

Your Guise 951

Chapter 951

Judging by her appearance, she seemed to have endured hardships for quite some time. It wasn't surprising if she had a hearing impairment.

But it filled Pearl with bitterness. If this woman truly was her biological mother, Pearl would feel immense sorrow for her, considering the suffering she must have endured wandering outside.

Both she and Beah were daughters of the Jordan family. At home, Beah was lavishly adorned, while this woman suffered greatly outside. Fate indeed played tricks on everyone.

Pearl helped the woman sit on the sofa, but she awkwardly pulled away from Pearl's touch.

"It's okay. Just sit. Don't worry," Pearl reassured her.

She had initially assumed the woman was reserved. But then, the woman whispered, "I'm very dirty. I haven't showered."

It turned out she was concerned about dirtying the sofa with the dirt on her body. Pearl felt even more convinced that this woman might be her biological mother. Her demeanor was refined, evident in her every movement.

"It's alright. Sit and rest. I'll help you with a bath later," Pearl offered.

After a moment, the woman struggled to speak again. "Why don't I shower now? Please help me get some clothes."

"Sure." As a fashion designer, Pearl could quickly discern the woman's size. She was slim and almost had the same figure as her.

Pearl led her to a bathroom and fetched a set of clothes that fit her. She placed them considerately nearby. "You can shower here. Let me know if you need anything."

The woman nodded shakily. "Thank you, Miss."

"You're welcome."

As the woman turned away, Pearl discreetly plucked a hair from her shoulder before retreating to find Richard.

"What do you think?" Richard asked, observing Pearl's serious expression.

"I think she might be my biological mother," Pearl replied, showing him the strand of hair. "Let's do a DNA test to confirm."

Richard marveled at Pearl's attentiveness. "Why don't you let her stay here?"

Pearl considered the potential risks, such as Hugo, if the woman truly was her mother. Having her close to Pearl would be the safest option until they had definite results.

"Is that appropriate?"

Richard nodded. "It's perfectly fine. If she's your mother, she's family to me too. There's no harm in her staying with us."

Pearl was touched. "Thank you, Richard."

"Don't thank me. Say I love you."

Pearl blushed and playfully punched him, not expecting him to flirt with her.

The woman showered fast; she might have done it because she was reserved.

When she emerged wearing Pearl's clothes, Pearl was stunned. She looked like an older version of herself.

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Pearl felt that the DNA test would be unnecessary. She could immediately tell if the woman was her mother or not.

"Oh..." Pearl's agitation left her speechless.

There was a striking resemblance between Pearl and Beah when they met. Pearl couldn't shake the feeling that Beah was her mother. They looked alike, and the connection felt undeniable. So, she didn't doubt anything.

But now, facing this woman who looked exactly like her, Pearl couldn't help but wonder.

"Madam, what's your name?"

The woman couldn't hold back her emotions. Tears welled up in her eyes. "Saule Jordan."

That name struck Pearl like a bolt of lightning.

Saule Jordan? That was Pearl's aunt who had tragically jumped off a building and taken her own life decades ago.

"Are you sure? Didn't you jump off a building and kill yourself years ago?" Pearl asked urgently.

"I did attempt to end my life by jumping off a building more than twenty years ago, but I survived," Saule explained with a heavy sigh. "Let me explain..."

Finally, Saule took a seat on the sofa and began to recount her experiences in detail to Pearl and Richard.

More than twenty-five years ago, Saule had been a timid person who rarely left the Jordan Residence. While Beah flourished in the limelight with her beauty, confidence, and popularity, Saule

remained reserved and introverted.

She spent her days at home, tending to her garden, writing poetry, and drawing. Her interactions with the outside world were limited, and she had no close male friends.

Then, tragedy struck when Beah turned twenty-three. She rebelled and insisted on marrying Max, a poor sculptor. Despite Max's talent, Ezra disapproved of the match.

In Ezra's view, Beah stood out as the most promising and capable individual. He harbored aspirations for her to achieve greatness and wished for her to marry a man of good character and talent from a distinguished family. His preference was for her to find a lifelong partner who would treat her kindly, rather than someone pursuing a dream in sculpture without financial stability.

And so, Ezra stipulated a wedding gift of 41 million dollars from Max, as a condition for approving Beah's relationship with him.

However, Max, despite his fame as a sculptor, was still in the early stages of his career. His artworks, though recognized, were not lucrative. As a result, Ezra took drastic measures to separate Beah from Max.

During this period, the Waldorf family from Enswood expressed interest in marrying Beah. Dustan, a notable figure in both Enswood and Bodgow, was born into a prominent family and was highly sought after as a marital partner. Ezra found Dustan to be an ideal match and quickly arranged the marriage, shortening the timeline to within a month to avoid any complications.

Unbeknownst to Ezra, Beah and Max plotted to elope on the night of her wedding. Surprisingly, Saule, known for her reserved nature, played a pivotal role in their escape.

"I saw how desperately Beah wanted to be with Max. I couldn't bear to see her suffer, so I helped them. I played a crucial role in their elopement," Saule revealed.

Pearl was stunned to learn of Saule's involvement with the elopement. It was a revelation she hadn't expected.

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"What happened afterward?" Pearl asked, her curiosity piqued.

"I covered for Beah and helped her successfully escape to meet with Max. Then, I took a secluded path home, one without any surveillance cameras. Even if I returned home, no one would realize I had left," Saule explained, a hint of nostalgia in her voice. "I wasn't afraid of being caught. At most, I would face a minor punishment. But I wanted to buy them more time, to make sure they could escape far away without being discovered."

Saule continued, "Unfortunately, I ran into someone on my way home." Her expression darkened as she recounted the encounter.

Pearl knew what kind of unspeakable thing had happened the moment Saule made that statement.

Saule deliberately chose a secluded path to avoid detection. However, the darkness of the path made it difficult to discern who was ahead. Saule heard footsteps approaching but dismissed them as those of a passing servant.

But when she came face to face with the person, she realized he was intoxicated.

"I could smell the wine on his breath," Saule recalled, her voice tinged with unease.

Being naturally cautious around men, Saule tried to pass by discreetly. But the man suddenly grabbed her wrist.

"Tell me, don't I deserve Beah?" the man slurred, his gaze intense under the moonlight.

Saule recognized him as a Waldorf, someone she had seen in the backyard.

"I don't know. Don't ask me." Saule stepped away, attempting to free herself from his grasp.

Unfortunately, her efforts exposed her under the moonlight, making her clearly visible to the man.

"Beah, it's you. Beah..." The man gazed down at Saule with intense longing.

"I'm not Beah. You've mistaken me for her." For reasons she couldn't explain, his presence filled her with unease.

"No, you're Beah. I've told you before, I love you more than anyone. Don't marry my brother. Marry me, okay?"

Suddenly, he hugged her tightly, the overpowering scent of wine swirling around her, making her head spin.

"Stop. I'm not Beah." Saule sensed the looming threat and attempted to push him away, but her efforts were in vain.

"Beah, as long as I have you, you'll be with me forever, right?" the man slurred.

Once this thought solidified in the man's mind, he clung to it obsessively. His actions escalated beyond mere words; he began to tug at her clothes aggressively.

Regret filled Saule as she found herself in this dangerous situation. If only she had chosen a different path, she wouldn't have encountered him.

"Beah, remember, I'm the one who loves you the most..."

Chapter 954

The difference between men and women was immense, and Saule, delicate as she was, found herself helpless in the face of the man's advances.

Saule cried, her voice barely a whisper, "Stop! Don't do this..."

But the intoxicated man paid no heed to her pleas. He forced her down and continued his assault. In the struggle, Saule hit her head against the ground and lost consciousness.

When she regained awareness, she found herself in a hospital bed, feeling sore and weak. Her family, including Ezra, surrounded her, their faces grave.

"Saule, I've failed you..." Ezra's voice trembled with emotion as he spoke.

Despite her pain, Saule tried to comfort her father. "It's not your fault, Dad."

But deep down, Saule knew the truth. She had been found nearly naked, her dignity violated.

Luckily, a compassionate woman had come across her and swiftly acted, covering Saule and calling for help.

Ezra was filled with rage and grief at the sight of his daughter's suffering. Beah had eloped, and someone took liberty with Saule. These two incidents struck a devastating blow to him.

"Saule, I promise to seek justice for you."

At the scene, a man was found in a compromising state, identified by Ezra as Dustan's younger brother.

"B*stard!" Ezra roared, delivering a forceful kick to the man.

Awakening from his drunken stupor, the man found himself confused and surrounded by an unexpected situation.

Ezra then commanded his men to detain the offender, confining him temporarily in the cellar.

The Jordan family faced ridicule in Bodgow following Beah's elopement, tarnishing their reputation.

Naturally, the wedding was canceled. With the marriage agreement dissolved, Dustan's disappointment deepened upon hearing of his brother's disgraceful actions to Saule, sending him into a fury. He had always known his brother's troublesome nature but was blindsided by the extent of his heinous behavior that night.

But Dustan was close to his brother. Moreover, he was put in a difficult position when his mother, fearing for her son's imprisonment, caused a commotion.

Torn between loyalty to his brother and remorse for his actions, Dustan attempted to mend the damage by extending a sincere apology and pleading for Ezra's forgiveness.

Ezra, once viewing Dustan as an esteemed future son-in-law, now regarded him with contempt for attempting to mitigate his brother's unforgivable act against Saule.

"Your attempts at justification are useless. I intend to take legal action. We will settle this in court." Ezra was determined to imprison the culprit, even if it meant using his influence to pull some strings.

"Master Ezra, our families have long been friends. Surely, such harshness is unwarranted..." Dustan treaded carefully, aware of his brother's fault.

"Friends? How dare you mention that at a time like this? Your brother assaulted my daughter. How could you say we're friends?" Struggling to contain his anger, Ezra restrained himself from saying harsher words.

Chapter 955

"But..."

Dustan attempted to continue explaining, but a sudden interruption stopped the conversation. A panicked figure burst into the hall, shouting, "Master Ezra, Miss Saule jumped off a building!"

This news nearly made Ezra faint. "What? Saule jumped?"

"Yes, she did. They've rushed her to the hospital."

Ezra's mind reeled with shock and anger. "I'll sue him. He'll rot in jail!"

With those words, he stormed out of the house and raced to the hospital.

But upon his arrival, he was met with devastating news. The hospital had already declared Saule's condition critical.

Ezra watched helplessly as Saule's vital signs faded away. Overwhelmed with grief, he collapsed to the floor.

The turn of events was beyond belief. Pearl couldn't help but ask, "What happened next? How did you escape being buried alive?"

Saule frowned. "I'm not sure. When I woke up, I was abroad. I later learned from the news that my family had cremated my body and held a funeral."

"Abroad? Why were you there?"

Saule shook her head. "I don't know. It's been many years, and I still haven't found out why. But I couldn't return home. My reputation was ruined, and someone had violated me. So, I chose to hide

my identity and live overseas. That's why I didn't come forward to reveal I was alive. I preferred to live in solitude abroad."

And then... she became pregnant and gave birth to a daughter. That daughter was Pearl.

Raising a child alone abroad was difficult, so she brought Pearl back to her homeland. She reached out to Beah for help.

Beah, aware of Saule's suffering, felt remorseful and sympathetic. Together with Max, they promised to care for Pearl as their own daughter. Saule then left and went abroad without any worries.

Hearing this, Pearl felt a surge of empathy for Saule. "Mom... I mean, Aunt... Please don't be sad."

"Pearl, my dear. I've made so many mistakes..." Saule's eyes brimmed with tears as Pearl addressed her as 'Mom.'

After twenty-five years of separation and hardship, they were finally reunited. Despite the painful journey, the outcome was beautiful.

Saule's heart swelled with happiness, but her joy vanished when Pearl mentioned Beah's passing.

"Don't cry. Mom may be gone, but at least she's at peace now. She's reunited with Dad." Pearl tried to console herself and Saule with this thought.

Saule nodded, wiping away her tears. "Yes, they had a great love. And now they're together again."

Amidst mixed emotions, Pearl's gaze found Richard. Her heart skipped a beat at seeing his grave expression, sparking a chilling realization.

Could it be possible... that she and Richard were actually cousins?

Chapter 956

The idea weighed heavily on Pearl, making her restless. She noticed Richard's expression turning grim, so she asked, "Are you alright?"

"Do I look alright to you?" Richard's expression was unsettling. If what Saule said was true, then he and Pearl were... cousins.

It was a mind-boggling thought.

"By the way, Pea, is this your boyfriend?" Saule's happiness at finding her long-lost child overshadowed the seriousness of the situation.

With a conflicted expression, Pearl nodded.

"Hello, sir. What's your name?" Saule's smile was radiant upon learning that he was her daughter's boyfriend.

"Hello, ma'am. I'm Richard Waldorf."

The mention of the Waldorf surname made Saule tense. "Your surname is Waldorf?"

"Yes, ma'am. I'm the nephew of the man who violated your dignity."

Saule's expression darkened instantly. It wasn't the pain of her own violation that haunted her; it was the shock that Pearl was involved with someone from that family.

Even if Richard wasn't directly responsible for the past incident, the Waldorf family's reaction was enough to disgust her. She worried for Pearl, knowing Richard grew up in such an environment.

Moreover, if Pearl were indeed the child of that man, then she and Richard would be cousins.

"How long have you two been together? What's the status of your relationship?" Saule's gaze shifted to Pearl's flat stomach. There were no signs of pregnancy.

Pearl blushed. "Mom, we're not there yet."

"In that case, I'm relieved. But now that you know the truth, you need to end this relationship immediately."

Pearl wanted to refuse, but she felt her words would fall on deaf ears.

"What's wrong? You don't want to break up with him?"

Pearl shook her head. "No, it's just... I'm not mentally prepared."

However, considering the circumstances, it would be scandalous for them to continue as a couple.

Pearl glanced at Richard, who looked equally distressed. "But there's a more serious issue."

"What is it?" Saule tried to brace herself for whatever was coming.

"We're already married."

Saule gasped. "What?!"

Chapter 957

Saule had assumed they were just dating. Ending things would have been straightforward, without much fuss.

But now, they were married.

"Then you two need to move quickly and file for a divorce," Saule insisted, but they remained motionless on the sofa.

Their hesitation and reluctance stirred complex emotions within her. "Pearl, I wouldn't have interfered with your pursuit of happiness if it were just for my sake. But the possibility of you two being relatives changes things. It's morally wrong. Do you understand?"

Bitterness filled Pearl. "Mom, I know. I understand that."

"I know that you and Rick are sensible people. You guys know what to do when you face this kind of issue. Just don't wait for me to urge you, okay?"

Saule sincerely hoped for Pearl's happiness. Even though she hadn't been part of Pearl's life until now, she wished for her daughter to lead a peaceful and fulfilling life.

If the truth of Pearl's biological relation to Richard were to be exposed, their future would be full of hardships. People would keep on criticizing them.

Sitting on the sofa, Pearl contemplated their predicament carefully. Then, she stood up and pulled Richard to his feet. "Let's go."

At this point, she refused to accept that she was Richard's cousin.

Richard remained silent, but his expression was somber. Feeling disheartened, he spoke up, "It's the weekend, Pearl. The marriage bureau is closed."

Strangely, Pearl felt a sense of relief knowing they didn't have to rush things.

"Well, you'll have to go there when it's open," Saule insisted firmly. She might have been frail, but she was resolute in this matter.

"Mom, please calm down. We know what to do," Pearl reassured Saule gently. Staying at Waldorf Residence would only stir painful memories for her mother.

"Are you two living together now?"

"We're staying in separate rooms. Don't worry, ma'am. I respect Pearl's boundaries. I won't do anything without her consent. Nothing inappropriate has happened," Richard explained earnestly.

Saule sensed something odd. They were married, yet they hadn't consummated their relationship.

She regarded Richard with newfound respect. Despite being a man, he showed restraint and respected Pearl's wishes. He was the kind of man one could build a lifelong partnership with.

It was a pity, Saule thought. If only they weren't cousins, they wouldn't be facing this problem.

"I don't need to say much. You two seem sensible enough. Do what you think is best," Saule said wearily, the weight of the situation evident in her voice.

Shifting away from the gloomy topic, Pearl redirected the conversation. "What happened to lead you to bump into the Jesseltons?"

Saule took a deep breath. "Life abroad was going well, but a local troublemaker took an interest in me. He wanted to marry me, and since everyone knew I lived alone, I decided to relocate to avoid him. But someone tipped him off, and he came to my house, attempting to assault me."

It was another grim chapter in Saule's troubled life, but Pearl sensed there was more to it than met the eye.

"I grabbed a nearby vase and struck him with it in self-defense. Unfortunately, it killed him. I turned myself in to the authorities. It was deemed self-defense, so I was sentenced to fifteen years in prison."

Pearl didn't expect such a seemingly gentle and weak woman to be this strong. In that moment, she felt a surge of empathy for Saule's plight, her wandering existence, and her turbulent life.

"What happened after you were released from prison?"

Chapter 958

"I managed to get by. I found a regular job, nothing fancy, but it helped me make ends meet. However, that thug's family kept harassing me. They demanded money every month, threatening to ruin my life if I didn't comply. Eventually, I had no choice but to resign. I ended up working as a street cleaner out of desperation. They finally backed off when they saw how miserable I had become."

Despite the hardships she faced, Saule still retained her dignity and poise. Pearl couldn't help but feel a sense of sadness when she thought about Saule's miserable past.

"Then, one day, I was attacked on the street for no reason. When I came to, I found myself naked on an operating table."

Pearl felt a surge of indignation at the thought of Saule's ordeal.

"They claimed my blood was unique and could be used for experiments. I was terrified. I tried to escape, but they beat me. In the end, they didn't conduct any experiments on me. They simply kept me locked up, knowing they could profit from my blood."

Pearl's expression hardened. The realization dawned on her that Saule's resemblance to her could have made her a target, a means of controlling Pearl.

"I've met you before, Pearl."

"When and where did we meet?" Pearl's curiosity was piqued. She hadn't traveled abroad for nearly six months, except for the trip with Hugo to treat Beah's illness.

"I saw you in the red-light district while I was working as a street cleaner. I tried to dissuade you, but you were determined to go," Saule recalled.

Pearl finally recalled that incident. She had disguised herself and ventured into the red-light district to get the herbs to cure Gigi. But she didn't take the cleaner's warning seriously and forgot about it.

"I remember now. Did you recognize me then?"

Tears welled up in Saule's eyes. "You're my daughter, and you look so much like me when I was younger. How could I not recognize you?"

She had initially thought she was seeing things, but the second time she saw Pearl, she was certain. Pearl's features were a mirror image of her own youthful face.

But she didn't want to burden Pearl with the knowledge of her mother's lowly occupation. She forced herself to keep her distance, observing Pearl from afar whenever she could.

"Why didn't you reveal yourself to me then?" Pearl's heart ached at the thought of what Saule had endured alone. If only she had known, she would have offered her mother comfort and support.

"I didn't want to embarrass you. The last thing I wanted was for you to discover that your mother was reduced to cleaning streets for a living."

Saule had spared Pearl the shame of associating with a mother of lowly status. Beah was a charming and remarkable woman, making her a more fitting choice to be Pearl's mother.

"No, that's not true. No matter what you did, you're still my mother. I would only feel compassion for what you've endured. I would never look down on you," Pearl said.

Chapter 959

Pearl gently held Saule's hand, her expression filled with warmth. "I have the means to take care of you now. You don't need to worry about being a burden to me."

Saule wiped away her tears, chuckling. "You've grown into such an accomplished young woman. I have full faith in you."

Despite her youth, Pearl had achieved remarkable success with her company, excelling in various industries far beyond her peers.

"I have an idea. Once you've finalized your divorce, let's move out."

Richard's expression soured. "Is there something wrong with staying here?"

"It's not about that. It just feels... inappropriate." Pearl didn't want to subject Saule to any unpleasant memories by staying there. Moreover, Saule's fragile health and emotional state would suffer in such an environment.

"What's inappropriate about it? Saule has already let it go." Richard was adamant about them staying because he couldn't bear to part with Pearl.

Seeing the emotional strain it caused Pearl, Saule agreed to move out, fearing their relationship might deepen given their familial ties.

Pearl nodded. "Let's stay here for a few days until I finalize the divorce, then we'll move out."

With things reaching this point, Richard had no choice.

After escorting Saule to a guest room, Richard noticed Pearl's weary expression as she stepped out.

"Do you believe we're actually related?" he asked, his voice filled with doubt.

Pearl shook her head. "I don't know, but my mom sounded so sure of it. I guess it's true."

"What will we do if it is true?"

Pearl had pondered this deeply since Saule's revelation. "We'll break up if it's true."

She couldn't justify continuing a romantic relationship if they were indeed cousins. She could forget about the grudges of the previous generation, but she couldn't do something morally wrong.

"You're willing to end things?" Richard's eyes reflected his sadness.

"Of course not. But what choice do we have? Can we ignore the fact that we might be cousins?" Pearl's heart felt conflicted. Their intimacy had once felt sweet, but now it brought discomfort.

"I can't bear to lose you," Richard confessed, his face pale with helplessness. He had never felt so powerless before, unable to control the situation no matter how hard he tried.

Chapter 960

Richard moved to embrace Pearl, but she gently pushed him away, her emotions swirling inside her.

"This isn't right," Pearl murmured, her thoughts in disarray. She hadn't wanted to reject his hug, yet she couldn't reconcile the possibility of their familial connection.

"It's not wrong." Richard kept his head buried on her shoulders and added hoarsely, "Even if... we're cousins, there's nothing wrong with hugging each other."

After a long silence, Richard proposed, "Let's get a DNA test. I don't want to leave this unanswered."

"Okay," Pearl agreed, knowing it was their last chance to resolve this uncertainty.

"I'll go now then."

Pearl plucked a strand of hair for him and watched him leave.

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At the hospital, Richard encountered someone he least wanted to see.

"Rick, it's been a while. You're always healthy. What brings you here?" Hugo greeted him with a sly smile, clearly aware of the reason behind Richard's visit.

When he learned Pearl's mother had gone to the Waldorfs, he could guess why Richard came to the hospital.

Of course, Richard would find it unacceptable and doubt that he and Pearl were biologically related. It seemed he liked Pearl more than Hugo had imagined.

"It's none of your business," Richard replied curtly, unwilling to engage with Hugo.

"Don't be so touchy. I can imagine why you're here. Did you find out you're related to your wife?" Hugo taunted, trying to provoke Richard's anger.

Richard clenched his fist calmly. "If you have nothing else to say, get out of my way."

"Stop pretending like you don't care. You must be panicking. It's absurd, isn't it? Two people in love are forced to separate because of their family ties. How tragic!" Hugo continued with a sneer, relishing in Richard's discomfort.

But Richard refused to let Hugo's taunts affect him. His calm expression only seemed to frustrate Hugo further.

"You're quite calm." Hugo heaved a sigh.

"Are you done?" Richard turned to leave, but Hugo stopped him. He tensed, waiting for the latter's next words.

Hugo paused for a moment before revealing, "I orchestrated this. I intentionally reunited Pearl with her mother. Soon, you'll learn the truth, and you'll see that you can never be together."

Richard recoiled at the cruelty of Hugo's scheme. Not content with simply sabotaging their relationship, Hugo had a hand in exposing their blood ties.