

The Kiss 1061

Chapter 1061

Ida gave him a look, then peeked into the suite, asking, "What are you up to?"

Chase shrugged his shoulders, grinning, "Just took a bath, can't you tell?"

Ida brushed past him and strode straight into the suite. She was expecting some kind of scandalous scene but found the bed spotless with no sign of a woman whatsoever.

"Where's your girlfriend?" Ida turned to ask him.

Chase closed the suite door, toweling off his hair, "Tell me about it! She came to the hotel with me but wouldn't let me touch her. What a bore. So I had her sent home."

Ida adjusted her gold-

rimmed glasses, pulled up a chair, and sat down, "If you want Belinda, Mr. Blanchet's niece, to get over you, you don't have to humiliate her like this. You know she's into you, and you still asked her to deliver contraceptives for you and another woman. Are you even human? The boss is pissed knowing you did this."

Having dried his hair, Chase tossed the towel aside and flopped onto the bed, "Ida, aren't you and the boss being a bit too tough on me? Does she look like she's over me at all? To make a woman get over me, I need to make her despise me first, right?"

Ida took out her phone and nodded at him, "Get up and put on your clothes!"

Chase actually got up. While getting dressed, he asked, "What's up? Do we have somewhere to be?"

"Get dressed first." Ida didn't fuss as she propped her phone on the table.

Chase didn't ask any further. He went to the bathroom, got dressed, and then came out, "Let's go. Where are..."

Before he could finish, Ida punched him in the face.

Ouch!"

Chase, who always cared for his handsome face, was immediately enraged, "Ah! Why'd you hit me in the face?"

Ida didn't care. She swung another punch at his other cheek, making him howl. Then she threw him over her shoulder and onto the floor. Chase, fresh from the shower, was now all dirty again. He scowled at Ida, "Ida, you hit me again! I'm gonna tell the boss that you're bullying me!" Ida stepped on him, not letting him up while looking down at him, "The boss sent me to beat you up! How old are you now? Can't you give the boss a break? The boss is already upset from the pregnancy, and now she has to get mad over your crap?"

Since he was not able to get up, Chase just laid comfortably on the floor, "Huh? Is it really me causing the boss stress, or is it Theo? Who do you think caused the boss to be upset by the pregnancy? Who do you think is causing her bad mood?"

Ida looked down at him, "That's between the boss and Theo. We shouldn't meddle in the boss's personal affairs."

Chase snorted, "Shouldn't meddle? If we don't, the boss is going to get played by Theo! Let me tell *you* something, Ida. Women don't know how to judge men, and once you guys are in love, you're all in. No exceptions!"

Hearing the hidden message in Chase's words, Ida lifted her foot, stopped the recording on her phone, then turned back to ask, "What have you discovered? Spit it out!"

Chase got up *and* dusted himself off. Luckily, he was not bothered by the beating and scolding he had just received. He said seriously, "I've had a bad feeling about this for a while. Theo seems to care a lot about the boss, but he never got a marriage certificate with her. The boss doesn't say it, but I think that really bothers her!"

Today, when I heard that Theo left the boss to go on a business trip, I had someone track his flight and had someone at M State airport to see if he really was on a business trip.

Guess what? I was right! That rat Theo went to M State to see another woman!"

After hearing this, Ida frowned, "Who?"

Chapter 1062

Chase walked over to the bedside, picked up his phone from the nightstand, and handed it to Ida, "See for yourself."

Ida took Chase's phone and opened it. She saw the two photos sent by his men from M State. The photos showed a woman meeting Theo at the airport. The woman was very beautiful, she had a great figure and was very stylishly dressed.

The two embraced upon meeting; their posture seemed very familiar and intimate. Theo didn't show the restraint of a married man and didn't refuse physical contact with another woman.

Upon seeing the two photos, even the usually composed Ida couldn't control her anger, "What the hell is this? He leaves his pregnant wife in the hospital and goes off to another country by himself?!"

Chase looked all-knowing, "See, I was right, wasn't I? Theo isn't a good man either. All men are the same. We only chase pleasure; even the boss got tricked by him!"

"You think everyone is like you?"

"I'm just telling it like it is; I'm not pretending to be some deep-feeling guy."

After thinking calmly for a while, Ida handed the phone back to Chase, "Don't tell the boss about this for now. You should fly to M State and personally investigate what's going on between Theo and that woman. The boss finally found a man she likes; don't let it end over a misunderstanding. **In the** end, it's the boss who will be hurt."

Chase sighed, "Alright, I'll fly to M State and check out what's going on between Theo and that woman. I'll contact you later."

After saying this, Chase immediately put on his coat and left.

Ida didn't stop him.

They both could see that the boss really fell for Theo, or she wouldn't have kept his child.

The boss' decision to be with Theo was made after a lot of deliberation and struggle. If, at this point, the boss knew Theo betrayed her...

She couldn't even begin to imagine how serious the consequences would be.

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At this moment, the doorbell of the suite rang.

Ida thought Chase had forgotten something, so she didn't ask who it was and opened the door, only to see Byran.

Seeing Byran, the boss's troublesome half-brother, Ida's expression turned cold.

"Again? Are you stalking me?" Ida adjusted her glasses and asked unhappily.

Byran arrogantly lifted his chin, "Ellinor doesn't want me in the hospital, and I'm bored with nowhere to go, so I came to see you."

Ida frowned, "If you're bored, go to an amusement park. Why follow me? Aren't you afraid I'll eat you?"

Byran showed no fear, "Humph! What kind of person are you to eat people?"

He strode into the suite, looked around, and didn't see any other men. He laughed, "I thought you'd have a man here during the day. Looks like there's no man, huh? Why do you pretend to be so casual, really?"

Ida squinted as she lightly adjusted her gold-rimmed glasses, "I haven't found a man yet. Since you're here, do you want to try?"

Byran's face unconsciously turned red after hearing Ida say this, but he wasn't afraid. He didn't believe a woman could do anything to him, a man!

Chapter 1063

I'm done arguing with you! I just wanna know why you distracted me for Ellinor last time. What was Ellinor doing in H city? Does it have anything to do with that hacker conference?"

Seeing that he had no intention of leaving, Ida closed the door.

"You're really nosy, huh? You followed me all the way to a hotel just to get answers?"

Byran crossed his arms, I just wanna know what you two are up to! My gut is usually right; you and Ellinor must be hiding something! And it probably has something to do with that hacker conference!

ida stepped closer to him as a teasing smile appeared on her face.

Feeling threatened, Byran stepped back and asked in fear, "What... what are you gonna do?"

Smiling, Ida continued to approach him, "Since you're already here, wouldn't it be weird if I didn't do anything? Don't forget, this is a hotel. It's a place for sleeping."

Ida emphasized the word 'sleeping, which sounded extremely suggestive. She had backed Byran into a corner.

Byran blushed. He had no experience with women and had never met such a bold woman before.

"You stay back! I'm telling you, if you dare touch me, I'll hit you!"

Ida chuckled, "Really? Then hit me! I like a little roughness! What would you do if I touch you?"

As she spoke, her finger playfully poked at Byran's chest. She was truly enticing.

Byran blushed, "How can you be so shameless? Stay away from me! You should know that you're the one who will lose here!"

Ida laughed, "Lose what? I've never tried a pure boy like you! Wanna give it a try?"

Byran was so mad that he was almost jumping. He pushed Ida away and jumped to the other side, "Don't pull this stunt on me! I know you're just trying to scare me! I just wanna know why you distracted me that time. Answer me, and I'll leave! I won't stay a second longer!"

Ida smiled, "Sure! I'll answer you, but... you have to take off your clothes!"

"What? Why... why should I take off my clothes?"

"Because I want to see! Getting answers from me isn't free, you know! If you show me your body, I promise to tell you everything."

"You..." Byran, blushing, pointed at her. He was completely at a loss for words. How could a woman be so bold and ask a man to strip?

How could Ellinor be friends with a woman like this? He needed to teach Ellinor a lesson; she couldn't hang out with this woman named Ida.

This was not right!

"I won't strip! I just want to ask you one question. Did you deliberately distract me that day because Ellinor went to the hacker conference? Does she have a secret identity she doesn't want anyone to know?"

Ida crossed her arms, looking at him defiantly, "Didn't you understand what I said? If you don't strip, I can't properly answer your question."

"Woman, don't you have any decency?"

"None! Either strip or leave!"

Chapter 1064

Byran found himself backed into a corner with nowhere to run.

A woman **half** a head shorter than him had him blushing and anxiously shielding his chest with his **hands**, “What’s gonna happen if I don’t take it off?” Ida teased, “You’re a greenhorn, and you dared to follow me to a hotel? If you can’t handle it, go back to your mom!”

Byran was at that age where his pride was everything, and he couldn’t stand being looked down upon. Her words ignited his anger, “Who says I can’t handle it?” Ida raised an eyebrow, “Alright, you better go home for dinner. Don’t want your parents to find out you’re in this kind of place and blame me for leading you astray.” Byran argued, “I’m not a kid! I don’t need my parents’ approval to do what I want! If I have to take it off, then I will. Do you think I, as a man, would be scared of you?” With that, he removed his sweatshirt and tossed it on the ground, revealing his smooth, muscular body.

Ida paused. She adjusted her gold-rimmed glasses as she looked at the fresh muscles of the boy in front of her.

Three days later.

After a series of examinations, the doctors deemed Ellinor’s condition stable, and she could be discharged and recover at home.

Early in the morning, Marissa Blanchet personally came to pick up Ellinor from the hospital, with Veronica joining her.

Back at the Blanchet villa, Ellinor was first persuaded by a nutritionist that Marissa hired to eat a nutritious meal.

After mistakenly thinking that her homemade soup was a kind gesture that caused Ellinor to have a nose bleed, Marissa didn’t have the courage to cook for her this time, so she hired a professional nutritionist to take care of Ellinor’s meals.

After finishing her meal, Ellinor chatted with Marissa for a bit before making an excuse to go upstairs to her room.

For some reason, she had been feeling restless these past few days. She was easily fatigued, sleep-deprived, and plagued by constant nightmares.

Three days had passed, and Theo hadn’t called or texted her.

Worried, Ellinor had sent him two messages on his social media app.

One was asking what he was doing.

The other was asking when he would be back.

But she didn’t receive any response from Theo.

She didn’t want to overthink, but she couldn’t help it. Theo was abroad and out of reach, so she decided to wait until he got back.

While lying on her bed and staring at the ceiling, Ellinor suddenly remembered something important and made a phone call to Collin. She learned from Veronica today that Collin didn't go on a business trip with Theo but stayed to handle the company's business.

She had something that needed Collin's help.

The call was quickly answered. Collin was very respectful and had no objections to her instructions, promptly setting off to handle her request.

## **Chapter 1065**

Ellinor didn't mention anything about Theo until the phone call ended, and Collin didn't bring up Theo's situation either. Ellinor thought to herself that if Theo wanted her to know something, she would know it without having to ask anyone.

And since he didn't want her to know, there was no point in her prying into it. What a waste of time!

That night, Collin made a special trip to Ellinor's house to report the progress of the task she'd given him.

Due to the inconvenience of the bedroom, Ellinor invited Collin to talk in Theo's study.

In the study, Collin was respectful and serious. "You asked me to go to the Howard family's mansion today to ask for Baber's custody, and I've done that."

Ellinor casually sat in Theo's computer chair, propping her forehead with one hand and tilting her head slightly, "How did that go?"

"The elders of the Howard family said that you had previously discussed the issue of Baber's custody with them, and they have seriously considered it. They think it's best if you and Mr. Blanchet raise Baber."

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, glancing at Collin, "Then why didn't you bring him here?"

Poor Baber was being used by Patricia when she adopted him, and was now being mistreated when she found out he was of no use. His situation was very similar to her own childhood.

Collin said helplessly, "Actually, the elders of the Howard family agreed to let you raise Baber, but now Xenia doesn't want to let go. She said that with Patricia arrested, Baber is her only comfort. If Baber leaves her, she doesn't want to live and even threatened to kill herself, not allowing anyone to take Baber away."

After hearing this, Ellinor couldn't help but chuckle coldly.

Now that Patricia couldn't play the role of a good mother anymore, was Xenia trying to play the good grandmother? When her daughter was abusing **the** child, where was she to protect Baber? Both mother and daughter were bad apples; there was not a decent one in the bunch.

Baber definitely couldn't stay with Xenia; his life wouldn't improve with her.

She had promised Baber that she would get him out.

After thinking for a while, Ellinor asked, "Where is Xenia now? I want to see her."

"Xenia has been sent to Howard Mountain Villa. Baber is there too."

Ellinor nodded, "Tomorrow morning, arrange a car for me. I will go to Howard Mountain Villa and personally discuss Baber's custody issue with Xenia."

Collin hesitated, looking a bit troubled, "You better not go see her alone at this time. Xenia is holding a grudge against you because of Patricia's arrest; she might do something drastic. Mr. Blanchet would definitely not agree to you going to Howard Mountain Villa to see Xenia."

Mentioning Theo made Ellinor feel annoyed and she frowned, "What? Now do I need his permission to go anywhere?"

Collin shook his head, "It's not like that. He's just concerned for your safety. You should wait for him to come back, and then you two can go see Xenia together."

Ellinor hummed in dissatisfaction, "Then when is he coming back?"

After hesitating for a good ten seconds, Collin finally replied, "I'm not sure about that. The situation abroad is quite serious, so he might be delayed for a while."

A cold smile appeared on Ellinor's lips, "I can wait for him, but that child doesn't have the luxury of time! You know what kind of people Patricia and her mother are, **right**? Do you think the child would have a good life with Xenia?"

Anyway, the child is innocent, and legally, he is Theo's child too. If anything happens to the child, who would be responsible?"

Collin struggled to respond, "That..."

## **Chapter 1066**

Ellinor waved her hand dismissively, "Alright, you don't need to say anything more, just have the car ready for me at eight in the morning. And keep this trip a secret from Grandma, I don't want her to worry."

Collin hesitated a bit but didn't argue and just nodded, "Okay."

"Good, go do your thing."

"Alright."

Once Collin left, Ellinor leaned back in her chair and rubbed her temples. Man, she was beat!

She could have asked Chase to arrange the trip for tomorrow, but he said he was out of the country for research.

Ida wasn't in Greenhaven recently either, it wasn't worth it to have her rush back for such a small thing.

So, having Collin arrange it was the best option. As a member of the Blanchet family, him arranging her trip to Howard Mountain Villa could represent the Blanchet family's stance. After all, Theo was Baber's legal guardian, not her.

Baber, the poor kid, was under Xenia's control. Nobody could imagine what he was going through. But s he hoped he was okay.

Ellinor gently rubbed her belly, as though she could feel the baby growing bit by bit inside her. Maybe it was because she was about to become a mom, but her maternal instincts seemed to be overflowing. She couldn't bear to see other kids suffer.

After sitting in her study for a while, Ellinor got up and walked out, just as Moran, who had just finished tutoring Veronica, and Veronica herself, who had come to see him off, were leaving.

Veronica, standing next to Moran, looked totally different from her usually proud self. She looked quite well-behaved.

Moran's eyes flickered after seeing her, "Ellinor."

Ellinor nodded with a small smile, "Mhm. Thanks for your hard work."

Moran chuckled, "No hard work on my part; I'm just sitting here and lecturing. Who wouldn't dream of working in such a great environment!"

Ellinor kept her smile, "As long as you don't find Veronica too hard to teach."

Veronica frowned. She was clearly unhappy, as if she were complaining that Ellinor was not leaving her any dignity in front of Moran.

Moran was patient, and he shook his head, "Veronica's basic knowledge is a bit lacking, but she's eager to learn and is improving quickly."

After hearing Moran's praise, Veronica immediately forgot her dissatisfaction with Ellinor as her face turned red.

Ellinor glanced at the pleased Veronica as the corner of her mouth curled up into a smile.

Only Moran could teach her; if it were anyone else, she wouldn't settle down to study.

It was really like some kind of balance in nature.

"Ellinor, I heard from Veronica that you were hospitalized a few days ago. How are you now? Is **your** health recovered?" Moran's gaze fell on Ellinor, as if he were carefully checking if she was still feeling unwell.

Ellinor shook her head gently, "I'm fine now; thanks for your concern. It's getting late; be careful on your way home. Veronica, have Devin escort Moran."

Veronica nodded confidently, "I know. Even if you didn't specifically tell me, I would still do that."

Ellinor responded, "Good."

She turned and walked back towards her room. There was nothing else that needed her attention, so she planned to take a bath and rest.

"Ellinor, there's something I want to talk to you about."



## Chapter 1067

Out of the blue, Moran hollered at her retreating figure.

Ellinor halted in her tracks, spinning around to face him.

Veronica was taken

aback, glancing first at her crush, Moran, then at Ellinor, with a wary look plastered across her face.

Seeing that Ellinor didn't reply, Moran carefully asked again, "May I?"

After a few seconds of consideration, Ellinor nodded, "Sure. Let's go to the yard for our chat; it's stuffy inside. It'd be good to get some fresh air."

Moran also nodded earnestly, "Alright."

Then Ellinor turned around, descending the stairs with the two of them.

As they reached the entrance, Moran turned to Veronica.

"Veronica, you can leave us here. Don't follow; I want to talk to Ellinor privately."

Even though Veronica was unwilling, she didn't dare defy Moran, obediently nodding, "Okay."

She made a face at them, watching as they left the house together, then quickly scampered to the window to spy on them.

Veronica had heard whispers about Moran's crush on Ellinor at school. At first, she was furious, but she later thought that since Ellinor already had her brother, she wouldn't snatch Moran away, so she stopped bothering about it.

But now it seemed that Moran still hadn't let go of Ellinor.

If it were any other guy, she would **definitely** have **told** her brother. But since it was Moran, she worried that her brother might give him a hard time, so she let it slide. The Blanchet family's yard was spacious and filled with an assortment of plants. In the moonlight, it looked beautiful.

Ellinor tilted her head upwards to gaze at the risen moon. Her eyes seemed somewhat distant, like she was lost in thought.

"It's Pearl!" Moran also looked up, whispering softly.

Ellinor snapped out of her

reverie, turning to him, "I forgot you were still here. Do you have something to say?"

Moran furrowed his brows, hesitating before he said, "I have a question."

Ellinor nodded kindly, "Mmm. What is it? Go on."

Moran looked at her with a hint of unwillingness in his eyes, "Theo... Veronica's brother... has he been good to you?"

Ellinor's expression shifted slightly, "Why do you ask?"

Moran explained, "Veronica mentioned that her brother has been away on a trip for several days and hasn't returned. You've been in the hospital recently, but he, as your husband, has been absent. I think a husband who truly cherishes his wife should be by her side at times like these."

**Ellinor** fell silent for a moment before smiling faintly, "Thank you for your concern, but he's been decent to me."

Moran looked rather worried. He continued, "Ellinor, even though the Blanchet family can offer you a luxurious lifestyle, if you don't feel love and happiness here, no matter how great the things you have are, it's not worth staying. You might regret it."

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, "So, you think I'm staying here because of the Blanchet family's background?"

Realizing his mistake, Moran hurriedly corrected himself, "No... I just think you and Veronica's brother aren't a good match. He's nearly ten years older than you, you don't have common topics, your values are different, and he doesn't care enough about you! Why would you stay with him?"

Ellinor chuckled lightly, "That's something only those involved in the relationship can understand. I'm clear about what I'm doing, but I still appreciate your well-meaning advice."

## **Chapter 1068**

Moran was a bit lost. He lowered his head and sighed, then looked up at her with a determined gaze. "Ellinor, if I mean, if you ever become single again, then i "Oh, what do you think about Veronica?" Ellinor interrupted him with a laugh as if she had guessed what he was about to say, so she cut him off in time.

Moran was taken aback, "What about her?"

Ellinor smiled, "I mean, what's your impression of her?"

Moran was a bit surprised, "Uh... pretty good, is there a problem?"

Ellinor smiled, "If you think she's fine, that's good. It's getting pretty late, I won't keep you any longer. Veronica has arranged for a driver at the door, he'll take you home."

The courteous and polite goodbye made Moran feel a bit awkward, it didn't seem right to continue what he was about to say. He nodded politely and then turned to leave.

Ellinor watched Moran walk towards the car, then turned around herself, ready to go back into the house.

However, as she turned around, she saw Veronica storming towards her, asking unhappily, "Hey! Ellinor! What the hell did you just say to Moran?"

"I **didn't** say anything." Ellinor was a bit tired. She had to get up early the next day to go to Howard Mountain Villa; she didn't want to argue with her anymore. Veronica wasn't one to back down easily. She spread her arms and blocked Ellinor's path, "If you don't tell me, I'll call my brother and tell him you're sneaking around with other men behind his back!"

Ellinor casually crossed her arms, and a hint of a provocative smile appeared on her face. She cocked her chin, "Sure, go ahead and call him. It's morning in M State right now, your brother should have time to answer."

Veronica was just trying to intimidate Ellinor and make her spill the beans about her conversation with Moran, but she forgot that Ellinor was not easily scared.

**But** now that she had blurted it out, things were a bit awkward.

Ellinor yawned, "Are you calling or not? If not, I'm going to sleep! Can you move?"

Veronica said angrily, "**I'll** call! **If** I can't get it out of you, I'll let my brother ask you!"

With **that**, Veronica really pulled out her phone and dialed her brother's number.

Ellinor squinted slightly while watching Veronica's phone.

She didn't expect Veronica to actually call him because this girl, no matter how tough she acted, was always scared of her brother, Theo, and never dared to show off in front of Theo.

But since **the** call had been made, she was curious to see if Theo would answer and, if he did, what he would say.

The phone rang for a long time without an answer. Just when Ellinor and Veronica were about to give up hope, the call was picked up.

However, the voice that came from the other end of the phone was not Theo's but a woman's sultry, low voice.

"Hello?"

Ellinor's eyes narrowed as her cold gaze fixed on the phone in surprise.

Veronica wanted to show Ellinor that she **had** the guts to make this call, so *she* put it on speaker. But when a woman's voice came from the other end, she was

shocked.

**Oh** my god! Did she interrupt her brother's private time?

"Who are you? Why do you have my brother's phone?" Veronica asked, a bit annoyed.

## **Chapter 1069**

After Veronica finished speaking, the person on the other end of the call responded, "Is that Veronica? Your brother's still snoozing, do you need something? Should I shake him awake? Or you wanna ring later?"

It clicked for Veronica after she heard the person say her name. This person obviously knew a lot about her brother. She sounded quite familiar, but she couldn't make out who it was. She wasn't sure if it was someone she knew.

But in front of Ellinor, Veronica felt like she shouldn't say too much, "Nah, nothing urgent. I'll call back later."

After saying that, she quickly hung up the phone, then looked up to see Ellinor's reaction.

Any other woman would probably snatch **the** phone and grill whoever the hell was on **the** other end. Why was she answering her husband's call? Some women would even start cussing

But Ellinor didn't react.

She just calmly averted her eyes, not saying a word.

Seeing this made Veronica feel super uneasy. She felt like she'd stepped in it and tried to hastily explain for her brother, "Ellinor, don't get **the** wrong idea! That woman is probably just my brother's personal assistant abroad! Collin didn't **go** on this business trip with my brother, so he needed someone to help him out!"

Ellinor just gave a cool smile, saying, "So an assistant can just waltz into your brother's room while he's still sleeping and answer his phone?"

Veronica scratched her head, "Uh... well, maybe the assistant was being inappropriate and was trying to flirt with my brother. I bet she did **it on** purpose! My brother probably doesn't know! My brother is quite attractive, but he would never do anything out of line!"

Ellinor laughed, "Alright, **if** you want to trust your brother, then trust him. I'm gonna go take a bath and rest."

With that, she gracefully sidestepped Veronica, headed straight into the house, and went upstairs to her room to take a bath.

Veronica just stood there, feeling like she'd stepped in it again. After Ellinor had left, she pulled out her phone and dialed back, wanting to ask what the hell was going **on**.

This time, Theo picked up.

"What's up?"

His tone was cool and deep, laced with a just-woken impatience.

Veronica didn't dare raise her voice with her brother, cautiously asking, "Bro, did you just wake up?"

"Mmhmm." His voice was clearly raspy and tired from just waking up.

Veronica felt a bad feeling creeping in. She took a sharp breath, "Bro, who was that woman who answered the phone just now? She... she's **not with** you, is she?"

Theo was silent **for** a while before he coldly said, "It's night over there; aren't you going to sleep? Why are you calling?"

Veronica was scared by her brother's stern tone, so she quickly explained, "No, it's not like that. Bro, I'm fine. It's your wife; she..."

"What happened to her?" Theo's tone noticeably rose.

"**Nothing** happened to her! Don't worry... it's just that when that woman answered your phone just now, **your** wife heard it. You're not two-timing, are you?"

What Veronica got **in** return was a sudden busy tone.

The call abruptly ended.

Veronica frowned while looking at her phone, feeling like things were about to go south at home.

**What** could she **do** now? If she'd known, she wouldn't have impulsively made that call.

## **Chapter 1070**

When Ellinor was in the shower, her phone started ringing

Her phone hadn't been charged all day, and after ringing for a while, it automatically powered off.

After her shower and drying her hair, she plugged her phone in to charge but didn't bother turning it on to check it. She just hit the sack.

The next morning after breakfast, Ellinor concocted a reassuring excuse for her family and hit the road.

Marissa was a bit on pins and needles about letting her go out alone, but knowing Collin was picking her up eased her mind. She figured that Theo must have arranged for Ellinor's protection.

Since it was the weekend, Moran would be coming over during the day to tutor Veronica. Veronica was up at the crack of dawn, getting herself ready to see him. She was also concerned about what Ellinor might be up to and wanted to tag along, but she didn't want to miss her date with Moran. After mulling it over and seeing Collin pick Ellinor up, she figured she'd be in good hands with him and decided to stay put and wait for Moran.

Collin rode shotgun, accompanying Ellinor to Howard Mountain Villa in the sticks.

The Howards had given them a heads-up that they would be greeted upon arrival.

The Howards and the Blanchets had some beef, but they respected Ellinor nonetheless.

They were cruising along the country roads.

After wrapping up some work, Collin closed his laptop, turned around, and took a gander at Ellinor, who was catching some Z's.

"Did you hit the hay early last night?" Collin asked.

Upon hearing his question, Ellinor **didn't** open her eyes, "Maybe I didn't check the time before I crashed. What's up?"

“Nothing major, your phone was off when Mr. Blanchet tried calling you last night. He was worried sick about you and called me. I reassured him you were okay, then **he** chilled out.”

“My phone conked out last night.” Ellinor answered Collin.

Actually, she saw Theo’s missed call as soon as she turned on her phone in the morning. She called him back, but his phone was off.

Since there was a time difference, he might have been getting some shut-eye.

So she didn’t bother making a second call.

**For** the past few days, she had been waiting for his call. He was supposed to have called her right after landing to check in, but it didn’t come until last night.

Plus, **it** was probably triggered by the call Veronica made to him yesterday. He might have wanted to explain something.

**She** was not exactly sure what was happening between those two, feeling like it was getting more and more like watching paint dry.

She didn’t even want to think about who the woman answering Theo’s phone yesterday might be.

Ellinor thought for a moment, opened her eyes lazily, and asked Collin, “Has the Blanchet Corporation been running any new projects in M State recently that’s been eating up Theo’s time?”

Confronted with the question, Collin averted his gaze, “Um...”

Seeing that Collin was struggling to spit it out, Ellinor raised an eyebrow, “Trade secrets?”

Collin fell silent.

Ellinor found it utterly mind-numbing. Exhausted, she closed her eyes again, “Never mind, forget I asked.”

Collin was worried that she might be ticked off, so he explained, “It’s not a trade secret. Even if it was, Mr. Blanchet wouldn’t keep it from you. I’m just an employee;

it’s not my place to discuss important matters with you. You can call Mr. Blanchet directly; he’ll explain it to you himself.”

Ellinor smirked sarcastically. If he wanted to tell her, he would’ve done so before he left on his trip. He wouldn’t have waited for her to ask.