

The Kiss 131

Chapter 131

If she were to drink with other men here, that'd be like playing with fire in Theo's danger zone, and it could end really badly.

What a foolish move!

After some consideration, Ellinor tried to negotiate with Bartlett, 'Maybe we can do this another time. I'll even drink ten mounds with you!'

Bartlett was having none of it. "Nope Now or never."

He was as stubborn as a mule! Ellinor was in a pickle She glanced over at Theo, and he was there sipping his tea, completely oblivious to what was going on

She then looked back at Bartlett, confirming.

"So if I drink with you, you'll definitely give me all three original pieces of Lady Lotus?"

Without hesitation, Bartlett nodded with a grin, "If you can do it, I'll have the paintings delivered to you right away"

Ellinor looked back at the tea table. Theo was still lazily facing the other side, not showing any signs of turning around.

Hopefully, he won't notice if we drink up quickly!

For the sake of her mother's three paintings, Ellinor decided to roll the dice and picked up the orange juice on the coffee table, "Alright! Let's do this!"

Bartlett was a little taken aback. She agreed? Does she really want those three paintings that bad? Even willing to put up with his unreasonable demands? Just who exactly is Lady Lotus to her?

Seeing Ellinor's determined face, Bartlett's eyes flickered with amusement. He raised his teacup, slowly moving it towards the girl's juice glass.

Their cups gently clinked, creating a bit of friction. They also leaned forward, getting closer and closer, face to face.

Suddenly!

Her phone suddenly rang The hilarious ringtone startled everyone.

Ellinor instinctively pulled back her orange juice, looked down at her phone, and the caller ID showed – Theo!

Did he see?

Ellinor felt a chill, turned her head, and immediately met the man's stern gaze

Because her ringtone was so piercing, everyone at the tea table looked over. Including Sheila. However, Sheila had no idea who was c

alling her and just glared at her with distaste, probably because she was embarrassed by her ugly ringtone.

Theo was serious, his phone on his ear and his warning eyes on her.

Not answering could get her into trouble. Ellinor frowned and had no choice but to grit her teeth and answer the phone.

"Come here."

On the phone, the man's voice was calm, but this calm was frightening.

If she responds now or follows his instructions, then Sheila will definitely know it was Theo who called her, know that they know each other, and thus discover their relationship. If Sheila knows about this, then the rest of the Mendoza family will definitely know, and her life won't be peaceful anymore.

Ellinor calmed down, turned around, and told Bartlett, "Sorry, I need to take this call."

Then, she put down her orange juice, got up, and left the room. She only responded after she walked a safe distance away. "I'm not coming over, just say what you want!"

Chapter 132

After Ellinor left, the atmosphere went back to normal

Pollack, more peeved about being interrupted than anything else, completely overlooked the inconspicuous assistant. Turning back, he continued enthusiastically pitching his movie script to Mr. Blanchet, Mr. Wyton, and Mr. Larios.

Sheila, without any semblance of propriety, sidled up to pour tea for the three bosses. When she poured Theo's cup, she tried to sneak in a little closer.

Suddenly, the man stood up coldly. "Excuse me."

Theo came out, looking around for Ellinor, but found no trace of her. His expression was chilly.

There was a private restroom for VIPS at the entrance that was unisex. The restroom door cracked open, and Ellinor poked her head out, "I'm in here!"

After

saying that, she carefully withdrew her head, leaving the door ajar. Theo squinted his eyes, strode over, and walked into the restroom.

The restroom door closed

Ellinor looked up at him, a man much taller and darker than her, "Just say what you have to say!"

Theo looked at her, a hint of mockery in his eyes, "Weren't you pretending not to know me just now?"

Ellinor pulled a wry smile, "... Because I think we are worlds apart, there's no need to pretend we know each other in public."

Theo frowned, "No need?"

Ellinor nodded. 'Sir, I know you married me just to appease your elders. In front of your family, I will cooperate with you, but this is not the Blanchet family, nor are there any members of the Blanchet family present. I believe we don't need to acknowledge each other.'

Theo stared at her coldly and scoffed, "Ms. Mendoza, is my identity embarrassing to you, or not worthy of you, that you hate it when others know you know me?"

Ellinor frowned, candidly replying. "Your identity won't embarrass anyone, on the contrary, it will add a little shine to most people, but I don't need that, nor do I want many people to know about our relationship. Sir, I hope you can understand that when it's unnecessary, please help me hide our relationship."

Theo's face was expressionless. He was silent for two seconds before saying. "If you insist, let's go with your way."

Ellinor let out a sigh of relief, "Thank you for understanding" As long as he understood this point, she would feel a lot more at ease.

"Now, explain your behavior in the room just now." The man suddenly lifted her chin, asking sternly.

Ellinor was taken aback and forced to look into his deep eyes. "Sir, what behavior are you referring to?"

The man's eyes narrowed slightly, carrying a dangerous vibe, "What did you do in the tea room before you came out?"

Ellinor seemed a bit uneasy, "I... I was drinking orange juice!"

Theo raised an eyebrow sarcastically. "Is orange juice supposed to be shared with a man?"

Chapter 133

Sure enough, he saw it.

Before Ellinor Mendoza could explain, the man approached her and said sternly, "Didn't I tell you not to drink anything strangers give you when you're out? Are you just ignoring what I say?"

Since he was much taller than her, Ellinor had to tilt her head back to look at him, which was uncomfortable. "No, I remember what you said

The man held her face in his hand, forcing her to look at him. "So you're deliberately going against my words, is that it?"

Ellinor explained uncomfortably. "It's not what you think."

The man's face remained calm, but there was some displeasure in his eyes. "As my wife, you're drinking toast with another man. What should I think?"

Ellinor knew she was wrong, but she was helpless. So she explained, "Because he has something I want."

The man's grip loosened a bit, "What's that?"

Although she didn't want to tell him too much, she had no choice but to explain now. Ellinor had to tell the truth: "Mr. Rex has three paintings in his gallery that I want, but he won't sell them to me. He said if I drink a toast with him, he would give me the paintings."

Theo thought for a moment and let go of her, "You can just tell me you want something You don't have to drink under someone else's threat."

Ellinor lowered her head and said, "We're not really married. I didn't want to bother you or owe you anything"

Theo looked at her coldly. "This doesn't count as owing. I've said that I can give you anything but love, as long as you play the part of my wife for these three months"

Ellinor looked at him and said frankly, "The fundamental nature of relationships between people is rooted in mutual indebtedness. Whether it's emotional or financial, owing and repaying create a complex dynamic. If I owe someone or they owe me, it becomes challenging to part ways easily. Therefore, I try my best to avoid such situations."*

Theo frowned, "You seem to be constantly waiting for the day to leave?"

Other women wished for a deeper relationship with him. Ellinor was afraid of having one.

Ellinor smirked. She was still upset about her chin being pinched by him. To get back at him, she tiptoed and provocatively hooked her arm around his neck, "Well? Do you want me to cling to you? You'd probably be more afraid of me clinging to you, wouldn't you?"

Theo didn't dodge, just looked down at her pretending to be innocent.

This little girl didn't look good today. She was dressed in a ridiculous outfit, her face painted yellow and her hair in two small braids.

However, her eyes were still clear and bright on her yellow face, like the moon in the sky.

She said things that were annoying, but she looked... attractive.

The man's eyes darkened, and a lump formed in his throat.

Ellinor realized that her annoying action didn't seem to annoy Theo. She felt something was off. She frowned and asked, "....Theo?"

Their eyes met, and she saw the desire hidden in his eyes.

Ellinor was stunned, feeling an inexplicable discomfort, instinctively wanting to pull back her hand, but was held by the man. She almost bumped into his chest, closer than before...

The man stared at her surprised and shy expression, his eyes growing deeper.

They were too close. They were like magnets, slowly approaching, face to face.....

Chapter 134

The ringtone of her phone suddenly blared out, snapping Ellinor back to reality. The flirty vibe that had been lingering between them vanished in an instant!

Facing the man's gaze, she awkwardly stepped back a bit, pulled out her phone, and lowered her head to see it was Sheila who was calling her

Before she had a chance to answer, Sheila's voice echoed from outside the bathroom, accompanied by polite knocks on the door....

"Ellinor, it's you in there, isn't it? I heard your ringtone! Hurry up and get out, stop slacking off in the bathroom!"

Ellinor frowned and looked up at the man, shrugged and said, "Theo, you heard that, right? Someone's hunting for me, I gotta go."

Theo lowered his head to look at her and didn't respond.

Ellinor said. "Could you hang back a bit before you leave? If she saw us both in the same bathroom, it would be hard to explain."

As soon as she finished speaking, she turned to leave, but the man's hand was still on her waist, and he pulled her back into his arms.

He lowered his head, leaned close to her ear, and warned harshly.

"Don't you dare drink toasts with anyone else!"

Ellinor blinked, replied, "Got it"

Even if she couldn't see his expression at that moment, she could clearly feel the strong possessiveness radiating from him.

But, that was just his personal habit, not any special feelings for her. She knew this very well, yet still there was an inexplicable annoyance in her heart. Like a stone thrown into a calm lake, causing ripples, then quickly returning to tranquility.

However, the stone that fell into the water sank to the bottom of the lake, remaining there forever...

Ellinor left the bathroom

Sheila arrogantly

crossed her arms and impatiently exclaimed, "Ellinor, you sure know how to slack off! Hiding in the bathroom under the guise of answering a call! Do I pay you to slack off?"

Ellinor yawned firedly. "It's half past ten at night. Regardless of how high the salary is, I think it's time to call it a day"

Sheila snorted disdainfully, angrily saying. "You have the nerve to mention quitting time? I haven't even confronted you about scalding Mr Blanchet! Do you know how serious it is to offend Mr. Blanchet? If he doesn't invest in my new movie today, it's your fault!"

Ellinor's expression was cold, "I've apologized to him. If compensation is needed, I can pay for a tube of burn ointment. Any other impact is none of my concern. before I didn't want to go in. You insisted on bringing me in. The tea was also your idea"

"You Sheila was left speechless.

Ellinor stretched out, yawned again. "If there's nothing else, I'm gonna call it a day! Bye!"

After saying this, Ellinor walked past Sheila and headed downstairs, she had no intention of returning to that tea room, it seemed pointless.

"Ellinor, who said you could leave? Get back here! Did you hear me... Sheila stood there fuming, glaring at her..

Ellinor, on the other hand, completely ignored her, not looking back as she descended the stairs said

Sheila gritted her teeth in anger. If it wasn't for the fact she was waiting for Pollock and couldn't leave, she would definitely chase after her and give her a piece of her mind!

Ellinor was just a girl with no manners, like some country bumpkin, completely unruly!

Sheila glared at Ellinor's retreating figure, muttered a few words under her breath, then turned to go back to her room. But when she turned around, she saw Theo gracefully exiting the bathroom they were just in....

Chapter 135

Sheila was a tad confused What the hell just happened? That bitch Ellinor had just left, and Mr. Blanchet was coming out now?

Were they both in there this whole time?

As this possibility crossed her mind, Sheila was taken aback, and a wave of caution swept over her.

Mr. Blanchet was looking at Ellinor a bit funny just now, and Ellinor, that hussy, she knew how to charm men Maybe she did it on purpose, trying to get Mr. Blanchet's attention and get close to him.

The thought of it was unbearable for Sheila She needed to figure this out! So, she put on her sweetest smile, walked up to Theo and asked innocently, full of curiosity, "Mr. Blanchet my assistant just came out of this restroom, and now you're coming out too. Were you two using the restroom together?"

"Your assistant? Theo glanced at Sheila, his game frosty "Didn't see her."

His cold demeanor, however, was somewhat reassuring to Sheila. Maybe Mr. Blanchet just went in to use the restroom while she and Ellinor were talking? Men typically spent less time in the restroom than women, so that was normal. And besides, someone like Mr. Blanchet, with his status, would never use the restroom together with

someone like Ellinor.

She must have overthought!

Sheila quickly put on a smile again, coyly brushed her hair aside, and took the chance to say: "Mr. Blanchet, my assistant accidentally burned you today, and I feel so guilty. How about you give me your number, and I can make it up to you over dinner?"

"No need" Theo replied curtly, then breezed past her and left

"Mr. Blanchet. Sheila looked a bit disheartened and followed him a few steps "Wait, Mr. Blanchet! Mr. Blanchet, I mean it.

But no matter how hard she tried to keep him around, the man didn't stop, didn't even glance back at her.

Feeling the cold aura emanating from him, Sheila didn't dare to follow any further, and had to let it go. She stood there, watching the man's elegant and mature figure walk away, her eyes filled with admiration...

Mr. Blanchet's demeanor and charisma were indeed outstanding!

—

Not only was he handsome, wealthy, and with high social status, but he was also forgiving he didn't make a fuss even when his hand was burned.

His coldness towards people indicated that he wasn't someone easy to get! If a man like him were to fall in love with her, wouldn't she be treated and adored like a princess?

The only regret was that such a perfect man was already married. Thinking of Theo being married to another woman, Sheila felt a pang of sadness and regret.

This man was so close to become hers!

Chapter 136

Theo went back to his room and sat down for a while longer

Pollock was still rambling on about his new movie script, but he was the only one talking. The other four guys were each having their own conversations. By the end, no one was even giving him a second glance. It seemed like he wasn't going to get any investment from these four guys today.

Pollock helplessly checked the time. It was getting pretty late, and if he kept talking he might piss the others off

He had no choice but to stand up, conjure up a solid excuse, say his goodbyes to the four men with Sheila by his side, and then politely take his leave

Once everyone else had left, Jonah grinned and asked, "Theo, where's your wife at?"

Bartlett also chimed in, "Theo, where's Ellinor?"

Theo looked at Bartlett, puzzled "What do you want with her?"

Jonah said excitedly. "Nothing much, just wondering why she's working as an assistant for some small-time artist? Theo, she's your wife now, why are you letting her work?" Theo replied. "She likes to experience life, to do what she wants. I won't interfere with her choices."

Jonah let out a sigh. "Theo, I just realized how considerate and tolerant you are!"

Theo shot him a cold look.

Bartlett chuckled and said, "Theo, I joked around with Ellinor earlier, didn't think she'd actually agree to have a drink with me. You wouldn't mind, would you?"

Theo stared at Bartlett for a few seconds, and a faint smile tugging at the corner of his mouth. "Not at all. She's young and doesn't know any better. I understand"

Bartlett's smile froze Was Theo implying that he was as clueless as a child?

The atmosphere suddenly became tense. Jonah and Kemp exchanged glances, sensing the tension between the two.

They'd been friends since childhood and it would be a shame if a woman were to come between them.

Jonah casually changed the subject "Bartlett, today's the day you officially take over Rex Enterprises. The celebration is almost over, aren't you going to take us out for drinks?"

Bartlett smiled and said, "Sure, where do you guys want to go? I'll arrange it."

Jonah nudged Theo. "Theo, where do you want to go?"

Theo replied flatly. "You guys go ahead, I've got things to do."

Jonah frowned. "Theo, Bartlett just got back to the country and it's rare for the four of us to get together. Don't be a party pooper!"

"I really do have things to do. I'll treat next time. I'm gonna head out now."

With that, he put down his glass, got up, grabbed his suit jacket off the chair and draped it over his arm. With elegance, he turned around, waved his hand to bid them farewell, and walked away

Jonah sighed in frustration. "Theo's really forgotten his friends now that he's got a wife!"

Bartlett watched Theo's retreating figure and gave a bitter smile.

"It's fine, Theo must have something important to handle."

Kemp stood up and suggested, "Let's go. I've got some good liquor at Twilight Bar. Let's enjoy it tonight!"

"

Bartlett objected, "Kemp, come on, didn't we agree that I would arrange it?"

Jonah chuckled, "You two decide. All I need to do today is enjoy myself!"

In the car.

"So, when I asked you to arrange a job for her, this is how you handle it?"

The man's voice was emotionless but full of threat..

Chapter 137

Collin

was scared shitless and tried to explain with an innocent face. "Mi Blanchet, there was some urgent business at the company this afternoon, so I couldn't accompany Ms. Mendoza to work. I just called the manager. He said it was Ms Mendoza who insisted on being an artist's assistant."

Theo frowned but didn't say a word, his face giving away nothing

Carefully, Collin added, "Tomorrow, I'll arrange a less strenuous job for her"

Theo remained expressionless as he said "No need to babysit her. If that's her choice, let her do it."

"Understood"

**Check at Bartlett's gallery tomorrow, see if they have three Lady Lotus paintings. Buy them if they do. She wants them."*

Collin nodded, "Got it."

"Ms Howard's treatment is almost over. She'll be back home next month."

Theo closed his eyes, massaging his brow, "Alright."

Not getting chewed out by Theo, Collin breathed a sigh of relief. After a while, when he was sure Theo had no other orders, Collin dared to look ahead and spotted something new!

"Mr. Blanchet, isn't that Ellinor?"

Theo looked out the car window, and indeed it was her Ellinor was munching on skewers alone by the roadside.

Dinner at this late hour?

Collin signaled the driver to stop He had a hunch about what might be going on, so he told Mr. Blanchet, 'Mr. Blanchet, that actress named Sheila is notoriously difficult Ellinor, being her assistant, probably had a hell of a day. I bet she didn't even have time to eat

Theo's brow furrowed, "Go get her"

"Sure thing." Collin nodded and got out of the car.

Collin chatted with Ellinor briefly, then returned alone. He bent over at the car window, awkwardly reporting:

"Ellinor said she isn't done eating yet, and told you to mind your own business..."

Theo was silent for a while, then he got out of the car.

Ellinor, taking a sip of her orange soda, saw Theo approaching and finally standing in front of her table, looking down at her. If he wasn't so damn good-looking, he'd look like a loan shark!

Ellinor raised her hand, shouting, "Excuse me, twenty more skewers!"

"I'm not eating" The man replied coldly.

Ellinor looked up, a dumbfounded expression on her face, then laughed, "Theo, you're overthinking. I ordered for myself, I'm still hungry!"

Theo was speechless

His presence was overwhelming, just standing there made the atmosphere around the food stall a bit awkward. People eating skewers shot him surprised and admiring glances

Indeed, it did seem highly inappropriate for such a refined gentleman, dressed in designer suits from head to toe, exuding success, to appear in front of a roadside food

stall

Ellinor's appetite was affected. She complained, "Theo, if you're not going to eat, go back to your car. Or you could sit down and eat with me. Don't just stand there like a statue, it's killing our appetites!"

Theo's face turned sour

Collin watched Ellinor in admiration from the side. In all the years he'd worked with Theo, he'd never seen anyone dare to talk to him like that!

Chapter 138

The guy grabbed a chair, plonked down, and coldly watched her

Ellinor didn't give two hoots about him and just kept munching on her barbecue skewers. After a while, she waved her skewer in front of the guy's mouth, grinning from ear to ear, "Here, have a bite"

The guy was taken aback, seemingly intrigued, so he slowly opened his mouth....

With a swift move, Ellinor pulled back the skewer and took a big bite, chuckling as she ate, "Weren't you saying you weren't gonna eat?"

Theo was no longer fuming, but he coldly said, "Are you messing with me?"

Ellinor reached into the plate with her other hand, got a fresh grilled skewer, and handed it to him, "Here, have this one. I'm not fooling around anymore! It's not appropriate or hygienic to share a skewer. I'll treat you to a new one! Give it a try, it's really good!"

Having been tricked once. Theo didn't trust her easily this time. He eyed her warily before taking the barbecue skewer.

This time, Ellinor really meant to feed him. She had no intention of pranking him again.

Seeing Theo take the skewer, Collin hurriedly tried to stop him, "You can't eat this filthy stuff!"

Ellinor shot Collin a glance, dismissively saying. The skewers are tasty. They won't make him sick!"

Collin felt helpless. He couldn't control Ellinor, but Theo had never eaten this kind of stuff before. What if he got a stomachache...

"Mr. Blanchet..."

Theo waved him off, telling him to mind his own business.

Collin could only step back, still very worried, but he didn't dare to step forward to dissuade Theo.

Watching Ellinor eat her skewer, Theo took a bite of his own and slowly started eating.

At that moment, Ellinor leaned in with her cute face, batting her eyes at him, "How's the skewer? Is it good?"

Theo nodded, "Not bad."

"Told you!" Ellinor was very pleased, she laughed and said, "Theo, I could tell it's your first time eating skewers, you don't have to eat so slowly!"

With a stern face, Theo glared at Ellinor's eating antics and found himself oddly at ease.

The way she ate, full of zest and life, not like those pretentious women who always put on a demure front around him.

"Ellinor, your BBQ skewer is ready!"

The owner brought the skewers over and immediately noticed Theo, she exclaimed loudly.

"This guy is even more handsome than the last one! Ellinor, you're always surrounded by top-notch hunks!"

Ellinor gave a hearty laugh, "Oh, they're alright!"

The boss

lady brought over a bottle of soda, "It's your first time here, this one's on me! If you like the skewers, make sure to bring Ellinor here often!"

Theo looked down at the soda, not quite used to this kind of hearty interaction and unsolicited generosity. He was about to tell the owner to take it back, that he didn't need it. But Ellinor cheerfully answered for him: "Thanks, we'll definitely come often!"

The owner smiled and turned around to get busy.

Chapter 139

Theo asked casually, "You're tight with the owner?"

Ellinor nodded, "Yeah, we come here often!"

"We?"

"Um... with my friends!"

Suddenly, he remembered how the owner had said he was more handsome than the previous man Ellinor had brought. So, she had brought other men here before?

Who was this previous guy?

Theo frowned, "Friend? An ex?"

*Ellinor shook her head honestly. "Nope, I've never been in a relationship, so no exes! I just come here with some classmates and childhood friends!**

Theo immediately asked, "Classmate? The one who gave you the button?"

"Not him!" Ellinor answered without hesitation, then paused, "How did you know someone gave me a button?"

Theo kept a straight face, snorting. "Because I was around that day"

Ellinor thought for a moment, then remembered the graduation day when she had run into that male classmate while walking with Theo. He must have seen it.

'He's just a classmate, and we don't really keep in touch. He said he wanted to give me the button as a keepsake. I didn't think it was anything special, so I took it.'

Theo felt elated but kept his cool, "So, you have no idea what it means?"

Ellinor was puzzled, "What could a button possibly mean? I really have no idea. Let me look it up!"

As she grabbed her phone to search, Theo stopped her, "Don't bother with trivial stuff. Eat up, let's go home after."

"Okay!" Ellinor was a little baffled, feeling that he was acting weird today. But she didn't think much of it and focused on her kebabs. After eating, she felt full and satisfied

Sheila had intentionally made her skip meals all day, so she couldn't help but overeat tonight. She was about to stand up with the help of the table when a gentlemanly hand suddenly extended towards her.

Ellinor blinked, looking up to see Theo frowning helplessly at her. After a moment's hesitation, realizing she couldn't stand up by herself, she took his hand to get up

Once she was on her feet, she thanked him and tried to pull her hand back, but Theo didn't let go, leading her slowly towards his car.

Feeling embarrassed, she quickly said, "Wait, I haven't paid yet!"

Theo nodded at Collin to settle the bill. With her hand held by Theo, Ellinor got shy

His rough, powerful hand was gently holding hers, not hurting her but preventing her from pulling away.

"Look, that guy is so handsome!"

"Her boyfriend is not only good-looking but also caring and gentle. Besides being envious, I don't know what to say..."

Chapter 140

Hearing the whispers from bystanders about them being a couple, Ellinor felt more embarrassed

A guy and a gal strolling hand-in-hand, it was only natural people would mistake them for a couple!

Only, she and Theo weren't side by side. He was leading and she was following, him pulling her along, her trailing reluctantly behind.

Rather than looking like a couple, it seemed more like a parent dragging along a disobedient kid...

Ellinor felt that being misunderstood this way wasn't good. She and Theo were straight up business partners, so she tried to retract her hand to clear up the misunderstanding. But as soon as she made a move, they were already at the car.

Theo let go of her hand naturally, opened the car door for her and said, "Hop in"

She did, without stalling. As she got in, he raised his arm to shield her head from hitting the car roof.

Ellinor was startled. Though Theo seemed frosty, his manners and gentlemanly demeanor were well-refined.

As they were driving along. Ellinor slumped in her seat and said, "Thanks."

Theo, engrossed in his phone, glanced at her, "What for?"

Ellinor looked sincere. "Thanks for the meal!"

She had planned to pay herself, but he took her hand and had Collin pay the bill.

Theo ignored her.

"Let me see your hand Ellinor said, even sounding a bit bossy. She extended her hand, crooking her finger .

Theo looked at her, "What for?"

Ellinor pulled out some burn ointment from her pocket, waved it around, and said seriously. "I got this for you when we passed a pharmacy! I burned you today, so it's my responsibility!"

"No need." The man remained expressionless and coldly declined.

It wasn't really a burn, just a slight redness. He had already forgotten about the minor injury.

Seeing him refuse, Ellinor just grabbed his hand, pulled it towards her, and examined the redness.

She squeezed a little ointment out, and applied it to his reddened hand with a delicate touch, "I didn't mean to burn you, sorry!"

Theo was taken aback, but he didn't resist her approach. Instead, he watched Ellinor apply the ointment.

An injury he didn't care about was being treated so carefully by her. It made him feel special, "I didn't expect you to know how to apologize!"

Ellinor was straightforward, "Of course I'll apologize for my mistakes. And I know burns hurt, so you have to apply ointment!"

Theo frowned, "How would you know? Have you been burned before?"