

The Kiss 1091

Chapter 1091

Theo gently stroked her head, saying tenderly. "That's the night reaction; you're doing great"

It had been a while since she last saw him, **and** she was beginning to feel uncomfortable with his closeness.

Ellinor furrowed her brows as she looked into Thea's eyes. "When did you come back to the country? Why are you suddenly here?"

Theo looked **down** at her, his tone was lazy and strangely appealing. "I got back on a flight last night. You're asking why I'm suddenly here? Would I be here if you hadn't run off here like a naughty little thing? Don't you want to see me?"

As he spoke, his warm breath gently brushed against her cheek, leaving her feeling ticklish. Her face turned red, but she didn't look particularly happy. "So is this your way of surprising me?"

Theo gave a simple nod in response.

Ellinor **knitted** her eyebrows together, "I appreciate the gesture, but I must tell you that I don't like surprises. Can you let me know in advance **the** next time you come back?"

She **genuinely** disliked surprises. She preferred to have clear outcomes, disliked guessing, and definitely didn't enjoy getting startled.

Theo opened his arms wide, pressing her tightly against his chest. He rested his chin in the crook of her neck, deeply inhaling her scent as if he couldn't get enough. "Alright, next time, I'll let you know in advance."

Ellinor struggled for breath in his embrace. She put up a small fight but was unable to make him let go. After deciding not to resist anymore, she asked with a frown, "I have another question."

Theo rubbed his chin against her delicate shoulder, "Go ahead."

Ellinor asked in an annoyed tone, "Where are my clothes? I remember going to sleep in my pajamas last night; how come they were gone when I woke up?" Theo, still holding her, gently stroked her back as if he were holding a precious gem. He whispered in her ear, "I haven't seen you in a while, so I wanted to hold you properly. Having clothes between us felt like too much distance."

Ellinor felt a shiver run through her as his fingers touched her shoulder blade. She asked with a complicated expression, "So you just took the liberty to undress me?"

Theo let out a low chuckle, "I was just helping my own wife undress, there's nothing wrong with that. Should I have woken you up to do it?"

Eor's mouth twitched, "Are you sure you only held me all night?"

Theo didn't answer, he just quietly looked at her.

She naturally understood that he couldn't have possibly behaved himself.

The thought of being held by him all night while she had been asleep left her feeling a bit down.

"You've held me all night, isn't that enough? Can you let me go now?"

"Not yet, not yet..." Theo didn't let go of her, instead, he held on tighter

Ellinor was starting to get impatient, I need to change and freshen up, then have breakfast! I'm really hungry now!"

Theo's voice was tired, but he tried to sound gentle, "I arrived at the airport at 2 am, then spent an hour getting to you.

I barely got any sleep. Be a good girl and lie with me a bit longer. I take you to have something yummy later, okay?"

Ellinor felt sleepy, almost as if she were affected by Theo's fatigue, but then she remembered the woman's voice from the phone last night.

Her sympathy for him vanished instantly.

I've had enough sleep; lying down any longer will make me uncomfortable! If you're tired, you can lie down and rest by yourself!" Ellinor struggled a bit, hoping to free herself from Theo's grip.

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dominant and bossy manner, "Quit messing around! Isn't it comfy just lying here? You just stay put, I'll make sure you enjoy it."

The words his tone were **obvious**, making Ellinor's face turn red instantly

She shoved him away in indignation "Humph, you're not tired enough, huh? You still have the energy to think about such nonsense!"

When he said that, he quickly hopped off the bed, keeping a distance from him to avoid being pulled into his arms again.

But the next second Ellinor sensed that something was off

When he tried to grab her, he even didn't show any dissatisfaction. He just laid down on his own, looking at her provocatively with a deep gaze as his hand supported his chin

Ellinor frowned, not understanding what he meant by that look. It was only when she felt icy cold that she realized what was happening. She looked down, and her textured red gown

SA she had forgotten that she was naked!

Oh, how embarrassing

And that man was still staring so intently!

What was her mother?

For the first time, Ellinor felt the confusion of not knowing what to cover first. Her eyes darted around, trying to find her clothes.

After while she still couldn't find the pajamas he had helped her take off.

So she rushed to find the change of clothes she brought, grabbed one, and rushed into the bathroom.

She put on the light pink dress she brought in Ellinor felt awkward as she looked at herself in the mirror, her face was still red.

She really didn't understand why she couldn't keep calm in front of Theo. Why was she always feeling embarrassed and blushing?

This was not what she liked at all

There was no point in thinking about it, it just made her more embarrassed. So Ellinor picked up her toothbrush and toothpaste and started brushing her teeth. Just the bathroom door handle moved, and the door was pulled open

Before she could react, a tall figure walked in, hugged her from behind, and just looked at her reflection in the mirror with a slight smile on his face.

She was still

embarrassed from earlier, and now she was being held by him again. She frowned warily; her mouth was full of toothpaste foam, and she managed to say, "What are you doing?"

Then smiled slightly, "Nothing just watching you?"

Ellinor gave a wry smile, "What's so interesting about me brushing my teeth?"

His eyes were dead, "Other people brushing their teeth is nothing special, but you brushing your teeth is very attractive."

Ellinor's eyebrows, but she somehow blushed again. She said angrily, "If you want to watch, then watch. But don't touch, or I'll get mad."

He replied "Okay be careful"

Ellinor seemed to have become dumber after his trip

Wetter with a tired face, which could really make anyone feel sorry for him

We set the initiative to explain the identity of the woman on the phone, so she couldn't be too friendly to him.

Ellinor rudely, but he would rather explain it to her voluntarily to make things clear

best seat, would believe him.

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if she had to ask him first before he answered, she wouldn't be happy with the answer. She would feel like he was hiding something on purpose or that he didn't care about her thoughts, thinking there was no need to explain on his own

So even though he was clinging to her, she didn't feel touched at all.

Man! They only thought about those bed activities!

What else could there be?

But she wouldn't have it!

She wouldn't let him touch her until he explained that matter willingly

She would absolutely not waver

After brushing her teeth, rinsing her mouth, and putting down her toothbrush and cup. Ellinor bent over to wash her face.

All this time, Theo simply loosened his grip on her just enough for her to move, but he didn't really let go of her.

After washing her face, Ellinor reached out to grab the towel, but she didn't get it.

Theo reached out, took the towel, turned Ellinor's body around, and dried her face gently like he was caring for a child.

Ellinor was surprised and wanted to stop him, but he pushed away her hands, not letting her move.

Theo carefully wiped her face as his gaze fixed on her, causing their eyes to meet.

Mid wipe, Ellinor realized that the towel in his hand was gone, and he was gently caressing her cheek and pressing his rough fingers on her lips.

She felt a bit confused

Ellinor wasn't stupid, she knew what was about to happen. Before Theo bent down to kiss her, she reached out and covered his mouth.

She didn't let him succeed

She had decided that until Theo voluntarily told her about the woman he had been in contact with, she absolutely wouldn't let him touch her.

Theo didn't get what he wanted. He frowned and asked her, "What's wrong?"

Ellinor kept a poker face, "Nothing"

Theo looked at her, "Then why won't you let me touch you?"

Ellinor forced a smile, "Didn't you just say that you were just watching me wash up and wouldn't do anything else?"

Theo moved closer to her again, "Didn't you just finish washing up?"

Ellinor avoided his gaze, "Even after washing up. No!"

Then furrowed his brows, "Why?"

Ellinor snorted, "You think you deserve to touch me?"

Theo seemed puzzled. He reached out to hold her chin, making her look at him, and seriously asked, "Why don't I deserve it? Didn't you agree to be with me? What? I was only gone a few days, and now you don't want to be with me anymore?"

Ellinor tried to turn her head, not wanting to look into his enchanting eyes, but his fingers were too strong. She couldn't succeed, and she even got pinched a bit painfully

She frowned and angrily said, "It hurts.."

After hearing her cry out in pain, Theo immediately loosened his grip, "Let me see; did it hurt you?"

Ellinor glared at him unhappily, "How many times have you hurt me? You're always so dominant and you only consider your own feelings!"

Theo was taken aback, only then did he completely let her go, trying to coax her in a low voice, "My bad, I just missed you too much. I won't be like this again! Don't be angry"

Ellinor snorted with a frown, not wanting to deal with him.

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Realizing that she really didn't want to, Theo sighed, "Fine, I respect your decision. If you don't want to, then forget it."

He really let her go.

Ellinor didn't let her guard down, **though**. She asked him, "Aren't **you** leaving?"

Theo gently scratched her nose with his finger, "You've brushed your teeth and washed your face, now it's my turn. You're the one who should leave. Of course, if you don't want to, I won't mind."

As he spoke, he began to unbutton his shirt, revealing his collarbone.

Upon seeing this, Ellinor quickly left. She knew his personality; if she stayed any longer, trouble would definitely ensue.

Theo chuckled as he watched her rush off. She was carrying his child and still acted so shy. How cute!

After leaving the bathroom, Ellinor made sure to close the door to prevent him from bothering her again

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She didn't feel happy about their reunion.

She hoped he would tell her **who** the woman on the phone was, but he didn't seem to care.

He clearly knew that she heard that woman's voice.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

Ellinor, who had just changed her clothes, thinking it was Collin, went to open the door.

As soon as the door opened, Bartlett's smiling face appeared, "Good morning, Ellinor!"

Ellinor managed a smile, "Morning!"

Bartlett smiled, "Why the low energy this early in the morning?"

Ellinor didn't have the patience to deal with him, "What do you want?"

Bartlett shrugged, "Nothing much; I just wanted to invite you to breakfast."

Ellinor wasn't interested, "Thanks for the thought. You go ahead, I'll join later."

With that, she tried to close the door, but Bartlett was prepared and had already entered.

Ellinor was unhappy with his behavior, "What do you think you're doing, Mr. Rex?"

Bartlett took a seat in the room, "Nothing much; I'm just waiting for you to go to breakfast."

"I've already told you that I don't **feel** like having breakfast now. You can go ahead!" Ellinor was a bit pissed.

Bartlett looked

nonchalant, "Eating alone is so boring. It's more fun to chat over breakfast! It's no problem; I'll wait for you whenever you're ready."

Ellinor frowned, "Mr. Rex, hasn't anyone told you that it's rude and inappropriate to barge into a girl's room early in the morning?"

Bartlett, with an innocent smile on his face, said,

"What? I didn't barge in without permission! Didn't you just open the door for me?"

Ellinor was speechless.

This guy was the most shameless person she had ever met!

Bartlett noticed Ellinor's tense face; she was clearly unhappy, so he chuckled softly, "If you think it's inappropriate for me to stay here, why not join me for

breakfast? How about it?"

If it weren't for Theo in the bathroom, she probably would've agreed to go to breakfast with Bartlett.

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This shameless man had no sense of decorum. It was early in the morning, so if anyone **saw** Bartlett in Ellinor's room, they would definitely get the wrong idea.

No amount of explaining would clear things up!

But now that Theo was back, she had to **wait** for him to finish his shower.

Ellinor furrowed her brow, "I'm sorry. I'm a **bit** busy **right** now, Mr. Rex. Why don't you go have breakfast by yourself?"

Due to the great soundproofing at the Howard's Mountain Villa, Bartlett hadn't heard anything from the bathroom, but he wasn't planning on backing down from inviting Ellinor. Just as he was about to speak again.

"Baber! What do you want with her? Come on out!" Xenia's voice suddenly rang out, cutting off Bartlett.

Ellinor heard it too, and she and Bartlett both looked towards the door.

Because Bartlett had come in earlier, Ellinor hadn't closed the door to avoid any misunderstandings.

Now, *they* saw a little head poking in through the door crack, looking at her expectantly and cautiously.

It was Baber.

Just as Ellinor was about to go talk to Baber, Xenia, who was trailing behind Baber, pushed the door open and pulled Baber out.

"I've told you, don't go to strangers! Why won't you listen?"

Baber frowned in annoyance and kept repeating, "Ellinor... Ellinor is not a stranger..."

After hearing him say this, Xenia got even angrier, "What do you mean she's not a stranger? I'm telling you that everyone besides your mother and me is a stranger to you! They all mean you harm; don't you dare go with them! Understand?"

Baber pouted, wanting to argue but was unable to do so due to his limited language skills.

Ellinor watched from the doorway as Baber was scolded by Xenia, and she squinted her eyes, "Baber, come here!"

After hearing Ellinor's voice, Baber's eyes lit up, and he ran over to her, ignoring Xenia's protests. He hugged her leg happily and whispered, "Ellinor..."

Ellinor bent down to pat his little head and spoke in a soft voice, "Up early, huh? Did you come to find me for something?"

Baber shook his head and looked worriedly at Xenia.

He didn't need anything; he was just scared of being with his grandma. She had been very irritable these past few days and often lost her temper, which scared him. Ellinor naturally understood what Baber was running away from. She felt sorry for the kid.

Then she looked up at Xenia, "Mrs. Howard, I don't think you'll mind if Baber stays with me for a bit, right?"

Xenia, however, gave her a cold look and said haughtily, "Ms. Mendoza, I don't think that's a good idea. This kid is a handful, and I wouldn't want him to bother you! Baber, come on, let's go have breakfast!"

Baber clearly didn't want to go with Xenia, so he clung tightly to Ellinor's leg.

His actions were like a plea for help. How could she ignore him?

It seemed **that if** Xenia took Baber away, she might punish him again.

Ellinor gave a slight smile,

"Mrs. Howard, I just woke up and don't mind being disturbed. I could use some company to kill time. Surely, you're not going to deny me that, right?"

Xenia frowned and huffed, "He's just a kid! What could he possibly do to keep you entertained? I think we should forget about it!"

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Ellinor bent over to pick up

Baber, smiling as she said, "If he could talk with me, it would give me a taste of being a mom! Don't fret, Mrs. Howard, I won't just ditch Baber."

When Xenia saw Ellinor pick up Baber, Baber was contentedly wrapping his arms around her neck.

"How can I possibly trust you? If you sneak off with my grandson, who am I going to chase after? Baber, come here! How many times have I told you not to let strangers hold you?"

With that, she walked over, intending to take Baber from Ellinor's arms.

But Baber was clinging tightly to Ellinor's neck and wouldn't let go!

Xenia couldn't get Baber to budge and started to panic, trying to pull Baber away with force.

Baber still clung tightly to Ellinor, not wanting to stay with his grandmother!

As a result, Xenia was enraged, yanking Baber from Ellinor's arms forcefully!

Due to the momentum, Ellinor was pushed back a few steps.

"Ellinor, watch out!"

Bartlett Rex, who hadn't planned on revealing himself in front of Xenia, rushed over to catch Ellinor, asking with concern, "You okay?"

"I'm fine." Ellinor shook her head, stepping away from Bartlett to keep her distance.

But it was too late.

Xenia saw that Bartlett had come from Ellinor's room, and her face froze for a moment before a mocking smile spread across it. "Oh? Isn't this Mr. Rex? Early in the morning, and you're coming out of Mrs. Blanche's room? Oh my, a man and a woman alone in a room..."

Bartlett smiled calmly at Xenia, "Mrs. Howard, you've got it wrong. I was just calling Ellinor for breakfast."

Xenia smirked, "Oh, is that so? Mr. Rex, you two seem quite close!"

Bartlett continued to smile, "What's wrong with inviting a friend for breakfast?"

"A friend? Ha!" Xenia sneered, then took out her phone and started snapping pictures of them, "Just friends, huh? Together early in the morning? And you say it's for breakfast? You think anyone would buy that?"

Ellinor, I really misunderstood you!

I thought you, this little tramp, were just trying to hook up with Mr. Blanchet! But to think, you're also involved with Mr. Rex! You're something else!

Ellinor frowned, shot Bartlett a cold look, and calmly said to Xenia, "Mrs. Howard, don't make assumptions without evidence. What did you see that makes you

think we're involved?"

Xenia sneered, "Isn't it obvious? Early in the morning, and I find you two together!"

Ellinor gave a slight smile, "Can you tell me which law states that male and female friends can't be in the same room in the morning? We're both fully clothed, what's the problem?"

Xenia glanced at their neat clothes; her brow furrowed, but she continued to click pictures with her phone, "I have photos of you two alone in a room. Let's see if the online folks will believe you!"

Ellinor laughed lightly, finding this whole situation ridiculous, "Mrs. Howard, are you trying to stir up public outrage online again? Haven't you learned from last time?"

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Xenia was thinking back, feeling the lack of solid proof. That's when she spotted something under the bed.

What was that?

She set her child down and hurried over, pulling out a crumpled set of pajamas and underwear from underneath the bed.

Laughing excitedly, she took shots of her evidence and said, "Ha! Busted, aren't ya? You two claimed nothing happened; then what's this?"

When Ellinor caught sight of the clothes Xenia was holding, she realized that those were her clothes from the previous night. She felt her face heat up.

"Those are my private belongings; give them back!"

As she reached over to snatch her clothes back, Xenia hid them from her grasp, "Are you trying to destroy evidence?"

Ellinor furrowed her brows, "What evidence? They're just clothes I took off!"

Xenia chuckled, continuing to film, “Just clothes you took off? Who throws their clothes on the floor, let alone under the bed? Clothes only get tossed around in the heat of the moment, right? Ellinor, don’t hide it! I’ll let the whole Blanchet family know about your lover. Get ready to be kicked out!”

The clothes weren’t something she had taken off herself, they were stripped off by Theo while she was asleep.

It was embarrassing to have them seen by others.

Bartlett stepped in and said, “Mrs. Howard, you may have misunderstood mine and Ellinor’s relationship. I arrived at her room this morning, if you don’t believe me; you can ask the servants. They saw me.”

Xenia shot Bartlett a look and said, “Mr. Rex, do you take me for a fool? If you two were sneaking around, you’d avoid being seen! Even if the servants morning, it doesn’t prove anything. Maybe it was a show **you** two put on.”

Bartlett sighed, “Mrs. Howard, do you really have to paint us in that light?”

saw

you this

“Still playing innocent?” Xenia snickered, “If there’s nothing going on, why are you here at our villa? You weren’t here when Ellinor arrived yesterday, so how did end up in her room this morning? You’re here to see Ellinor while Theo Blanchet is away, aren’t you?”

you

Bartlett frowned, wanting to explain but not knowing where to start.

“Who said I wasn’t here?”

The bathroom door opened, and a man’s voice, followed by the fresh scent of soap, filled the room, deep and intimidating.

Xenia froze, staring wide-eyed at Theo, who had just stepped out of the bathroom.

Bartlett looked serious all of a sudden, turning his head to the side in surprise.

Ellinor, however, remained unchanged.

Theo walked over to Ellinor, his eyes cold, “Mrs. Howard, what’s your issue with my wife?”

Xenia was lost for words, “Mr. Blanchet, why... why are you here?”

Theo responded, “To see my wife.”

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The man speaking lifted his hand, gently landing it on Ellinor’s head and giving it an indulgent ruffle.

Xenia was at a loss for words, yet unwilling to accept the situation. She raised the dirty clothes she found under the bed and said, "Mr. Blanchet, you can't let Ellinor pull the wool over your eyes anymore. She's been two—

timing you. These clothes are proof! She hid them under the bed, definitely afraid you'd find out!"

Theo's indifferent gaze scanned the clothes that were only worn in private, snatched them away, and said nonchalantly, "Those are the ones I helped her take off last night. Is there a problem with a bit of intimacy between husband and wife?"

Ellinor covered her face with her hands, her lips twitching, feeling utterly embarrassed.

Why were all men so shameless, spilling the beans about anything and everything?

Bartlett's eyes narrowed slightly, the light in his deep-set eyes gradually dimming.

Xenia's face turned red, "Ah...Is that so?"

Theo replied coldly, "What else could it be?"

Xenia felt the intense pressure emanating from Theo, and her mood quickly shifted from excitement to tension and fear, "Sorry, Mr. Blanchet, I didn't realize you were here **too**. I misunderstood!"

Theo remained expressionless and didn't seem to care to pursue the matter further. He said coolly, "Get out!"

Xenia nodded, quickly making her exit.

"Baber, let's go!"

Before leaving, Xenia didn't forget to drag along Baber, who had been standing on the side, clueless about the situation.

"Hold up."

Theo's cold voice echoed again.

Xenia stopped, nervously looking back, "Mr. Blanchet, is there anything else? I should take the kid to eat!"

Theo said firmly, "The kid stays; you go."

Xenia was taken aback, glanced at Baber, whom she was holding tightly, and was reluctant to let go.

Mr. Blanchet, the kid is still young. I'll take him to eat, so he won't disturb you."

Theo remained expressionless, saying, "Mrs. Howard, did you forget I'm his legal guardian?"

"Uh..." Xenia gave in, reluctantly letting go of Baber. She instructed the child to behave and not cause trouble, then reluctantly left.

Baber, then free, walked towards Theo, someone he hadn't seen for a long time, looked up, and stared at him with admiration, "Dad..."

Theo bent down, patting Baber's head lightly.

Theo's relationship with this child was not very close.

When he first adopted Baber, most of the time it was Patricia Howard who took care of him. He only spent time with the kid when Patricia used it as an excuse to call him over.

"Theo, when did **you** come back?" Bartlett's relaxed voice echoed in the room.

Theo looked up at his old friend, his face expressionless, "Early this morning."

Bartlett smiled, "I see! You're still the same, leaving without telling us in advance and coming back without notifying us. We could've bid you farewell and welcomed you back!"

Chapter 1099

Theo smirked. "I heard from Collin that you've been quite the caretaker for my wife. Should I throw a banquet to thank you?"

The atmosphere turned tense in an instant, and the air between the two men was dangerously charged.

Bartlett clearly didn't want any conflicts, so he replied with a smile, "It's the least I could do. We've been friends for years; there is no need to make a big deal out of it. Anyway, now that you're back, I won't intrude on your couple's time anymore. I, a lone bachelor, will go grab breakfast."

With that, Bartlett chuckled at his own joke, waved, and leisurely walked out.

No one saw him the moment he exited the room; his eyes were dull, like a night sky devoid of stars and the moon, empty.

Bartlett had the sense to close the door behind him when he left.

Theo's eyebrows relaxed. He looked at the woman, who was still covering her face, and laughed, "What are you doing? He's gone."

Ellinor kept her face covered. She really didn't feel like seeing anyone.

It was embarrassing enough for him, but he had to drag her into it, talking about couple's intimate affairs with others. She was mortified!

Seeing her still motionless, Theo reached out to remove her hands. "Why are you covering your face? Think if you cover it, people can't see you? Ostrich?"

Ellinor frowned, "All because of you. Why did you have to talk about couple's intimate affairs with Xenia? Do you really want to get people's imaginations running wild?"

Theo smirked, pinching her chin, "I want them to imagine, to keep their distance! So they know you're mine."

Ellinor rolled her eyes. You don't think you're being a bit too domineering?"

Theo raised his brows and responded, "I've always been like this."

Ellinor sighed

True that!

He then handed her some undergarments, "Are you still going to wear these?"

Ellinor glared at him and clutched the clothes to her chest, "Stay away!"

He just chuckled, finding her adorable. The only problem was that she wouldn't let him get close.

If they were alone, he'd definitely steal a kiss to satisfy his craving.

Ellinor clutched her clothes, feeling a tug at her hem. Looking down, she saw Baber's tiny hand. He was looking up at her.

Ellinor quickly tossed her clothes aside and squatted down to ask Baber gently, "What's up? Hungry?"

Baber shook his head, "No, I'm not hungry..."

Ellinor looked into his big eyes and asked, "Then what do you want to do? It's okay, just say it. No one here will give you a hard time!"

Baber cuddled up to Ellinor, looked over at Theo, his little mind turning, then turned his gaze back to Ellinor, saying, "Leave... I want to leave..."

Ellinor felt a pang of sadness at his words. She caressed his head, "We'll leave! I came here to get you. I promised to save you, and I will."

Baber looked into her eyes and felt an unprecedented sense of security. He obediently nodded, saying gratefully, "Thank you... Ms. Mendoza..."

Just as Ellinor was about to pat his head again, she found him roughly pulled away by Theo, who then asked,

"What did you just call her?"

Chapter 1100

Baber was lifted off the ground by Theo, his eyes shining brightly, looking a bit dazed, "Ms. Mendoza? Is it Ms. Mendoza?"

Theo frowned, took a deep breath, and stopped talking, making Baber turn pale with his serious look.

With about a ten-year gap between the man and Ellinor, it made Theo and Ellinor seem more distant when Baber addressed her that way!

Seeing that, she quickly took Baber from him and asked, "What are you doing? You've scared the kid!"

Theo was expressionless, "He called you Ms. Mendoza, don't you think there's something wrong with that?"

Ellinor disdainfully glanced at the man, then gently stroked Baber's head, comfortingly saying, "Ignore him! It's okay, call me whatever you like, Ms. Mendoza or Mrs. Blanchet, either is fine."

Only then did Baber relax a bit, obediently nodding his head and laying his head on Ellinor's shoulder like a good little puppy.

Theo was still unhappy with the child's address, but seeing Ellinor holding and comforting him so casually, his gaze softened, gently touching Ellinor's face, "Ellinor, are you really willing to accept this child?"

Ellinor smiled, "Under the current circumstances, can I not accept? Although I have no experience as a stepmother, I'm a quick learner, so I will adapt soon. It's better than leaving him with Xenia!"

Theo admired Ellinor and gently kissed her forehead, "Thank you."

What for?

Ellinor didn't feel she had done anything worthy of thanks, but the gentle kiss on her forehead left her a bit dazed.

"Alright, I'm taking Baber out for breakfast now, you get dressed and join us!"

Having said that, Ellinor turned around with Baber in her arms, her expression calm and showing no emotion.

Theo watched Ellinor's retreating figure, his eyes squinting. Did she seem not to like him getting close?

Stepping out of the room, Ellinor let out a sigh. She was almost bewitched by the man's gentleness just then; she couldn't just ignore what had just happened!

Baber blinked his bright eyes, his face full of curiosity and desire to learn, "Ms. Mendoza, Daddy likes you...right?"

Ms. Mendoza?

That's one way to address her.

Ellinor looked awkwardly at Baber in her arms and asked, "Do *you* know what 'like' means?"

Baber nodded seriously, explaining with his limited vocabulary, "Kissing...kissing means liking..."

Ellinor was helpless.

He had seen his father kiss her just then.

She didn't even know how to explain that to such a little kid!

Baber blinked, seeming a bit troubled. He said, "Daddy doesn't like Mommy, doesn't kiss Mommy, so Mommy gets angry and hits me..."

Hearing Baber's words, Ellinor felt a pang of pain in her heart, the 'Mommy' in the child's mouth was undoubtedly Patricia.

Patricia had been desperately seeking Theo's attention, and every time Theo was not warm enough towards her, she vented her anger on the child.

How pitiful.