

The Kiss 141

Chapter 141

Burns were definitely more unbearable than other injuries. It was like a relentless burning sensation that kept spreading, making the pain impossible to ignore.

*Ellinor nodded, "When I was a kid growing up in the countryside, I had to do everything myself, so at first, I was always getting burns. They hurt so bad I couldn't sleep all night!"**

Theo asked anxiously. "How old were you when you started working?"

Ellinor replied casually, "I can't remember!"

She didn't want to talk much about her childhood. When it slipped out, she didn't want to keep talking.

The man's other hand unconsciously covered her head, petting her like a small animal, "Did you have a hard time when you were little?"

"It was okay!"

Ellinor didn't like the feeling of being pitied. So she disdainfully brushed away the man's hand on her head and explained seriously, "You probably don't understand my family I think it's necessary to tell you. People from the Mendoza family are very greedy if they find out about our relationship, it would not only bring trouble to me but also unnecessary complications for you. I guess you don't like trouble, right? So, I hope you can cooperate with me and keep our relationship as discreet as possible, avoiding others from finding out about it!"

Theo smelled the unpleasant odor of the ointment, his mood not good, "In the Mendoza family, does any one dare to bully you? If necessary, I can..."

"No need!" Ellinor shook her head, interrupting the man, "I can deal with my own family issues! And I think, we don't need to do anything extra for each other. After all, we will end our relationship in three months. By then, we can pretend to be strangers who don't even have to greet each other when we meet!"

The warmth in Theo's eyes instantly disappeared, replaced by coldness. She kept mentioning the end of their three-month contract. How much was she looking forward to the end of this relationship?

After breaking up, they should be strangers who didn't even greet each other when they met? Why didn't she want to get close to him?

Theo's eyebrows furrowed, he withdrew his hand indifferently. "You're overthinking. I don't have time to deal with your family affairs."

Ellinor didn't respond, then handed him the ointment with the lid screwed back on, "Here, keep this burn cream. Remember to apply it twice a day, it should be good in about a week!"

With a stern expression, Theo did not accept it, so Ellinor had to lean over and stuff it into his suit pocket.

After that, they were silent all the way until they reached home. They got out of the car and went to their respective rooms.

Marissa was not there, so they didn't have to pretend to be a loving couple in the same room for now. Theo slept in the study, and Ellinor went back to her own bedroom.

That night, someone had sweet dreams in the bedroom, while someone else smoked all night in the study.

Early the next morning, Ellinor was woken up by the ring of the phone.

She groggily reached for the phone on the bedside table and answered it. Her father, Arnold Mendoza's voice roared on the other end of the line.

"Ellinor!"

Ellinor was still sleepy. "Dad, what did I do now?"

Arnold yelled, "What did you do? You tell me what you did! You ruined your sister's new movie! Get back here right now!"

She didn't ask much, just said calmly, "Okay, I'm on my way"

After hanging up the phone, Ellinor sat up and rubbed her eyes to wake up. She didn't need to guess to know now what had happened. Sheila must have run home to tattletale again.

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"Dad, I'm home!"

No sooner had Ellinor spoken, Tracy, her stepmother, rushed over and stopped her at the entrance, feigning concern "Ellinor, maybe you shouldn't go in just yet. Your dad is pretty ticked off at you!"

Ellinor responded calmly. "Auntie Tracy, what's going on? Why's Dad mad?"

Tracy raised her voice on purpose. "You upset your sister's new movie investor yesterday, and your dad knows all about it! Ellinor, I think it's better if you don't come home for the time being. Auntie Tracy is just looking out for you I'm worried your dad might go ballistic!"

Ellinor quietly watched Tracy's act without a word. If this old woman really cared about her, she could've called in advance to warn her not to come home, instead of waiting for her to walk through the door to say these hypocritical words.

Only Arnold would believe the sham Tracy was pulling

At that moment, Arnold's irate voice came from inside, "Is that Ellinor? Get her in here now!"

Tracy, who had just been holding Ellinor back, turned around and ran back in to calm Arnold down.

"Arnold, don't get angry, what's done is done Even if you lay into Ellinor today, it won't help Sheila recover her losses!"

Tracy's attempt at pacification only made Arnold angrier. He picked up a nearby golf club, "I have to teach her a lesson today, or I won't be doing right by you and Sheila"

Ellinor walked into the living room from the entrance, seeing her father Arnold, golf club in hand, ready to strike, the two—

faced Tracy, and Sheila, sitting on the couch crying her eyes out, her body shaking, looking utterly wronged!

Seeing Ellinor, Arnold became even more enraged, yelling, "You little witch, get over here and apologize!"

Ellinor asked, "I don't understand why you would hit me, Dad?"

"You don't understand?" Arnold's voice rose in anger, "Tell me, didn't your sister feel bad for you struggling to find work, so she let you be her assistant and even gave you a high salary?"

Ellinor frowned slightly and replied, "I guess so!"

Arnold continued his interrogation "So how did you repay your sister?"

Ellinor answered earnestly: "Of course I work hard to show my appreciation to her!"

Arnold glared

at her, "Work hard? Have you been working hard? Your sister finally signed with a new company and got a film with Director Pollock! She took you along for the meeting yesterday, and you ended up burning the investor's hand! Ellinor, what were you thinking?"

Ellinor didn't deny it, "Okay, I admit that was my fault, but I didn't do it on purpose."

Arnold raised the golf club in his hand, pointing at her angrily. "Because of your mistake yesterday, your sister's new movie can't get financing and can't start shooting! That's Director Pollock's new film, any actor who gets a role in his movie becomes an international superstar! Do you realize that you've ruined your sister's future?"

Tracy choked up: "Ellinor, you're really in the wrong this time! I know you might feel a bit jealous seeing your sister outperform you, but you can't sabotage her career over such a big deal!"

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Sheila lifted her tear-streaked face and said,

"Ellinor, I've always been good to you! I made you my assistant and even paid you your salary of ten grand in advance. Who else pays their assistant that much? Why are you doing this to me?"

"Sheila, stop crying! Your dad and I know how much you've been wronged Ellinor might have been jealous and ruined your career, but she's still family. Forgive her this one time and let it go Tracy immediately comforted Sheila

Arnold's heart ached even more, his disappointment and anger towards Ellinor Mendoza growing. "Look at how nice Tracy is to you. She is still trying to get Sheila to forgive you even now! And you?"

Ellinor just smirked

Arnold, broom in hand, was tempted to give her a good beating but seemed to think better of it. He threw the broom aside in frustration and said, "I won't bother hitting you today. Pack your things and get out of this house. Don't ever come back to Greenhaven! And because of your actions, I'm not giving you your inheritance. It'll go to Sheila as compensation!"

As soon as Arnold finished speaking, Ellinor saw Tracy and Sheila share a cunning smile.

Even without yesterday's incident where she accidentally burned Theo, those four wealthy heirs still wouldn't have invested in Pollock's movie

Sheila must know this, too

They just wanted to use this incident to drive her away and deny her the Mendoza family inheritance, so they wouldn't have to share the wealth with her. That was Tracy and Sheila's real goal

Ellinor never cared about the Mendoza family's wealth; she didn't want their crumbs.

But she wasn't about to let Tracy and Sheila have their way!

Since childhood, Tracy and Sheila have never been kind to her. They tarnished her mother's reputation and spread nasty rumors about her

They even spread rumors that her mother was a homewrecker!

That was unforgivable!

Ellinor thought for a moment, then looked at Arnold, "Dad, if I can make up for Sheila's loss, can I stay?"

"What? You can make up for the loss?" Arnold was stunned.

Tracy glanced at Ellinor with eyes filled with mockery

Sheila sneered,

"Ellinor, you make it sound so easy! How can you make up for my loss? Can you cough up a couple billion to invest in Pollock's new film?"

"No, I'm broke" Ellinor shook her head.

Sheila goaded her, "Then why are you talking about making up for losses? Do you really think this is a good time to be joking around?"

Arnold frowned

"I may not have the money, but I know someone who does."

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Sheila thought Ellinor was just blowing smoke, and she rolled her eyes in secret "Who, huh? Spill out the name for us to hear"

"The president of Crescent Society, Ida Gipson"

"Crescent Society? Sheila was taken aback, instinctively exchanging a glance with Tracy, both in disbelief.

Arnold, on the other hand, looked curious "You mean that Crescent Society that's skyrocketed in just three years and is about to go toe to toe with the big four corporations?"

Ellinor nodded, "Yes, that Crescent Society!"

"I heard the president of the Crescent Society is a young woman"

"Yeah, she's a real knockout!"

Sheila mocked with a whiny tone, "Ellinor, cut the crap! There's no way you could know the president of Crescent Society. I bet you're just trying to shirk responsibility and pull the wool over mine and our parents' eyes!"

Arnold's expression turned serious when he heard Sheila's words, and he asked, "Ellinor, do you really know the president of Crescent Society? How? Spill the beans

"Well, this is how it went. I found Ms. Gipson's phone on the street and returned it to her." Ellinor confessed, "I heard there were important documents for the corporation in it, and it would have been a disaster if it got lost. Ms. Gipson wanted to thank me with some kind of reward, but I refused. Then she told me if I ever needed help, I could always contact her, and she even gave me her business card."

As she spoke, Ellinor took the card out of her pocket. But before she could give it to her father, Tracy, with dollar signs in her eyes, snatched the card to examine it.

The card was sturdy, had a really fancy print, and even had a thin silver edge.

It had such a high-end texture, anyone could tell it wasn't just any old card!

It read "President of Crescent Society – Ida" along with her contact info.

Tracy looked up at Ellinor and felt skeptical

"Ellinor, a card doesn't prove anything. Unless you can get through to this Ms. Gipson right now, we can't believe you!"

Sheila nodded in agreement, 'Exactly, otherwise, we have no way of knowing if the number on this thing is legit. Call her up!"

Arnold concurred, "Ellinor, dial her up right now, let's see if it's really this Ms. Gipson who picks up!"

Ellinor frowned a bit helplessly under the watchful eyes of her father, stepmother, and stepsister. She took out her phone and dialed the number on the card.

"Hello, is this Ms. Gipson? This is Ellinor..."

After the call connected, Arnold and Tracy's eyes were glued to Ellinor as they listened to her ask the person on the other end about their interest in investing in movies

Sheila, on the other hand, was off to the side, frowning in dissatisfaction.

She always thought Ellinor was just putting on airs; she absolutely didn't believe that Ellinor could be on the phone with someone as important as the president of Crescent Society!

However, Ellinor suddenly handed her the phone, "Sheila, Ms. Gipson wants you to listen to the call, she has some questions about the movie she wants to ask you directly." Sheila was stunned, took the phone, and said, "Hello?"

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"Hey, Miss Sheila"

A soft, calm, elegant, and polite voice of a woman came through the phone, with impressive eloquence. One could tell she was the type of successful person who was not old yet incredibly powerful

Sheila felt nervous; her tone immediately softened, and she humbly answered a few questions about the movie.

Not long after, Sheila said thank you and goodbye to the person on the phone with a smile, then hung up.

"So, what's the scoop, Sheila? What was all the chitchat about?" Arnold and Tracy asked eagerly.

"Ms. Gipson said she'll consider investing in the movie, but currently their company has a new product and they're looking for a suitable spokesperson. She asked if I was interested in being their spokesperson!" Sheila was beaming with excitement.

"Sheila, that's a big win!" Arnold grinned.

"Crescent Society's products are well-liked by the public and have a great reputation. If you could be their spokesperson, your fame would definitely skyrocket, and so would your worth!"

Sheila smugly said. "Ms. Gipson also said to text her my address. She'll send a car to pick me up right now and head to Crescent Society for a face-to-face talk!"

Tracy was grinning from ear to ear, "That's fantastic! Sheila, you better get dolled up quick because the car Ms. Gipson sent will be here soon!"

Sheila nodded and stood up immediately to get ready.

But Ellinor blocked her, extended her hand, and said, "My phone."

"Perfect! You can write a text and send the address to Ms. Gipson!" Sheila frowned and arrogantly handed the phone back to her,

'Does this make up for the mess yesterday?' Ellinor raised an eyebrow.

Sheila rolled her eyes at her. "What? Do you want a pat on the back? Ms. Gipson hasn't agreed to invest in my new movie yet. She just said I should try being a spokesperson first! Only when Ms. Gipson really invests in my movie can you be off the hook!"

With that, Sheila bypassed her and went upstairs to get ready

Ellinor sighed and turned to Arnold, "Dad, do I still need to pack and leave?"

Arnold was still basking in the good news, even Ellinor, whom he found useless just moments ago, seemed more pleasing. His attitude changed, "Ellinor, good girl, this is the reward for your honesty, just stay here in Greenhaven!"

A cunning glint flickered in Ellinor's eyes, she smiled and said, "Thank you for your generosity!"

"Ellinor, you'll accompany Sheila to Crescent Society, with you, her benefactor there, Ms. Gipson will be more favorable to her! But be careful this time; don't mess it up again!" Arnold reminded

Ellinor obediently nodded and said, "Don't worry, I will be careful!"

Tracy, who was standing nearby, looked at Ellinor's glowing face with discomfort and shot her a glare.

Hmph, she almost kicked her out of the house today.

She was just lucky to dodge that bullet!

But helping Sheila get the chance to be a big brand spokesperson was a fair trade.

Twenty minutes later, the doorbell of the Mendoza family rang

All dolled up, Sheila was sitting on the sofa with an air of arrogance, ordering Ellinor to answer the door.

Ellinor got up to open the door.

There stood Chase Larios, dressed in a suit...

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"Long time no see, old buddy, I really miss you!"

Before Ellinor could respond, Sheila's voice came from behind her.

"Who's here?"

Chase wiped the smile off his face, and he said in a serious yet elegant tone, "Hello, I'm Chase, the vice president of Crescent Society"

Sheila was stunned when she saw the handsome guy at the door. Hearing that he was the vice president of Crescent Society, she enthusiastically pushed Ellinor aside, "Wow! The vice president himself came to pick me up I'm so flattered"

Chase just smiled, "Of course, I can't slack off when picking up Ms. Gipson's lifesaver and her sister"

Sheila's expression changed a bit when she heard this.

She didn't want to bring up Ellinor, but there was no way around it. After all, Ellinor was the one who found Ms. Gipson's phone, and now she is the contact person between her and Ms. Gipson

So, she pulled

Ellinor over, affectionately linked arms with her, and said with a smile, "I know all about it. Ellinor found

Ms. Gipson's phone and returned it to her. We, the Mendoza family, have always been honest and trustworthy. Our parents have taught us to be good people since we were children; it's just what we do!"

At this time, Arnold and Tracy also came out to see what was going on and heard what Sheila said.

Chase looked up at the two elders behind and complimented, "I can tell that your family has done a good job in raising such upright daughters."

Arnold was very happy to hear this and modestly said, "You flatter us!

"Sir, please come in and have a seat!"

As Tracy invited him in, she sized Chase up with curious eyes. This young man was handsome and the vice president of Crescent Society. He seemed to be a great match for Sheila, and she couldn't help but have some thoughts.

"No, thank you. Ms. Gipson is still waiting for us at the company. Chase politely declined. "Ladies, shall we go?"

"Sure." Sheila nodded with a smile and eagerly followed Chase.

Ellinor, clearly uninterested, yawned and followed

The car that came to pick them up was a unique antique car.

Sheila had been in many luxury cars, but never in such a rare antique one. She was so excited that she wanted to take a picture to show off. But because Mr. Lanos from Crescent Society was also in the car, she felt that taking a selfie would make her look unsophisticated

So she sneakily took out her phone, discreetly filmed a short video, and posted it on Twitter

The angle of the video captured the back of the driver, the steering wheel with the car's logo, and part of the antique interior.

She captioned the post: [On the road to a new announcement, today is another vibrant day!]

Soon, people started liking it and leaving comments

"Wow! Is this an antique car?! Sheila, is this your car?"

"Oh my god! Does someone actually dare drive such a high-end antique car on the road? Every kilometer is burning money! Sheila, you're so rich!"

Im so jealous, I want to ride in an antique car too!"

As Sheila basked in the praise and envy of her social circle, her vanity was greatly satisfied

Then she put away her phone and took a glance at Ellinor next to her.

Ellinor was leaning against the leather seat, dozing off with a lazy and relaxed look, as if she were in her own car, with absolutely no formality!

In fact, it was her car

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The driver up front and this Mr. Lanos dude are both her subordinates.

Sheila rolled her eyes at Ellinor again, not feeling too happy about the situation. If it weren't for the time when Ellinor helped Ms. Gipson find her lost cell phone, she wouldn't be stuck dragging her less-than-classy sister along to Crescent Society.

Ellinor just wasn't up to snuff!

Soon enough, the car pulled up in front of the Crescent Society building downtown.

Chase got out of the car, then went around to Ellinor's side, bent down, and opened the door, "Ms. Mendoza, alter you."

Ellinor got out of the car, expressionless, like it was just another day.

Sheila was ticked off by this, but she figured Mr. Larios just randomly opened Ellinor's door, not because he was favoring her or anything.

She couldn't stand the thought of being treated worse than Ellinor, so she didn't get out on her side and instead moved over to Ellinor's side, but before she could even get out Chase casually closed the door.

So she had to open the door herself and get out.

Chase led them into the building, into the elevator, and then to the Crescent Society CEO's office.

Having opened the door to the CEO's office, Chase casually knocked twice, saying lightly, "Ms. Gipson, the two Ms. Mendozas you were expecting are here."

In the office, a woman in a sleek suit sat behind a desk, looking down at some papers.

The woman's hair was medium-length and curly, simply tied in a tow ponytail: a lock of hair was casually tucked behind her ear. She wore simple and elegant gold-rimmed glasses that gave off a relaxed yet mature businesswoman vibe.

Having finished his errand, Chase nonchalantly settled down on the sofa.

Ida looked up from her papers, her gold-rimmed glasses reflecting a faint light. Her gaze fell directly on Ellinor.

Sheila saw this and stepped forward, trying to deliberately block Ellinor. She smiled and said, "Hello, Ms. Gipson, I'm Sheila. Nice to meet you!"

Ida gave a slight nod, "Hello, Ms. Mendoza, on the phone earlier, you mentioned you were willing to endorse our new product, right?"

Sheila replied enthusiastically. "Of course, it's my pleasure to work with Crescent Society."

Ida gave a small smile, "Alright then, I'll have someone show you our new product right away. Before becoming the face of our product, you should first understand what it

15"

"Okay."

Sheila felt a bit overlooked. They had just arrived, she hadn't even sat down yet, and she already had to go out....

She had the feeling that Ms. Gipson wasn't as polite as she was on the phone.

The secretary came in, asking Sheila to follow her out to see the product.

As Sheila followed the secretary to the office door, she turned around to see that not only had Ellinor not followed, but she was actually sitting down,

She called out unhappily. "Ellinor, are you daydreaming or something? Let's go!"

Ida, however, said, "No, I'd like Ms. Mendoza to stay: I have something to discuss with her"

Sheila was taken aback, feeling a bit disgruntled, "Uh.. Ms. Gipson, even though she's my sister, she's also my assistant. She might feel uncomfortable if she's not with me!" Ida's expression remained unchanged but seemed even colder, "Don't worry, our staff will take good care of your assistant."

"Uh.. okay" Sheila didn't know what else to say. She was curious about why Ms. Gipson wanted Ellinor to stay but didn't have a reason to stay and listen.

After thinking about it, she figured it must be some thank-you words for Ellinor helping her find her phone. Humph! What else important could she possibly have to say to

her?!

No matter how unhappy Sheila was, she had to leave with the secretary.

When the office was empty of others, Ida immediately stood up, walked around the desk, and naturally began massaging Ellinor's shoulders, "Boss, glad you could finally spare some time to visit the company!"

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Ellinor's eyes were half-closed. She was totally into the ongoing massage, and she nonchalantly replied, "Lately, I've been hassled by some jerk, dealing with endless headaches, and I've totally lost my freedom"

Behind Ida's glasses, her eyes squinted slightly. "Are you referring to that big shot from the Blanchet Corporation?"

Ellinor's eyebrows knitted up slightly in irritation, but she didn't deny it.

She didn't spill the beans to Ida about the recent events, but it didn't surprise her that Ida knew Chase, after all, was a notorious gossip

Chase brought some snacks for Ellinor, then crouched down elegantly to massage her legs, all smiles, "How's your married life? Are things, um, you know, smooth sailing in

the bedroom?"

Ellinor was about to munch on a bag of chips, but the question made her blush. She shot him a look, "That's none of your business!"

Chase chuckled, bowed his head, and continued the massage, no longer pressing the matter

Ida picked up a folder from the desk and handed it over to Ellinor, "This is the recent financial report of the company. Take a look."

Ellinor browsed through the folder and seemed pleased, "Good, it's a decent bump from last quarter."

Then she gave Ida some suggestions based on the numbers in the report.

Chase was all ears, and after she finished, he stood up and said, "You're not interested in running the company, but you're acting as Sheila's assistant. What's up with that?"

"With you two in charge, I'm at ease. As for being Sheila's assistant, it's not a forever thing!" Ellinor replied earnestly, then asked, "By the way, have you found out anything about the guy I asked you to investigate?"

Chase nodded, "That Pollock guy is a famous domestic director now, an art student from a small town. He used to do behind-the-scenes work before he got famous. He met his current wife Gwyn at work, and with the financial support from her wealthy parents, he made his first film and won the best director award, which made him famous."

"The key point is that Pollock used to live with your stepmother, Tracy, before he hit it big. They broke up when Tracy found a new lover"

"And I found something else. Tracy recently went to a private hospital for a paternity test. She bribed the dean with a hefty sum and faked a paternity test. The hospital changed the result from no biological relation to 'biological father and daughter'. The people on the test were Pollock and Sheila."

Hearing this, Ellinor smirked...

No wonder that arrogant Pollock took a special interest in the talentless Sheila. He thought Sheila was his own daughter!

Damn! How low was that old hag. Tracy, willing to go?!

She made her ex-lover Sheila's father!

But now that the truth is out, it was pretty straightforward what needed to be done next

Ida made a cup of coffee for Ellinor, "There's a big construction project coming up, specifically asking for your design. Are you up for it?"

Ellinor took the coffee, sipped it casually, then asked, "What kind of project?"

Ida adjusted her glasses and said honestly, "Designing a new office building for the Blanchet Corporation ."

Ellinor was speechless.

Just hearing the name Blanchet Corporation made the coffee taste bad.

Ida explained in detail,

"Because the city has expanded, the city center has moved north. The Blanchet Corporation's building which used to be in the city center, is now on the outskirts. So, the Blanchet Corporation plans to rebuild an office building in the new city center."

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"The Blanchet Corporation reached out to us first. Their CEO, your old pal Mr. Blanchet, seems to have taken a liking to our building's design. He's insisted on having the building's designer, Moon, design their new Blanchet Corporation building"

Ellinor frowned Moon was her alias

On hearing this project was related to Theo Blanchet, Ellinor was firm, "We're not taking this project!"

"But the Blanchet Corporation is willing to pay such a hefty design fee!" Chase gestured with his fingers.

A billion?

Ellinor almost choked on her coffee....

That's a hell of a lot of money!

Crescent Society was still a newbie and was currently expanding. Despite the company's market value increasing, it didn't have much cash on hand

A billion

It was too tempting to resist!

Chase and Ida exchanged glances, sensing that Ellinor seemed to be swayed.

Seizing the opportunity, Chase added. "It's up to you, this project hasn't reached the contract signing stage yet!"

After some thought, Ellinor quickly changed her mind, 'Let's take the project!'"

If she missed out on a billion, she'd be a real fool!

Chase grinned. "Great, Mr. Blanchet will be here shortly for a chat."

Sipping her coffee, Ellinor had a feeling something was off and looked at Chase, "Wait, who's coming?"

Chase grinned from ear to ear, "Your husband is coming!"

Ida thought Chase was over the top and pushed him aside, then calmly explained to Ellinor.

"Theo is interested in the building's design. He wants to visit our building to see the interior design and he also wants to meet the building's designer, Moon."

Ellinor frowned seriously. "He can freely visit our building, but I won't meet him!"

Ida nodded, "Yes, I understand"

Chase asked curiously, "Why won't you meet him? If he knew his wife was the building's designer, he'd certainly see you in a different light. Who knows, he might even fall head over heels for you!"

Ellinor said expressionlessly, "Once our collaboration is over, there will be no further contact! It goes for you guys too, don't have any personal dealings with him apart from work, and don't let him know about my relationship with you guys and Crescent Society!"

Chase was puzzled, "Why are you so adamant? What if you two fall for each other during your three month agreement..."

"No way!" Ellinor cut him off seriously, then asked, "When is Mr. Blanchet expected?"

Ida glanced at her watch, "Anytime now, he should be here soon"

Just as she finished, the secretary knocked on the door, "Ms. Gipson, Mr. Larios. Mr. Blanchet is here."

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Ellinor nervously stood up, "Chase, I need you to distract him. I need to sneak out; he can't know I'm here!"

"Gotcha!"

Chase immediately dropped his cheerful grin and went to do as Ellinor instructed.

Ellinor followed Chase to the office door and peeked through a crack to see what was going on outside.

She saw Theo stepping off the elevator, with Collin trailing right behind him.

With a smile. Chase stepped forward, "Mr. Blanchet, welcome! Sorry, we didn't meet you downstairs"

Theo nodded nonchalantly. "No problem."

Chase effortlessly turned to lead the way. "I heard from our general manager, Ms. Gipson, that you're interested in our building's architecture. Would you like a tour of the building first?"

Theo politely declined,

"No need, I've already seen the ground floor structure. I just need to meet with Ms. Gipson and Moon right now"

Chase apologized, "I'm sorry, but Ms. Gipson is in a meeting right now, and it might take a while. How about I take you to the rooftop in the meantime? The structure there is quite different from the ground floor, and you get a great view of the city!"

Theo didn't change his expression, "No need, I can wait for Ms. Gipson in the reception room."

Chase knew that if he pushed it any further, it might raise Theo's suspicions.

So, he shot a helpless glance at the general manager's office and politely said, "Alright then, Mr. Blanchet, please follow me."

Ellinor furrowed her brows when she saw Chase lead Theo into the reception room. She was stuck.

The reception room was on the way to the elevator or stairs from the general manager's office, and it was surrounded by glass walls.

Theo would definitely spot her if she tried to leave.

But having Ida meet Theo directly in the reception room wouldn't be appropriate either.

Theo was a big client who bid a billion, he deserved to be received in the office

Ida suggested, "Why don't you hide in the small break room in the back for now? It seems like Mr. Blanchet is busy, he probably won't stay here for long."

Ellinor nodded, "Alright, I have no other choice."

She grabbed a couple of snack packs Chase had just given her and retreated to the small break room in the back of the office.

Then Ida had the secretary invite Theo in.

"Mr. Blanchet, please have a seat."

Theo gracefully sat down, and the secretary quickly served coffee.

They exchanged a few pleasantries, then got down to business

Theo glanced around Ida's desk, "Ms. Gipson, where is Moon, the chief designer of your group?"

Ida smiled apologetically, 'Mr.

Blanchet, I'm sorry, but Moon isn't in the office today. You can leave your thoughts and requirements for the new building, and I will pass them

on to Moon. Once the initial draft of the design is ready, I will send it to Blanchet Corporation for your review"

Theo leisurely lifted his coffee and raised an eyebrow. So, I'm paying this hefty design fee, but I can't even meet the designer?"

Ida adjusted her gold-

rimmed glasses, maintaining her smile, "That's not what I meant; Moon really isn't in today."

Theo squinted slightly, "is that so? Why did I hear that she came in today?"

Ida's face stiffened for a moment but quickly resumed its normalcy. "Oh? May I ask where you heard that, Mr. Blanchet?"

Theo took a sip of his coffee,

"Just downstairs, your front desk staff was talking about Moon, saying she rarely comes in, but she did today."

Ida fell silent.

Although Ellinor is the founder behind Crescent Society, the company's employees think she's just the contracted designer, Moon

When Ellinor and Sheila arrived earlier, they were spotted by the front desk.

Whenever the girls at the front desk had some free time, they would gossip

Ida helplessly said,

"Since you've already heard, Mr. Blanchet, I won't hide it any longer. Moon did come in today, but she's not available to meet with clients right now. I hope you understand."

Theo's eyes grew colder, "Give me a reason."