

The Kiss 201

Chapter 201

Bryan looked

at Haillie with a sigh and said, "Haillie, you accidentally dropped your earring in there, be more careful next time!"

Haillie glanced at the earring in the doctor's hand, shook her head innocently, and said, 'No, this earring isn't mine, I never wear this kind

"Haillie, you're saying this earring isn't yours?" Bryan suddenly became alert "Could someone have intentionally put it in your shoe? Someone's trying to harm you!"

This got everyone on their toes.

They've been friends since childhood, their families were close too. Who would harm a friend like this?

Byran's words surprised Haillie, and then, as if realizing something, she looked at Elinor, who was standing between Theo and Belinda, with disbelief

"Elinor, we have no issues, why would you do this?"

Everyone looked at Elinor in surprise.

The only stranger they had just met.

And Elinor was just yawning out of boredom, raising her eyes lazily when she heard, "Hmm? Were you talking to me?"

Seeing Elinor's attitude, Haillie felt even more wronged and angry and started accusing her

"You were the only one who tried on my boots, if it wasn't you, who else could it be? Elinor, I was just trying to lend you my shoes; if they didn't fit, that's fine, but why would you hurt me like this? As a ballet dancer, what if my foot got injured? How am I supposed to dance?"

Elinor looked at her calmly and said indifferently. "I have no idea what you're talking about. But it's just a small earring. Haillie, you're not made of paper, you won't fall apart if you get pricked"

Haillie felt even more wronged and said tearfully, "You're not the one who got pricked, of course you don't know how much it hurts! Elinor, I know we had a misunderstanding over a watch, but that's in the past. Do you really need to get back at me like this?"

Elinor frowned slightly, as if she had heard an unfunny joke. "Get back at you? Haillie, I settled our misunderstanding that day, I'm too lazy to bother about it again!"

Haillie was taken aback, she didn't expect Elinor to have such a direct attitude

But that's good, the more Elinor was like this, the more she seemed rude and uneducated!

Once everyone saw the situation clearly, they will know who the real victim is

Thinking about this, Haillie took a deep breath, tried to hide her grievance, and forced a smile. She showed a magnanimous attitude and then said.

"Elinor, there's no need to deny anything I'm not blaming you. As long as you admit your mistake, we can have an honest talk and let bygones be bygones. For Theo's sake, we might still be friends in the future."

Elinor frowned, looking displeased "Sorry, I've never been friends with you, and I won't be in the future. I don't need to save face for anyone to do something I don't want to do. Plus, why would I admit to something I didn't do?"

Haillie didn't really want to be friends with Elinor, but now Elinor's unreasonable attitude was exactly what Haillie wanted

Now, Haillie came across as rational and magnanimous she was the one hurt, yet she was seeking reconciliation, only to be coldly rejected. This made her appear even more helpless and wronged

Tears welled up in Haillie's eyes as she looked at Theo, who had been silent all along with resentment and anger.

"Theo, you've seen Elinor's attitude... You, me, and Jonah, we've been friends for years; we know each other, do you think I would frame her for no reason?"

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Haillie Knotts was obviously hinting that Theo Blanchet should step in and say something

All eyes, including Jonah Wyton's, were on Theo, waiting to see how he would handle this tricky situation between his wife and his friend

Theo kept a poker face, then, in a deep voice, he said, "I get it You wouldn't frame someone for no reason"

His words clearly showed that he sided with Haillie

Hearing Theo's words, Elinor felt a pang of disappointment and quietly lowered her head.

It didn't surprise her that no one was on her side. It was normal not to be believed by everyone.

However, throughout their time working together, she and Theo had been through a lot, even at this moment, the man she once risked her life to save took a stand against her without hesitation. This made her feel extremely disappointed.

Trust is the hardest thing to build in this world.

Everyone in the room had their own thoughts, looking at Elinor with regret

Haillie was very pleased with herself, a gleam in her eye, but she still acted the victim:

"Theo, I'm glad you believe me. Otherwise, I would have been wronged today without any chance to explain"

Belinda Wesley couldn't stand it anymore, she stood up and said, "Theo, you don't believe Elinor, but I do."

Then she firmly looked at Haillie and said, "Haillie, you need proof to accuse others! I was there when you let Elinor try on your boots, but I didn't see her put any earrings in your boots. All I saw was that Elinor found the boots uncomfortable, and she took them off immediately and gave them back to you?"

Belinda standing up for Elinor was not a surprise to Haillie. She sighed with a bit of resignation, then said in

"Belinda, you're too naive. A person with malicious intent would naturally avoid others' eyes. And you saw it too, only Elinor touched my boots. She was fine when she tried them on, but as soon as I wore them, my foot was pricked. No one else touched my boots in between, isn't the answer obvious?"

Belinda retorted, "That doesn't prove that the earring in your boot was put there by Elinor. She didn't even wear earrings today! If you put it that way, I'd say it's possible you put the earring there on purpose!"

Haillie paused for a moment, then said innocently, "Belinda, how could you say that about me? Why would I want to hurt myself by putting things in my own boots?"

Belinda retorted,

"Who knows what you're up to? Last time when your watch went missing, you and Bryan Howard accused Elinor without any proof."

Bryan frowned at the side, wanting to argue, but hesitated for a while and said nothing.

Haillie didn't know how to respond to Belinda, but considering Belinda was Theo's niece, she couldn't offend Belinda. So she didn't argue with Belinda anymore, she turned to Theo, sighed with a wronged face, and said.

"Theo, forget it, I don't want to argue endlessly with Elinor.

I just want to be treated fairly. If you let Elinor apologize to me, let's put this behind us. I don't want this to affect our friendship."

Belinda angrily put her hands on her hips and argued, "Why should she apologize to you? She didn't..."

Before she could finish, a heavy hand rested on her shoulder, and Theo moved her aside, stopping her from interrupting.

Theo took a step forward, looking coldly at Haillie. "You want fairness? Then who will ensure the innocence of my wife?"

Haillie was taken aback. "Theo, what are you talking about? Are you doubting me?"

"I'm not doubting" Theo said without expression, with a firm tone, "I'm sure my wife would never do such a thing"

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Elinor's heart began to race, and she blinked, looking over at Theo. Did he believe her?

Haillie frowned, seemingly puzzled. "Theo, didn't you just say you believed me? Why are you saying this now?"

Theo's expression remained unchanged 'I do trust that you wouldn't accuse her for no reason So, please, tell me what exactly made you slander my wife"

So, that's what he meant by his previous statement!

Moreover, using the word 'slander was like he had already found her guilty!

Fear began to creep into Haillie's heart. Theo, we've known each other for so many years. You know me, right? How could you doubt me like this?"

Theo remained steadfast "Time isn't always the best judge. My wife and I may not have known each other for long, but we trust each other enough not to question each other because of someone else's words."

Haillie was taken aback, her eyes reddening "Theo, you can't treat me like this, we've been friends for so many years.

Thee grew impatient. "If you can't provide a reason, then stop slandering my wife, or I won't hesitate to sue you"

After saying the last sentence, Theo casually turned away, asking Elinor in a low voice, "Hungry?"

Elinor hesitated for a moment, then nodded, "Yeah, a bit"

"Let's go then, we'll grab some breakfast"

In front of everyone, Theo naturally took her hand and led her out of the dressing room

Belinda followed them out, laughing "Theo, you almost gave me a heart attack! Why didn't you make yourself clear? I thought you didn't trust Elinor!"

Theo shot her a cold glance and asked, "Do I look like the kind of guy who would be irresponsible?"

Belinda laughed, "No, no! I misunderstood! Your bond is so strong; how could you doubt each other over something so insignificant?"

Elinor looked perplexed.

Theo took Elinor and left, and Jonah and the others also prepared to leave. They were simply onlookers and didn't want to get involved.

However, watching Theo lead Elinor away, Haillie's eyes turned bloodshot with anger.

Was Theo actually going to sue her over that country girl, Elinor?

Haillie gritted her teeth in indignation, thought for a moment, and called out again, 'Wart! Theo!"

Theo stopped and slightly tilted his head. "What now?"

With a face full of a sense of injustice, Haillie said, "Theo, if you just take Elinor away like this, everyone will think I'm deliberately slandering her!"

"And what do you propose?"

"Because you trust Elinor so much, and she firmly denies any wrongdoing, then let her prove that the earring that stabbed me isn't hers!"

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Theo didn't hesitate and cut straight to the chase. "She doesn't owe you any explanation"

Haillie was taken aback, "Theo, what happened to you? You were never like this! Did some girl bewitch you?"

Theo didn't respond and just kept walking with Ellinor

Suddenly. Ellinor yanked her hand out of his and turned around, "What if I can prove that earring isn't mine? Are you going to apologize to me?"

Haillie was stunned, then dismissed her with a wave, 'If you can prove it's not yours, I'll apologize

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, "Just an apology? If I can prove it's not mine, you're covering all my expenses today! I can't let you off the hook for framing someone!

This country girl thought picking up the tab was the ultimate punishment?

She didn't know that for a rich girl like Haillie, spending some cash was no biggie!

Plus, Haillie didn't think Ellinor could prove a thing!

It was hard to prove she didn't do something, especially with no surveillance. What evidence could Ellinor possibly have?

Haillie nodded confidently, "Deal"

Theo slowly turned around, eyeing Ellinor with a curious look, wondering what she'd do next.

Jonah and the rest stopped to watch.

Ellinor walked up to Haillie and extended a hand, "Where's that earring that pricked you? Let me see it!"

Haillie hesitated, then finally had the doctor hand over the earring

Ellinor took it and put it on her ear in front of everyone.

Puzzled, Haillie watched her and then laughed, "The earring looks great on you. It suits you.

She wasn't genuinely complimenting her but implying to everyone that the earring suited Ellinor, thus it must be hers!

Ellinor shot back, "See, is my ear swelling?"

Haillie was taken aback, and sure enough, Ellinor's ear was swelling!

Just a few seconds after putting on the earring, her ear had turned red and swollen, and even turned a purplish color. It looked bad.

What was going on?

Ellinor couldn't bear the pain any longer and took off the earring. Her hand that had touched the earring also broke out in a rash and was turning purple.

"I've been allergic to silver since I was a kid. I break out in a red, purplish rash whenever I touch it. The posts of these earrings are usually made of pure silver, so they couldn't possibly be mine."

As she spoke, she handed the earring back to the doctor and wiped her already swollen hand.

Haillie was totally thrown off, her face frozen in shock, "This..."

Ellinor continued, "So, are you going to apologize now?"

At this point, Haillie looked extremely awkward and didn't know what to say. If she didn't apologize, she'd look like a total jerk.

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So, Haillie cracked a gentle smile again and whispered, "Ellinor, I'm really sorry, it was a misunderstanding! You should've mentioned your allergy earlier, if you had, we wouldn't have had this mix-up!"

Ellinor retorted casually. "So now you're trying to play the misunderstanding card, Haillie? You almost painted me as a villain in front of everyone, and now you're blaming me for not proving my innocence sooner?"

Haillie's smile was strained, "Ellinor, that's not what I mean..."

Ellinor laughed, "Haillie, I don't care what you mean, just remember you're picking up the tab for all this mess!"

Even though Haillie felt uncomfortable, she had to suck it up and nodded, "Don't worry, Ellinor, I messed up. I'll take the hit. Today was on me, consider it my apology"

Just as Ellinor was about to speak, she was suddenly turned around and found Theo's face in front of hers, startling her.

The man leaned in assertively and checked her ears, then her swollen palms. He looked furious, and barked at the stunned doctor, "Where's the antihistamine?"

The doctor was taken aback, then answered, "Mr. Blanchet, I didn't bring any with me, I'll go fetch some right now!"

"Then go now!" He growled impatiently

"Right away!" The doctor grabbed his medical kit and rushed out.

Theo then scooped Ellinor up and, without a care for her feelings, carried her out.

Belinda quickly ran after them, "Wait for me!"

Watching this scene, Jonah nudged his friend, Kemp Larios, "Kemp, do you think Theo's fallen for her?"

Kemp kept a poker face and replied coldly, "Why are you asking me?"

Jonah quickly added, "You're the expert, aren't you? Weren't you smitten with the Hughes family's daughter?"

Seemingly reminded of a painful past, Kemp was irritated, "Shut up!"

After scolding Jonah, Kemp walked out.

Jonah shrugged, "Bartlett, see, I didn't even say anything and he's already mad!"

Bartlett chuckled, "You're always bringing up things that upset people!"

Inside the dressing room, only Byran Howard remained with Haillie.

"Haillie, let me help you back to your room to rest."

Haillie was upset, "Byran, it seems we've underestimated her! Ellinor is more cunning than we thought!"

Frowning. Byran was remorseful, "Haillie, you still don't believe Ellinor? She had such a severe reaction to the earrings!"

Haillie scoffed, "Who knows what trick she used?! Maybe she did it to clear her name. I wouldn't put it past her!"

Byran disagreed with Haillie, "Haillie, I think you're overthinking. Ellinor wouldn't purposely harm you; she's not that kind of person."

Haillie was taken aback, "Byran, what are you saying?"

Byran, who hated Ellinor even more than she did, was actually defending Ellinor!

Byran looked steadfast and innocent, "Ellinor is my friend now, I choose to trust her."

Haillie looked shocked, "Friend? Byran, when did you two become friends? How come I didn't know?"

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Byran explained to Haillie about the time Ellinor saved him at Pearl Moon.

Haillie still couldn't wrap her head around it. "So, you're betraying your own sister just because Ellinor helped you win a game?"

Byran shook his head, "No, of course not! I wouldn't betray you. I just think Ellinor isn't a bad person"

"Byran, you disappoint me! Haillie stood up and hobbled out of the room

Byran was left alone, frowning and deep in thought

Under a parasol.

Ellinor was sitting on Theo's lap, and he was applying medicine to her ear.

The doctor stood nearby, nervously holding a bottle of medicine.

Theo's long fingers held a cotton swab, which he dipped in medication and gently applied to Ellinor's bruised earlobe. He then took her hand and gently wiped the rash on her palm

Ellinor felt a bit itchy and tried to pull her hand back.

Theo sternly said, "Don't move!"

Ellinor was extremely reluctant but felt helpless. After all, Theo was just trying to help, and if she firmly refused, people would think she was ungrateful.

Most importantly, she couldn't resist Theo. He was too strong, and she couldn't break free. So, she had to endure the itch and let him apply the medicine.

After the medication was applied, Theo took an allergy pill from the doctor and handed it to her along with a cup of water.

Ellinor frowned, "Theo, I don't need medicine. This rash will go away on its own in a couple of days"

Theo frowned and said, "You need to take this!"

Ellinor was not used to being controlled like this and was unhappy. So, she angrily swallowed the pills and washed them down with a big gulp of water.

Theo finally let her go after she obediently took the medicine.

Breakfast was prepared by the stable. On the table were delicious sandwiches and hearty bowls of oatmeal.

Ellinor was very hungry, so she sat down to eat. Just as she was about to take a spoonful of oatmeal, a large hand had already picked up the bowl.

Theo took the oatmeal she was about to eat, which made her angry and ready to argue.

But then she saw Theo slowly scoop up a spoonful of oatmeal and start to feed her.

Ellinor was stunned and then said with a sense of helplessness, "Theo, my hand just has a rash, it's not useless."

Theo didn't care about what she said and ordered in a low voice, "Open your mouth!"

Ellinor thought this was weird. "Theo, I can eat on my own!"

"You can't rub off the medicine on your hands."

Ellinor fell silent.

Well, if she wasn't hungry, she wouldn't have cooperated with Theo.

With a sense of helplessness, Ellinor opened her mouth and swallowed the oatmeal that Theo was feeding her.

Then, Theo patiently fed her the oatmeal, spoon by spoon

Belinda was stunned when she saw this, "Oh my god, is this really my uncle? I never thought he could take care of a girl so well!"

Ellinor was already feeling awkward, and Belinda's words made her lose her appetite even more.

Belinda came closer, her face full of admiration, "Ellinor, I've never seen my uncle take care of a girl like this. I didn't expect him to become such a considerate man after being with you! How did you do it? Can you teach me?"

Ellinor frowned and looked at the stern-faced man in front of her.

Where was he being considerate? He had no idea what the word 'considerate' meant at all!

Seeing that Ellinor was too embarrassed to eat her oatmeal, Theo frowned and glared at Belinda, "Have you had your breakfast?"

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Belinda chuckled and nodded, "Yeah! Don't worry about me; I've already eaten!"

Theo spoke coldly. "Then what are you still doing here?"

Belinda was taken aback, then laughed. "Oh, Uncle, I get it leave you guys alone now. Off I go to see if my little pony has grown!"

Ellinor was speechless

After Belinda ran off, another spoonful of oatmeal was brought to her mouth.

Ellinor looked down at the oatmeal, then up at Theo and frowned slightly. "Theo, do we need to keep this act up in front of Belinda too?"

She thought he was putting on a show?

Theo was displeased, and the rare softness in his eyes disappeared, "Just eat your oatmeal!"

Ellinor thought Theo's temper was strange. She opened her mouth to eat the oatmeal but was thinking about what a bad temper he had!

While eating her oatmeal, she heard Theo call her name in a very serious tone.

"Ellinor."

"What's up" Ellinor looked at Theo, waiting for him to speak.

Theo stared at her intently and was silent for about a minute before speaking again, "Remember, you don't have to prove anything to anyone, especially not by hurting yourself"

Ellinor was confused, "So, if I'm falsely accused, can't I prove my innocence?"

Theo said, "No matter what happens, I'll believe you unconditionally. You don't need to prove your innocence to anyone else. You're always innocent in my eyes. Do you understand?"

Ellinor was stunned and felt very awkward.

Why was he suddenly making such a promise-like statement?

Another spoonful of oatmeal was brought to her mouth, but Ellinor shook her head, "Theo, I'm full. I can't eat anymore"

Theo didn't force her when she said she didn't want to eat. Instead, he casually put the spoonful of oatmeal into his own mouth and swallowed it.

Ellinor was momentarily stunned and felt a bit shy when she saw Theo do this.

Sharing a bowl of oatmeal and utensils was something only intimate people do!

Theo was a clean freak. Why didn't he mind eating and using things she had used?

Ellinor felt a bit uncomfortable, "Theo, your behavior today is making me quite uneasy!"

Theo continued eating her leftover oatmeal, casually saying. "If you're uncomfortable, you'll get used to it eventually."

Ellinor awkwardly said, "There's no eventually! In two more months, our partnership will end. Once we separate, I'll have to break the habits I've developed..."

"Then let's not separate" Theo responded, his tone flat as if stating a very natural fact..

Ellinor was stunned. What was he talking about?

Not separate? What did he mean by that?

"Ellinor, come over here for a moment. I have something to tell you!" Byron suddenly appeared, his face serious.

Before Ellinor could respond, Theo spoke first, "What do you need from her? Just say it here."

Facing Theo, Byron frowned, feeling pressured, "Theo, I want to talk to Ellinor alone..."

Ellinor stood up, "Theo, I'll go with him for a bit."

Theo frowned unhappily and coldly said, "Sit down."

Ellinor knew Theo had a strong need for control. She thought for a moment, then leaned in and whispered in his ear, "Theo, I'll go listen first, then come back and tell you secretly"

Theo's mood suddenly improved and his stance was no longer as firm. He then responded with a low grunt.

Without thinking too much, Ellinor followed Byron

Arriving at the horse track's forest with Byron, Ellinor asked him, "What did you want to tell me? Spit it out!" Suddenly, Byron raised his arm and leaned against a tree, effectively trapping Ellinor in his arms.

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Ellinor instantly froze, then nonchalantly crossed her arms and gave Byron a disdainful look "Mr Howard, what do you think you're doing?"

Byran appeared extremely uneasy, as if contemplating how to respond After half a minute, he finally blurted out, "Ellinor, I want to pursue your

Ellinor felt oddly calm, then boredly sized him up from head to toe, "Are you even legal?

Byran lifted his chin defiantly. "In another six months, Ill be legal

Ellinor yawned lazily "Then come find me when you're legal!"

After saying that, she was ready to take off, clearly uninterested in carrying on the conversation.

But Pyran blocked her way with his arms, refusing to let her go.

Byran became serious "Ellinor, stay away from Theo. He belongs to my sister! If you're into rich guys, you can be with me. I can spoil you too, my family can give you whatever you need""

Seeing that she couldn't escape his grasp, Ellinor leaned against a tree, looked at the boy in front of her, and chuckled.

"You want me to be with you? You haven't even started working yet and you're still living off your parents. What would I get from being with you? Would I have to support you?

Hearing Ellinor's words, Byran felt humiliated but couldn't retort

"I'm not a kid! You're only a few years older than me! When I have control over the finances, I'll give you plenty of money to spend!"

Ellinor coldly watched the naive boy in front of her make his promises, and easily shrugged off his arm, "I appreciate your feelings, but I don't have time to wait for you to grow up We're not a good match!"

With that, she easily slipped away from Byran.

But Byran emphasized again, "Ellinor, you're not allowed to be with Theo. He's my sister's man!"

So the reason he said all that was because he wanted Theo for his sister. What he didn't know was that s he was far from being his sister's rival. Her relationship with Theo was purely business, and it would end when the contract expired.

Thinking about this, Ellinor suddenly replayed what Theo had just said to her, "Then let's not separate."

He said it so casually that she didn't think he had thought it through.

Before this, Theo had mentioned many times that he wasn't interested in women like her. He could give her anything but feelings.

Clearly. Theo also didn't want to develop a more intimate relationship with her during their collaboration

So what did he mean by 'not separating'?

Theo's thoughts were always changing, and there were so many of them!

Ellinor paused, fell silent for two seconds, and calmly said, "You're overthinking it, Theo isn't mine, and I don't need to give him back to your sister! You should worry less about this and focus on your homework!"

Byran frowned and angrily retorted, "Don't underestimate me! I've already finished my homework!"

"Then stop showing up in front of me!" Ellinor, growing tired, quickly walked away

But Byran kept following her, "Ellinor, I don't care! I'm going to start pursuing you from today. Just wait and see!"

Ellinor laughed, "You want to chase me? First, get into a good college, and then we can talk about it! I like boys who are good at academics; otherwise, I worry it might affect my kids IQ."

As she spoke, she tapped her temple, clearly mocking Byran's intelligence.

Byran was so angry that he started shaking. 'Ellinor! What do you mean? I'm very smart!"

Ellinor ignored him and while humming a tune, she leisurely walked away.

Byran stood in place, frowning, then clenched his fist

So it's just about getting into a good college, that was not hard for him.

Ellinor, just wait You will be mine.

When Ellinor returned, she saw Theo sitting under a beach umbrella, casually chatting with Jonah and the other guys.

She really didn't want to approach them. Jonah always brought up embarrassing topics, and he would definitely make fun of Theo and her.

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But Theo had already spotted her. She had no choice but to go over, or she wouldn't have a way to explain why she didn't.

Ellinor sighed and walked over. "Theo, I'm back

Theo was sipping a cup of coffee when he glanced at her, "What did he tell you?"

Ellinor shook her head boredly. 'Nothing worth mentioning. He's too naive"

Theo suddenly felt unhappy. She had promised to tell him what Byran said when she returned. Was she lying to him?

Jonah patted the stool next to him, grinning "Ellinor, have a seat. Let's chat!"

Ellinor glanced at Jonah, she didn't want to chat with him at all. He'd definitely make her uncomfortable.

Just then, Belinda ran over from a distance, "Ellinor! Let's pick a horse. It's cool in the morning and perfect for a horse race. I'll get super-hot at noon!"

Ellinor looked at Belinda, then at Theo, and asked earnestly. "Theo, can I go?"

Although she wouldn't always obey Theo, he brought her here today, mainly to play the mole of his wife. So she had to respect his opinion.

If he let her go, she could leave his side.

Theo, who was originally upset with her for not telling the truth about Byran, felt happy again when he heard her asking for his permission

He looked at her affectionately and nodded slightly, "Go have fun

"Thanks, Theo!"

After a small laugh, Ellinor turned around and followed Belinda to the stables.

Theo sipped his coffee, watching Ellinor until she was out of sight.

Jonah saw this and joked, "Theo, you've become so gentle lately! What happened? Did Ellinor charm you?"

Theo glared at him, "Do you have a problem?"

Jonah shrugged, "No problem, I'm just curious about what magic Ellinor had to make you fall for her."

Theo was expressionless, but he coldly replied to Jonah. "Stop being so curious about other people's wives"

Kemp spoke up. "He just needs a woman to keep him in check!"

Jonah crossed his legs. "Kemp, don't curse me just because you were once controlled by a woman!"

Kemp growled, "Are you asking for trouble?"

Bartlett stood up and laughed. "Alright, let's not sit around. Let's go horse riding. How about a race?"

Jonah leaned back in his chair, "Bartlett, you guys go ahead. It's too hot for me!"

Bartlett laughed helplessly, "Jonah, you arranged this outing. Why aren't you participating now?"

Kemp said coldly, "Ignore him!"

Jonah retorted immediately, "Kemp, how could you treat me like this?"

At the stables.

Among the hundreds of horses, Ellinor picked out a white one with a black spot on its forehead.

She was about to lead the white horse out when she heard someone say, "You won't be able to handle that horse. You better choose another one."

It was Haillie

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The sound of Haillie's voice made Ellinor spin around, only to find Haillie leading a chestnut horse and watching her from a distance

"Haillie, has your foot already healed" Ellinor asked

Belinda had gone to another row of stables to fetch her horse, leaving the two of them alone. Haillie's pretentious friendliness was gone as she openly showed hostility

towards Ellinor

"My foot's still busted, but that little scratch ain't stopping me from riding!"

Haillie had wailed so dramatically when she got hurt that any passerby might've thought she'd been maimed

And now, here she was, standing and leading a horse as if nothing had happened. She must've been pretending back then, otherwise, she wouldn't be able to ride so soon

Ellinor simply smiled. "That's good to know"

She didn't want to engage with Haillie any further and without giving her another glance, she continued towards the horse she'd chosen.

Just then, Haillie scoffed, "Ellinor. I'd steer clear of that horse if I were you. Even if you manage to lead it out, you won't be able to ride it!"

Ellinor paused. Haillie's words didn't sound like a taunt. She glanced at the horse, then back at Haillie, "What do you mean, Haillie?"

Haillie looked at her with disdain. That horse already has an owner, and it only listens to its owner. No one else has been able to ride it so far!"

Ellinor was curious. "And who's the owner?"

"You're not worthy of knowing who the owner is! If I were you, I'd pick another horse, otherwise, you'll scare the living daylights out of the others!"

Haillie's dislike for her was now clear.

Ellinor, however, found this conversation quite enjoyable and responded with a smile, "Thanks for the heads up, but can I ask you one more thing?" Haillie frowned and looked at her with contempt. "What now?"

Ellinor asked, "Haillie, do you dislike me because you have a crush on Theo?"

Haillie explained straight up. "Theo, Jonah, and I have been friends since we were kids. Our relationship is pure and not something a woman like you would understand!" Ellinor wasn't bothered by her insult and asked, "If you're not into Theo, why are you targeting me?"

The watch incident and today's incident were both deliberate setups, weren't they? You're just trying to make Theo hate me, right?"

Without showing any guilt, Haillie nodded, "Since you're so eager to know, I'll tell you straight up. Patricia's my best friend and I can't stand by and watch a woman like you steal him it'd break her heart!"

Ellinor caught on immediately, "So your bestie is Byrans sister?"

"Exactly!

"She must be a wonderful person for you all to care for her so much."

Haillie was proud and overjoyed when talking about her bestie, "Absolutely! Patricia Howard is the best girl in the world! She's noble, kind, and academically outstanding You can't hold a candle to her!"

"Is that so?" Ellinor asked nonchalantly

Haillie was irked by Ellinor's indifference. Nothing seemed to bother her. So, she said fiercely,

"Ellinor, since we're already talking about Patricia, let me tell you more about her! Theo and Patricia were great together. They only broke up because of family conflicts, but that doesn't mean you can just waltz in and marry Theo!"