

## **The Kiss 361**

### *Chapter 361*

*All this was because Theo's attitude towards her had changed*

*Ellinor waved her hand, "No, I'll grab lunch myself."*

*Devin hurriedly asked, "Where are you headed? Shall I arrange for a driver to take you?"*

*As she walked towards the door, Ellinor replied, "No need, I just wanted to go out for a walk."*

*Looking worried, Devin asked,*

*"Do you have your phone? Is it fully charged? You know, just in case Mr. Blanchet tries to reach you or something comes up. We wouldn't want you unreachable"*

*Devin remembered the day Mr. Blanchet*

*returned from a business trip to find Mrs. Blanchet missing. He'd spent the entire night frantically searching for her, almost turning over the whole of Greenhaven...*

*Thinking about it, Devin felt scared. Having changed her shoes at the entrance, Ellinor reassured him, "Don't worry, I won't get lost! Devin, you go about your business, I'm off."*

*\*Take care on your way," Devin said, bowing as he saw her off.*

*Ellinor left at a leisurely pace.*

*Byran had been listening to Devin's conversation with Ellinor. When he saw her leave, he quickly quit his game and followed her out.*

*As soon as they were out of the Blanchet family's front gate, Byran caught up with Ellinor "Hey, Ellinor, where are you going?"*

*Ignoring him, Ellinor hummed her favorite tune and headed towards the nearest bus stop...*

*Feeling snubbed, Byran stepped in front of her, furious. "I'm talking to you! Where are you going? Are you dumb or deaf?"*

*Ellinor stopped abruptly. "Are you my boss? Do I need to report my every move to you?"*

*Faced with Ellinor's contemptuous look, Byran remembered he was there to apologize. He awkwardly mumbled, "Didn't you say you were going to punish me? You never gave me a response, so I'm wondering how long I have to wait?"*

*"Why would I punish you for something you didn't do?"*

*Byran was taken aback. "You really believe I didn't do it? Then why did you make me stay?"*

*"Would you have been able to play video games all morning at the Blanchets if I hadn't?" Ellinor rolled her eyes at him.*

*Byran thought about it and realized she had a point....*

*If he'd gone home  
with Patricia, he would've been stuck studying under Balfour's watchful eye the whole day with no chance to rest!*

*By then, Ellinor had continued walking*

*Byran didn't try to stop her this time, instead following her quietly. He asked, puzzled, "Ellinor, why are you so sure I didn't do it? I mean, I've been pretty mean to you before. You shouldn't have a high opinion of me..."*

*"I don't have a high opinion of you," she said,  
"I just don't think you're smart enough to write those logically sound articles online in such a short time"*

*A childish anger appeared on Byran's handsome face. "Ellinor, are you looking down on me?"*

*Ellinor glanced back at him. I'm actually very curious. Since you didn't do it, why did you admit to it?"*

*Chapter 362*

*"Patricia said that if nobody takes responsibility for this, the relationship between the Howard family and the Blanchet family will get even worse, which may affect her relationship with Theo..."*

*As he spoke, Byran's voice gradually softened*

*He seemed to realize that it was inappropriate to discuss Patricia and Theo in front of Ellinor*

*But Ellinor didn't mind at all, "So, if Patricia asked you to die for her, would you?"*

*"Of course!" Byran nodded without hesitation.*

*"Amazing!" Ellinor gave him a thumb up in admiration.*

*Even though he was being praised, Bryan felt a bit strange. Ellinor's praise made him uncomfortable, as if there was some sarcasm in her words...*

*He followed Ellinor with a scowl, "What are you implying, Ellinor? Patricia is the best person in the world to me. If she needs me, I would die for her without hesitation. My life isn't as important as hers!"*

*Ellinor just laughed, and said nothing.*

*Patricia used her own brother, and even brainwashed him which was really ruthless.*

*If Patricia really was as good to him as Byran thought, she wouldn't have made him admit to something he didn't do today and take responsibility that shouldn't be placed on*

*a minor.*

*Besides, if the Howard family had nothing to do with this, there was no need for a Howard to bear this responsibility!*

*Unless Patricia was feeling guilty, knowing the truth, and afraid that her image would collapse if it was exposed. That's why she had Bryan take the fall, to end this as soon as possible, so no one would investigate her.*

*In fact, the culprit behind the scenes was Patricia! However, Patricia did have one specialty, that was, she was very good at manipulating people's hearts, making those around her loyal to her, willing to be her human shield. They didn't even hesitate to do bad things for her. She could not only remain unscathed but also make others think she's an innocent victim....*

*Not just anyone could pull that off!*

*Ellinor was so certain that Patricia was a hypocrite, not just because Patricia had Byran take the fall today, but also because of what Chase had dug up*

*Chase found out that out of the 1203 people named Diana in Greenhaven, none of them returned to the country on the day of the public confession at The Bund of Trent*

*River.*

*And there were some issues with the order for the LED confession at Century Bank Building.*

*The order for the LED screen confession was paid in cash. Usually, for such a large amount, people wouldn't choose to pay with cash because it's too inconvenient.*

*According to the ad company staff, the order was placed by a woman wearing a baseball cap, sunglasses, and a mask. She was very decisive. After confirming the time and content, she immediately paid in cash.*

*On that night, Patricia happened to have a consumption record at a coffee shop in a shopping center opposite Century Bank.*

*Chase accessed the surveillance system of the coffee shop, retrieved the surveillance footage of that day, and indeed saw Patricia there. He screenshot the video and sent it to her.*

*The surveillance video showed Patricia sitting alone by the window in the coffee shop that night, looking at the LED confession ad on Century Bank Building. A sly and mysterious smile appeared on her beautiful face, completely different from her usual gentle image!*

*It can be inferred that the public confession that night was planned by Patricia herself. The purpose was to mislead the audience and create a false atmosphere that she was deeply in love with her...*

*Obviously, Patricia's return to the country was premeditated, and so much had happened in just a few days.*

*She must be more vigilant in the future.*

### *Chapter 363*

*Ellinor made her way to the bus stop, and just in time, a bus pulled up. She hastened her pace, hopped on the bus, and found a window seat to settle in.*

*Byran followed her onto the bus, but it was his first bus ride ever. Clueless about paying the fare first, he got a loud wake up call from the driver, then awkwardly went back.*

to pay

After paying. Byran, with a grumpy look on his face, sat down next to Ellinor

Ellinor paid him no mind, just gazing out the window at the scenery, feeling quite chipper.

Byran frowned at Ellinor for a while, then asked, puzzled. "Hey, Ellinor, you're part of the Blanchet family now, why are you still taking the bus?"

Ellinor

leaned back in the chair leisurely. "What's wrong with taking the bus? is the bus not good enough?"

Byran glanced around the bus. Although it was clean and spacious, it certainly wasn't as comfortable as a private car. "Nothing's wrong with it, it's just not as comfortable and convenient as a private car. You can go out anytime, and there's always a car ready to take you wherever. No need to wait at the bus stop"

Ellinor turned to look at Byran, "On the contrary, I don't like having a car always tailing me, waiting on me. To me, taking the bus is convenient. Byran, our worlds are different, we don't have common topics, why bother following me onto the bus? Just get off at the next stop and go home"

Byran frowned, stubbornly saying. "I'm not getting off. I'm sticking with you."

"As you like"

Byran wasn't planning on keeping quiet. "Ellinor, since you know you and I are not from the same world, you should know you and Mr. Blanchet aren't from the same world

either"

"I know" Ellinor nodded candidly

"So why not give up already? Mr. Blanchet is not right for you."

"He's not right for me, but he's right for Patricia?"

"Of course! Patricia and Mr. Blanchet are a perfect match, both smart and beautiful with shared values. They've grown up in similar environments, exposed to similar things. They're a pair made by fate. Even though there's some friction between our families now, I believe it'll be resolved someday. But look at you, you don't even have the same spending habits as Mr. Blanchet, let alone common topics. You two are just not a fit."

Ellinor thought of Mr. Blanchet's perfect face, and said nonchalantly, "No, Mr. Blanchet is different from you guys. He wouldn't look down on me for choosing to take the bus, nor would he think less of me for being from the countryside. Although Theo can be a bit arrogant and out of touch, he knows that's his own problem to fix, not something to blame on me. You superficial people, I'm not on the same level as you!"

Byran began to question everything. The Theo that Ellinor was talking about didn't seem like the cold-hearted, arrogant Theo he knew.

"Hmph! I'm not superficial, I'm just stating the facts!"

"Whatever you say." Ellinor smiled

*"So, Ellinor, do you have feelings for Theo now?"*

*Ellinor hesitated a bit, feeling a fluttering panic in her heart.*

*"What? Did I say that?"*

#### *Chapter 364*

*Byran crossed his arms confidently and sneered, "It's useless even if you have a crush on Theo, you two can't last long! Ellinor, I suggest you back off now, or you'll find it hurtful when you get dumped"*

*Before he could finish, the bus pulled into the station.*

*Ellinor stood up, walked past Byran, completely ignoring him, and got off the bus.*

*"Hey! Ellinor, did you hear what I just said? Ellinor!"*

*Byran snapped back to reality, feeling really pissed, and hurried after her.*

*Ellinor paid no mind to Byran's nagging, walked straight into a fast food restaurant, and Byran followed her in, carrying on...*

*Before long Ellinor emerged with a Coke, happily heading into a nearby mall for some shopping.*

*Byran kept following her, continuing his yet unfinished chatter He was determined to convince Ellinor to let Theo go to Patricia!*

*Ellinor kept ignoring Byran, sipping her Coke and shopping around, from the ground floor to the top, picking up bits and bobs.*

*Byran trailed behind her, panting and barely standing straight,*

*"Hey.. wait up... Ellinor... How come you girls are so weak in gym class but so energetic when shopping! I'm exhausted"*

*Ellinor showed no expression, "Tired? If you're tired, stop following me and go do your thing!"*

*But Byran persisted, "What's wrong with me following you? It's not safe for a girl to wander around. I'm protecting you for free, and you're not even grateful?"*

*Ellinor looked at him as if she had heard a joke, sizing him up. "You? Protect me?"*

*Byran felt belittled rolled up his sleeve to show off his bicep, "What's wrong with me? I'm strong!"*

*Ellinor didn't say a word*

*Byran felt that he was underestimated by Ellinor, and he was even more upset. When he was about to prove to her that he was actually very manly....*

*"Byran!!!"*

*Suddenly, several girls voices called out his name simultaneously....*

*Stunned, Byran turned around to see three girls standing by the door of a club. They seemed surprised and excited to see him*

*The girl in the middle with long hair and a dress came over, her eyes full of adoration for him, "Byran, it really is you! We thought we were wrong!"*

*Byran glanced at the girls uninterestedly. "Oh, it's you guys!"*

*Although they were classmates, he didn't know them well. He didn't even remember their names but felt they looked familiar.*

*The long-*

*haired girl greeted Byran and then turned to Ellinor who was standing beside him, drinking her Coke. Her eyes showed a hint of alertness, "Byran, is this... your girlfriend?"*

*Ellinor was speechless.*

*Byran glanced at Ethnor with a complex expression.*

*He did plan to pursue Ellinor after turning 18, hoping to make her fall deeply in love with him, and thus making room for Patricia to become Mrs. Blanchet.*

*But he hadn't acted on it yet, and Ellinor wasn't his girlfriend, so he answered honestly: "No!"*

*Hearing this negative answer, the long-*

*haired girl seemed visibly relieved. Her gaze at Ellinor was no longer as alert as before.*

*She scrutinized Ellinor's face, then looked at Byran's, as if comparing them, and smiled, "Byran, she seems to resemble you!"*

*Byran immediately frowned, retorting unhappily. "Are you blind? How do we look alike?"*

*The girl was taken aback by his abrupt question, looking embarrassed and on the verge of tears...*

*However, Byran didn't see anything wrong with his reaction.*

## *Chapter 365*

*Ellinor really thought that although Byran was pretty good looking he was a bit of an airhead. Even if he didn't like this girl, he shouldn't treat her like that! Seeing the long-haired girl nearly in tears, Ellinor couldn't help but feel sympathetic. She stepped forward to comfort her, "Ignore him. He just doesn't know how to talk properly! It's because he has a problem with me, it's not about you"*

*The long haired girl paused, held back her tears and looked at Ellinor with mixed surprise and curiosity. "Hi, are you Byran's sister?"*

*Ellinor knew in her heart that this girl obviously had a crush on Byran. If she said no, it would certainly cause misunderstanding.*

*"...sort of."*

*Thanks to Ellinor's comfort, the long haired girl's embarrassment had faded. She smiled at Ellinor, "Hello, I'm Candida Green, a classmate of Byran's. I wasn't sure of your identity just now. You look about our age, so I didn't know what to call you"*

*"It's okay, just call me Ellinor. Are you guys here for shopping?"*

*Candida nodded, "Well, the three of us just wanted to experience the escape room after shopping, but we didn't dare to play after entering, so we ran out a little scared" Ellinor elbowed Byran, "You should show your manhood, hang out with your classmates, and be their protector" Byran frowned. He hated hanging out with girls the most. The girls at school were all clingy, like they were obsessed with him.*

*"No way! Boring!"*

*"Is that because you dare not to go?"*

*The voice didn't come from Ellinor, nor from the three girls, but from a boy from the other side.*

*Everyone turned to look.*

*Byran immediately frowned, showing hostility.*

*The girls were somewhat surprised and almost said in unison, it's Julius Gaye!"*

*Ellinor also recognized them. They were the ones who had ganged up on Byran at Pearl Moon last time.*

*Julius strutted over with his friends, looking smug. "Byran, still the same old wuss! Bad grades are one thing, but you're scared of a simple escape room?" \*Julius, who said I'm scared? I just find that kind of game boring!" Byran was fuming*

*Julius scoffed, "Who knows if you're just not interested or just scared!"*

*The boys around him started laughing, it was a very contemptuous laugh.*

*Byran was young and impulsive, and their taunting made him furious. He clenched his jaw and said angrily, "Fine, I'll go! Let's see who's scared!"*

*Candida, the long haired girl, was delighted to hear Byran agreed to play. Then she politely invited Ellinor, "Would you like to join us? We can team up with Byran!"*

*Just as Ellinor was about to politely decline...*

*"Who's this?" Julius suddenly focused on Ellinor, recognizing her as the one who defended Byran at Pearl Moon last time, so he had a bone to pick with her*

*"This is Byran's sister"*

*Upon hearing this, Julius immediately scoffed,*

*"Byran, I've met Patricia. There's no way this girl could be your sister. So, what's going on between you two?"*

*Hearing Julius's disrespectful words, Byran's anger flared up again. He quickly responded, "Yes, Patricia is my sister, but Ellinor is my eldest sister, Pearl Howard! Got a problem with that? Got something to say?"*

*Julius was taken aback, then re evaluated Ellinor, "I remember hearing you had an older sister named Pearl who disappeared when you were young. When did you find her? How come I haven't heard about this recently?"*

#### *Chapter 366*

*Byran stood tall and declared firmly, "How could you, an outsider, possibly know what's going on in my family? Who do you think you are?"*

*"Alright then, Byran! For now, I'll treat her as your sister! Last time we played a mobile game, I lost to you two. You were just lucky to meet a high-level player! This time, we're playing escape room. I want to see if you two are still so lucky. I'm looking forward to seeing you two freaking out of your wits in a moment!"*

*"We'll see who's crying first! Byran shot back without missing a beat*

*"We'll find out soon enough!" Julius sneered, then led his four friends into the escape room club.*

*Pumped up. Byran turned to Ellinor "Let's go! Let's join them!"*

*Ellinor frowned. "Did I ever say I was going with you?"*

*Byran looked annoyed and grabbed her, "Now is not the time to back out! Get in there with me!"*

*Backing out? She was just an observer, not even involved! What does this have to do with her?*

*Seeing everyone entering, Candida and her two friends followed Byran into the escape room club...*

*Inside the escape club*

*Julius and his group chose the scariest room theme "Horror Hospital" and then taunted Byran about his opinion.*

*Byran wasn't scared, "Whatever! I can handle any theme!"*

*The three girls led by Candida, however, looked hesitant about the "Horror Hospital", a notoriously terrifying theme, and timidly moved closer to Byran, "Byran, can we three be in your team?"*

*"Sure!" Byran didn't mind*

*After all, there were five in Julius's group, and two in his team with Ellinor. Adding these three girls would make five too.*

*Julius sneered "Hey! Are you three sure you want to be in that useless group with Byran? Be careful for a while, he will be scared to pee before you, and then throw you directly to the 'evil ghosts' inside!"*

*Byran snapped back, "Julius, don't look down on me! I'm not afraid of those child's play!"*



*Julius just gave Byran a scornful look, ignoring him, and went straight to the reception to inform them of their chosen theme. He chatted with the receptionist quietly, then a sly smile appeared on his face*

*The game began, and they were about to enter the room.....*

*Candida suddenly realized something was off, "Huh? Byran, where's your sister?"*

*Byran looked around frantically, only to find Ellinor was gone!*

*Damn, that irresponsible woman Ellinor, she ran away at the critical moment!*

*Seeing this, Julius teased. "Oh? Someone ran away before we even started! Byran, can you handle it with out your bodyguard? If not, it's not too late to give up now!"*

*"You better take care of yourself! Don't panic and scream for help later!"*

*"We won't know the result until the end! Just wait and see!"*

*Byran ignored Julius, checked again for Ellinor, but she was nowhere to be found, which made him a bit upset.*

*But at this point, he had no way out.*

*Collecting himself, Byran said to Candida and the other two girls, "Don't be nervous, remember those ghosts are just people in disguise. Just follow me, there's nothing to fear"*

*Seeing the man she likes talking to her with such bravery, Candida felt less scared and nodded admiringly, "Okay, Byran, we'll try our best!"*

*Chapter 367*

*So, there they were, in the middle of an escape room game, with a "Horror Hospital" theme*

*The creepy atmosphere, lighting effects, sound effects, room temperature, everything was designed to give you the chills*

*Julius and his four buddies were the first to enter, already knee deep in searching for clues to beat the game..*

*Byran was also busy hustling, trying to find clues with three girls. Suddenly, game characters appeared*

*Two people dressed in hospital gowns with messy hair, looking like ghosts.*

*They charged from the door near Julius and his gang, but they totally ignored them, and made a beeline for Byran!*

*The girls screamed their lungs out, clutching onto Byran for dear life, making it impossible for him to even think about running away.*

*Meanwhile, Julius and his crew had already found the clue to beat the game. They waved their hands at Byran, smugly saying, "Sorry, we're gonna take off first! Don't get scared to death, Byran!"*

*Byran was fuming, but he had no time to throw back a retort at Julius. The two ghostly dudes were still circling them, tugging at them relentlessly.*

*Snapping back to reality, Byran mustered up the courage to shove the two ghosts to the ground. He was about to make a run for it with the girls, when a horde of zombies barged in!*

*Stumbling and swaying, the zombies started to close in on them.*

*The sight of this made not only the girls, but also Byran break out in a cold sweat. The NPCs in this escape room game were so realistic and professional, it was downright terrifying!*

*Just as the zombies were about to corner them, Byran took a deep breath, turned to the girls and said, "Don't be scared, relax, close your eyes and follow me!" Upon hearing the voice of her crush, Candida felt a surge of courage. She took a deep breath and said, "Yes! We can't hold him back, let's go!"*

*They ran like their lives depended on it, finally catching up with Julius.*

*It was a race against time, both teams scouring for the next clue.*

*This time, Byran was the first to find the clue. He quickly gathered the girls and opened the door of the next room. The room was eerily quiet at first, and then....*

*Suddenly, seven or eight nurses covered in blood came out laughing.*

*"Patients are not allowed to run away, it's time for your injections..."*

*"Time for injections...happy injections hahaha..."*

*The room was instantly filled with the nurses' chaotic and sinister laughter.*

*Those NPC female nurses were holding syringes in their hands, surrounded Byran and the girls, pinning down whoever they could.*

*Julius and his team were watching from not far away. They didn't seem to worry about being attacked by the NPCs, appearing confident.*

*However, a nurse with a face full of scars suddenly grabbed Julius from behind, waving a shiny dagger in front of his face, "Can I bleed you, my patient?"*

*Julius screamed out in panic, then looked visibly upset, "What the hell! Didn't I tell you guys not to bother us, just go after them! Do you want to lose your double pay?"*

*Hearing this, the nurse seemed to realize she had attacked the wrong person. She let go of him and rushed towards Byran, stabbing him in the stomach!*

*Blood splattered everywhere!*

*Seeing this, Julius and his team were shocked. Things had gone way beyond their expectations...*

*Was he really stabbed?!*

*The nurse pulled out the knife, causing more blood to gush out. After Byran fell to the ground, she crouched down and stabbed him repeatedly until Byran's body twitched and finally went limp.*

*Candida covered her mouth in horror, her eyes red with fright, "She killed him..."*

*Chapter 368*

*The severely injured nurse kept stabbing at the already dead Byran without any intention of stopping*

*Finally, Julius snapped back to reality, realizing the gravity of the situation. 'What the hell are you doing? Stop it now!'*

*Hearing the voice, the nurse paused her stabbing motion, looked up at Julius with a sinister smile, and said*

*"Oh? Wasn't it you who just asked the receptionist to pass on the message, asking us not to touch any of you five but to target this guy specifically? You even said it'd be great if we could scare him shitless! Wasn't that your request?"*

*Candida Green and the other two girls were pissed off after hearing the nurse's words. They were no longer scared, turned to look at Julius in disbelief, and questioned, Julius, how could you be so damn low?!"*

*"Exactly! How could you do such a thing?!"*

*"You scared Byran to death"*

*Julius was left speechless by the accusations from the girls. He glared at the nurse angrily, "What the hell are you talking about? I just wanted you to give him a scare. Who told you to kill him?!"*

*The nurse tilted her head like a lifeless doll, "Oops! I got it wrong, but it's too late now!"*

*Infuriated, Julius rushed over and shook Byran, who was lying on the ground, "Hey! Byran! Wake up!"*

*But he couldn't wake Byran. Julius saw that his hands were soaked in blood and his face turned pale in fear!*

*"You murderer!"*

*Angry, he pounced on the still chuckling nurse and ripped off the mask on her face, wanting to see what the murderer looked like!*

*However, when the mask was torn off, what he saw was a pale face without eyes or a nose and just a small smiling mouth.*

*Julius was instantly covered in goosebumps. He let go of his hold in fright and stepped back, "Ghost!!!"*

*The nurse, still with a creepy smile on her face, moved closer to him, "Who did you say is a ghost?"*

*Julius was scared stiff, "Don't come over! Stay away!"*

*The nurse smirked, raised the knife in her hand, and looked down at Julius, "You just blamed me for killing that guy, didn't you? Then you can go join him! That's only fair!"*

*As she was about to stab him...*

*"Julius!"*

*His four friends tried to rush over to save him, but they were blocked by several other nurses who were hard to identify. They were surrounded, and step by step, they were driven into the corner.*

*They were all scared stiff!*

*"Is anyone there? There's a real ghost in here!"*

*"Help! Someone's been killed!"*

*"Is anyone there? We don't want to play anymore, we want to get out!"*

*In the enclosed room, apart from the crying of the three girls, there was no other sound.*

*Just as the nurse was about to stab Julius, his eyes filled with fear and tears, and he shouted, "Mom! Mom, save me!"*

*Suddenly, someone started laughing*

*The nurse didn't stab him, instead, she waved the knife around and skillfully played with it in her hand.*

*Julius finally came back to his senses. He was so scared that he went pale and looked at the nurse and then at the person who suddenly started laughing.*

*Byran sat up from the ground and laughed, "Julius, stop screaming, your mom isn't gonna save you today!"*

*Julius was stunned, "Byran?.. You're not dead?"*

*Seeing that Byran was okay, Candida Green showed a surprised look. She dried her tears and ran over to throw herself onto Byran and hugged him tightly, "Byran, I'm so glad you're okay! I was so scared."*

*Byran, expressionless, ruthlessly pushed Candida Green away, stood up, lifted his face arrogantly, and said to Julius, "You will die!"*

*Julius and his four friends were stunned. What was going on?*

*but I won't!"*

*Byran was okay, but what about the nurse's knife? They clearly saw her stab him multiple times!*

*They looked at the knife—*

*wielding nurse again, only to see that she gently lifted her hand to reveal her face under the mask, it was Ellinor!*

*Ellinor calmly pressed the tip of the knife in her hand, the blade retracted into the handle, and at the same time, fake blood sprayed out*

*After demonstrating she casually threw the prop knife away. She was bored.*

*It was a prop knife?*

*Julius suddenly realized what was going on. His face turned green with anger, and he gritted his teeth and said, "You're playing*

#### *Chapter 369*

*The three girls all breathed a sigh of relief. "So it was Byran Howard's sister who played a prank on us that almost scared us to death!*

*Byron stepped forward, afraid that Julius would hurt someone again in his rage. He shielded Ellinor Mendoza behind him. Julius, you're the one who got scared and almost pissed your pants, and you're saying that I would get scared?*

*Julius got up in anger, "Byran, you dare to gang up and bully me!"*

*Byran stood his ground, "Who started bullying whom? You played your little tricks by paying double the ticket price to bribe the staff here to target us and let you guys have a smooth ride! Julius, if you can't play fair, don't play at all!*

*I did pay double the ticket price, but the staff didn't cooperate with me, so it doesn't count!" Julius's pride was a bit hurt, so he started making excuses, pointing at the staff led by Ellinor*

*Julius, I just realized that not only are you despicable, but you're also shameless!" Byran frowned in disgust.*

*"You Julius was at a loss for words*

*Before the game even started, Ellinor went to the restroom in the hall of this escape room club alone. When she came out, she happened to overhear Julius instructing the front desk to bribe the staff, which felt very unfair to her.*

*So, after they all went in, she offered the front desk three times the price to let her in as a staff member*

*People who can be bribed with money are usually the least reliable. Because as soon as someone offered a higher price, those people would immediately switch sides.*

*And it was while Byran was looking for clues to pass the game that he received a text message from Ellinor using Thee's number, which read, "Remember to play dead later!"*

*He didn't understand what it meant at first, but when the nurse cut him and it didn't hurt, he figured it out and went along with it.*

*Coming out of the escape room club, Julius still wasn't willing to give up and quickly caught up with Byran, blocking him and saying,*

*"Byran, I admit you were good in the escape room! If you dare, compete with me in something else!"*

*Byran looked bored and snorted, "Who would want to compete with a cheater like you? Get out of my way!"*

*Julius didn't intend to give up. "There's a swimming pool nearby, and everything in the water is transparent. I can't cheat in a physical competition, how about it?"*

*"Not interested!"*

*"You cant swim, can you?"*

*After his moment of triumph in the escape room, Byran was now on cloud nine and totally unaffected by Julius's provocation.*

*"I'm not competing! Whether I can swim or not is none of your business!"*

*Having said that, Byran pulled Ellinor around Julius and strode away*

*Julius still didn't give up, "Hey! Byran, stop right there!"*

*Ellinor frowned, looked back at Julius, who was following them, then at Byran, who was holding her hand, seeming to realize something, and asked curiously, "Why is he always comparing himself with you? Does he like you and is trying to get your attention on purpose?"*

*Byran almost choked at her words, "Are you kidding me? That guy likes that girl, but the girl is always around me, so he's always giving me a hard time!"*

*Ellinor looked back again, Julius was indeed shouting Byran's name while paying attention to Candida Green's reaction, and the girl named Candida Green was also following them, but her eyes were fixed on Byran.*

*Oh my! That was a typical messy love triangle!*

*So that was what was going on. Julius was trying to show off in front of Candida Green and make Byran, his rival, look bad; but things didn't go as planned.*

*And now he was probably trying to save face in front of the girl he loved, that's why he was challenging Byran again!*

*"Hey! Byran! Hey..." Julius couldn't get Byran's attention, so he changed his strategy and shouted at Ellinor, 'Pearl Howard! You stop right there!'"*

*At this point, in the elevator of the mall, the mall manager was respectfully seeing off Balfour Howard, the president of the Howard Group.*

*"Mr. Howard, rest assured, the branding event that the Howard Group is hosting in our mall will be successful and will definitely satisfy you!"*

*Balfour nodded, "I hope so."*

*"Pearl! I told you to stop, did you hear me? Pearl..."*

*Pearl!*

*Balfour's eyes suddenly sharpened, and he instinctively looked in the direction of the voice*

*Quinton also heard the name and looked over in shock. Then he saw Byran being chased by Julius.*

*"Looks like it's Byran and his classmates!"*

*Balfour frowned got off the elevator, and quickly walked over*

*Byran got nervous to see Balfour suddenly appear, "How come you're here?"*

*Balfour didn't answer him. His cold and suppressed eyes swept over each of Byran's classmates, especially lingering longer on the three girls.*

*"Who is Pearl?"*

*Chapter 370*

*Not only Byran, but even his classmates behind him were startled and anxious because of Balfour's sudden arrival*

*This was the first time the three girls had seen Balfour. They didn't expect him to be even more handsome than Byran and even more alluring with his mature masculinity. They were all captivated.*

*Julius and his males, on the other hand, were very cautious. They dared to confront Byran, but they didn't dare cross the line in front of Balfour.*

*After all, the Howard family was one of the most powerful families in Greenhaven.*

*No one answered his question and a melancholy red glint appeared in Balfour's eyes. He asked again, "Who exactly is Pearl?"*

*Still, no one came forward.*

*At this moment, Byran was sweating bullets, he was really scared.*

*He knew better than anyone how important the missing Pearl was to Balfour. He couldn't imagine what would happen if Balfour found out someone was impersonating*

*Pearl!*

*Julius glanced at Byran and saw how nervous he was. He guessed that Byran was lying. Knowing that Byran was most afraid of Balfour, he deliberately shouted to Ellinor next to him, "Hey! Pearl, why don't you answer?"*

*Candida Green, who had a crush on Byran, stepped forward and said very politely, "Isn't that girl next to Byran Pearl?"*

*"Pearl?" Balfour's gaze fell on Ellinor, who was next to Byran, and his expression suddenly became tense.*

*He hadn't noticed her before.*

*He looked serious and took a step towards Ellinor, "Are you Pearl?"*

*Ellinor opened her mouth to explain calmly, "I'm not..."*

*But Balfour didn't have the patience to listen to her explanation. He interrupted her, sarcastically saying, "Ms. Mendoza, I don't care how you became pa*

rt of the Blanchet family, and I'm not interested But I will not permit you to associate with the Howard family or act in the name of the Howard family in any way. Today, I have found you. impersonating Pearl here, and you must be held responsible for your actions!\*

Byran knew that Balfour never joked and he would definitely act on his words. Ellinor was in big trouble! But Ellinor was mistakenly identified as Pearl because of him; she was innocent, and he couldn't just stand by.

Byran plucked up the courage to step forward, shielding Ellinor, "It's not what you think. She didn't impersonate Pearl, I lied to my classmates that she was Pearl..."

SLAP!!!

The slap was so sudden that everyone was taken aback and gasped.

Byran, terrified, covered his face and slowly turned his off-kilter head with his ears still buzzing His eyes were filled with tears that refused to fall. "It's really not her fault, it's mine..."

"It is your fault, and you should be punished! You let a vain, power-hungry woman impersonate the missing Pearl! Do you think you did the right thing?"

The usually composed Balfour was enraged and his anger was uncontrollable. He slapped Byran and pointed at Ellinor, "Do you think you're worthy of the name Pearl?"