

## The Kiss 401

### Chapter 401

Ellinor chuckled. "I don't get it. If I leave, you get to go back to Mr. Blanchet. Aren't you afraid he'll get bored of you and ditch you?"

Patricia's face was full of pride and nobility, with a hint of condescension. "Ellinor, you and I are not the same."

"Oh? How so?"

"I come from a family that can stand toe-to-toe with Theo's. I have parents who love and protect me, a Balfour who'd shield me from the rain, and a Byran who guards me. And you? Your family? Do you have anyone who can give you enough support?"

Ellinor's smile vanished in an instant as it dawned on her. "So, it was you who spilled the beans to the Mendoza family about me marrying into the Blanchet family."

Patricia didn't shy away, "Yes, it was me!"

"So, you thought by ratting me out to the Mendozas, you could kick me to the curb?" Ellinor was calm.

Patricia's angelic facade couldn't hide her arrogance.

"I know it's not that simple! Ellinor, I just wanted you to see your reality. You're a girl with no backing, marrying into a wealthy family with no one to rely on. Over time, people will look down on you. But me, because my family is not to be messed with, the Blanchets would never dare underestimate me, and Theo wouldn't dare cross me. Even if one day, things between Theo and I go south, I can take the hit. My safety net is my family, they'll always protect me, get it? That's my trump card!"

"So your 'backing' is relying on your family's protection?"

"Isn't it?"

Ellinor laughed lightly, "I admit, that is a form of support, but it's not what I have. My support is myself. I don't rely on anyone and I don't expect to be protected for a lifetime. Being self-sufficient means I won't be put in a passive position. I stay with the Blanchets because I have a thing for Mr. Blanchet. I don't care about his family, status, or wealth, nor am I envious. Even if one day he gets tired of me or I get tired of him, I can walk away freely, without any unbearable consequences. Ms. Howard, I just want to remind you, don't keep thinking this way. Be careful, one day your perfect image may crumble, and no one will spoil you unconditionally!"

With that, Ellinor got up, ready to check if the chicken wings were done.

"Hold on, Ellinor, I have something to show you!"

Patricia doggedly followed, blocking Ellinor's way.

Ellinor was getting impatient, "What is it?"

Patricia lifted her top, showing her belly. "See this scar?"

*There was a noticeable horizontal scar on her abdomen.*

*Ellinor squinted, "Is this... appendicitis?"*

*Patricia was almost knocked out by her words; she gritted her teeth. "It's a C-section scar!"*

*Ellinor paused for a moment, looking at Patricia in disbelief. "You've had a child?"*

*Patricia smiled in response, "Yes, Theo and I have a child."*

*"..What?"*

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*Patricia straightened her blouse, then lifted her head, looking at Ellinor with a mix of sympathy and provocation.*

*I bet Theo didn't tell you we have a kid together, did he? Still think you can trust him blindly?"*

*"How old were you when you got pregnant? Where's the kid?" Ellinor narrowed her eyes.*

*Patricia chuckled when she saw Ellinor start to ask more questions.*

*You said you trust Theo, right? You can ask him all about it! But I bet even if you do, Theo won't admit it and won't tell you the truth."*

*Ellinor, clearly intrigued, raised an eyebrow, "Alright, let's say I believe you. If you two have a kid, you love him and he likes you, why not just get hitched? As far as I know, the Blanchet family elders are all for offspring. With such a good thing, why not go public?"*

*Patricia seemed to remember something distressing and said, "Ellinor, you should know that the Howard family and the Blanchet family have some family disputes. Our elders don't approve of my relationship with Theo. If they found out I was pregnant, they'd probably have forced me to abort it. They would never allow a child from the Blanchet and Howard families to be born! So, to protect me, Theo sent me abroad to have the baby. Theo arranged everything well, my pregnancy and childbirth overseas were kept secret from everyone, including my family. Why else do you think I left home for over a year?"*

*Ellinor frowned, "But you still didn't say where the kid is."*

*Patricia sighed mournfully, like a mother missing her child, "The child has been weaned and is being taken care of overseas. Theo says he'll try to resolve the family disputes quickly and then bring us into the Blanchet family. But who knew that Putnam Blanchet would pressure him into marriage so quickly? Theo had to find someone to appease him, and that's where you came in. Ellinor, I'm not surprised Theo has feelings for you. Men always like new women, and I'm not new anymore since I gave birth to his child. But even if you're new now, you won't be forever! And Theo's feelings for me are different; I've saved his life and given birth to his child, and once he's had his fun, he'll naturally come back to me."*

*Ellinor nodded calmly. "Okay, got it; thanks for letting me know. Anything else? If not, please move; I'm off to eat my chicken wings!"*

*Patricia froze.*

*What was her deal? Why was Ellinor always so indifferent and always surprising everyone.*

*Upon learning her husband had a child with another woman, she was only concerned about eating chicken wings?*

*Patricia watched Ellinor walk away and gritted her teeth.*

*Suddenly, she caught sight of a figure emerging from the villa, and she quickly stepped forward, grabbing Ellinor's arm.*

*Ellinor frowned in surprise, "Ms. Howard, what now?"*

*Patricia suddenly dropped to her knees, "Ellinor, I'm sorry, I messed up. Don't be mad..."*

*Then she acted as if she'd been kicked hard, falling backward onto the ground and weakly moaning. "Ellinor, I've apologized; why'd you have to kick me..."*

*Chapter 403*

*Ellinor looked utterly baffled. She stared at Patricia, who was putting on a show on the ground like she was a lunatic.*

*Balfour Howard, who had just emerged from the villa, quickly rushed over, pushed Ellinor aside and asked coldly, "Beat it! What are you trying to do to*

*Patri?"*

*Without waiting for Ellinor to explain, he quickly bent down to help Patricia up from the ground, his heart aching for her.*

*Patri, are you okay? Nothing serious, right?"*

*Men were always much stronger than girls. Even though Ellinor was steady on her feet, she was almost knocked over by Balfour's push*

*She stumbled backward, trying to steady herself, but unfortunately slipped on the cobblestone path specially laid out for the villa and fell into a nearby fish pond.*

*The pond wasn't deep, but the villa was near the mountains and the temperature was quite low at night. She felt a chill down to her bones after falling into the water.*

*She managed to get her head out of the water but still looked like a drowned rat.*

*Just as she was about to get up, a tall figure suddenly jumped down into the pond and swam towards her. The man reached out with his long arm and scooped her up.*

*It was Theo!*

*Ellinor shivered, "Theo, I'm cold..."*

*Theo quickly took off his coat and wrapped her soaking wet body in it, then carried her back to the shore. "There, there, you'll be alright. Let's go inside and change your clothes; you won't be cold then"*

*On the shore, Balfour glanced at Ellinor, who was nestled in Theo's arms, with a hint of sarcasm in his eyes. He walked up to Theo and said, Theo, before you leave, I think I should explain. I only pushed her away just now to stop her from hurting Patri further! Who knew she would fall into the water?!"*

*Ellinor frowned. Was Balfour implying that she was pretending to be pitiful by falling into the water on purpose?*

*Wasn't Patricia the one who was pretending? Theo glared coldly at Balfour, "That's no excuse for you to be rough with a girl!"*

*Balfour wasn't in a hurry to argue. Theo, do you know? Your woman forced Patricia to kneel just now and even kicked her away! If I hadn't seen it and stopped her, she might have stepped on Patri a few more times!"*

*Theo paused, looking at Patricia, who was pale and shivering; his brows furrowed slightly, 'Are you okay? Did you get hurt?"*

*Patricia, still shaken, shook her head, "Theo, I'm okay; don't blame Ellinor. It's all my fault. I made her angry..."*

*Theo lowered his head to look at the bedraggled Ellinor in his arms and asked in a deep voice, "What happened?"*

*Ellinor paused, then hopped out of Theo's arms and said calmly. There's no surveillance here, so whatever I say can't be proven! But I won't accept being framed for something I didn't do. If you don't believe me, call the cops and have me arrested again!"*

*After that, she walked alone into the villa, just wanting to warm up..*

*Falling into the water and getting cold could cause a cold, and she wasn't going to risk her health.*

*As for Theo, since he didn't trust her, so be it! She didn't care!*

#### *Chapter 404*

*Ellinor strolled into the villa's living room, causing the animated chit-chat to come to a halt.*

*"Who's that? Who just barges in like that?"*

*"Is she trying to turn heads by being all wet?"*

*"She's so plainly dressed, being wet isn't gonna help!"*

*"But don't you guys think she's prely?"*

*"Who brought her? Never seen her before."*

*People were sizing her up and speculating about her identity.*

*Ellinor, however, didn't pay any mind to the gazes around her. She was just looking for the villa's owner, Jonah Wyton, hoping to borrow a set of clean clothes.*

*But Jonah, after saying he was going to the restroom, hadn't come back. She couldn't find him anywhere on the first floor. Wasn't he the birthday boy? Where did the main character disappear to?*

*Just as Ellinor was looking around, Bartlett Rex, who was chatting with friends, noticed her. He put down his drink and walked over, "Ellinor, what happened? How did you end up like this?"*

*Ellinor looked at Bartlett, who was still as handsome and elegant as she remembered.*

*"Oh, it's you, Bartlett. Can you help me out? Did you bring a date today?"*

*Despite her soaked state, Ellinor was as composed as ever.*

*Bartlett couldn't help but chuckle, yet he still answered seriously,*

*"No, but I did bring a female subordinate. She's waiting in the car outside. What do you need?"*

*"Can you ask if she has any spare clothes? I'd like to borrow a set."*

*"Sure, hold on." Understanding her request, Bartlett pulled out his phone and made a call. "Bring a clean set of your clothes over now."*

*After a short exchange, he hung up and smiled at Ellinor. "Okay, she has a new outfit in the car. She'll bring it over soon."*

*Ellinor thanked him, "Thanks, Bartlett. What goes around comes around. You're such a sweetheart!"*

*Bartlett was speechless.*

*Even though he found it amusing, he wasn't quite used to being called a sweetheart.*

*"Hey, look! Bartlett is talking to the soaked girl!"*

*"What's going on? Is she Bartlett's date?"*

*"Bartlett's dates are usually high-class ladies. How come he brought a girl we don't know?"*

*"She might be plainly dressed, but she's anything but plain. She's drop-dead gorgeous!"*

*"What good is beauty alone? To be Mr. Rex's date, status should matter more, right?"*

*"Yeah! What makes her worthy? Her clothes look like cheap!"*

*"Our clothes are way more decent than hers! How dare she talk to Mr. Rex!"*

*For this simple birthday party, Jonah only invited his close friends, some of whom brought their dates to lighten things up.*

*Chapter 405*

*Most of those who caught up in the heated discussion were women, including A-list celebs, influencers, and some high-born ladies from well-known families.*

*Their murmuring made Bartlett uncomfortable. He shot a disgruntled glance at the chattering crowd before turning to Ellinor with a softened voice.*

*"Ellinor, it's a madhouse down here. Let's go upstairs. I'll grab a towel for you to dry your hair."*

*"Alright, thanks."*

*Ellinor accepted Bartlett's offer, as she too didn't fancy being the topic of gossip. The noise was giving her a headache, so she followed Bartlett up the*

*stairs*

*On their way up, Bartlett gave Ellinor a side glance. His eyes, always filled with a smile, seemed to bear a thought. "Ellinor, where's Theo? Why'd he let you*

*come in alone?"*

*Ellinor replied with a calm face, "He's outside, probably still fussing over his life-saver, Ms. Howard."*

*Bartlett detected a hint of bitterness in her seemingly nonchalant tone. "Oh? Are you two having issues over Ms. Howard?"*

*Ellinor remained stoic, "No, I understand Theo's concern for his life-saver. I'm not mad about that."*

*Bartlett found her rationality surprising, yet he wasn't completely convinced she was unperturbed. He scrutinized her for a moment before saying, "Theo's always been kind to Ms. Howard. In fact, before you came along, I thought they'd end up together."*

*Ellinor raised an eyebrow. End up together?*

*That was something lovers do. So, in Bartlett's view, was there an emotional history between Theo and Ms. Howard?*

*"I know Theo." Bartlett continued, "He might seem cold, but he's very upright. He surely appreciates Ms. Howard for saving his life. These years, his care, protection, and tolerance towards Ms. Howard have been beyond reproach; even I find it touching. But this may not bode well for his wife. After all, no woman wants her husband to care for another woman. Ellinor, it's normal if you're jealous."*

*Ellinor kept quiet. She wasn't in the mood for explanations.*

*She wasn't jealous; she was mad!*

*Mad that Theo had questioned her in such a distrustful tone.*

*His attitude clearly meant he suspected she'd done something displeasing to Ms. Howard.*

*She thought Theo understood her, but now it seemed he didn't really know her and even thought the worst of her.*

*Though she wasn't too fond of Patricia, she wouldn't stoop so low as to mistreat her*

*Truth be told, she had no interest in wasting her time and energy on somebody like Patricia.*

*It was Patricia who kept stirring up trouble with her.*

*It was really annoying!*

*Bartlett led her to an empty guest room. After they entered, he promptly fetched a towel from the bathroom and handed it to her.*

*"Here, dry off a bit. This is the master suite of Jonah's villa. He doesn't usually stay here, and all the items in the rooms are regularly replaced, so you can use them without worry. This towel is new."*

*Bartlett was very meticulous, even going to the extent of explaining these little details to her.*

*Chapter 406*

*"Thanks."*

*Ellinor had always been carefree and not one to sweat the small stuff. Taking the towel, she first wiped the water off her face, then started drying her*

*drenched hair.*

*Bartlett*

*was being a gentleman and pretty tame today, unlike the previous times when he enjoyed teasing her a bit too much.*

*"Ellinor, why don't you chill out here for a bit? My assistant will bring you some clothes later."*

*"Sounds good! Thanks, you're such a sweetheart!"*

*Ellinor didn't plan to keep him around. After all, a girl and a guy alone in a room might cause some raised eyebrows, especially since she's a married woman now. The last thing she wanted were unnecessary misunderstandings*

*Hearing Ellinor's compliment, Bartlett chuckled, "Ellinor, if you want to thank me, you really don't need to butter me up."*

*"What's the matter? Can't I compliment you? Doesn't it just show your noble character of being helpful?"*

*\**

*Let's drop it. I just feel like you're pulling my leg."*

*"I'm really grateful to you! Thanks for helping me out today because of Mr. Blanchet. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to find any clothes to change into Ellinor said seriously.*

*Hearing her words, Bartlett's smile faded, and his brows furrowed slightly, "Ellinor, I didn't help you because of anyone else. I helped you because you're you. Even without considering Theo, we are friends, aren't we?"*

*Ellinor stared at Bartlett's handsome face, pondered for a moment, and then nodded, "Okay, I guess we are friends now! You can leave now; I need to dry off. Even among friends, we should avoid awkward situations."*

*With that, she pushed Bartlett towards the door.*

*Bartlett was practically kicked out.*

*A tall man like Bartlett was pushed by a young girl like Ellinor, making him stumble a little and almost losing his cool.*

*The door of the guest room slammed shut, and Bartlett still stood at the door with a smirk in his eyes.*

*Ellinor was as dismissive of him as ever.*

*She*

*seemed reluctant and hesitated for a good while before she accepted him as a friend when they were discussing whether they were friends or not.*

*Being friends with him seemed to put her in a tight spot.*

*The more he knew about this unique girl, the more interesting she became..*

*Bartlett turned around gracefully. One of his female subordinates was coming upstairs; she quickened her pace when she saw her boss.*

*\*Mr. Rex, here are the clothes you asked for. But what do you need women's clothes for?"*

*Bartlett smiled and said, "No biggie, a friend of mine accidentally fell into the water and got soaked, so she needs a fresh set of clothes. Angel, give your new outfit to her. I'll have finance reimburse you."*

*Angel waved her hands, "Mr. Rex, you're too kind. The outfit isn't expensive at all. I'll just consider it a gift for your friend. No need for reimbursement, really!"*

*Bartlett didn't plan to argue with his secretary. He treated her very well, far more than the value of an outfit.*

*At that moment, a hand reached out from above and took the clothing bag from Angel, "Then I'll gladly accept your kindness"*

*Chapter 407*

*That hand ain't Bartlett's.*

*Angel jerked her head up in surprise, only to see Mr. Blanchet, whose face was as deep and enigmatic as a millennium-old glacier, right in front of her.*

*The sudden appearance of this man was so imposing that Angel couldn't help but take a step back. "Mr. Blanchet!"*

*Theo bowed his head, opened the clothing pack, and sure enough, the clothes were new with the tag still on. This could be used for Ellinor in a pinch.*

*Bartlett looked at Theo and chuckled, "Theo, you finally showed up."*

*"Hmm, where's my wife?"*

*"She's inside, drenched from head to toe. I was worried she'd catch a cold, so I brought her to a guest room to dry off."*



*"Thanks." Theo said with a squint, "But next time, don't take other people's wives to any room without asking. No one needs you to be that considerate.*

*Bartlett's face stiffened for a moment, then he laughed again, "Theo, I didn't mean to. I just saw Ellinor walk in all wet and felt bad for her. Besides, if you hadn't chosen to save your benefactor over your wife today, I wouldn't have had the chance to help her, right?"*

*After two seconds of silence, Theo said coldly. "If you don't know what's going on, keep your nose out of it."*

*"Alright, I admit I was being a busybody. Bartlett shrugged.*

*Theo didn't respond to Bartlett anymore. He took off his expensive watch and casually handed it to Bartlett's secretary, Angel.*

*"I didn't bring any cash today. This should be enough to buy your outfit. If you think it's not enough, come to the Blanchet Corporation tomorrow and ask my assistant."*

*With that, Theo turned and walked straight into the guest room, where Ellinor was.*

*Angel was stunned as she took the luxury brand centennial edition men's watch Mr. Blanchet had casually handed her,*

*This watch alone was worth more than her retirement pay, let alone an outfit!*

*The watch in her hand was too valuable, and Angel was at a loss. She felt she couldn't accept it and nervously looked at her boss. "Mr. Rex..."*

*"Just take it! It's a collectible watch. If you don't like it, you can sell it and buy a new outfit for yourself"*

*Angel's attention shifted from the watch to Bartlett. Her face was full of curiosity. "Mr. Rex, was the woman who fell into the water Mr. Blanchet's wife?"*

*"Yeah, that's her*

*"I heard Mr. Blanchet married a very ordinary girl. But how could an ordinary girl make Mr. Blanchet care about her so much?"*

*For that seemingly ordinary girl, he was even willing to exchange an expensive watch for a set of clothes.*

*"No, that girl is anything but ordinary." Bartlett said, his eyes twinkling with amusement and deeper meanings.*

*Angel was slightly taken aback, feeling both surprised and confused by her boss. Today, Bartlett seemed different. His usually casual yet competent eyes seemed to hint at some sort of excitement.*

*Chapter 408*

*When Theo walked into the guest room, Ellinor was standing by the bed with her back to the door, wiping her body with a towel.*

*She had unbuttoned her top but not taken it off, so it hung loosely from her shoulders*

*From the back, her beautiful shoulder blades, neck, and back were all in clear view.*

*This was a sight he had never had the chance to properly enjoy at home.*

*And yet, Ellinor had undressed without even locking the door. What if it hadn't been him who walked in but another man? Would she have been seen just*

*like that?*

*Theo's eyebrows furrowed, his cold face sinking a little.*

*Ellinor didn't turn around when she heard someone come in and simply said,*

*"Just put the clothes on the cabinet by the door, thanks!"*

*Her nonchalant attitude made Theo's brows furrow deeper and his eyes narrowed sternly. It seemed he would need to teach her a lesson!*

*Click!*

*Theo locked the guest room door.*

*"Thanks to who?"*

*Theo's deep voice echoed in the room, causing Ellinor to pause in her actions and finally turn around. A look of surprise crossed her face, "Theo, it's you?"*

*"It's me; are you disappointed?" Seeing Theo approach, Ellinor hurriedly adjusted her wet clothes, "No, I thought it was Mr. Rex's secretary bringing me replacement clothes!"*

*Her rush to get dressed made a flicker of annoyance cross Theo's gaze.*

*When he wasn't around, she undressed without locking the door.*

*But when he was there, she covered herself up?*

*What was this about?*

*Others could see, but he couldn't?*

*Theo threw the bag of clothes he was holding onto the bed and glared at her without a hint of gentleness. "Stop wiping. Go take a hot shower, dry your hair, and then come out to change into clean clothes!"*

*Ellinor was a bit annoyed since he glared at her for no reason, but she didn't want to argue with him while looking like a drowned rat. She turned around in a huff and headed into the bathroom to take a hot shower.*

*She had fallen into the water, yet Theo was still being mean to her. Did he have no sympathy at all?*

*About ten minutes later, she finished her shower and poked her head out from the bathroom door, "Theo, where are the clothes you brought for me?"*

*At that moment, Theo was sitting on the sofa, smoking. He blew a smoke ring and motioned towards the bed with his chin,*

*"Over there. Do you want to come get it yourself, or should I come in and help you put it on?"*

*Ellinor rolled her eyes at him and ignored him.*

*Then she slipped out with her towel wrapped around her, reached for the bag on the bed, and slipped back into the bathroom. She closed the bathroom door, changed her clothes, and came out.*

*Bartlett's secretary, Angel, was a curvy woman, and her clothes were mature and sexy. A wine-red, silk, V-neck, knee-length dress that draped perfectly over Ellinor's figure.*

*Except, the dress was a size too big for Ellinor.*

*With a towel on her head, she came out of the bathroom while drying her hair. "Theo, where did you get these women's clothes?"*

*Theo looked up, pausing for a moment.*

*Ellinor in the red dress gave him a hot feeling in his chest.*

*He rarely saw her in such a sexy dress; she was so beautiful that it was hard for him to open his eyes..*

*Chapter 409*

*Theo snapped back to reality and dusted off the ash, "The clothes belong to Bartlett's female secretary"*

*"And why would you bring it in?"*

*"I bumped into her at the door, and she asked me to bring it in for you." Theo conveniently left out the events that had just transpired outside the guest*

*room.*

*"Oh, I see."*

*Ellinor vigorously rubbed her damp hair and walked over to the other side of the bed to check her phone for any unread messages.*

*"Come here!\**

*Theo snuffed out the half-smoked cigarette in his hand and beckoned her over.*

*Ellinor's face showed reluctance, she was irritated and didn't want to get close to Theo.*

*But she wasn't a fan of the silent treatment. After weighing her options, she put down her phone and walked over to him, "You called me over for something?"*

*Theo patted his thigh, "Come here!"*

*Ellinor was speechless.*

*Was Theo asking her to sit on his lap?*

*No, that was so awkward!*

*She did walk over, but she didn't plan to sit on his lap. She intended to walk past him and sit on the other side of the couch.*

*But Theo, as if he had anticipated her thoughts, easily scooped Ellinor into his arms and placed her on his lap.*

*Ellinor scrunched her brows in disgust, pushing him away and trying to break free.*

*Theo held her slim waist tightly, offering her no chance of escape, "Why are you avoiding me? I'm not gonna eat you."*

*"Who knows?!" Ellinor glared at him.*

*Theo found her feisty demeanor*

*very cute; his grip softened unconsciously as he lightly hugged her and ran his fingers through her still damp hair, "Alright, let's stop messing around. Tell me why you didn't wait for me and went in alone?"*

*Ellinor replied irritably. "Because I was cold, so I went in first! If I had to wait for you, I would have caught a cold!"*

*Theo looked at her with concern, pulling her closer into his arms, "I'm sorry, are you mad at me?"*

*Ellinor pouted, not avoiding his gaze, "Yes, that's right! I'm mad!"*

*Theo liked this about her, she didn't bottle up her emotions. Otherwise, he would have to guess her feelings and probably misunderstand her.*

*"Is it because I didn't come in with you earlier?"*

*"No."*

*"Then tell me, where did I go wrong that made you angry?"*

*Ellinor didn't beat around the bush and glared at him unhappily, "I'm mad because of your question "What happened? Theo, were you doubting that I would hurt and bully your savior? Do you think my character is that bad?"*

*Theo helplessly pinched her face. "Nonsense! You are my wife, how could I doubt your character? At that time, someone was accusing you, and I wasn't there; I didn't know what happened, so I wanted to ask you the truth so I could deal with the accuser."*

*Ellinor seemed convinced by his explanation, but she still felt somewhat unsatisfied.*

*Theo cooed softly again, "At a time like that, who else should I ask if not you? Should I believe what others say and not listen to you?"*

*Ellinor pouted and her tone softened a bit, "You just know how to talk your way out of everything!"*

## Chapter 410

*"This is me telling it like it is! Because it's Patricia we're talking about here, she saved my life once and I owe her a solid. If it were anyone else, I wouldn't bother. I wanted to come in with you just now, but then Ms Howard suddenly got sick and was puking. She kept calling me, I couldn't just...."*

*Ellinor rolled her eyes and cut him off. "Theo, quit yapping, I got it!"*

*"Huh? You got what? Theo raised an eyebrow*

*Ellinor kept her cool. She sat up straight in his arms and said, "I get your dilemma Ms. Howard saved your life and lost something irreplaceable in the process. You've always felt indebted to her and can't just abandon her when she's in trouble, right?"*

*Theo didn't deny it, I'm sorry, just give me some time to repay her kindness. I won't let you down like this again"*

*Once everything was out in the open, Ellinor felt relieved,*

*"It's okay, as long as you trust me, I won't be mad. Of course, repaying a favor is the right thing to do. I can understand and trust you!"*

*Theo didn't look happy. "I wouldn't be mad if you were mad at me now."*

*"I'm not mad, I'm not that petty!"*

*"But what if I'm petty?"*

*"Theo, you are petty about what? I didn't do anything!" Ellinor was confused.*

*"Weren't you in this room with Bartlett just now?" He asked with a stern face*

*Ellinor nodded frankly, "He's your friend, so I asked him to lend me some clothes, then he brought me in here to rest a bit, got me a towel, and left!"*

*"You don't need to explain, I know there's nothing going on between you two, but I still mind you having too much contact with other men, and I can't help but get mad. You,*

*on the other hand, don't seem to mind me being around other women. Ellinor, sometimes I really wonder if I'm just optional to you*

*"Theo... are you feeling insecure and worried?"*

*Theo glared at her, "Yes! I am insecure and I am worried. I'm afraid that you might run off with someone else one day!"*

*As he said this. Theo held her waist tighter, giving her a little squeeze.*

*Ellinor's body tensed up. "Theo, I haven't agreed to be with you yet! Watch your hands!"*

*Theo didn't seem to take her seriously and he tickled her waist, "You're my wife, touching you is a crime?"*

*Enduring the ticklish sensation on her waist, Ellinor corrected him, "Not yet! We're just in a sham marriage; we haven't actually registered""*

*If she hadn't mentioned it, Theo would have forgotten about it.*

*"So, we register tomorrow?"*

*Ellinor blushed. "Don't get me wrong, I didn't say I wanted to register marriage with you!"*

*Theo moved closer, he pressed his forehead against hers and whispered.*

*"But I want to, will you? It's on me!"*

*She could feel his warm breath on her face; it made her heart skip a beat, "Theo, stop joking; registering a marriage is not something to be taken lightly!"*

*"Then let's take it seriously!"*

*Ellinor gave him a proud look, "Im not going tomorrow! We'll talk about it later, which was depending on your performance. I need to think it over!"*

*Theo knew it wouldn't be easy to win Ellinor over and he smiled helplessly, "Alright, take your time, it's just a matter of time."*

*Ellinor felt like a prey being hunted as she looked into Theo's confident eyes.*

*She didn't realize that her strap had slipped down to her elbow.*