

The Kiss 1181

Chapter 1181

Kemp didn't push any further.

Jonah flopped back down and began rambling a bit. "I mean, if you can't find her, just drop it, dude. It's just some missing woman. Whatever type of woman you want, we can hook you up with."

Theo frowned, ignoring him.

Kemp shot Jonah a glare. "Shut it!"

Jonah couldn't care less, and he shrugged innocently. "What's wrong? Ain't I just speaking the truth? This ain't the first time that woman's run off on us! She's given Theo the slip twice, so why does he still care about her? If I were you, I would've moved on ages ago!"

Theo's face turned sour.

Kemp reached out his long leg and gave Jonah a kick. "Go downstairs and find a woman; stop pestering us!"

"Ouch!" Jonah yelped in pain, but his mouth didn't stop running.

But his antics lightened up the mood.

Sophia, cradling her glass, sat on the single-seat sofa, laughing at Jonah's goofy antics. "Mr. Wyton, why are you always such a riot? You're so cute! You must have a lot of girls falling for you, right?"

Jonah shrugged with feigned helplessness. "Not really! When I'm flying solo, I do alright. But when I'm with Theo, Kemp, Balfour, Bartlett, and those other studs, hardly any girls notice me. Ah, it's all about comparisons, man!"

Sophia laughed again. "That's not true! You guys each have your own charm. But they all seem a bit cold, while you're different. You're friendly, so girls, would feel more comfortable approaching you."

Jonah beamed at the compliment. "Really? Would you feel comfortable approaching me?"

Sophia laughed heartily. "You're so fun; of course I would!"

Jonah promptly perched on the arm of Sophia's sofa, leaning in close. "Then would you consider being with me? I've been single for quite a while now!"

Sophia hesitated, then pushed Jonah off with a laugh. "We're just friends; stop joking around!"

Jonah leaned in again. "I'm not joking! I'm serious. Why don't we give dating a shot?"

Sophia looked annoyed. "Mr. Wyton, I don't wanna date my friends! Cut it out!"

Jonah raised an eyebrow, shrugging. "See! What did I tell you? No girls are willing to get close to me. Even you don't fancy me."

Sophia explained. "Don't take it the wrong way; it's not that I don't fancy you. It's just that there's someone else in my heart. My feelings for him run deep. I -can't develop feelings for another man! Mr. Wyton, you're actually quite charming!"

Jonah got curious again. "Who is it? Spill the beans. Let's help you think it over."

Sophia glanced over at Theo, who was engrossed in his drink. Her eyes trembled slightly. "I can't tell you; it's my little secret."

Jonah chuckled lightly. "Even if you don't tell me, I can guess. The one you're thinking about, if it's not Theo, it's Kemp, right?"

After a few seconds of silence, Sophia waved her hand. "That's enough, Jonah. Don't speculate about my feelings."

Jonah crossed his arms, grumbling in dissatisfaction. "Ah! I knew I was right. As long as those two are here, no woman pays attention to me. I'm just a

sad, lonely dude."

Chapter 1182

At the same time, in a luxurious villa on the outskirts of the city.

Ellinor was quietly eating dinner alone, watching TV

This was Bartlett's villa, where she had been living for nearly half a year.

When she initially escaped from the Blanchet family, her plan was to wait for things to cool down, then hitch a ride on Bartlett's private jet

But, to her surprise, things didn't quiet down. Theo kept sending people to track her down, keeping a close watch on all major public transportation.

Although Bartlett had a private jet that could help her escape, it still needed to be reported to the aviation authorities before taking off, and the passenger list had to be honestly provided

Given Theo's determination, escaping on a private jet probably wouldn't evade his surveillance

So she had no choice but to accept Bartlett's arrangement again and come to his villa on the outskirts of the city.

It was far from the city, so no one would see her

Bartlett also arranged for trustworthy servants to take care of her, and a delivery truck would come regularly.

In fact, she wasn't short of places to stay. Chase and Ida also had many properties she could choose from.

But she couldn't stay at her friends' houses because Theo would definitely start looking for her through Chase and Ida.

Honestly, she didn't know how long she could hide, but she definitely didn't want to go back to being the illegal Mrs. Blanchet.

What was she? Theo's mistress?

There was no formal marriage certificate between them.

Even though she had said before that she didn't care about these formalities, he couldn't marry other women while she bore his children.

That was too much!

As she was eating and thinking wildly, she received a new message on her phone.

The phone she was using now was with a number that Bartlett gave her, so she wasn't worried about being found out.

The message was a string of Morse code from a stranger

After reading the Morse code, Ellinor's face became complicated.

It was a message from Ida. Ida and Chase always sent her messages from different numbers very carefully and they only communicated in Morse code. This time, Ida's message was that the new office building of the Blanchet Corporation was about to be completed. There would be a ribbon-cutting ceremony in three days, and the Blanchet Corporation insisted that Moon herself must attend the ceremony. Otherwise, they would refuse to pay the final payment on the grounds of breach of contract

She negotiated that order herself, and of course she knew the amount of the order. This was a lot of money, and it was no joke!

Ellinor looked down at her noticeably pregnant belly, feeling a bit troubled.

If her belly wasn't so obvious, she could find an excuse to wear a mask like last time and attend the event, claiming she was allergic to UV rays.

Theo wasn't the kind of guy who would force her to do something against her will and make her take off the mask.

Chapter 1183

Theo gave strangers the cold shoulder most of the time.

The issue now was that she was eight months pregnant, and if she went out and about, she would stick out like a sore thumb. She was a walking billboard!

If she didn't go, the Blanchet Corporation wouldn't cough up the final payment, and Crescent Society would be up shit creek without a paddle; they would even be on the brink of going belly up.

This was the company she had busted her hump to build from the ground up. How could she bear to watch it crash and burn?

Besides, she had a kid on the way now and needed the company so she could bring home the bacon.

The more she thought about it, the more worried she became. She couldn't figure out a perfect solution for love or money

Just then, the doorbell rang at the villa.

Ellinor snapped back to reality and was immediately on high alert. Who could that be?

There was usually no one coming here except for the supply truck sent by Bartlett

But they just dropped off supplies yesterday. There was no way they'd send someone again today

Ellinor watched with a furrowed brow as the servant went to answer the door.

After seeing the servant bow respectfully to the visitor, Ellinor finally breathed a sigh of relief.

It was Bartlett!

But what the heck was he doing here?

This place was a stone's throw from the city. It took two hours to drive here and another two to drive back. Didn't he find the drive annoying?

And she had made it crystal clear to him before that she didn't need him to check up on her all the time. If there was any problem, she would reach out to him.

Even if it was Bartlett, if he started showing up more often than not, he would get on Theo's radar

Theo had Greenhaven under lock and key, waiting to nab her

Bartlett better not be here to stir up trouble!

Bartlett walked in with a friendly grin, holding a takeout box. "Ellinor, guess what I brought you?"

Ellinor frowned, already having a bee in her bonnet about the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and now she had to deal with Bartlett making a mountain out of a molehill. She couldn't help but feel imitated. "Why are you here again?"

Bartlett pouted, looking wronged. "What do you mean 'why am I here again? I haven't been here since last month! I thought you might be craving something to eat, so I got you your favorite BBQ And you're giving me the cold shoulder?"

Ellinor grumbled 'Do you think I want to risk being found by Theo just for food?'"*

Bartlett walked over, put down the takeout box, and sat on the couch, grinning from ear to ear. "Don't worry, I'm extra careful. I won't be spotted by the Blanchet family Ellinor, what you may not realize is that I'm more worried about being found out than you are! So I wouldn't joke about this."

Ellinor gave him a sideways glance. "You're more afraid of being found out than me? What are you afraid of? Are you afraid that the Blanchet family will pick a fight with the Rex family if they find out? Actually, I think this is too risky for you. I've already told you that you don't have to look after me. I can find a place to rent in the village."

Bartlett shook his head. "Ellinor, what are you thinking? I'm willing to take the risk as long as I can help you! What I mean is, if the Blanchet family finds out you're hiding here, I won't be able to protect you under the radar anymore! At that point, I might not even have a chance to see you!"

Ellinor fell silent.

Bartlett touched the takeout box he brought. The BBQ cooled down after two hours on the road.

He raised his hand to summon a servant and asked him to reheat the BBQ

Then he looked at Ellinor and noticed that she seemed a bit troubled.

"What's up? Feeling down? Is it because you're bored being here by yourself?"

Chapter 1184

Ellinor slouched on the couch, muttering absent-mindedly. "It's nothing."

A glint of worry sparked in Bartlett's eyes. "Have you got any pregnancy symptoms? Should I get a doctor to check on you?"

Ellinor shook her head.

Bartlett assured her gently "Don't worry, my people are always extra careful. The Blanchet family won't notice a thing. If you're feeling unwell, you have to tell me!"

"No, I'm really fine." Ellinor looked at Bartlett, her voice laced with gratitude. "Mr. Rex, thank you for everything you've done for me. I really don't want to be a burden to you anymore"

Bartlett frowned slightly, showing his annoyance. "If you really want to thank me, stop calling me Mr. Rex. Just call me by my name"

Ellinor knew Bartlett had a crush on her, which was why she kept her distance, both verbally and physically, trying to avoid giving him the wrong idea.

But Bartlett had expressed his displeasure more than once. He didn't want her to call him Mr. Rex. He wanted her to call him Bartlett.

To show her sincerity, Ellinor said. "Bartlett, thank you!"

Bartlett finally smiled "That's more like it! Besides, since I've already helped you so much, a little bit more wouldn't hurt! Ellinor, I know you don't want to owe me any favors, but when it comes to owing someone, once or many times doesn't really make a difference.

Ellinor didn't want to bother Bartlett anymore, and she didn't think he could help with her current predicament.

However, after half a year, she had a good understanding of Bartlett's character, so she decided to tell him the truth.

"In a few days, the Blanchet Corporation will move into a new office building. They're insisting that I attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony. That's what's bothering

me

Bartlett was taken aback. "The Blanchet Corporation wants you to attend the opening of their new building? Has Theo found out you're here with me?"

Ellinor shook her head. "No, he's asking for my other identity."

Bartlett was even more confused. "Your other identity?"

Ellinor explained. "There's a legend in Greenhaven that the designer of the building must attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony. If they don't show up, it's considered disrespectful to the owner"

Bartlett had heard of the legend, so he wasn't surprised. What surprised him was, "Ellinor, you're the famous designer, Moon?"

Ellinor sighed. "I've stopped taking on new projects, but the Blanchet Corporation offered me a huge sum!"

Bartlett wasn't bothered by Ellinor's troubles; he was more excited about her identity Ellinor how many more surprises are you keeping from us?"

Moon was a globally renowned designer, having designed numerous award-winning buildings. But Moon never attended any public events, so very few people

knew her

Who would've thought Moon was actually Ellinor?

Ellinor gave Bartlett a blank stare. "Surprised? Do you think I'm in the mood to chat about other things right now?"

Bartlett's mind snapped back to the issue at hand. "Ellinor, aren't you just worried that Theo will see you at the event? No worries; no one knows what Moon looks like I think we can just find someone to pretend to be you at the ribbon-cutting ceremony."

Ellinor rubbed her temples. "I've met Theo as Moon before, although I was wearing a mask and he didn't recognize my true identity, he still has a rough impression of me. It's not easy to find a stand-in. If he intentionally asks some complex questions about architectural inspiration and design philosophy, the stand in could easily be exposed. If he finds any discrepancies, the final payment won't go to the Crescent Society. Then we'll have an even bigger problem!"

Chapter 1185

Bartlett squinted his eyes a bit. "Ellinor, what's the deal between you and the Crescent Society?"

Ellinor didn't beat around the bush. "Ida and Chase are my childhood friends."

"Aha!" Bartlett seemed to get it and stopped prying. "This is indeed a tough cookie! The final payment is no small change"

That was the crux of the matter.

“Ellinor, ever heard of disguises? Bartlett quirked an eyebrow and asked with a grin,

Disguises? Ellinor resignedly said “Do you think we’re in a TV drama? How could there be disguises?”

Bartlett shook his head. “No, I heard there are these realistic face masks for sale now. Once you put it on, your facial features will change drastically. It’s like getting a new face”

Ellinor frowned “Even if there are, can you get your hands on one?”

Bartlett smiled. “I can give it a shot! If I can get a mask like that, you can attend in person with it on, and no one would recognize you.”

Ellinor didn’t have much faith in his plan. “Even if I can mask my face, what about my belly? It’s so big now that no amount of sucking in will hide it!”

Bartlett waved it off. ‘So what about your belly? There are tons of women in the world, and plenty of them would be pregnant at the same time. Ellinor, you’re just overthinking it. Show up confidently, and no one will notice”

Ellinor had to admit that Bartlett had a point, but she was still quite nervous. With an eight month baby bump, it was hard to guarantee she could keep her cool in front of Theo

“Alright! Ellinor don’t worry your pretty little head about it. I’ll have someone find you a mask, all you need is to get your nerves under control, and everything will be peachy Bartlett comforted her

Ellinor nodded, although she wasn’t convinced Bartlett’s plan was all that great, she couldn’t think of any other solutions either

Bartlett accompanied Ellinor for a BBQ meal and then left, telling her to wait for news about the mask.

The thought of seeing Thea at the ribbon cutting ceremony in three days made Ellinor feel a bit edgy.

She hadn’t seen that man for half a year, and she thought she would never see him again in this lifetime.

The very next morning, Bartlett called her up, saying he had found a mask and would have it delivered to her by evening

Ellinor had mentally prepared herself. She messaged Ida using a secret code, telling her to agree to the Blanchet Corporation’s request because she would attend the opening ceremony of the Blanchet Building as Moon in three days.

Crescent Society

Ida looked at the message Ellinor sent her, feeling a bit surprised and worried.

Ellinor was really going to attend in person? Wasn’t she afraid of being spotted by Mr Blanchet?

If she were discovered, wouldn’t her half a year of hiding be all for naught?

Chapter 1186

At that moment, a female secretary gently knocked on the door

ida snapped out of her thoughts and said, "Come in

The secretary pushed the door open and handed over a neatly prepared document. "Ms. Gipson, here's the file you asked for."

Ida nodded. "Alright, just put it here"

After completing her task, the secretary added, "There's one more thing. Ms. Gipson, Byran Howard is here to see you again. Should I let him in?"

Ida pinched her eyebrows at the mention of Byron's name. "Let him in "

If she left him waiting outside, he wouldn't go home but instead would wander around her office door, which would be even worse if other employees saw it

"Got it!" The secretary replied and left.

Shortly after, Byran strode in and unabashedly sat in the chair in front of Ida's desk. Ida, it's almost lunchtime. Shall we go for lunch together?"

Ida looked at him expressionlessly. "I never said I was going to have lunch with you."

Byran retorted "I want to have lunch with you!"

Ida coolly raised her eyebrows. "Are you ordering me?"

Byron frowned, his tone noticeably weaker. "I specifically came over during lunchtime today since I only have such a short time to see you. You really don't want to have lunch with me?"

Ida responded. I don't have time, eat by yourself

Byran stood up, indignantly walked over to Ida, and propped his hands on both sides of Ida's chair, trapping her in the middle

Although he was young, he was tall and looked down at her from a considerable height it's just lunch; it won't take up too much of your time! Ida, don't force me to kneel down and beg you!"

His angry but soft-spoken words caused Ida, who didn't want to deal with him, to laugh. Do you want to have lunch? Or do you want to eat me?"

Byran blushed a little as his eyes flickered with embarrassment I of course want both... but I also know that you'll at most have lunch with me. You won't let me do anything else"

Ida tapped his head with the file in her hand. "Good that you know!"

Byran blinked. "So you're agreeing to have lunch with me?"

Ida helplessly nodded. "I'm also hungry, let's get back to work after lunch"

Byran leaned over happily and lightly kissed Ida on the cheek. I knew you wouldn't reject me!"

Ida was stunned, then coldly pushed him away and stood up. "It's just lunch, don't act like a punk! Let's go!"

Byran scratched his head and followed Ida out of her office

Ida's office was very close to Chase's. As they left, they saw Chase standing at the door of his office, staring at the empty secretary seat.

That seat used to belong to Belinda, but she hadn't been to work for a long time.

Ida walked over and waved her hand in front of Chase. "What are you thinking about? Want to join us for lunch?"

Chase snapped out of his thoughts. He looked at Ida, then at Byran following her, shook his head, and laughed, "No thanks! I'll get lunch later myself. You guys enjoy your date!"

Ida gave him a glare. "If you're not eating, then fine! Stop talking nonsense!*

With that, she led Byran towards the elevator.

Chase took another deep look at the empty secretary seat, then turned and went back into his office.

Chapter 1187

Ida drove Byran to a well-known French restaurant

The lad had gone through a lot of trouble to get out of his house to see her, so Ida decided to treat him to something nice.

But as soon as they entered the restaurant, they ran into a familiar face

Theo was also dining there, and the lady sitting across from him was quite the looker. They were chatting and eating. It looked like they were having a good time.

Ida squinted her eyes, her disgust was apparent.

It seemed like Mr. Blanchet and his lawfully wedded wife were having a blast. Yet he couldn't leave Ellinor alone, setting traps for her all over Greenhaven.

What did he want with Ellinor? Couldn't he just live a peaceful life with his wife?

If he did, Ellinor wouldn't have to play hide-and-seek to avoid him.

Ida had no intention of acknowledging Theo. Aside from their business dealings about the new Blanchet Building, they had nothing else in common.

But she forgot about Byran, Mr. Straightforward.

As soon as Byran saw Theo, he waved. "Theo, you're eating here too!"

Upon hearing this, Theo looked their way

Ida couldn't pretend she didn't see him anymore, so she politely nodded.

Byran dragged lida over. 'Theo, my girlfriend and I are also here for lunch!

Ida was speechless

Theo looked at Ida, then back at Byran. 'She's your girlfriend? Does your brother know about this?'

Mentioning his brother seemed to annoy Byran. "My brother knows, but he doesn't approve. But I didn't listen. I'm not a kid anymore! I can listen to him on other things, but not this!"

Theo didn't respond and continued eating his steak.

The woman across from him laughed. "Byran, standing up to your family for love is very commendable. Your girlfriend must feel very secure, right?"

Byran looked at Sophia.

This wasn't his first time seeing Sophia, but they weren't close. He knew she was a longtime friend of Theo's and was well acquainted with Jonah, Kemp, and

others.

Instinctively, he didn't like her much, so he ignored her.

"Let's go." Ida said, not wanting to linger or interact with them.

Byran nodded, ready to join Ida.

"Since we're all friends and bumped into each other, why not sit and eat together? Theo and I ordered lots of food that hasn't come yet! Ms. Gipson, Byran, please join us!" Sophia unexpectedly invited them.

Ida didn't want to "No need, we'll order ourselves."

Sophia insisted. "Ms. Gipson, I heard from Theo that you are friends with Ellinor. Let's sit and eat together so we can get to know each other. I have something to discuss with you."

When Ida heard Ellinor's name, she stopped in her tracks and looked back at Sophia alertly. What's up?"

Sophia laughed heartily "Let's talk about Ellinor"

Ida squinted at Sophia, sensing something complicated behind the woman's smile.

Chapter 1188

Byran didn't overthink it "Ida, let's dine with Theo and his friend The more, the merrier."

Ida pondered for a moment and then headed over to meet the woman named Sophia. "Well, we won't stand on ceremony then."

Sophia cocked her head and flashed a brilliant smile. "Of course you are friends of Theo, which makes you friends of mine."

Ida adjusted her gold-rimmed glasses and sneered inwardly

Sophia seemed easy-going, but subtle hints in her conversation suggested she and Theo were quite close.

However, whether it was intentional or unintentional was up for debate.

Ida took a seat next to Sophia, and Byran naturally sat across from her, next to Theo

The four of them sat together, eyeing each other.

Theo looked indifferent. He was engrossed in his steak, oblivious to his surroundings.

Byran asked Theo a few questions, which were met with curt replies.

Sophia didn't eat, she just propped her cheek on her hand, watching Ida, and cheerfully asked, 'Ms. Gipson, what's Ellinor like? Can you describe her for me?'

Ida's cutlery paused in mid-air as she turned slightly to look into Sophia's curious eyes. "Why are you so interested in her?"

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Sophia replied candidly. "I often hear Theo talk about her. I've always been curious about what kind of girl she is I thought I'd meet her when I returned home, but she left quietly. Such a pity"

Ida mulled it over So Theo often mentioned Ellinor to this woman?

She wondered how Theo described Ellinor. Who would willingly talk about another woman to his wife?

Ida had no intention of satisfying Sophia's curiosity. She said coolly. "Doesn't Mr. Blanchet often talk about Ellinor? You should ask him what kind of girl she is. He knows her best"

Sophia glanced at Theo Theo always keeps it brief, and lately, he's been avoiding talking about Ellinor. Even if I asked him, he wouldn't tell me. Ms. Gipson, why don't you tell me? I'm really curious about what kind of girl Ellinor is, to be so well-liked by everyone."

Ida wondered if Sophia was inquiring about the other woman' as a wife.

The term 'other woman made Ida uncomfortable.

Ellinor wasn't the 'other woman: She was deceived into marriage by Theo

However, in the eyes of Sophia, any woman who had a relationship with her husband was the other woman."

Ellinor had always despised the idea of a husband having another woman apart from his wife, but ended up being mistaken for one thanks to Theo.

How could Ellinor not loathe Theo"

Chapter 1189

Sophia was a real piece of work, wasn't she? She knew full well that she was friends with Ellinor, yet she deliberately brought up how Theo hadn't been mentioning Ellinor lately right in front of her. It was as if she was trying to seize power or something.

Couldn't take the power directly, huh?

Why go through Ellinor's friend? Because she was betting her bottom dollar that her friend would tell everything to Ellinor right?

This pair were both sly as foxes!

"If Mr. Blanchet doesn't want to spill, why do you think I would? Ms. Sophia, it's a real treat to dine with you, but let's not pretend we're actual friends, okay?"

Sophia didn't even bat an eye at the pushback, her nerves were made of steel. She was still smiling and saying, 'Ms. Gipson, I'm just curious, there's no need to be on high alert. Do you happen to know where Ellinor is right now?!

This caught the usually emotionless Theo's attention, causing him to shoot a look at Ira

Ida nearly jumped out of her skin. She should never underestimate Sophia.

She adjusted her glasses nonchalantly I wish I knew where she was! It's been ages since we last saw her, and we're all worried sick, but she just won't show up, probably because of someone she'd rather avoid! So, we don't want to add to her misery"

Sophia feigned confusion: "Someone Ellinor doesn't want to see? Ms. Gipson, you're not implying Then, are you? Why wouldn't Ellinor want to see Theo? As far as know, he's always been good to her"

Ida smiled and replied "And what's your standard for good? Just sweet talking? Ms. Sophia, if that's what you consider good, cherish it by all means! Ellinor doesn't care for empty words"

Sophia frowned. "See, I knew it. Ms. Gipson, you must know why Ellinor left Theo, night? Otherwise, you wouldn't be saying things like that, you're speaking up for your good friend!"

At this point, Sophia turned to Theo. Theo, did you hear that? Ellinor's good friend is not happy with you! It must be because Ellinor's been complaining about you!" Ida's heart skipped a beat, this woman really knew how to stir the pot.

But she didn't care about being manipulated anymore. She didn't care what Theo thought of her, and she couldn't care less about whatever Sophia said

But Theo's intense gaze did make Ida feel a bit uneasy. She forced a smile. "Mr. Blanchet, why are you staring at me like that?"

Theo looked at her with a serious expression. "Do you know where Ellinor is or not?]

Ida's heart was racing, this man's gaze was so intense that it felt like he could see right through her.

She couldn't let her emotions affect Ellinor and ruin all her efforts Ida gathered herself and was now all smiles. 'Like I said, I don't know, and neither does Chase. We're looking for her, but we have no leads. How about you, Mr. Blanchet? Have you heard anything about Ellinor recently?"

Theo's gaze darkened as he shook his head coldly. "No"

Ida sneered mockingly. 'Seems like Ellinor really doesn't want to be found by a certain someone. Because of this person, even Chase and I can't see her anymore! What a shame!"

Theo's brow furrowed even more.

Sophia's eyes flickered "Ms. Gipson, did Ellinor ever badmouth Theo to you before?",

Ida's gaze went deep, and then she cracked a faint smile. "Sure, she did, but so what?"

Sophia, resting her chin in her hand and batting her eyelashes flirtatiously, said, "So Ellinor was trash talking Mr. Blanchet, huh? I wanna hear what she said. I bet we're on the same page!"

Ida chuckled lightly "Ms. Sophia, we aren't close enough to be chatting about this."

Sophia shrugged boredly, looking a bit bummed because she didn't get an answer, but she didn't push further

Then Theo piped up. "What did she say about me?"

Ida looked surprised. Her gaze shifted up to Theo as a cold flash appeared behind her glasses while she smiled. "Mr. Blanchet, you shouldn't give a hoot about whatever she said now, right?"

Theo was running out of patience. "What did she say about me?!"

Ida didn't answer directly: she just smirked. "She didn't say anything. I was just pulling Ms. Sophia's leg. Mr. Blanchet. Don't sweat it!"

Theo looked pissed off, anger was flashing in his eyes.

Ida deliberately avoided his gaze and lowered her head to continue eating.

Byran felt the tension in the air and Theo's discontent with Ida. To protect his girlfriend, he quickly changed the subject. "Cough, cough! Theo, still no word from Ellinor?"

"No." Theo replied coldly. His gaze was deep, and his chest was full of irritation

Byran was also curious about where the hell Ellinor was. He knew that his brother, Balfour, was looking for her everywhere, and he would occasionally ask Quinton for any leads, but he would always come up empty.

"Theo, don't worry. Maybe Ellinor just threw a tantrum and went out to play. She'll come back when she's had her fill."

Theo stood up and went off to the restroom, you guys continue eating

Byran also stood up "Theo, I need to use the restroom too. Let's go together!"

Theo glanced at him, didn't say anything, and let him follow.

When the two men left, Sophia started on her topic again.

"Ms. Gipson, if I'm guessing right, Ellinor probably left because she was upset to find out that Theo and I got married, right?"

Ida wasn't planning on indulging her anymore, but when she heard this, she couldn't help but look up in surprise.

Sophia was all smiles, looking very relaxed and natural. "If that's the reason she's not coming back, then what a pity!"

Ida raised an eyebrow, feeling more and more baffled by this woman's behavior 'You actually want her back? You don't mind other women hanging around your husband?'

Sophia laughed. "What's there to mind? And even if I do, what's the point? All men are the same; they love to have their options open! A man like Theo, who's got both looks and power, will obviously have a lot of women who want to get close to him. If I were to fret over every woman who came near him, wouldn't I be worn out? I don't need to spend all my time watching a man's life; that's boring"

Ida replied "Ms Sophia, you sure have a pretty open mind."

Sophia smiled. "Yes, I'm very open-minded, I don't care what he does with other women, as long as he comes home on time.

By the way, Ms. Gipson, if you happen to see Ellinor, could you pass a message to her for me? Just tell her I'd really like to meet her, I wouldn't mind her presence, and I believe we could definitely be good friends!"

Ida frowned. She had to admit that she had never met a woman like Sophia before