

The Kiss 391

Chapter 391

Theo's gaze remained fixed on Ellinor.

He took the suitcase from Ellinor's hands and handed it to Devin standing by. "What are you up to now?"

With that, he wrapped an arm around her waist, pulling her into his embrace as if afraid she would really leave.

Ellinor felt it was inappropriate to be so intimate in front of others. She pushed against his chest in an attempt to break free but to no avail. She had no choice but to explain to him helplessly.

"Mr. Blanchet, here's the thing. When you went to the Mendoza family's house, you were supposed to enter through the front door and take Sheila, the bride! But you went through the back door and took me instead! Now the cat's out of the bag; they all know you took the wrong person that day Sheila came to me, asking me to step down as Mrs. Blanchet. So, I have to leave."

Sheila frowned, thinking that Ellinor was too blunt.

"Mr. Blanchet, it's exactly as Ellinor said. The woman you were supposed to marry was me, and Ellinor has always been a troublemaker since childhood. which led to this misunderstanding. I came to find her today because I think she's a country girl who doesn't understand much. I'm afraid she'll embarrass the Blanchet family, so I think we should swap places and go back to where we belong."

Theo understood the real purpose of Ellinor's uninvited family. The courtesy in his eyes disappeared.

Ignoring Sheila, he looked down at Ellinor in his arms, displeased, "They make a fuss in our house, and you join in them?"

"I didn't make a fuss! Mr. Blanchet, you married the wrong person! You were supposed to marry her, my sister was even in her wedding dress waiting for you at home that day!"

"Say that again?"

Even if he was really angry, his tone wasn't harsh. It was like educating a child; he wanted her to understand the seriousness of the situation without scaring her.

Ellinor frowned, looking somewhat displeased.

Theo didn't want to delve into whether he had taken the wrong person or not, he softly asked Ellinor in his arms, "What did you eat today?"

Uninvited guests had come to their house today, and he wasn't sure if Ellinor had eaten properly.

"I had a bacon sandwich for breakfast, a bowl of noodles for lunch, and haven't had dinner yet." Ellinor answered honestly.

After meeting the Mendoza family's people in the morning, she had been staying upstairs. Both breakfast and lunch were delivered by Devin, and she was quite full.

Theo's expression relaxed slightly, "Hmm, what do you want for dinner?"

Sheila, on the other hand, watched as Theo showed affection towards Ellinor while being indifferent towards her and was filled with anger. She felt that the concern that should have been hers was stolen by Ellinor.

She couldn't stand it anymore. "Mr. Blanchet, I think we should let Ellinor leave while it's still light. If she leaves after dinner, it might be too late. She will be alone on the road with her luggage, which is very unsafe.

Theo looked at Sheila, his gaze cold, "if she leaves, you won't stay here either."

Sheila was taken aback and looked hurt, "Why? Mr. Blanchet, you used to like me, right? You can't be fooled by Ellinor's facade. She seems innocent on the surface, but she's crafty and often plays the victim."

Tracy also seemed anxious. "Mr. Blanchet, listen to me; you misunderstood at that time; you were supposed to marry Sheila, not Ellinor."

Arnold, with all the authority of a father, pointed out, "Mr. Blanchet, that's right! You were supposed to marry Sheila, you mistakenly took Ellinor that day! It's just a misunderstanding, we should swap them back."

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Theo had heard the rumors about Ellinor having a tough time at her home, but he had no idea it was this bad, even her own family treated her like this, her dad included.

Looking down at the expressionless Ellinor, Theo felt a knot in his stomach. He couldn't even begin to imagine how much crap she must've gone through growing up in the Mendoza family to become this unflappable.

"Swap? Why would I swap? I've always intended to marry Miss Ellinor here, not someone else. Theo scoffed.

Sheila wasn't buying it!

She thought it was all Ellinor bewitching Theo with sweet nothings.

"Mr. Blanchet, how on earth could you be marrying Ellinor? Don't believe a word she says; she would say anything to marry you! You're supposed to marry me, I even received the engagement ring you sent me! Look!"

With that, Sheila raised her hand, showing Theo the diamond ring she had purposely worn on her ring finger.

Theo just stared blankly at Sheila's diamond ring

Then he took Ellinor's hand, his fingers brushing over the diamond ring on her ring finger.

I'm sorry, this is the Blanchet family's heirloom engagement ring: I'm not sure where you got yours."

Sheila frowned, a bit confused.

When the Blanchet family sent someone to deliver wedding gifts, they said 'Ms. Mendoza' had accepted Mr. Blanchet's engagement ring.

Around that time, she received an anonymous diamond ring. If it wasn't from Mr. Blanchet, then who could it be?

There's no such thing as a coincidence!

Mr. Blanchet must be marrying her!

"Ah! I get it! It was her! Ellinor swapped the ring when I wasn't looking, fooled you into trusting her, and took my place!"

Theo's eyes darkened with disgust, "The ring on Ellinor's finger is the Blanchet family's heirloom. The band is made of platinum mixed with a special material. It can't be taken off without a special solution. If it can't be taken off, how could it be swapped?"

Sheila was taken aback, "How...how could that be?"

Holding Ellinor's hand tenderly as if it were a precious treasure, Theo said, "Moreover, this ring was put on her finger by me when we got engaged. Do you still think I could mistake who I'm going to marry?"

Sheila looked stunned. Engaged? Theo and Ellinor were engaged?

She refused to believe it and shook her head vigorously, "No, this can't be! Mr. Blanchet, a man of your stature couldn't possibly be interested in a plain Jane like Ellinor! I'm a popular actress and I'm clearly a better fit to be your wife!"

There was no emotion in Theo's eyes, "Miss Sheila, I'm not sure where you got the impression that I would be interested in you?"

Sheila was at a loss, but she was not one to accept defeat, "Mr. Blanchet, if you could fall for someone as plain as Ellinor, why wouldn't you fall for me? I really don't understand. Where do I fall short compared to Ellinor?"

At this, someone burst out laughing.

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It wasn't Ellinor, nor was it Theo.

It was Devin who couldn't help but crack up.

Never in his years had he seen a woman so inconspicuous yet brimming with confidence. Clearing his throat to suppress his laughter, Devin excused himself, "Pardon me! I need to check on dinner..."

Theo fixed his gaze and gave Sheila a once-over, "What makes you think you can hold a candle to Ellinor? Your character, knowledge, or appearance, which one of them is worth a strand of Mrs. Blanchet's hair?"

His words stung Sheila's pride. She knew Ellinor's beauty was enviable, but she didn't think she fell short either. After all, she was an actress, wasn't she?

What gave Theo the right to look down on her?

And that Ellinor was always in plain clothes and looked like a country bumpkin!

Tracy stepped in, confronting Theo, "Mr. Blanchet, how could you go back on your word? The first time we met, you sent someone to our home, saying you wanted to marry our daughter. That's why we threw that party! But you didn't show up, leaving us to lose face in front of our friends and relatives. You can't just shirk your responsibilities!"

"Do the Mendozas only have one daughter? Didn't you wonder if all my intentions were for Ellinor from the start?"

Tracy was speechless and dumbfounded.

"

In Tracy's mind, when talking about the Mendoza's daughter, it obviously referred to her biological child, Sheila. Who would have thought it was that country girl, Ellinor!

Theo gently laid his hand on Ellinor's shoulder, tenderly tucking a loose strand of hair behind her ear.

You should understand that the only reason you're here is because you're related to Ellinor! If you continue treating her like this, I won't hesitate to show you the door! My wife doesn't need relatives like you. Devin, show them out!"

Devin appeared from the kitchen, summoning a few servants to 'escort' the guests out.

Tracy quickly changed her tune, "Mr. Blanchet, there might be a misunderstanding; we can talk it out..."

The Blanchet's servants had been enduring them the whole day. Now that Mr. Blanchet had given the order, they were finally able to send them off. There was no way they were going to let them have another say!

Being dragged out, Sheila came back to her senses and yelled out, still not giving up, "Mr. Blanchet, you've been fooled by Ellinor. I'm your bride! It's me!"

Seizing the opportunity, Arnold broke free and rushed back, dropping all pretenses and wearing a big smile, "Mr. Blanchet, regardless of which daughter becomes your wife, I'll still be your father-in-law. Our relationship won't change."

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Theo glared at Arnold's disgusting mug with a cold glint in his eyes.

Could such a man really be called a father?

What kind of family environment did Ellinor grow up in?

“Mr. Arnold, first off, you’ve gotta be worthy of being called ‘dad’ by my wife before I even consider calling you my father-in-law. But as a father, you don’t seem to have done your job. So in my eyes, you’re not even a man.”

Arnold felt pressure and guilt, but he wanted to defend himself. But when he saw Theo’s icy stare, he felt unprecedented fear.

Theo’s attitude towards him had completely changed.

When they first met, the handsome young man had shown some respect and courtesy towards his elder.

But now, all he could see was bottomless coldness and threatening warnings.

In this moment, Arnold realized he was worth nothing in front of Theo.

Only because of Ellinor could he get a shred of respect from Theo. Without Ellinor, he wouldn’t even be allowed through the Blanchet family’s door.

As for Sheila, she couldn’t even compete with Ellinor for the position of Mrs. Blanchet, she couldn’t even enter Theo’s line of sight!

Although Arnold was old, he didn’t want to swallow his pride to please Theo, but he really wanted to establish a relationship with the Blanchet family, and he didn’t want to miss this opportunity

So Arnold tried to put on a kind smile, desperately explaining to Ellinor, “Ellinor, don’t misunderstand, I had some drinks before I came here, so I might have said some unwise things. I was worried about you because you haven’t been home for a while and didn’t tell me about your marriage. When I heard you were with the Blanchet

family, I really wanted to see you! Could you talk to Theo and ask him not to kick me out?”

Ellinor was

still leaning in Theo’s arms. After listening to Arnold’s words, she turned her head and looked at the middle-aged man, who seemed familiar

yet strange.

“Mr. Arnold, you are

a good father to Sheila, not me. You came here today to drive me away for Sheila, not to see me.”

Arnold’s smile suddenly froze; he cursed Ellinor in his heart for being ignorant, but considering Theo was present, he had to force an even thicker smile.

“Ellinor, I already said this is a misunderstanding! Come on, don’t be mad at me; what can’t we get past?”

”

Ellinor’s eyes were full of sarcasm.

She suddenly felt relieved; thankfully, this spineless, principleless man wasn't her biological father; otherwise, she might hate her own genes.

Ignoring Arnold, Ellinor said to Devin.

'Devin, you remember their faces, right? If they come again, don't hold back.'

"Of course, Mrs. Blanchet!"

Devin respectfully lowered his head in agreement, then lifted his chin, signaling a few servants to drive Arnold out, letting him reunite with his wife and daughter.

After getting nothing, Arnold became angry, lost his mind, and revealed his true self.

While being dragged

out by the Blanchet family's servants, Arnold gritted his teeth and yelled, "Ellinor!... How could you treat your father like this? You'll get your comeuppance, this won't end well for you!"

Theo's eyes turned cold; he wouldn't allow anyone to curse Ellinor in front of him. He signaled Devin to teach Arnold a lesson before letting him go.

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Devin got Mr. Blanchet's drift and turned around to give orders to his guys.

With all the visitors kicked out, Ellinor felt a breath of relief, "Theo, you can let go of me now, right?"

Theo looked down at her and didn't let go, but hugged her even tighter, "If I let go, you're just gonna ditch me and run off, aren't you?"

'Theo, didn't you notice my suitcase is light? There's nothing in it. I didn't pack at all, I was just bluffing!'

Theo surely noticed the weight of the suitcase but was still a bit ticked off. His gaze was stern, "Some jerks came to bully you at home, why didn't you give me a heads-up?"

"You were at work, right? I didn't want to mess with your work! And those people from my family aren't worth you taking a day off to deal with! Actually, I could have kicked them out myself, but that wouldn't have worked well. They'd still come back. I know them too well. If you didn't step in, they wouldn't take my word for it and wouldn't give up! So, I pretended to pack to just stall them and waited for you to come home from work to help me deal with them!"

"Really? Should I thank you for being considerate of my work?"

Ellinor cheerfully said, "You're welcome! I do know how to prioritize!"

Theo playfully tapped her head, "What priority? Remember, anything that has to do with you is the most important and needs to be told to me immediately!"

Ellinor was taken aback for a second, then obediently nodded, "Okay, I will next time!"

Having instructed his men on how to deal with the Mendoza family, Devin came back. Seeing Mr. and Mrs. Blanchet together, he found it harmonious and a satisfied smile spread across his face.

Mrs. Blanchet was easygoing. At first, the household staff were prejudiced against her, but she didn't mind.

Once they got to know her, they all came to like her.

Imagine if that arrogant Sheila came over; they wouldn't be able to stand it!

With that thought, Devin cherished the lovely Mrs. Blanchet even more.

"Mr. Blanchet, dinner is almost ready. Is there anything else you want?"

Theo glanced at the living and dining rooms that had been messed up by the Mendoza family and said, "No need; I'll take her out for dinner. You guys eat first, then have someone thoroughly clean up the house."

"Yes, Mr. Blanchet."

Devin understood. The home environment was messed up by the Mendoza family, which greatly affected Theo's mood. Even if Theo didn't say it, he would have someone do a thorough cleaning and disinfection.

Theo looked down at Ellinor in his arms and said, "You wait here for a bit. I'm going upstairs to change, then I'll take you out."

"Hm? Where are we going?" Ellinor asked curiously

"You'll find out when we get there."

Ellinor pouted, Oh, how mysterious!

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Ellinor was downstairs waiting for Theo to get changed and killing time by playing some mobile games.

"Alright, we're good to go"

Theo's voice echoed through the air.

Ellinor looked up and was somewhat surprised.

Theo had changed into a decidedly different casual outfit compared to his usual attire. His hair, post-shower, wasn't combed into the usual rigid style. The short strands hung naturally, softening the hardness of his face.

"Are you done checking me out?" He walked up to her and flicked her forehead lightly.

Snapping back from her daze, Ellinor massaged her slightly pained forehead, stashed her phone into her pocket, and glared at him. "Can't I even have a look?"

"You enjoy looking at me this much and still make me sleep in the study every night? How about I sleep in my own room tonight and give you a proper eyeful? How does that sound?"

"I just thought you looked younger now; don't get any ideas!"

"So I usually look old?"

Without hesitation, Ellinor nodded, "Absolutely."

"Well, now that you think I'm not old, shouldn't you call me something else?"

Ellinor thought for a moment, "Not-so-old guy, I'm hungry. Let's go."

Theo was at a loss for words.

With no choice, Theo followed behind the already departing Ellinor.

Instead of calling a driver, Theo drove a sports car himself, taking Ellinor to a villa in the suburbs.

As Ellinor got out of the car, she found the house quite nice, as well as the surroundings. The smell of BBQ wafting from inside made her stomach grumble even more.

Before she could ask whose house it was, Theo, who had already parked the car, took her hand and led her into the villa.

The garden of the villa was meticulously maintained, clearly indicating a tasteful owner.

As they entered the garden, they saw Jonah Wyton basting chicken wings by the grill. Hearing footsteps, he looked up and smiled, "Theo brought Ellinor

over!"

Ellinor glanced at Jonah Wyton and then towards the floor-to-ceiling windows of the villa's living room. It was filled with people and quite lively.

"Is there a special occasion today?"

Today's my 30th birthday. I invited you guys over for a get-together." Jonah couldn't keep the smile off his face.

"Happy birthday!"

"Thanks!" Jonah smiled, then cheekily extended a hand towards her. "Don't just wish me; where's the gift?"

Ellinor was speechless

How was she supposed to know there was a birthday party here?

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Ellinor was cringing hard and muttered to Theo beside her, "Theo, this is all your fault! You should've told me we were coming to a birthday party, we can't just show up empty-handed!"

Theo shrugged, grabbed a grilled kebab from the barbecue stand, tasted it to see if it was cooked, then handed it to her. "You didn't even get me a gift on my birthday, why would I let you give one to someone else first?"

Ellinor took the skewer, feeling helpless.

Theo may seem mature, but he can be so childish sometimes, always nitpicking over small things.

Not long ago, on Theo's birthday, Ellinor didn't give him a gift due to some misunderstandings caused by Patricia's sudden return to the country.

But she actually did buy him a gift that day while shopping with Belinda Wesley. But after seeing Theo and Patricia hugging each other at Pearl Moon, she just tossed it away.

Theo tossed his car keys to Jonah, "This is your gift."

Jonah caught it, looked at it, and was flabbergasted, "Theo, are you serious? You're really giving me this beauty?"

"Don't want it?"

Jonah quickly pocketed the car keys, "I do! This is awesome!"

Ellinor watched this unfold, pulled Theo aside, and scolded him, "Theo, it's someone's birthday and you just casually give them a second-hand car, don't you think that's a bit reckless? Is this how you treat your friends?"

Theo gave a slight smile and patted her head, "He doesn't really lack anything, and this car is a limited edition, one-of-a-

kind model that you can't buy even if you have the money. He has always wanted this car, and I've never given it to him. I'm only willing to give it away today because of you!

Theo was such a smooth talker. He even said giving a friend a gift was because of her.

But that sports car really was a one-of-a-kind limited edition; you can't buy it even if you're loaded.

Theo usually took a business car for traveling; he almost never drove that car, which was pretty much brand new.

And it was something the birthday boy had always wanted, so even if it was second-hand, it was still a great gift.

"But, now that you've given the car away, how are we going to get home later?" Ellinor asked again..

"You can take me to ride the subway."

"Theo, do you have any common sense?! This is the suburbs; it takes at least 2 hours to get back to the city center by subway, and we have to switch lines several times! Most importantly, what if we miss the last train?"

Ellinor was always accusing him of lacking common sense!

Over at the grill, Jonah was barbecuing chicken wings while eavesdropping on their conversation. He was first shocked that his friend Theo would actually consider taking the subway, then found Ellinor's scolding of Theo quite audacious and amusing, so he chimed in.

"What's there to worry about? If you really miss the last train, you two can stay overnight here. I have a guest room with a brand-new comfy bed that's big enough for both of you!"

Ellinor's face immediately turned red, and she glared at Jonah, "You can keep it for yourself!"

Theo also gave him a cold look, "Go back to your grilling!"

These two were really hard to deal with

"Theo! Come up for a drink!"

Suddenly, someone called out.

Looking up, they saw a guy on the second-floor terrace of the villa waving down.

They could also see Bartlett Rex and Kemp Larios sitting on the outdoor terrace sofa, with Balfour and Patricia there too, all looking down at them from above.

Theo, your buddies are calling you!"

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Theo Blanchet gave a nod to the folks upstairs, then proceeded to escort Ellinor up.

Ellinor, however, rooted herself to the spot, shaking her head. "Mr. Blanchet, I'd rather wait here for my wings; I'll pass on the upstairs tour."

Theo didn't force her, "Alright, then chill and enjoy your grub here; I'll head up, take a look, and come back for you"

Ellinor happily flashed an OK sign, taking a bite of the BBQ meat Theo handed her and enjoying it immensely

Upon Theo's entry into the villa, Jonah brought over a skewer of freshly grilled wings to Ellinor with a big grin on his face, "You're something else, Ellinor. You've managed to tame the tough nut, Theo!"

"You're a funny one! You're hosting your own birthday party, inviting a bunch of people over, and barbecuing for them all by yourself; aren't you beat?" Ellinor smiled.

Jonah paused and admiringly looked at Ellinor, "Ellinor, everyone's just concerned about how good my BQ is; only you care about whether I'm having a hard time doing it! I'm so touched!"

With that, he put down the barbecue and walked towards Ellinor to give her a hug!

Ellinor swiftly sidestepped Jonah's overly enthusiastic embrace.

Jonah didn't feel awkward at all; in fact, he laughed even harder, "You're right! They're all just stuffing their faces; none of them care about the birthday boy! Ellinor, you're the best, help me keep an eye on the fire; don't let the wings burn; I'll be back after a quick restroom break!"

Ellinor fell silent.

Jonah was clearly trying to dump this task on her.

However, Ellinor still agreed; she didn't want to go in and chat with strangers anyway, so she walked over to the grill, flipped the wings, and brushed another layer of sauce on them.

She was thinking that if everyone was just interested in chatting and not eating the barbecue, then maybe all these wings would be hers.

She hoped they were all inside, fervently chatting away, and not coming out to snatch her wings.

"Hey, Ellinor!"

Just as she was worrying about someone coming out to snatch her wings, someone showed up!

Ellinor lifted her head from the grill, and there was Byran Howard.

Byran had a stern face and a haughty demeanor.

This was the same expression he wore every time he saw her, as if she owed him money!

"Oh, it's you! Finished your homework already and came out to play?"

Byran always felt that

Ellinor spoke to him like he was a kid and he frowned unhappily, "Done ages ago!"

"Alright, go have fun then." Ellinor didn't pay any more attention to Byran and focused on grilling her favorite wings.

Byran didn't leave. He stood in front of the grill and watched Ellinor. He hesitated for a while, then finally said, "Ellinor, about the last time, I want to apologize on behalf of Balfour. He's usually pretty decent, but whenever someone mentions Pearl Howard, he gets really tense."

Ellinor took a bite of her wing, "Oh, is that so?"

Byran's expression became somewhat awkward, "Ellinor, you're not mad at me, are you?"

"Huh? Mad at you for what?"

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Byran was relieved to see that she didn't seem upset. That's good! As long as you're not angry, we can still be friends!"

Ellinor found the conversation dull and stopped paying him any attention.

"Ellinor, to be frank, I really like you" Byran scratched the back of his head sheepishly

Ellinor stopped midway through eating her chicken wing and looked at Byran's reddening face with a poker face. "Oh, well, thanks for the affection!"

Seeing her nonchalant reaction, Byran complained. "Hey! Why aren't you reacting?"

"And how should I react? Ellinor picked up a fan to fan the charcoal, making the fire bigger. The chicken wings would be tastier if they were a bit charred. Byran's face turned sour. "Are you kidding me? I'm confessing my feelings to you!"

Ellinor was unimpressed. "Just to help Patricia Howard get rid of a love rival, right? You think I'd take you seriously?"

Byran crossed his arms and admitted. "Alright, I admit, while that part is true, it's not the main reason anymore! Ellinor, I'm having these special feelings for you. I can't explain them, but I just don't find you annoying anymore!"

"Byran.

A soft voice called for Byran from behind him.

Byran turned to see Patricia emerging from the villa. He looked worried. "Why are you wearing so little?"

He quickly took off his jacket and walked over to drape it over Patricia.

Patricia smiled. "It's okay, I'm not cold."

Byran insisted. "Even if you're not cold, you should wear more. What if you catch a cold?"

Patricia accepted Byran's jacket, then turned to Ellinor, who was still barbecuing. "Ellinor, why didn't you go inside with Theo?"

Ellinor was focused on her chicken wings. "I have social anxiety, I don't like crowded places.

Seeing that Ellinor was focused on her chicken wings, Patricia told Byran, Byron, why are you just watching her work? You should be a gentleman and help her. Women shouldn't be exposed to such heavy fumes!"

Byran complied with Patricia's words, rolled up his sleeves, and walked over. "I'll do it. You and Patricia go to rest a bit, away from the heat and fumes."

Ellinor seemed reluctant, worried that he might burn her chicken wings. Are you sure you can handle it?"

Byran was met with skeptical eyes, despite his good intentions. He emphasized. "Of course I can! My friends and I often go for barbecues during vacations. They all say I make delicious chicken wings!"

Ellinor finally gave up her spot. "Is that so? Well, I'm in for a treat then!"

Byran was ready to show off his barbecue skills and impress Ellinor.

At that moment, Patricia came over and linked arms with Ellinor "Ellinor, leave this to Byran. Let's go chat in the gazebo over there. You need a break too!"

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Ellinor didn't exactly get along with Patricia, and she really couldn't care less about what she had to say.

But it seemed like Patricia was itching to spill some beans.

Might as well hear her out. It was better than her scheming behind her back.

Drawing her arm back, Ellinor dusted off her sleeve, nodded at Patricia, and said, "Alright, let's shoot the breeze then."

Patricia froze for a second, thrown off by Ellinor's clear rejection of her touch. She put on an innocent and pitiful face, as if she had no clue what she had

done wrong.

They settled down in a little gazebo in the villa courtyard, and Patricia broke the silence first, "Ellinor, I've noticed that Theo is really into you. He treats you well, doesn't he?"

Before coming over, Ellinor, fearing a dull conversation, brought along a couple of skewers of barbecued meat. While munching on it, she nonchalantly replied, "Oh, really?"

Patricia mustered up a wry smile, Yeah. Theo is so good to you, you must be on cloud nine, huh?"

After some thought, Ellinor answered bluntly. "It's alright."

Patricia

forced another bitter smile and sighed, "It was the same when Theo and I were together. Every day felt like a dream. But alas, men are fickle. Once a new flame comes along, they forget the old one..."

Ellinor, busy enjoying her barbecue, paused and turned to look at Patricia with her brow furrowed, "When were you two together?"

Patricia quickly covered her mouth, feigning shock as if she just realized she had spilled a secret. "Oh my, didn't Theo tell you? Ellinor, I'm sorry; I shouldn't have said that. Just forget I said anything; don't let it bother you, okay?"

Ellinor smiled and nodded, "Sure."

Then she went back to her barbecue, not saying another word.

This left Patricia surprised. She didn't expect Ellinor to brush it off so easily, as if she couldn't care less.

A normal girl would be curious upon hearing about her boyfriend's ex, right?

"Ellinor, aren't you curious about what happened when Theo and I were together?"

"Curious!" Ellinor responded naturally, still as straightforward and nonchalant as ever, "But if I'm curious, I'll ask him myself. There's no need for you to go out of your way to tell me!"

Patricia was taken aback. She then looked at Ellinor with a somewhat sympathetic gaze, "Ellinor, are you really so naive? Don't you think that if Theo hasn't told you about us after all this time, he won't tell you the truth if you ask him now?"

"He will." Ellinor answered without hesitation, with not a hint of doubt on her face.

Patricia was stunned and puzzled by Ellinor's unwavering trust in Theo.

"Ellinor, it seems you don't really get how guys are. Most guys are always chasing after the next big thing; they won't admit to having had good times with their exes"

Ellinor raised an eyebrow in disdain, "Miss Patricia, you're saying your beloved Mr. Blanchet is as fickle as some lowlife? Then why are you still head over heels for him?"

Ellinor's words

left Patricia speechless. She quickly tried to clear things up, "Ellinor, since you're being honest, I'll be too.

I don't just like Theo; I love him! No matter what kind of person he is, I will always love him! And honestly, most men are like this. Do you really believe there are men who are always faithful?"

Ellinor squinted, 'Ms. Howard, by saying that, you're not only doubting Mr. Blanchet but also your father and brothers. Aren't they men too? Are you saying they are all fickle as well?"

Patricia was prepared for Ellinor's rebuttal this time. She sighed in resignation, "I'm not doubting them; I've just seen too many fickle men. Including my father and brothers, none of them are ever constant. My father had an ex-wife, and even my self-respecting brother switches women every now and then. Ellinor, you need to face the reality that most men are like this. Once the novelty wears off, they lose interest, no matter how beautiful or accomplished the woman is."

Ellinor finally got it, "So you're saying, if Mr. Blanchet loses interest in me, he will ditch me, and I should be prepared for that, or maybe even leave him first to cut my losses?"