

The Kiss That Sparked it All Chapter 1421

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Chapter 1421

After lunch, Ida went out to take a call again, leaving her alone in the hospital room.

Knock, knock!

The sound echoed through the quiet hospital room.

Ellinor knew that Ida wouldn't knock when entering. Her eyes lit up with anticipation as she called out, "Come in!"

Bartlett came in, carrying a basket full of fine food delicacies. His handsome face was adorned with a warm smile. "Ellinor, it's been a while. Congratulations on the birth of your twins."

Seeing that it was Bartlett who came in, the light in Ellinor's eyes dimmed a little, and she forced a small smile. "Um, thank you."

Bartlett set the basket of food aside and walked over to her bedside.

"I've been quite busy recently, and I thought you still had some time before your due date, so I didn't want to disturb you. As soon as I had some free time, I gave Balfour a call, only to hear that you had already given birth, so I rushed over to see you."

Despite it all, Bartlett had always been considerate towards her, so Ellinor nodded appreciatively. "You've gone through a lot of trouble. You didn't have to come and see me, let alone bring such valuable gifts."

"How could I come empty-handed?" Bartlett chuckled, then looked around and asked, "Where's Theo? Why isn't he here with you?"

Ellinor fell silent.

After seeing her silence/Bartlett seemed to have guessed something. "Ahem... I must say, it's not like Theo to miss something as important as the birth of his children. No matter how busy he is, he should have prioritized this."

Ellinor didn't want to talk about that man now. It would just ruin her mood.

"Mr. Rex, there's some bottled water over there. Feel free to help yourself. I'm not in a position to entertain you at the moment."

Bartlett laughed. "It's fine. I'm not thirsty."

With nothing else to say, Ellinor turned her gaze towards the window, watching as a plane trailed a long white line across the blue sky.

"Ellinor, do you regret it?"

Bartlett's gentle voice carried a hint of probing.

Ellinor was slightly taken aback and looked at him in surprise. "Regret what?"

Bartlett looked deeply into her eyes. "Do you regret choosing a man who doesn't value you? A man who didn't even show up at such a crucial moment as the birth of his children."

Ellinor's brow furrowed. "He's not as bad as you make him out to be! But yes, I am angry with him, and when he gets back, I'm going to give him a piece of my mind!"

Bartlett gave a sarcastic smile. "And what if Theo doesn't come back?"

Not come back? Ellinor raised an eyebrow. "Why wouldn't he come back? This is his home; even if not for me, he would definitely return."

Bartlett looked **at** her meaningfully. "Ellinor, I'm not going to comment on whether you were right or wrong in choosing Theo, but I want you to know that I'll always be here for you. You always have a solid backup in me, and you're always welcome in my arms."

Ellinor was speechless. She forced a smile. "Don't you think it's a bit inappropriate to be saying all this to a woman who's just given birth?"

Bartlett smiled. "I don't think so. I'm just trying to seize every opportunity to win myself a chance."

Ellinor fell silent.

Bartlett was indeed strange. Most men would mind a **woman's** past relationships, but Bartlett preferred women like her, who had already had children. What a weird

man.

What kind of unique preference was this?

At this moment, Ida returned from her phone call. She saw Bartlett in the room, gave him a nod in acknowledgement, greeted him, **and then** turned **to Ellinor**. "Boss, the doctor said you're recovering well. You can be discharged tomorrow."

Ellinor nodded as a hint of disappointment flashed in her **eyes**.

She was about to be discharged, yet the man who promised to be with her in **the** delivery room hadn't returned yet.

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"However, the twins can't leave their incubators yet. They need to stay at the hospital for the time being."

After hearing that her kids couldn't be discharged with her, Ellinor instantly furrowed her brows. "They can't leave? Then I'll stay with them. I won't leave the hospital

yet."

Ida tried to reason with her. "Boss, even if you stay in the hospital, the kids will need to be in the incubators for care. You won't be able to be with them constantly. Why not return home and take care of yourself? Ida, Chase, and Mr. Howard's team are here to ensure everything goes smoothly."

Despite not being able to be with her children constantly, Ellinor was not willing to leave them behind at the hospital.

"I'll leave when my kids leave."

Even after seeing her determination, Ida tried to persuade her further. "Postpartum recovery is crucial for women. If not done properly, it could lead to health problems in the future. The hospital, no matter how well equipped, can't compare to the comfort of your own home."

"This young lady is right!"

Before Ellinor could reply, Marissa's voice suddenly echoed in the room.

Everyone turned their heads towards the entrance.

Veronica was supporting Marissa as they slowly entered the room. Concern was etched on the elderly woman's face.

"Ellinor, you rascal! Didn't we agree that you'd call me for anything important? You went into labor and didn't even let me know so I could be with you!"

Ellinor, seeing Marissa, couldn't help but think of the man who broke his promise.

Ida, noticing Marissa, frowned slightly and shot Veronica a disapproving look.

Veronica looked helpless, muttering under her breath, "Why are you looking at me? I didn't tell her. She found out on her own."

Bartlett greeted Marissa with a smile and tactfully stepped aside to let the women talk.

Marissa, with Veronica's help, sat down on the chair beside the bed. Full of concern, she asked, "Ellinor, how are you feeling? Are you feeling better?"

Ellinor nodded. "Don't worry, I'm recovering well, and the delivery went smoothly."

Marissa, seeing that Ellinor looked well, relaxed a little. But she sighed deeply. "Ellinor, this was such a significant event in your life, and not a single member of us Blanchet family was present. I'm so ashamed."

Ellinor's expression darkened.

She didn't care about the absence of other Blanchet family members. All she cared about was why Theo hadn't come.

Ellinor didn't beat around the bush. She asked what she wanted to know. "Grandma, where is Theo? Hasn't he returned yet?"

Marissa's age-lined face flashed with unease at the question before she responded gently. "Ellinor, the real... there was a big problem at the corporation, so Theo got

held up in the M State. Don't worry; as soon as he returns, I'll ensure he apologizes to you immediately."

Ellinor, sensing that something was off, frowned. "Grandma, can you reach him? Did he tell you about the situation at the corporation?"

Caught off guard by Ellinor's question, Marissa was momentarily speechless.

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Veronica, being quick-witted for once, answered on behalf of her grandmother. "Ellinor! This wasn't something my brother mentioned. Grandfather learned it from the older shareholders in the company.

Both my brother and Collin's phones were stolen while they were in M State. They're overseas and can't replace their SIM cards. They're also busy dealing with company affairs and can't spare time."

Ellinor gazed at Veronica. "Is that so?"

Veronica's eyes didn't waver as she nodded vigorously. "Indeed! Ellinor, you should just focus on your postpartum recovery. When my brother returns, he'll explain everything to you."

Marissa chimed in. "Yes, Ellinor, your priority now is to rest and recover. I came over today to bring you home for your confinement. We've arranged for the best caregiver at home. Why don't you come home with me?"

Ellinor declined. "No need; I'm not that frail. There's nothing wrong with having my confinement in the hospital. If anything feels off, the medical staff is right here. It's pretty convenient."

Marissa shook her head disapprovingly. "The hospital isn't as comfortable as home. It's teeming with germs and smells of antiseptics. Home is far better. Ellinor, be a good girl, and come home with Grandma."

Just as Ellinor was about to refuse again, Balfour cut in, denying Marissa's request on her behalf.

"Marissa, even if Ellinor were to leave the hospital for her confinement, she wouldn't go to the Blanchet home."

After hearing this blunt statement, Marissa turned to look, as her face showed signs of displeasure.

“So, it’s the young master of the Howard family. Our Ellinor has been imposing on your family for a while now. It’s time for her to return to us.” Balfour retorted. “She’s not imposing at all. The Howard family is her home. On the other hand, what right do you have to take her away?”

Marissa frowned. “You’re a funny one, aren’t you? Ellinor is my granddaughter-in-law. Are you saying I **don’t** have the right to take her home?”

Balfour smirked. “Your granddaughter-in-law? How can you prove that she is? Does she have a marriage certificate with any male member of your family? Or has any male member of your family been here at the hospital, taking care of her like a husband should?”

Marissa was left speechless.

Knowing Marissa had no response, Balfour didn’t bother to pull any punches. “You can leave now. Don’t disturb her anymore. No one can take her away from here until that jerk from your family returns.”

Marissa’s brows furrowed. “Young man, what gives you the right to say all this in front of me? Who are you to Ellinor? Why are you blocking us from taking her home?”

Balfour responded. “Who I am to her doesn’t matter, and I don’t need to explain myself to the Blanchets. The only thing that matters is your irresponsible grandson. He’s failed to fulfill his duties to Ellinor when she needed him the most, so none of you Blanchets have the right to take her away.”

Marissa, knowing her family was in the wrong but still feeling aggrieved, was left breathless.

Veronica rebutted, feeling quite peeved. “Hey! Ellinor hasn’t said anything yet! Why are you butting in? Are you harboring ulterior motives toward Ellinor? Are you trying to take advantage of my brother’s absence? Pretending to be a knight in shining armor, huh?”

Balfour shot Veronica a glance. He was seemingly too lazy to argue with a child and turned his gaze away.

Ellinor, who had been listening to their back-and-forth bickering, was beginning to feel irritated.

“Enough! All of you! Veronica, take Grandma home.”

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After hearing Ellinor’s response, Veronica toned down her voice. “But...”

Ellinor didn't want to be persuaded. She made her intentions clear. "I won't be going back with you, nor will I go to **the** Howard family's home. I'll stay in the **hospital**. If you want to see me or the babies, you're welcome anytime."

Marissa's eyebrows were knit in worry, but she still wanted to take her home. "Ellinor..."

Ellinor softened her tone towards the elder lady. "Grandma, you don't need to say anything more. Until

Theo returns, I won't be going to **your** home. I'm **a bit** tired now and would like to rest, so I won't keep you. Ida, take Marissa and Veronica to the nursery to see the babies, then see them out for me."

"Sure! Marissa, Ms. Veronica, please follow me."

Marissa frowned, understanding that Ellinor was still holding a grudge against Theo. She sighed and gave up, not forcing her anymore.

She hadn't seen **her** great-grandson and great-granddaughter yet and was eager to do **so**.

Before leaving with Ida, Marissa turned back to Ellinor. "Ellinor, you must take care of your health during postpartum confinement. Don't catch a cold or let wind in; keep the windows in the ward shut; and don't eat anything cold, okay?"

Ellinor nodded. "I'll keep that in mind. Don't worry."

Marissa sighed deeply. "Alright, I'll go see the baby now and come to see you another day."

Veronica made a face and reluctantly bid Ellinor goodbye. "Ellinor, **I'll** help Grandma leave. Remember to follow her advice and take care of yourself. Otherwise, my brother will worry when he comes back."

Ellinor gave a noncommittal smile. "Mmm."

Ida then led Marissa and Veronica out of the ward.

Once the ward was quiet, Balfour approached her. "Why don't you come home with me to properly rest during your postpartum confinement?"

Ellinor's expression didn't change. "As I said before, I'm **not** going anywhere. I'll stay in the hospital with my babies. Whenever they **can** be discharged, I'll leave."

Understanding his sister's stubbornness, Balfour gave up and rubbed her cheek. "Alright. I'll stay with you in the hospital **then** and have a nurse come take care of you. But it's not convenient to cook here, so I'll have the confinement meals prepared at home and brought here."

Balfour arranged for another nurse. Ellinor didn't want to accept it but didn't bother to refuse either, because she knew he wouldn't listen.

"Thank you." She replied indifferently, not wanting to chat anymore.

She felt tired and frustrated.

At this point, Bartlett, who had been sitting quietly by the bed, leaned in. "Balfour, where did you find the nurse for Ellinor? I know a very professional one. Do you want me to introduce her to **you**?"

Balfour looked up at Bartlett, only then noticing his presence. "When did you get here?"

Bartlett chuckled. "I came in just before you did and have been chatting with Ellinor. Balfour, are your eyes just for decoration? How could you miss a big person like me?"

Despite being friends, Balfour was in no mood for jokes. "Alright. Ellinor needs to rest now. You shouldn't linger here either. Come, let's go."

Chapter 1425

Bartlett turned to look at Ellinor, who was leaning against the headboard with a somewhat dazed expression. "I think, rather than resting, what Ellinor needs right now is someone to chat with."

Balfour frowned. "She probably doesn't want to talk to you right now."

Bartlett shrugged. "Well, we don't know for sure. If you don't believe me, why don't you step out and let me have a one-on-one chat with her? I bet I can cheer her up." Balfour impatiently grabbed hold of him. "Enough of your nonsense! Come with me!"

With that, he pulled Bartlett away.

Bartlett had no choice but to grin and bear it. He called out to Ellinor before getting kicked out. "Ellinor, I'll come see you again tomorrow, okay?"

Ellinor just gave him a glance, her expression unchanging, before she turned her head and stared blankly out the window.

After Balfour had dragged him out of the room, Bartlett straightened out his crumpled clothes and complained to his friend.

“Balfour! That was really low of you! I finally had a chance to talk to Ellinor alone and seize an opportunity for myself.”

Balfour shot him a stern look. “I suggest you lay low. Don’t upset her now when she’s already so distressed.”

Bartlett scoffed. “Oh, so you’re aware that she’s upset? We both know who caused her to be in this state. Balfour, you should know that being with Theo won’t bring her any joy or happiness! Look at her now. Doesn’t this prove everything?”

Balfour furrowed his brows. Yes, he agreed that being with Theo, that jerk, would only cause her pain.

But...

“Just because being with Theo doesn’t make her happy doesn’t mean being with you would. I’m telling you nicely to stay away from my sister. Both of you! You’re not any better!”,

Bartlett spread **his** hands innocently. “I swear on my honor! When have I ever been the bad guy?!”

Balfour sneered. “Your love history isn’t exactly clean either. Stop putting on an act in front of me, or I’ll reveal it all and slap you in the face with the truth.”

Bartlett smirked. “Well, we’re men. Who doesn’t have a past?”

After he said that, he suddenly realized who he was talking to.

Bartlett chuckled a bit guiltily. “I almost forgot. Balfour, you’re the legendary pure man. Still a virgin to this day. I concede defeat.”

Balfour’s face darkened. “Leave now, or I’ll slap you right here in this hospital.”

Bartlett patted his friend’s shoulder. “Look at you, getting all worked up. Can’t you take a joke? Besides, I’m just complimenting you.”

Balfour slapped his hand away. “Get lost!”

Bartlett shrugged, and then his expression became a bit more serious. “Balfour, no more jokes. I’m serious. I think I can provide a relaxed and happy life for your sister; I can make her happy. I **won’t** let **her** down like Theo did when she needed him most. Consider me as your brother-in-law, okay? We’ve been good friends for years; don’t you want to add the bond of family?”

Balfour looked him straight in the eye with a look of disdain. "You're not good enough for my sister. Don't even think about it."

Bartlett spread his hands. "Well, plastic brotherhood it is."