

The Kiss 521

Chapter 521

It's not yet office hours and not all employees were in place, but someone was already prepping for work at the secretary's desk by the CEO's office door.

Upon seeing the boss, Ellinor quickly got up, gave a small bow and said, "Good morning, Mr. Howard!" Balfour paused in his tracks, looked at her, scrutinized her for a moment, and said quite sternly, "Ms. Mendoza, you look in high spirits, it seems like yesterday's problems didn't get to you. Good on you" Ellinor kept her smile, "You flatter me, Mr. Howard."

Balfour looked away, like he couldn't bear to look at her any longer, then walked into his office.

Quinton stayed behind and asked her quietly, "Ms. Mendoza, no troubles yesterday, right?"

Ellinor replied. "I'm good, no issues."

"Good." Quinton sighed, seemingly sympathizing with Ellinor's situation.

Last night, Ms. Howard couldn't sleep a wink after seeing Ellinor in Theo's arms at the party, thinking she might lose Mr. Blanchet.

Mr. Howard stayed up all night to comfort Ms. Howard and he was in a funk today.

So, Mr. Howard's attitude towards Ellinor was quite understandable. To Ms. Howard, Ellinor was a thorn in her side.

Mr. Howard's affection for Ms. Howard was so great that he couldn't stand to see her upset, hence his coldness towards Ellinor.

For the entire morning, Balfour didn't call Ellinor into his office or give her any tasks. He only sought Quinton, even for coffee.

Today, Balfour seemed particularly averse to seeing her.

Ellinor understood this and didn't take the initiative to see the boss. She straightened up the files on her phone, and when she had nothing to do, she played a game on her computer

Suddenly, someone knocked on her desk.

Ellinor looked up to see Bartlett's handsome face. He was grinning at her.

"Ellinor, you're working so hard"

Seeing Bartlett reminded Ellinor of yesterday's problems caused by the name he left on her phone, which soured her mood.

But she was at work, so she stood up and smiled, "Mr. Rex, are you here to see Mr. Howard? Wait a sec, I'll let him know right away!"

But before she could dial the number, Bartlett hung up the phone, "No, I'm here to see you."

Ellinor's smile faded, "I'm sorry, Mr. Rex, I'm working right now and don't have time."

Bartlett chuckled, "You'll have time soon."

Having said this cryptic line, Bartlett turned around and walked straight into Balfour's office.

Ellinor frowned, wanting to stop him, but he was already in before she could say anything.

Bartlett let himself in before she could tell Mr. Howard.

This would surely upset Balfour, and he'd give her a hard time again!

As expected, not long after Bartlett entered the office, Balfour called Ellinor in.

Knowing she screwed up, Ellinor made two cups of coffee in the hope it'd soothe Balfour's anger.

She served the coffee to Bartlett and Balfour, took a step back, and asked respectfully, "Mr. Howard, is there anything you need me to do?"

Balfour looked at her, took a sip of his coffee, and said slowly, "Ellinor, from now on, you'll be the manager of the sales department. Our collaboration with Rex Enterprises is on your shoulders. You need

to interact more with Mr. Rex and learn from his business experience”

Ellinor was stunned. What? She didn't do anything: how did she suddenly get promoted to sales manager?

Chapter 522

Ellinor was suddenly promoted and when she asked Balfour why, he just said it was because she was too talented to be wasted as a secretary.

That didn't sound like the real reason.

She glanced at Bartlett, who was sitting in the guest seat and sipping his coffee with a smile. She felt the promotion must have something to do with him.

After leaving the CEO's office, Quinton took her to the manager's office of the sales department and even had people redecorate her office.

Before leaving, Quinton thoughtfully said, 'Ms. Mendoza, if you have any complaints about the office or need anything, just let me know. We can adjust it to your liking at any time.'

Even Quinton's attitude toward her had changed!

Ellinor was very surprised and nodded, "Thanks; I don't need anything for now."

She sat in her office chair, which was indeed much more comfortable than the secretary's chair.

However, working here was inconvenient for her mission to approach Balfour and investigate her mother's affairs.

Bartlett knocked on the door of her office and walked in elegantly, "So, do you like your new office?"

Ellinor was

expressionless, she came to the Howard Group not looking for a promotion or salary increase.

"Bartlett, tell me what you and Mr. Howard talked about, why did he suddenly promote me?"

Bartlett sat in a chair across from her desk, smiling at her, "I told him I want to pursue you, and hoped he could take more care of you because of me."

Ellinor was bored, "Stop kidding me, be serious!"

Bartlett laughed, "I'm not kidding. I really want to pursue you; I'm serious."

Ellinor knew that Bartlett liked to tease her, but she didn't care, "I mean, what did you really tell Mr. Howard to get him to promote me? Answer me seriously!"

Bartlett became serious, "I can tell Balfour doesn't like you. I know him best. You won't have a good time working under his nose. So I told him, you will be my future girlfriend and I don't want my future girlfriend to do such chores at the Howard Group, so I hope he could give you a more comfortable job."

Ellinor looked at him, "Bartlett, has anyone ever told you that you're shameless?"

Bartlett laughed happily, "No, you're the first."

Ellinor was dumbfounded.

"I never take the initiative like this with other girls."

"You probably tell every girl that 'you're the most special one'."

Bartlett laughed, "You'll soon find out that no one but you can fascinate me like this."

Ellinor was not interested in arguing with him and she asked again, "So you just said you wanted to pursue me, and Mr. Howard agreed to promote me?"

"Of course not. You should know that Mr. Howard is very shrewd. If there is no benefit for him, discussing love affairs with him is useless."

"So how did you persuade him to promote me?"

"I told him that if I could have you, his dear sister would lose a major threat, and he could finally rest easy. He thought about it for a few seconds and then agreed. After all, Balfour cares for his sister the most."

Ellinor frowned, "Why would I be a major threat to his sister?"

Bartlett looked at her deeply, "You really don't know?"

Ellinor gave a soft snort, "I'm not so sure about that."

Chapter 523

Bartlett said earnestly, "It's because of Theo. Patricia Howard loves him deeply and she can't live without him. Your appearance might shake Patricia's place in his heart."

Ellinor rolled her eyes. "They already have a child, what can I possibly threaten? You guys worry too much, 1, Ellinor, don't need a man that badly, and I'm definitely not the type to ruin someone else's family!"

Bartlett was stunned for a while and looked at her, a bit surprised

Ellinor felt his gaze turn a bit weird and asked, "What's up? Why are you looking at me like that?"

Bartlett came back to his senses and smiled, "Nothing, let's go. This afternoon I'll take you to our mall, maybe we can grab a bite together?"

Ellinor refused outright, "I'm not going; I have work to do!"

Bartlett lightly tapped the table, "This is also part of your job. Many of your company's products are sold in our Rex Enterprises chain stores. As the sales manager, you should get to know the market! I've already spoken to Mr. Howard and told him you'd be going out with me to do some market research this afternoon"

Ellinor was speechless

Rex Department Store.

Bartlett raised his hand, pointed to a row of snacks on the shelf, and introduced them to Ellinor, "Look, Ellinor, these are all products of your Howard Group. They've been selling quite well in our store!"

Ellinor looked seriously at the array of snacks and was a bit surprised, "So, the Howard Group also produces food?"

"The Howard Group's snacks taste great, but food is not the company's main business, it doesn't make a lot of profit. It's normal for you to not know since you just joined. Balfour has a soft spot for his snack factories because his sister always loves eating their own snacks, so over the years, the Howard Group has been treating food production as a sentiment, and put a lot of heart into it."

As he spoke, Bartlett grabbed a shopping basket, picked some snacks into the basket, then grabbed a pack of cookies, opened the package, took out one, and handed it to her, "This is a classic sandwich cookie made by the Howard Group. Want a taste?"

Ellinor took the cookie, took a bite, and her pupils suddenly shrank.

The taste of the cookie seemed to trigger something.

A tangled thread in her mind seemed to suddenly straighten, then snap back.

At the same time, many chaotic images flashed through her mind, and quickly, they were cut off again.

She instinctively furrowed her brows as her head started to ache.

Bartlett noticed something was off and looked at her with concern, "What's wrong, Ellinor?"

Ellinor came back to her senses and shook her head, "Nothing, just feel like the taste of this cookie is a bit familiar"

"Oh, then you must have had it somewhere before; after all, it's a best-selling cookie."

Ellinor mused, "Yeah, maybe"

As they were walking around, a sweet voice came from behind them, "Ellinor?"

Without turning her head, Ellinor knew it was Patricia's voice.

She was annoyed and didn't feel like dealing with the pretentious Patricia.

When she turned around, Patricia was holding her child, and Theo was standing next to them with his hands in his pockets, standing relaxed and straight. His sculpted and handsome face showed no emotion.

They looked like a perfect family of three.

Chapter 524

Patricia came over with a joyful expression, holding her child, "Ellinor, what a coincidence, you're shopping here too!"

Ellinor responded with a neutral face, "Yeah, sorta."

Patricia turned her gaze to Bartlett, who was standing next to Ellinor, with a subtle look in her eyes. She laughed, "Bartlett, how come you're shopping with Ellinor?"

Bartlett put on his usual smile, "Because Ellinor got promoted to Sales Manager of the Howard Group today. My brother handed over all sales cooperation between the Howard Group and Rex Enterprises to Ellinor. So, I brought her to this distributor to get a feel of the market."

Ellinor had been worried that Bartlett would intentionally be vague but was relieved to hear him give Patricia a straight answer

Patricia blinked in surprise, "Ellinor, you got promoted! Congrats!"

Ellinor knew Patricia wasn't genuinely congratulating her, so she just smiled slightly. Thanks."

Patricia went on enthusiastically. "Theo and I just popped into a baby store, but unfortunately, we couldn't find the product our child needs. We're about to grab lunch now! Bartlett, Ellinor, if you guys haven't had lunch yet, why don't we all go together?"

With that, she looked at the man beside her, showing a pure smile, "What do you say, Theo?"

Theo, with his handsome and deep face, responded indifferently, "Whatever you want."

Patricia, looking like she was being spoiled by her man, turned her warm gaze back to Ellinor and Bartlett, "Bartlett, Ellinor, let's go! We'll all have lunch together. It's Theo's treat!"

Bartlett seemed quite willing to join them for lunch, but he couldn't just agree without consulting Ellinor. He turned to her respectfully, "Ellinor, what do you think?"

Ellinor clearly wasn't interested, nor did she want to have lunch with Patricia. She said, "Mr. Rex, thank you for taking the time to show me the market. As you've bumped into your friend here, you should have lunch and catch up. I'll pass; I have work to handle back at the company. I'll take off first"

After saying this, Ellinor turned to leave.

As Bartlett was about to leave with her, Patricia came running after them with her child, blocking Ellinor's way.

"Ms. Mendoza, you haven't had lunch yet, right? You can't skip meals. It's not too late to go back to work after lunch. Don't worry, I'll tell my brother you'll be late because you were having lunch with me. He won't blame you."

"Thank you for your kindness, Ms. Howard. I'll grab something back at the company cafeteria."

Patricia looked a bit disappointed upon seeing Ellinor still insisting on leaving, "Ms. Mendoza, why do I get the feeling you don't want to have lunch with me? Is it because of our misunderstanding before? Are you still mad at me?"

Ellinor looked at Patricia and replied, "Ms. Howard, you're overthinking things. I just planned on having something light back at the company. I don't want to influence everyone else's meal with my personal preference."

Hearing this, Patricia immediately laughed, "Oh, that's it! No problem, my child also likes light meals. You can order whatever you like. Let's go!"

Ellinor looked at Patricia with a faint smile tugging at her lips.

Patricia was so insistent on taking her along, merely to flaunt her blissful life in front of her.

Who else would she be showing off to if not her?

It seemed that without accepting her invitation, Patricia wouldn't easily let her go.

Ellinor didn't want to argue anymore, "Alright, since you insist, Ms. Howard. I'll accept your invitation."

*Patricia immediately showed a happy expression,
"Ms. Mendoza, I knew you were the best and would be generous!**

Chapter 525

Patricia first settled the kid into the baby seat, then warmly and considerately handed the menu to Ellinor, "Ellinor, you order first, see what you fancy. Go ahead, choose anything you like!"

Ellinor shook her head, not taking the menu.

Bartlett, laughing, placed the menu between them. "No worries, we can just share one. What do you feel like eating?"

Seeing this, Patricia chuckled and tested the waters, "Bartlett, you seem quite attentive towards Ellinor!"

Bartlett laughed. "You caught on, huh!"

Ellinor gave a small smile. She initially thought Bartlett was keeping a bit of distance, but here he was doing the same thing again.

While ordering. Ellinor felt a stern gaze from across the table glued to her, making her quite uncomfortable.

The gaze was so chilly and cold that it made her scalp tingle.

"Theo, what would you like to eat?"

Patricia, holding the menu, turned to ask the man beside her, only to find Theo's gaze firmly on Ellinor across the table.

Her eyes dimmed for a moment, but very quickly, she started smiling again, asking once more, Theo? What would you like to eat? I can order for you!

Theo casually replied. "I'm easy; you order"

Patricia responded with a sweet smile, "Alright, then I'll just order your usual favorites!"

Her words were natural and casual, but they revealed her understanding of his taste, subtly suggesting their intimate relationship.

Ellinor ordered two vegetarian dishes and handed the menu to Bartlett, not looking anymore.

Bartlett ordered two more light dishes, then elegantly handed the menu back to the waiter.

There weren't many people having lunch and the food came out soon.

Patricia, who had said her son needed a light meal, ended up ordering a table full of greasy dishes.

Ellinor immediately smelled the sweet and greasy aroma, causing her stomach acid to rush up her throat.

Lately, she had become increasingly unable to tolerate the smell of grease and one's physiological responses were often the hardest to control. She was about to throw up

She quickly turned away, covering her mouth and coughing twice.

After patting her chest, she finally suppressed the nausea. When she turned back, she found all three people at the table looking at her strangely.

Ellinor cleared her throat, took a tissue, and calmly wiped her mouth. "I'm sorry, I've had gastritis these past few days and can't handle greasy food."

Theo squinted his eyes and took a sip of water.

His gaze was deep, as if he had begun to suspect something. He was like a net that captured every subtle expression on her face.

Chapter 526

Patricia rushed to put on a show of having just realized her mistake

"Oh, shoot! Sorry! Ellinor, I forgot you said you wanted something light. I ordered a bunch of greasy dishes! Waiter, can you take all these oily dishes away? My friend doesn't like them!"

Ellinor looked at Patricia's hypocritical face, let out a sharp laugh, and waved her hand to signal the waiter to leave the food. "The food's already been ordered, you guys eat it, don't waste it."

Patricia looked uneasy.

"It's okay, it's fine like this!" Bartlett took the initiative to move the dishes farther from Ellinor and brought a lighter dish to her. "Ellinor, try this one. It's sweet and sour and very refreshing"

"Okay, thank you." Ellinor nodded and started eating.

However, before the food reached her mouth, Ellinor felt nauseous again. She covered her mouth and got up, "Excuse me, I need to go to the bathroom!"

She hurriedly left and went to the bathroom, leaving the other three people in their own thoughts as they watched her retreating figure.

After a good bout of vomiting in the bathroom, Ellinor finally felt better.

She came out of the bathroom, washed her hands at the sink, rinsed her mouth with water, and washed her face.

When she looked up again, she saw Patricia standing behind her like a ghost, watching her through the mirror with a wary and resentful gaze.

Ellinor also looked at her through the mirror, straightened up, took a napkin, and casually asked while wiping her face, "Do you need something. Ms. Howard?"

Patricia's smile was stiff and strange. "Ellinor, are you really feeling sick, or is there some other reason you're feeling nauseous?"

Ellinor laughed, "Ms. Howard, you seem very concerned about my health?"

Upon seeing that she didn't directly answer the question, Patricia approached her, her innocent face now looking fierce and intimidating.

"Ellinor, you're not pregnant, are you?"

Ellinor's face changed slightly, she laughed again and turned to face Patricia.

"What? Are you afraid I'm pregnant?"

Patricia's eyes were filled with suspicion, "Ellinor, I warn you. Don't try to use pregnancy to morally blackmail Theo or try to steal him away from me! That would be too low of you!"

Ellinor laughed lightly, crumpled the used napkin into a ball, and threw it accurately into the trash can next to her.

"Ms. Howard, it seems to me that you're describing yourself. Tying a man who can't marry you down by having his child, isn't that what you're doing right now? You should save your warning for yourself!"

Patricia's face

turned pale with anger. The innocent image she usually presented was now completely gone. She gritted her teeth, "You! Ellinor, don't be too arrogant. Even if you really are pregnant, I guarantee your child will not be born safely!"

Ellinor found her words quite amusing. She walked towards her step by step, "Really? What gives you the right to guarantee anything about what's going on in my stomach?"

Patricia knew Ellinor was trained and if they really fought, she would definitely lose. So she didn't dare argue with her.

Chapter 527

She was taken aback by the dangerous aura that radiated from Ellinor

"I have my brother! He would do anything for me, he will definitely not let a woman like you secretly have Theo's child and threaten my happiness. Ellinor, you should know that even if I can't handle you, my brother will deal with you on my behalf

Ellinor forced Patricia back against the wall, lifting her hand to touch her hypocritical face, "Ah, such an innocent face, yet the words you spit out are even more venomous than an old witch's! Your brother would be shocked and surprised if he saw you now."

Patricia was at

a disadvantage, but she snorted confidently, "What? You want to badmouth me to my brother? Hahaha, do you think my brother would believe you? Not only would my brother not believe you, he would dislike you even more and stand up for me."

Ellinor agreed with her, "Yeah, you have a good brother, but it's a pity you're not a good sister and always cause trouble."

Patricia grinned triumphantly, "What? Are you jealous? Being jealous won't help! Ellinor, you will never in your life have the kind of background I have, let alone have a brother and family that adore you! This is something you can never compare to!"

Ellinor looked at Patricia boasting about her family, thinking about how they were half-sisters with different fathers, and those people were Patricia's family, not hers.

She found it incredibly ironic but didn't bother to smile, "Yes, you're blessed, Ms. Howard. An ordinary person like me can't compare with you!

But why do you care so much about someone who's inferior to you in every way? Why do you always keep an eye on me and compare yourself to me?"

Patricia's insecurity was hit.

Ellinor let go of Patricia, not wanting to hear her excuses, "Enough, stop looking for excuses. You should spend this time going back to your child, your baby might be crying for his mommy!"

Patricia didn't leave and continued to glare at her belly.

Ellinor knew what she was worried about and casually said. "Don't worry, even if I am pregnant, it has nothing to do with your Mr. Blanchet."

Patricia furrowed her brows suspiciously, "So, you really are pregnant?"

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, "What do you think?"

She deliberately gave a vague response to leave Patricia guessing.

Because even if she directly denied it, Patricia wouldn't believe her and would become more suspicious.

And no matter what Patricia thought, she would definitely not tell Theo about it.

So, there was nothing to worry about.

Patricia couldn't tell what Ellinor's casual response meant, but she felt that this woman was too cunning!

Feeling very angry, Patricia tried to turn the tables and said provocatively. "Ellinor, you couldn't get Theo, so you tried to seduce my brother, and when that didn't work, you went after Bartlett. Don't you think your behavior is a bit erratic and disgusting? Have you considered how Theo views you now?"

Ellinor found it amusing, "How does he view me? However he views me is his business! Why would I care?"

"You better really not care!" Patricia sneered, and then, as if she remembered something, she lifted her chin and said. "Oh right, I have some news to tell you!

With that, she took a piece of paper out of her pocket and unfolded it for Ellinor to see, "I don't know if you're pregnant, but I am! Theo said it would be great if it's a girl this time!"

Ellinor's eyes faltered slightly as she looked at the content of the paper.

It was a pregnancy test report with an ultrasound image on it, and the text below read. "Early pregnancy 40 days."

Chapter 528

About 40 days ago, Theo told her he was going on a business trip for half a month, but in reality, he was off taking care of a child with Patricia.

Every day, the guy would make time to video chat with her, asking if she'd eaten, if she'd slept, and if she missed him. Turned out he was living with another woman the whole time.

Ellinor felt like something was choking her throat, and it made her feel utterly nauseous.

Her nausea before was physical, now it was emotional.

She was disgusted with herself for buying into his sweet nothings, waiting for him to come back like a fool, and even considering spending the rest of her life with him

What was even more disgusting was that the man didn't even blink when spouting those sweet nothings.

Her world collapsed in that moment, but Ellinor kept her face calm.

Oh well, who hadn't done something stupid for love?

It was all in the past.

Adjusting her mood, Ellinor gave a slight smile. "Congratulations to you guys."

Patricia proudly rubbed her belly, her face full of happiness, "Ellinor, you should know that the child in my belly is the only one Mr. Blanchet will recognize, and your c

child, even if born, will only be a bastard. Don't you think it's pitiful to let your child bear the name of a bastard from birth?"

Ellinor just laughed, "Ms. Howard, you're expecting your second child, yet you still haven't married into the Blanchet family, now that's what I call pitiful."

"You!" Patricia's momentary triumph was shot down, making her so angry that her face contorted.

She thought Ellinor would be downcast after seeing the pregnancy test, but she didn't react at all and even laughed happily.

"Ellinor, we'll see!" Patricia admitted defeat, spat out a spiteful sentence, and left.

Ellinor snorted, not taking her words seriously at all.

Patricia was the kind of woman who lived for a man and was always on guard against everyone else just to hold onto a man's heart.

She was such a boring woman!

Ellinor's nausea hadn't faded, so she went to the bathroom again, rinsed her mouth, washed her face, and then came out of the ladies' room.

As soon as she stepped out of the bathroom, she saw a tall man leaning against the wall in the hallway, smoking.

That man was Theo.

He was smoking again. Would he die if he didn't smoke?

Ellinor ignored him and walked past him, planning to go back and eat.

"Whose child?" His deep voice, carrying a hint of tobacco, echoed through the hall.

Ellinor stopped, looked at him, and calmly asked, "Hmm? Mr. Blanchet, were you talking to me?"

Theo coldly stared at her and asked, "Is there a third person here?"

Ellinor looked around and replied, "Nope! So, Mr. Blanchet, you were just asking me about someone?"

"Are you playing dumb?"

"Mr. Blanchet, you don't think I'm pregnant too, do you? Your friend, Ms. Howard, just asked me the same question!"

Theo stared into her sly eyes, his gaze filled with a sternness that allowed no room for error, "Are you sure you're not pregnant?"

Chapter 529

Ellinor heartily laughed. Then she looked at him, "Mr. Blanchet, do you really think it was that simple? That something would happen between us just because of that one emergency?"

Theo looked confused. He stared at her for a while, seeing that she seemed neither guilty nor nervous, Slowly, he exhaled a puff of smoke, his confusion dispersing like the smoke, though not entirely.

After a moment of silence, he asked, "Where's your husband?"

Caught off guard, Ellinor almost forgot that she was married. She blinked awkwardly and said, "Oh, him? He's probably working his butt off at this hour!"

Theo fell silent again.

"Is Bartlett chasing after you?"

Ellinor was taken aback when she heard this question.

She didn't expect the conversation to shift to Bartlett.

Well, Bartlett's actions did seem like he was pursuing her. Denying it would seem like she was hiding something.

Ellinor candidly nodded, "Perhaps!"

Theo snickered, "You're already married, can you accept another man's pursuit?"

Accept? Ellinor squinted her eyes. Where did he get the idea that she accepted it?

She suddenly felt peeved and decided not to entertain his question anymore.

"If I want to, is there a problem?"

Theo looked at her coldly and his eyes filled with sarcasm, "I didn't realize before, but your heart is quite big! You can accept two men at the same time and not

miss a beat with either!"

Ellinor was speechless.

She didn't realize before that Theo was such a playboy. He could date two women at the same time, not miss a beat with either, and even have children!

The more they talked, the angrier she got. She didn't want to speak to him anymore!

"Correct! My heart is not only big but also open. I want to offer a home to all the men in the world! So what? Mr. Blanchet, it seems like it's none of your business, right?"

Theo frowned, "Ellinor, what do you mean by that?"

Ellinor felt annoyed and laughed flirtatiously. "What? Mr. Blanchet, are you feeling left out? Do you want to have a place in my heart too?"

Theo looked at her coldly, his eyes filled with offended anger and dissatisfaction with her careless attitude.

Ellinor laughed lightly, walked up to him, stood on her tiptoes, and said mockingly, "Sorry, but you're just too old for me I'm not interested in old men. There's a generation gap!"

After speaking, she even took the half-smoked cigarette from his hand and flicked off the ash in front of him, "Smoke less; it's bad for your skin. You'll age!"

Theo's face darkened suddenly and his veins throbbed on his forehead.

Did she just call him old?

Was she with another man because of the generation gap?

Chase was indeed closer to her age and seemed like he was only a few years older at most. There wouldn't be any communication issues due to an age difference.

Ellinor sighed, turned around and left, opting not to converse with him anymore.

Theo stood there with a stern face, staring at Ellinor's retreating figure. He watched as she threw the half-smoked cigarette he had into the bin, then walked back to the private room with a determined stride.

His gaze sharpened again. Was her nausea really just a stomach issue?

He pulled out his phone and called Collin, his voice cold as he instructed him.

"Check if Ellinor has visited any gynecology departments in hospitals recently."

Chapter 530

When Ellinor came back to the booth, she found Bartlett was gone too, and she had no clue where he'd taken off to

Theo wasn't back yet, leaving only Patricia in the booth, feeding her kid

The two of them had just had a row in the restroom, it was a downright catfight that even got a bit ugly at some points.

Now that nobody else was around, Patricia dropped the friendly pretense, shooting Ellinor a frosty glance before going back to feeding her child.

Ellinor settled back into her seat, starting to munch on her food while sending a text to Chase.

Suddenly, Patricia rang the service bell.

Ellinor didn't pay much attention to Patricia's move since she was busy replying to the text on her phone.

Soon, a waiter in restaurant uniform came in with a soup pot.

"Hello, I'm here to top up your soup."

The waiter moved forward with the pot, filling up their pot with bone soup, but as he finished pouring, his hand suddenly spasmed, shaking the pot unsteadily, and then he lost his grip.

The soup pot was about to fly toward the kid!

Ellinor looked up, just in time to see the disaster about to unfold

She reacted quickly, getting up to try and catch the hot soup pot, but due to inertia, some of the hot soup still sloshed out and splashed onto the face of the child in the baby seat

The child, scalded by the hot soup, burst into tears immediately.

The waiter looked panic-stricken, forgetting about the soup pot and making a run for it.

“Stop”

Ellinor didn't manage to stop the waiter, nor did she have time to prevent him from running; the key now was to check how badly the child was hurt.

Putting down the soup pot, Ellinor quickly asked Patricia, “Where did the kid get scalded?”

Patricia didn't answer, but the kid was still wailing.

Ellinor saw the child's left eyelid was already swollen, it looked like a severe burn!

She wanted to go over and check the child's injury out of concern, but Patricia pushed her away, shouting, “What are you doing? Stop hurting my child!”

Ellinor was shocked, she didn't expect Patricia to react like this at this time. She frowned, looking at Patricia, puzzled.

Just then, Patricia started to cry, looking behind her and saying pitifully. “Theo, Baby got hurt.”

Ellinor turned around and found that Theo was back, standing at the door of the booth, and she immediately understood Patricia's intention.

Theo rushed over, seeing a large blister on the child's left eyelid, and asked in confusion, “What happened?”

Patricia was crying uncontrollably, but her words were clear, “I called the waiter in to top up the soup, but Ellinor suddenly snatched the soup pot from the waiter's hand and poured it over the child!”

“What?”

Upon hearing this, Theo looked up at Ellinor, his eyes full of complex emotions

Patricia looked extremely angry,

“Ellinor, if you have any grievances, you can vent them on me directly Why do you have to hurt such a small child? He's not even one year old!”