

The Kiss 331

Chapter 331

"Yeah, I'm with you all the way, I've got your back!"

"I've got it all on camera, crystal clear. I'll upload it online right away!"

"I'll post it too, let's rally together and there's no way she can get away with this!"

In the car, Ellinor took a little rest, feeling a bit better. Her stomach wasn't churning as badly as before. So he reached out and said, "Theo, hand me your phone."

Theo pulled a

long face, handed her his phone but when she reached out to take it, he raised it high out of her reach, and asked coldly, "First, tell me why you made me leave alone just now?"

Ellinor frowned, "Because... I was afraid they would catch you on camera."

Theo was upset, he felt like she didn't consider him as one of her own, even looked down on him.

Ellinor noticed Theo's displeasure, thought for a moment and then said, "Theo, didn't you say your identity is special and you can't let others know your weakness? If those people caught you and me together, wouldn't there be people wanting to kidnap me every day? How would I live my life then?!"

Theo was taken aback, his eyes

softened. Her words cheered him up a bit, it seemed like she knew he considered her his weakness.

He snorted, pat her head, "Hmm, at least you know how to protect yourself."

Ellinor pouted, reached for the phone, "Give me the phone already."

He gave her the phone.

Ellinor took the phone, quickly opened Twitter to check the news today...

Everything looked normal on the trending topics, the related topic had been suppressed, probably because Theo had it taken down.

But the video had spread, it was hard to control people sharing it privately, most netizens probably knew about it already...

She then looked up the cause of the incident.

Turned out it was a

tweet from the influencer Adelina, twisting the truth, complaining about what happened that day, saying she was scammed and lost tens of thousands, was forced to sell her house and car. Her mother fell ill because of this, and she felt all hope was lost...

Tsk, it was easy for her to cook up a lie, but Ellinor had to go through hoops to make people believe the truth!

Probably because the video was edited in a very targeted way, netizens surprisingly all sided with Adelina's lies.

The comment section was filled with curses towards her, calling her a "scammer" and wishing her ill!

Not knowing if it was because of the curse, Ellinor's stomach started to hurt again. She frowned, instinctively covering her stomach.

Theo noticed her discomfort, narrowed his eyes and asked, "What's wrong?"

Ellinor shook her head lightly, "It's nothing, just a bit of stomachache."

"All you know is to run around! Come here!"

Theo said, both soothing and irritated, then pulled her into his lap.

He then put his warm hand over her belly, gently massaging it.

Despite the significant effect, her stomach felt much better with his warm hand gently massaging it,

But, Ellinor still felt quite embarrassed, "Theo, can you not?"

He raised an eyebrow, "What's wrong? Is there a part of you I haven't touched?"

Ellinor blushed, she glanced at Collin who was driving, then glared at Theo, "Theo! Have you no shame?"

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Collin had already raised the partition between the front and back seats of his own accord, choosing not to look at them.

He didn't fancy being under the intense gaze of Mr. Blanchet....

Theo gently rubbed her stomach for a bit, only stopping when he saw she looked a bit better. He pulled out a wet wipe, cleaning off the sticky sod residue on her small face. With a mix of heartache and anger, he reprimanded her: "Where's all that sass you usually throw my way? You just let people walk all over you and don't fight back?"

Ellinor shot him a look, before seriously saying, "I'm not a beast! Theo, if a beast attacked you, would you fight back? We should deal with beasts in a human way, not stoop down to their level! I don't want to argue with them. They are just people who have been influenced by fake news on the internet and lack critical thinking! The one we need to deal with is the one stirring up trouble online!"

Theo patted her head, instructing, "I'll handle this. Just stay at home and rest for a few days until this blows over."

Ellinor was a bit upset, "I didn't do anything wrong, why should I hide at home?"

He coaxed her, "We won't hide then, but we'll have to wake up early to go to the

Ellinor was taken aback, Theo was taking her to the Blanchet Corporation?

Wasn't that the same as going public with their relationship?

office together, okay?"

She thought about it, shaking her head, "I won't go! You go to work, what am I supposed to do? It'll be so boring!"

He frowned, seriously telling her the gravity of the situation, "Ellinor, in today's society, cyberbullying is no small matter! Listen to me, don't make me worry!"

Ellinor's eyes sparkled, so this is what it felt like to be cared for...

"Theo, don't worry, I know my limits, I won't let people walk all over me!"

Theo couldn't persuade her, but he didn't want to force her either.

She had just agreed to try being with him. He would respect her and let her truly accept him.

Not just blindly force her to listen to him.

Also, he had long figured her out. The harder he chased, the faster she ran. She was different from other women.

He conceded, helplessly pinching her chubby little face, "Right, you're so great, only ever losing your temper with me! With others, you're understanding and magnanimous, truly so generous!"

Ellinor frowned.

Was Theo complaining about her treatment of him?

Before, their relationship was purely professional. Of course she would try to avoid him when they weren't acting!

They had just agreed to try being together, she wasn't prepared yet!

And, it felt like Theo was always treating her like a helpless child, she was already twenty years old okay!

Evening.

In a dilapidated residential district in the suburbs of Greenhaven.

W = FN

This was Zachary's home, a criminal suspect who had almost harmed Patricia Howard.

Zachary's wife had just returned home from the police station with their child, both of them crying the whole way.

Because they found out their father was a bad man, arrested by the police. The child's trust in his father collapsed, leading to an emotional breakdown.

After coming home, it took all of Zachary's wife's strength to calm the child down and put him to sleep.

Not long after, their doorbell suddenly rang.

She tucked the child in, got up from the bed and went to open the door.

Outside, stood a woman wearing a hat, sunglasses, and a mask, with a black briefcase in her hand.

Zachary's wife was a bit nervous, "Hello, can I help you?"

The woman pushed past her
without a word, striding into the house, before taking off her sunglasses and mask.

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Zachary's wife finally recognized her, "Oh, it's you, Ms. Howard!"

She had seen Ms. Howard earlier today at the police station, and her husband had also mentioned something about her, hence she left quite an impression.

Zachary's wife was very polite, "Ms. Howard, please have a seat, I'll grab you a glass of water!"

Patricia glanced at the modest sofa in the cramped living space, her eyes filled with disdain. She sneered, "don't bother, I'm leaving soon!"

Zachary's wife felt a bit embarrassed and flustered by her guest's arrogant demeanour.

Without saying much, Patricia opened the black suitcase in her hand, placed it on the table and got straight to the point, "Just keep Zachary quiet, I promise he'll be out of jail soon! Then you guys can leave the city. This money should be enough for a carefree life!" Seeing the full suitcase of cash, Zachary's wife was gobsmacked, "Ms. Howard, you... don't worry! Zachary filled me in on everything when I visited him at the station today, we know what to do!"

"Good to know."

Patricia sneered, left the suitcase behind, and left Zachary's house.

As soon as Patricia left Zachary's house and got back in her car, she sprayed disinfectant all over herself. The neighbourhood was as filthy as a slum, making her feel sick to her stomach!

Had she not come to shut them up with the money, she wouldn't be caught dead in such a poor neighbourhood!

She was worried about leaving a traceable record if she transferred the money through the bank.

That's right! It was all her scheme, and Haillie was framed without a clue.

Here's what happened...

That day, after returning to the country, she surprised Theo at the Pearl Moon.

But Theo left her to find Ellinor!

She went after Theo, but instead of finding him, she bumped into Ellinor, the one who made Theo ditch her, by the Trent River Bund!

She had heard about Ellinor's life after marrying into the Blanchet family while she was abroad, and started to be wary...

So she came up with a plan, using the guy who was distributing flyers to Ellinor for a conspiracy.

Yet, Ellinor managed to crack her plan in the end!

But Patricia is always one step ahead, never caught off guard.

She had provided Zachary with several hypothetical stories and even showed him Haillie's picture.

She told Zachary that if anything unexpected happened, he should immediately point the finger at Haillie. This wouldn't affect his final benefits, otherwise, he'd get nothing, and his wife and son would face retaliation!

What a pity, she had to sacrifice her loyal friend Haillie, losing a potential ally!

Just then, Patricia's phone rang. It was a call from Balfour Howard.

Patricia answered the phone sweetly, "Brother?"

Balfour's concerned voice came through, "Patri, dinner's ready at home. Grandpa and Grandma are here, and mom and dad are waiting for *you* to eat together, why did you go out again?"

"Brother, I just got back, some friends I haven't seen in a long time wanted to meet up. Don't worry, they're all girls, and I'll be fine. I got **it**, I'll get home early!"

After hanging up the phone, Patricia coldly tossed her phone onto the passenger seat.

Then she took out a pack of cigarettes, deftly lit one, her smoking figure contrasting sharply with her usual innocent image.

Patricia checked the time and smirked confidently. By now, Ellinor must be freaking out from the online attacks, right?

What if Ellinor had uncovered Zachary's plan?

She has plenty of other ways to deal with Ellinor!

As long as she can completely ruin Ellinor's reputation, it's game over!

Even if Theo has feelings for Ellinor, would the elders of the Blanchet family accept a girl with a bad character and constant scandals as Ellinor? Ellinor, just wait to be kicked out by the Blanchet family!

A country girl dares to compete with her, Patricia, for a man? As if she could!

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Patricia sneakily got her hands on the phone data of the influencer Adelina from her bro, copied it onto her own phone.

After that, she edited a video herself, blurring out grandpa's face and nicked the Twitter account of the internet celeb by some trickeries. She exposed Ellinor's "dirty deeds", causing a huge fuss online.

The real Adelina, scared by her brother, had already scurried back home, too chicken to even go online!

Her brother, always shielding his own, wouldn't let any ignoramus who dares offend their family get away with it, no matter who they were. To outsiders, though, he's always cold as ice. Even when he knew the whole scandal about Ellinor was a load of bull, he wouldn't bother sticking his nose in.

As for grandpa...

Grandpa is a well-known scientist, always holed up in his lab conducting research. He wouldn't give a rat's ass about what's happening on the internet.

Not long ago, his eyes got injured by some harmful gas during an experiment. Even till now, his sight hasn't been fully restored, let alone pay attention to the stuff happening online!

However, Patricia felt the current outcome wasn't up to her satisfaction. The trending topic had been pulled down, and the heat of the matter cooled down. She figured, it must've been Theo sticking his oar in, helping Ellinor!

Realizing this, jealousy surged in her heart. How on earth did Ellinor deserve Theo coming to her rescue!

Patricia's eyes flicked slightly, she got another crafty idea. She picked up her phone, logged into Twitter' with *her* private account and posted a malicious rumor about Ellinor –

"I know this Ellinor chick! She was my classmate, had a bad rep in school, bullied classmates, extorted protection money, even had an abortion! She'd never go home, instead spent nights in hotels with different men! And now she's making a living out of blackmailing? Being her classmate feels like an insult!"

Immediately, netizens started to share and comment...

[Ellinor was a bully? She looks so delicate, turns out she's capable of everything nasty, even bullying!]

[Those who bully others will have bad karma!]

[She had such a messy private life, even had an abortion? She's really up to no good! She deserves what's coming for her!]

[She spent nights with different men, that's just disgusting...]

Those hot-headed netizens didn't care about the truth, they just wanted to vent online. So Patricia's tweet quickly went viral, with shares skyrocketing...

Seeing all those nasty comments cursing Ellinor online. Patricia smirked, feeling quite chuffed.

Then, she made a phone call to Theo's sister, Veronica, with an ulterior motive...

The phone rang for a while before it got picked up. Veronica sounded like she was woken up, "Hello? Who is it?"

Veronica was abroad. It was four in the morning there.

Patricia knew it but went ahead with the call anyway.

“Veronica, sorry, did I wake you up?”

Veronica recognized Patricia’s voice, she’s always fond of this girl from the Howard family, so her tone immediately became cheerful and warm:

“Patricia, is that you heard that you came back, but it’s a bummer that I was taken abroad by grandma to accompany grandpa for his treatment, so I couldn’t hang out with you!”

Patricia replied with a gentle smile. “That’s alright, when you come back, we’ll hang out together!”

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Veronica replied, “Sure thing! So, Patricia, what’s up with the call?”

Patricia feigned hesitation, “Well... nothing much really! I got you a present, then found out you’re not in the country I was thinking of sending it to you, so I need your address.”

Veronica was touched, “That’s so sweet of you, remembering to get me a present! I wish you could be my sister in law! Then I wouldn’t have been stuck in jail for over a week, only to be shipped overseas by my grandma for discipline. I’ve lost all my freedom!”

Patricia pretended to be shocked, “What!? Veronica, how did you end up in jail?”

The mention of it made Veronica furious, “It’s all because of that Ellinor my brother brought home! She’s sneaky, two-faced, and no good at all!”

Patricia sighed sympathetically, “Oh poor girl! Speaking of which, Haillie got thrown in the slammer too today! I’m just gutted, and there’s nothing I can do to get her out. So I thought I’d chat with you to take my mind off things...”

Veronica was surprised, “What? Haillie got locked up too? What happened?”

Patricia initially dodged the question but eventually spilled the beans under Veronica’s persistent queries...

After hearing Patricia’s account, Veronica was livid, “That’s outrageous! It’s that Ellinor again! I bet she set Haillie up too! My brother basically brought a disaster home!”

Patricia got the reaction she wanted, then cautiously asked, “By the way, Veronica, did you go online today?”

Veronica answered, “Nope! I’ve been browsing foreign websites lately. Anything happened online?”

Patricia advised, “Veronica, you’ve gotta remember not to let grandpa and grandma see the domestic websites. I’m worried it’ll make them sick...”

“What’s up? Anything happened on the domestic web that relates to the Blanchet family?”

“Veronica, you’d better not look, seriously, don’t!”

Upon hearing Patricia’s half-explanation, Veronica was already on her tablet to check. After reading it, she was fuming!

“That bitch actually resorted to blackmail! If people find out she’s from the Blanchet family, she’ll ruin our reputation! No way! I’m telling grandpa and grandma right now, and they’ll make my brother ditch that woman!”

Patricia pretended to advise kindly, “Veronica, don’t do this, it’s not a good idea...”

But Veronica was already out of bed and dressing, “Patricia, don’t worry about it! The Blanchet family will never tolerate such disgraceful women ruining our family traditions!”

With that, she hung up in a rush.

Listening to the busy tone, Patricia broke into a smile. Everything was going according to plan!

Back at the Blanchet family mansion, Ellinor went straight upstairs, eager to wash off the sticky coke residue on her.

Theo followed her upstairs, but as soon as he set foot in the room, she ruthlessly pushed him out, attempting to lock him out!

This man forcefully held the door open, not allowing her to close it. He quirked an eyebrow, “Didn’t we agree to cohabitate? Why are you kicking me out now?”

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Ellinor blinked her eyes, “Honey, I remember you brought me to the Blanchet family to help you out, so I’ve been playing nice, following your lead, not stepping on your toes, and honestly, expecting nothing from you. But now, things have changed. Since we’ve decided to give this a go, you should respect my wishes! With all that’s been going on these last few days, I’m exhausted. I need some alone time. Can I have this room to myself? If you insist that this is your room, I can go to the guest room, or I can even take of f and go back to my own place!”

Theo squinted at her, speechless. What a smart cookie she is!

“Yours, mine, whatever. When have I not backed down for you? If you want the room, it’s yours. I’ll go to *the* study.”

“Well, thank you then!” Ellinor smirked, chin lifted, grinning as she pointed at his hand on the door, “Hand?”

Theo didn’t want to leave her alone, but her stubbornness left him no choice but to pull his hand away...

As soon as his hand moved, Ellinor slammed the door shut and headed to the bathroom to freshen up.

Theo stood outside the closed door, not in the best of moods.

For the first time in his life, someone had the guts to treat him this way, and it was the girl he adored. What could he do? Theo rubbed his temples in resignation, turned around, and saw his subordinate, Collin, not far away. He had apparently seen everything and was watching him anxiously...

Feeling annoyed, Theo lit up a cigarette, “What’s wrong?”

Collin came over and reported, "Mr. Blanchet, we've tracked down the source of the video, but the IP address is fake. The real one is heavily encrypted. Our team is working on it. This seems to be a publicity stunt by the internet celebrity, trying to get back at Ellinor." Theo flicked his cigarette, "Find that internet celebrity. I'll handle the online mess. You guys can stay out of it."

Collin was surprised, Mr. Blanchet was personally getting involved?!

Ellinor really had more sway over Mr. Blanchet than Ms. Howard...

"Yes, sir!" Collin accepted the order and left to handle it.

After Collin left, Theo exhaled a puff of smoke, glanced at the closed bedroom door, and headed to his study with a sigh.

After her shower, Ellinor put on comfortable clothes and felt much better.

She sat at the desk and turned on her laptop.

After logging into her social media accounts, chat windows popped up with Ida Gipson and Chase Larios...

Chase: "Ellinor, where are you?"

Ellinor typed back: [At the Blanchet family.]

Ida: "Ellinor, we're trying to control the media narrative, but Mr. Blanchet beat us to it and cooled things down."

Ellinor: "Got it."

Chase: "Ellinor, I think someone's pulling the strings behind all this. Otherwise, how could things escalate so quickly? Although the heat has died down, the public opinion is still against you. What should we do next?"

Ellinor: "*Don't* panic, I can handle the online stuff. Chase, investigate who was behind the LED public confession at the Century Bank Building. Confirm if the recipient, Diana, is real, and check if there's a Diana in Greenhaven who happened to return to the country around that time."

Chase: "Understood!"

Ida: "Ellinor, are you suggesting that the LED public confession wasn't done by Mr. Blanchet?"

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Ellinor: "Hmm, indeed it's not him."

Ida: "Now that's interesting! It seems someone is stirring the pot, making everyone who sees this whole scene misunderstand! I think it's quite likely that Ms. Howard herself did it. What do you think?"

Ellinor had her suspicions too.

It's not that she didn't trust Theo's explanation, or doubted his ability to investigate this minor matter.

But, she couldn't help but think, what are the odds?

Patricia could have returned earlier or later, but she just happened to return on the day Theo set up a tulip flower field!

And on the day Patricia returned, someone just happened to publicly confess their love on the LED advertisement of the Century Bank building on the Bund to another girl with a similar name!

The kicker is, such a grand confession didn't even use the full name of the person it was meant for!

Who would know which girl it was?

Even the person themselves wouldn't think that the confession was meant for them, right?

Since they chose to confess publicly, they must be the kind of person who likes to flaunt their romantic relationships. If they like to flaunt, why would they be so secretive about the name?

It's contradictory, it didn't make sense.

As for Theo ending the investigation after finding out that the person being confessed to on the LED advertisement order of the Century Bank building was named Diana, that's normal.

Patricia was his benefactor, and Theo felt grateful to her, he wouldn't doubt her.

No one would maliciously doubt someone who once saved them.

But Ellinor was different, she had no connection with Patricia, and after these past few days, she hadn't developed a liking for Patricia either.

She even felt that Ms. Howard, who looked as innocent as a fawn, can be quite phony at times.

Also, all these recent events started happening after Patricia came back, basically non-stop.

It's hard not to think that these events have something to do with Patricia...

If they really did have something to do with her, then this seemingly innocent and gentle girl was quite the schemer, and one needs to be careful in the future.

Suddenly, her phone vibrates...

Ellinor came back to her senses, looked down at the caller ID, and the name displayed was "Grandpa".

Seeing "Grandpa", Ellinor felt strange, she didn't have a grandpa.

Then she realized, she was using Theo's phone, it was Theo's grandpa calling...

Ellinor hesitated, she couldn't answer this call, she had never met Putnam Blanchet, and Putnam didn't know her.

So, she picked up the phone, intending to bring it to Theo's study, but accidentally hit the answer button !

The call connected!

Oh no!

From the other end of the line, an angry old man's voice demanded:

"Theo, what kind of woman have you brought into the Blanchet family? You're a grown man, how could you bring such a dishonest woman home? I think you're deliberately trying to shame me in my old age!"

Ellinor laughed. If she was not mistaken, the person Putnam was referring to should be her, right?

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Putnam on the other end of the line wasn't getting any reply and started to feel puzzled, "Hello? Why is there no sound on your end? Can you hear me? Theo, say something!"

Ellinor was speechless.

What could she say? That she wasn't his sweet grandson, but the woman he just angrily talked about?

As Ellinor was contemplating how to respond to Putnam, suddenly Marissa Blanchet's voice came from the other end of the phone...

"You're so clueless, who told you to call Theo? You just took your pills and you're already causing a ruckus. Give me the phone!"

And then, after a bit of futile struggling from Putnam, Marissa snatched the phone away!

Once Marissa got the phone, she asked, "Theo, there's a lot of drama online back home, what's going on?"

Hearing Marissa's question, Ellinor sighed helplessly, getting ready to explain the whole situation...

But before she could get a word out, Marissa scolded sternly, "Theo, what did I tell you before I left? Didn't I tell you to take good care of Ellinor and treat her well? And now you let her get slandered online like this? What's wrong with you?"

Ellinor was taken aback. The words she was about to say stuck in her throat...

Marissa actually believed her and unconditionally criticized Theo on her behalf, did she not suspect her at all?

Thinking about it, she hadn't spent much time with Marissa, even if Marissa suspected her now, she wouldn't feel anything about it.

But the fact that Marissa so clearly stood by her side made her feel somewhat flattered...

Ellinor spoke up, "Mrs. Blanchet, it's me."

Hearing Ellinor's voice on the other end, Marissa was surprised, "Ellinor? Ellinor, is that you? Wait, were you the one who answered the phone just now?"

"Yes."

"So, *you* heard everything Putnam said earlier?"

Ellinor chuckled, "Yeah, I heard everything."

Marissa said awkwardly, "Ellinor, don't take what that old fool said to heart. He is just a bit confused."

"Yeah, Mrs. Blanchet, don't worry, I understand."

Ellinor didn't

really care about Putnam's attitude. She didn't know Putnam, so she wouldn't care about his opinion.

Marissa breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good, I knew you were the most understanding!"

Ellinor asked curiously, "Mrs. Blanchet, why didn't you doubt me at all after seeing all those bad news about me online?"

Marissa scoffed, "What would I doubt you for? Would I suspect the daughter-in-law of the Blanchet family of being so broke that she

would intentionally cause a traffic accident to scam a few thousand dollars from some old car? I'm not like some people who can't get their facts straight, it's obviously fake news!"

Ellinor laughed, "Haha, you're really smart and wise!"

Receiving Ellinor's

praise, Marissa couldn't help but laugh, "Of course! But, Ellinor, I actually wish you were a girl who loved money!"

Ellinor didn't quite understand Marissa's point, "Huh?"

Marissa explained worriedly, "Because the Blanchet family is very wealthy, and Theo is even richer. If you loved money, wouldn't Theo be perfect for you? I'm afraid you don't like anything and also dislike Theo's cold personality and not understanding how to care for others, and dislike the Blanchet family..."

Ellinor was very surprised. Marissa knew her so well and even trusted her character!

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However, it seemed like Marissa was putting Ellinor on a pedestal. How could she not love money?

Yes, she did have a deep affection for money, but what she loved was money earned through her own hard work, not money gained by marrying, pleasing men, or by dishonest means.

On the other end of the phone, Putnam's disgruntled mumbling came through...

“Heh, in this world, who doesn’t love money? I don’t understand how you could be so easily fooled into believing there’s a woman in this world who doesn’t like money! I think you’ve been truly blinded by Ellinor!”

Marissa went silent, seemingly taking a deep breath with great effort. Her voice became somewhat suppressed, sounding like she was gathering strength, and her tone became a bit strange...

“Ellinor, try not to go out these next few days. If you need to go out, be careful. Theo should be able to resolve the issues online soon. I need to take care of some things, so I won’t chat with you anymore.”

Ellinor obediently replied, “Okay, goodbye, Mrs. Blanchet.”

Before she even hung up, she heard Marissa’s loud scolding: “What did you just say?!”

Putnam cried out in pain, “Ouch! Let go, I’m a patient!”

“You remember that you’re a patient? You seem too lively today...”

The rest of the conversation was cut off, the call had ended.

Ellinor found it a bit amusing. Marissa and Putnam were like two kids, quarrelling but still deeply in love. They were like a joyful couple, which was pretty rare!

At that moment, someone sent a video call on her social media, the chat window popped up... it was Sheila Mendoza!

Looking at the computer, Ellinor squinted her eyes.

Ever since she found out she was not blood-related to the Mendoza family, she had cut off contact with them.

There was no point, they had been cold to her and she had no sentiment for that family.

What was Sheila trying to do by calling her now?

After thinking for a bit, Ellinor accepted Sheila’s video call, but didn’t turn on her own camera.

She was currently staying at the Blanchet family’s place, the luxurious background was easy to spot. If Sheila saw it, she would definitely make a fuss!

Soon, Sheila’s face appeared on the screen. She pointed at the camera, turning to her father Arnold Mendoza and saying, “Dad, she picked up!”

Arnold immediately leaned into the frame, furious, and barked out, “Ellinor, where have you been?! You didn’t come home, and you didn’t pick up your phone, either!”

Before, Ellinor would have respected Arnold, who was her father after all. Even if she didn’t have feelings for him, she would still be polite and respectful.

Now, knowing she wasn’t related to Arnold, she dropped the polite act.

Ellinor replied calmly, "What do you want from me?"

Arnold angrily retorted, "You ungrateful rat, what kind of attitude is this? You did all those unacceptable things and now you're hiding. causing our whole family to lose face and be attacked online! People are even sending wreaths and blades to our house! Ellinor, do you think I've lived too long?"

Ellinor was taken aback. The Mendoza family's address had been found online so quickly?

Clearly, someone was stirring up trouble and leaking information online!

It seemed that before long, her marriage to the Blanchet family would also be found out...

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Arnold said angrily. "Ellinor Mendoza, go home now! Dispose of all the flowers in front of the house first, and then do things by yourself, admit your mistakes to the media and the public, and make sure they forgive you. Don't make our family ashamed because of you!"

But Ellinor was calm, even on the verge of laughter.

Just now, an old lady she barely knew had firmly believed in her, urging her to stay indoors for safety

But her father, on the contrary, hoped to let her face the public opinion on the Internet immediately, so as to help him clear his name. The contrast between the two was great. Since she was a kid, this had always been Arnold's way. Whenever anything went wrong, he would lash out at her, blaming and berating her without any justification.

Not once did he try to understand her side of the story, consider whether she was wronged or misunderstood.

Not even once

She used to wonder, why was her dad so different from others? She couldn't feel the fatherly love her classmates often praised in their essays.

But it wouldn't be accurate to say that Arnold was different from other fathers. Look at his attitude towards Sheila Mendoza, it was like a perfect father who loved his

daughter

No matter what Sheila did, Arnold would get over it quickly and continue to spoil her as before.

With Ellinor, not at all. Now, Ellinor understood why Arnold was so cold and indifferent to her. They weren't blood related, so his feelings for her didn't go beyond mere sympathy

But then again, if Arnold knew from the start they weren't related and didn't intend to adopt her, why did he bring her home from the hospital? Why didn't he take good care of her and instead sent her away to the countryside

The more she thought about it, the more strange it seemed.

Once this online public opinion incident was over, she would dig deeper into Arnold's past...

Arnold waited for a response on the other side of the screen, growing more and more impatient, "Ellinor, have you gone deaf or dumb? Can't you hear me? Get home and deal with the mess you've made!"

Ellinor regained consciousness, "Yeah, I heard you. But I'm a bit tied up at the moment, so I won't be going back. I'll get someone to handle the flower situation, and I promise you won't receive stuff like that again. If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now"

Arnold was taken aback by her cold response, sensing a change in her attitude, "Ellinor, what's with this attitude!"

Ellinor sounded a tad impatient, "Huh? Do I have an attitude problem? Didn't I just agree to solve the problems you mentioned? What's there to be unhappy about?"

Arnold was seething. "You're becoming more and more ungrateful! Not even calling me 'dad' anymore, do you think you're something special?!"

"Dad, let me talk to her Sheila took over the phone With her perfectly made-up face, she looked disdainfully into the camera:

"Ellinor, you bad luck charm! Ever since you left the countryside to come to the city, our Mendoza family has been having bad luck! You messed up my career a while ago, and now you've exposed me as the sister of a shameless troublemaker like you, let me abused by the netizens and discussed by major websites along with you. It's utterly embarrassing! Ellinor, you must solve this problem immediately, then get your ass back to the countryside! Don't cause any more trouble for our Mendoza family in Greenhaven, got it?"

Ellinor chuckled, "Sheila, wasn't it you who screwed up your own career? And whether I stay in Greenhaven or go back to the countryside doesn't seem to be your call, does it?"