

## The Kiss 1071

### Chapter 1071

She never wanted to live her life on the whims of a man. She didn't want to be always on edge and afraid of losing him.

Because of a misunderstanding caused by Patricia, she and Theo had once broken up.

But this time, she wouldn't walk away with blurred lines.

She was waiting for Theo to come back. She was mentally prepared to face him honestly, was willing to discuss any issues and listen to him.

Ellinor felt like she was very clear-headed. Her own biological father was not a good, faithful man, so how could she fantasize that there really were men in the world who would never change their loyalty to a woman?

According to authoritative social surveys, men were very likely to cheat when their wives were pregnant.

In the past, she always felt that Theo wouldn't be so despicable and **that** at least he wasn't that fickle. But now, she understood **that** all men were creatures of base taste, maybe there really was no exception.

"Alright, I'll ask him when he gets back."

Collin looked at Ellinor's low spirits and started to worry that she would start doubting Theo.

But in the end, he felt **it** wasn't his place to say much, so he just said, "Okay."

The car drove at high speed for two hours before reaching their destination – Howard Mountain Villa.

Ellinor got out of the car; her eyes slightly fixed on the villa **in** front of her.

The entrance of Howard Mountain Villa was majestic and full of character.

This woman, Xenia, after making such a big mistake, could still live in such a nice place while enjoying her life. She really took advantage **of it**!

Collin walked up and rang the doorbell.

A face of an old man appeared on the videophone at the door, asking, "Who are you?"

"I'm from the Blanchet family. Mrs. Blanchet has something to discuss with Mrs. Howard; we've already spoken to Dean Howard."

Having received prior notice from Dean, the old

nodded, "Please wait

"

please come in."

Soon, a servant came out to greet them with a respectful attitude,

**The** servant of the

Howard family didn't call her Mrs. Blanchet, but Ms. Mendoza; it seemed they were still somewhat reluctant to accept the visit from the Blanchet family.

The servant led Ellinor and Collin to the living room, where they were served coffee and pastries.

'Ms. Mendoza, please wait here for a moment. Mrs. Howard is getting dressed; she'll be here shortly.'

Ellinor nodded **and** was about to try a pastry when Collin stopped her. "Mr. Blanchet instructed me not to let you eat anything from the Howard family."

Ellinor frowned. She didn't insist and just shrugged as she withdrew her hand.

Not long after, Xenia appeared.

Xenia still looked **well**—

maintained. She was dressed neatly and luxuriously; her situation didn't make her look down and out.

Xenia looked **at** Ellinor with a clearly hostile gaze, "Ms. Mendoza, you're here!"

Ellinor responded, "Mrs. Howard, **long** time no see. How are you?"

Xenia smiled, "Are you disappointed to see me doing so well? You probably thought that by putting Patri **in** jail, I would be down and

out. But, Ms. Mendoza, you're wrong. I, Xenia, have been through many storms over the years. There's nothing that I haven't experienced. Such a small setback can't defeat me; I still have a **long** way to go!"

## Chapter 1072

Ellinor sat calmly in the guest seat. She looked at her and spoke with a smile, "Mrs. Howard, why are you so worked up? I don't think I've finished yet."

Xenia got even more mad while watching Ellinor sit there, looking all chill. Her words seemed to have no effect on her. It was like she was throwing cotton punches. While grinding her teeth in annoyance, she said, "Ellinor, don't get too cocky too soon! I bet you're not having such a great time with the Blanchet family, are you? I just can't believe

that they'd respect a country bumpkin like you that much. Sooner or later, Theo will get bored of you, and you'll be out!"

Ellinor just shrugged it off, "Thanks for the heads up, Mrs. Howard. Alright, let's get down to business! You probably know why I'm here, Baber is no longer of any use to you. Keeping him around is just a hassle. Let me take him away, it'll be better for everyone."

Xenia's eyes flashed with anger, "Over my dead body! Baber is my grandson! He was legally adopted by my daughter, so who are you to take him away?" "Because my husband, Theo, is also Baber's legal guardian, and Patricia is in jail now. This child has no use to you anymore, you don't even love him, so why are you still holding on?"

Xenia snorted disdainfully, “Yes, this child is of no value to us anymore, but don’t think I don’t know your game, Ellinor. You want to take him back and show off how kind and righteous you are in front of the Blanchets. But I won’t let you have your way! What are you gonna do about it?”

Collin said sterily, “Mrs. Howard, please show some respect when speaking to Mrs. Blanchet!”

Xenia crossed her arms arrogantly. She no longer had to pretend in front of the Blanchets. It wouldn’t do her any good.

“Respect her? What’s so respectable about her? She’s just a country girl who climbed the social ladder and thinks she’s all high and mighty now. She’s not fit to show off in front of me!”

“You...” Collin frowned, disgusted by this old woman’s arrogance and rudeness. He was about to say something, but Ellinor raised her hand to stop him. Ellinor didn’t take Xenia’s attitude seriously at all. She just asked her, “What do I need to do for you to let me take Baber away?”

Xenia lifted her chin defiantly, “There’s no way I’m letting you take Baber away! If you dare take him, I swear I’ll kill myself right here! Ellinor, you’d better not push me!”

Ellinor didn’t mean to push her. She came here to negotiate.

Although Xenia looked all dolled up, she was actually quite shaken inside. She knew she had no cards left to play; that was why she was holding on to Baber so desperately.

At this point, if they took Baber away by force, she might actually do something rash and harm herself. It would be a real mess if anything happened to her.

Ellinor didn’t actually care about Xenia’s life, but Xenia couldn’t die yet. She was the prime culprit in the misunderstanding about her mother all those years ago, and they still didn’t have the evidence to clear it up. If Xenia died, there would be no one left to prove it.

Considering this, Ellinor decided to step back for now, “Where is Baber? I can leave him here, but since I’m here, I should see him.”

Xenia retorted, “He’s taking his nap! He doesn’t have time for you!”

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, “Mrs. Howard, I’m here with Dean’s permission. If you still want a chance to leave this place and manage the Howard family, you’d better not do anything outrageous. It won’t do you any good.”

Xenia stared at her. What Ellinor said did make sense.

She must have gotten Dean’s permission to enter the villa. Plus, she was someone who had done a favor for Dean, so she should show some respect.

If she didn’t even let her see the child and the news got back to the Howard family, it would only make Dean think even less of her.

Chapter 1073

After some thought, Xenia said impatiently, "I'm gonna go check if the kid is awake, so you just **hang** tight here"

Ellinor grinned with satisfaction, "Alright. I appreciate it, Mrs. Howard!"

After a while, Xenia came back with Baber.

Baber glanced around nervously, his gaze lingered on Ellinor for a moment before quickly dimming.

He grew up in an orphanage, so he always felt inferior and sensitive. However, the first few times Ellinor saw him, his eyes were full of curiosity about the world.

But now, the world had hurt him so much that he couldn't look people in the eyes. He was such a small child, yet he looked at the world with such despair

Ellinor thought of her own childhood, then beckoned to him, "Come on, come here."

Baber instinctively took a step back, then looked up at Xenia.

Since Xenia had brought the child over, there was no need to stop Ellinor from interacting with him. She said, a bit annoyed, "Go on, she's calling your

Baber, not understanding the adult's sarcasm, thought his '**grandma**' really agreed, so he walked towards Ellinor

Ellinor gently touched Baber's thin little face, "Why have you lost so much weight? Haven't you been eating well lately?"

Baber didn't answer Ellinor's question but turned to look at Xenia, wanting to know if he could answer the question.

Xenia glared at Baber, implying that he should zip it.

Baber, scared, shrank his neck and dared not speak.

Ellinor noticed that Baber had not only lost a lot of weight but also had many scars on his body. She frowned slightly and asked, "How did you get these injuries?"

Baber shook his head, keeping quiet.

Ellinor knew he was afraid to speak, so she said gently, "Don't be scared, tell the truth. I'm here, so no one will hurt you"

Baber lifted his head. While looking at Ellinor uneasily, he opened his mouth as if he were about to say something.

Xenia intentionally cleared her throat, scaring Baber into shrinking his neck again and keeping quiet.

Watching this made Ellinor's brow furrow deeply.

“Ellinor, why are you asking a little kid so many questions? He can’t talk that much! Besides, Baber is at that age when he’s always running around, he’s bound to get some scrapes, and it’s normal! He’s a boy; there’s no need to pamper him so much. Otherwise, he won’t grow up to be tough!”

Ellinor clenched her fists in secret, itching to berate Xenia and Patricia. How could they hurt a child time and time again, causing him to suffer so much pain?

## **Chapter 1074**

However, Baber had to endure it so Ellinor could find a way to free him for good.

He had to go through all this pain without making a fuss so he could finally be free.

She looked up at Xenia, gave a casual smile, and said, “Since Mrs. Howard doesn’t want me to take Baber, I might as well stay here for a bit. You won’t **mind**, will you, Mrs. Howard? Your villa seems to be quite a fancy place, it might be beneficial for my pregnancy.”

Upon hearing Ellinor’s decision to stay, Baber perked up. His previously gloomy eyes shone with a hint of joy.

Xenia, however, looked displeased. But soon, she seemed to have had a thought and laughed, “Sure thing, I’m kinda bored staying here all by myself anyway! How fun would it be to have you here to have a chat with!”

Ellinor smiled, “Then I’ll make myself at home!”

Collin frowned nervously, trying to intervene, “This might not...”

Ellinor interrupted him in a low voice, “I’m just staying for a few days, no biggie.”

Then she stood up, bent down, and took Baber by the hand, “Come on, Baber, show me around the villa?”

Baber instinctively shrank back when his hand was taken, as if he had grown fearful of physical contact with others. But Ellinor didn’t let go, so he couldn’t pull

away.

While feeling the warmth of Ellinor’s palm, a sense of security and courage that he had never felt before welled up in Baber. He clung to Ellinor tightly, afraid that she would leave, and nodded in agreement to show her around.

Ellinor slowly followed Baber outside. It was hard for her to ignore the pleading look in the child’s eyes. He was too young and powerless to help himself.

Collin followed behind Ellinor, ever watchful of her safety.

Xenia was also not comfortable with letting Ellinor take Baber away alone, so she followed them out too.

Halfway through their walk in the large garden of the villa, Ellinor started to feel tired. She asked Baber to guide her to a resting spot.

The servants of the Howard family arranged a clean and elegant room for her.

Clearly, the person in charge had sought Dean's approval before assigning her this room.

Xenia definitely wasn't this gracious.

Baber originally wanted to stay with Ellinor in her room to keep her company.

But Xenia didn't agree, fearing that Baber might talk about his abuse, and forcibly took him away.

Ellinor naturally wanted Baber to stay with her, but Xenia insisted, so she didn't make a fuss.

At least during her short stay, Xenia wouldn't dare harm Baber, fearing she might get caught.

Ellinor rested in the guest room for a while, with Collin guarding the door, not leaving *her* side.

The one sent by the Howard family to deliver food was dismissed by *Collin*. Even if Ellinor had to stay, he wouldn't let her eat anything from here.

Xenia was clearly up to no good. If she did anything to the food that could harm Ellinor and her unborn child, he wouldn't be able to bear the consequences.

## Chapter 1075

When Ellinor woke up, she saw Collin standing at the door, rubbing his temples.

"Collin, you don't need to be so uptight. Xenia can't do anything to me now" Collin frowned, "Better safe than sorry I feel like Mrs. Howard looks like she could attack you at any moment."

Ellinor smiled, "She might want to, but she needs to have the ability to do so first!"

Coffin sighed. "Are you really planning to stay here? Baber seems fine, you could wait for Mr. Blanchet to come back and then bring Baber over"

The mere thought of Baber's situation made Ellinor's heartache, "Do you really think that kid would be okay here? Even though he's not Mr. Blanchet's biological child, Mr. Blanchet did adopt him. He has a responsibility to him, he can't let others bully him. I think if Theo saw Baber's terrified state, he wouldn't just stand by!"

Coffin was at a loss for words.

That was night, if it were Mr. Blanchet, he wouldn't just stand by.

Mr. Blanchet had a strong sense of responsibility, otherwise, he wouldn't have taken responsibility for Patricia for all these years after she claimed that she saved her life, resulting in her using him for so many years.

Ellinor didn't want to listen to Collin's advice anymore and waved him off. "Alright! If you have something to do, go back to Greenhaven. I can handle things here on my own, no problem."

Collin shook his head, "Don't worry, there's nothing going on here. I can stay and keep you company, no problem."

After realizing that she couldn't get rid of Collin, Ellinor didn't say much more and rubbed her belly, "Well, I'm hungry. Have someone from the Howard family get me something to eat!"

**Collin** warned her, "I think you're fine living here, but you should avoid eating the Howard family's food. Mrs. Howard might retaliate by putting something in your **food**, so I can't let you eat it. This is a mountain area; the medical conditions are not good, and even if we call an ambulance, it won't arrive in time."

Ellinor knew Collin's concerns were justified. "So are you planning on letting me starve?"

Collin waved his hands, "No, if you're hungry, we can go out to eat. This mountain area has a developed tourism industry, and there are some decent inns nearby where you can eat."

Ellinor rolled her eyes, "So if we eat at an inn, you're not worried about me eating something I shouldn't?"

Collin gave an awkward smile, "Well... it's generally safer than the Howard family's food. But it would be best if you went back home. Putnam and Marissa are likely very worried about you"

Ellinor grabbed her jacket and headed into her room, "Enough talk; take me to the inn for a meal! I'll call and explain to them."

Collin reluctantly nodded, "Alright."

Ellinor wanted to bring Baber to the inn for a nice meal, but she knew Xenia wouldn't let her take him out of the villa.

So she just thought about it for a moment, then dropped the idea.

Collin drove her to the best inn on the mountain. He ordered a few dishes and personally went into the kitchen to oversee their preparation.

Ellinor felt that Collin was being overly cautious and rubbed her temples.

Just then, someone pulled out the chair across from her and sat down.

Ellinor looked up in surprise to find a familiar, handsome face, Bartlett Rex.

Ellinor, what a coincidence! Are you also here for a vacation on the mountain?"

Chapter 1076

Ellinor eyed him for a while, then smirked cynically.

"Yeah, it's so convenient that it makes you wonder if it's a coincidence at all!"

Bartlett rested his cheek on his hand. His captivating gaze was filled with irresistible charm, 'Don't overthink it, I just wanted to come here to clear my mind.

“Uh—

huh, Ellinor wasn't really interested in his plans and casually responded. She then ignored him and focused on her free coffee from the inn.

However, before she could even take a sip, a large hand reached over from the opposite side and took it away.

She looked up at Bartlett, annoyed, “What's the big idea, Mr. Rex?”

Bartlett took a sip of her coffee, “You're pregnant, and it's best for pregnant women not to drink coffee.”

Ellinor frowned, “A little won't hurt.”

Bartlett

shook his head. “No, if you're thirsty, you can order water later. It's best not to touch coffee at all.”

Ellinor was speechless.

Bartlett was always sticking his nose where it didn't belong!

But for some reason, after hearing Bartlett's reminder, she felt a twinge of emotion.

Those words should have been spoken by the father of her child, but Theo wasn't there.

At that moment, the waiter brought two plates of food.

Ellinor snapped out of her thoughts and picked up her utensils, ready to dig in.

Politely, Bartlett asked, “Do you mind if I join you?”

Ellinor glanced at him, “If I said I do, would you leave?”

Bartlett shook his head with a smile, “No.”

Ellinor laughed, “Then why bother asking?”

Without another word, Bartlett started to enjoy the food on the table.

Just as the food was served, Collin came out of the kitchen and was surprised to see Bartlett sitting across from Ellinor. “Mr. Rex, what are you doing here?”

Bartlett smiled at Collin, “I'm on vacation!”

Collin was clearly skeptical, “A vacation here?”

Bartlett nodded, “I've been everywhere else and wanted to experience the local culture of the mountains. I've been so busy with work lately that I was feeling a bit off. Once I wrapped up my projects, I came up here to decompress. I didn't expect to run into you guys here! What a coincidence!”

Collin nodded, not fully convinced, “I see. What a coincidence...”

Bartlett looked relaxed. As he casually dined, he asked, “I heard Theo is out of the country?”

Collin replied, “Yes, Mr. Blanchet is dealing with some matters abroad.”



Bartlett smiled, "I see. I was wondering why Ellinor was here alone!"

Collin fell silent

Mr. Rex were trying to stir up trouble between Ellinor and Theo.

## **Chapter 1077**

Ellinor didn't give two hoots about what Bartlett was saying She just focused on her meal, putting down her utensils only after she had eaten her fill.

Bartlett hardly touched his food and was just lazily propping up his cheek with his eyes glued on her It was only when she had finished eating that he spoke up.

"The food here is just so-so, you really aren't a picky eater, are you?"

Ellinor responded casually, "What? You're expecting a five-star restaurant experience in a tourist area?"

I'm just giving an honest review. The food here really isn't all that. Tomorrow, I'll take you to a restaurant just up the road, you'll see what I mean."

Ellinor didn't look interested. "No thanks. We don't want to intrude on your solo relaxation time. Collin, let's settle the bill."

Collin nodded and went to the front desk to pay. But instead of accepting his money, the waiter gave him some change and told him, "Mr. Rex already paid the bill. This is your change."

Collin furrowed his brows. He looked at Bartlett and then at Ellinor, his eyes questioning what to do next.

Ellinor also heard the waiter. She gave Bartlett a look and stood up to say, "Thanks for the treat. When Theo comes back, I'll have him thank you properly."

With that, she took Collin and headed towards the door.

Since Bartlett had already paid, there was no point in making a fuss about it. It would just be a waste of time.

They might as well wait for Theo to come back and repay him.

After stepping out of the inn, Ellinor breathed in the fresh, natural scent of the mountain village. She looked out at the distant natural scenery and couldn't help but think of her childhood.

She and Karan had come to this mountain village to gather herbs as children. They had walked this very road.

Back then, it was a muddy mountain path. Now, it was a smooth asphalt road, and the living conditions in the village had improved a lot.

In the blink of an eye, so many years had passed.

The village where she grew up was on the other side of the mountain. Back then, they had to hike over the mountains to get there. Now, with the road open, it was about a fifteen-minute drive.

Being here reminded Ellinor of Karan, who had once helped her. After checking the time and seeing that it was still early.

“Collin, take me somewhere!” Ellinor got into the car.

Before Collin could start the car, the back door opened, and someone got in. Through the rear-view mirror, he saw that Bartlett had hopped into their car. Collin didn’t think it was appropriate for Bartlett to just

jump in the car like that, but given his longstanding friendship with Mr. Blanchet, he didn’t feel right refusing him outright. He hoped Ellinor would say something to get Bartlett out of the car.

Ellinor glanced at Bartlett out of the corner of her eye. “Can I help you?”

Bartlett didn’t mince words. He grinned, “It’s such a coincidence to run into an acquaintance in this remote place. You don’t mind if I tag along, do you?”

This time, Ellinor didn’t hide her annoyance. “I do mind. It’s not convenient.”

Anyone else would have awkwardly exited the car in this situation, but Bartlett just laughed brighter. “Come on, Ellinor.

I just treated you to a meal. Can’t you let me tag along? I’m bored all by myself!”

Ellinor frowned, “If you’re bored, why did you come alone?”

Bartlett threw up his hands in mock resignation. “What can I do? I’m a single guy!”

**ad someone** will be willing to join you. If

## **Chapter 1078**

Bartlett chuckled with ease, “Ellinor, you sure have faith in me, huh? I came here all by myself, though. Would you mind showing me around?”

Ellinor stayed silent.

Clearly, Bartlett had no plans of leaving.

From the rearview mirror, Collin observed Ellinor and asked, “Ellinor, what’s this about...?”

Ellinor had no interest in any more chit-chat with Bartlett or wasting more time with him. The sun was already setting.

So she waved it off, “Alright, hit the road!”

Collin frowned but nodded and started the car, planning to fill Mr. Blanchet in on the situation later.

The car journeyed through the mountain road, allowing them to take in the breathtaking scenic view.

Ellinor slightly rolled down the window, hoping to catch the mountain breeze.

But just as she rolled down the window, a hand extended from the side and closed it back up.

With a frown, Ellinor glared at Bartlett, "What do you think you're doing?"

Bartlett smiled and replied, "The chill can give you a headache. You're pregnant and need to take extra care of yourself."

Ellinor scowled. "Mr. Rex, has anyone ever told you that you're a chatterbox?"

Bartlett shook his head with a smile, "No, I don't generally talk this much with others."

Bartlett had leaned in closer to shut the window, which Ellinor noticed, "Alright, thank you for the reminder. Now, Mr. Rex, could you please slide back to your spot? It's inappropriate to sit so close to a married woman."

Bartlett didn't seem bothered, so he respected her wish and scooted back to his seat.

Ellinor turned her gaze back to the view outside, ignoring him.

Bartlett broke the silence.

"Ellinor, you're pregnant now, and Theo lets you come up here alone? He really doesn't worry about you, does he?"

Upon hearing this, Ellinor stayed silent.

Unable to bear it, Collin stepped in, fearing that Ellinor might overthink, "Mr. Rex, you may have misunderstood. Mr. Blanchet specifically arranged for me to accompany Ellinor to ensure her safety."

Bartlett chuckled, "Right! I almost forgot you were here. But a husband should accompany his wife himself. Even having a subordinate to accompany her all day isn't quite right, is it?"

Collin frowned and replied, "Mr. Blanchet has been tied up with some urgent matters lately. He will be back to accompany Ellinor shortly; there's no need for you to worry."

Bartlett smiled, "Yes, Theo is very fond of Ellinor. How could he mistreat her? I might have been sticking my nose where it doesn't belong."

Ellinor remained silent.

Before long, Collin arrived at the place where Ellinor had grown up in less than fifteen minutes.

Ellinor looked a bit down as she gazed at the monastery outside the window.

She snapped back to reality and turned to Bartlett, "Mr. Rex, I'm going to hang out in the monastery for a bit. You might not be interested, so feel free to wait in the car or wander around"

With his usual relaxed smile, Bartlett's subtly intense eyes fixed on her, "Who said I wasn't interested? Now that I'm here, I might as well take a look."

## Chapter 1079

Ellinor didn't appreciate Bartlett's ability to laugh so heartily in such a serious environment. She frowned in disapproval, "You can come in with me, but **you'd** better tone down the cheerfulness a bit! This isn't a place to crack jokes willy-nilly!"

Bartlett quickly wiped the smile off his face and nodded, "Gotcha."

Then Ellinor opened the car door and got out, with Bartlett following closely.

Collin was worried about leaving Ellinor and Mr. Rex together, so he found a spot to park **that** wouldn't be in the way and followed them into the monastery.

The place wasn't exactly bustling, but there were a handful of worshippers around.

Ellinor slowly walked in, taking in the surroundings as she went. It seemed like nothing had changed over the years.

As she entered the main hall, she saw Karan treating a worshipper on one side of the room.

Karan instructed the worshipper, "Get your prescription filled and take the medicine on time. Watch your diet; avoid spicy and fishy foods."

The worshipper took the prescription, thanked Karan gratefully, bowed, and left.

Ellinor watched for a moment before moving forward and sitting down.

Karan was tidying up her desk and did not look up at the newcomer. She simply asked, "What seems to be the problem?"

Ellinor took a deep breath and whispered, "Karan."

Karan paused in her tidying, then looked up at her as surprise filled her eyes.

Her kind face was unchanged, save for a few more lines at the corners of her eyes, making her look older.

She didn't have any major emotional outbursts. She just paused a little, then regained her calm. She nodded at Ellinor, "You're back."

Ellinor tried to smile through teary eyes, "Karan, I've been so busy over the years that I haven't been able to visit you. How have you been?"

Karan shook her head, "You shouldn't blame yourself. Ellinor, growing up means leaving the nest to live your own life. This place shouldn't be what **you** cling to."

Ellinor, who grew up without a mother, often thought of Karan as a maternal figure.

But Karan was not one for excessive affection. She cared for Ellinor but always maintained a certain distance to avoid dependency and too much emotion. Ellinor didn't want to start crying in front of Karan, who had raised her. She took a deep breath to suppress her emotions, "Thank you for understanding."

Just then, two nuns entered to clean the main hall and noticed Ellinor.

One of them had been at the monastery for a long time and recognized Ellinor right away.

"Ellinor? Is that you? You're back?"

Ellinor looked over kindly. She recognized the woman and stood up, "Chloe, long time no see. How have you been?"

Chloe was visibly more excited than Karan. She walked over quickly, grabbed Ellinor's hand, and examined her from head to toe, "It really is you! You've grown into such a beautiful woman. You're even more stunning now, and you're so accomplished!"

Ellinor smiled a little and pulled her hand back.

She wasn't particularly fond of Chloe in the past, but Chloe had seniority and carried some weight around the monastery.

She remembered that when she was first brought to the monastery, Chloe did not want to take her in.

A monastery was not an orphanage, and one more person meant one more mouth to feed.

### **Chapter 1080**

Karan was adamant about taking care of her, which gave her a stable home.

Over the years, Chloe constantly nagged Karan about her, even suggesting that they send her to an orphanage.

But Karan never wavered. She was always there for her. This didn't score her any popularity points in the monastery, though; it seemed like all the nuns were on Chloe's side.

Back then, Ellinor felt like she was causing Karan a lot of trouble, so she tried to be extra good. She did more work and ate less so as not to put Karan in a tough spot.

After a while, when Chloe and the others saw how well-behaved she was and that she was eating less, they stopped giving her a hard time. She was finally accepted.

Despite everyone in the monastery being against it, Karan used the monastery's money to send her to school, taking on burdens that she shouldn't have had to bear.

Ellinor saw all of this. So she worked hard, never using a penny from the monastery after high school, relying entirely on scholarships to fund her education.

Later, she started a business while studying, made money, and paid back the monastery and Chloe's gang.

From then on, Chloe and the others changed their attitude towards her and became extremely friendly.

But Ellinor thought they were being fake.

After seeing Ellinor pull her hand back, Chloe probably realized that she had overstepped her bounds and quickly laughed it off, “Ellinor, look! I was so happy to see you that I forgot you never liked physical contact!”

Ellinor smiled, “It’s okay. Chloe, it’s been a long time; how have you been?”

Chloe grinned from ear to ear, “Great! We’re all doing great! The money you sent back was used to fix up the monastery, and the rest was donated by Karan to villagers in need!”

This was actually a dig at Karan in front of Ellinor.

The nuns here were all pretty money-minded, except for Karan.

After she paid back the money **for** her education, any money she gave to the monastery was given straight to Karan because she didn’t trust anyone else there.

There really weren’t many good people in this world.

Ellinor frowned and

turned 1

to look

*at*

Karan stood up and said calmly, “

Ellinor sighed, feeling helpless.

Karan, “I s

sent you money so you guys could eat better. Why did you donate it all?”

care about food and clothes. Holding onto wealth only invites trouble.”

Chloe tried to butter her up again, “Ellinor, you’ve grown taller and thinner! How have you been? You must be making a lot of money in the big city, huh?” Ellinor gave a faint smile, “Really? I’ve lost weight? Maybe I’ve been under a lot of pressure at work.”

She deliberately ignored Chloe’s last question, feeling like she was hinting at her to donate more to the monastery.

In fact, she had already donated a lot to the monastery over the years, but Chloe seemed to always want more.

She didn’t understand why Chloe was so obsessed with money since she couldn’t even spend it outside.

Karan probably felt Chloe was being a nuisance too, “Chloe, why don’t you go prepare some food that Ellinor used to like? It’s not every day that she comes back. I’ll take care of your cleaning duties.”

Chloe was delighted, “Sure! I’ll go make some vegetarian dishes that Ellinor likes!”

Then she turned to Ellinor, “Ellinor, you’re a successful businesswoman now, so you might not be used to the simple meals here at the monastery. I hope you don’t