in thought. She wasn't sure if she had made the right decision.

At least, she could see that Estrella hadn't completely let Silas go, and there might be unresolved issues between them. As for Silas, he was just too annoying, so it was best to send him away.

Then, she shook her head and tried to head back to the company. But when she got into her car, she was surprised to find that it had run out of gas.

"What bad luck!"

Chapter 804

Pearl spotted a car parked by the road with its engine running. She approached it in the rain and said, "Hello, I'm so sorry for bothering you. Can I—"

She looked up and met the intense gaze of the person inside the car before she could finish speaking. It left her stunned.

By that time, the rain had soaked half of her body, and her hair was a mess, making her look quite awkward. Standing in front of Richard was undeniably humiliating.

She abandoned the words she had intended to say.

"Go on. What's the matter?" Richard asked indifferently, showing no signs of surprise.

"Nothing. I got the wrong guy." With that, she turned and got back into her car.

Bumping into Richard was unfortunate. Knowing his personality, he would never agree to give her a ride, so it was wiser to retreat to her car instead of enduring humiliation in the rain. She would decide what to do once the rain stopped.

But suddenly, the rain intensified, causing Pearl to feel anxious. She wondered when the rain would stop.

While lost in her thoughts, she heard footsteps in the rain outside her car.

Knock, knock... Someone gently tapped on her car window.

Pearl lowered her window and saw Richard standing in the rain, holding a black umbrella. He looked cold and distant.

His face was barely visible through the hazy rain, but his voice was clear. "No umbrella, I see."

Pearl laughed dryly. "Mister Richard, you could be a rapper with that statement."

Richard tightened his grip on the umbrella. "Stop joking in this situation."

For some reason, despite his usual aloofness, Pearl sensed his concern. It was strange, but maybe the rain was playing tricks on her mind.

Nevertheless, she remained cautious. "Did you knock on my window just to mock me about not having an umbrella, Mister Richard?" She wouldn't put it past him to do so at this moment.

Richard sounded icy. "Am I really that heartless?"

Pearl smiled and cursed inwardly. She wondered if he had any f*cking idea just how heartless he could be. But she couldn't say that aloud because she could tell that Richard wanted to offer her a ride.

"Of course not. You appeared like a savior to me. Mister Richard, would you be so kind as to give me a ride back?" She tried to be polite, but her sarcasm still seeped through as she made her request.

"Is that how you ask for help?" Richard remained unmoved.

"Forget it. I know you won't agree no matter what I say." Deflated, Pearl leaned against the driver's seat and pouted in frustration.

"Yeah, I'm just here to give you an umbrella. You can go back while holding it."

Pearl wasn't surprised. She knew he wouldn't show pity for the fairer sex. She rolled her eyes inwardly.

"You should head back, Mister Richard. If I go back in this heavy rain, I'll be completely drenched." Then, she tried to roll up her window.

"Get into my car."

Pearl laughed at his words. "Okay, give me thirty seconds."

Chapter 805

Pearl acted quickly, even faster than her words. In an instant, she grabbed the important documents nearby and held them close to her chest. Then, she hurriedly dashed into Richard's car.

Her speed surprised Richard.

"Don't forget to pitch in for the cleaning later. The rain from your clothes got inside my car." Richard calmly and shamelessly asked her for money.

Pearl pursed her lips. "It's just a little rain. You don't have to charge me for that."

Her improved opinion of him disappeared instantly. Richard was still the ruthless businessman who tried to haggle over everything.

"It's better to keep things fair."

For some reason, Pearl sensed a hidden message in his words. Moreover, he stared at her as if he wanted to settle something.

Since something seemed off, Pearl quickly changed the subject. "By the way, what brought you here?"

Richard started the car and turned it around. "I had some business to attend to."

It was still a little awkward.

Pearl continued teasing him, "Why do you always appear out of nowhere whenever I encounter trouble? If I didn't know better, I'd think you were secretly protecting me."

As soon as she said that, she regretted it. What nonsense!

As expected, Richard remained silent because of her words.

Pearl cursed herself, thinking she should have kept her mouth shut. The more she talked, the more awkward it became.

After a while, Richard said calmly, "Maybe."

Maybe? What did that mean?

Pearl couldn't quite figure out his intentions. She stared at the raindrops outside the window, trying to divert her attention and appear less significant to ease the awkwardness.

But maybe? Was Richard implying that he had been secretly watching her?

Pearl couldn't decipher her feelings. After some contemplation, she looked up and spoke with a mix of seriousness and conflict, "Mister Richard, I understand that we were once a couple with our differences. I might have hurt your feelings back then. But you don't have to stalk me like this, right? It makes me feel quite uneasy, as if I'm in danger..."

Richard didn't mince his words and thought Pearl would misunderstand. But...

She did misunderstand him in a completely unexpected way.

"Pearl Leighton." Veins bulged on Richard's forehead. He emphasized his words, "I'm not a pervert like you think."

Pearl felt she was right since he was getting angry. "Don't get mad. We're in the wilderness, and I'm worried that you might kill me and leave my body here."

Helplessness overwhelmed Richard. He gripped the steering wheel tightly and took a deep breath. He felt he might lose his temper if they continued the conversation.

"I'll drop you off here if you keep having wild thoughts."

Hearing his words, Pearl behaved herself.

But a different idea sparked in her mind. If that was the case, she wondered if Richard was genuinely concerned about her.

However, it seemed unlikely since he was dating Winona now.

Lost in thought, her left leg accidentally bumped against a button-like object. This caused a small compartment to open in the car, revealing a stack of dark red cards.

Those were... wedding invitations.

Chapter 806

"You're getting married so quickly?" Pearl mumbled almost to herself.

"Yeah, I'm getting married next month. Do you want to come?"

In Pearl's mind, marriage had always seemed like a distant topic. She and Richard had agreed to get engaged first, and they would only marry after Pearl found her mother.

But their relationship ended when they found her.

Seeing the wedding invitation now, she felt a sense of loss and melancholy. "Oh, I won't go."

Pearl had been considering if Richard was protecting her exclusively, but the harsh reality shattered her fantasies. His relationship with his fiancée was good, so of course he was too busy to care about Pearl.

She silently scolded herself for her misplaced hopes, realizing she had been fooling herself.

"Alright." Richard ended that topic.

Soon, they arrived at Cerubleu. As Richard parked the car, Pearl opened the door and hurried out despite the rain.

Her haste moved Richard. "It's raining outside. Take the umbrella."

"Thank you, but I'll be fine." Pearl shook her head and held the documents securely. Then, she braved the heavy rain and rushed into the company.

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Meanwhile, Estrella followed Silas closely.

Silas was growing frustrated because he felt Estrella was walking too slowly. He turned around with a gloomy expression, the black umbrella shielding his face. "Can you walk faster? You're so slow. Are you a turtle?"

It wasn't the first time Estrella had heard such harsh words. She didn't argue but replied gently, "Alright, I'll pick up the pace."

As they spoke, it felt like they were transported back in time.

The awkwardness that followed made it hard for Silas to say anything more. He silently extended the umbrella to cover her.

In the confined space of the car, their awkwardness reached its peak.

Estrella could have distanced herself from him, but she hadn't, so the umbrella didn't provide much protection, leaving her shoulders and half of her hair drenched.

Seeing her sitting there like that, with her wet body, Silas couldn't bear it. He grabbed a piece of clothing from the back and draped it over her.

He had done it impatiently, but Estrella was still moved. "Thank you."

"I don't want you to get a fever before we arrive."

Estrella thought of something and blurted out, "Are you worried about me?" But she regretted asking the question as soon as it left her lips.

As expected, Silas looked incredulous. "What nonsense are you thinking? Pearl asked me to drive you home. If you get sick and it affects the shooting, it will impact her income."

"So, you're doing this for Pearl..." Estrella lowered her head in disappointment.

"We've broken up. Logically, we shouldn't have any ties left. It's just a coincidence today. Let's forget about it."

Suddenly, Estrella's eyes became watery. "Did you stop loving me when we broke up?"

Silas was stunned, as he hadn't expected her to ask that question.

Chapter 807

"Of course, it's because I no longer had feelings for you," Silas admitted.

But there was another painful truth he had been hiding from her, a truth he couldn't bring himself to reveal because it would only cause her more pain.

Estrella stifled a response, deciding not to press him further on the matter. She turned her gaze to the rain outside, which seemed to be intensifying and showing no signs of stopping.

The heavy fog blurred the car windows until they could hardly see anything. She closed her eyes, seeking a moment of rest.

However, Silas couldn't keep calm with Estrella beside him. He couldn't concentrate on driving, and the thick fog made it difficult to see clearly. Suddenly, the car collided with the side railing with a loud crash.

Bang!

They jolted forward due to inertia. Silas's forehead struck the steering wheel hard, causing it to bleed profusely.

Estrella was less seriously injured; she had managed to protect her head at the last moment. She had some scratches on her arms but was otherwise fine.

When she regained her composure, she immediately turned her attention to Silas. Strangely, the airbag hadn't deployed. Silas's face was covered in blood, and he had lost consciousness. Without wasting any time, she called 911.

All she could do was to scream for help.

Despite the rainy weather and the sparse traffic on the road, a few kind-hearted people stopped and gathered around the accident scene. They attempted to help pull Silas and Estrella out of the car and contacted the authorities.

The ambulance finally arrived half an hour later.

As the medical team rushed Silas away on a stretcher, one of the paramedics asked, "Who are you to him?"

Estrella replied confidently, "I'm his girlfriend."

"Then come with us."

Estrella nodded gratefully and followed them to the hospital.

Silas was immediately taken into the emergency room upon their arrival. Meanwhile, Estrella had her wounds cleaned and dressed by some hospital staff before she hurried to the emergency room. She took a seat on a bench outside the room, patiently awaiting news.

Luckily, Silas's injuries were not too severe, just a concussion and a wound. It wasn't life-threatening.

Estrella received a call from Pearl soon after.

"What happened? Why did you guys suddenly get into a car accident?" Pearl's voice trembled with concern. They had been fine when they left, and the sudden accident shocked her.

Estrella lowered her head, feeling guilty. "I don't know what happened either. Something went wrong with the car." At the moment, she didn't want to delve into the details. It was too stressful to discuss it right now.

Pearl let out a deep sigh. "Which hospital are you at? Tell me the address. I'll come over immediately."

Estrella instinctively wanted to decline her offer. "No, it's fine—"

"Why not?" Pearl sounded confused.

Suddenly realizing her mistake, Estrella blushed and corrected herself, "I misspoke earlier. I'll tell you the address now." She provided Pearl with the hospital's location and hung up.

Standing by Silas's bedside, Estrella gazed at him. His eyes remained closed, and he was still unconscious. A myriad of emotions surged within her.

She tentatively reached out her hand to touch his face but quickly pulled it away as if shocked.

Feeling suffocated, she decided to take a walk outside. When she headed for the door, she noticed Pearl's arrival. Pearl looked exhausted, as if she had rushed there as soon as she heard the news.

A pang of bitterness filled Estrella. "Miss Pearl, you came here so quickly. You must be really worried about him."

Chapter 808

Pearl, being the witty person she was, sensed that Estrella was jealous. So, she quickly offered an explanation, "He's a streamer from my company. I wouldn't be able to face his parents if anything happened to him."

She tactfully conveyed to Estrella that there was nothing romantic between Silas and her and assured her not to worry.

Estrella looked up, her eyes were teary. "I'm sorry. It's my fault. If I hadn't talked to him and distracted him in the car, this accident wouldn't have happened."

"Don't blame yourself. This isn't your fault at all. It's his responsibility." Pearl forced a comforting smile and gently patted Estrella's hand. Although it wasn't the most empathetic thing to say about the unconscious Silas lying in bed, it seemed acceptable since he couldn't hear it.

"What do you mean it's my responsibility?" An irritated voice suddenly interrupted them from behind.

Startled, they turned to see Silas, who had just awakened, appearing somewhat dazed.

"You woke up so quickly. You're lucky," Pearl remarked as she placed a fruit basket by his bedside.

"I'm glad I saw you the moment I woke up. It looks like you're very concerned about me, rushing to the hospital as soon as you heard about my accident," Silas said with a charming smile, seemingly oblivious to the emotions of those around him.

Estrella's face drained of color upon hearing his words.

However, Pearl clicked her tongue in disapproval. "Don't flatter yourself. I only came here because I didn't want to face your parents if something happened to you. Stop thinking too highly of yourself."

Yet Silas remained stubborn. "I don't care. You did rush to the hospital because of me."

Estrella felt somewhat out of place in their conversation. She muttered, "I'll leave you two to talk."

"Just go back on your own. The rain has stopped." Silas waved her off. Despite having been in a car accident together, he seemed indifferent to whether Estrella was hurt or not.

Disappointed and feeling humiliated, Estrella hastily left without even saying goodbye to Pearl.

Pearl watched her leave and then turned to glare at Silas. "How could you say that to her? She came with you and took care of you for so long, and you treat your savior like that?"

Silas shrugged. "If it weren't for her, I wouldn't have been in a car accident."

But Pearl had a different perspective. "So, you're saying that her presence affected your mood?" It seemed like Silas had some feelings toward Estrella after all.

Silas became flustered. "Stop reading too much into it. You're the only one I care about."

Pearl's patience was wearing thin. "Let me make this clear one last time: I will never fall in love with you or be with you. Just give up."

Silas pouted. "We'll see about that. You can't say for sure."

Pearl ignored him and decided to call his parents to arrange for someone to take care of him.

Silas questioned her when he noticed her on the phone, "Who are you calling?"

"Your parents. I'm going to get someone to take care of you," Pearl replied matter-of-factly. It was only logical to call Silas' parents to take care of him.

Silas immediately objected. "I don't want them taking care of me."

Pearl put away her phone and pointed at the busy nurse nearby. "Then, should I hire a caretaker for you?"

Silas stopped protesting when he realized that Pearl wasn't going to back down. "I want you to take care of me."

Pearl couldn't help but smile at his audacity. "Silas, you must be dreaming."

"You're saying I'm dreaming?" Silas pouted and feigned a pitiful look.

Chapter 809

"You should get your brain checked. Why do you have such unrealistic fantasies?" Pearl smiled, giving Silas a pat on the head, but her hand accidentally brushed against his wound.

Silas winced in pain. "You don't have to hurt me if you don't want to take care of me."

Pearl burst into laughter. "I didn't mean to hurt you."

Seeing that Silas seemed okay, Pearl didn't feel too worried. "Just rest here for a few days if nothing comes up. I'll arrange for someone to take care of you."

Silas snorted. "I don't need that."

"I'll punch you until your concussion gets worse if you say that again." Pearl waved her fists.

"How violent," Silas muttered.

"Alright, I'll head back to the company now if there's nothing else. I have some matters to attend to."

Silas covered his head with the blanket and turned away. "Just go. Don't dilly-dally."

Pearl rolled her eyes and turned to leave.

Once she arrived at the company, she called Hugo to apologize. She felt responsible since one of his streamers had gotten into an accident while at her place.

Hugo didn't dwell on it much and chuckled. "No need to apologize. You can treat me to a meal if you want."

"What? You want cash instead? Sure, how much do you need?" Pearl played along, wearing a grin.

Hugo sighed, realizing that it was futile to argue with her. He changed the topic. "But Silas has caused me quite a bit of trouble."

Pearl became confused. "Silas just got into an accident. How did he cause you trouble?"

"Your streamer and my streamer appearing together in public has caused Estrella a lot of problems. Haven't you seen the news?" Hugo pointed out.

Pearl hadn't checked the news yet, as she had rushed to see Silas earlier. She quickly looked up the news and realized that their car accident had become a trending topic. Some onlookers had taken photos at the scene, capturing their faces by chance, and those photos had gone viral.

The headlines were quite sensational.

[Former lovers spotted together after a car accident. Are they rekindling their romance or just a passing encounter?]

[Is their past love story doomed? Answers may lie in the aftermath of the accident.]

[Two top celebrities involved in a car crash. Is their love dying?]

Pearl pursed her lips. "Alright, I've seen it. I'll have our PR team handle it. We won't let it affect Estrella's life."

Hugo said nothing but chuckled.

"What's so funny?" Pearl wondered what had gotten into him.

Hugo composed himself and spoke seriously, "I just feel that signing a contract with Estrella was one of the best decisions I've made."

Pearl understood his meaning but chose to ignore it. "Okay, if there's nothing else, I'll hang up."

"Wait." Hugo lowered his voice, "I have some information about Aunt Beah. Would you like to hear it?"

Chapter 810

Hearing her mother's name left Pearl stunned. She took a deep breath, trying to keep her impatience in check despite Hugo's threats. "What do you know? Tell me."

Hugo continued to play coy, clearly not eager to reveal any information. "I've told you already. If you want to know, come meet me in person."

Naturally, Pearl didn't trust his words because he had a reputation for deceit. "I'll just assume you're lying then." Without hesitation, she ended the call, starting an internal countdown.

Three. Two. One.

Her phone rang again, and she picked it up to hear Hugo's irritated voice. "Alright, you win."

Pearl smirked. "Tell me."

Hugo, however, wasn't about to make it easy. He countered with a question, "Why are you pushing me away? I haven't done anything."

They had gotten along well abroad, and it seemed like they were growing closer. Pearl, however, had become cold and distant when she returned to her homeland, treating Hugo as an enemy. Had she been pretending all along when they were abroad?

Pearl remained unfazed. "You used my mother to manipulate me when we were abroad, so I played along. But now, my mother has disappeared. Why should I be on good terms with you?"

Naturally, her behavior abroad had been genuine. However, Pearl couldn't stand Hugo. She suspected that her mother had disappeared because she knew that Hugo was threatening her. Therefore, she couldn't forgive him for that.

Her words stunned Hugo, but he eventually smiled. "Alright, I understand now."

Pearl became confused. "What?"

"Since finding Aunt Beah is the key to strengthening our relationship, I will find her," Hugo declared confidently.

"I'll believe it when I see it." Pearl shrugged helplessly. But at that moment, she realized the truth. "So, you were lying about knowing my mother's whereabouts, weren't you?"

As expected, she had almost fallen into Hugo's trap.

Hugo was taken aback by Pearl's shrewdness. It was difficult to deceive her.

"Alright, I'm hanging up now. Goodbye." Pearl felt relieved. She couldn't stand people who lied to her and had lost interest in talking to him.

After ending the call, Pearl sat on the couch, deep in thought.

The rumors surrounding Silas and Estrella only grew more intense and could not be suppressed.

Despite Pearl instructing her PR team to contain it, someone seemed to be secretly adding fuel to the fire, making their efforts futile. Furthermore, their high school romance was exposed in detail, and it had become a heartwarming and trending story.

Pearl was surprised as she read the touching memoir.