

YOUR GUISE 91

Chapter 91

Pearl returned to the hotel and knocked on Richard's door.

"Richard, I need to talk to you."

Before she could say anything more, Richard cut her off coldly, "I don't have time."

Sensing his bad mood, Pearl decided not to say anything more.

The two stood there at the door for a while, and just as Richard thought of softening his tone, a call came in.

He picked up, and Hugo's voice came from the other end. "Richard, Jenny is back."

Those three words were like a pebble tossed into a calm lake, making ripples in Richard's calm heart.

Hugo and Jenny went to the same university and were quite close, so Hugo's information was likely accurate.

Richard immediately said, "Where is she? Tell me."

The surroundings were quiet enough for Pearl to hear everything.

Jenny was Richard's first love? She was back? Hugo was right. Richard had never truly let go of her.

“She’ll be back for a short visit and will be on the flight to Aflus tomorrow morning.”

If her flight was tomorrow morning, it meant Richard had time to return.

He said, “I’ll head back immediately.” Richard hung up and, upon lowering his gaze, noticed the expression on Pearl’s face, which made his heart ache.

Pearl took a deep breath and asked, “Are we still going to talk about the partnership?”

Richard looked directly into her eyes and appeared pensive. “Let’s cancel the partnership, Pearl.”

“The partnership with NK Group would bring a lot of benefits to Waldorf Enterprises. Are you sure you want to let it go?” Pearl said in a low voice, her heart aching.

The Richard she knew wouldn’t easily give up an opportunity that benefited the company so much.

“I have something urgent to attend to. Let’s cancel it for now.”

“Something urgent? You mean you’re going to see her, right? Richard, I could still close the deal without

Richard frowned. “It’s not what you think.”

“Whatever. It’s none of my business.” Pearl wasn’t interested in whatever he was going to say, so she tu

Pearl returned to her room, her emotions in turmoil. Suddenly, a call from Wayne came through.
Annoye

Wayne was taken aback by her tone and asked, "Are you alright?"

She frowned and replied, "I'm fine. Why did you call?"

Chapter 92

"Miss Pearl, Cerubleu recently encountered some sales issues, and I think you should take a look at it.

"

Wayne sounded serious so the situation was probably grave.

Pearl remembered how Richard lost his cool when Jenny was mentioned and immediately agreed. However,

since the partnership with NK Group was not yet finalized, Pearl decided to speak with Raymond York

before leaving.

Pearl found Raymond enjoying tea in the hall, where the aroma of tea filled the air.

"Miss Pearl, I had a feeling you'd come to see me." Raymond appeared smug about his prediction, leaving

Pearl a little

confused.

"Why do you say that?***

"You're a smart person, so you would know how much profit Waldorf Enterprises would make from this partnership with NK.

He smiled, but it made her feel uncomfortable.

Pearl smiled and asked, "So, what are your thoughts on this partnership?"

He tried to play coy. "I was so disappointed that Mister Richard refused to work with us... But, if you could give us a number we can't refuse, we might just consider working with you."

As for the bargaining chip, it really depends on how tempting it was.

"The development of Waldorf Enterprises is witnessed by everyone. I'm sure you know that. Working with us would be a win-win situation."

Pearl's words didn't seem to sway him, so he continued smiling. "I think you should consider a different approach."

Pearl frowned. That wasn't good enough?

"I don't really understand what you mean. Why don't you be direct about this?"

Raymond dropped his pretense. "I think you're the biggest bargaining chip."

A weird expression flashed across Pearl's face before she responded, "I still don't understand what you

mean.”

Raymond noticed her awkward expression and laughed. “No need to be nervous. I admire you, but I won

’t exploit your situation. I see how capable you are. If you’re

interested in joining NK, I’ll ensure you get a high-ranking position.”

He deliberately made it sound enticing because he was worried she might decline his offer. “NK

is growing rapidly, and

we’ll soon rival Waldorf Enterprises. Moreover, if NK and Waldorf Enterprises collaborate, your role would

be advantageous for both parties, making no difference which side you choose.”

His statements not only showcased how powerful NK was, he even gave her a good reason to leave.

Any person would have considered it, but Pearl was different. With power and wealth at her disposal, no

one of these offers tempted her.

“I’m just a lowly employee. I wouldn’t dream of becoming leverage for Waldorf Enterprises to work with N

K.” Pearl made her rejection clear.

“If you’re not interested, I won’t force you, but NK will not be giving way for this partnership.”

After hearing this, Pearl stood up and gave a faint smile. “I understand your position. If that’s the case, I won’t push you any further.”

As she turned to leave, Raymond called after her. “Wait, Miss Pearl.”

Pearl smirked before turning around. “Yes?”

Raymond wouldn’t let this partnership slip away, and she was well aware of it.

Raymond sighed. “Fine. We’ll proceed with the partnership between our two companies. I’ll send the Looking forward to working together.”

Pearl’s smile was genuine. “Likewise.”

“Miss Pearl, to be honest, I like you even more now.”

Pearl’s smile radiated warmth and sincerity. Unlike materialistic women, she possessed cleverness and t

Chapter 93

“Thank you for that. I hope you not only like me but Waldorf Enterprises too.”

That comment helped break the awkwardness between them.

Raymond smiled. “Of course.”

After handling the matter with Raymond, Pearl booked the earliest available flight back. She returned to the company to request leave to deal with Cerubleu but unexpectedly ran into Richard.

“Pearl,” he greeted her.

“Hi, shouldn’t you have reconciled with your first love by now? What are you doing here?” Pearl was annoyed to see him looking like nothing happened and started mocking him.

“It’s not what you think.” He rushed back just for Hugo to tell him that it wasn’t her. Jenny wasn’t back yet.

His return was driven not by lingering feelings for Jenny but by a long-

standing question that had troubled him for years. He needed Jenny’s presence to answer it,

Richard attempted to explain, but Pearl cut him off. “No need to explain. I have no time to talk about your old flame with you. “With that, she headed to the HR department to request her leave..

Richard watched her walk away, and an unfamiliar emotion surged within him.

His phone rang, displaying Raymond’s name. He answered and heard Raymond’s cheerful voice on the other end. “Have you received the agreement?”

Richard frowned. “What agreement?”

“Didn’t Miss Pearl inform you? If it weren’t for her sincere desire to work with NK, this partnership might

have taken much longer to finalize... Don’t you know? It’s odd she didn’t tell you.”

1. However, he

Raymond sounded surprised, and Richard couldn’t help but wonder if this was an attempt to provoke hi

m. ignored the comment and asked, “You were unwilling to work with us before. Why the change of hea

rt?” Raymond raised his brow and said in a mysterious tone, “All thanks to Miss Pearl, who gave me an

offer I can’t refuse, so...” He had just confessed his admiration for Pearl, but the way he phrased it left

Richard with a different impression. “What happened to Pearl?” Richard couldn’t help but ask, although

he didn’t want to believe his own suspicions. “You should go ask her,” Raymond replied with a smile. “I

have work to do. Talk to you soon.”

After the call ended, Richard was left with a bunch of questions. He then heard the HR say Pearl would

be taking a month off

HR say Beach and was leaving today.

He called Pearl. “Where are you?”

Pearl sensed something odd in his tone and scoffed. "That's none of your business."

leave request is denied. Continue working." Richard thought she accepted the terms Raymond gave her

"I went through the proper process for requesting leave. You have no right to stop me."

Richard sounded more stern. "Don't make me say it again."

"What is wrong with you?"

Chapter 94

1/1

Richard suddenly scoffed. "You're headed to NK, aren't you?"

Pearl was taken aback because she couldn't understand why he would jump to that conclusion.

"I knew you must have offered something irresistible to Raymond. You're leaving Waldorf Enterprises ri

ght?" Richard took a deep breath, then continued, "Fine, leave then."

He hung up after saying that.

Pearl's heart dropped when she heard the disconnected call. She wasn't going to tell Richard she wa

s

going back to handle Cerubleu, so she might as well let him think whatever he wanted. He never cared

about her anyway except when he wanted to blame and suspect someone,

Pearl returned to her company headquarters, where Wayne was anxiously waiting.

“What happened?”

Wayne said, “Something happened between the partnership of Cerubleu and Genesis Group, and they specifically requested a meeting with you, the president of Cerubleu, over tea.”

Pearl frowned. “A meeting with me?”

“Yes, if we decline, they’ve

threatened to cancel the agreement, even if it means paying hefty compensation. This could have a significant impact on the company. We’ve invested in several new projects, and our cash flow is tight. If the deal falls through, this would be a big blow to the company.” Wayne sighed.

Pearl immediately understood. She had no choice but to meet with them, even if she didn’t want to.

“I’m guessing the president knows a lot about tea. Are you sure...?” Wayne was cautious.

Pearl understood his concerns and smiled sadly at him. “When have I ever embarrassed myself?”

Her response lifted Wayne’s spirits, transforming his earlier despair into hope. Indeed, she was Pearl, a

nd there was nothing she couldn't do.

Pearl smiled and said nothing more.

The president of Genesis Group had requested to meet Pearl at a tea shop. It wasn't a busy place. Wh

en Pearl got there, there were only a few people sitting around.

She stood outside the private room and knocked. A voice from within invited her to enter, and she push

ed the door

open.

Stephen Long, appearing to be in his sixties and bearing a stern countenance, was sipping tea. When P

Pearl chuckled. "You don't look your age, sir. You look much younger."

Stephen chuckled. "We're here to enjoy some tea, so let's see how much you know about this."

Pearl had anticipated this and smiled, saying, "The equipment, water temperature, pouring technique, a
some are stronger, while others are milder. There are thousands of teas for people around the world to
e

"Great. You know a thing or two." Stephen smiled. "I wonder who taught you this."

Pearl's mind drifted away. "My father taught me when I was a child. He learned it from my grandfather,

Chapter 95

Stephen was suddenly interested. "Your grandfather? What's his name?"

"Fredrick Jameson."

Stephen was shocked to hear his name, then his eyes slowly teared up.

"You're Freddie's granddaughter. Your grandfather and I were best friends! But..." He held Pearl's hand and continued, "You're the president of Cerubleu. You're so young yet already so successful. I'm sure Freddie would be very proud of you."

"Grandpa Stephen, our partnership..." Pearl asked, but before she could finish, Stephen cut her off. "

We'll be working with Cerubleu on this project and any other future projects!"

The assistant's eyes went wide when he heard that "But, Mister Stephen... We need to take into account the partner's capabilities for certain projects!"

The old man was annoyed. "Are you doubting Pearl's capabilities here? Are you questioning my judgment?"

The assistant recoiled and fell silent.

Pearl smiled gratefully. "Thank you, Grandpa Stephen."

"Visit me from time to time. You look so much like your grandfather..."

Stephen engaged Pearl in conversation on various topics until the sky darkened, before finally allowing her to leave.

Pearl thought this was going to take a while to resolve, but all she had to do was show up. With Cerublu now in a secure position, she was feeling a lot better.

She would be able to return to Waldorf Enterprises sooner than expected, but what Richard had said to her made her hesitate. He had likely reconciled with his old flame and was enjoying his time with her now. If she went back now, it would ruin things for them.

While thinking about it, her phone rang.

“This is Mobius. Where have you been the past few days? Why haven’t you come back?”

Pearl froze, about to explain, when she heard Richard’s voice on the other end.

“Time to study, Mobius. Don’t you know you have an exam the day after tomorrow?”

Mobius sadly replied, “Okay, okay. I’m trying to get help from Pea. She majored in marketing so I’m sure she can help me.” “Well, you should have studied earlier instead of waiting until two days before your exam. I’d be surprised if you don’t flunk it.”

Richard's words were cold but undeniably accurate.

Mobius lowered his head and asked, "When are you coming back, Pea? I really can't study anymore. I was focused on racing this semester and didn't pay attention to my classes."

Pearl was about to hang up when she heard Richard's voice, but Mobius sounded so sad that she couldn't bear to turn him

down.

"Alright, I'll be back tomorrow morning."

Mobius brightened up. "Alright. Thanks, Pea!"

Pearl said goodbye and ended the call.

As promised, she returned to Waldorf Residence

the following morning. Mobius was still asleep, and only Richard was in the dining area, having breakfast.

"Glad you know the way back?" Richard slowly took a bite of his food and sounded sarcastic.

Pearl's heart, which had been calm for a few days, started raging again.

Chapter 96

"What I do is none of your business, Mister Waldorf, You should worry about your own situation." Pearl

retorted, not wanting to back down and resorting to hurtful words.

Richard wiped his lips with a napkin and said, "I'm only taking care of you because of my dad's orders.

I have no interest in being a busybody."

"If you're not interested, then don't do it," Pearl shot back, her annoyance

growing.

Mobius walked out of his room, noticing the tense atmosphere between them. "Why are you both frowni

ng so early in the day? You're not enemies."

Pearl dismissed it, saying, "Nothing is going on, Mobius. Time for breakfast. I'll help you study in your r

oom later." Mobius nodded, quickly finished his meal, and returned to his room. He clutched his pen tig

htly, clearly anxious. "I don't think I've learned much in the past six months, Pea. Do you think I can fini

sh this?"

"Of course not," Pearl answered honestly.

Mobius sighed. "What's going to happen? Am I going to fail?"

Pearl sighed in response. "You won't fail because I'm here, but you're probably not going to get a perfe

ct score.”

Perfect score? He would be happy just to pass. He smiled when he heard he wouldn't flunk. "Let's start the revision now then." Pearl opened the book and began highlighting the key points. She appeared to have the entire book memorized and efficiently marked the critical areas. Her confidence made it seem as if she was the one who wrote the exam questions.

"Pea, but..." Mobius started, surprised that when the teacher marked important sections, they were lengthy paragraphs, but Pearl only highlighted a sentence every few pages and completed the entire book within ten minutes.

"Trust me, these are the questions that always repeat. As long as you put in some effort and memorize them, you'll score eighty or above."

Mobius nodded. "Thank you."

"As for multiple-

choice questions, just pick the wrong calculations. This is the finals so there wouldn't be any difficult questions."

Pearl provided these insights from her own experiences.

“Do you usually study at the last minute like this too?” Mobius asked out of curiosity.

Pearl rolled her eyes, rolled up the book, and knocked his head with it. “No way. If I studied this way, not

“Alright, I’ll focus on my studies next semester and not neglect them again,” Mobius promised.

Pearl nodded in approval. “Good.”

The following day was Mobius’s exam day.

Pearl was in her room preparing medication

for Simon. She mixed some pink powder with water and crushed Cuza Root into a fine powder, then po

Just as she was finishing up, she heard an exclamation from downstairs.

It was Hanzel, looking worried as he said to Pearl, “Mobius was caught cheating and is currently in the p
Chapter 97

“Cheating?” Pearl muttered to herself, struggling to reconcile the idea of Mobius, who had appeared so
remorseful earlier, being involved in cheating.

“Where is he now then?” she asked.

Hanzel wore a deeply troubled expression as he explained, “He’s still at school. The teacher called me
, but I have an opening ceremony to attend and can’t skip it.”

Then, an idea seemed to dawn on him. He hesitated for a moment before suggesting, "Why don't... you go see him and find out what happened?"

"Me?" Pearl wasn't expecting him to ask her to do that.

Hanzel nodded. "Yes, I heard him say you helped him study. Maybe you can get to the bottom of this."

His phone rang suddenly, and he checked the caller ID before hurriedly walking away. "Thanks, Pearl. I

'll join you there once I'm done."

Although Pearl didn't know what to do, thinking of the trouble Mobius could be in, she decided to go take a look.

She arrived at the school and, outside the principal's office, overheard Mobius's angry voice.

"I told you that wasn't the note I used. How many times do I have to say that?"

Pearl was shocked to hear that. She began to suspect that Mobius might have been framed.

"Mobius Waldorf, is this how to speak to your principal?" The principal was enraged as he slammed the table.

Mobius's expression was cold as he scoffed, "I said I didn't do it. Asking me a hundred times wouldn't c

change my answer.

The counselor

spoke up, "Mobius, even if you're a Waldorf, you're still a student. Your family can't protect you from the

consequences of your actions."

Pearl could no longer stay silent and decided to enter the room.

"Hello, Sir. I heard that Mobius was caught cheating so I came to find out what's going on."

Pearl smiled sweetly, leaving the three people in the room stunned.

Mobius, in particular, was bewildered. "Why are you here, Pea?"

The principal and counselor knew Pearl Leighton because she was a public figure. The principal's tone softened.

"Did you come

here for Mobius? He's always been stubborn so I think you should ask him to find out more."

Pearl, her expression now ice-cold, questioned them, "Are you sure he was the one cheating?"

"Of course. We discovered this note on his desk, and the handwriting matched his. Most importantly, his

Pearl sensed something was wrong. "His friend reported him? Can I speak to him?"

The counselor asked someone to send for David.

David appeared at the door, looking slightly overwhelmed by the number of people in the room.
"What's

"Don't worry, David. Tell this lady everything about Mobius cheating." The counselor looked at David
affe

David gulped. "I had a

feeling that Mobius was acting weird today so I paid more attention to him. To my surprise, I saw him
wit

best friend, so I felt I should help him break this bad habit. It seemed fair to everyone else, so I handed t
Chapter 98

After hearing David's statement, Mobius yelled at him, "David, we've been friends for years, and you're
framing me like this?"

"I'm not framing you... Mobius, it's time to turn around. Cheating is wrong." David looked scared when
he saw how angry Mobius was.

"Enough, Mobius. There's no point denying this. David is your friend so what he said is likely true!"

The principal made up his mind. "Mobius Waldorf was caught cheating and remains unrepentant. After

consulting with the teachers, we've decided to expel you."

He turned to Pearl and smiled awkwardly. "I'm sorry, Miss Leighton, but this was a terrible violation, so we had to do it."

Pearl, however, was not ready to accept this conclusion so quickly. "Hold on, it's too early to come to a conclusion."

The principal was curious. "What is it? Do you have more information about this?"

"Yesterday, I personally reviewed Mobius studies, and based on his understanding, I don't believe he needed to cheat."

The principal chuckled helplessly. "Miss Pearl, you need to know--"

"If you don't think that's true, why don't you test him right now? I assume you have a spare set of exam questions."

The principal appeared momentarily stunned by Pearl's suggestion.

The counselor responded, "We do have a spare set. There are two sets, A and B. We used set A, but set B is slightly harder..."

"Give it to him." Pearl didn't hesitate.

The principal smiled and said, "Sure. We want him to accept the expulsion so no one would have anything more to say."

The teacher took out the questions and placed them in front of Mobius.

"This set is a little more difficult so you'll have an additional thirty minutes, making it a total of a hundred and fifty minutes."

Mobius pushed it away. "I won't do it."

Pearl frowned. "Mobius, please take the exam. "

"But I didn't cheat! Why are they forcing me to do this?" Mobius protested angrily.

Pearl gave him a reassuring smile. "Take the exam, and leave the rest to me."

Seeing her smile, Mobius reluctantly agreed. "Fine, I'll do it."

An air of

anticipation hung over the room as everyone awaited the outcome. Mobius began the test, and after one

The principal's jaw dropped after checking the answers. "Was this leaked? He only got one question wro

The counselor, also astonished, checked the answers while muttering to himself, "No way... The studen

“We’ve seen how well Mobius can do, so now let’s talk about David.”

David jumped in surprise when his name was mentioned. “There’s nothing to talk about. He might just b

Pearl scoffed. “Mobius seemed to have found a great friend.”

Chapter 99

David looked around with a guilty expression.

Pearl took charge. “There should be surveillance cameras in the classrooms. Let’s check them to see i

f Mobius was framed.”

David was relieved when he heard Pearl was planning to check the surveillance footage. He had mana

ged to delete all the relevant footage, leaving no evidence behind,

The principal shook his head. “There were some issues with the footage. Nothing was saved.”

Without the footage, Mobius faced an uphill battle to clear his name. Given his rebellious nature, the pri

ncipal was inclined to believe that Mobius was lying

Pearl, however, remained undeterred. “No worries, let me take a look.”

The principal guided her to the surveillance system, and Pearl got to work. Although the data had been

deleted, she managed to recover it through some simple bypass techniques.

“Look.” Pearl pointed at the screen with a triumphant smile. “This person looks

very familiar. Could it be... Mister Zimmers here?”

The footage clearly showed David slipping the note on Mobius’ desk when the classroom was empty, th

en walking away as if nothing had happened.

“Um...” The principal couldn’t believe it. How could David be the one who framed Mobius?

Mobius scoffed. “It was you

you. I knew it.”

David’s voice was shaking. “No... It wasn’t me. Your footage has been tampered with!”

Pearl raised her brow and chuckled in disbelief. “Only you would know if it’s been tampered with!”

David knew there was no way he could weasel his way out of this, so he suddenly broke into an evil sm

ile. “We’re all human.. He’s from an affluent family with a good background. He

even managed to score well without even studying ”

He had been suppressing his jealousy, but now it exploded.

Pearl shook her head. “That doesn’t excuse framing someone. Your betrayal is far worse than his cheat

ing.”

The principal finally grasped the situation.

Pearl turned to face the counselor and smiled slyly. “Do you have any connection to David? You never looked away since he walked in, and you looked just as nervous as him when he was exposed.”

The principal felt ashamed of his initial judgment and apologized to Mobius. Then, he scolded David sternly. “You behaved as you could do something like this. Starting today, you are no longer allowed to attend school.”

David’s face paled, and he made a move to leave, but Pearl was not satisfied with this outcome. She expressed her disapproval of his exit.

“Hold on, framing someone for

cheating is a criminal offense.” Pearl gave a chilling smile. “The police will be here soon, so you better think fast.”

David broke down and collapsed to the floor.

With the matter resolved, Pearl brought Mobius home. During the journey, Mobius glanced at her, and a

Seeing how awkward he looked, Pearl laughed. “You look so adorable.”

“I’m thanking you!” Mobius’ face turned red, and he then whispered, “Thank you for helping me today,

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“It’s nothing.” Pearl smiled and patted his back. “Focus on your studies from now on.”

Mobius felt a strange emotion stirring in his heart. “I see why Richard likes you now...”

Pearl was caught off-

guard by Mobius comment but managed to maintain her composure. After some thought, she smiled. Y

our brother has feelings for someone else. Didn’t you know that?”

Mobius was shocked. “Are you talking about... Jenny? That’s his first love. I don’t think he still has feeli

ngs for her.”

“Did you know your brother canceled a partnership and rushed back to see her?”

Mobius was confused. “Huh? He’s just been in the office and didn’t even meet any women.”

Pearl was momentarily at a loss for words. Was she overthinking this?

Meanwhile, Richard had learned about the situation and spotted them on his way to the school.

“Rick!”

“Cheating? Why?” Richard was obviously concerned about Mobius and didn’t even look at Pearl, even t

hough she was just next to them.

Mobius scratched his head, feeling a little embarrassed. "It's fine now, thanks to Pea, if it expelled and called a cheater."

Richard looked at Pearl, and after a long pause, he finally said, "Thanks for helping him."

it wasn't for her, I might have been

His tone made it sound like they were strangers. Pearl felt uncomfortable but still said it was fine.

Mobius cleared his throat when he noticed something was off with the two, then left to give them some

space. But before he could walk away, Pearl saw through his plan and said, "Well, you can go home with

your brother now. I have errands to run.

"Where are you going, Pea?"

Richard coldly said, "It's none of your business,"

Pearl forced a smile then left. She felt wronged.

Richard misunderstood her relationship with Raymond, yet he was treating her that way. The more she t

She even wanted to move out so she wouldn't have to see Richard again.

"Pea!"

A voice called out from behind, prompting Pearl to turn around and see Mobius running

over, clearly out of breath.

“What’s wrong?” she asked.

Mobius finally caught up to her, his face beaming. “Are you giving my brother the cold shoulder?”

“No, don’t overthink it. There’s nothing between us to begin with, so why would I give him the cold shoul

smiled while suppressing her anger.

“I know something happened between you two,” Mobius persisted, “but why won’t you just talk about it?”