

The Kiss 31

Chapter 31

Inside the Blizzard Room private suite.

This private booth was more like a huge open space, really roomy.

The light was soft, and the music was a live band performance.

People dressed to the nines, chatting and drinking.

Ellinor was weaving through the crowd, on the hunt for Belinda.

Suddenly, a girl with pastel pink hair bolted towards her, "Ellinor..."

Ellinor frowned, frantically checking her from head to toe for injuries, asking, "What's up? You called me to come rescue you?"

Belinda seemed a bit rattled, clinging to Ellinor's arm, pointing behind her, "It's them! They were messing with me!"

Ellinor looked up and saw three well-dressed young men closing in, clearly from wealthy backgrounds.

The guy on the left said, "Hey, girlie, you can't just say that! You agreed to hang out with us, how can you say we were messing with you?"

The guy on the right was checking out Ellinor who just arrived, "Hey! Another beauty, and this one looks well-behaved, I like it!"

Ellinor kept a poker face, turning to Belinda, "How did you get mixed up with them?"

Belinda looked wronged, whispering, "I came in to find you and didn't see you, so I asked them about you! Then, they invited me to play dice, saying if I won, they'd take me to you! Then, I lost! They gave me the choice of 'downing ten bottles of booze or kissing one of them. I didn't want to kiss them! And I was scared they might spike the drinks. They wouldn't let me leave if I didn't drink..."

Ellinor got the picture, looking at the young men, "You're proud of picking on a girl like this?"

"Aren't you women always asking for gender equality? Regardless of gender, a loss is a loss! If you can't handle it, you shouldn't have joined in the first place!"

Ellinor looked serious, "I'll play with you!"

The man in the middle, looking at the seemingly gentle and polite Ellinor, laughed, "You sure?"

Ellinor said with certainty, "If I win, her loss to you guys doesn't count!"

The man in the middle raised an eyebrow, "What if I win?"

Ellinor looked him straight in the eye, fearless, "You name the terms!"

The man in the middle took a couple of steps closer, whispering into her ear, "Are you still a virgin?"

Ellinor stiffened, a trace of anger on her face.

"Your reaction says you're still a virgin!" The man in the middle laughed wickedly, pulling out a hotel room card from his pocket, handing it to Ellinor. "I want your first time!"

Belinda saw the room card, her face turning red with anger, "You're blatantly messing with us!"

Ellinor took the card, "Alright, let's start!"

Belinda was taken aback, anxiously trying to stop her, "Ellinor, this isn't right! I chose drinking. Don't play with them!"

At the back of Blizzard Room was a billiard room.

The young master of the Howard family said leisurely, "I have to tell you guys, I met Snow Bunny online the other day, she can even easily crack our AJ Alliance's encryption system. She's truly one of the best hackers in the world!"

Jonah pocketed a ball, "Byran, you should do less pointless stuff, your father still hopes you could help your brother manage the company!"

Byran didn't care, "With my brother around, I don't want to deal with company stuff!"

At this point, someone walked in and said, "Guys, there's something interesting going on outside, a girl is playing dice with three men, and she's betting her virginity!"

Jonah put down his pool cue, "Hmm, that sounds interesting! Let's go check it out!"

Theo was lounging on the sofa, expressionless, clearly not interested in this.

The curly-haired woman next to him said with a grin, "Mr. Blanchet, I think I saw your niece Belinda with the girl who's playing dice!"

Theo's eyebrows furrowed.

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The person called John cheerfully handed Ellinor a dice cup, "Ellinor, 111 keep it simple so you won't accuse me of bullying you! Let's roll for the highest number, best out of three, how's that?"

Ellinor nodded modestly, "Sure, thank you."

Belinda, eyes reddened with worry, pleaded, "Ellinor, I was wrong, don't play with them! I'll drink, no matter how many bottles!"

How could Ellinor possibly outwit those three sneaky guys? If she lost, they'd definitely take advantage of her! No.

Ellinor patted Belinda's panicked hand, "Shush! Keep calm, it's all good."

How could it possibly be fine?

Belinda wanted to call Theo for help, but her phone was snatched away by one of them earlier.

They hadn't even started yet, and they were already surrounded by a crowd.

Everyone had a dice cup in hand.

John lifted his dice cup, shook it expertly, slammed it on the table, and smiled confidently, "Who's going first?"

Ellinor politely replied, "You first!"

"So polite! Well, don't mind if I do!" John lifted his dice cup, revealing four sixes and one five, a total of twenty-nine points!

Nobody was betting on Ellinor. She was just a girl, how could she possibly know how to roll dice? It was all down to luck, and the chances of her rolling five sixes in a row were slim to none!

Unfazed by the doubts, Ellinor casually shook the dice cup and opened it. To everyone's surprise, she rolled five sixes!

John's confident smile froze, and he said begrudgingly, "Lucky roll! Let's go again!"

In the second round, John rolled five sixes!

Ellinor's roll? Also five sixes!

A tie.

The third round began, and the crowd was even more interested, anticipating the final result.

This time, John rolled five sixes again, smirking at Ellinor, "You're lucky, but the odds of rolling five sixes three times in a row are slim! The last round was a tie, so it seems we'll need to add two more rounds. Best out of five, I'm already looking forward to spending the night with you."

"No need for extra rounds, I would probably disappoint you." Ellinor's tone was indifferent. She shook the dice cup vigorously for about ten seconds, then slammed it on the table.

Open!

All five dice split in half, with half showing six and the other half showing one. The total was thirty-five points!

Best out of three, Ellinor won!

The three rich kids were stunned, their faces full of disbelief as they leaned in to confirm. Everyone was amazed. This young girl was something else!

"We won? We actually won?!" Belinda stuttered in surprise, then jumped excitedly. "Ah! We won! Ellinor, you're amazing! You're like my goddess!"

Ellinor yawned, covering her face with her hand, "Let's go."

Not far away on a sofa, Jonah watched the whole scene, finding it rather amusing. "Theo, that girl is full of surprises!"

Theo sat on a single-seat sofa with an air of authority, leisurely sipping a glass of red wine. He looked cool and collected.

Byran caught some information, he asked, "Who's that girl? Theo, do you know her?"

Jonah laughed, "That's Theo's newlywed wife!"

Byran paused, frowned, and his gaze sharply turned towards Ellinor.

The curly-haired woman standing next to Theo's single-seat sofa held a glass of champagne. She swirled the wine thoughtfully, her beautiful eyes revealing a hint of disdain as she looked at Ellinor.

Ellinor threw the room card back at John like a dart, then dragged Belinda away.

Just as they were about to leave, Belinda suddenly remembered something and turned back to ask for her phone, "Give me back my phone!"

John, still feeling resentful, found an excuse, "Want your phone back? Then let her play another round with me!"

Ellinor was annoyed, she told Belinda, "Forget it, let your rich uncle buy you a new one when we get back."

Chapter 33

Belinda looked a bit troubled, "But..."

Ellinor gave her a deep look, "Is there important info in that phone?"

Belinda nodded awkwardly.

Ellinor rubbed her temples, then turned to the main guy, "So, how do you want to proceed?"

The guy looked back at Ellinor, determination in his eyes, "No winners or losers this time! Let's play a round of this spinner game. If you play, I return the phone!"

Ellinor glanced at the spinner game on the table, finding it utterly boring.

"Fine, I'll play!" She agreed.

The guy grinned in satisfaction, "Rules are, you've gotta press stop with your eyes closed. You do what I do and on, I do what you land on!" Ellinor frowned, "Can't we pick our own?"

The guy shook his head, "That'd be no fun!"

Ellinor shrugged, "Fine then!"

This time, she was to go first.

The spinner spun rapidly. Ellinor closed her eyes, reached out, and stopped it.

She landed on a punishment of [Kneel and slap yourself twenty times]!

Belinda burst into laughter, "You asked for this, no backsies!"

"Of course, I'll play by the rules!" The guy shrugged, looking a bit awkward, but he knelt down and slapped himself twenty times.

Once he was done, it was his turn to choose for Ellinor. The spinner started to spin. The guy watched intently before closing his eyes and stopping it!

Belinda couldn't wait to see, her face falling instantly.

He landed on [Kiss a person of the opposite sex you know for one minute]!

Ellinor looked at the punishment, her eyebrows knitted in irritation.

The guy grinned. "I've done my slapping punishment, no backing out now!"

Belinda couldn't help herself, "Do you even know who she is? You dare to have her kiss you! Let me tell you, she is uncle's..."

my

Ellinor interrupted Belinda, "It's fine, I'll do it!"

Belinda tried to stop her, "Ellinor! He's doing this on purpose, don't let him take advantage of you! Screw the phone!"

But Ellinor had made up her mind.

"Come on, beautiful lady, I'm waiting!" The guy spread his arms, puckering his lips, waiting for the kiss.

However, Ellinor didn't move towards him, "The punishment says I have to kiss someone of the opposite sex that I know, but I don't know you."

The guy was all confidence, "Stop struggling! Who else could you possibly know here except me?"

Ellinor scanned the crowd, looking for someone she knew.

Belinda suddenly saw a lifeline, she pointed it out to her, "Ellinor! It's Theo, Theo's over there! You can just kiss him!"

If it was Theo, it wouldn't be a problem. They were husband and wife, it was normal for them to be intimate. She certainly didn't want Ellinor to be taken advantage of for the sake of her phone!

Ellinor saw Theo, and the woman next to him dressed in a deep V-neck dress, gentle yet sexy with curly hair. So Theo was into this type of woman!

Theo was with that woman. If she went over, it would only lead to unnecessary trouble.

Moreover, she had kissed Theo once before to avoid a blind date, only to be strong-armed into an engagement and marriage, trapping her for three whole months. If she kissed him once more, the consequences were unimaginable!

Hèr gaze left Theo, and Ellinor spotted someone else, the man who had chatted her up downstairs. The man stood somewhere quiet, a helpful smile on his face as he watched her. His face clearly said: Yep, no problem, you can choose to kiss me.

Ellinor had to admit, he looked clean with thin lips and white teeth, not at all repulsive.

She would choose him then!

And so, Ellinor walked towards the man.

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As she was making her way towards that guy, Ellinor had to pass by Theo. She didn't even glance at him, but she could feel his intense gaze on her.

*She kept her eyes ahead
and walked steadily, but outta nowhere, It felt like something tripped her and she ended up falling! Just when she was least expecting it, Ellinor, now off-balance, tumbled right into Theo's sturdy chest.*

The crowd watching went dead silent, like a graveyard.

Jonah, looking mighty pleased, let out a whistle, breaking up the tense silence.

Whispers started to circulate among the crowd.

"She's really got the guts to pick Mr. Blanchet!"

"What kinda man is Mr. Blanchet for her to dare touch him!"

"She definitely did that on purpose!"

"Isn't it obvious? Which Greenhaven woman wouldn't wanna get with Mr. Blanchet?"

"I bet Mr. Blanchet will just push her away. His favor ain't that easy to win."

Ellinor lifted her head, her long eyelashes fluttering, her eyes filled with embarrassment and helplessness , "Mr. Blanchet."

Theo arched his eyebrow, "What are you up to?"

Ellinor let out a sigh, explaining, "Mr. Blanchet, you've got it all wrong. I didn't choose you."

Theo's eyes narrowed a bit, "Oh really?"

Ellinor nodded, "Yes! The guy I chose is over there! I just tripped and fell, I'm sorry. I'll get up now."

*Just then, John ran
over and yelled, "Are you out of your mind? You actually dared to touch Mr. Blanchet? Get up, don't make Mr. Blanchet mad!"*

Ellinor tried to get up, but Theo's hand suddenly pressed down on her waist, stopping her!

He shot the guy a cold glance, "What if I don't let her get up?"

"Ah, Mr. Blanchet. John was stunned speechless, looking terrified.

Ellinor gestured towards the guy ahead to Theo, "Mr. Blanchet, I didn't mean to touch you. I chose him, I let go of me."

Theo glanced at the guy, his gaze deep.

Ellinor tried to get up again, but as soon as she straightened up a bit, Theo's hand pushed her back down, and she fell all over again. Their lips collided, even their teeth clanged together!

Before she could wrap her head around it, Theo was kissing her aggressively. Ellinor's eyes were wide open, she was completely taken

aback!

Even though it was an accident, now that it happened, there was no need to go after someone else.

Soon, Ellinor accepted the reality and started counting down from 60 in her mind.

Her heart was thumping so fast it felt like it was going faster than her countdown, and she started to feel hot.

A minute finally passed, Ellinor was a little breathless. She rested her head in the crook of Theo's neck and caught her breath, not daring to look at him, waiting for her blush to fade before getting up.

This was her real first kiss, and even though there were no feelings involved, she still felt a little shy doing it in front of so many people. Theo felt the little girl in his arms acting all shy and embarrassed. His rough hand gently caressed the back of Ellinor's head, like he would to soothe a scared pet.

Then, he raised an eyebrow and glared at the guy who was now dumbstruck, "What's the matter? Not satisfied? Want something else? Need me to join in your games?"

John snapped back to reality, frantically waving his hands, "No, no! Mr. Blanchet, you're busy, we won't bother you!"

With that, he turned to run.

"Stop right there!" Belinda, hands on hips, stomped over.

John

stopped in his tracks, all his bravado gone, cautiously asking, "Miss, is there anything else you need?"

Belinda held out her hand, "Give me back my phone!"

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Only then did Headliner remember, hastily calling his buddies over to give the phone back.

Upon retrieving her phone, Belinda glared at them unhappily. "I told you Theo was my uncle. Do you believe me now?"

"We believe you! We really didn't see it! We were wrong!"

"Mr. Blanchet, we didn't know she was really your niece!"

"We're sorry! We're truly sorry!"

Who would have thought that this woman who snuck in with pink hair was Mr. Blanchet's niece!? They thought she was just a girl who was making excuses to get close to Mr. Blanchet.

Luckily, they didn't cause any major issues.

The three young men gathered together and bowed deeply in apology to Belinda and Ellinor, "We're sorry! Please forgive us, beautiful ladies!"

Belinda glared at them and pointed at the door of the Blizzard Room, "Out! I don't want to see you again!"

The three of them left so fast that it was like they had been given a second chance at life!

By now, Ellinor had calmed down and got up from Theo's lap. "You guys continue; I'm leaving."

Belinda quickly followed, "Ellinor, wait for me, I'll go with you!"

As Ellinor and Belinda walked out of the Blizzard Room, Sheila, who was hiding by the restroom's door, suddenly rushed out and blocked their path, "Ellinor! Stop right there! I have a question for you!"

Ellinor, in a bad mood, frowned impatiently, "What do you want?"

Sheila demanded, "Tell me, how did you get into the Blizzard Room?"

Ellinor replied, "Is it really that hard?"

Her calm attitude only made Sheila angrier!

Hard? Of course it was! She, Sheila, a big star, couldn't even get in!

"Are you going to tell me or not?"

"There's nothing to say."

Ellinor bypassed her, leading Belinda away.

Belinda looked back at Sheila, "Ellinor, who is that?"

Ellinor nonchalantly replied, "Just a relative."

Annoyed, Sheila took out her phone and snapped a picture of Ellinor and the pink-haired Belinda, 'Fine, since you won't tell me, I'll have my dad ask you! Just wait!'

Ellinor had just led Belinda out of the bar when a black Mercedes pulled up in front of them. The tinted window rolled down to reveal Theo's stern profile, "Get in."

Ellinor frowned and obediently got into the car without a struggle.

Belinda tried to follow but was stopped by Collin, "Ms. Wesley, come with me. Theo has asked me to take you home for some reflection."

Belinda was obviously unwilling and frowned, "Why do I need to reflect? Theo! Theo? Hey..."

The black Mercedes sped off.

The car was quiet.

Theo sat there, propping his forehead with one hand, a stern look in his eyes, "You could have just called me to solve the issue. Why did you insist on dealing with it yourself?"

Ellinor lowered her head, "I don't have your number."

The man extended his large hand, "Give me your phone."

Without any delay, Ellinor handed him her phone.

Theo stored his private number in her phone and handed it back to her, "Ellinor, remember this. For the next three months, I can give you

anything you want except love. So, if you have any issues next time, just call me."

Ellinor was taken aback. She turned to look at him and chuckled coldly, "Anything I want except love? Does that include the kiss just

now?"

Chapter 36

Theo kept a poker face. "Maybe it wasn't necessary before, but during our marriage it was. I won't allow my reputation to be tarnished. So, any thoughts of getting cozy with other men can't happen again."

Ellinor rolled her eyes, turned her gaze to the street view outside the car window, and let out a sarcastic snort. "You can't even hold yourself to that, yet you expect me to? Aren't you also secretly meeting other women in public?"

Theo looked deeply at her. "Are you jealous?"

Ellinor seemed confused and pulled a grimace. "Jealous? We aren't really husband and wife! I'm pissed off. I'm pissed off that you forcibly kissed me without any notice and nearly suffocated me!"

Theo lightly raised his eyebrows. "If I recall correctly, you didn't give me any notice the last time you kissed me."

Ellinor was momentarily speechless and her brows furrowed. "Cough! That's different, isn't it? I just pecked you lightly. I didn't even use my tongue..."

Theo smiled slightly. "Didn't do what?"

His playful tone made Ellinor blush, and she shut up in annoyance, saying, "Nothing!"

To be honest, she'd rather choose to kiss that unfamiliar man, the brief acquaintance she met in the bar. It would just be a bland kiss and they would never cross paths again.

Unlike Theo, whose influence in Greenhaven was so vast that today's incident would surely stir up a lot of trouble!

She hoped to keep a low profile during these three months, letting as few people know about her relationship with Theo as possible. After three months, she could completely cut ties and have nothing more to do with the Blanchet family.

As she was pondering, her phone rang again.

Ellinor glanced at the caller ID; it was her father, Arnold.

Arnold calling at this time probably meant Sheila was stirring up trouble again.

Ellinor answered the phone, and as expected, her father's tone was as irritable as she expected, audible even without speakerphone.

"Ellinor, what disgraceful thing have you done out there?! Come home and explain right now!"

Ellinor rubbed her temples. "Dad, I'm a bit tired today, I'll come back tomorrow."

Arnold barked, "No way! What on earth have you done to be so tired? Come back right now!"

Ellinor didn't want to argue any further, so she hung up the phone and turned it off.

Arnold's shouts over the phone were clearly audible in the quiet car.

Theo glanced at the financial report on his phone, reading quickly. He then casually asked, "Do you need me to go with you?"

Ellinor shook her head. "Just some family matters; there's no need to bother you."

The black sedan dropped Ellinor off at the front door of the Blanchet family's old mansion and drove away. Theo didn't go with her. This was for the best; the Blanchet family's old lady was at home; they didn't need to pretend to be affectionate in front of her to avoid giving the game away.

Ellinor went upstairs to her room, feeling terrible. She turned on her computer and logged into her game.

Ding ding!

A private message from a gaming friend came.

Sunset Avenue: "Ellinor, you finally logged in!"

This gaming friend named "Sunset Avenue" was the one who was tricked by Debby and successfully paralyzed the entire system of Nexus Industries.

Since the time she infiltrated the AJ Alliance's encryption system and negotiated with this person, he had been pestering her, insisting on becoming her apprentice.

Although she didn't agree, this person insisted on calling her "mentor."

Ellinor typed back, "Did you need something?"

Chapter 37

Sunset Avenue: [Sad face] Don't sweat it! Just not in the best mood today and wanted to chat with my mentor!

Ellinor: What's up?

Sunset Avenue: [Angry face] Today at the Blizzard Room, I saw my sister's love rival! I tripped that woman, hoping she would make a fool of herself in public, to vent my sister's frustration! But guess what? That woman deliberately fell into the arms of the man my sister likes and even used the chance to steal a kiss! I'm so pissed!

Ellinor stared at her computer screen, lost in thought. What a small world! It turned out she was the one who tripped her.

She remembered that besides Jonah and the curly-haired woman, there was also a handsome young man with thick eyebrows and big eyes who was about 17 or 18 years old. This was probably "Sunset Avenue"!

Ellinor: Do you think there's a possibility that you tripped her for no reason? Maybe she was helpless too.

Sunset Avenue: [Humph!] I think she's just a scheming woman! Deliberately cozying up to the man!]

Ellinor sighed and didn't respond; she went to play a game to blow off some steam.

After a few victorious rounds, Ellinor checked her unread messages again.

Sunset Avenue: [Sad face] Mentor, are you in Greenhaven? Can I invite you out for a meal?

Ellinor: Forget it; I bet you wouldn't be happy to see me.

Sunset Avenue: [Question face] Why? Mentor, you're my idol! How could I not be happy to see my idol?!

Ellinor, with her hand propped on her cheek, wanted to laugh, thinking, because I'm the woman you just cursed at.

At that moment, there was a knock on the door.

Ellinor closed the game and got up to answer the door.

It was Marissa, "Ellinor, I made you some sweet soup; come and have a taste."

Behind the old lady was a maid, holding a bowl of sweet-smelling soup.

Recently, Marissa had been making her various things to drink.

However, they all tasted good, so she didn't mind.

"Thank you, Grandma!" Ellinor opened the door wider to let the old lady in.

Marissa, watching her granddaughter-in-law sip the soup she made, smiled warmly. "Ellinor, did you come back alone? Where's Belinda?"

Ellinor answered honestly, "Grandma, Mr. Blanchet has already sent Collin to take Belinda home."

Marissa frowned slightly, "Did you run into Theo outside?"

Ellinor obediently sipped her soup and nodded.

Marissa was slightly upset, "Then why didn't he come back with you?"

Ellinor explained, "Grandma, Mr. Blanchet did drop me off at the door, but he is quite busy with work and has a lot to deal with. He might come back later."

Marissa grumbled, "He has such a beautiful young wife at home, but he never comes home! All he knows is work; can work give you a child?"

Ellinor pulled a wry smile, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

Actually, Marissa was quite cute and not as stern as when they first met, just a bit too eager for them to have children.

The next afternoon, Ellinor returned to the Mendoza family.

As soon as Arnold saw her, he angrily smashed the water glass in his hand and roared, "You shameless thing, kneel down!"

Chapter 38

Ellinor stepped over the shattered porcelain on the ground and walked up to Arnold. "What's up with Dad? Why's he madder than a wet hen?"

Sheila stood off to the side, arms crossed, and said in a mocking tone, "Got the nerve to ask, do ya? You know damn well what you did!" Ellinor shot Sheila an indifferent look. "I've done a ton of things, so which one are you harping about?"

Arnold's face was gloomy, and he angrily questioned, "Tell me, you said you found a job and were moving out. What kind of job did you find?"

Ellinor was at a loss for words because she couldn't exactly put her current job into simple terms.

Her job was to pretend to be the wife of some big-shot CEO to help him deal with his family.

What kind of job was that? An actress? A temporary wife?

Seeing Ellinor tongue-tied, Arnold got even angrier. "Still trying to pull the wool over my eyes? A graduate from a prestigious university, working as a bar hostess! Where's your dignity, Ellinor? Are you trying to make me sick with worry?"

A bar hostess? Ellinor frowned in confusion.

Arnold slammed a photo down on the table. It was of her and Belinda leaving the Blizzard Room bar the day before.

Belinda

had dyed her hair pink after a breakup, wore really edgy clothes, and had too much to drink. It was easy to mistake her for something she wasn't, which was why those rich kids had the guts to mess with her.

And Ellinor, being with Belinda, was guilty by association.

Ellinor looked at the photo, then at Sheila. "Dad, did Sheila give you this photo?"

Sheila didn't panic and just smirked arrogantly. "So what if I did?"

At this moment, their mother, Tracy, came over, trying to mediate. "Ellinor, don't blame your sister. She just wants you to straighten up. Working as a bar hostess might be quick money, but it's beneath you! Oh, Ellinor, how could you?"

Ellinor laughed when she saw Tracy's feigned heartbroken expression. "Straighten up? I think the one who needs to straighten up is

Sheila."

Sheila glared at her, "What the hell are you implying, Ellinor? I'm not the one working as a bar hostess! Why do I need to straighten up?"

Ellinor ignored her and turned

to Arnold. "Dad, the girl with pink hair in the photo is just a relative of my landlord. She was drowning her sorrows at the bar, and I was helping my landlord get her home."

Arnold hesitated, half-believing her. "Is that true?"

Ellinor nodded affirmatively. "Yeah, it's true."

Sheila didn't believe her and stepped forward to expose her lie. "Ellinor, do you think you can fool Dad? The Blizzard Room is a private booth at

Twilight Bar; not just anyone can go in! If you're not there working as a hostess, how could you strut in like you owned the place? Can you explain that?"

Ellinor looked at her calmly and smiled.

"Because my landlord is a big fish there, that's why I could go straight in."

Sheila frowned, suddenly recalling when she had followed Ellinor before and saw her enter a luxurious mansion.

Chapter 39

Arnold started to believe his younger daughter, "Ellinor, is it really like you said? You're not lying, are you?"

Ellinor looked sincere, "Dad, don't worry. I would never do anything improper."

Arnold breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good then! Ellinor, you need to do well; otherwise, how can I face your mother?!"

Sheila was not pleased to see her father's change in attitude towards Ellinor and came over to complain again, "Dad, even if Ellinor didn't go to work as a hostess, her current job isn't any better! I didn't want to

say it at first, afraid you'd be angry if you knew, but seeing Ellinor so unambitious, as her older sister, I have to speak out! Dad, Ellinor has gone to work as a maid for a rich family, the landlord she just mentioned is actually her employer!"

"What?" Arnold frowned, looking at Ellinor discontentedly, "Is this true, Ellinor? You're working as a maid?"

"Well, kind of... yes!" Ellinor thought she was enslaved by Theo to pretend to be his wife for three months, constantly accommodating him, which was similar to being a maid.

Arnold said with frustration, "You gave up a good job at Nexus Industries to become a maid? What were you thinking?!"

Before Ellinor could speak, Sheila interjected, "Dad, Ellinor was fired from Nexus Industries! Ah, who knows what she did wrong to get fired?!"

Arnold's eyes were filled with disappointment again, "Ellinor, when will you ever stop causing trouble? Fine, I don't want to meddle anymore. If you want to be a maid, be a maid; just don't go around saying you're my daughter. I can't afford to lose face!"

Ellinor remained calm, "Dad, the thing is, my graduation thesis is about the development of the housekeeping industry, so I wanted to gain firsthand experience. Besides, I don't think there's anything shameful about having a legitimate job.

Arnold was taken aback, feeling that his younger daughter made a fair point. His displeased look softened, "I see!"

Ellinor nodded, very obediently saying, "Dad, you don't need to worry about my graduation thesis, but you really need to talk some sense into my sister!"

Arnold frowned in confusion, ".....What's wrong with your sister?"

Sheila also looked puzzled, "Talk to me? Ellinor, what do you mean? What should Dad talk to me about?"

Ellinor looked at Sheila and sighed, "Sis, the entertainment industry is very complicated. You've been struggling there alone for years; you should've told us if you were being bullied, why suffer alone?"

Sheila was at a loss, "Ellinor, what the hell are you talking about?!"

Ellinor took out her phone, opened the trending news on Twitter, and handed it to Arnold, "Dad, I really can't explain my sister's situation to you; you'll see."

Arnold took the phone in confusion; his eyes widened instantly and were filled with rage. He looked up at Sheila angrily, "You disgrace, how could you do something like this?!"

Sheila was a bit stunned, asking in confusion, "Dad, why are you scolding me?"

Arnold's scolding her was no surprise; he even wished he could deal with this eye-catching daughter right away, "You dare to ask me, don't you know what you've done?!"

"I... I didn't do anything!" Sheila was both panicked and confused, "Ellinor, what did you show Dad?"

Ellinor blinked, quietly watching her, "Sis, didn't you know? You're the hot topic of the day, and you're the top one on the trending list."

Chapter 40

Sheila was totally baffled. Why the hell was she trending?

She hadn't taken on any new gigs recently, so how in the world did she end up on the trending list? And at the very top of it? Even during her heyday, when she was constantly in the limelight, she never topped the trending list!

What on earth was going on?

Feeling a knot in her stomach, Sheila quickly checked her phone. There it was, her name right at the top of Twitter's trending list.

The trending topic was: #Actress Sheila's Sugar Daddy Exposed #

Sheila's hand trembled as she clicked on the trending hashtag. The posts were filled with videos of her at some dinner party, schmoozing with industry bigwigs, and a GIF of her sitting on the lap of some balding sugar daddy!

Holy crap! How did these unmentionable scenes end up on the trending list?

Who was doing this? Who was trying to ruin her?!

Arnold was mortified because trending meant the whole world could see her disgraceful acts, "You embarrassing misfit, look at your

reckless behavior in the video!"

Sheila turned pale, shaking her head in denial, "Dad, you've got it all wrong, I..."

Arnold snapped in disgust, "You were sitting on that old man's lap! What else could it be? How could I have raised such a shameless daughter?!"

Sheila tried to explain, "Dad, I...I was just discussing work..."

Arnold, livid, grabbed a dried flower from the cabinet and threw it at her face, "Discussing work? Is sitting on a man's lap part of the discussion?"

Sheila was hit on the head and was terrified, "I..."

"Dad, calm down. I believe she didn't do it on purpose." Ellinor poured a cup of warm water for Arnold, pleading, "Dad, Sheila was just trying to get ahead; that's why she got taken advantage of by those old men!"

*Arnold got even angrier,
“Get ahead? What honor has she brought to our family? She’s causing a scandal and it’s on the trending list. I don’t even know how to face people now!”*

No pain, no gain.

At first, Arnold was embarrassed that his younger daughter, Ellinor, who was working as a maid. But now, Sheila’s outrageous behavior was the real embarrassment!

Compared to Sheila, at least Ellinor was a good girl who worked hard.

Sheila didn’t dare argue with her father, but she pointed at Ellinor and snapped, “Ellinor, stop playing the good guy in front of Dad! It’s all your fault; ever since you came back, nothing good has happened...”

Smack!

Arnold slapped Sheila across the face in anger!

*“You dare blame
your sister! You’re the one who’s always out partying, and you have the nerve to criticize your sister! At least she works hard and doesn’t
do anything inappropriate! Look at you! I don’t see any signs of remorse from you. It’s high time someone taught you a lesson, you shameless creature!”*

“Ah!” Sheila screamed and fell to the ground while crying.

“You dare cry!” Arnold was about to hit her again when Tracy rushed over to stop him, “Arnold, stop! Don’t hit Sheila; there must be some reasons she can’t explain!”

Arnold snorted in disgust, “What reasons? I see she’s willing to do anything to climb up the ladder! Tracy, this is the daughter you raised! You two have completely dishonored the Mendoza family! From now on, you both stay at home; no one is allowed out!”

Arnold didn’t want to see Tracy and her daughter anymore. He huffed coldly and went upstairs.

Tracy quickly helped Sheila up and asked anxiously, “Sheila, are you okay?”

Sheila collapsed into Tracy’s arms, crying, “Mom, how could this happen? How did these things become a trending topic? I’m so

humiliated!”