

## Your Guise 991

### Chapter 991

"Someone greased the wheels and intentionally added a smooth substance to keep them slippery. Perhaps things aren't as simple as they seem."

Pearl's expression darkened as the realization sank in. Their suspicions were confirmed—Mobius's death was no accident.

"Since someone was determined to kill Mobius, there might be more than one reason behind it," Pearl added, her voice tinged with anger.

Richard suddenly remembered something that both of them had overlooked. "Most people would check the brakes when the car goes out of control. But what if the person who framed Mobius did the opposite?"

Pearl immediately understood. They opened the car doors again and discovered evidence of tampering with the accelerator. "How despicable!"

While an ordinary person might have assumed the brakes were faulty, their cautious investigation revealed the truth.

"In that case, uncovering the truth won't be easy," Pearl concluded, sharing a significant look with Richard.

But as they prepared to leave, the door suddenly slammed shut.

Richard spotted a familiar figure outside through the door's window—it was Winona!

"Hey, long time no see," she greeted with a smirk, her eyes glinting with malice.

"What do you want?" Richard asked.

Winona widened her eyes, "What do I want? Why do you care?"

"Quit the crazy act here, Winona," Pearl interjected, feeling uneasy due to the poor signal in the area. Being stranded here could pose serious problems.

"Why? Are you scared now? If you beg nicely on your knees, I might consider sending someone to bring you food before leaving you to rot," Winona taunted, relishing in their discomfort.

"I've been waiting for this day. I had someone watching your every move for a week, and now I finally caught you off guard," she gloated, twirling the key in her hand. "Look at you, so careless.

Since you can't be trusted with your own keys, let me handle them for you." She then double-locked the door and pocketed the key.

"Winona, if you do this, it could have dire consequences for the Jesseltons," Richard warned calmly, but with an underlying intensity.

This statement made Winona a little nervous, but she scoffed.

"Don't threaten me with my family. They're clueless about this. And with the poor signal here, no one will know I trapped you. Even if someone stumbles upon you, they'll find two starved corpses. You can't intimidate me."

Her arrogance grated on Richard's nerves, his expression turning cold.

"If you doubt it, test me. Let's see who falls first—the two of us or the Jesseltons."

Chapter 992

"How dare you! Even at death's door, you're still acting tough. Let's see if you're lucky or just all talk." Winona was pissed, her chest heaving.

"You'll find out soon enough if I'm just all talk." Richard's eyes were filled with determination.

"Anyway, I've locked you guys in here. Let's see what you can do now," Winona sneered, standing with her arms crossed.

"Don't celebrate too soon," Richard shot back, his words momentarily affecting her before she shrugged them off.

"I used to have feelings for you, Richard, but not anymore. Since you chose to be with her, both of you have to deal with the pain and torment I've suffered." She laughed, her eyes filled with hostility.

Suddenly, thunder rumbled overhead, drawing Winona's attention to the cloudy sky.

"It looks like heavy rain is coming. I won't waste any more time here with you. Enjoy yourselves," she remarked before driving off in her sports car.

As Winona disappeared from view, Richard and Pearl exchanged a meaningful glance, silently communicating their plan.

Pearl tugged at Richard's sleeve. "What's the plan?"

"Don't worry. We've got this." Richard reassured her, about to explain when Pearl rolled her eyes.

"Who said I'm worried? I just want to know if you have a plan. And if it's too complicated, I'll do it my way," Pearl quipped.

"I've sent a signal to them. They'll be here soon." Richard was referring to his people.

Pearl clicked her tongue impatiently upon hearing it would take some time for help to arrive.

Seeing her sassy demeanor, Richard couldn't help but smile. "Alright, what's your plan then?" He couldn't help but wonder if Pearl planned to break down the door with her head, considering her feisty attitude. But he knew she must have something else in mind.

Seeing the amusement in Richard's eyes, Pearl knew he was thinking of something else. "Alright, step aside," she instructed, reaching for the lock and retrieving a thin iron wire from the floor.

It seemed she intended to pick the lock.

"Since when did you learn lock-picking?" Richard asked, surprised but mostly calm. After all, this woman had brought him quite a few surprises, so one more special skill didn't matter.

Pearl shot him a triumphant look as her nimble fingers worked their magic, the rusty lock clicking open. "I know more than you think. If this lock wasn't rusty, I might've cracked it open even faster," she replied confidently.

A hint of surprise flashed in Richard's eyes. "I didn't expect you to be this good."

"Of course. Well, it's about to rain. Let's hurry back."

But just as they were about to step out, a car sped toward them, as if aiming to crash into them.

Chapter 993

Pearl and Richard instantly sensed trouble when they spotted the speeding car heading their way.

"Let's split up and run!" Richard shouted.

They dashed in opposite directions, running as fast as they could.

The car made a sudden sharp turn, chasing after Pearl. She sprinted ahead, but she couldn't outrun the car for long. Before she knew it, the car cut off her path.

Breathless, Pearl stopped and faced the car.

A man in a suit emerged, followed by another man in black holding an umbrella, like he was there just for the man in the suit.

"Long time no see, Pearl," said Hugo, smirking at her drenched state with his eyebrows slightly raised.

"Why don't we get Miss Pearl a jacket from the car? She looks like she's been caught in this rain," the guy with the umbrella said.

Pearl snapped, "Save your hypocritical words, Hugo. What do you want?"

"What do I want? Seriously? What do you think?" Hugo stepped forward, but Pearl stepped back.

"Why are you backing away? I'm not some monster. I won't bite." Hugo chuckled. "And trust me, I like you too much to hurt you."

Pearl found Hugo's persistence irritating. "Could you just stop showing up? You're really gross, you know?"

"Gross? How does liking someone and wanting to get closer to her make me gross?" Hugo shrugged, looking helpless.

"Enough. Why are you here?" Pearl knew he had a reason, especially after that car stunt.

"You're not planning to silence us, are you?"

Hugo was surprised to hear this. "Why would I do that? I like you so much, so there's no way I'll kill you. But if someone has to be silenced, it's Richard."

"But you're here for me now. You probably didn't even notice Richard."

Hugo glanced at the man holding the umbrella, smiled, and faced Pearl again. "Do you think I came unprepared?"

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"I've got someone else after him."

Hugo's grin sent shivers down Pearl's spine. Fearing for Richard, she exclaimed, "Richard is your brother!"

"Brother? Don't be ridiculous. He stopped being my brother a long time ago. Isn't it too late to play the emotional card now?"

Feeling desperate, Pearl pleaded, "What do you want to let him go?"

"You don't get to negotiate with me. As long as I kill Richard, you're mine." Hugo shook his head, dismissing her request.

Pearl knew she couldn't sway him. As long as Richard lived, she'd never be with Hugo. She'd lied to him before, and he wouldn't fall for it again. Killing Richard seemed like the only way out.

"You do know it's against the law to murder someone?" Pearl tried to reason.

Hugo's smile didn't waver. "Of course, I do. But who said I'll be the one doing the dirty work?"

Pearl sneered. "The man you've commanded to kill Richard is still on you."

"Why do I have to take the blame?"

Pearl was shocked. "Are you saying you'll pin it on Winona?"

Chapter 994

"Since there's a scapegoat here, why shouldn't I take advantage of it?"

Hugo didn't care who took the fall. If Winona hadn't locked them up, he wouldn't have considered this. Killing Richard and blaming Winona was a perfect plan to clear his name. Why not go for it?

"You're heartless." Pearl recoiled, accidentally stepping into a mud pit.

"Alright, don't even think about resisting anymore. I told you I won't hurt you. Let's get to the car. It's pouring, and you'll catch a cold," Hugo said, moving closer.

Pearl slapped his hand away. "Don't touch me. You're disgusting."

"Still find me gross?" Hugo's tone turned icy.

"I've always found you incredibly gross, the absolute worst." Pearl deliberately tried to provoke him, hoping to get a strong reaction.

Sure enough, Hugo took the bait. "Gross? Do you think I'm gross? Everything I've done, it's all for you. I have to get rid of him just to have you. Once he's out of the picture, you'll be mine. Do you know how long I've been waiting for this moment?" Hugo stepped closer, gripping her hand firmly. "You have no idea how long I've waited for this."

Pearl glared at him. "What did you do to Richard?"

"Nothing yet. My men are waiting to grab him. I won't spare him," Hugo said, describing his gruesome plans.

Hugo's description was so gruesome and disgusting that Pearl vomited at the thought.

"Alright, you don't want to hear this. Come on, let's get in the car. There's water inside. You'll feel better after drinking." Hugo picked her up.

Pearl struggled for a moment. Realizing she had exhausted herself from running, she stopped resisting and began to think of a plan. Richard should be able to hold on for a while...

As if sensing Pearl's thoughts, Hugo chuckled and shook his head. "Stop thinking about it. No matter what tricks you try, Richard won't make it."

Pearl suddenly looked at him with determination. "What if I agree to be with you?"

"It won't change anything. Once Richard's gone, you're mine. And if you make me angrier, he'll suffer more and be chopped into pieces," Hugo threatened.

Pearl was shocked. This guy was indeed a cunning old fox.

Chapter 995

Pearl changed her strategy, pretending to be upset and submissive.

Seeing Pearl distressed, Hugo grew uneasy. "What's wrong? Why are you upset? If you think chopping him up is too much, I won't do it," he said, trying to sound noble.

Pearl feigned distress. "Well, I do care about him."

Hugo's expression darkened at her words, his anger flaring up again.

"I'm his wife. If he dies, I'll be a widow," Pearl continued.

Hugo gripped her hand tightly. "Then you'll be with me. I'll never look down on you."

"It's not that simple. If I divorce Richard, it's just a failed marriage. But if you kill him, I'll be accused of murder. Even if I'm with you, people will judge me," Pearl explained, tears welling up.

Hugo narrowed his eyes. "Anyone who dares judge you will pay."



"But there are so many people. You can't silence them all. And with the internet, rumors can ruin my reputation forever," Pearl reasoned.

Hugo couldn't help but see the validity of her reason. "Why not just ignore them?"

"How could I? It's my reputation. I've hardly had any negative news before, and even if I did, I could always explain about it. But if Richard dies, I'll always be suspected," Pearl said dramatically. "If I have to live under this shadow for the rest of my life, I might as well die with Richard."

Only then did Hugo realize the severity of the situation. "When you said you wanted to be with me, did you mean it?" he asked softly. "Or are you trying to make me suffer for the rest of my life, maybe even driving me to the point of killing myself someday?"

After some time, he patted her hand, trying to reassure her. "Alright, I get it. Don't be upset. I'll spare his life."

Pearl smiled. "I knew you were doing this for me. Well, now I believe that you really like me."

Hugo felt a warmth in his heart. Pearl had never spoken to him so affectionately before.

Meanwhile, when the driver interrupted, "Mister Hugo, it's better to be safe than sorry. I don't think this woman has any good intentions. She's just trying to keep Richard alive, then she'll find a chance to be with him and deceive you again."

The driver's keen observation made Pearl look up at him, her eyes flashing with anger.

Hugo realized the truth but felt uneasy seeing Pearl's change in demeanor. "Pearl, if I spare him, you won't betray me, right?"

Pearl shook her head. "No, I won't. I'm just asking you to spare his life. If you don't trust me, you can keep him locked up until we're together."

With that, she reached out and held Hugo's hand. "I admit that I'm only with you right now because I want to save him. But what if I fall in love with you in the future?"

Chapter 996

Pearl sounded genuine. She confessed her true desire to be with Hugo, but he couldn't bring himself to believe her fully.

Surprisingly, Hugo found some comfort in her honest response. Despite her lingering feelings for the other guy, at least Pearl wasn't deceiving him.

Pearl noticed Hugo's guard relaxing, knowing she had him where she wanted. She chose honesty because she knew Hugo had trust issues. If she had lied, he wouldn't have believed her, jeopardizing Richard's rescue. But if Hugo trusted her now, everything would go smoother.

Hugo smiled, gently touching her face. This time, she didn't flinch, showing a shy smile. Her demeanor was just right—not too eager or distant, but with a hint of warmth, indicating her favorable impression.

Hugo was pleased but didn't rush to embrace her. He knew he couldn't force Pearl; he had to win her over with admiration and persuasion.

"Why don't you check on Richard?" Pearl remained composed outside but fretted internally. Time was ticking; Richard might not hold on much longer.

Realizing the urgency, Hugo called one of his men.

"Hello, Mister Hugo. What's up?" The person on the other end seemed to be running, panting as he spoke.

"How's the man I asked you to catch?"

"He's fast, Mister Hugo. We're trying, but he's tough to catch," the man explained.

"You fools! What good are you if you can't get the job done?" Hugo's frustration showed. If they couldn't catch Richard, his plan would fail.

Pearl felt a glimmer of hope but couldn't show it. If Richard managed to escape, she wouldn't have to deal with Hugo.

With a hidden blade in her ring, she prepared to take action and would take Hugo hostage. But before she could act, the man on the phone delivered surprising news.

"Mister Hugo, we got him!"

Pearl's heart sank as she discreetly retracted the blade.

Seeing her pale face, Hugo felt uneasy. "Why are you so worried about him?"

"Didn't I tell you earlier? I still care about him. Isn't it normal to worry?" Pearl replied with a weak smile.

Hugo seethed with jealousy but didn't argue. Pearl's devotion fueled his desire to win her from Richard. He ordered, "Change of plans. Hold off on killing him."

"Why not? We've already got him."

Chapter 997

Hugo's man waved the knife in front of Richard, making him feel dizzy. Despite being pinned down, Richard tried to keep his composure and strategize.

"I said not to kill him. Follow orders, and you'll get your payment."

The man grinned upon hearing this. "Sure thing. Where do you want us to take this guy?"

Hugo glanced around. "Corner of the abandoned warehouse on the west."

"Got it."

Then the man kicked Richard. With a cigarette dangling from his mouth, he sneered, "Why aren't you running? You were lively earlier. Now you've got me running, gasping for breath."

"Don't touch me." Richard glared at the man, seething.

"Oh, now you're acting tough, thinking you're still the high and mighty president, huh? If Mister Hugo hadn't asked me to spare you, I'd have killed you already."

"You b\*stard."

"Who the hell are you cursing?" The man flicked his cigarette and kicked Richard again, scraping a knife on his face. "Mister Hugo said not to kill you, but I can have some fun. You better behave, or I'll mess up your handsome face. We'll see how you can charm the ladies then."

Richard lifted his head, showing no fear. "What's your name?"

One of the men laughed. "Look at him, Dick, calm as a cucumber. Do you think you deserve to know our boss's name?"

Dick squatted in front of him, showing his yellow teeth, the smell of smoke wafting. "I'll f\*cking tell you then. I'm Dickson Reed. Remember your daddy's name."

Richard sneered, "Got it."

Dickson ignored him, gesturing to his men to take Richard away in the rain.

When they met, Pearl noticed Richard's stained shirt, eyes flashing with anger. She wouldn't let them off easily.

"Here's the man you asked for, Mister Hugo." With a nod to one of his men, Dickson forcefully pushed Richard to his knees.

"Here's your money..."

Dickson chuckled, his eyes greedily fixed on the cash.

"Do you think I'd shortchange you? I've transferred the money to your account. Check it when you get back."

"Thanks a lot, Mister Hugo. If you need anything else in the future, just let me know."

"Alright, that's enough. You can go now." Hugo waved him off, tired of the formalities.

Dickson got the message and didn't say anything else. He nodded and bowed before walking away, leaving Richard tied up. With the heavy rain, there was no need to clean up any traces.

Hugo squatted by Richard and patted his face. "Richard, did you ever think you'd end up like this in my hands?"

Chapter 998

The rain poured down, turning the road muddy.

Squatting, Hugo lifted Richard's chin, rainwater streaming down. "You look quite a mess, Rick. Even I'm starting to feel sorry for you," he said, tightening his grip.

"What's your game? Just spit it out." Richard snapped, breaking free and staring fearlessly at Hugo.

"You're still stubborn, Rick. Aren't you afraid I'll kill you?" Hugo drew a knife, tapping it lightly against Richard's cheek. His movements were gentle, almost as if he were using a handkerchief.

"I don't care." Richard's gaze seemed distant, as if focused on Pearl in the car. She sat draped in Hugo's coat, emotions flickering in her eyes.

"You're really something, Rick. Even now, you act strong. If you want to die, I can grant that wish," Hugo said, pressing the knife against Richard's neck.

"Wait! You promised to spare him!"

Pearl's interruption made Hugo pause, discomfort evident. "I did, but now that you're pleading for him, aren't you afraid of angering me?"

Pearl shook her head, her lips pressed tight. "I'm not afraid because I know you're a man of your word. You promised me, and I trust you won't disappoint me, right?"

Hugo sighed, smiling indulgently. Pearl was still as clever as ever, knowing how to touch his soft spot.

Indeed, he cared about his image in front of her, even forming Sapphire Group based on what she admired in Richard. But he kept this to himself.

"Of course. Since you asked, I won't hurt him." Hugo released Richard, letting the knife drop.

Pearl felt relieved, taking off her coat and handing it to Hugo. "Why don't you put this coat on him?"

Hugo's smile faltered. "I've told you, I don't want to see you pitying him."

"I'm not pitying him. I'm worried. It's better for both of us if he's okay," Pearl stated calmly, leaving no room for argument.

Hugo reluctantly draped the coat over Richard.

With the rain pouring, there was no time to waste. Hugo pointed at Richard. "Now that's settled, tell him about our deal so we can go."

Pearl's heart skipped a beat. She hadn't expected to explain herself; she didn't know how Richard would take it.

"If you won't, I'll reconsider our negotiations."

Chapter 999

Pearl knew she couldn't win against Hugo and had to tell the truth. "I've promised to be with Hugo. It's over between us, Richard."

Richard stood silently in the rain.

Hugo, irritated by Richard's lack of response, lightly kicked him. "Pearl's talking to you. Didn't you hear her?"

At this point, Hugo wanted nothing more than to see Richard lose control. He was tired of his calm demeanor. The more Richard struggled, the happier he felt, as if he was finally getting the upper hand.

"I know you have something on your mind," Richard said quietly, ignoring Hugo.

"I'm telling the truth," Pearl said, though her eyes betrayed her emotions.

Seeing through her facade, Richard remained silent, leaving Hugo to speculate.

"Alright, I'm done. Can we go now?" Pearl asked.

Although Hugo felt unsatisfied, at least he had achieved his goal. He gestured for someone to come over. "Alright, put him in the trunk. The rest of you, get in the car."

The trunk? Pearl's eyes widened, feeling a surge of anger she couldn't contain. "He's a human being. How could you put him in the trunk?"

It was already hot and stuffy from the rain. If anything happened to Richard in the trunk, Pearl would never forgive Hugo.

"Okay, okay. Don't be mad. He can sit in the back." Hugo relented, not wanting to upset Pearl. Though he didn't fully trust her, he still cherished her deeply and wanted to indulge her.

Hugo deliberately sat closer to Pearl in the car, tucking her hair behind her ear. Richard watched silently, his eyes burning with hidden anger. Pearl, feeling uncomfortable, remained stiff, allowing Hugo to make a few subtle gestures.

Suddenly, there was a loud explosion outside, jolting them. The driver slammed on the brakes, and in that instant, Richard, who had been bound, somehow freed his wrists and grabbed Hugo by the neck.

Hugo wasn't going to sit back without a fight. He grabbed a knife beside his seat and swung it at Richard!

Blood stained the seat as Hugo froze. Pearl gripped the knife, trembling from pain but holding on.

"Pearl! Why did you do that?!" Hugo was shocked. He never expected her to grab the knife! Despite the pain, Hugo felt more resentment toward Richard.

"Don't you dare hurt him," Pearl said calmly, her lips pale from blood loss.

"Why defend him? Don't you care about your life anymore?" Hugo's voice trembled with anger.

"I told you he's very important to me." Pearl stared at him, her gaze unwavering. "No one can hurt him."

Chapter 1000

"Fine! Since you're so set on helping him, don't blame me for being ruthless to both of you," Hugo threatened, though deep down, disappointment gnawed at him.



Pearl's actions felt like rubbing salt in his wounds. But before he could say more, he struggled to breathe as Richard tightened his grip around his neck.

The explosion outside was orchestrated by Richard's men, creating chaos.

Reinforcements arrived, breaking open the car door. They were relieved to see Hugo subdued. The leader grabbed the driver and threw him in front of Richard, "Here he is, Mister Richard."

"Don't kill me! I swear I didn't do anything!" The driver pleaded for mercy, terrified for his life.

"Who said anything about killing you?" Richard, still holding the knife, glanced at the trembling man. "Your life isn't worth much anyway."

"I know, I know. Please don't kill me," the driver begged.

Hugo sneered at his man's pitiful state. looked at his man's pitiful state. "You're f\*cking pathetic!"

Both sides scorned the driver who could only kneel and tremble.

Richard pushed Hugo toward his men and turned his attention to Pearl's bleeding wound.

Seeing her lips pale and bleeding persisting, Richard decided to deal with Hugo quickly. "Strip this driver and toss him in the crowd. As for Mister Hugo, he's the president of Sapphire Group, so let's maintain some dignity. Just strip him naked, maybe rough him up a bit, then leave him in the crowd."

He added, "Make sure to throw them apart. We don't want anyone to recognize them."

The leader grinned wickedly, ready to carry out the orders. "Don't worry, Mister Richard. I know just how to deal with him."

"Good."

Richard nodded, picked up Pearl, and headed to his car to take her to the hospital.

The leader glanced at Hugo, who was still defiant, and slapped him lightly. "What's the matter? You think you're some kind of big shot, huh?"

Not long ago, Richard had endured the same treatment. Now, the tables had turned.

Hugo felt the hatred but knew he couldn't retaliate. Reacting aggressively would only lead to more trouble. So, he put on a sly smile. "Hey, buddy. What are the benefits of working for Richard? You seem pretty talented. What about joining my side? I promise—"

Before he could finish his sentence, the man punched him in the face. "What are you talking about? You think I care about your stupid money?"

Hugo staggered back and wiped the blood from his mouth. "I'm considering your best interests. If you stick with Richard, you'll always be like this. But with me, I'll get you into the company and help you get rich and famous..."

"Not bad, Hugo. You sure know how to talk. But like I said, I don't care about your money. First, I'm not a fame and fortune chaser like you. Secondly, Mister Richard is much stronger than you, so following you might lead to being a sacrificial lamb. Alright, cut the crap now and stop wasting my time."