

The Kiss 481

Chapter 481

Balfour said coolly, "Tomorrow night, you'll be my plus one at a function, so dress sharp."

Ellinor froze

Just a moment ago in the hospital room, Balfour had told Patricia and Haillie that she would be his date for the following day, which was probably for Aunt Bluna's birthday bash mentioned by Patricia.

She had played along then, just to help him out, but she didn't expect Balfour to actually take her to the party

Ellinor was hesitant. She wasn't a fan of fancy shindigs, but she also knew that the elders of the Howard family might have some insights about what happened in the past, maybe even about her mother.

After some thought, Ellinor turned around and asked, "Mr. Howard, will I bump into Theo at tomorrow's event?"

Balfour looked at her, silent for a moment before saying, "No, the Blanchets don't attend the Howards' parties."

Right, they had a beef with each other, so they wouldn't show up at each other's parties. Plus, Theo had mentioned at the hospital that he had a flight to catch, probably for a business trip, so he wouldn't be back soon.

Ellinor put on her professional smile after getting the answer she wanted, "Alright, Mr. Howard, I'll dress to the nines and accompany you to the event tomorrow."

Balfour closed his eyes without saying anything else.

The Howard Group knocked off at five, but Ellinor didn't leave the office until six

After walking for a bit, Ellinor naturally turned into a quiet alleyway.

There was a black business car parked by the side, she walked up to it, opened the door, and got in

Inside the car, Ida Gipson was typing away on her laptop. Hearing the door open, she looked up and a warm, respectful smile appeared on her usually cold face, "You finally knocked off?"

Ellinor was exhausted. She leaned back in her seat and lazily rested her head on Ida's shoulder.

Chase Larios, who was in the passenger seat, glanced at his watch and asked, "Is the Howard Group always this busy? You're just knocking off now?"

Ellinor, resting her head on Ida's shoulder, replied, "No, the Howard Group knocks off at five. It's just that Balfour, that workaholic, was pulling overtime, and as his secretary, I couldn't just leave him high and dry"

Ida patted Ellinor's shoulder, "Ellinor, my heart aches to see you working like this at the Howard Group."

Ellinor smiled, "It's just for a while; it's no biggie. If I couldn't handle this much, I wouldn't have survived till today"

Ida sighed, "But you're pregnant now, you can't overwork yourself!*

Ellinor patted her belly and said, "My kid will be as tough as me and won't be afraid of hardships. Oh, and Ida, can you lend me a party dress for tomorrow?"

Chapter 482

Ellinor never bought clothes that weren't comfy, and there were no formal dresses in her closet

Even though she started Crescent Society, the social events were usually handled by Ida and Chase, while she, as the behind-the-scenes leader, only dealt with technical stuff, important decisions, and future direction,

Knowing Ellinor's dislike for uncomfortable clothes, Ida closed her laptop and asked curiously. "Why the sudden need to borrow a dress? What's up?"

Ellinor explained, "Balfour and I are going to a party tomorrow. He insisted that I dress up for the occasion"

Ida nodded, "So, after dinner, I'll go with you to the tailor and get a new dress. Mine would be way too big on you."

Ellinor thought for a moment, reached over, and gave Ida's chest a squeeze, "Right, your boobs are bigger than mine!

Ida didn't hold back and copped a feel of Ellinor's chest, then reassured her, "Don't worry when you have kids, they'll grow!"

Shaking her head, Ellinor replied, "No thanks! I'm happy with what I've got. I think big boobs look better on other people, they'd just be a burden to me."

Ida nodded in agreement, "True, your figure is pretty awesome as it is!"

At that moment, Chase, sitting in the front seat, looked totally dumbfounded, "Hey! Do you two even see me as a guy? How about considering my feelings when I can't join in?"

Ida gave Chase a glance; their familiarity with him had reached a point where they didn't need to hold back such subject.

Ignoring Chase, Ida asked Ellinor, "What do you feel like eating tonight?"

"We could go to our usual barbecue place. I haven't been there in a while!

"You're pregnant now, you should be eating healthier. BBQ isn't good for you! Ida frowned.

Chase, however, was supportive, "A little BBQ once in a while won't hurt! You've been feeling sick lately, it's good that you actually feel like eating! Let's go get some BBQ!",

Ida, unable to argue with that logic, stopped her objections

Chase started the car and they were soon at the BBQ place.

As soon as Ellinor smelled the barbecue, she was eager to get out of the car.

Ida suddenly pulled her back, "Hold on."

Chase parked the car, unbuckled his seat belt, and said mockingly. "Ida, I told you not to nag so much. A little BBQ won't hurt!"

Adjusting her gold rimmed glasses, Ida said seriously. That's not it! Look over there, isn't that guy over there Theo?"

Ellinor's mood sank upon hearing Theo's name; she blinked and looked in the direction Ida was pointing.

It was Theo!

He was sitting alone at a small table on the side with a beer, a plate of barbecue, and a pile of fries on the table.

But the man was not eating or drinking: he was just sitting there, expressionless, like a king.

The lady owner of the BBQ place brought over a bottle of soda and chatted happily with him.

Theo didn't laugh but nodded in response to her

Chapter 483

They were out of earshot from the boss lady and Theo's conversation, but it felt super weird seeing a high and mighty guy like Theo chilling alone in a small roadside joint

Chase said. "Ellinor, who would've thought Theo was so down to earth? Here he is at a roadside joint, munching on barbecue, washing it down with beer and fries! But why's he all by his lonesome" Drinking solo is such a bummer, man!"

Ellinor found the scene unusual too. Didn't Theo say he was catching a flight this afternoon at the hospital? What was he doing still kicking around Greenhaven?

Ellinor remembered once when she came to this roadside barbecue joint for dinner Theo just happened to pass by, saw her, and sat down with her to try the barbecue. She was so stuffed she couldn't stand up when they were leaving, and Theo even held her hand

It felt so awkward to think about it now!

"Who knows" Maybe he's waiting for someone" Ellinor was bummed and lost her appetite Forget it, let's bounce and grab a bite somewhere else

Chase gave her a sly look Waiting for someone? You think. Theo could be waiting for you?"

Ellinor gave him a glare. "Don't be ridiculous! Just drive!"

After exchanging glances with Ida Chase quickly drove away from the barbecue joint.

At the barbecue joint. Theo sat on a small, unassuming seat that was totally at odds with his persona, attracting curious glances and whispers

Everyone was guessing who he was

But the man's intimidating aura kept them from openly staring and they were all sneaking glances

After a few more minutes. Theo got up and left. He hadn't touched a single thing on his table.

He walked away confidently, not caring about the admiring or puzzled looks from those around him.

Collin opened the car door for Theo. Once Theo was in he closed the door firmly before he allowed himself a sigh of relief.

For the past month, Thea would occasionally stop by this barbecue joint to sit for a while, order some food, but never eat a bite. He'd just sit there, lost in thought.

While others might not be able to guess why, Collin knew

Mrs. Blanchet, who had disappeared, had eaten here and loved the barbecue

Before Mrs Blanchet disappeared. Mr. Blanchet would occasionally ask him to get takeout from here for her. Even though Mr. Blanchet didn't like Mrs. Blanchet eating food of dubious origin, he would still compromise because she loved it.

In the past. Collin always thought that Patricia was the most important woman in Mr. Blanchet's heart because Mr. Blanchet would always do whatever Ms. Howard asked

of him

Only after Ellinor's appearance did Collin see what Mr. Blanchet was like when he truly fell for a woman.

Mr. Blanchet only felt indebted to Patricia because she had saved his life

But Mr. Blanchet was in love with Ellinor He was unswayed by any external factors and unable to pull himself away

Collin got back in the front passenger seat, then turned around to report, 'Mr. Blanchet, we still haven't found any leads on Ms. Mendoza "

"Hmm, how can a living person just disappear like that? Keep searching Theo's voice was calm but resolute, filled with unwavering determination and persistence

"Got it!" Collin nodded, signaling the driver with his eyes to start the car

The top of the line Mercedes business car slowly disappeared down the road, heading in the opposite direction of the car that had briefly stopped by the roadside

Chapter 484

Next evening.

Most of the employees at the Howard Group had called it a day and only Ellinor was left. She went to the washroom and changed into the formal outfit Balfour had asked her to wear the day before.

After dinner last night, Ida took her to a high-end custom dress studio and helped her pick out this elegant and exquisite evening dress. It had a one-word collar design, a veil texture, and gave off a hazy purple hue. The overall design was filled with an elfin vibe.

Most importantly, the dress wasn't too long, so it didn't feel cumbersome to wear, which was right up her alley.

After changing, Ellinor went back to her desk to wait for Balfour.

Twenty minutes later, Balfour stepped out of the president's office.

Ellinor stood up and bowed to him with an extremely professional attitude, "Mr. Howard"

Balfour glanced at her. However, when he saw her in the little dress, his gaze lingered, a warm color appeared on his face, and something in his heart felt gently touched

Ellinor felt a little uncomfortable under his gaze, "Mr. Howard?"

Balfour came back to his senses and said appreciatively, "Hmm, not bad"

Ellinor was slightly taken aback, then she smiled naturally, "Mr. Howard, are you complimenting my dress or my taste in choosing it?"

"Both are good." Balfour praised her generously, "Pack up your stuff and come with me."

"Okay, Mr. Howard." Ellinor had already packed up in advance.

She followed Balfour and together they entered the elevator.

When they reached the ground floor, the driver and Quinton were waiting at the entrance. Quinton was stunned to see Ellinor following Balfour out.

Quinton already knew that Ellinor was beautiful, but he didn't expect her to look this good all dressed up. Her aura was so outstanding that it even surpassed that of Ms.

Howard!

At this moment, there was only one phrase in Quinton's mind to describe Ellinor—She was like an elf that descended from heaven.

Balfour coughed

Quinton came back to his senses and quickly opened the car door for Balfour

Balfour got in the car and Ellinor also sat in the back seat. With the driver and Quinton in the front seats, she had no choice but to sit in the back.

As the car drove on, Ellinor was sitting more formally than usual to avoid looking ungraceful.

Balfour scrolled through his phone for a while, glanced at Ellinor sitting primly, and casually said, "Ms. Mendoza, are you dressed up so grandly to find new targets at the banquet?"

Ellinor didn't appreciate Balfour's malicious speculation. She gave a cold laugh, 'Mr. Howard, if it weren't for you insisting that I dress formally. I'd prefer to wear my usual clothes. To be honest, this dress isn't comfortable.'

"As for the new targets you're talking about... you have the right to speculate, but I'm innocent. If you don't trust me, no explanation from me would change that. So, I choose not to explain. As long as you're happy

Balfour put away his phone and looked at the eloquent Ellinor. He thought she had a kind of indescribable cuteness

However, he was a bit worried about the dress she was wearing, which looked very suitable for her.

Since she was all dressed up and attractive, Ellinor might get harassed by some immature boys

Chapter 485

Balfour couldn't figure out why he was feeling this undeniable concern for Ellinor, who was someone he didn't particularly like

He rubbed his temples, thinking maybe he was overworked and that was messing with his head

Soon, their car pulled up to Pearl Moon,

Ellinor followed Balfour out of the car and into Pearl Moon.

After a few steps, Balfour stopped suddenly, turned to look at Ellinor, and asked, "Cold?"

was a winter night, and the temperature had dropped significantly

Ellinor, in her thin dress, had arms going red from the cold, but she replied calmly. "I'm fine!

Balfour stared at her for a moment, then turned to Quinton and said, 'Quinton, get my coat from the car for Ms. Mendoza

Quinton looked surprised for a moment but did as he was told.

When Quinton draped a brand new coat over her shoulders, Ellinor was a bit taken aback. "Thank you for your concern."

Balfour replied nonchalantly, "Don't read too much into it. I just don't want you catching a cold and spreading it to me at work tomorrow."

Ellinor smiled, "I'm not overthinking it. I should be thankful for your care, no matter the reason. It's just common courtesy

Balfour gave her a glance but didn't say anything else and walked towards the banquet hall with Ellinor trailing behind.

Pearl Moon was the private property of the Howard family. At the entrance of the banquet hall, guests needed to sign in with their partners before they could enter

No exceptions, no matter who you were.

This was a tradition of the Howard family for celebrating birthdays

So, every year, Balfour would bring a date.

Inside the banquet hall, Balfour's arrival caused a bit of a stir

Balfour rarely attended such events, and his appearance drew everyone's attention. Only someone like Aunt Bluna could possibly cajole him into showing up

"Look, Mr. Howard brought a date!"

"Whose girl is that? I don't think I've seen her before."

"She's stunning! And she's wearing Mr. Howard's coat; they must be close."

"It's not unusual, Mr. Howard's of marrying age now. It's totally appropriate for him to bring a girlfriend to Aunt Bluna's birthday"

"I remember Haillie being Mr. Howard's date every year."

"Haillie only got to hang out with Mr. Howard because she was friends with Ms. Howard. This year, he's got his own date. Maybe he doesn't need her anymore."

"Yeah, I don't think Mr. Howard was ever interested in Haillie."

Balfour completely ignored the gossip around him. He surveyed the banquet hall, then said to Ellinor, "Find a spot to sit for a while; I need to greet some elders."

"Sure, Mr. Howard." Ellinor replied formally, thinking in her heart that Balfour was probably trying to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings by not introducing her to the elders

Balfour took a few steps, then stopped and looked back at Ellinor with a complicated expression.

What was he worried about?

Chapter 486

He couldn't express his feelings and was always worried about Ellinor being alone and unsafe.

Balfour turned around and asked her, 'You've got my number right?'

"Yeah, I saved your number"

"Good, call me if anything happens before I get back."

"Alright."

Only then did Balfour actually leave, his tall figure disappearing into the bustling crowd.

And just now, when Balfour came in with Ellinor, Haillie and Patricia, who were chatting on the stairs, saw everything and felt uncomfortable. Patricia forced a smile, "Looks like Balfour really cares about Ellinor! That jacket she's wearing I gave it to Balfour a few days ago!"

The jacket was originally for Theo, but he didn't accept it. She felt disappointed and thought it would be a waste to throw it away, so she gave it to Balfour.

After all, Balfour and Theo were about the same size, so it was not a big deal

But now seeing that jacket on Ellinor made Patricia feel really uncomfortable

Why would Balfour give Ellinor his jacket? Wasn't Balfour supposed to hate Ellinor?

Haillie felt even worse. She chugged her wine, complaining furiously, "Patricia, you see it too! How good is Ellinor really? How could she manage to make Balfour care about her in just a few days?"

For years, Haillie had been the one accompanying Balfour to birthday dinners, trying hard to win his affection but never getting anything in return.

Why did Ellinor get to have Balfour's attention?

The more she thought about it, the angrier Haillie got. She stomped down the stairs, shouting at Ellinor, "You shameless woman, have you no decency?"

Ellinor was tasting a cupcake at the dessert station. Hearing the voice, she turned to look at Haillie, smirking. "Oh, it's Haillie! Who pissed you off? Why are you spewing insults?"

Ellinor turned her head, her beautiful face was a sight to behold. She had a bit of cream on her lips and didn't realize it, looking absolutely adorable.

Seeing Ellinor like this made Haillie even angrier, "First you seduced others, now you're trying to seduce my Balfour! Ellinor, can't you live without men?"

Ellinor laughed. 'Seems like the one who can't live without men isn't me. Right now, the one throwing a hissy fit because of a lack of male company is you, isn't it. Haillie?'

Haillie gritted her teeth in anger, 'Ellinor...'

She was having a hard time swallowing her pride, reaching for a cupcake to throw at Ellinor's face!

Seeing this, Patricia hurriedly stopped Haillie, "Don't!"

Haillie was feeling down because she couldn't be Balfour's companion and had already had quite a bit of wine. If she lost control because of the alcohol and made things worse, the situation would become very tricky

Chapter 487

"Haillie, Ellinor came with Balfour because of work. It's not what you're thinking! Alright, you've had too much to drink. Let's go to the balcony and get some fresh air to sober you up!"

Haillie looked a bit pissed off. She wanted to confront Ellinor but Patricia managed to calm her down. She shot Ellinor a dirty look before following Patricia to the balcony. The evening breeze on the balcony was chilling.

Haillie sobered up a bit but her resentment didn't subside. 'Patricia, you shouldn't have stopped me. I should've put Ellinor in her place!'

Patricia shook her head with understanding and patience. Haillie, you were too hot headed. Don't forget it's Aunt Bluna's birthday party!"

Haillie shivered as she realized this and instantly regretted her actions

She almost forgot that this party was for the elder of the Howard family, Aunt Bluna.

Aunt Bluna was a tough cookie, and causing a scene at her birthday party would be a surefire way to get on her bad side.

If that happened, not only would Haillie be kicked out on the spot, but she'd also lose Aunt Bluna's support for her relationship with Balfour

"Patricia, thank god you stopped me. Otherwise, I would've pissed off Aunt Bluna, and that would've been a mess!"

"As long as you understand, Haillie"

Patricia actually didn't want to intervene. She would've loved to see Ellinor get a piece of Haillie's mind but only if she could watch from the sidelines without getting involved

But she was right there and if something had happened, Aunt Bluna would've blamed her too. She had a stake in this. So she couldn't let Haillie lay a hand on Ellinor.

"Well, isn't this Patricia? Long time no see, you've become even more stunning!"

A dangerous voice suddenly came from behind

Patricia turned around and saw a man in a plaid suit swaying a glass of red wine with a naughty smile on his face.

Patricia was taken aback for a moment before recognizing him. "York, it's you"

This man was York Mayes. He was the son of Patricia's mother's relative. He was a notorious womanizer, gambler, and all around, troublemaker. A few years ago, he got sentenced for messing with a girl. He should've been released by now, but he seemed unchanged

After acknowledging Patricia, York's gaze immediately landed on the dolled up Haillie

"You must be Patricia's good friend, Haillie, right? Long time no see. You've changed a lot. You look better"

York's gaze was uncomfortably intense. Haillie stepped back. If he wasn't Patricia's cousin, she'd have slapped him already.

Patricia, of course, noticed his inappropriate behavior. She quickly changed the subject, pointing in a certain direction in the banquet hall. "York, look over there! That beautiful girl is just your type, and she's single!"

York's gaze finally shifted from Haillie and followed where Patricia was pointing. His eyes lit up when he saw the ethereal beauty, Ellinor

Chapter 488

"Who's that? She's quite a locker! York Maves gazing in Ellinor's direction, swallowed hard.

Seeing York Maves animated reaction. Haillie chuckled “Not only is that girl a looker, but she’s a real hoot! Go chat her up, you’re gonna love her!”

York Mayes interest was piqued “A hoot? How so?”

Hallie shot him a mischievous grin. Well all those games guys enjoy, she’s a whiz at them!”

York Maves stroked his chin almost drooling with excitement, “Nice! Patricia, I won’t keep you guys, I’m off to chat up that babe

Patricia feigned concern as she watched York Mayes strut over to Ellinor

ie do you think it’s night to send York off to Ellinor like that?

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shrugged. “What’s the big deal? All Ellinor wants is a loaded guy, right? She’s been trying to get close to Theo and Balfour. York might not be filthy rich, but he’s

Ellinors league! If they hit it off it’s all good and we won’t have to worry about Ellinor making a play for our guys!”

“But Patricia looked unconvinced, but after a moment of thought, she nodded, “You have a point, Haillie. It wouldn’t be the worst thing if Ellinor and York tied the knot. We could end up as family and see each other more often”

Haillie shook her head and was amused by Patricia’s naivety. How could she still hope to be family with Ellinor?

“Right Marrying York would be quite a catch for Ellinor, shed be lucky!”

With a consensus reached they both turned to look at Ellinor to see that York Mayes was already chatting her up.

After indulging in too many sweets, Ellinor felt parched. She picked up an orange drink from the buffet, gave it a sniff to make sure it wasn’t alcoholic, and then took a sip. It was a refreshing fruit juice

She felt a mix of emotions as she stood alone in the buffet area, sipping her drink and taking in the decor of Pearl Moon,

She had visited Pearl Moon a few times before and always felt a sense of familiarity, but she never thought much of it.

Only now did she realize that this sense of familianty was because she was once a child of the Howard family.

What exactly did the Howard family do that forced her mother to flee with her, hide their identity, and even leave her in the care of an old classmate she hadn’t contacted for years while disappearing with her whereabouts still unknown?

Thinking of her missing mother made Ellinor feel down and her distaste for the Howard family deepened.

“Hi there, why are you drinking alone?”

Snapping back to reality Ellinor glanced at the man who had approached her. He was wearing a flashy plaid suit, had average looks, and seemed a bit sleazy

She replied calmly, it’s not alcohol, just juice”

York Mayes picked up a fancy-looking dessert from the buffet for Ellinor, “Aunt Bluna’s parties always have the best sweets. Try this cake, it’s delicious.”

“Thank you, but I’ve already had some” Ellinor declined politely, but her interest was piqued by his previous statement. “Are you part of the Howard family?”

York Mayes didn’t hide it and nodded Yes, I am part of the Howard family!”

Chapter 489

He was Patricia’s cousin, so he guessed that made him part of the Howard clan

Being a Howard was like having a badge of honor, and he wanted a piece of that action too.

Ellinor looked at York Mayes, noticing his connection to the Howards. He didn’t seem too bright, so she figured she might be able to get some info about the Howards from him.

A sharp cookie like Balfour was always on his toes, so she wouldn’t be able to get a peep out of him.

With this in mind, Ellinor gave York Mayes a friendly smile, “Hi, nice to meet you.”

York Mayes was charmed by Ellinor’s smile, ‘Nice to meet you too! What should I call you?”

Ellinor replied, “Just call me Ms. Mendoza.

“Ms. Mendoza, you can call me York!” York Mayes tentatively asked, “By the way, Ms. Mendoza, is that jacket you’re wearing your boyfriend’s?”

If she had a boyfriend, especially one with a high profile, he’d have to tread lightly.

Ellinor answered honestly. “Not a boyfriend! I came with my boss, he’s a gentleman and was kind enough to lend me his coat

York Mayes grinned, satisfied, “Oh, I see! My date ditched me for the dance floor! Ms. Mendoza, looks like we re both being used, huh?”

“Yeah, looks like it!”

“Ms. Mendoza, is this your first time at Pearl Moon? If you’re free, I could give you a tour here.”

“Really? I heard Pearl Moon doesn’t let just anyone wander around and wants people to stay in the ballroom”

York Mayes was stoked to see that Ellinor was willing to go with him.

Ellinor thought York Mayes was just hitting on her and was oblivious to his ulterior motives.

She really wanted to explore Pearl Moon, hoping it might trigger some memories from her past.

But because of her status, she couldn't just roam around, if caught, it would raise Balfours suspicion and possibly cost her job.

However, if one of the Howards were to guide her, that'd be a different story

York Mayes earnestly said. "Of course, Pearl Moon belongs to the Howards, there's no place off-limits to me!

Ellinor nodded, "Alright, please show me around then "

York Mayes thought this woman was easy to get along with, quickly agreeing to go with him as if she were accepting his invitation.

Haillie said this woman knew how to have a good time and it seemed like she was correct.

She seemed innocent, but probably knew how to let loose more than anyone else.

He liked that type of woman, it gave him a thrill.

York Mayes was itching to show Ellinor around and lead her upstairs to the second floor of the ballroom.

He remembered that the second floor of Pearl Moon had many vacant rooms, each with a big bed that was spacious and comfy.

Chapter 490

York Mayes was leading Ellinor down the gallery on the second floor, planning to take her to a bigger room

Ellinor stopped in her tracks, eyeing the painting hanging on the wall. It reminded her of her mother's style

Seeing her pause, York Mayes looked confused 'Ms. Mendoza, is something up? Why the sudden halt?'

Eyes still on the painting, Ellinor asked, "You're a part of the Howard family, right? You must know the ins and outs of their business?"

York Mayes chuckled. Wanting to come off as clever in front of this intriguing lady, he replied, 'Absolutely! How could I not?'

Ellinor decided to test him. I've heard that the current Mrs. Howard is McNeil Howard's second wife. Is that true?"

York Mayes knew the answer to that. Yup! McNeil Howard's first wife is no longer with us. The current Mrs. Howard has a son and a daughter. She's the apple of his eye"

"I see" Ellinor continued probing "Did McNeil Howard's first wife pass away from illness?"

York Mayes let out a mocking laugh 'Rumor has it, she ran off with another man. No news since then. Given how long it's been, I guess she might be six feet under now Hard to believe, huh? Even a man like McNeil Howard got his woman stolen."

Ellinor pressed on. Really? Who did she run off with?"

York Mayes didn't know the truth and didn't dare make up stories about the Howard family. So he changed the subject. 'Ms. Mendoza, why waste time on this nonsense? Let's move on to the next room and chat about something more interesting'

But Ellinor didn't budge. Hold on, I have another question."

York Mayes was growing impatient as his mind filled with thoughts of romance. 'Alright. What's up?'

"Did the Howard family have a child named Pearl Howard?"

"Indeed! Mr McNeil Howard did have a daughter named Pearl. But word on the street is that she's the love child of his first wife and some other man. Poor McNeil Howard

played daddy for years!"

Ellinor's eyes dimmed. She refused to believe that her mother could do such a thing "Was there evidence to support this?"

York Mayes didn't know and was uninterested in further discussion. "Ms. Mendoza, let's move on! Enough with prying into other people's business. We should focus on what's between us

Ellinor raised an eyebrow. "What's between us? What are we supposed to discuss?"

"What else could a man and a woman talk about? Come on in York Mayes was impatient. He pulled Ellinor into a room and locked the door.

The room was spacious and well furnished. The most eye-catching feature was the large bed and attached bathroom.

Seeing this, Ellinor frowned. "Mr. York Mayes, what are you up to?"

York Mayes thought she was playing dumb. He found it amusing and said, "Why, we're going to do what you enjoy darling! Strip down, and I'll show you exactly what we're going to do'

Ellinor's eyes flashed with disdain. "Why should I undress?"

York Mayes was getting frustrated. "Quit playing coy. I've been told that you know how to have a good time. Strip down and come serve me. Make me happy, and I'll shower you with money"

Ellinor look a step back, deep in thought 'Can I take a bath first?"