

## **The Kiss 1001**

### **Chapter 1001**

"Got some company, huh?" Marissa turned to look behind Ellinor, only then noticing Haillie, the Knotts family's kid, who looked a bit uneasy following

behind Ellinor.

Haillie was no stranger to the elder Blanchets. It was just that Theo was currently running around looking for her, making her a bit antsy around the Blanchet family elders.

"Putnam, Marissa, long time no see. How you guys doing?"

"We're all good." Marissa replied with a smile, then told Ellinor, "You guys head on upstairs. I'll have some food sent up for you."

"Thanks, grandma." Ellinor said with a smile, and then she led Haillie upstairs.

As soon as the girls were upstairs, Putnam grumbled, "She's got some nerve, inviting a friend over and heading straight upstairs. Why can't they sit down and eat with us? What's so secret they gotta eat and talk in their room?"

Marissa shot Putnam a stern look and said, "Ellinor is Theo's wife. This is her home. Why should she act all formal in her own house? Girls chatting is normal. They don't need you listening in. Ellinor's already proven her innocence at the press conference this morning, and you need to quit stirring up trouble."

Putnam closed his mouth after being scolded by Marissa. He just grunted unhappily and ate his food.

Veronica watched Ellinor and Haillie go upstairs, a bit baffled, and muttered to herself, "Weird..."

"What's on your mind, Veronica? What's so weird?" Marissa asked, hearing Veronica's mutterings.

Veronica answered, "I just find it weird that Ellinor and Haillie are friends. Haillie didn't use to like Ellinor, and she's Patricia's best friend. Patricia has always been at odds with Ellinor because of my brother, so I find it strange how Haillie became friends with Ellinor."

At the mention of Patricia, Marissa frowned, "Don't talk nonsense. The Howard family's girl is not Ellinor's rival. Your brother never had anything with her."

Veronica just rolled her eyes.

"Focus on your food. Stop daydreaming!" Marissa added.

"Okay..." Veronica answered.

Upstairs.

After Ellinor brought Haillie into the room, she told her to make herself comfortable and then went to change into something more comfortable.

By the time she came out of the bathroom in her new outfit, the lunch Marissa had promised was already set up on a small table in the bedroom.

Feeling hungry, Ellinor sat down and started eating and said to Haillie, who was sitting next to her, "Haillie, don't be shy. You're here now, have something to eat."

Haillie wasn't here for the food. She frowned unhappily and said, "Ellinor, did you bring me to this room to show me that you and Theo are living here together, that you're living happily together?"

Ellinor, who was in the middle of eating, laughed, "Haillie, why would you think that?"

Haillie glared at her and said, "Then why would anyone bring a guest directly into their bedroom?"

Ellinor replied, "You're overthinking it. I brought you to this room because."

## Chapter 1002

"Because you said outside you were worried Putnam and Marissa might interrupt our chit-chat, that's why I brought you to this soundproof room, is there something you wanna get off your chest? Don't worry. No one can hear us in here."

Is this room really soundproof?

Hearing this, Haillie couldn't help but think a lot. She thought Ellinor was shameless, implying she and Theo were lovey-dovey!

However, Ellinor had no such intention and just continued munching her lunch.

Haillie, arms crossed, watched her eat with disgust. "Ellinor, are you knocked up?"

Ellinor paused for a second, then smiled, "Yep, I am."

Haillie frowned and started to question, "Does Theo know about this? Do the elders of the Blanchet family know?"

Ellinor replied, "Of course Theo knows, but the Blanchet family's old folks might not. We haven't made it public yet, afraid they might freak out."

Haillie looked at her, puzzled and scoffed, "Ellinor, I've never met a woman as shameless as you. You did such a thing without feeling guilty, and you're even acting all high and mighty."

Ellinor didn't understand what she meant, chewed on her meat, then glanced at her, "Haillie, how am I shameless? If you're gonna call me names, at least have a reason."

Haillie was getting annoyed, "Isn't there enough evidence?"

Ellinor replied, "You're calling me shameless without any proof. Isn't that baseless?"

Haillie was infuriated by her attitude, "Ellinor, stop beating around the bush! I'm talking about something important here!"

Ellinor looked at her, munching away, "What important stuff? I didn't catch that."

Haillie gritted her teeth, "Stop playing dumb! Aren't we talking about your pregnancy? Isn't that crucial?"

Ellinor nodded, "Yeah, that's crucial. I already answered you, I'm indeed pregnant. As for those so-called sins you're talking about, I have no clue and never do them."

Haillie laughed sarcastically, "You've done no wrong? Then tell me, whose kid is it that you're carrying?"

Ellinor was taken aback, then laughed, "Whose kid? Who else could it be but Theo's?"

Haillie stared at her, disgusted, "Quit the act. Patricia already spilled the beans! The kid is not Theo's at all; you're just exploiting his trust in you, using this pregnancy to win his favor again!"

Ellinor found it amusing and was curious about how Patricia had manipulated Haillie.

Then, I put down my cutlery, took a sip of water, and asked, "Who do you guys think the father is?"

Haillie really didn't want to say it because the 'truth' Patricia told her was hard for her to swallow. She clenched her teeth and was silent for a long time before she finally said, "Isn't the kid in your belly Balfour's?"

## Chapter 1003

Ellinor choked on her water and spit it out in laughter.

"Cough, cough..."

Spraying Haillie with water only made her angrier. She shrieked, "What the hell are you doing?"

Ellinor wiped her mouth with a tissue, handed another one to Haillie, and said with a mixed expression of amusement and disbelief, "Sorry! I just didn't expect Patricia to spin it like this to you."

Haillie took the tissue from her and wiped her face, clearly annoyed, and said, "Patricia only tells me the truth. What else would she say?"

Ellinor smirked, curious to see what other ludicrous things had been said.

"Did she also tell you how I supposedly got pregnant with Balfour's child?"

The mere mention of it made Haillie seethe with rage. Balfour was her idol, the only man she'd ever wanted to marry, but he'd been tainted by the woman she hated the most!

"Ellinor, do you have no shame? You drugged Balfour and took advantage of him when he was out of it! Without your scheming, he would never have looked twice at you!"

Ellinor's lips curled in a sarcastic smile at the melodramatic story Patricia had woven. "So, you believe everything Patricia tells you? You don't ever question the truth of her words?"

Ellinor couldn't tell Haillie the real truth; Balfour was her biological brother, so what Haillie thought had happened was just impossible.

Haillie rolled her eyes, still completely trusting. "Patricia and I grew up together. She's my best friend. If anyone could lie to me, it wouldn't be her! Who else should I believe? You?"

Ellinor chuckled, "I don't really care if you believe me or not. But, Haillie, don't you think Patricia's so-called 'truth' lacks logic?"

Haillie asked, "What do you mean, no logic? Ellinor, what are you trying to wiggle out of now?"

Ellinor answered, "I'm not wiggling out of anything. I genuinely think it's illogical. According to Patricia, if I went to great lengths to seduce your precious Balfour and got pregnant with his child, why wouldn't I try to get into the Howard family using this child? Instead, why would I run to the Blanchet family and let Theo be the father? Don't you think that's risky and illogical?"

Haillie frowned and said, "Because you realized you couldn't blackmail Balfour with the child. I know Balfour better than anyone. He's not someone who can be easily manipulated by a woman. He hates being blackmailed. Isn't that why he had Quinton take you to get an abortion?"

Ellinor, admit it! Once you realized you couldn't manipulate Balfour or marry into the Howard family with the child, you ran to Theo and claimed the child was his, making him responsible!

Theo is different from Balfour. He has a strong sense of responsibility, and with your seductive ways, of course, he believed you!

But let me tell you, your plan won't work. In the end, neither the Howard nor the Blanchet family will accept you!"

Listening to her, Ellinor couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Her laughter infuriated Haillie, "Ellinor, what are you laughing at? Do you have no shame? Most people would feel embarrassed when they're exposed, but you're still laughing!"

Still laughing, Ellinor raised her hand, "Sorry, I just can't help it. I'm just thinking how it's no wonder Patricia has been able to use you for so many years. You're so gullible.

#### Chapter 1004

Haillie furrowed her brow, "Ellinor, what are you trying to say? That Patricia's been using me? How dare you badmouth Patricia!"

Ellinor barely held back a laugh and took a small sip from her water glass, "Haillie, haven't you noticed? All these years, Patricia's been playing the same trick. She gets others to do her dirty work. All she does is shed a few crocodile tears in front of you guys, playing the victim to get what she wants. No matter what happens, she's always the innocent one, isn't she?"

Haillie was adamant that there was nothing wrong with her friend, "Patricia is innocent! She's been pure and kind since we were kids and wouldn't even hurt an ant. She's not the scheming type you described. Plus, we protect her because we want to! Ellinor, I think you're just jealous that Patricia is well-liked. Stop talking smack about Patricia in front of me; I won't let you sway me!"

Ellinor, looking at the stubborn Haillie in front of her, rubbed her temples, "I don't want to discuss anything else. I don't know what happened between you guys, and I only know what happened when I was there.

Haillie, do you remember when you were accused of 'hiring a hitman' and got jailed for it?

That was actually a show put on by Patricia herself. She originally wanted to frame me but failed, so she let you take the fall for her.

Patricia not only plays innocent well, but she's also very cautious. She had a contingency plan, showed your photo to the suspect beforehand, and told him to pin it on you if anything happens and not to expose her."

Haillie was taken aback, then found this claim preposterous, "You're talking nonsense! You were the one who orchestrated that got me jailed for months for nothing! It's been so long. How can you still blame Patricia?"

Ellinor shook her head helplessly, "If I was the one behind it, why would I let Patricia off the hook and frame you, who has no direct impact on me? Does that make sense?"

Haillie was speechless, seeming to fall into doubt...

Ellinor continued, "Haillie, think about what I said. You came to me out of the blue, and I bet Patricia told you something and asked you to do something to me, right?"

Coincidentally, Ellinor was right. Patricia did call her before she came...

Haillie was stunned, her eyes flickering, seemingly shaken but reluctant to believe her best friend would use her. She was torn.

Seeing Haillie not responding, Ellinor continued, "This time, did Patricia tell you that I set her up, made her lose her favor, and even got her sent to the countryside by the Howard family?"

Haillie snapped back to reality, furrowed her brows, "That's exactly what Patricia told me..."

Ellinor, I thought about it, and some of what you said makes sense. Every time Patricia would say things that tug at my heartstrings, I can't help but get angry for her, solve her problems while she stays out of it."

Ellinor looked at her and said, "That's right. It's not too late for you to realize now. Don't let people use you anymore."

Haillie nodded, then looked at her with a puzzled look and said, "Ellinor, when did you realize that Patricia was using me?"

Ellinor gave a faint smile and said, "Haillie, I have no grudge against you. You've been hostile to me since we first met. At first, I thought it was because you liked Mr. Blanchet, so you saw me as the enemy.

It was only later that I became aware of Patricia's existence. That's when I realized that most of the times you were messing with me, it was all for Patricia.

Patricia sure knows how to play people, using their affection and sympathy for her to bend them to her will.

Let me guess, she probably also used Balfour's marriage to bait you, telling you that you are the one who should be Balfour's wife in her eyes, right?

Haillie took a step back, "How did you know?"

Ellinor smirked, "Obviously, your obsession with Balfour is just what she can use. That's why she lied that the baby in my belly was Balfour's. The goal is to stir up your jealousy and get you to take me out."

## Chapter 1005

When Ellinor laid it all out like that, it was so logical that it was scary.

Haillie's faith wavered, "Patricia has been using me all along..."

Patricia was Haillie's best friend. They grew up together, wore the same clothes, wore the same hair clips, learned to dance together, and went abroad to study together.

Growing up in a family where boys were valued more than girls, Haillie had always envied Patricia being the apple of her family's eye. Since becoming best friends with the most beloved young lady of the Howard family, her status in the Knotts family had also improved considerably.

At that time, Patricia was not only the most beloved girl of the Howard family but also Theo's lifesaver!

The elders of the Knotts family started to treat her very well to build relationships with the Howard and Blanchet families. They bought her many gifts and held a grand birthday party for her, all to invite the young lady of the Howard family and Theo.

In fact, thanks to Patricia's referrals, the Knotts family did receive some business and investments from the Howard and Blanchet families, and their family business gradually recovered.

With referrals from the Howard and Blanchet families, the Knotts family started to get attention from major companies in the business world. Their business went smoothly, and the elders considered her a benefactor of the family.

So, she was always grateful to Patricia for the care the Howard and Blanchet families extended to her and the Knotts family. She regarded her as a friend for life. She could not believe that Patricia would use her...

Maybe the truth hit her too hard. Haillie's vision went black, and she almost fell to the ground.

Ellinor reacted quickly and immediately got up to support her, "Haillie? Are you okay?"

Haillie felt dizzy and barely opened her eyes, and her vision gradually cleared. Seeing Ellinor's stunning face without any makeup, she said somewhat awkwardly, "Ellinor, thank you for letting me know the truth! I'll take my leave now. I need to ask Patricia why she lied to me. We're best friends!"

She refused Ellinor's help and insisted on standing up by herself. Because she was too agitated, she was unsteady on her feet and swayed with every

step.

Ellinor helped her up again; looking at Haillie's state of barely being able to walk properly, she raised an eyebrow.

## Chapter 1006

Ellinor steadied Haillie once again, eyeing her struggle to leave. She quirked a brow and said, "Haillie, you look all over the place. How about I have the Blanchet family's driver give you a lift?"

Ellinor wasn't really bothered about this woman who once did her wrong. But she figured if Haillie toddled off on her own and something happened to her, the Blanchet family would be in the hot seat.

The Blanchet Corporation's stock market was still on the mend, and the last thing they needed was another PR nightmare.

However, Haille swatted Ellinor's offer away, shaking her head, "No need, I can manage on my own. Butt out!"

She didn't dare to ride in a Blanchet family car because Theo was probably still hunting her down. If a Blanchet family driver unintentionally spilled the beans to Theo about her whereabouts and got her delivered directly to the Blanchet Corporation, then she'd be done for.

Haillie was resolute about leaving on her own. She wobbled to the door, opened it, then paused, turning back to Ellinor with a pleading tone, "Ellinor, if it's all right with you could you see me to the elevator? If I run into Putnam and Marissa on the way down, I wouldn't know what to say..."

Ellinor mulled it over, then nodded and followed her out.

However, Putnam and Marissa were not downstairs. They probably retired to their rooms for their afternoon siesta, as elderly folks often do.

In the living room, only Veronica was lounging on the couch, flipping through TV channels, seemingly unable to find a show to her liking. She seemed a bit antsy.

Today, Moran had things to do at school and couldn't tutor her; she was bored to tears.

Hearing footsteps, Veronica swiveled her head around and saw Haillie and Ellinor descending the stairs.

Remembering that she hadn't had a chance to greet Haillie earlier, Veronica politely said, "Haillie, are you leaving already? Why don't you stay for dinner? My brother, Theo, will be home tonight!"

Veronica remembered Haillie being good friends with her brother and Jonah Wyton...

Haillie seemed a bit out of it. Hearing Theo's name made her heart race. She managed a weak smile at Veronica, "No need, Veronica. I've got things to do. I'll treat you all to a meal when I have the chance!"

Veronica, bored out of her mind, turned off the TV, stood up, and said, "All right then! I'll walk you out!"

Haillie's face fell a bit, but she waved her off politely, "No need, Veronica. You keep watching TV.

But Veronica was already up and walking over. She shrugged and said, "It's fine. There's nothing good on TV anyway."

Haillie fell silent.

Seeing this, Ellinor chimed in and said, "That's fine, Haillie. Let Veronica walk you to the door. I'll stay here."

Then she turned to Veronica and said, "It'd be great if you could help Haillie hail a cab. She's not feeling well."

Veronica didn't seem to mind. She just nodded, "Mhm, sure!"

Seeing Veronica obey Ellinor's words so easily, Haillie was taken aback. In her memory, Veronica was a Patricia supporter and couldn't stand Ellinor.

Now, Veronica had accepted Ellinor too?

Veronica turned to Haillie and said, "Let's go, Haillie. Ellinor just got home and is tired. She needs to rest. I'll accompany you outside!"

Haillie snapped back to reality, glancing at Veronica, then at Ellinor, who was about to head back up to her room to rest.

Chapter 1007

"Ellinor, I suggest you walk me to the door

Ellinor paused and looked back at Haillie.

Veronica frowned, "Haillie, don't you want me to accompany you?"

Haillie shook her head, "No, I just suddenly have a few words for Ellinor. You're still young, and some things are not suitable for you to hear."

Veronica pouted angrily, "Haillie, I'm not a kid anymore! I'm an adult now!"

Haillie gave a helpless smile and ignored Veronica. She looked at Ellinor with sincere eyes, "Ellinor, can you accompany me to the front door? I just remembered I have a few words to say to you about Theo."

Ellinor squinted her eyes and thought for a while before nodding, "Sure."

Then, Ellinor turned around, ready to go out with Haillie, to escort her to the front door, eager to hear what she had to say about Theo.

Now that Haillie knew Patricia's true colors, she could have revealed some important things.

Veronica also followed them out.

After taking a few steps, Haillie noticed that Veronica was following and stopped to tell her, "Veronica, you don't need to follow. What Ellinor and I have to discuss is not suitable for you to hear."

Veronica stubbornly crossed her arms, "No, I want to follow! I'm not a kid anymore. I want to hear about my brother."

Haillie frowned with some annoyance, "This is grown-up talk. I don't want to discuss it in front of you."

Upon hearing this, Veronica's eyes widened, and her face turned slightly red. She was a bit embarrassed but still insisted stubbornly. "I'm an adult, not a child. If I want to listen, I will. So what?"

Haillie was a bit helpless but still didn't want Veronica to follow, so she didn't move.

Seeing this, Ellinor squinted her eyes a bit, then made a gesture to Veronica...

Veronica saw Ellinor beckoning her over, frowned, and walked up to her, "What's up?"



Ellinor leaned in and whispered something in her ear. Veronica's stubborn expression faded, "All right, I get it! I won't go with you."

After saying that, Veronica turned around and went upstairs.

Seeing that Ellinor was able to convince Veronica so easily, Haillie asked in surprise, "What did you just say to Veronica?"

Ellinor smiled, "It's a secret."

Haillie looked at Ellinor and said, "Ellinor, I admire you. You're really amazing. Not only can you make a man like Theo loyal to you, but even Veronica, who has always disliked you, can be convinced now."

Ellinor didn't agree, "You flatter me. Let's go, Haillie. I'll escort you to the door first! Don't you still have grown-up talk to discuss with me? I'm very much looking forward to it!"

The corner of Haillie's mouth twitched slightly. The grown-up talk was just an excuse she used to fool Veronica, just a pretext to not let her follow!

Did Ellinor really think she was going to talk about grown-up stuff?

Chapter 1008

The duo arrived at the entrance of the Blanchet family's property. Ellinor paused and turned to Haillie, "Haillie, if you've got something to say, now's the time."

Haillie glanced around, hesitating, "But aren't there surveillance cameras here? The Blanchet family's system records audio, right?"

Ellinor chuckled, "Indeed, their system does record audio, but unless something goes wrong, nobody usually checks the recordings. So, no one will know what you said. Go ahead, Haillie."

Haillie looked troubled, "Even if no one checks the recordings, I still feel uneasy leaving a record. Some things are hard to talk about... We've come this far, Ellinor, a few more steps shouldn't hurt, right? There's an alley up ahead where the system can't pick up sound. Let's move over there and continue our chat."

Ellinor glanced at the camera, and the alley Haillie was pointing at. Not only was it out of audio range, but it was also a blind spot for the security

cameras.

Haillie was deliberately leading her to a blind spot. Considering she didn't want Veronica to follow, Ellinor couldn't let her guard down.

Seeing Ellinor's hesitation, Haillie asked, "Are you worried I'm up to something, Ellinor?"

Ellinor replied, "Shouldn't I be?"

Haillie gave a bitter smile, "Ellinor, you're overthinking. Since you've told me Patricia's true colors, why would I still work for her? And if I wanted to do something to you, I wouldn't pick now. The Blanchet family's elders and Veronica all know I'm here to see you. Veronica even saw you walk me out. Not only

do I not dare to do anything to you, but I'm also worried that if anything happens to you, they'll blame me."

Ellinor thought for a moment, finding Haillie's words reasonable. She chuckled, "Fair enough, let's go then. A few more steps won't hurt."

With that, she followed Haillie to the alley's entrance but didn't go in, "Can we talk now?"

Haillie nodded, "Yes, we can."

Ellinor asked, "So, spill it, what's the secret about Theo I don't know?"

As Haillie stared at Ellinor, her gaze deepened as she said, "It's about Theo..."

Her voice trailed off, filled with embarrassment and a hint of intentional hesitation...

Suddenly, the sound of a car engine echoed from the alley. Haillie glanced in, and after confirming the situation, she violently shoved Ellinor, shouting, "Ellinor, I've had enough of you. Go to hell!"

Ellinor's pupils dilated in fear as she tumbled into the middle of the alley, the sound of a car speeding towards her ringing in her ears. She instinctively looked towards the noise. Even in the daylight, the car's high beams were blinding.

Suddenly, a loud crash!

Ellinor's body rolled onto the car's windshield and then fell onto the ground, blood pooling from the back of her head.

The hit-and-run vehicle then quickly reversed a few meters, spun onto the main road, and sped past the Blanchet family's entrance, fleeing the scene.

Haillie pretended to chase after the car for a few steps so the cameras could capture her frantic reaction before returning to the accident site.

In this wealthy neighborhood, the soundproofing was excellent, so no one heard the crash...

Ellinor lay in a pool of blood, her eyes closed, seeming devoid of any signs of life.

Chapter 1009

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Chapter 1010

This unexpected move caught everyone off guard!

Veronica dashed over, shoving Balfour away.

"Why are you picking a fight with my brother? Sure, there might be some issues between my brother  
and Ellinor, but it's none of your business. What does the Blanchet family have to do with the Howard  
family?"

Theo simply wiped the blood from his mouth, completely ignoring Balfour. He briskly walked towards the emergency room, ready to push the door open. Collin caught up to him, trying to reason with him, "Ellinor is being treated right now. If you go in, you might distract the doctors. Wouldn't it be better to let them focus on saving her?"

Upon hearing about Ellinor's accident, Theo lost his cool. His eyes were bloodshot, but Collin's words did manage to calm him down a bit.

The man glanced at the two elderly members of the Blanchet family, sitting by the emergency room door, being comforted and taken care of by their personal attendants. He decided not to disturb the already ill elders and instead turned around and yelled, "Veronica! Get over here!"

Veronica hurried over, "Bro, I'm right here!"

With a stern face, Theo asked, "I personally saw her home today. She should have been resting after getting home. How did she end up getting hit by a car?"

Veronica was also worried about Ellinor's condition. She never expected this to happen and proceeded to explain in detail, "Bro, Ellinor came home with Haillie today. Ellinor said she had something to discuss with Haillie, so they went to your room to chat. Haillie left after a while, and Ellinor went to see her off. That's when she got hit by the car..."

Theo's cold gaze swept over Haillie, who was standing nearby. He only then noticed she was there. His eyes were filled with murderous intent, as if he had already locked on his target, "You again?"

His words suggested that he believed Haillie had a criminal record!

Three days ago, Ellinor almost got hit by a car but was saved by Balfour. After investigation, it was found that the driver was instructed by Haillie.

Haillie must have known that she was exposed, so she went into hiding.

That's why he had been sending people to hunt for Haillie these past few days!

He couldn't believe that Haillie would dare to harm Ellinor in their own home!

Haillie shuddered under Theo's gaze. She tried to keep her cool and explained, "Theo, why are you looking at me like that? I only came to chat with Ellinor..."

Theo's eyes narrowed, "You've never liked her. Why would you suddenly want to chat with her? Three days ago, my wife was almost hit by a car. Wasn't you behind the car accident?"

Haillie's eyes

flickered, but she remembered Patricia's advice on how to handle suspicion and knew she couldn't panic now!

Following Patricia's instructions, she explained, "Theo, I admit that the incident three days ago was due to my misunderstanding of Ellinor and Balfour's relationship. I impulsively had someone scare Ellinor. But I didn't order the driver to hit her. It was his poor driving skills that hurt her.

Today's accident has nothing to do with me. I didn't have anything to do with it! I just wanted to ask her about the child in her belly. She already gave me the answer. When I was about to leave, she walked me out to get a taxi. We had just stepped out of the alley when a car suddenly rushed over..."

Theo's gaze was icy as he asked, "What doubts do you have about her pregnancy?"

Haillie hesitated a bit before answering, somewhat embarrassed, "I heard that the child in Ellinor's belly isn't yours but Balfour's. I just wanted to confirm

it with her..."