

## **The Kiss 1211**

### **Chapter 1211**

Who did he think he was?

If Jacob didn't want to work here, Belinda's uncle could find him a job at the Blanchet Corporation.

Chase seemed to notice Belinda's distress, and his smile grew deeper. "Belinda, can you come to my office?"

Belinda was slightly taken aback.

Chase actually asked her to go to his office?

She didn't even want to look at Chase. She stood with her back to him, never giving him a straight look.

Belinda didn't think twice and declined his request for her to go to his office, answering him with her back turned. "Mr. Larios, I'm no longer an employee of Crescent Society, so it's not really appropriate for me to go to your office."

Chase's tone was serious but still casual. "Until you officially leave, you're still an employee here. Please cooperate."

Belinda replied with dissatisfaction. "Sorry, I can't cooperate. I've decided to quit."

She didn't look back at him. Chase walked around to her front, looked down at her eyes, and gently said, "Come to my office; let's talk about your resignation. It'll make it easier when you're looking for a job in the future."

Jacob was Belinda's boyfriend. He certainly didn't want to see another man treating his girlfriend this way, but he couldn't do anything about it. After all, that man was his boss.

Belinda was also a bit annoyed at Chase's misleading attitude, but what could she do? She didn't want to hear any more of his annoying words. Ignoring Chase, she said to her boyfriend, Jacob. "I'm going to handle my resignation first, then we can go grab a bite."

Jacob looked at his girlfriend with a bit of worry. He instinctively didn't want her to go to Mr. Larios' office, but he couldn't control the situation, so he just

nodded.

Then Belinda followed Chase to his office.

"Mr. Larios, what's up? If there's something, spit it out. My boyfriend is waiting for me."

Chase closed the office door, shrugged off his coat and threw it on the sofa, loosened his tie, and sat at his desk. "So, having a boyfriend now makes talking to me a chore?"

Belinda sarcastically laughed. "I'm not like you. You can be flirty with all the girls, but I'm not. When I have a boyfriend, I pay attention to boundaries. I have a responsibility to my boyfriend."

Chase laughed.

His laugh offended Belinda. She frowned and asked, "What's so funny?"

After Chase finished laughing, he looked at her with his arm propped up. "So, are you really planning on marrying that little employee, Jacob?" Belinda frowned even more, and her tone became very serious. "Of course! Every time I date, it's for marriage. I don't play games with my feelings! And what's wrong with a little employee? Don't underestimate him!"

Chase squinted slightly. "So you were chasing me because you wanted to marry me?"

This question stunned Belinda, her cheeks turning red with embarrassment. "As much as I hate to admit it now, yes! I was chasing you, hoping to marry you! But now, I've woken up. I know that you don't value me. You don't even mention marriage. You wouldn't choose a boring, non-fun-loving woman like me! So don't worry, I won't bother you anymore!"

Chase was looking at her, but she didn't look back at him when she was speaking, clearly avoiding eye contact.

That was a sign that showed that she cared him.

If she didn't care about Chase, she wouldn't deliberately avoid eye contact.

Chase squinted. "So what if I tell you now that I'm willing to have a serious relationship with you?"

Belinda's heart skipped a beat after she heard Chase say this.

What...what did he just say?

Chapter 1212

In Ida's office.

Ellinor was sitting at Ida's desk, diligently going through the company's financial reports for the last six months and a few of the most recent projects.

Ida called her secretary and asked her to prepare a glass of milk for Ellinor.

Ida took the milk from her secretary and personally handed it to Ellinor. "Have some milk before you continue reading."

Ellinor grunted in acknowledgment and took a sip of the milk, but her gaze never left the computer screen.

At that moment, Ida's phone rang, and she stepped aside to take the call.

After hanging up, Ida's facial expression became complicated. "Boss..."

Ellinor's gaze stayed fixed on the computer screen. "What's up? Spit it out!"

Ida adjusted her glasses. "The call was from the head of the Blanchet Corporation."

Ellinor's hand movement faltered; as expected, the Blanchet Corporation was knocking on their door

"Hmm, what did the head of the Blanchet Corporation say?"

“The head of the Blanchet Corporation said that they’re very satisfied with the new office building we designed and that they’re interested in working with us again. The Blanchet Corporation plans to develop a new project soon, and they want us to undertake it, so they want to arrange a meeting to discuss

it.”

Ellinor looked up at Ida and asked. “What do you think?”

Ida also found the Blanchet Corporation’s actions unusual. Normally, people in the industry would fight over their projects; it was rare for the Blanchet Corporation to actively seek out a partner.

Moreover, Theo had already discovered her whereabouts.

Something was definitely up.

After some thought, Ida said. “I think we should reject it. There’s no need for us to meet.”

Ellinor chuckled. “Why not take it? Who doesn’t want to make money?”

Ida looked at her in confusion. “Are you sure you want to take this project?”

Ellinor put down her mouse, leaned back in her chair, and slowly sipped her milk. “The problem isn’t whether I’m sure or not, but the fact that the Blanchet Corporation hasn’t given us a choice. Even if we reject this project, they’ll quickly come up with another one. Even if we refuse the project, they can find another way in. Since the Blanchet Corporation came directly to us, it’s like they’ve laid their cards on the table. Let’s take this project and then see what our next move should be.”

Having thought it through, Ida agreed. After all, Theo wasn’t easy to deal with.

“Ellinor, I understand. I’ll arrange a meeting with the head of the Blanchet Corporation and see what they’re up to.”

Ellinor lowered her head to drink her milk, but her mind was racing.

It seemed that her standoff with Theo had begun. Although it wasn’t what she had wanted, it was inevitable. Theo knew that she cared about Ida, Chase, and the Crescent Society, so he would definitely target them.

She could only take one step at a time.

Ida stepped aside to return the call and arrange a meeting with the head of the Blanchet Corporation. Meanwhile, a knock was heard at the office door. Assuming it was a subordinate bringing in documents, Ellinor casually said, “Come in.”

Chapter 1213

Next, Byran swaggered in.

After seeing Ellinor, he was even more shocked than Belinda. “Ellinor, how did you get so chubby?!”

Ellinor was speechless.

After not seeing each other for half a year, he was still as blunt as ever.

Byran came closer to her. "Hmm, you did put on some weight, but you're still cute!"

Ellinor raised an eyebrow. "Don't you have class today?"

Byran shrugged and said nonchalantly, "I do have class, but it's lunch break now. I heard from Ida that she was going to pick you up today, so I came over."

Ellinor put the hot milk she was holding on the table, stared at him, and asked, "Does your family know about you and Ida?"

Byran scratched his head awkwardly. "Well... my brother might know a bit, but the rest don't know yet. It's not that I don't want to tell them; it's that Ida doesn't want me to officially tell them yet. She's not ready to meet my parents."

After looking at Byran's innocent face, Ellinor was a bit worried for Ida.

"If your family all objected to you being with her, what would you do?"

Byran crossed his legs and thought for a while. "I would try to communicate with them and get them to accept her!"

"And if they don't agree, no matter what?"

"That doesn't matter; I would just run away from home and move in with Ida! She can afford to keep me."

Ellinor was amused by his answer. "Is that all the ambition you've got? Nothing's even happened yet, and you're already considering moving in with Ida? I think you're just looking for a free ride!"

Byran disagreed with this viewpoint. "What's wrong with that? As long as two people truly love each other, who cares about the formalities? And I didn't say I would totally rely on Ida! Of course, I would also work hard to better myself, take good care of her, and protect her in the future!"

Ellinor massaged her temples. "You should focus on getting into university before you talk big! If you tell your brother that you're planning to live off a woman, I bet he would rather break your legs than let you do that."

Byran crossed his arms. "Humph! Stop trying to scare me with my brother! Yes, I'm scared of my brother, but when it comes to Ida, even if came, I wouldn't change my mind. Even if he really broke my legs, Ida would help me recover."

He probably thought he sounded very courageous, but to Ellinor and Ida, he seemed naive and a bit foolish.

my brother

"And how do you know I would definitely help you recover?" Ida ended her work call and came back, just in time to hear Byran bragging to Ellinor. After hearing Ida's voice, Byran immediately straightened up, not acting all high and mighty anymore but was still stubborn. "I just know! You would definitely help me because you care about me."

Usually, if Byran said something childish, Ida would just let it slide, but now, in front of the boss, she felt a bit embarrassed and couldn't help but rub her temples.

"Even if I were willing to help you treat your injury, it might end in failure. Do you think I would still take care of you if you became disabled?"

Without hesitation, Byran answered. "Yes!"

Ida scoffed. "Well, you're really overestimating me. I'm not that noble."

Byran frowned and spoke in a displeased tone. "Ida, I know you're just being hard-headed; you would definitely not ignore me when the time comes."

#### Chapter 1214

Ida had no interest in pointlessly arguing with Byran here. "Alright, scoot over and wait a bit; we have some big stuff to go over."

Byran seemed a bit miffed and crossed his arms in front of his chest. Since the person in the office was Ellinor, he didn't feel like an outsider. He didn't think there was anything that he shouldn't be privy to, so he didn't want to leave.

Ellinor didn't take Byran's attitude to heart. She looked up and asked Ida. "Any news from the Blanchet Corp?"

Ida replied honestly. "They agreed to come over tomorrow afternoon for a detailed discussion about the collaboration."

Ellinor nodded slightly, then stood up. "Alright, gotcha. No need to shoo Byran away. I'll head out and leave you two be."

Ida glanced at Byran, resignedly explaining. "Boss, you're not bothering us. You don't have to rush off. I'll get him out of your hair in no time."

Ellinor waved a dismissive hand. "I'm not leaving because of him. I'm just done for the day and feeling a bit pooped. I'm gonna head back and unwind; you two keep talking."

Ida asked. "Should I have the driver take you home?"

Ellinor waved her off again. "No need; I haven't had a chance to stroll around in a while. I'll just walk around the neighborhood and grab a cab home."

With that, Ellinor headed towards the office door, opened it, and left.

Ida was still a bit concerned. She followed her out and asked her secretary to go with Ellinor for a bit before heading home.

Ellinor was pregnant now, so it was indeed a bit inconvenient for her to be on her own, so she didn't turn down the offer of company.

What she didn't expect was to bump into Theo at the entrance of the company building.

Theo was sitting in his car, lowering half of his window, revealing his chiseled profile.

By the car, Belinda was introducing a pretty-faced young man to Theo.

"Uncle, this is my boyfriend. I told you about him before; his name is Jacob."

Theo looked at Jacob with an uncaring gaze.

Jacob seemed very nervous, not knowing where to put his hands. "Hello, I'll take good care of Belinda."

Theo was not a woman, so he wasn't interested in promises made by men. He simply said, "Alright, hop in the car."

Jacob was obviously too nervous; he didn't move for a while.

Belinda helplessly nudged her boyfriend. "Jacob, what are you spacing out for? My uncle told you to get in the car!"

Jacob suddenly snapped back to reality. He looked flustered and was sheepishly scratching his head. "Uh... thank you."

As Belinda was laughing and pushing Jacob into the car, she accidentally spotted Ellinor, who was being helped down the steps by Ida's secretary.

She paused for a moment, then instinctively looked at her uncle.

Her uncle's gaze was also on that side; he obviously saw Ellinor too, but his expression didn't change at all.

Belinda originally thought he would be very surprised to see Ellinor. But after seeing his cold reaction now, she was puzzled. So she tentatively said, "Uncle, Ellinor's back."

Theo responded coldly. "I see."

Belinda frowned. "Then... should I invite Ellinor over? We can all go out to eat."

"Do as you please."

After that, he raised the car window.

Belinda didn't understand what he really meant, so she ran over to Ellinor. "My uncle asked me to invite you to join us for dinner."

Chapter 1215

Ellinor had just come down the stairs when she noticed Theo. She gave him a quick glance, then swiftly looked away.

"I appreciate his offer, but I don't want to grab a bite. I've got other stuff to do." Ellinor politely declined Belinda.

Belinda was a bit ticked off. "Auntie, what's up with you? Why don't you even want to share a meal?"

Ellinor didn't answer her question. Instead, she only smiled. "Belinda, I think it's better if you just call me by my name now."

Belinda was a tad peeved. "Auntie, haven't I always called you that? Why...?"

"Just lay off calling her Auntie if she doesn't want it."

Before Ellinor could respond to Belinda, the window slowly lowered in the back seat of a distant black business car, revealing Theo's stern face.

He was the one who just spoke.

Belinda rolled her eyes in frustration. "Fine! Ellinor, come dine with us, or if you're heading somewhere, my uncle can give you a lift.

"No need." Ellinor shook her head, ready to walk past Belinda and leave.

Theo's voice rang out again. "Get in the car, Ellinor. Don't we need to settle this once and for all?"

Ellinor paused; her heart felt like it was clenched in a vice grip.

He was right; it was high time they settled things.

Apparently, Theo didn't have much of a hold on her, nor was he planning to be a clingy pain in the ass.

She had wasted half a year hiding for nothing, completely overthinking things.

Ellinor turned to look at him. "Alright, let's settle this!"

Then she instructed Ida's secretary to go back and then she walked towards Theo's car.

Belinda called down her already boarded boyfriend to sit in the front passenger seat, then tried to help the pregnant Ellinor into the car.

Ellinor waved off Belinda's help, signaling her to get in first.

The back seat could only fit three people. Theo was already in the car. If Ellinor was the one who got in first, she would have to sit in the middle, right next to Theo.

The implication behind Ellinor's gesture for Belinda to get in first couldn't be clearer. Belinda, of course, understood but resigned, so she climbed in first.

No one noticed Theo's expression change.

After getting in the car, Ellinor kept looking at the scenery outside.

She agreed to get in because Belinda and her boyfriend were present today. Otherwise, she might have had to face Theo alone, which she didn't want.

The atmosphere in the car was suffocating, and no one spoke.

Even the usually talkative Belinda, now awkwardly sandwiched in the middle, didn't know what to say.

But staying silent was even more stifling.

Belinda tried to lighten the mood, so she chuckled and broke the ice. "Auntie, where have you been all this time?"

Ellinor replied. "I went to a quiet place and spent some time alone."

Belinda asked curiously. "Were you all by yourself?"

Ellinor grunted in a low voice as a sign of approval.

## Chapter 1216

Belinda subtly nudged Theo with her elbow. "My auntie actually enjoys her peace and quiet! She's a lone wolf!"

What she meant was that she hoped her uncle would understand Ellinor. Since they haven't seen each other in a long time, they should sit down and have a good chat.

Theo stifled a laugh. "Didn't she already tell you to call her by her name? Why are you calling her Auntie again?"

Belinda suddenly remembered that, but she couldn't change her habit immediately.

Plus, she had no plans to change her way of addressing her anytime soon.

What did her uncle mean? Was he really planning to break up with Ellinor?

Theo's words felt like a jab to Ellinor, as if he were implying that she was pretending to be aloof.

She was used to Belinda calling her that, but because she was distracted, she didn't react immediately.

Belinda wanted to lighten the mood, but it only made things more awkward. She decided to zip it.

Ida's office at Crescent Society.

Ida had just arranged for some snacks for Byran to munch on while she dealt with her work.

But when her assistant informed her that Ellinor had gotten into Theo's car below the building, Ida shot up. "What? Where is Theo taking her?"

The assistant shrugged. "They said they needed closure. Even Ellinor doesn't know where they're headed."

Ida was annoyed. "You let her get into the car without knowing the destination? Why didn't you go with her?"

The assistant muttered. "The car was full with Belinda, Theo's former assistant, and Jacob from our firm. Plus, Ellinor didn't want me to come."

Frustrated, Ida picked up her phone to call Ellinor.

Byran, who was lounging on the couch with a cola, saw Ida's anxiety and reassured her. "Ida, why so tense? Ellinor got into Theo's car, not some crook's!"

Ida shot him a glare. "What's the difference between Theo and a crook?"

Byran disagreed. "I can't speak for Theo's behavior towards others, but he's always been good to Ellinor. Don't worry, he won't hurt her."



Ida scoffed. "You think he hasn't hurt her?"

Byran looked confused. "Theo hurt her? From what I see, Ellinor has always been the one hurting Theo. She left him twice, which is more than anyone could take."

Ida was very irritated. "If you have nothing else to do, go back to school. Stop hovering around me!"

Ida's response made Byran immediately become submissive. "Ida, don't be mad at me. I've got nothing to do with this."

"Then just sit here quietly and don't cause more trouble!"

After saying this, Ida quickly left with her phone.

She called Ellinor, but no one answered. She was very worried, so she went to Chase to discuss a solution.

As she opened the door to Chase's office, she saw him slumped over his desk in despair. If one didn't know better, they would think he was drunk in broad daylight.

Ida walked up and gently knocked on the table. "Wake up! We've got a problem!"

Chapter 1217

Chase suddenly sat up. "What's up?"

Ida was about to tell him that Ellinor had hopped into Theo's car but got sidetracked by the swollen cheek he was sporting.

What happened to your face?"

Chase touched his burning cheek and began laughing at himself. "What else? Got slapped by a woman."

Ida looked at him with a glimmer of disgust in her eyes. "Serves you right!"

Chase shrugged. "Are you gonna tell me what happened or what?"

Ida got back on track. "Boss just bumped into Theo downstairs. He got her in his car, and now we don't know where they're off to. I can't reach her on the phone either."

Chase looked puzzled. "Why was Theo hanging around our office building?"

"He was probably here to pick up Belinda, ran into Boss, and got her into his car, saying that they had some stuff to hash out."

The mere mention of Belinda's name made Chase's swollen cheek throb even more. Yup, his cheek had been slapped by Belinda. She packed quite a punch, even splitting his lip. Chase had just wiped off the blood.

He hadn't done anything. He simply asked her to give him another chance, but ended up getting smacked. It hurt like hell!

Ida, don't sweat it. Belinda's in the car as well; Theo won't do anything to her, especially since she's carrying his kid."

Ida glared at him, clearly annoyed. "I know he won't do anything to her right now, but do you think he'll be all smiles and sunshine? She is heavily pregnant; can she handle the stress? Hurry up and get in touch with Belinda. Go find her!"

Chase looked embarrassed. "Why do I have to contact her? She just slapped me around. Do you think she'll take my call? Ida, you call her!"

"I've barely spoken to her; I don't know her; if I call her, she might not tell me what's up! What happened to your smooth moves with the ladies? You're totally useless when we really need it, huh?"

Chase sighed, looking helpless. "Fine, I'll call her! Get out; I'll let you know when I have something."

"Stop dilly-dallying! Hurry up!" Ida urged him and then left, giving him space to handle the situation.

Chase picked up his phone with a gloomy look on his face.

It wasn't that he didn't want to call Belinda, but she had blocked all his contacts. He couldn't reach her now, even if he wanted to.

Never in his life had a woman cut him off so ruthlessly.

After being slapped, Chase decided to leave Belinda alone, but now, for Ellinor's sake, he had to bother her again.

He thought for a moment, then picked up the landline on his desk, asking the manager for Belinda's boyfriend, Jacob's contact.

Unable to reach Belinda, he had no choice but to seek help from her boyfriend.

Chase dialed Jacob's number on his phone.

The phone rang for a while before being answered, and Jacob politely asked, "Hello, who's speaking?"

Chase replied. "Jacob, it's me."

Jacob was just an ordinary employee; he obviously didn't have the boss's private phone number, but he quickly realized it was Chase and immediately sounded a bit nervous. "Mr. Larios, why... why would you suddenly contact me? Is there anything I can do for you?"

Chapter 1218

Chase laughed it off. "Chill out, man. I'm fine."

Jacob was getting more anxious. "So, you're calling because..."

Chase drawled. "From the sounds of it, you're out and about. You're not at the office, are you?"

Jacob explained. "Mr. Larios, it's lunch break, so I went out for a meal..."

Chase asked with a grin. "With your girlfriend?"

"Yes. Mr. Larios, I'll return to the office right after lunch, within the break time!"

Chase chuckled. "Relax, man. I'm not rushing you back. Can you tell me which restaurant you guys are at?"

Jacob was a bit surprised, but he told Chase the name of the restaurant.

At this point, Belinda looked back and noticed Jacob lagging behind. "Jacob, what are you doing here? Everyone's gone in!"

Jacob covered the phone receiver and whispered. "I'm on a call. It's Mr. Larios."

After hearing it was Mr. Larios, Belinda's face clouded over. "Why the hell is he calling you? Is that jerk trying to give you a hard time?"

Jacob shook his head. "No, hang on, let me finish the call."

Afraid that his girlfriend's voice would be heard over the phone, Jacob moved a bit further before he uncovered the receiver. "Mr. Larios, I will be back at the office soon. Is there anything else?"

Chase heard what Belinda said, and he chuckled. "No, nothing else. Tell your girlfriend that if she calls me a jerk again, I'll fire her boyfriend."

With that, he hung up.

Jacob felt a chill run down his spine and stood there stiffly with the phone, not knowing what to do.

Oh my God, Mr. Larios heard it!

Mr. Larios heard Belinda calling him a jerk, so would he really fire him?

Belinda saw Jacob still on the phone and approached him. "What happened? What's he up to? Still not done?"

Jacob came back to his senses and helplessly said, "Belinda, Mr. Larios heard you calling him a jerk."

Belinda rolled her eyes nonchalantly. "So what if he heard it? What can he do?"

Jacob managed a bitter smile. "He can't do anything to you since you've already quit. But Mr. Larios just said that he'll fire your boyfriend."

Belinda was alarmed. "Did he really say that?"

Jacob nodded.

Belinda reached out her hand. "Give me your phone!"

Jacob didn't know what she was up to, but he handed her the phone without hesitation.

After taking Jacob's phone, Belinda dialed Chase's number straight away.

Chapter 1219

Chase picked up the phone instantly. "What's up? You're calling back already; did you miss me that much?"

Belinda sounded a little peeved. "Chase, we don't have any beef, do we? Why are you messing with my boyfriend?"

As Chase was heading to the parking garage with his car keys in hand, he laughed out loud at her question. "We didn't have any beef before, but you just slapped me and publicly called me a jerk. I reckon that counts as beef now. And you may not know this, but I can hold a grudge."

Belinda furrowed her brows. "I slapped and insulted you because you were harassing me. If you want revenge, take it out on me. Don't mess with my boyfriend; he has no clue what's going on."

Chase chuckled. "How I seek my revenge really depends on my mood. Anyway, I'll let you lovebirds be. Catch you later."

And with that, he hung up.

Belinda was fuming. She regretted ever falling for such a pretentious gentleman.

But had she heard him correctly? Chase said he would see her later.

He must be joking.

After snapping back to her senses, Belinda handed the phone back to Jacob. "Don't worry, Chase won't mess with you."

However, Jacob looked a bit anxious and sounded a tad reproachful. "Belinda, how could you talk to Mr. Larios like that?"

He had assumed that Belinda wanted his phone so she could explain to Mr. Larios that she wasn't actually insulting him. Instead, she had gone and blasted him again. He still had to go back to work.

Belinda blinked at him. "Wasn't I standing up for you?"

Jacob sighed. "Even if you were, you can't talk to my boss like that. You don't work at the company anymore, but I still do. What if Mr. Larios fires me because of you? I..."

Belinda frowned at him.

Realizing he was out of line, Jacob quickly changed his tone. "I'm sorry, Belinda. I'm not blaming you. It's just that this job wasn't easy to get, and I lost my cool."

After hearing his apology, Belinda shook her head ruefully. "It's my fault. I didn't consider your feelings and acted impulsively. I've made things difficult for you."

Jacob, worried about losing his job and potentially his hard-won girlfriend, quickly tried to appease her.

"Belinda, don't overthink it. I'm not blaming you... I'm just concerned about how I'll support us if I lose my job. I'm not alone anymore; I have a girlfriend. Without a job or an income, I'd feel ashamed being with you."

Belinda adamantly shook her head again. "Jacob, you can't think like that. Even if you do lose your job, I won't look down on you. Don't worry; if Chase fires you because of me, I won't let you stay unemployed. I'll ask my uncle to find you a position at his company."

Jacob's eyes lit up. "Really? But I'm not sure if your uncle would accept me."

Belinda gave Jacob's shoulder a reassuring pat. "Don't worry! If I accept you, my uncle won't refuse you. He adores me. He may seem stern and indifferent, but he'll grant any request I make."

Jacob breathed a sigh of relief. "Belinda, I envy you. With Mr. Blanchet as your uncle, you're fearless."

Belinda laughed. "Are you nuts? What's there to be envious of? Once we're married, my uncle will be your uncle too, right? He'll treat you well."

Jacob wrapped his arms around Belinda tightly. "Belinda, thank you. I'm just an ordinary employee, but you still accepted me as your boyfriend. I'm truly grateful."

Belinda didn't struggle or reciprocate the hug, her body stiffening slightly.

"Alright, we should go in now. We can't keep them waiting."

## Chapter 1220

In the restaurant.

Ellinor and Theo took their seats after being led by the restaurant manager.

Since she had been pregnant for eight months now, Ellinor's belly had become quite large.

Despite the waiter pulling out the chair for her, the space between the chair and table seemed a bit cramped for a pregnant woman. She attempted to sit down, but found it uncomfortable. Consequently, she reached out to pull the chair back a bit further.

However, before her hand even touched the chair, Theo's long arm extended. His big hand landed on the chair's back before hers did, pulling her chair back another few inches.

Ellinor paused for a moment and looked up at Theo. Although she didn't feel any affection for him, she politely muttered, "Thank you."

Without giving her another glance or response, Theo withdrew his hand, elegantly walked to the chair opposite her, and sat down.

Just the day before, the two sat across a dining table, having a meal.

Yesterday, she wore the mask that Bartlett brought her, believing she appeared flawless and ate comfortably.

But today was different. She was facing Theo as Ellinor; it was not as easy to pretend that nothing was going on.

Not wanting to make too much eye contact with Theo, Ellinor turned her head to look outside the restaurant, "Where's Belinda?"

She was sure she saw Belinda enter the restaurant with her, but now she couldn't see her anywhere near their table.

Theo's eyes flickered, and his tone seemed sarcastic. "What? Does being alone with me make you uncomfortable?"

Theo's straightforward question annoyed Ellinor; she glared at him and laughed. "No, I'm just hungry and want to order. How can we order if everyone's not here?"

Theo's gaze was like a piercing knife. His expression was bland, but the coldness in his eyes sent chills down her spine.

He mocked her. "Ms. Mendoza, when did you become so proper? It's very unlike you. If you want to order, we can order now."

With that, he raised his hand to summon the waiter, who was waiting not far away.

"Mr. Blanchet, please take a look at the menu." The waiter respectfully handed over the menu.

Theo took the menu, and without showing it to Ellinor, he ordered a few dishes, all her past favorites.

After ordering, he looked up at her. "I almost forgot; Ms. Mendoza's taste must have changed. Is there anything else you want to add?"

Ellinor fell silent.

She felt like there was a hidden meaning in what Theo said.

But anyway, she didn't come here today just for a meal. "Nothing else."

Theo withdrew his gaze and handed the menu back to the waiter. "Bring these dishes first; we'll add more when everyone's here."

"Okay, Mr. Blanchet." The waiter respectfully took the menu and left.

Once again, it was just Ellinor facing Theo. She felt a bit suffocated, feeling Theo's gaze sweeping over her all the time.

Theo picked up a glass of water from the table, took a sip, squinted his eyes, and watched her. "Ms. Mendoza, you seem to have been doing very well these past six months. You look healthier."

Ellinor responded with a sarcastic smile. "Really? Thanks for the compliment. What else could I do? Treat myself poorly?"

Theo was expressionless and spoke in a flat tone. "Hmm, what are your plans for the future?"