

The Kiss That Sparked Read for free online Chapter 1311

Chapter 1311

Byran's face suddenly got all serious. "Let me make this clear, I ain't no kid!"

Ellinor didn't give him the time of day. "If you're not gonna eat the meat, I'll finish the whole thing!"

"Who said I ain't eating meat? I'm eating!" Byran proudly declared while reaching out to pile more barbecue onto his plate.

This was a rare chance to chow down on barbecue, so he had to make the most of it.

Byran's upbringing was strict; he never had any extra dough. Balfour was always worried that if Byran got his hands on too much cash, he'd go off the rails.

Apart from eating at the school canteen, he was always eating at home. Balfour also never let him eat fast food.

It wasn't until he met Ida that he got the chance to eat out more often.

He felt a bit guilty. Ida footed the bill on every date.

He didn't have a choice; he didn't have any money and couldn't work right now.

Once he got a job and started earning money, he was going to buy Ida loads of nice stuff to make it up to her.

After stuffing her face, Ellinor wiped her mouth and headed upstairs for a shower.

Even with the air conditioning on, the barbecue had her sweating buckets. A shower would cool her down.

After her shower, she dried her hair while idly scrolling through her phone.

The money she'd sent Theo had been sitting there for two hours, still unaccepted.

Ellinor wanted to settle her debt with him, so she clicked on Theo's profile and shot him a message to remind him to accept the money.

Once he'd accepted it, she would block him, and they wouldn't have to stay in touch.

But Theo didn't respond. He didn't reply to her message or accept the money.

Ellinor furrowed her brows, thinking that if he didn't accept it today, she'd remind him again tomorrow.

The portrait had been moved into her room by the housekeepers. It was leaning against the wall, not yet hung up.

After looking at her mother's self-portrait, a wave of vague childhood memories flooded her mind.

Where was her mother?

How had she been all these years?

If her mother was still alive, why hadn't she come back to find her?

She was only a few years old when they separated, and now she was about to become a mother herself.

Time really flew by.

Ellinor gently rubbed her belly as her face softened. She'd be meeting her baby soon.

Suddenly, her phone rang.

After snapping back to reality, she picked up her phone and saw that she was receiving a voice call from Belinda.

She was about to pick up when the call was canceled,

She found it odd and worried that something might've happened. She called back, only to be declined.

She furrowed her brows, sensing that something was off. She tried calling a few more times, but was declined each time.

Feeling a bit worried, she texted Belinda. “What’s up? Something wrong?”

After a while, Belinda replied, “Nah, it’s nothing. I just dialed the wrong number. I’m out; I can’t really talk.”

Relieved, Ellinor didn’t press her further.

After setting down her phone, she dried her hair before hitting the hay early.

Ellinor fell asleep early but spent the whole night dreaming. They weren’t nightmares, but the kind of dreams that leave her feeling drained. She was either running or searching for something in her dreams.

This left Ellinor feeling out of sorts when she woke up the next day.

When she went downstairs for dinner, she could feel Balfour’s gaze on her. It was like he had something to say but was hesitating.

Ellinor narrowed her eyes at him, asking, “Mr. Howard, you keep looking at me like that. You got something to say?”

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Chapter 1312

Chapter 1312

Balfour stared at her quietly for a while and then slowly cracked a smile. “No worries. You just seem a bit off today. Didn’t you sleep well last night?”

Ellinor replied, “I’m good. I just had a few dreams.”

Balfour stood up and gently patted Ellinor’s head. “Don’t overthink before bed, then you won’t dream.”

Ellinor nodded slightly.

Balfour turned to Byran beside him, his tone getting serious. “Byran, I got someone to call in sick for you today. Stay home and keep Ellinor company.”

Byran stared at him in surprise. What? Did he hear that right? Balfour actually helped him skip school?

Seeing his brother's surprise, Balfour reminded him sternly. "Even though I got you off, your teacher left homework for you. It better be done before I get home from work."

"Oh, got it..." Byran nodded obediently. He didn't expect to have homework even on a day off. But hey, doing homework at home wasn't that bad. He could even sneak out for a bit while Balfour was out.

After Balfour left, Byran turned to Ellinor in amazement.

"Ellinor, you're something else! He actually got me off school because he was worried you'd be bored at home.

I heard he was really fond of Pearl, and I always wondered just how much he loved her.

Now I get it. You're even more powerful than my sister, Patricia! Balfour always had rules for her, but for you, he's got none!"

Ellinor smiled. "Eat your breakfast, then do your homework!"

She didn't want to compare herself with Patricia. She wasn't interested in who Balfour liked more,

either.

Byran grinned and suddenly dropped his pride. "Can I go out for a bit this afternoon then? Just an hour, I promise I'll be back on time."

Ellinor raised an eyebrow. "If you can finish your homework this morning, sure."

Byran jumped up immediately. "No problem! I'll get on it now."

After saying this, he ran upstairs to do his homework.

Ellinor looked at his breakfast and shook her head.

These young people sure have a lot of energy.

She needed to eat well and get her strength up so she could be in the best condition for the baby's birth.

At half past ten in the morning, Byran excitedly ran downstairs with his completed homework to show Ellinor.

“Look! I finished my homework!”

Ellinor was on her phone, checking why Theo hadn't accepted her money transfer. She reminded him earlier, but he wasn't responding.

He really knew how to rile people up! Why couldn't he just accept it?

Hearing Byran made her come back to reality. She took the homework book from him and started checking his answers.

While slowly raising her hand, Ellinor asked, “Where's the pen?”

Byran frowned in confusion “Why do you need a pen? You don't have homework to do.”

Ellinor pointed to a question on his homework. “Why? I'm going to circle the mistakes. If you don't correct them, you're not going out!”

“Oh!” Byran scratched his head in annoyance.

Left with no choice, he turned to go upstairs and get a pen.

Ellinor found over twenty mistakes in Byran's homework. She had him sit and correct them, then checked again.

To be able to go out, Byran had no choice but to listen to her and carefully correct his mistakes.

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Chapter 1313

It took him a full hour to correct all his mistakes, and only after that did he finally get Ellinor's green light to step out for an hour.

Learning from yesterday's mistake, he put on some clean clothes without putting much effort into his appearance and dashed out the door.

After Byran finished his homework, Ellinor checked her phone.

Theo hadn't accepted her money, nor had he replied to her messages.

Why was he acting so hot and cold?

First, he was so chatty that it was annoying; now he was giving her the silent treatment and ignoring her messages.

Even if he didn't want to reply, couldn't he at least accept the money first?

Suddenly, Bartlett texted her. "Ellinor, are you okay?"

Ellinor was puzzled and texted back. "I'm fine; what's up?"

"Are you sure you're okay? Don't put on a brave face. If you feel like crying, I can come over. You can lean on my shoulder."

Ellinor was confused. "Why would I be in trouble? Why would I want to cry?"

This time, Bartlett took five minutes to reply. "Nothing; I was just worried since your due date is approaching. I'm afraid you might be emotional, Glad to hear you're fine."

Ellinor felt like there was something off, but she couldn't put her finger on it.

She texted Bartlett back. "I'm good. I'

Bartlett replied. "Alright, remember to

care of myself. Thanks for the concern."

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After the conversation with Bartlett, Ellinor felt

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a tad uneasy.

Suddenly, she felt a movement in her belly and saw her stomach rise and fall. It was the baby moving.

Even her baby could sense her unease and became restless.

Ellinor gently rubbed her belly, trying to soothe it. "It's okay, baby. Mommy is fine. Mommy is here."

After calming the baby, the movement in her belly gradually subsided until it was completely quiet.

It was lunchtime when Byran arrived at the Crescent Society.

He was now a regular in the CEO's office, so Ida's secretary was no longer surprised to see him and didn't stop him.

After walking confidently into Ida's office, Byran saw her staring out the window, seemingly deep in thought.

He decided to sneak up on her and make a funny face to scare her.

But Ida wasn't scared at all. In fact, she found him childish. She gracefully adjusted her glasses and asked, "What brings you here again? Shouldn't you be at home with Ellinor?"

Byran said righteously, "I've been with her all morning, so I thought I'd come and check on you. You ignored me yesterday and didn't have lunch with me. I was starving all day till dinner! But I'm forgiving, so it's fine. I forgive you, just as long as you have lunch with me today."

Ida looked at him coldly. "You can ask me out anytime, but for these few days you need to be at home with Ellinor; don't let her feel lonely."

Byran was slightly confused. "What's wrong? When Ellinor stayed at your place, she was often home alone, wasn't she?"

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Chapter 1314

Byran got Ida's drift and was somewhat chuffed about her trust

in

him.

“Gotcha! Don’t sweat it. I’ll scoot back home to look after Ellinor right after lunch.”

Ida gave him a serious look and said, “Also, if possible, try to shield her from the outside world’s news.”

This threw Byran for a loop. “How am I supposed to do that? With the internet everywhere, how can I stop her from getting news?”

Ida adjusted her glasses. “Don’t worry about the internet stuff; just make sure no one with bad intentions spreads rumors in front of her. And you, no matter what shocking stuff you hear, don’t tell her anything. Got it?”

Byran felt that Ida was acting off today. “Ida, what on earth is going on?”

“Nothing much, just remember what I told you!”

It wasn’t that she was trying to keep him in the dark on purpose; it was just that Byran was too young and impulsive. Telling him might just add fuel to the fire.

Better safe than sorry by keeping him in the dark.

If he found out from someone else, then what she just told him could serve as a heads-up for him. Whether he could keep his cool then would depend on whether he remembered what she said.

Ida stood up. “Let’s go! Time for grub! Isn’t that why you came to see me?”

Snapping back to reality, Byran stood up excitedly. “What are we having?”

Ida answered calmly, “We’ll grab something at the company canteen. After we eat, I’ll arrange a car to take you home.”

Byran was a little disappointed upon hearing this. “Ah? I came all this way to see you, and we’re just going to the canteen?”

“If you think you’re too good for

“It’s not that! I just think the canteen, you can go home and eat.”

is too crowded for a private conversation. I just wanted to have a bit of alone time with you.”

Ida ignored his dramatics and made her way to the canteen.

Meanwhile, at the café underneath the Crescent Society building.

Jacob looked across at Belinda, whose eyes were swollen like peaches. His heart ached for her. “Belinda, what happened? Why are you crying?”

Belinda’s hands were cold as ice as she held onto a cup of coffee that a server had just brought over. Tears were still streaming down her face as she choked out, “My uncle was murdered yesterday!”

Jacob was taken aback. “Mr. Blanchet? Who would dare hurt him? What the hell is going on?”

Belinda lifted her arm to wipe away her uncontrollable tears and her nose, trying to get her words out more coherently.

“Yesterday, there was an explosion at an abandoned heavy industry factory in the suburbs. The police found my uncle’s car there, along with a male body that they think might be my uncle’s.”

Jacob was shocked. He had seen the news about the explosion yesterday. It was a trending topic, but the identity of the male corpse found at the scene hadn’t been revealed.

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Chapter 1315

Maybe the Blanchet family had the media in their back pocket, keeping Mr. Blanchet’s mishap under wraps.

Belinda still had tears streaming down her face as she spoke. “He must’ve been set up! Why else would he be at that abandoned factory on the outskirts of town?”

Jacob asked, "Did Mr. Blanchet go alone?"

Belinda choked up. "He brought his trusty assistant and the family chauffeur."

"What about the other two who went with him? Were they rescued?"

Belinda shook her head. "They're still missing."

Jacob frowned. As much as he felt for his girlfriend's loss, he was lost himself when it came to the complex squabbles among the rich and powerful.

Belinda wasn't really looking for Jacob to solve anything; she just needed someone to vent to.

She continued, "Home's a total mess; my parents told me to keep it hush-hush, but I'm really upset. He was always so good to me. He may seem stern, but he'd always give me whatever I wanted."

Jacob patted his girlfriend's shoulder, unable to say much more than a helpless sigh. "Belinda, I feel you, but I don't know how to comfort you. All I can say is, take it easy."

Belinda wiped her tears. "I'm okay. At least I can let it all out and talk to you. But Ellinor's not so lucky; she doesn't even know yet. When I first found out yesterday, I wanted to call her, but Mr. Larios stopped me. He said Ellinor's about to give birth, and hearing such bad news might affect her health. It could even trigger premature labor. That would be a disaster!"

Jacob was surprised, wondering why Mr. Larios was there with his girlfriend. But he didn't push it, simply offering some reassurance. "Didn't Mr. Blanchet and Ellinor break up? And I recall that Ellinor didn't want to forgive him. So, she might be upset, but it shouldn't hit her too hard. Don't worry too much, Belinda."

Belinda shook her head. "You don't get it; they had a spat, but we all know they still care for each other deeply. They just have some unresolved issues."

Just as Jacob was about to speak, he noticed a figure approaching from behind Belinda.

After getting up, he greeted the man a bit nervously. "Uh... Mr. Larios, are you here for coffee too?"

Belinda, wiping her tears, turned around to find Chase.

Chase glanced at his watch and then said to Jacob, “Jacob, lunch break is almost over. You’ll be late if you don’t head back to the office.”

Jacob quickly explained, “Mr. Larios, it’s just that my girlfriend’s relative passed away. I’m here comforting her.”

Chase glanced at Belinda and then back to Jacob, his smile polite but not quite sincere. “Well, whatever the reason, being late will dock your perfect attendance bonus.”

Feeling the pressure from his boss, Jacob quickly agreed. “Uh... right! I’ll head back to work immediately!”

After excusing himself to his boss, Jacob turned apologetically to his girlfriend. “Belinda, I’m sorry! I have to get back to work now. I’ll get in touch with you after work. Take care of yourself, and don’t cry anymore. We can’t bring back the dead. Remember to eat something; don’t hurt your health over this.”

With that, Jacob rushed off, leaving in a hurry while feeling helpless.

After Jacob had left, Chase sat down across from Belinda, his voice gentle but reproachful. “Why do you have to tell everything to outsiders?”

But Belinda’s years wouldn’t stop; she was both sad and upset.

“My boyfriend is not an outsider to me.”

"The Kiss That Sparked it All (Ellinor)" A romance novel or romantic novel

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Chapter 1316

Chase wasn’t his usual happy-go-lucky self right now. He had a worried look on his face and said, “Yeah, he’s not an outsider to you, but he sure as hell is to the Blanchet family. They’re trying to keep a lid on this whole thing, and you’re blabbing away to some guy who’s got nothing to do with it? If he tells anybody else this, do you know what will happen?”

Belinda was taken back a bit, realizing she might’ve made a mistake. She grabbed her phone and said, “I’ll tell Jacob not to let the cat out of the bag.”

After she sent Jacob a message, Chase sighed.

“They’re doing a DNA test on the body the cops found yesterday. They’re being really thorough about it, so things are moving slowly. Let’s just wait for the results; maybe it’s not Mr. Blanchet?”

Belinda hoped with all her heart that it was not her uncle, but the cops found her uncle’s damaged ID on the charred and unrecognizable body.

Chase continued. “Whether that body is Mr. Blanchet or not, we can’t let my boss know about this, got it?”

Belinda nodded. “I got it. I was just panicking yesterday, that’s why I wanted to call Ellinor. Good thing you were there to stop me, or I might have caused her trouble.”

Chase handed her a tissue from the table. “Alright, if you need to cry, let it out.”

Belinda wiped her tears. “No matter what, I will find out who killed my uncle and make them pay.”

Chase nodded, but he wasn’t totally convinced about Theo’s death.

The Blanchet family’s Villa.

Sophia only found out about this in the morning and rushed over to the Blanchet’s. She refused to believe that something had happened to Theo.

She was led into the Blanchet’s home by a servant.

In the living room, Veronica Blanchet was alone on the couch, her face blank as tears fell on her lap.

Sophia rushed over and asked, “Veronica, where’s your brother?”

Veronica snapped out of it, looked at Sophia with a gloomy face, and said, “You must’ve heard about what happened yesterday, and that’s why you’re here, right? What do you want me to say?”

Sophia was now teary-eyed. She absolutely refused to accept the truth and shook her head in disbelief.

“No, I can’t believe... I just can’t believe that something happened to Theo! It’s impossible!”

Veronica’s tears fell. “You think I want to believe it?”

Sophia thought Veronica might’ve been misinformed. She started looking around the room. “Where are your grandparents? I’m sure they’ve sent someone to investigate! That body might not be Theo’s!”

Veronica weakly responded, “Grandma fainted when she heard the news, and Grandpa’s heart condition, acted up. They’re both being watched by the family doctor in their rooms; it’s best not to upset them.”

Sophia took a step back, as if she had lost her balance. “How could this happen? When I saw him at the company yesterday, he was fine... How would Theo end up alone in some abandoned factory?!”

Veronica couldn’t muster the energy to deal with Sophia anymore; it was too late for anything now.

Sophia, in her panic, forgot that her dad had friends in the police department. She immediately called her dad to get an update.

After hearing the latest information her dad got from his police friends, Sophia’s face underwent a subtle change.

She wiped her tears, sat on the sofa, and choked out a question to Veronica.

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Chapter 1317

“Where’s Ellinor? With all the crap Theo’s landed himself in, she’s still not back?”

At the mention of Ellinor, Veronica’s eyes lit up like a warning beacon. “She can’t know about this! Grandma said that Theo’s probably six feet under now, so the kid in Ellinor’s belly is the only bloodline left of Thea. We can’t risk anything happening to Ellinor and the baby. she can’t be stressed out!”

Sophia, eyes filled with sorrow, nodded while wiping her tears. “You guys are right! Ah, Veronica, I’m feeling all over the place right now. I’d rather not

bother your grandparents. Tell them for me that I'll have my dad's people look into what the heck happened. We have to avenge Theo!"

After that, Sophia wiped her tears one last time and turned to leave.

Once out of the Blanchet family's sight, Sophia dialed a number in her car. "Find where Ellinor is, pronto! I want answers in ten!"

When Byran returned home, he found Ellinor picking at her lunch. Despite her hunger, the food tasted bland.

"You're having lunch?" Byran walked over, eyeing the food on Ellinor's plate.

It was a rich and nutritious meal prepared by the professional nutritionist.

Ellinor snapped back to reality. "You're back."

Byran nodded and took a seat across from her. "Eat up."

Ellinor took a distracted bite of her steak, noticing Byran's furrowed brows, like he was deep in thought.

"What's on your mind? Did Ida give you the cold shoulder again?" She asked.

Byran frowned. "I feel like Ida's been acting weird today, like she's hiding something from me. And my brother's been off as well. It's not like him to give me a day off."

Ellinor had no idea what was so strange, nor did she care to find out.

She couldn't eat any longer, so she picked up her phone to watch some videos.

While scrolling, Ellinor saw news of an explosion at an abandoned factory on the outskirts of town, but soon swiped past it.

Just then, the family butler approached. "Ms. Mendoza, you have a visitor."

Byran asked, "A visitor? Who?"

The butler shook his head. "I don't recognize her, but she insisted she came specifically to see Ms. Mendoza. Her name is Sophia."

Ellinor was taken aback upon hearing this.

How did Sophia find her here?

Byran remembered what Ida had told him earlier about keeping an eye on Ellinor and shielding her from the outside world as much as possible, so she could avoid unnecessary stress.

Sophia was clearly no saint; she was the root cause of the misunderstanding between Ellinor and Theo.

Her appearance now, regardless of her intentions, was bound to stress Ellinor out.

Realizing this, Byran quickly instructed the butler. "We don't know any Sophia! Don't let her in; tell her to hit the road!"

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Chapter 1318

The butler glanced at Byran and then at Ms. Mendoza's reaction.

He fretted that the visitor might be a friend of Ms. Mendoza, and not letting her in could tick off Ms. Mendoza.

Although Balfour didn't say it outright, everyone in the house had more or less guessed Ms. Mendoza's identity.

Pissing off Ms. Mendoza was no small matter.

However, the butler didn't see any hint on Ellinor's face. Ms. Mendoza was just nonchalantly eating her lunch, seemingly uninterested in the visitor.

It seemed that the visitor hadn't won Ms. Mendoza's favor, so he was free to handle it.

The butler nodded and turned to leave.

A few minutes later, the butler returned. "Ms. Mendoza, Byran, I've conveyed your message to Ms. Sophia, but she refuses to leave, claiming she has important things to tell Ms. Mendoza."

Ellinor lifted her head and was about to give the butler instructions when Byran impatiently stood up. "What's so important? Let her tell me first! I'll handle her myself!"

With that, Byran strode out the door.

After seeing Byran leave, Ellinor didn't say anything else to the butler and continued eating her lunch.

She really didn't want to see Sophia; it was better for Byran to handle it.

Byran arrived at the door to see Sophia standing outside their iron gate, holding a box that seemed to be a supplement.

Did she think he'd be nice to her just because she brought a gift?

Byran crossed his arms. "Hey! What are you doing at my house?"

Sophia saw Byran come out and forced a smile, her voice a bit dull. "Byran, you're home! I heard Ellinor might be living at your place, so I came to visit."

Byran was unimpressed.

"Ellinor is indeed at our house! She's doing great; she has everything she needs and doesn't need your concern!"

Sophia suddenly choked up. "Is it Ellinor who doesn't want to see me? I know she doesn't like me, but I wouldn't have come if I didn't have something important to tell her. Byran, I know you're a good and righteous person. Can you help me open the door to see Ellinor?" Sophia started crying, leaving Byran a bit at a loss. He frowned. "Hey! Speak up! Why are you crying? We have surveillance at my house, which can prove that I didn't mistreat you!"

Sophia's voice got huskier, and tears welled up in her eyes. "Byran, please let me in to see Ellinor for a moment. I just need a few minutes. I'll leave as soon as I say what I have to say."

Noticing that Sophia's crying wasn't a pretense, Byran wavered a bit.

"What exactly do you want to tell her?"

"It's a woman's business, so I can't tell you."

Byran frowned. After seeing her cry, he decided to let her in for a while. He planned to supervise her conversation with Ellinor the whole time, believing she wouldn't do anything rash.

So, Byran reached out to open the gate.

A fleeting look of triumph flashed in Sophia's eyes, and she hurriedly thanked him, waiting to go in.

But just then, a car horn suddenly sounded, interrupting Byran's action of opening the door.

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Chapter 1319

Byran blinked as he looked out to see his brother's ride pulling up.

The black business car parked at the front of the gate. The driver got out to open the door and out stepped Balfour.

Sophia stared at Balfour in a daze, quickly putting on a bitter smile. Her voice was hoarse; it was clear that she had been crying.

"So, Mr. Howard is back."

Balfour took a couple steps forward while squinting at Sophia with a scrutinizing gaze and casually asked, "And you are?"

Sophia was taken aback. He didn't remember her?

Despite Balfour rarely showing his face at social events, they'd met at a few important business dinners and even had close conversations.

Realizing that she had been forgotten, Sophia felt a bit bummed but didn't let it show, only responding with a bitter smile.

"Mr. Howard, hi, I'm Theo's friend, Sophia. We've met before, don't you remember?"

After hearing her describe herself as Theo's friend, the indifference in Balfour's eyes was now mixed with a hint of suspicion.

"What brings you to my house?"

Sophia said, "As I've explained to Byran earlier, I heard Ellinor was staying here and thought I'd drop by. I brought her some special supplements that are great for pregnant women."

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Saying this, she held up the supplements in her hand.

Balfour didn't even spare a glance at the supplements. His house lacked nothing; Ellinor could have any supplement she wanted.

"She needs some peace and quiet, so she can't see anyone right now. You should head back."

With that cold remark, Balfour walked straight past Sophia.

Sophia didn't give up though. She furrowed her brows and turned to shout at Balfour's retreating back. "Mr. Howard, I know why you won't let me see Ellinor!"

Balfour paused. "If you know why, then you shouldn't have come.

Sophia insisted, "But don't you think it's unfair to Ellinor? She has a right to know everything!"

Balfour's tone was steady. "She does have a right, but not now."

Balfour turned around; his eyes were menacing, as if he were trying to warn her that he had already seen through her motives. He sternly told her, "Even if she blames me later, it's my business. Don't stick your nose in it!"

Sophia's face was etched in grief. "You guys have no right to deprive Ellinor of this news! She should be saying her goodbyes to Theo. She has his child in her belly, so she must mourn the child's father's passing!"

Balfour was getting impatient with her. He shouted out a command to the servants in his deep voice. "Someone, show the lady out! I don't want to see this impolite woman at my doorstep ever again!"

“Yes, sir!”

A few servants came over and escorted Sophia out.

After watching Sophia being led away, Byran looked at Balfour, who had come home unexpectedly early, and began feeling uneasy. “What was that chick talking about? What happened to Theo? What goodbye? What mourning?”

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Balfour coldly stared at him; his gaze showed his disappointment. “If I hadn’t come back just now, were you planning on letting that woman, who we barely know, in?”

Byran scratched his head. “Well... She was crying... She looked really pitiful, so I thought I’d let her stay for a bit, but I was planning to keep an eye on her! Plus, I know she really is Theo’s friend!”

Balfour lightly thumped him on the head. “What does someone else’s crying have to do with you?”

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Chapter 1320

Byran rubbed his head, which was still hurting from Balfour’s smack, but he was still curious. “What’s up with Theo?”

Balfour’s expression was serious. “When we go in, don’t mention what Sophia said earlier in front of Ellinor, and don’t bring up Theo!”

Balfour avoided his question, and Byran couldn’t shake off the feeling that something was off.

Were Ida and her brother hiding the same thing from Ellinor?

When the two brothers walked in, Ellinor had finished her lunch and was idly scrolling through her phone on the couch..

“Ellinor.” Balfour called her softly.

Ellinor looked up at him, feeling a bit surprised. “Why are you home so early today?”

Balfour sat next to her and smiled. “There’s not much going on at the company this afternoon, so I figured I’d come home and keep you company.”

Ellinor replied indifferently, “Don’t bother. I’m fine by myself; I don’t need company.”

Balfour didn’t really mind Ellinor’s aloofness anymore. He had grown accustomed to it.

Ellinor glanced at Byran, who was standing behind Balfour, and asked casually, “Did that woman leave?”

Byran nodded. “Uh-huh, she’s gone.”

Ellinor asked offhandedly, “Did she say she needed anything from me?”

Byran felt a bit guilty and received a subtle glare from Balfour. He quickly shook his head. “No! I think she was just looking for something to do!”

Ellinor figured as much. What good could come out of Sophia looking for her?

At that moment, she noticed the money she transferred to Theo still hadn’t been accepted.

Ellinor frowned as she looked at the transfer.

Couldn’t this guy be more straightforward?

She transferred the money again and wrote, “Please accept. Let’s call it even!”

After waiting for a while, he still hadn’t accepted the money or responded to her message.

Ellinor felt a heaviness in her chest; it was an indescribable discomfort.

She thought for a moment and then asked Balfour, “Do you know what Theo has been up to recently?”

Balfour was usually calm, but he briefly stiffened at this question. His smile now a bit forced. "Why the sudden interest? I thought you wanted nothing to do with him."

Byran tensed as well. He was afraid Ellinor had caught on to something, even though he had no clue what was going on.,

"I do want nothing to do with him. But I want to pay him for the painting. I don't want to owe him anything. He's refusing to accept the money I transferred."

Upon hearing this, Balfour sighed in relief. "If he won't take the money, just consider the painting a gift from him. To him, the price of the painting is pocket change."

Ellinor frowned. "Regardless of whether or not it's pocket change to him, I don't want to owe him anything. We're not on speaking terms, so I can't just accept things from him for no reason."

Balfour looked at her stubborn expression with complex eyes. After a long pause, he gave a small smile. "Alright, I'll have a check sent directly to the Blanchet family. We won't owe them anything."

Ellinor wanted to sever all ties with Theo, but she didn't plan on getting too close to Balfour either.

"I'll transfer the money to you!" With that, Ellinor pulled up Balfour's contact info, ready to transfer the money right away.

But Balfour took her phone away and put it aside. "That's enough. Stop staring at your phone; it's bad for you." Ellinor was speechless.

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Meanwhile, Byran was quietly texting Ida, asking if what Sophia had said earlier was true. He got a positive response.