

## The Kiss 511

### Chapter 511

Ellinor said, "I'm here for work, not for fun. Even if you're not dropping me home, you could at least leave me somewhere I can hail a taxi, right?"

Balfour squinted, "Ms. Mendoza, you're asking for a bit much hem"

Ellinor stared him down, "Any boss with some decency wouldn't treat their employees like this"

Balfour chuckled lightly, "What's wrong, Ms. Mendoza? Can't handle a little adversity?"

You were the one who confidently told me you weren't like my sister. She wilts like a flower in a greenhouse at the slightest breeze. But you can thrive in any situation

Ms. Mendoza, if you're so sure you can survive anything, let's see how you handle tonight's challenge. I believe in you, Ms. Mendoza. I'm sure you can find your way off this highway just fine."

Ellinor bit her lip and held back her anger as she listened to Balfour.

She wouldn't be playing secretary to this jerk if it weren't for her mother's case. But now that she was in it, she was in it till the end.

With this in mind, Ellinor smiled, "Fine, Mr. Howard. I won't disappoint you. Have a smooth ride, and I'll see you at the office tomorrow."

With that, she opened the car door and hopped out without hesitation.

You're not supposed to stop on the highway, but Balfour had the driver pull over just to let her out.

And the sudden detour to the highway was definitely a setup.

To think this guy was her own brother

Once Ellinor was out, the car took off without wasting a second.

Quinton, sitting in the passenger seat, watched Ellinor disappear into the darkness and felt a pang of sadness. He turned to Balfour, "Mr. Howard, it's not safe for Ms. Mendoza to be out on the highway this late..."

Balfour glanced at him, "What? Are you smitten with her too?"

Quinton blushed and quickly shook his head, "No, Mr. Howard. I just think that if anything happens to Ms. Mendoza, it would look bad for you and the company."

Balfour smirked, "Don't worry, she's not the type to let anything happen to her."

What type? What did Mr. Howard think of Ms. Mendoza? Quinton couldn't make sense of his boss's sudden change of attitude.

On the way, Mr. Howard was all gentlemanly, worrying about Ms. Mendoza getting cold and asking him to give her a coat.

But now he was leaving her on the highway?

Weird

Shutting his phone, Balfour looked out into the night, his face unreadable.

He had just been playing cards at Pearl Moon with Jonah when Patri called him over to show him the coat he had lent Ellinor, which was found by the mansion's s s in the yard.

Based on the s ts' account, the coat was found right under the bathroom window of the second floor room.

Which meant Ellinor was indeed up to something she shouldn't have been with York Mayes in the room. But when he knocked on the door, she jumped out of the bathroom window in time and pretended to have just come in from outside to prove her innocence.

She was nimble and c g. She seemed honest and straightforward but was actually deceitful and good at

disguising herself.

She effortlessly got Bartlett to keep hitting on her, and just now, during the blackout, she even ended up in the arms of Theo, whom she claimed she didn't want to see

Patri was right, Ellinor had ulterior motives for becoming my secretary.

## Chapter 512

On the emergency lane of the highway, Ellinor was standing alone by the road.

The surroundings were pitch black, with occasional cars wing by, providing a fleeting brightness.

Walking on the highway was risky; a speeding car could easily hit you. So, after getting out of the car, Ellinor didn't continue walking. She turned on her phone's flashlight, hoping to get noticed by passing cars.

Meanwhile, she was also on the phone with Ida Gipson.

"Ida, where the heck are you?"

"I'm in Y state, remember? You told me to fly out here and have a sit-down about the LifeForce Corporation takeover. Caught the morning flight. Did you forget?"

Ellinor rubbed her forehead; she had forgotten that Ida was out of the country.

"Something up, boss? How's the Howard family's shindig going?"

"Uh-huh, just be safe out there in Y state, I'll get Chase Larios to pick me up!"

After hanging up with Ida, Ellinor tried calling Chase.

Shockingly, Chase's phone just kept ringing, no one was picking up. What on earth was he up to?

Ellinor looked around the dark surroundings, furrowing her brows in thought. Was she really going to be stuck on the highway till dawn?

In the old days, she could've easily spent a night outside, no matter how harsh the conditions or how cold the winter night was.

But now she was pregnant. She could take risks, but she couldn't risk her unborn child.

If she got sick from staying out in the cold, it would affect her baby. Plus, she couldn't even take medicine.

If she called the police now, she might end up in the news tomorrow.

Just as she was contemplating whether to call the police, a bright headlight suddenly shone on her.

Instinctively, Ellinor lifted her arm to shield her eyes. What was going on? Was someone else's car also having trouble?

When the light finally dimmed and turned into flashing lights, Ellinor could finally see what was happening.

Collin got out of the passenger seat and walked solemnly towards her, saying respectfully, "Ms. Mendoza, please get in the car."

Ellinor glanced at the Mercedes not far away and recognized the familiar license plate. She was puzzled. Why was Theo here?

Why was he on the highway? Neither his office nor home were in this direction.

Ellinor thought for a moment, then politely said to Collin, "Thanks for the offer, but there's no need. A friend will be here to pick me up soon."

She had no reason to get in his car now.

Theo already had a fiancée and a child. Any decent woman would know to avoid any potential misunderstanding.

Collin looked a bit helpless but still stared at her firmly, "Ms. Mendoza, I implore you not to put me in

this predicament. We can't linger on the highway for too long. If you don't get in the car, it will be really risky for us to stay here."

Ellinor fell silent.

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Judging from Collin's attitude, if she didn't get in the car, he couldn't complete his task and would have to wait with her.

That's just how Theo operated. He didn't accept no for an answer.

Ellinor felt a bit annoyed by this, but she was out of options.

She thought for a moment and checked the time on her phone. It was almost midnight. She didn't want to be a nuisance to the police.

Chapter 513

"Alright, I'll hitch a ride with Mr. Blanchet."

She headed towards the fancy Mercedes. Collin had already beat her to it and opened the backseat door for her.

Once inside, Ellinor was hit by a strong smell of smoke that lingered in the car.

Theo was smoking, and even with the windows down, the smoke didn't immediately clear.

His recent smoking addiction seemed to have worsened and he was even continuously puffing away back at Pearl Moon.

Considering the baby inside her, Ellinor felt uncomfortable in the smoke-filled car.

But, after all, it was not her car, so she had no right to complain. All she could do was roll down her window to let the smoke out and politely said, "Thanks for the lift, Mr. Blanchet. You can drop me off at the freeway exit, I can catch a cab home from there"

Theo was lounging, cigarette in hand, glancing at her.

His mature and deep face was inscrutable. After a while, he let out a cold chuckle.

Ellinor felt uncomfortable under his gaze, not understanding the meaning behind his chuckle.

What was he laughing at? Was there something funny about what she just said?

After a while, he finally asked her, "Where have you been?"

"What?"

Ellinor was a bit surprised, not immediately understanding his sudden question.

Theo glanced at her, authoritatively saying, "I asked you, where have you been for over a month?"

Ellinor blinked embarrassingly. "Oh, nowhere in particular, just hanging around."

Theo squinted, took a puff, and slowly exhaled the smoke, his sarcastic tone revealing a suppressed emotion, "Hanging around? Your version of hanging around is quite careful, you left no trace. Did you not want me to find you?"

Ellinor said casually, "I just like to protect my privacy. Is there something you wanted, Mr. Blanchet?"

Theo looked at her nonchalant demeanor, quite displeased, wishing he could just strangle this cold-hearted woman.

Theo frowned, "You said I wanted something?"

Ellinor turned her face away from him, casually looking out the window, "I wouldn't know, Mr. Blanchet, you're such a mysterious man, I can't figure you out!"

Theo reached out a hand and gripped her chin, forcibly turning her face towards him.

His fingers lightly grazed her cheek, as if carefully inspecting the quality of a product, finally coldly saying, "You've lost weight."

Ellinor paused for a bit, "You have quite the memory to notice that!"

Not only could he see it, but he could also feel it. He remembered every inch of her. Back at Pearl Moon, when he held her, her tiny waist was even smaller than before and was all bones. He thought she would be doing great without him this month, but she had made herself so thin. Ellinor really didn't like this vague contact; she moved back uncomfortably but still couldn't avoid his hand, so she frowned and expressed her dissatisfaction, "Mr. Blanchet, please let go, don't do this. There should be a proper distance between men and women!" Theo scoffed, "Proper distance? You seem to have forgotten the intimate things we've been through."

#### Chapter 514

When he awkwardly brought up that one chaotic night, a blush crept up Ellinor's clean. Theo saw her embarrassed reaction. That was the reaction she was supposed to have to him. She was supposed to feel shy and nervous, like a little woman with feelings. A month later, when they met again, she had no reaction and was indifferent. She didn't give a d n and even ignored his existence "Ellinor" Theo suddenly called her name, his voice low and magnetic. Ellinor looked at him warily. "Mr. Blanchet, if you have something to say, spit it out!" Theo moved his hand from her jaw to her chin, lifting her small face. Ellinor felt that Theo's attitude suddenly became a bit strange, seeming displeased yet flirty. In fact, with their current relationship, any particular nickname could potentially cause an unnecessary misunderstanding She frowned, explaining seriously, "Mr. Blanchet, we used to be partners. But now that I'm Mr. Howard's secretary and you're Mr. Howard's friend, I should respect you, I can't be as casual as before." Theo's eyes dimmed upon hearing her mention of Mr. Howard, "Your Mr. Howard just left you on the highway; it seems like he doesn't treat you like his employee, yet you're still loyal and dedicated to him." Ellinor was speechless. Yes, she also thought that Balfour's behavior of leaving his employees on the highway was too much. After a few seconds of silence, Ellinor put on a brave face and forced a smile, "Maybe all bosses are heartless like this! Since I chose this job, I have to accept the boss's test. For me, as long as I get paid on time, that's a good boss." Theo looked at her stubborn attitude, feeling both angry and soft-hearted. She went out to find a job, was heartlessly left on the highway by her boss, and could still keep going. He had been angry at her for sneaking away, angry at her for deliberately hiding her actions from him, but when he saw that she was safe, he wasn't angry anymore. He didn't dwell on why she left quietly, he didn't want to lash out at her or pressure her, as long as she was okay and as long as she was willing to come back. She was young and still full of curiosity about the world. She hadn't fully experienced it. It was understandable for her to go out and make a mess, as long as she knew to come back home. Theo was silent. He adjusted his mood and restrained himself from venting his anger at her. He didn't want to scare her away just after finding her. After Theo let go of his pent-up anger, his eyes gradually became greedy, lingering on the girl's thin and moist lips, his thumb gently caressing her tower lip. "If you want a salary, I can give that to you. How

much do you want? I'll give it to you. Will you come home with me?"

Come home with me?

Was Theo trying to coax her?

Ellinor was a bit stunned and felt his words were ambiguous, "Mr. Blanchet, please have some decency!

I'm here to work and earn money, not to sell myself!"

Theo paused slightly. Is this how she interpreted his rare offer?

It was both funny and sad.

"What? Is my money and Balfour's money different? Mine can't satisfy you?"

Ellinor felt offended. This man already had a well-matched fiancée and a child who could call him dad, but here he was saying to her, "Come home with me."

Such thoughtless words! What did he take her for?

What was she supposed to do when she went home with him? And he mentioned paying her? Was he implying he wanted to keep her?

Ellinor could feel Theo's desire for her in his gaze.

## Chapter 515

Whether he was trying to conquer her or just seeking novelty, it was totally disrespectful to her and all about his self-centered and domineering desire.

Who the hell did he think he was? That any woman would willingly become his secret mistress just because he was willing and indicated so?

That was way outta line!

Thinking of this, Ellinor got angry and pushed away Theo's hand that was gripping her chin. "Yeah! I just wanna make money from the Howard Group, not you! I don't want your money!"

She didn't want his money?!

Theo's face darkened and he stared at her gloomily, struggling to control his anger.

He was born to control everything, so naturally, he'd be p d when he met a woman he couldn't

His emotions, which were already calming down, surged again in an instant.

Looking at her face, which he both loved and hated, Theo gripped her throat, "Ellinor, have I spoiled you too much? Made you think I don't have a temper and that I won't get angry with you?"

Ellinor instinctively struggled, trying to push away his hands that were gripping her throat, but to no avail. Her face was already turning red, "Theo you cough cough cough!"

Had this man gone mad? He was trying to kill her?

He really wished he could just strangle her to death, so she wouldn't p him off anymore.

Seeing her start to cough because she couldn't breathe, Theo finally let go, "Ellinor, did you think I was joking about everything I said to you before?"

Ellinor looked at him as her pupils trembled slightly.

She was the joke! She took everything he said seriously and thought he was sincere. She thought she was the only one in his heart, but in reality, he already had a child.

It was just too ridiculous!

Just then, Theo's phone vibrated, breaking the stalemate between them.

Theo glanced at the screen and took a few seconds to consider before releasing Ellinor. He picked up the call and asked in a deep voice, "What's up?"

The car was so quiet that even without the speaker on, Ellinor could hear Patricia's gentle voice on the phone.

"Theo, where are you? As soon as you left, Baber started making a fuss and crying for you!"

Theo frowned, "Put him to sleep first"

Patricia's voice sounded helpless, "But "

Before she could finish, Theo hung up the call. He threw his phone aside, obviously annoyed.

Ellinor didn't think there was anything wrong with Theo brushing off Patricia so casually on the phone.

Men were always like this. They would enjoy the woman at hand while anticipating a new one, changing their minds so quickly.

"Mr. Blanchet, hanging up on Ms. Howard like that is not good for her or the kid. Don't you think? They seem to need you right now!"

Theo looked up at her coldly. "Are you telling me what to do?"

Ellinor forced a smile, "No, I wouldn't dare! I have no place to interfere in Mr. Blanchet's affairs, but I happen to be in your car right now and any unnecessary misunderstandings would make things awkward for me"

Theo snuffed out the nearly finished cigarette in his hand, staring at her coldly. "Unnecessary misunderstandings? What kind of misunderstandings?"

Ellinor pursed her lips, "Like people misunderstanding that I'm seducing a married man with a kid in his car. And that I'm keeping you from answering calls and going home to your wife and kid!"

Theo frowned, staring coldly at her, "Ms. Mendoza, it seems you're the one who misunderstood first. That child isn't..."

## Chapter 516

Theo was cut off by the ringing of Ellinor's phone.

Ellinor's gown had no pockets, so she had been holding her phone in her hand

She lifted the phone and glanced at the caller ID that displayed a call from "Hubby."

Hubby?

She was baffled. When did she save this number? Since when did she have a husband?

Just then, Theo's cold and angry voice broke the silence. "So this is why you left a month ago?"

Ellinor snapped back to reality, looked up, and saw Theo towering over her, his eyes blazing with fury.

She had never seen such a terrifying expression on him before, and for a moment she was stunned

A malicious smirk hung on the corner of Theo's mouth and he said sarcastically, "You've found a new hubby in just a month; you're really something, Ms. Mendoza!\*

Ellinor was dumbfounded. No, she was just as confused!

"Answer it!" Theo said in a cold tone.

Ellinor didn't answer and declined the call.

The only possibility she could think of was that Chase Larios was calling her back.

Chase was probably playing a prank and had changed the name in her contacts without her noticing.

And she didn't want Theo to know about her relationship with Chase and the Crescent Society

So, she couldn't answer the call and couldn't let Theo hear Chase's voice..

Theo snorted when he saw her decline the call. "Why don't you answer? Afraid your current hubby will find out you're with your ex?\*

Ex?

Ellinor was puzzled. This gentleman actually claimed to be her ex-husband.

Theo's sarcasm made her uncomfortable. After thinking about it, she didn't want to explain and didn't need to explain to him, so she said imitably, "I won't answer! We had a fight and I don't want to talk to him. I haven't forgiven him yet!"

Theo was taken aback for a moment and in the next second, his eyes became even colder.

If Ellinor was acting all lovey-dovey, he might have suspected that the hubby was fake and she was putting on a show to avoid him.

But a fight? Only two people who were intimate would fight.

So she really had a husband!

Theo's face was as cold as frozen ice and his tone was flat but icy. "Who is he? When did it start?"

Ellinor cleared her throat awkwardly, "Mr. Blanchet, who my husband is has nothing to do with you. You can rest assured that during our collaboration, I did nothing to betray you and or cheat on you. I left because our partnership had ended. It was exactly three months, not a minute more, not a second less."

Theo's face turned even uglier and he looked at her coldly, "Ellinor, you're really something!"

Ellinor felt a bit guilty about the assumed husband situation, but when she thought of how this man had once cheated on her feelings, she suddenly had some thoughts of revenge and lifted her head proudly.

"Thank you for the compliment!"

Finally, the car exited the highway, ending this torturous journey.

Ellinor said, "Thanks Could you stop the car at the side of the road? I can call a cab to go home!"

However, the driver showed no intention of stopping.

Collin, who was sitting in the passenger seat, also pretended not to hear

If the boss didn't speak, how could he dare to stop the car?

Realizing this, Ellinor turned to the emotionless man again, "Mr. Blanchet, could you ask your driver to stop and let me out?"

Without even glancing at her. Theo said coldly, "Address"

Ellinor was taken aback for a moment, realizing that Theo was asking for her current address.

#### *Chapter 517*

*She didn't want him to know where she lived. So she politely said, "Don't sweat it, Mr. Blanchet. I'd be really grateful if you could drop me off at the highway exit. I can hitch a ride back home from there"*

*She kept her address under wraps, and he didn't pry, simply telling the driver, "Take me home."*

*The driver responded, "Yes, Mr. Blanchet"*

*Home? The Blanchet's place?*

*What was that supposed to mean? She hadn't misheard, right? She had no intention of heading back to the Blanchet's home with him!*

*Feeling cornered, Ellinor reluctantly gave up the name of her residential community, "Harmony Residence."*

*With an impassive face, Theo gave a nod that indicated that he got it.*

*Collin picked up on his cue and directed the driver to Harmony Residence.*

*Having heard the conversation between Mr. Blanchet and Ms. Mendoza, he felt a pang of pity for Mr. Blanchet.*

*Poor Mr. Blanchet had spent a month searching for Ms. Mendoza, only to find she already had a new husband. How was he supposed to take that?*

*Soon enough, they pulled up at the entrance of Harmony Residence*

*"Thanks for the lift, Mr. Blanchet. Take care" Ellinor said. Then she quickly got out of the car and hustled into the building.*

*Collin was somewhat taken aback. He wanted to ask Mr. Blanchet where to next, but he noticed Mr. Blanchet had also gotten out of the car and was following Ms.*

*Mendoza.*

*Perhaps he didn't believe that Ms. Mendoza already had a partner and wanted to verify it himself.*

*Once inside the building, Ellinor hit the elevator button. As the doors were about to close, a big hand suddenly reached in and the elevator doors reopened*

*Then Theo, without any expression on his face, stepped in.*

*Ellinor halted and frowned in disapproval, "Mr. Blanchet, why are you tailing me?"*

*Theo replied calmly, "I'm thirsty, so I thought I'd get a glass of water at your place. I hope you don't mind."*

*Ellinor was speechless.*

*Mind? She minded a hell of a lot!*

*What on earth was this guy up to?*

*The elevator started moving. Ellinor made a last-ditch attempt to push back, "Mr. Blanchet, it's pretty late and I am a woman after all. It might lead to misunderstandings if people saw you heading up with me."*

*Theo turned his head to look at her with a sharp gaze, "You have your partner at home, don't you? What are you scared I'll do?"*

*Ellinor had no response.*

*With no other option, Ellinor reluctantly led Theo into her home.*

*She knew that no matter what excuse she came up with or how much she resisted, Theo wouldn't back down. That's just how he was.*

*Once inside and having changed into slippers, Ellinor said a bit grumpily.*

*"Mr. Blanchet, take a seat wherever you like, I'll go get some water."*

*As Theo watched Ellinor head straight to the kitchen, he moved into the living room, scanning everything in the flat.*

*The floor was good, the layout was good, and the balcony view was great.*

*Such a high end flat was definitely out of reach for a fresh college grad like her. Could she really be married? Did they buy this place when they got hitched?*

*But there was no sign that she was married. There were no couple photos or wedding pictures.*

*There were no men's shoes at the door and there was no manly stuff in the living room. The decor was very feminine and nothing like a couple's home.*

*Just when Theo started to have doubts, there was a noise from the bedroom. Was there really a guy at home?*

*Theo's brows furrowed and he quickly turned to look.*

## Chapter 518

The bedroom door creaked open and out sauntered a plump cat.

The chubby furball must've thought its master was home, so it came out, only to find a strange man standing in the living room. Its fur bristled instantly, and it lunged at the stranger like a ferocious little tiger.

Theo looked at the cat with icy indifference, utterly unfazed by its threat.

Ellinor came out of the kitchen with a glass of water, finding her cat's intimidation of Theo somewhat amusing, but she didn't laugh out loud.

"Come here, don't attack the guest."

"Meow."

Hearing its master's voice, the fat cat immediately became friendly and rubbed against her feet.

Ellinor casually stepped over the cat and placed the freshly poured water on the table, "Mr. Blanchet, have some water!"

With that, she turned around and stepped over the cat again.

She needed to change out of her dress first, moving around in a gown was just too inconvenient.

In no time, Ellinor reemerged in comfy loungewear.

By then, Theo was sitting on the living room couch, holding the glass of water, while the fat cat continued to hiss threats at him.

Theo sipped his water emotionlessly as he eyed the cat with a hint of annoyance.

Ellinor picked up her cat, "I'm sorry, Mr. Blanchet. My cat isn't fond of strangers."

With that, she sat down on a single sofa with the cat in her arms, grabbed the remote, and turned on the TV.

The noise from the TV eased the awkward silence as she wondered when he would finally finish his water and leave.

Taking a swig. Theo asked, "Where's your husband?"

A flicker of discomfort crossed Ellinor's face, "He might still be at work."

Theo narrowed his eyes, "What does he do? How could he still not be home this late?"

Ellinor frowned and glanced at him, "Mr. Blanchet, don't you think you're being nosy?"

Theo smirked, "I'm just curious to see what kind of man would live in such a girly house."

Ellinor felt a bit awkward and fell silent

Ida had designed the house using a main color scheme of pink and all. The style was very much in tune with a young girl's taste.

Despite her mature appearance, Ida adored pink.

Ida bought the furniture, couch, decorations, and basically everything in the house, and it was all pink.

As for Chase, although he was the revered vice president of the Crescent Society in public. In private, Chase didn't have much say in front of her and Ida. For example, in home decoration, he only had authority over his own room's style, and his opinion on other matters was usually not taken into account

#### Chapter 519

Boys were usually not as neat as girls, so she and Ida insisted that his stuff should be kept in his room so he could not mess up the overall aesthetics of the living room. Those random figurines he bought, all kinds of sports equipment, and his shoes all had to be put into the shoe cabinet as soon as he stepped in. When leaving, even his slippers would be put away.

Chase gradually got used to it as he grew up under the watchful eyes of these two girls and he didn't have any objections.

Ellinor seemed to be avoiding something and was reluctant to talk, which made Theo start to question if she really had a husband.

Just then, the sound of the keypad being pressed from outside the door echoed. Someone was coming home.

Theo frowned and looked up towards the door.

Ellinor knew it must be Chase coming back, and because of this, she felt a bit worried as she stroked the cat in her arms and let out a sigh.

She thought Chase wouldn't be back before Theo left, but things didn't go as she wished.

Chase walked in, put the takeout he brought back on the shoe cabinet, changed into his slippers, and looked up.

He was about to say something but suddenly stopped.

Because he saw Theo in their house!

What the hell? Wasn't Ellinor always avoiding this guy? Why would she bring him home?

Chase looked at Theo, and Theo also looked at Chase. The atmosphere between the two men became tense.

Not knowing what was going on, Chase didn't dare speak out and looked at Ellinor with questioning eyes.

Ellinor looked at Chase and massaged her temples. Things seemed to get more complicated and she didn't know how to handle it.

Theo's eyes darkened as he looked at the man who knew the password to this house, could come and go freely, and even seemed very familiar with the cat in this house. He looked at Ellinor, "Is he your husband?"

Ellinor gave a vague answer, leaving it open to interpretation.

She couldn't deny it. If she denied it, it would be even harder to explain the relationship between her and Chase. If they weren't a couple, how could she explain them living together?

However, that brief answer from Ellinor was like a sharp thorn that pierced Theo's heart.

He knew Mr. Larios from Crescent Society. They had some contact because of the design contract for the Blanchet Building that was signed over to Crescent Society.

Before, this man had expressed his interest in Ellinor, even asked for her number in front of him, and indeed called her.

Did it mean that they liked each other back then and maintained contact secretly?

Chase reacted very quickly, guessing the general situation through the question Theo asked Ellinor and

his reactions.

Then, Chase walked up, smiling politely, "Mr. Blanchet, long time no see. Next time you come to our house, you could let me know in advance so I can prepare some food and drinks for you."

Theo sat quietly on the sofa, slightly looking up at him, ignoring his polite words, and asked directly, "When did you two start?"

Chase, being smart, purposely walked over and affectionately hugged Ellinor's shoulder, "We got married suddenly, less than a month ago; we haven't had a wedding yet. But we will definitely have a wedding, and we will invite you."

Theo's face didn't show any emotions; he was silent for a while, then stood up.

Chase said cheerfully again, "Mr. Blanchet, are you leaving? Then I must thank you for sending Ellinor home. It's late now; I won't keep you. We, as a couple, will invite you for a meal. We hope you can come"

## Chapter 520

Theo eyed Chase's eager invitation, then glanced at Ellinor, who seemed to have no resistance to Chase's advances. His deep gaze held more than just the bloodshot signs of fatigue, there was a layer of complex emotions. His cold, sarcastic smile was rather gloomy. "Fine"

He walked around the table, passed the two of them, and strode out of the room.

Not until he had left and the door was closed did Ellinor let out a sigh of relief. Her feelings were a mess and too complicated to put into words.

His parting smirk made her squirm, and his deep, unfathomable gaze seemed to carry something shattered.

What had happened to him?

Why did he look at her that way before he left?

As Ellinor was lost in thought, Chase curiously asked, "Ellinor, how did Theo find our place?"

Ellinor, lounging on the couch, retorted, "Where've you been? I called and you didn't pick up!"

Chase went to the shoe cabinet to fetch the food he had brought back. "I went to grab some grub. Left my phone in the car. By the time I called you back, you didn't answer!"

When he mentioned the call back, Ellinor frowned, "Chase, when did you change your contact name in my phone to 'Hubby'?"

Chase looked surprised, "What? I didn't!"

Ellinor gave him a dubious look, "If not you? Then who?"

Her phone rang again and the caller ID still showed 'Hubby'!

She glanced at the phone, then at Chase standing in front of her.

It really wasn't Chase!

But then who?

She answered the call. "Hello?"

A chuckle from Bartlett Rex came from the other end, "Ellinor, are you home?"

Suddenly, she remembered. The day she met Bartlett at the gallery in H city, he had insisted on getting her number, so she casually handed him her phone to enter it himself.

Since they hadn't been in touch afterward, she hadn't noticed.

Bartlett had saved his number in her phone as 'Hubby'!

"Ellinor, excited to see my call?"

"Bartlett, you've crossed the line!"

"What did I do that was over the line?"

"What name did you save your number under in my phone?"

Bartlett laughed, "That? What's the big deal? I'll be your hubby sooner or later anyway."

Ellinor scoffed, "Don't be so sure of yourself!"

"Ellinor, are you free tomorrow? Let's grab a meal."

"No!"

Ellinor hung up the phone in annoyance. Her mood was really irritable. She ate a little of the food Chase brought back, then went straight to bed after washing up.

She was exhausted, both physically and mentally

The next morning at the Howard Group.

Balfour Howard emerged from the elevator, followed closely by Quinton.