

The Kiss That Sparked it All Chapter 1426

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Chapter 1426

Nursery.

Veronica pressed herself against the glass wall of the nursery. Her eyes filled with excitement as she watched the two tiny bundles of joy sleeping peacefully in

their incubators.

“Grandma, look at them! They’re so tiny and adorable! The girl looks like my brother, and the boy is the spitting image of Ellinor!”

Marissa’s gaze was filled with affection and a touch of sadness as she looked at her great-

grandchildren. But her brow was furrowed, hinting at the worry and complexity beneath.

Unlike the simple-minded Veronica, the elderly woman had more on her mind.

After a moment, Marissa turned to Ida, who had accompanied them. Her voice was grave as she asked, “Young lady, I understand you’re a long-time friend of Ellinor. I’m aware of the situation, but I’d like to confirm it with you. Are you certain it was Theo who took one of the children from the delivery room when Ellinor gave birth?”

Ida nodded solemnly. “Yes, we all saw it with our own eyes.”

Marissa’s brow furrowed. “But our people have checked. Theo did book a return flight on the day of Ellinor’s delivery, but he didn’t board the plane. There’s **no** record of him entering the country.

How can a man who has not boarded a plane or entered the country appear **in** Ellinor’s delivery room?”

Ida, while adjusting her gold-

rimmed glasses, took Marissa's question as a defense for her grandson. Her tone was cold as she replied, "Marissa, we have no reason to lie to you. Mr. Blanchet's niece, Belinda, was also present. She saw Mr. Blanchet. If you don't believe Belinda, you can examine the hospital's surveillance footage. See if it was your immaculately dressed grandson who entered the delivery room and took the first-born child!"

Marissa sighed. "Don't misunderstand me. I'm not doubting you. But the information we have doesn't show any sign of Theo boarding or entering the country, which is very strange.

I just wanted to know if you might have mistaken someone else for him. If it really was Theo, that would be extremely odd."

Ida realized that Marissa wasn't being unreasonable and softened her gaze slightly. "What about in M State? Have you been able to contact Mr. Blanchet or anyone close to him in the past few days?"

Marissa shook her head helplessly.

Veronica turned around, her face now reflecting her worry. "We can't reach my brother or Collin right now. We're all worried about what might have happened.

And there's something else that's strange. The plane that my brother booked was delayed by three hours for unknown reasons and then crashed into the sea due to an unidentified failure.

Thankfully, neither my brother nor Collin were on it."

Upon hearing Veronica's account, Ida's eyes slightly narrowed.

She and Chase had also found that Theo had booked a return flight but hadn't boarded. They, too, had found it strange.

But after learning that Theo hadn't boarded, they hadn't paid attention to what happened to the plane.

So, it had crashed?

“Could **it be...**? Someone must have created the illusion of Mr. Blanchet being in a plane crash but didn’t manage to manipulate Theo’s boarding information in time, and you found out.”

Chapter 1427

It was only logical for Ida to be suspicious.

Veronica was almost certain. “I think it’s Sophia! That woman has always been secretly in love with my brother. She’s nuts! We should go straight to Sophia’s house and confront her!”

Ida and her group had naturally suspected Sophia. They had people from M State watching Thaddeus International Corporation and Sophia’s house closely. However, they hadn’t found anything suspicious in the past few days.

Sophia, on the other hand, was seen in and out of high-end social events and shopping centers, but there was no sign of Theo.

Marissa was cautious. Her authoritative eyes motioned for her granddaughter to be quiet. “Thaddeus adores his daughter, and if they’d taken Theo, they would have made sure everything was in place. Even if we go and confront them, it will probably be futile.

Now, everyone, calm down. **I’ll** go back and discuss our next steps with his grandfather.

As for Ellinor, I’m relying on you **all** to take good care of her and soothe her emotions. In the end, the Blanchet family will definitely settle this matter for Ellinor.

If Theo is in trouble and can’t come back in time, I hope Ellinor can understand. But if Theo has done something to wrong Ellinor **and** that’s why he hasn’t come back, his grandfather and I will not let him off lightly!”

Ida saw that Marissa was **not** the type to blindly favor her grandson and respectfully nodded. “We’ll take good care of her here at the hospital. Take care, ma’am.”

After seeing Marissa out, Ida turned around, her expression darkening.

She saw Ellinor, dressed in a hospital gown, standing not far away and staring at her, looking a bit worried. She didn’t know how long Ellinor had been standing there.

Worried, Ida walked over to her. “Boss, why are you out here? You shouldn’t catch a cold after giving birth. There are several windows open in the hallway. Let’s go back to your room.”

Ellinor looked gloomy. "I felt uncomfortable lying down, so I came to see the kids."

Apparently, Ellinor hadn't heard her conversation with Marissa. Ida sighed **in** relief and took off her coat to put it on Ellinor. "Be careful not to catch a cold, boss."

Ellinor didn't refuse Ida's coat and slowly walked to the nursery. Through the gla**, she looked at her two children.

'Ida, did something happen to Theo?'

Ida felt a sinking feeling. "Boss..."

Had she heard something?

Ellinor's voice trembled slightly, and her calm demeanor seemed slightly off. "I searched for flight information on my phone and saw the news. His flight crashed, and the rescue team is still searching. That's why you all have been acting weird and **not** letting me check my phone, right?"

Ida didn't know how to respond.

Ellinor took a deep breath to control her emotions. "Don't worry, I'm rational. The twins need me. I won't do anything rash. But you have to send people to look for him. You can't give up. We need to see him, dead or alive."

Ida frowned, unsure of how to explain. "Boss, Chase and I have already sent people to find Mr. Blanchet. We'll let you know as soon as we have any news. **Don't** think the worst; Mr. Blanchet is usually a lucky man."

Chapter 1428

She could only play along for now. Her boss seemed relatively composed, and her emotions were still in check.

If she explained the situation honestly, she would find out that she was missing one of her children. That might shatter her calm demeanor.

Ellinor nodded. "Yeah, he's as lucky as a four-leaf clover.

He was said to have been blown to smithereens last time, but didn't he return safe and sound?

I know he wouldn't deceive me again. He promised me he'd come back, and I believe he will.

The hallway is a tad chilly. I'll return to my room to rest and wait for his return."

Murmuring to herself, Ellinor turned around stiffly and walked back to her room. With every step she took, her sorrow seemed to grow.

Ida's heart ached **as** she watched Ellinor put on a brave face.

The boss **had** no idea that Theo had somehow sneaked back and taken one of their children. Only to end up missing.

Yet the boss still **had** such unwavering faith in him.

If they could never find that man again and never get their first child back, then it would be less painful to let the boss believe that the man had died in that plane crash rather than having her face the harsh reality of betrayal.

Three years later.

Blanchet Corporation, shareholders' meeting.

All the shareholders were present, but the president's seat remained empty.

The meeting was scheduled to start at 9 a.m., and just as the clock was about to strike nine, the office door was pushed open.

A young woman in a business suit, accompanied by a secretary, strode **in** and naturally took her place in the president's seat.

With a calm demeanor, she spoke softly, "Apologies for the wait. If everyone's here, let's get this meeting started."

The Blanchet Corporation hadn't officially held a shareholders' meeting in three years.

The shareholders present were all middle-aged men in their forties or older. They were skeptical about a woman being in charge and voiced their dissatisfaction.

Ellinor, expecting such a reaction, leaned back in her chair.

"I understand your reservations about me being in this position, but there's nothing you can do about it. Since I'm here, it's legitimate. Instead of expressing your opinions about this, why not discuss the major decisions and future development of the corporation? After all, it directly affects *your* future positions, don't you think?"

A grumpy old shareholder sitting on her left grunted. "I don't mean to be rude, but what does a young lady like you know about corporate development? If your husband is still missing, you should promptly select a new president among us shareholders to take over."

er the corporation. You don't own any shares in the corporation, so you sitting proudly in the president's seat is hardly convincing."

Ellinor glanced **at** the challenging old shareholder as she pursed her lips. "What do you mean 'sitting here proudly'? You all have no objections to Theo being the president of the Blanchet Corporation, right?"

I am Theo's wife, and in his absence, it is only reasonable that **I**, his wife, temporarily manage his business. Is there a problem with that?"

Another man sneered. "Wife? As far as we know, you and Mr. Blanchet never got married, did you? At best, you're just his girlfriend. What gives **you** the right to take over his business?"

Ellinor remained unperturbed. "Even if I don't have the legal status to jointly possess the shares held by Theo, my two children are Theo's primary heirs, right? As the mother of the heirs, **I think** I have every right to sit here, don't **I**?"

Chapter 1429

"Anyone thinking they can take over while Mr. Blanchet is away must think again." Ellinor warned the crowd. "As long as I'm around, the Blanchet Corporation will never be under anyone else's name!"

Her declaration left the room silent. Even those who harbored resentment did not dare object further. They had no ground to stand on. Indeed, with Theo gone, and Ellinor being first in line to inherit the corporation, the shareholders had no right

to claim leadership.

The meeting lasted for an hour and a half, with Ellinor articulating her points effectively. Despite their reluctance to follow a young woman's lead, the shrewd shareholders had to admit she had a knack for managing the business.

"Meeting adjourned."

After the meeting, Ellinor left the room and headed to the CEO's office to plan the next steps. Veronica, the secretary seated outside the office, immediately followed her upon seeing her return.

"How did it go? Did those old foxes give you a hard time?" Veronica asked.

Ellinor took a sip from her water bottle and raised an eyebrow. "What do you think?"

Veronica grimaced. "I bet they made things difficult for you. Those old geezers are full of ambition but lack ability. Only my brother could keep them in check."

Ellinor wasn't new to managing a corporation. She founded the Crescent Society herself, after all. However, the complexities of **the** Blanchet family's century-old business were more challenging to handle. Dealing with the old shareholders indeed took more effort than she anticipated.

However, by the end of the meeting, the old shareholders seemed to be more compliant. Since Theo's disappearance, Putnam Blanchet had returned to manage the corporation for three years. But as his health deteriorated, the doctor advised him against further exertion. Therefore, he asked Ellinor to take over temporarily until Theo returned. Or until their child was old enough to take over.

Previously, Putnam didn't have a good opinion of her. But over the years, he grew to trust and appreciate her. Ellinor initially chose to stay out of the Blanchet family's power struggles, but with Putnam's failing health and the old shareholders eyeing the corporation greedily, she had no choice but to step in.

Veronica, a recent college graduate, took a secretary position in the company. Her job didn't involve much, but she kept an eye on the corporation's internal workings.

"What's on your mind, Ellinor? Why are you so quiet?" Veronica asked, tilting her head curiously when she noticed Ellinor zoning out.

Chapter 1430

Ellinor snapped back to reality and shook her head. "Nothing really. After work, I'm going to pick up Baber and the twins from **the** daycare. Are you coming with me, or do you want to head home first?"

Without a second thought, Veronica replied, "I'll come with you. I promised Baber and the twins that I'd treat them to pizza today."

Ellinor hummed in response as she set down her bottle of mineral water and waved Veronica off. "You go ahead. I still have some work to finish."

"Oh, okay..."

After Veronica obediently nodded, left, and closed the door behind her, her cheerful demeanor swiftly changed into a gloomy one.

Ellinor, her sister-in-law, had it tough. She managed her brother's company while looking after three kids, one of whom was adopted due to certain circumstances, but she treated him as her own without any bias anyway.

Her brother, on the other hand, had been MIA for the past three years, leaving no trace or news behind.

The most commendable part was that, in these three years, Ellinor never once thought of leaving the Blanchet family. She had been there, steadfastly raising three kids.

In the past, she might have naively thought that she did all this for the Blanchet's fortunes.

Now, she wouldn't dare think so.

She knew that Ellinor wasn't in need of money. She was the major shareholder of Crescent Society, holding the most power behind the scenes. Both Ida and Chase had to listen to her.

So, her decision to stay with the Blanchet family was just because of her missing brother.

She thought her loyalty and devotion were rare and precious. But for outsiders, they thought of her as a young widow.

Ellinor had always had her fair share of suitors, but she never swayed.

Lost in her thoughts, Veronica was startled by a voice.

"Lost **in** thoughts, Ms. Veronica?"

After snapping back to reality, she saw Bartlett approaching.

Her face darkened instantly as her eyes filled with hostility and vigilance. "Bartlett, what are you doing here?"

"I came to see Ellinor. I heard she's attending her first shareholders meeting today, so I came to check up on her."

With his charming smile, Bartlett seemed pleasant to everyone except Veronica.

"Enough, Bartlett. Your intentions are as clear as day. Everyone can see you're crossing the line with my sister-in-law."

Bartlett grinned. "So what if I do? Can't I have feelings for Ellinor?"

"No, you can't!" Veronica retorted sharply.

Bartlett seemed unfazed. "Why not?"

Veronica glared **at** him. "Why not? She's my sister-in-law! A married woman! How do you think it's appropriate to behave like that towards a married woman?"

Bartlett raised an eyebrow. "Married woman? Where's her husband?"

“She...”

She was at a loss for words.

Her brother had been missing for three years, and his whereabouts were unknown.

If only **she** knew where he was...

Bartlett, with a smirk, leaned in closer to Veronica. Ms. Veronica, I don't mean to offend you, but don't **you think** you Blanchets are being a **bit** selfish?"