

## The Kiss 491

### Chapter 491

York Mayes couldn't wait to get undressed, unbuckling his belt and saying. No need for a shower! Strip off and get in bed, now!"

Ellinor winked and began playing coy. "Alright! But you've gotta shut your eyes first. I'm a bit shy about undressing"

York Mayes burst out laughing, thinking she was getting into character, Looks like you're into this kind of play! Fine, I'll close my eyes and won't peek at you undressing"

He then closed his eyes with a grin.

Ellinor's eyes turned icy. She whipped out her phone and started recording filming York Mayes face She teased. "York Mayes, who told you I'm a wild one?"

York Mayes licked his lips, rubbing his hands together, 'Don't worry about who told me! Strip now, I can't wait to see your figure!"

Ellinor huffed, pretending to be mad, "You're not allowed to open your eyes! If you don't tell me who told you, I'm not stripping!"

York Mayes chuckled lewdly, "I'll tell you, alright! It was Haillie. She said you like to play the games men enjoy. I want to have some fun with you, too!"

Ellinor laughed. "Is that so? You trust her that much, what if she's wrong?"

"I dont care if she's wrong or not, I'm into you tonight!"

"And what if I refuse?"

York Mayes thought she was adding spice to the moment, "Refuse? Don't blame me if I get handsy! Even if I have to force you. I'm having you tonight"

Ellinor sneered, saying, "Alright, you can open your eyes now!

York Mayes opened his eyes expectantly, but found her still fully clothed and was immediately furious, "What the hell? Why are you still dressed?"

Ellinor looked at the video she had just recorded on her phone, saved it, and said coldly. Im not into the games you're talking about! You've got the wrong girl!"

"You're playing me? If you won't listen to reason, you'll have to bear the consequences. If you won't strip, I'll do it for you!" York Mayes lost his patience and lunged at Ellinor like a starving wolf.

Ellinor calmly lifted her foot and kicked him hard in the crotch!

York Mayes turned pale instantly, clutching his crotch and howling in pain as tears streamed down his face.

“That’s all you’ve got? And you thought you could do whatever you wanted with me? What a joke!” Ellinor waved her phone, the screen displaying the video she had just recorded. “York Mayes, I’ve got everything you just said on tape. It’s enough to prove your attempted rape!”

York Mayes was under her control, ‘You vicious woman! You...’

Just then, there was a sound from outside the room.

“Balfour, I just saw Ellinor going into a room with some guy, do you think she’s in danger? But it seemed like she went in willingly!”

It was Haillie’s voice!

So she brought Balfour along?

The doorknob was twisted from the outside but didn’t open. Balfour’s stern voice suddenly rang out, ‘Open the door!’

Chapter 492

Hearing Balfour’s voice, York Mayes was clearly panicked, hurriedly picking up his clothes from the floor and pulling them on

“Balfour it’s me! I was feeling a bit tipsy from drinking downstairs and came up here to rest awhile! I’m all alone! What’s up? You need something?”

Oh, how did Balfour find him here?

He thought he heard Haillie say that Ms. Mendoza was Balfour’s secretary and remembered her mentioning she came with her boss.

Shoot!

If York Mayes had known this earlier, he wouldn’t have dared touch Balfour’s people.

“Open the door!” Balfour wasn’t up for chit-chat, he reiterated

York Mayes was scared out of his wits. He hastily put on his clothes and opened the door, awkwardly smiling, “Balfour, what brings you here?”

One icy glance from Balfour had York Mayes retreating automatically

Balfour scanned the room but didn’t see anyone else.

York Mayes was also stunned. That girl was just here! Where did she run off to?

Even better if she was not here, there was less of a chance of him getting caught red handed by Balfour. He wouldn’t even know how to explain his way out of it.

“Balfour, who are you looking for? Didn’t I just tell you that I’m the only one in this room resting?”

Haillie, sensing something off, followed into the room. She looked around, rummaged a bit, and then with a puzzled face, said. “Huh? Where is she? That’s not right, I clearly saw Ellinor going in with York!”

Just then, the sound of running water could be heard from the bathroom. Haillie immediately pointed to the bathroom, "Balfour, she's probably in the bathroom!"

Balfour also heard the noise coming from the bathroom and grilled York Mayes, "Who's in the bathroom?"

York Mayes was feeling a bit guilty, "No one!"

"Balfour, it must be Ellinor in the bathroom. Is she taking a shower after you know? Haillie had an incredulous and embarrassed expression

York Mayes knew he had fallen for Haillie's trap when he saw her leading Balfour here. He was already on edge and snapped at her

"Haillie, quit talking out of your ass! Even if I did bring a girl here, she wouldn't be showering right now, I'm not that fast!"

Haillie was speechless.

She felt York Mayes was shameless and thought him quite fitting for Ellinor.

Balfour, with a stern face, walked over and knocked on the bathroom door, 'Who's in there? Come out now!"

However, aside from the sound of water, there was no response, and no one came to open the door.

"Balfour, what's going on? Why are you and Haillie here? What happened?" Patricia happened to pass by, walked in with some unease, and asked curiously

Actually, she deliberately brought some of the kids from the relatives to watch the drama, pretending to just be passing by.

Haillie walked up to Patricia and explained, "Patricia, Balfour is looking for his secretary! But Ellinor is here with York...they're together in this room."

Patricia's face instantly turned red, "Ah.. how is that possible? Didn't Ellimar and York just meet in the banquet hall?"

## Chapter 493

Haillie sounded a bit annoyed "Things move so fast these days! They just met and have already spent the night together! Patricia, maybe we're just old-fashioned i can't really wrap my head around how a girl can be so easy"

The friends that Patricia brought with her overheard the juicy gossip and immediately whipped out their phones to inform their other friends to come and enjoy the drama

And that was exactly what Patricia wanted. She wanted everyone to know that Ellinor was being played, used, and was now tainted goods

With Ellinor out of the picture, she wouldn't have any competition for Theo

On the inside, Patricia was scheming, but on the outside, she put on a helpless face and sighed, Balfour, although this situation is a bit over the top, Ellinor and York are both single its their life, we shouldn't interfere. Let's just hope they get along well in the future"

Freedom? is freedom sleeping with a guy you just met?

Balfour didn't know where his anger was coming from, but he couldn't control it.

He originally thought that Ellinor was a capable girl with a good work ethic. He had changed his opinion of her thinking she wasn't the flirty type he thought she was

Now, all he felt was disappointment and disgust

How could a girl who was both beautiful and talented have so little self-respect and love and go into a room with a man after a few simple words?

Balfour's refined upbringing kept him from lashing out, but his voice was chillingly calm, "Patricia, go open the bathroom door and call out whoever is in there!

Patricia tried to dissuade Balfour a few times, then reluctantly headed towards the bathroom

She was more eager than anyone to see Ellinor publicly humiliated and throw her reputation in the gutter.

She approached the bathroom door and knocked lightly, "Ellinor, I'm sorry, but if you don't come out, I'm going in!

There was no response from inside the bathroom.

Patricia feigned helplessness and opened the door, 'Ellinor."

The bathroom was empty, save for a bathtub filling with water.

Weird, where is Ellinor!?

Haillie followed Patricia into the bathroom and froze when she saw it was empty

They searched the bathroom but found no one

A crowd of curious people had gathered at the doorway, waiting to see what kind of woman would be so bold as to sneak away with a man during a party Hearing Patricia say the bathroom was empty, Balfour also stepped in for a look, then turned to York Mayes with a cold voice, "Where's Ellinor?"

York Mayes was as puzzled as they were. He had no idea where Ellinor had gone, let alone how she had vanished.

But he quickly gathered his wits, pretending to be innocent, Who's Ellinor? I don't know her! I haven't seen the Ellinor you're looking for!"

Balfour narrowed his eyes, emitting a powerful pressure, 'I'll ask you again, where is Ellinor?"

York Mayes felt a chill down his spine, "I don't know....

"Mr. Howard, are you looking for me?"

Ellinor's voice suddenly came from the back of the crowd

Chapter 494

Balfour paused slightly, looked towards the source of the voice, and sure enough, Ellinor was weaving her way through the crowd, casually strolling up to him. "Mr. Howard, did you need something?"

York Maves, Patricia, and Haillie all looked surprised

What was going on? How come Ellinor was coming in from outside?

Balfour looked at her seriously. "Where have you been?"

Ellinor replied calmly. "Nowhere in particular, I was waiting for you downstairs. I saw a bunch of people running up here, so I thought something had happened and came up to check it out. And lo and behold, you're here looking for me! Mr. Howard, why are you looking for me here?"

Balfour struggled to find a response.

How was he supposed to respond to that?

Say that he thought she was fooling around with another guy?

Haillie, looking incredulous, stepped forward to call her out, "Ellinor, quit playing innocent. I saw you go into this room with York Mayes! You must've snuck out and are now pretending to just be coming in!"

Ellinor looked at Haillie, her expression as if she had no clue what she was talking about, "What? Who's York Mayes?"

Haillie's eyes, beautifully made up, went wide, 'You're still playing dumb!"

Ellinor frowned as a touch of helplessness and grievance flickered in her eyes, "Haillie, we have no grudges against each other. Why do you always try to sully my reputation? Is it because you're bitter because you're not Mr. Howard's date today?"

At this, she turned back to Balfour, Mr. Howard, don't have me accompany you for non work-related events next time. It seems to make your admirers see me as an enemy and cause unnecessary trouble for both of us."

Haillie's face immediately turned sour, and she hastily explained, "Balfour, don't listen to her nonsense. I'm not like that! I really did see Ellinor go into this room with York Mayes!

Balfour looked at the incessantly noisy Haillie with a hint of annoyance in his eyes.

He was well aware of her feelings for him, but because she was Patricia's good friend, he'd always been lenient with her.

She had caused him no small amount of trouble over the years.

This incident was likely due to her jealousy.

Ellinor looked around at everyone, 'Can I ask who Mr. York Mayes is?"

York Mayes looked a bit confused and awkwardly stood up, "Um, that's me."

Ellinor smiled at him, 'Hello, I don't know you Do you know me?

York Mayes was taken aback. He knew he couldn't admit to nearly hitting on Balfour's secretary now. He quickly shook his head, "No, I don't think we've met!"

Right, we haven't met Ellinor turned back to Haillie, "Haillie, see? Mr. York Mayes and I clearly don't know each other?

York Mayes quickly chimed in, gaining some confidence, 'Exactly! We don't know each other at all! Balfour, I just had a bit to drink and was tired. I wanted to take a bath and rest here. I had just started filling the tub when you guys knocked on the door, I'm totally confused"

Balfour felt somewhat guilty towards Ellinor, but he was anything but polite to the scoundrel York Mayes, "This is not a place for you to take a bath and rest. Get dressed and go home. Do whatever you want there!"

York Mayes laughed awkwardly. "Balfour, we're family What's the big deal if I take a bath here? Don't be so harsh!"

Balfour gave a cold smile, "Do you want to leave on your own, or should I have someone escort you home?"

...I'll leave on my own! Right away!" York Mayes, realizing that Balfour was about to have him kicked out, was immediately frightened. Not wanting to cause more trouble, he quickly buttoned up his clothes, picked up his coat from the floor, and hurriedly left.

With the show over, the crowd at the door gradually dispersed

## Chapter 495

Balfour gave Ellinor a sideways glance. He noticed her in just a cocktail dress and frowned, 'Ms. Mendoza, where's your coat?"

Ellinor looked at her bare shoulders, suddenly realizing her coat was missing. Oh, crap!

Turned out she had lost it when she climbed out of the bathroom window into the next room.

Ever since she got pregnant, she was no longer as agile as before. This kind of blunder was not supposed to happen.

Now that the cat was out of the bag, she had to come up with an excuse, I'm sorry, Mr. Howard. I accidentally got your coat dirty and left it downstairs. I'll compensate you, the finance department can deduct it from my salary"

Feeling like he nearly jumped the gun when he accused her, Balfour felt a bit embarrassed and waved it off, "No biggie, it's just a coat."

"Thank you, Mr Howard Ellinor let out a sigh of relief.

Patricia gritted her teeth on the side. That was the expensive, limited edition coat she gifted Balfour

He just shrugged off the gift she gave him for Ellinor? She totally underestimated Ellinor, Who knew she could have Balfour eating out of her hand.

“Whats going on? Why is everyone gathered here? What happened?”

An elegant woman’s voice rang out. Her voice was authoritative yet gentle and exuded a mature sophistication.

Someone respectfully called out, “Aunt Bluna!”

A woman in her thirties emerged, adorning a navy blue mermaid evening gown, and exuding calm and grandeur

Patricia excitedly ran up, sweetly calling. “Aunt Bluna!”

Haillie couldn’t help but compliment her. “Aunt Bluna, your gown is absolutely gorgeous tonight. It suits you perfectly and makes you look radiant and grand!”

Aunt Bluna merely glanced at Haillie, ignoring the grinning Patricia, and turned to Balfour, “Balfour, what’s going on? Why is everyone gathered here?” –

Balfour explained, “Aunt Bluna, it’s nothing Just a little misunderstanding earlier. It’s all sorted out now.”

Aunt Bluna had OCD and hated anyone messing up her order, including the order of her birthday party

“Balfour, who did you come with today? Where’s your date?”

Aunt Bluna suddenly seemed to notice something as her gaze landed on Ellinor, “Who is she? I don’t recall meeting her!”

Balfour introduced her calmly. “Aunt Bluna, she’s my date”

Ellinor, looking at the lavishly dressed woman, nodded respectfully, “Hello, I’m Mr. Howard’s date tonight and also his newly appointed secretary. My name is Ellinar.”

Aunt Bluna’s piercing gaze scrutinized Ellinor from head to toe, “Is that dress you’re wearing Comi’s latest model this year – Elf in the Mist?”

Chapter 496

Ellinor chuckled, “Wow, you’ve got some serious fashion smarts, huh? Recognizing the brand and collection just like that!”

Aunt Bluna replied elegantly, I attended the launch event for this Comi ensemble in person, so it left quite an impression. Ms. Mendoza, you have impeccable taste. The dress suits you wonderfully, and you wear it even better than the model did.”

Ellinor took the compliment in stride, grinning widely, “Thanks, you’re too kind.”

Aunt Bluna admired Ellinor’s grace and poise, giving her a once-over before extending an invitation, I’m Bluna Howard, editor-in-chief of the weekly Fashion Pyramid. Ms. Mendoza, would you be interested in modeling for our magazine?

While Ellinor wasn't particularly tall, she had a fantastic figure and striking features.

But she politely declined. I'm sorry, I just started working at Mr. Howards company and I'm not considering changing jobs at the moment."

Aunt Bluna looked slightly disappointed, "You have such a great image; it's such a waste for you to work as a secretary!"

Ellinor kept her smile. I'm honored by your praise. Even though I'm not looking to change jobs, I'd be happy to help out in my spare time"

With that, she turned to Balfour, Mr. Howard, would it be okay if I took on a part time job?

Before Balfour could answer, Aunt Bluna cut in with an air of authority. Don't bother asking him. He wouldn't dare say no, would he? What reason would he have to object to his employee helping me out? Ms. Mendoza, give me your number. I'll be in touch."

Balfour was helpless and didn't say anything

Ellinor took Aunt Bluna's phone and keyed in her number

Aunt Bluna looked at Ellinor with satisfaction and began liking her more and more. She had a familiar feeling about this young woman but couldn't quite put her finger on what it was

Haillie, who was standing nearby, was green with envy watching Ellinor easily win Aunt Bluna's approval.

Aunt Bluna was a renowned editor of a top fashion magazine, nicknamed the "Fashion Devil" in the industry. Those who made it onto the pages of Fashion Pyramid were either global superstars or the elite.

Haillie thought, 'What's so special about Ellinor? She's a plain Jane How could she be a model for Fashion Pyramid?

Patricia stepped forward, smiling sweetly. Aunt Bluna, I didn't know your company needed models. I've had a lot of free time since coming back to the country I'd be happy to help out, that way you wouldn't have to bother Balfour's secretary. With how busy things are at Balfours company. Ellinor might get overwhelmed if she had to model on

the side"

Aunt Bluna looked at Patricia, her serious expression not portraying much warmth, "Patri, it's not that I don't want to use you, but your image doesn't quite suit the style of Fashion Pyramid."

Patricia's smile faltered, and she nodded slightly, looking a bit hurt, I'm sorry Aunt Bluna. I assumed too much and thought I could be of help."

Haillie couldn't help defending Patricia, "Aunt Bluna, are you saying Patricia isn't beautiful enough? Don't forget, she was a finalist in the Miss World pageant! If she hadn't had to withdraw because of health issues, she would've been the winner for sure!"

"And what good would that have done?" Aunt Bluna looked thoughtful as she regarded Haillie, then turned back to Patricia with a hint of disdain in her eyes, "Patri is beautiful, but she lacks a certain self-



confidence and freedom. She doesn't have the standout quality I'm looking for. Fashion Pyramids style is all about being independent, free, and different. She doesn't have that, and there's no need to force it. It's better for her to focus on her health at home."

## Chapter 497

Aunt Bluna's beef with Patricia wasn't fresh news.

Patricia had been a spineless jellyfish since day one. She bent over backward for men, especially when Mr. Blanchet was around, she would completely lose herself. Aunt Bluna had zero respect for girls who couldn't live without a man, if Patricia weren't related, she wouldn't give her the time of day

Haillie scowled, looking at Ellinor with distaste, "Is Ms. Mendoza really prettier than Patricia" I don't see it!

Aunt Bluna turned her gaze to Ellinor, her eyes lighting up with admiration. 'Ms. Mendoza's a different breed. She might be petite and cute, but there's a certain toughness in her eyes She oozes confidence, but most importantly, she's got this aloof aura when it comes to men and power. That's the vibe we've been chasing at Fashion Pyramid!' Haillie bit her lip in displeasure, thinking Ellinor was just putting on an act. Even a powerhouse like Aunt Bluna was taken in

By now, Patricia's face was as red as a tomato, and getting called out by Aunt Bluna in front of everyone was mortifying

Aunt Bluna, the fashion oddball who barely ever socialized with her own family, was now fawning over Ellinor and even making a sincere invitation, Patricia was seething with jealousy.

Even Haillie's defense didn't make Aunt Bluna budge

Patricia wanted to turn to Balfour for help, hoping he'd put in a good word for her, but just as she was caught in a dilemma, something caught her eye.

She saw a familiar figure standing behind the crowd. It was the man she'd been longing for

Patricia lit up, "Theo, when did you get here?"

Theo stood at the back of the crowd, and his towering height and overwhelming presence were impossible to ignore.

Theo

Theo!

Ellinor's heart skipped a beat and her gaze quickly shifted.

There Theo was, standing still like a stone statue, emanating a chilling aura.

What was he doing here?

Weren't the Blanchet family supposed to skip the Howard family's party?

Ellinor was panic-stricken; her fists clenched tightly, and her mind was a mess.

In the end, she came face to face with Theo

Patricia pushed through the crowd towards the man she'd been pining for. "Theo, didn't you have a business trip yesterday? You came back so quickly?"

Chapter 498

Theo's sudden appearance took everyone aback, and they started whispering among themselves

"Holy cow! Am I seeing things? Did Theo really show up at the Howard family's bash?"

"Mr. Blanchet must be here for Ms. Howard, right? Breaking traditions to woo the girl he's head over heels in love with, who belongs to a family he's supposed to be feuding with. Talk about making a grand gesture!"

I heard that despite the opposition from his own family, Mr. Blanchet is hell bent on getting engaged to Ms. Howard

"Regardless of everything else, Theo is seriously hot! I'm green with envy. Ms. Howard is one lucky gal; not only does she have Balfour, who adores her, but she's also got this power player as her fiancé

Theo, with his head down, responded to Patricia, "Mm-hmm"

Though his response was brief, it left tons of room for speculation

Theo's deep and lazy voice seemed to make their relationship crystal clear to the onlookers.

It was as if Theo and Patricia had become a cozy couple who didn't need much verbal communication.

However, seeing Patricia and Theo standing together, Balfour furrowed his brows.

Theo's presence was definitely not expected

Subsequently, Balfour subconsciously glanced at Ellinor's reaction.

Ellinor was emotionless as usual, her face didn't portray any particular emotion.

Aunt Bluna seemed a bit miffed, she coldly looked at Theo, clearly unhappy with Patricia's closeness with him.

Aunt Bluna elegantly said. "Mr. Blanchet, I don't recall inviting you to my birthday party. You came uninvited, is this how the Blanchets usually roll?"

Theo's expression was indifferent as his gaze was fixed on a certain someone

After a while, he turned to Aunt Bluna and calmly said, 'Apologies for the intrusion, I'm here to find someone.'

Aunt Bluna frowned, "Find someone? At my birthday party?"

"A woman'

Aunt Bluna didn't care who Theo was looking for, she was just extremely displeased with his presence, "Mr. Blanchet, you came here uninvited today. Did you abide by the party rules? Are you accompanied by a lady?"

Aunt Bluna was a control freak, she despised it when people broke her rules.

Theo didn't give Aunt Bluna any slack either, he was about to retort

To defuse the tension, Patricia interjected with a smile, "Of course Theo is here for me. I'm his date today!"

Aunt Bluna looked at Patricia's expression and was extremely disappointed. She frowned in annoyance, feeling helpless.

However, Theo didn't accept Patricia's explanation, he ignored her and walked straight towards another woman.

Ellinor took a deep breath and silently prayed. Whether it was good luck or bad luck, there was no avoiding it now.

She was mentally prepared. No matter what Theo would do, she had to stay calm and respond appropriately.

Theo fixed his gaze on her and walked straight up to her

Chapter 499

Ellinor almost got bumped into by Theo, but he slightly altered his pace, sidestepped her, and kept on going.

Ellinor froze

"Who let you out this late?"

Theo's stern and deep voice echoed from behind her.

Ellinor snapped back to reality and turned her head to look.

Belinda Wesley was standing in the crowd of onlookers and wore a face of displeasure I'm just attending my social activities after work; it's not like I'm up to no good!"

Belinda finished her reply to Theo, her eyes darting towards Ellinor, giving her a small wave and a cheeky grin.

Ellinor finally got it, Theo was here for Belinda!

She thought Theo was here for her.

Well, this was better. Theo wasn't there for her and he barely reacted when he saw her

That was good

At that moment, Patricia sauntered over to Theo, leaning affectionately on him, and spoke to Belinda with warmth, "Belinda, when did you get here? I didn't see you!"

Belinda responded with indifference, "Oh, I've been here for a while. I was just downstairs dancing and chatting with friends, then I heard there was some fun up here, so I came up I didn't expect to see..."

Before she could say 'Ellinor', Belinda felt Theo's seemingly calm but extremely intimidating gaze. She swallowed her words.

Theo commanded sternly, 'Go home now; Collin is at the door and he will take you home.'

How could she dare disobey Thea's order? Belinda shrank her neck, "Oh, fine, I'll go home!"

This was so annoying, she was all grown up and still got scolded by Theo in public!

Belinda grumbled under her breath, 'Really now, I'm 21, not a kid I can't even hang out after work; what's wrong with an adult coming home late? Ugh!

While grumbling, she headed towards the door. As she walked past Ellinor, Belinda couldn't help but give her a teasing wink and stick out her tongue.

Ellinor cracked a smile and returned the look.

It's been a while since she saw Belinda.

Under the scrutiny and whispers of the onlookers, Belinda descended the stairs on her own.

After Belinda left, Patricia sighed, "Theo, you seemed a bit too harsh on Belinda. She made it here today, you should let her enjoy herself before sending her home, even if it gets late, she could stay over or we could have our driver take her home"

"You can't handle her Theo replied.

Patricia chuckled. 'Oh, come on. How could that be? I think Belinda's personality is great. She's much like Byran, a little stubborn and mischievous, but deep down she's very sensible

Theo didn't answer Patricia, and his gaze was firmly on Ellinor, as if countless invisible threads were tightly wrapped around her

Ellinor felt the pressure

On the surface, everything seemed calm, but inside, she was a total mess.

If she could become invisible, she would disappear from this place immediately!

## Chapter 500

The atmosphere suddenly got so tense that you could cut it with a knife. There was dead silence all around

Was Mr Blanchet eyeballing Balfour's secretary?

Theo's gaze was cold and piercing hinting at some complex and dangerous undercurrents that sent shivers down your spine, even as an onlooker

Aunt Bluna also noticed something was off about Theo's gaze

Why was he eyeing Balfour's secretary like a kid in a candy store?

Wasn't Theo satisfied with Patricia? How could he be eyeing another girl?

Men! They were never satisfied with what they had and always wanted more. But She had gotta admit, his taste wasn't half bad. That girl, Ellinor, was a real looker

Aunt Bluna wasn't exactly thrilled about Theo's arrival and was about to tell him to hit the road when a servant who seemed to be looking for something walked up, saying "Mrs. Bluna, there you are! Mr. Howard wants you to come quickly. He says he's got something to ask you"

"What's it about?" Mrs. Bluna asked.

The servant shook his head, "Mr. Howard senior didn't say. He only told me it was urgent and to fetch you right away!"

Mrs. Bluna gave a nod, apologized to the other guests, and followed the servant out.

This little interruption broke the uncomfortable silence and people started whispering amongst themselves again.

"Why does Mr. Blanchet keep looking at that girl?"

"Do they know each other?"

"Ms. Howard is right next to him, but Mr. Blanchet barely glanced her way!"

"What's going on?"

Patricia was anything but pleased when she saw Theo's gaze fixed on Ellinor and heard the whispers around her.

She reached out, affectionately tugging at Theo's sleeve. Theo, you must be tired from your trip, don't you want to go rest?'

Theo replied emotionlessly, "No need. I'm leaving soon'

Patricia forced a smile, "Sure. Then, I'll go with you"

Not wanting Patricia to go out with Theo so late, the usually silent Balfour stepped in, "Theo, why don't you stay and have a drink?"

Haillie also chimed in, "Yeah, Theo, stick around. Jonah Wyton and Kemp are here too!"

While saying this, Haillie purposefully blocked Ellinor from Theo's sight.

"No, I've got things to do

With that, Theo headed for the door

As he passed Ellinor, he paused and gave her a cold glance.

But it was just a glance

He lowered his eyes and kept walking.

Seeing Theo ignore Ellinor, a smug smile crept onto Patricia's face. She quickly followed him, "Theo, wait for me; I'm coming with you!" And Patricia left with Theo

Ellinor finally relaxed. She had been overthinking

Theo, her former partner, had clearly moved on and held no grudges against her.

What could he possibly blame her for? Their partnership was over, hence why she left.

There was no debt between her and Thea.

Ellinor felt strange, why was she so nervous around him?

With everything settled, Haillie gave Ellinor a displeased look and snorted. It seemed that Theo no longer saw Ellinor as important and didn't want anything to do with her.

Haillie hesitated for a moment and then approached Balfour, "Balfour, do you have a moment? I'd like to invite you to dance with me'

Without any expression, Balfour replied, "Haillie, could you go get Patricia back for me first? It's late, we can't have her running around outside."