

The Kiss 231

Chapter 231

When Patricia's name was mentioned, Theo looked mildly surprised. After a moment of silence, he said, 'I won't forget what I promised Patricia, and I'll always keep my word.'

Haillie let out a chuckle, "Theo, even if you don't consider me a friend anymore, I'm cool with that. But I hope you remember everything Patricia has done for you! You can't just ditch such a great girl like Patricia just because Ellinor shows up!"

With that, Haillie turned and left, opening the door to the suite.

And there stood Ellinor, right at the door.

Ellinor fell silent.

She had overheard the conversation between Theo and Haillie when she was nearby, so she quickened her pace, trying to leave the suite in order to avoid being mistaken

for eavesdropping

But just as she reached the doorway, Haillie opened the door.

Now she looked like she had just been caught red-handed eavesdropping and was at a loss for words.

Ellinor waved at Haillie inside the suite and Theo behind her, "Hey! I just happened to be passing by, you believe me, right?"

Haillie and Theo struggled to find a response.

Theo frowned slightly as he looked at Ellinor

Haillie snapped back to reality purposely turned her head to Theo, and said, "Theo, I believe you'll keep your word!"

With that, Haillie returned to her suite. She deliberately passed by Ellinor, paused, and said in a voice only Ellinor could hear, "Don't get too cocky, Ellinor! Patricia will be back soon, and then you'll see who the most important woman in Theo's life is!"

Ellinor remained impassive.

Why should she care about who the most important woman in Theo's life is? She didn't give a rat's ass!

So what if Patricia came back? By then, she might have finished her collaboration with Theo, and they would go their separate ways!

Haillie left

Theo slowly walked up to Ellinor and noticed her slightly damp hair. He frowned as if scolding her, "You came out with your hair still wet. Where are you off to now?"

Ellinor sighed in exasperation. Belinda was halfway through blow-drying her hair when Byran showed up. How was she supposed to finish?

'Belinda and your little brother are arguing in our suite, so I came out to get some peace!

Little brother?

She referred to Byran in such a way that it was obvious she knew something

But she was so nonchalant about it?

Theo squinted at her, "Ellinor, don't you have anything you want to ask me?"

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Ellinor whispered, "I don't."

They locked eyes.

Suddenly, the man turned his head away and coughed twice!

Ellinor stiffened slightly. "Theo, are you coming down with a cold?"

Theo waved it off with a poker face, "I'm fine

Ellinor took his pulse, and her brow furrowed.

It was damp and cold in the valley today. Theo gave her his coat, plus he had rested in a cave, it would be strange if he didn't catch a cold!

"Theo, you might have caught a chill. You should pile on some blankets when you sleep tonight, a good sweat could do the trick."

"You know traditional medicine?" Theo curiously looked at Ellinor, recalling the last time she knew he had food poisoning simply by feeling his pulse when he accidentally ate Sheila Mendoza's poisonous dish.

Ellinor nodded, "A little."

Theo asked, "Did you study it?"

Ellinor shook her head, "Not exactly. I grew up in a monastery, and there happened to be a nun who knew some traditional medicine. She often helped people solve various medical problems, and I learned a bit from watching her."

"A monastery? The man's brow furrowed, "Why were you living there when you were so young?"

"Because of my father..." Ellinor started but suddenly stopped.

She suddenly remembered when Chase Larios discovered she wasn't Arnold Mendoza's biological child, she couldn't bring herself to say the word 'father'.

"Because my stepmother didn't want me, she sent me to live with relatives in the countryside. My cousins didn't like me, so they sent me to other relatives. I was constantly abandoned, and no one would take

me in. Ultimately, they decided to donate some money to the monastery and leave me there, so I grew up in that monastery in the village."

Listening to her talk calmly about her difficult childhood. Theo felt a heaviness in his heart, his brow furrowing deeper

He reached out, stroking her hair, "You won't be tossed around anymore."

Ellinor had long since stopped caring. "Yeah! Now I'm grown up, I don't need anyone to take me in; who can abandon me now!"

Theo rubbed his forehead, thinking...

Ellinor, sometimes you don't know how to chat.

"Theo, you keep busy, I'm going for a walk" With that, Ellinor strode off alone; she was bored and wanted to see that brown bear....

"Don't go anywhere. Go back to bed Theo's voice was deep and stern.

At the same time, Ellinor was grabbed by the back of the neck and hauled back to the suite.

Belinda and Byran were gone when they arrived back at the suite, probably out somewhere.

After locking the door to keep intruders out. Theo took a bath.

Ellinor hit the hay first. She had to pretend to be Theo's wife, they couldn't sleep in separate rooms, so she claimed the bed and left the couch for him!

After a full day of running around, she drifted off to dreamland when she hit the sack.

She had a very long dream.

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In her dream, she was back to her childhood Feeling under the weather, her mom took her to the hospital .

While receiving intravenous treatment, her mother inquired if she was feeling hungry She mentioned that she would go out to get her some food and return shortly.

Standing at the ward door, her mom turned back, her eyes seemingly welled up with tears.

However, in the dream, her mom's face had become blurry, she just couldn't get a clear look at it, no matter what.

Then, Arnold came to the hospital and told her, "I'm your dad. From now on, remember that we share the same last name, got it? Let's head home"

Back then, she was just a kid, not knowing if her previous last name came from her mom.

All she remembered was her mom always gently calling her "Lunar"; her nickname was Lunar. The day she learned her last name, she became Lunar Mendoza.

Afterward, she was sent to a monastery where a person named Karan thought that the name Lunar sounded like a solitary moon in the dark, too sad for a child.

So, Karan renamed her Ellinor, hoping her future life wouldn't be so lonely.

From then on, she was always called Ellinor.

And Karan was the only warmth in her abandoned childhood

The dream was like an endless maze, with no exits to be found, no matter how hard she tried to run away.

In the maze, she sometimes saw Karan's shadow. Karan told her, "Ellinor, be careful on your own in Greehaven; don't trust people easily, especially men."

Sometimes she saw her mom's shadow, her mom smiling at her, all gentleness, "Lunar, mommy's going to grab you a snack and will be right back..."

She could see them but couldn't touch them.

Koran's shadow disappeared, and her mom's shadow turned and left.

She panicked, following her mom closely, wanting to go with her. But just as she was about to touch her mom, she suddenly fell into a dried-up well.

Looking up, someone had blocked the well with a rock.

Soon, the bottom of the well was pitch black, her cries for help couldn't reach out.

Worse yet, water started to gush out from the bottom of the well, and the water level kept rising until it drowned her, she tried to escape by grasping the well wall, but no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't climb up

Ellinor woke up with a start. Everything was quiet in the room, nothing happened.

It was just a dream!

Before Ellinor could relax, she could taste tobacco in her mouth...

This was odd because she never smoked, why would a cigarette taste be in her mouth?

Ellinor frowned, realizing two rough fingers were pinching her chin, her lips lightly bitten. With the moonlight pouring in from the window, she could finally see the man's face right before her, it was Theo!

Was this man secretly kissing her?

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"Uh. Theo."

Snapping

back to her senses, Ellinor instinctively shoved the man away. Sitting upright, she took a few deep breaths, then grumbled, "Then, what on earth are you doing?"

The man didn't respond, just lazily rolled over, eyes closed, breathing steady

Ellinor frowned Was he asleep?

"Hal" Did Theo dream that Patricia was falling for him, so he accidentally kissed the wrong person in his dream?

Ellinor wiped her mouth in annoyance.

"Who let him climb into bed?

Hadn't they always had a one person per bed, one person on the couch arrangement?

She'd love to kick this guy out of bed if he wasn't down with a cold today!

Ellinor grumbled under her breath for a bit, then finally calmed down and glanced at the man's face.....

How come Theo was sleeping so soundly? Could his cold have gotten worse?

She couldn't make out his complexion with the lights off in the room. She hesitated for a moment, then reached out to feel his forehead. To her relief, he wasn't running a fever

Theo wasn't under the covers, just wearing his pajamas, sleeping peacefully.

His handsome face seemed even more profound under the moonlight filtering through the window

Still peeved over the accidental kiss, Ellinor begrudgingly pulled the covers over him!

Feeling that one blanket wasn't enough, she got out of bed, fetched a spare from the closet, and spread it over him. She then adjusted the blankets, hoping they would make him sweat slightly

Due to his illness, she kindly allowed him to use the bed for the night.

Ellinor surrendered the bed to Theo and prepared herself to sleep on the couch.

However, just as she turned around, she heard something fall....

She looked back and saw that all the blankets had fallen to the floor!

And the man in the bed just shifted positions and continued sleeping soundly...

Ellinor frowned. What was with this guy and kicking his blankets off?

She turned around reluctantly, picked up the blankets and spread them over him again, then headed for the couch

However, she soon heard the exact sound of something falling again. She turned around, and sure enough, the blankets had fallen off again!

Ellinor went back and forth, covering him several times, but none worked. The blankets would be kicked to the floor as soon as she turned her back. It was incredibly frustrating!

She couldn't just ignore

him The guy had a cold, and leaving him without a blanket all night would surely make him feverish by morning!

Ellinor took a deep breath to calm herself, picked up the blankets one last time, and spread them over him. Then she simply climbed into the bed and lay on top of him, holding the blankets in place. She wanted to see how he would kick them off now!

OK, she'd just sleep like this for the night!

They were both sober so that nothing would happen.

She saw this as returning a favor to Theo for having rescued her from the valley earlier in the day instead of abandoning her.

In the darkness, Ellinor didn't notice the slight smile playing at the corners of Theo's lips...

The next day, Ellinor woke up and rubbed her eyes. She sat up and stretched...

At that moment, Theo walked out of the bathroom. Looking at her, he asked, "Did you sleep well last night?"

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Ellinor suddenly felt a bit awkward and quickly drew back her stretching arm.

Remembering the guy's stolen kiss last night and how he had kicked off the blanket, she faked a laugh and said, "Haha, not cool, man"

That guy had slept so soundly last night that he probably didn't even realize what he'd done

Squinting, the man said. "Really? When

I woke up this morning. I saw you smiling in your sleep and thought you had sweet dreams"

Ellinor's cheeks flushed a bit it felt like someone had seen into her heart, and she felt a bit shy.

She had indeed had a perfect dream last night

Surprisingly, after tucking the man in, she fell asleep right away

Then she dreamt of delicious food, cute animals, and hilarious comedy performances. This dream was a complete contrast to her previous unsettling one, as it had left her feeling immensely joyous

"Theo, didn't anybody ever tell you that it's rude to watch people sleep

"Nope"

Ellinor pursed her lip. "Well, now you know. Next time, please keep your distance while I'm sleeping and stop spying"

Theo, calmly buttoning up his shirt, said, "I wasn't spying. I was openly watching for a minute. Even saw your drool reach your ear"

"So annoying!"

She subconsciously wiped her face.

The man stopped teasing her and said thoughtfully, "All right, get up and get ready. We can hang out a bit more in the morning, and then go home in the afternoon."

"Okay, got it."

Ellinor got out of bed and went into the bathroom to freshen up.

As Theo watched her, his eyes softened.

If he could wake up to Ellinor's sleepy face every morning, that wouldn't be a bad life.

Ellinor finished freshening up and followed Theo to the ranch restaurant for breakfast.

Jonah and the others were also there, eating.

Seeing her, Belinda stood up and waved, "Ellinor, do you want to sit next to me?"

Ellinor wanted to, but remembering she and Theo were pretending to be a couple, it didn't seem right to sit apart.

Theo glanced at her and seemed to guess what she was thinking.

He reached out and gently patted her head, giving his permission, "Go ahead."

Ellinor happily went to sit next to Belinda

Only after she was settled did Theo casually find a chair and sit down gracefully.

Belinda said with a smile, "Eat your breakfast quick, After that, we're going to fly kites."

Ellinor took a bite of her sandwich, "Fly kites? Are we not riding horses?"

Belinda glanced at Haillie sitting in the corner, smirked, and said, "After that scare yesterday, Jonah and the others won't let us girls ride horses anymore. There are some kites at the ranch, so we'll fly kites to kill time, have lunch, then head home."

Ellinor took a sip of milk and nodded, "Sounds good; I haven't flown a kite in a while."

Belinda said, "Me neither. I think the last time I flew a kite was when I graduated high school. Unlike some people who are still in high school!"

Byran looked annoyed and said, "Belinda, I didn't do anything to you today!"

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Belinda said, "Did I mention you? I didn't say any specific name; why assume it's you?"

Byran, fuming glared at Belinda and said, "You."

Seeing the two about to start bickering. Ellinor quickly intervened, "Okay, enough, you two Eat your food quietly and stop talking, or you'll choke"

Belinda obediently nodded, ignoring Byran, and started eating her breakfast quietly as Ellinor suggested.

Byran glanced at Ellinor, snorted arrogantly, and dug into his fried egg

Haillie watched this scene, feeling quite disgruntled.

How had Ellinor snag Theo's attention, control the capricious Belinda, and now even Byran was willing to listen to her?

This was a mess.

Ellinor may look young, but she was way more experienced than anyone had anticipated!

The weather was great, the sun shone, and a cool breeze blew – perfect kite-flying weather.

Ellinor held up a kite while Belinda ran ahead with the reel. The kite soon soared high in the sky.

The kite flew high and far, and the two girls laughed and flew the kite together, having a great time.

Suddenly, Haillie came up with a butterfly kite, gently asking Belinda, "Belinda, can you help me fly this kite? It's a bit hard for me to manage alone."

Belinda turned to look at her, her smile instantly vanishing. "Haillie, I'm busy, I'm flying a kite with Ellinor. You'll have to figure something out."

Haillie's face turned awkward.

Ellinor, adjusting the kite string, turned to Haillie, "If you don't mind, I can hold your kite while you fly it."

"Why would you help me?" Haillie asked.

Ellinor shrugged, "If you don't trust me, forget it."

Ever since the day before Haillie and Ellinor had a falling out, she saw there was no need to pretend any more. She ignored Ellinor's offer and walked off on her own.

Seeing Haillie's retreating figure, Belinda felt uneasy. "Ellinor, why help her after how she treated you yesterday?"

Ellinor squinted, "I think she's up to something. It's probably better to ignore her"

"Isn't she going to give up?" Belinda asked, looking at Haillie's retreating figure.

Haillie went to a farther spot to fly her kite. The kite took off but soon fell to the ground.

Haillie didn't give up. She ran with the kite string, occasionally looking back. She tripped and fell, crying out in pain.

She lay there for quite a while without getting up.

"Help! Is anyone there"

Inside the equestrian field, Byran heard the cry for help and looked over, "Theo, Jonah, something's going on over there!"

A bunch of guys immediately hopped on their horses to check out the scene

Chapter 237

Haillie was sitting on the grass with bloody grazes on her bare legs from her shorts.

Before long, a few guys arrived on horseback.

Byran was the first to dismount and asked with concern, "Haillie, what happened?"

Haillie, with tears in her eyes and a face full of pain, said, 'Byran. I fell while flying a kite, I think I twisted my ankle, it hurts so bad'

Byran squatted down to help her and looked at her grazed legs, frowning, he said, "Haillie, how can you be careless!"

Belinda, who was nearby, looked at Haillie with a dissatisfied expression and said, "Ellinor, you were right. He's causing a scene again! She fell and can't get up, screaming for help, what a drama queen, only a fool like Byran would believe her!"

Ellinor calmly reeled in the kite string, Let's go and see"

Jonah, the organizer of the gathering, also dismounted. He walked over slowly and asked, Haillie, how are you? Can you stand ?"

Haillie shook her head, tears streaming down her face, "Jonah, I'm so clumsy, I can't even fly a kite."

Jonah frowned, 'Why were you flying a kite alone?"

Byran frowned. "Yeah, Haillie, why would you fly a kite alone? Why didn't you ask someone to help you?"

Haillie sighed helplessly, lowering her head, "I went to ask Ellinor and Belinda for help, but they ignored me... Perhaps it's because I misunderstood Ellinor yesterday, and she doesn't allow Belinda to contact me anymore...I feel a bit jealous watching them fly a kite together. If Patricia were here today, I would have someone to fly a kite with"."

It sounded like she was being deliberately isolated.

When Byran heard his sister Patricia's name, he looked annoyed. He doubted Haillie because of her improper behavior towards Ellinor yesterday, but now he only felt sympathy

Haillie is his sister's best friend, if his sister knew Haillie was injured, she'd be worried....

At this moment, Belinda came over. She had heard what Haillie had just said and angrily countered, "That's not what happened! Ellinor said she would help her fly a kite, but Haillie didn't appreciate it and even got angry at Ellinor!"

Haillie's eyes were red and swollen; she looked at Belinda, crying and defending herself, "Belinda, I understand that you are a pure and kind child and your desire to protect Ellinor. But you can't slander me because of this! If it wasn't for you two ignoring me, why would I come here to fly a kite alone and hurt myself?"

Belinda couldn't stand her twisting of the fact.

"Huh! Haillie, this isn't the first time you've played the victim! The world is full of wonders, meeting a brazen woman like you is undoubtedly an eye-opener."

"Belinda, regarding yesterday's incident, I admit I was wrong. But I'm not lying today!" Haillie seemed greatly wronged as she leaned on Byran's shoulder and started crying...

Looking at her crying, Belinda found it ridiculous. She turned her head and said to Theo, who was still on his horse, "Theo, you must not believe this woman! She's up to no good, just trying to cause trouble and smear Ellinor!"

Theo glanced at Belinda, then looked at Ellinor not far away.

Finally, he looked at Haillie, furrowed his brows, then said to Byran, "Help her."

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Byran gently nodded, helping Haillie, who was sobbing on his shoulder.

Haillie also tried to stop crying and stand up, but her right foot was so painful that she couldn't put any weight on it. Her face was pale, her forehead covered in sweat, this state was genuine pain, not some acted out drama

Seeing Haillie in such pain, Byran felt a pang in his heart

"Haillie, if no one's around to fly kites with you, you can always call me to join you. Why do you have to go alone?"

Haillie, choking back the pain, sobbed, "Byran, you're a boy, how could you possibly enjoy flying kites? I thought it would be easy, so I wanted to try it myself. I guess I overestimated myself, I'm just too clumsy"

Byran sighed sympathetically, supporting Haillie's arm, "Stop blaming yourself, Haillie. Let me help you onto the horse, and then we'll return to the hotel to have the stable's doctor check your injuries. We're in trouble if it's a bone injury"

Byran asked Jonah for help, and together they assisted Haillie onto the horse.

Then, Byran led the horse towards the hotel at a quick pace.

Jonah and the others followed, Haillie's condition did look kind of serious, and they all hoped everything was fine.

Theo stood there, sitting on his horse and looking down at Ellinor and Belinda, "You two better pack up the kites, don't trip and fall."

Belinda grunted irritably. "This grassland is flat as a pancake; how could we fall! Humph, every time Haillie shows up, something happens, we can't even enjoy flying our kites, what a buzzkill!"

Ellinor handed the kite string to Belinda, comforting her. "It's all right, let's pack up the kites, we can fly them another time."

Belinda nodded "Ah, guess there's no other way!"

Theo moved his horse a few steps forward, stopping beside Ellinor and whispering. "Ellinor."

"Hmm?" Ellinor looked up at Theo on the horse, "What's up, Theo?"

Theo nodded, slightly bending down to extend a hand to her, "Give me your hand."

Ellinor was puzzled, "What for?"

Theo frowned. "I'll give you a lift, you don't want it?"

Ellinor shook her head, "No need, I'll wait for Belinda, and we'll walk together."

Theo's face turned serious.

Belinda, who was packing the kite string, heard this and immediately turned around, smiling. "Ellinor, you don't have to wait for me, I want to be alone for a bit!"

Ellinor smiled, "Then I'll stay and keep you company"

Belinda quickly waved her hand, "No, no, no need!"

As she waved her hand, the kite string rolled quickly, and all the wound-up string was released.

Belinda struggled to control the kite string, then laughed and said, "Looks like I'll be winding for a while longer. You go ahead with Theo!"

Ellinor knew that Belinda was deliberately trying to create some alone time for her and Theo, but she didn't know how to tell Belinda that she and Theo didn't need it. All Ellinor could do was helplessly say, "If you insist, but be careful, don't let the kite string cut your hand"

Belinda nodded, "I got it"

Chapter 239

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rough

Only then did Ellinor reluctantly extend her hand, which was grasped by Theo's rough hand.

With a strong pull from Theo, she was up on the horse.

The horse didn't speed up but just strolled on the lawn.

They both sat on the same saddle, Ellinor's back against Theo's solid chest; she felt uneasy...

"Theo, aren't you in a rush to check on your long-time friend Haillie's injuries?" she asked

"I'm not a doctor, I can't help her even if I go," he replied.

Ellinor gave an awkward laugh, "You have a point!"

Theo said nothing more, so Ellinor asked, "Theo, what's your horse's name?"

"Alunar"

Alunar, does that mean he likes the moon?

Chapter 240

Theo took Byran's phone without a second thought and walked out to answer it.

Ellinor tilted her head slightly, watching Theo retreating

Jonah, who had just stepped out to contact the hospital, slowly walked back in to inform everyone

"Don't worry, folks The hospital has already sent an ambulance Haillie will be receiving treatment shortly "

Byran looked at Haillie with a worried look "Haillie, did you hear that? Your foot will be treated soon. Everything's going to be okay"

However, Haillie didn't respond

The on-site doctor pinched Haillie's philtrum to revive her slightly.

Although Haillie woke up, she still appeared weak and hopeless. She said weakly. "My foot is ruined. Why are you even bothering to save me? I'd rather die "

Heaning this, Byran was very concerned. 'Haillie, you can't think like that. You and my sister are close friends. If you give up, it'll hurt her too."

Heaning Byran mention his sister, Haillie let out a self-deprecating sigh. "Only Patricia would care about me."

Byran insisted, "Haillie, we all care about you. Isn't that right, Jonah?"

Jonah gave a slight nod, chuckling. "Yeah, Haillie. Keep your chin up, get treated, then find the best physiotherapist when you're healed. We believe you can still be the best

ballerina"

Byran eagerly agreed, "Yeah, Jonah's right!

But Haillie just shook her head weakly, "Jonah, don't sugarcoat it. The doctors said there's no way my leg could regain its former flexibility"

Jonah gave a helpless smile. He didn't know what to say in the face of Haillie's attitude.

Just then, Collin knocked and walked in

“Haillie, regarding the withdrawal of the investment, Mr. Blanchet has reconsidered and decided to delay it for a while. It will depend on the Knotts family’s financial report for the next quarter. For now, focus on your treatment and don’t stress about anything else.”

Hearing this, Haillie finally lightened up a bit. “Really?”

Collin nodded seriously, “Yes, Mr. Blanchet has instructed me to inform you.”

Haillie’s face brightened with hope as she finally felt comforted. She said gratefully, “I knew Theo still cared about me! Collin, thank him for me. Tell him that we, the Knotts family, won’t let him down in next quarter’s financial report!”

“All right, I’ll relay your message.”

After carrying out Mr. Blanchet’s orders, Collin turned around, scanning the room. His eyes finally landed on Ellinor

standing in the most inconspicuous corner. He respectfully said, Ellinor, let’s go. Mr. Blanchet asked me to take you and Ms. Wesley home first.

Ellinor looked at Collin and asked calmly. “What about him?”

“Mr. Blanchet is still on the phone. Someone asked for his help, so he needs to stay here with Haillie until her injuries are properly treated. He said there’s no need for you to wait for him”

Was he still on the phone with Patricia, huh?