

The Kiss 531

Chapter 531

Just a few days later and she's back at it again.

Ellinor gave Patricia a nasty look, her dislike for Patricia had reached a boiling point.

How could she use a situation where her child got hurt to her advantage?

This woman really had no shame!

Although Ellinor didn't like this kid's mom, she believed the kid was innocent. The poor thing got scalded, he must have been in terrible pain right now and did not understand why he hurt so much

She

didn't rush to defend herself. Instead, she whipped out her phone and dialed emergency services, giving them the address. After hanging up, she started talking

"The waiter almost spilled the whole soup pot on your kid. I was just trying to save him. But the waiter ran off because he was afraid of taking the blame

However, Patricia looked at her in disbelief, "Ellinor, you're lying! I saw you snatch the soup pot from the waiter and throw it at my son. How dare you blame the waiter?! You've gone too far"

Ellinor really didn't like Patricia's attitude, so she coldly reminded her "Ms. Howard, maybe you should worry about your son first, he's crying in pain!"

Patricia looked taken aback and then started weeping even more pitifully, "He's my own son, how could I not care about him? Ellinor, you hurt my son and yet you're playing the saint! Ellinor, I invited you to lunch, how could you treat me like this?! I always thought you were a good person."

Ellinor ignored her and let her continue her performance.

Not getting a response from Ellinor, Patricia turned to Theo, "Theo, what should we do about our child? He's hurt."

Theo calmly checked if the child had any other injuries and once he was sure there weren't any, he immediately picked him up and told Patricia, "Don't panic, we're going to the hospital"

Patricia nodded while sobbing. "Okay, we're going to the hospital"

Ellinor blocked Theo's path, "I've already called an ambulance; it should be here soon; it'll be faster than you taking him to the hospital."

However, Theo didn't wait; he went around her, holding the child, and left swiftly.

Patricia followed Theo out, and as she passed Ellinor, she had a victorious smile on her face and even scoffed.

Ellinor was fuming, the child was so badly injured, and yet, as his mother, she could still smile?

At that moment, Bartlett came back from taking a call just in time to see Theo carrying the crying child and leaving with Patricia

He looked puzzled and asked Ellinor after entering the room, "What happened?"

Ellinor said, "Their kid got scalded by hot soup, it's pretty serious."

Bartlett was taken aback, "How did he suddenly get scalded?"

Ellinor snorted, "They're saying I did it, can you believe it?"

"No way!" Bartlett replied firmly, then he scanned her up and down nervously.

"Ellinor, did you get burned?"

Ellinor did get burned when she grabbed the hot soup pot and her palm was a bit sore now

But she didn't want to make a big deal out of it, so she shook her head, "No."

Bartlett finally relaxed, "Glad you're okay, let's go to the hospital to check on the kid!"

Ellinor didn't object and she nodded, "Okay, let's go!"

She felt sorry for the kid for having been born to such a ruthless mother, his childhood would probably be filled with horrors.

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The doctors immediately treated the kid's wound, applied medication, and bandaged him up. They told the family that the burn to the kid's eye was pretty bad and that it might leave a scar once it was healed

Upon hearing that her baby might be scared, Patricia's tears started to spill out,

"My poor baby, he's too young to be hurt! Theo, what are we gonna do?"

Theo tried to keep his cool and comfort her, "The doc just said it might happen; it's not set in stone."

But Patricia kept sobbing

Theo got a bit impatient and said in a low voice, "He's a boy; a scar on his face is no big deal, as long as he's not hurt anywhere else.

Patricia pulled herself together a bit upon feeling Theo's imitation,

She wiped her tears and said with a sigh. "Theo, you're right. He's a boy; a scar won't ruin his future. I just think it's unfair to him, he shouldn't have to go through

this."

Theo didn't say anything more and went into the ER to check on the kid.

Right now, the one who needed comfort more than the crying Patricia was the injured kid who didn't understand what was happening.

Seeing Theo going to check on the kid, Patricia followed him. Baber's left eye was tightly bandaged, he had stopped crying, but he looked a bit dazed, like he had cried himself silly.

Patricia got emotional again after seeing her son in such a pitiful state. She turned her head and glared at Ellinor at the door, completely different from her usual gentle demeanor, and shouted at her

"Ellinor, why? Why would you hurt my son? I could take whatever you do to me, but you hurt my son, he's just a baby! How could you be so heartless?"

Patricia grabbed Ellinor's clothes and demanded an answer

Seeing this, Bartlett immediately stepped in to protect Ellinor, "Patricia, calm down. I understand how you feel, but I believe Ellinor has nothing to do with this."

But Patricia wouldn't let go of Ellinor and she tearfully said to Bartlett, "Bartlett, how could she not be involved?! I saw her grab the soup pot and pour it on my son's face! There's no reason I would falsely accuse her!"

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Bartlett wanted to protect Ellinor, but he didn't want to use force on Patricia. He was caught in the middle, not knowing what to do.

However, it was Ellinor who pushed Bartlett away and faced Patricia, "Ms. Howard, do you really care if your son's face will be scarred?"

Taken aback by the question, Patricia got imitated, "Ellinor, what are you talking about? I'm his mother, of course I care about my son!"

"Really? It seems to me that my potential fate is more important to you than your son's injury. You are clinging to me here and it seems like you don't really care about your son's condition"

"Theo is taking care of my son; I trust him! I just need to get justice for what happened to my son as his mother!"

Ellinor looked at her with confusion, "Ms. Howard, your current state seems quite different from your usual gentle and quiet image!"

Feeling uneasy. Patricia was too eager to deal with Ellinor and got a bit too hasty. This is the power of motherly love! Any mother in this situation wouldn't be calm and gentle! I'll fight whoever hurts my son!"

Ellinor sneered, "Then you should feel guilty! It seems to me you've hurt your son the most!"

Enraged, Patricia glared at her, "Ellinor, why are you still so unrepentant? Why are you so cruel? Why did you hurt my son?"

As she spoke, she shook Ellinor as if she had lost her mind.

Feeling annoyed, Ellinor pushed Patricia away. She felt that Patricia was just being impotently angry.

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Ellinor gave Patricia a light shove. Patricia reacted as if she'd been pushed with a lot of force, staggering back and almost falling over Patricia was trying to provoke Ellinor into lashing out, hoping to convince people that Ellinor was the one who had hurt the child

Just as Patricia was about to fall, someone caught her, preventing her from hitting the ground

She thought it was Theo who had caught her and felt a surge of happiness, only to find out it was her brother, Balfour

Balfour helped her to her feet and protectively held her, then glared at Ellinor, saying, "Let's see if you dare push her again."

Ellinor replied, 'I didn't push her, I just moved her hand off me'

Balfour frowned, "I saw it, and you still deny it?"

Ellinor thought "What did he see? Is he just imagining things?"

When she found out that it wasn't Theo who had caught her, Patricia felt a bit disappointed, but she still nestled into her brother's arms, tearfully saying, "Bro, you're finally here Baber's face is ruined."

Balfour coldly looked at Ellinor and asked, "What did the child do to upset you? How could you treat a child who doesn't understand things this way?!"

Ellinor answered calmly, "Mr. Howard, I didn't do what Patricia claims I did."

Balfour sneered, "You didn't do it? Can anyone vouch for you?"

Ellinor said, "Then call the cops!"

She thought that, at that time, only she and Patricia were present. The waiter would definitely avoid responsibility, they wouldn't own up to anything.

Balfour felt disgusted by Ellinor's defiant and unrepentant attitude.

While gently patting his sister's back to comfort her, he glared at Ellinor, thinking about how to handle her next.

At this point, Bartlett intervened, "Balfour, I think there might be a misunderstanding. Ellinor has no reason to hurt Baber, it doesn't benefit her. There are definitely cameras in the restaurant, just send someone to check the footage."

Balfour said, "I've already sent someone to check it. The restaurant's camera broke last month and still haven't been repaired, nothing can be found."

Upon hearing this, Patricia cried even harder, "Bro, the camera was broken! Ellinor must have known it was broken, that's why she dared to hurt Baber!"

Balfour frowned and comforted her, "Patricia, don't worry, I won't let Baber suffer in vain, she will pay for this."

Ellinor stood there and found Balfour's accusatory gaze a bit ironic.

Having worked at the Howard Group for a few days, Ellinor had gotten to know Balfour.

Balfour was extremely astute and calculated in his work and social interactions, one could even say he was a bit cunning. But when it came to his sister, he seemed to lose all rationality.

His obsession with his sister was simply indescribable!

Balfour didn't question Ellinor further, knowing she wouldn't admit to anything. He turned to a man who had just walked out of the emergency room. "Theo, don't you have something to say?"

Theo had just arranged for the child's hospital treatment. He looked at Balfour and then said expressionlessly, "Ellinor, come with me."

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Theo was planning to pull Ellinor aside for a chat and Patricia instantly got a bit jittery. With teary eyes, she turned around from Balfour's arms, "Where are you taking Ellinor?"

Theo gave Patricia a chilly look, "Keep the kid company for now, we'll sort this out"

From what he said, was Theo planning on pinning something on Ellinor?

Maybe she had already gathered enough evidence to prove that Ellinor was up to no good, and Theo surely believed that Ellinor had been planning to hurt Baber and he was not going to let her off the hook

With these thoughts, Patricia nodded, "Alright, I'll look after Baber, come back when you've sorted everything out."

Theo didn't respond to Patricia again, his cold gaze fell on Ellinor, and he ordered, "You, come with me."

Ellinor really didn't want to talk to him anymore, but this was about who had harmed his son. If she refused to cooperate with the investigation, knowing Theo's character, he definitely wouldn't let it go.

After a thought, Ellinor nodded and decided to go with him.

However, Bartlett raised his arm to stop Ellinor and asked Theo, "Theo, where are you taking her? Ellinor couldn't possibly be that kind of person and she would never harm a child."

Theo squinted his eyes, his hard

and dark face didn't have the usual courtesy he showed to friends, "Do you really know her?"

Bartlett smiled slightly. "I've known Ellinor for quite some time; I trust her character. And you? You've known Ellinor even longer than me, don't you know her at all?"

Theo snorted, "Trust? On what grounds? Your intuition? Or because you like her?"

Bartlett's eyes dimmed but he kept a calm smile, "Theo, don't make this ugly."

"It's okay. Mr. Rex, I'm fine. I can go with Mr. Blanchet to clear things up." Ellinor cut Bartlett off.

She didn't want to see these two men at a standoff because of whether she had harmed someone. If outsiders saw this, they might think she was some kind of troublemaker who caused these two old friends to turn against each other over a woman.

Bartlett frowned, still worried, "Ellinor, you really don't have to."

"Don't worry!" Ellinor waved casually at Bartlett, then followed Theo towards the long hallway of the hospital.

At the end of the hallway, Theo entered the stairwell.

Without hesitation, Ellinor followed him in.

"If you have any questions, fire away. But no matter how many times you ask, my answer will stay the same, I didn't do what I didn't do. If you really don't believe me, just call the cops! It won't be my first time being falsely taken to a police station."

As soon as she entered the stairwell, Ellinor made her position clear

Theo didn't respond to her and just leaned lazily against the wall with his tall, slender figure and slowly lit a cigarette.

After a puff, he took a small, elongated box out of his pants pocket and casually tossed it to her, and with a cold voice, he said, "Treat your hand first!"

What?

Ellinor instinctively caught the thing he threw.

Looking closely at the item in her hand, she found out that what Theo gave her was actually a tube of burn ointment.

Ellinor's pupils shrank slightly and she was stunned.

Theo actually noticed that her hand was burned. She didn't show any signs; how did he find out?

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Anyway, since she got the ointment now, there was no reason not to use it.

Thank you"

She expressed her thanks lightly, not probing into how he found out about her burn

Opening the ointment, she applied it to her aching palm while saying, "All in all, I didn't hurt that kid it was as the waiter's mistake at the restaurant!"

At this moment, Theo's deep eyes seemed to lose focus. Through the smoky haze, his expression was hard to make out as he looked at her, "Did I ask you that?"

Ellinor frowned, "So, you didn't call me over just to give me some burn ointment, did you?"

Theo didn't answer, squinting at her burned hand and the shiny diamond ring on her ring finger with a hint of sarcasm in his eyes, "Ms. Mendoza, you're remarried now and still wearing the wedding ring I gave you?"

Ellinor fell silent

"Remamed" was a misnomer. She had only collaborated with him before and it was not a real marriage.

Moreover, she didn't even like the diamond ring on her ring finger.

"I wish I could take it off, but I can't remove this custom ring! If you'd like, Mr. Blanchet, you could give me some special solution to take it off right now and I would happily give it back to you. So you can give it to your future wife."

Theo looked at her coldly and his eyes were dark as he said lightly. "No need. My future wife doesn't need hand-me-downs"

Ellinor was startled, then frowned.

His future wife didn't need hand-me-downs?

Did he mean he wouldn't want a second hand woman for a wife?

Was he mocking her for being touched by him and then marrying someone else?

Thinking about this, Ellinor felt very uncomfortable and retorted sarcastically.

"What a pity, Mr. Blanchet. Even if your future wife doesn't want second-hand goods, she has no choice. Because you yourself are a second-hand good, having been married before. We're all the same!"

Theo was taken aback and his face was full of anger.

His words were only referring to the ring, not her.

She misunderstood him and didn't lose out at all, she just snapped back.

Theo stared at her for a while, not bothering to argue with her. He said unhappily, "After you apply the ointment, leave this place and go where you belong!"

"Huh?" Ellinor was stunned again, looking surprised, doubting if she had heard wrong, "Mr. Blanchet, are you saying you want me to leave?"

Theo slowly exhaled smoke, "Exactly, I'll handle things here. You don't need to stick around!"

Having said that, Theo threw away and stomped out his cigarette. He turned, opened the door, and strode out.

Ellinor stood still in the stairwell, looking down at the small tube of burn ointment, recalling Theo's words and his attitude.

She felt very complex.

Did Theo never suspect from the beginning that she had hurt his son?

Did he call her over just to give her an out and a chance to leave safely?

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Patricia sat by her kid's bedside in the hospital, feeling all jittery inside

She wasn't overly worried about the kid's condition. The docs had already said that the wounds were pretty much stable and wouldn't affect any other aspects. They only suggested a few days of hospitalization because they were worried the family wouldn't be able to take proper care of the wounds, which might lead to

infections

What really twisted her guts was Theo, who had gone off to have a chat with Ellinor.

Where the hell was Theo?

What on earth was he talking about with Ellinor that took so long?

The kid on the bed unable to express his pain verbally, whimpered even in his sleep due to the bum pain

Balfour stood by the bed with a stern face. As the kid's uncle, how could he not be pissed to see his nephew in such agony?

In his eyes, Ellinor was nothing but a troublemaker. She always stirred up problems wherever she went!

Now, Ellinor was

not only Patricia's biggest headache but also a potential threat to the safety of Patricia and the kid.

Maybe from the get-go, he shouldn't have kept her in the company just because of her work skills

Balfour had cut her some slack before since she helped them out once, but she kept pushing his buttons by bullying and hurting Patricia

For Patricia's well-being, he couldn't let Ellinor stick around. He had to get someone to deal with her

After some serious thinking, Balfour turned around, made a call, and walked away

Not long after Balfour left, Theo walked into the ward.

"Theo, you're back!"

Patricia's face lit up and she got up to walk towards him

But she soon noticed something was off. Why was Theo back alone? Where was Ellinor?

Patricia took a good look behind him, confirmed that Ellinor wasn't there, and asked, "Theo, where's Ellinor? Didn't she admit to hurting Baber?"

Theo looked at her calmly and said, "She's gone"

Patricia was stunned, "Gone?"

Bartlett, who was checking his phone in the ward waiting for the girl to come back, also got up and came over to ask, "Theo, where did Ellinor go?"

Theo glanced at him. "Not sure."

Bartlett frowned but didn't ask more, planning to call Ellinor later to find out.

Patricia's eyes welled up with tears, "Theo, how could Ellinor just up and leave like that?! She hurt my child so badly, how could she just walk away like that?"

Theo looked at Patricia, who was on the verge of crying, "Why are you so sure that Ellinor hurt Baber?"

Patricia was taken aback and looked up at him with a wronged expression, "Because I saw it!"

Theo looked at her skeptically. "Are you sure you really saw it?"

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Patricia was a bit rattled by Theo's piercing gaze. Using tears to cover up her guilt, her eyes reddened and tears started to pour

Just then, Balfour finished his call and walked in to find his usually untouchable sister being questioned by Theo in a cold manner that even brought her to tears.

Balfour was pissed, quickly stepping forward and pulling his sister into his arms.

"Theo, what are you implying? Are you suggesting Patricia would frame Ellinor on purpose?"

Theo remained stoic as he met Balfour's gaze, "What I mean is, she might have made a mistake"

Patricia leaned against her brother, shaking her head with a mix of resolve and hurt, "No, I didn't make a mistake. It was Ellinor who poured hot soup on Baber

Theo, did Ellinor say something that made you distrust me?"

"Nothing was said."

"Then why don't you believe me? Do you think I'm the kind of person who would slander others on a whim? Theo, I'm not like that."

Balfour couldn't stand to see his sister crying so hard.

"Theo, are you questioning Patricia's character? Just because Ellinor sidestepped responsibility with a few words, you start doubting someone who nearly lost her life to save yours?!"

Remembering Patricia's past kindness, Theo's expression softened, he looked at Patricia with a bit more leniency and guilt.

He stopped questioning Patricia and simply said, "I had a peek at the restaurant's surveillance before leaving; the camera wasn't broken; it was the surveillance system. Fix it, and we can pull up everything that happened and reveal the truth."

Balfour agreed. "Sure! It would be great if we could fix the surveillance system. I'd like to see what really happened, whether Patricia is wrongfully accusing Ellinor or not."

Hearing that the surveillance could be fixed, Patricia froze. Her face went pale and her expression turned ugly.

Oh crap! Once the surveillance was fixed, wouldn't everyone realize she was lying and that she was framing Ellinor?

Patricia didn't expect that the broken surveillance system could be fixed.

No way! She couldn't let that happen.

If they found out she was lying, not only would Theo despise her, but even her doting brother would be disappointed

Patricia felt incredibly uneasy. She quickly put on a magnanimous and forgiving face and sighed softly, "Let's forget it, since Ellinor is gone, I think it's time to let it go! I'm really tired, I don't want to pursue this anymore, and I don't want you and Theo to worry!"

Balfour was deeply moved to see his sister still think of others despite

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"Ms Howard, should I stay the hell away from you? Every time I cross paths with you, bad luck just seems to stick to me!"

Ellinor barged in all of a sudden, her face a mix of obvious fatigue and a sarcastic smirk

Theo's brows furrowed in annoyance upon seeing her return. His stern gaze was full of confusion. What on earth was she doing back here?

Ellinor understood his silent question just by looking at him. She shrugged her shoulders and through her own look, she made her stance clear. She didn't do anything wrong, so why should she leave?

Theo shot her a cold glance, then ignored her

Patricia's eyes sparkled when she saw that Ellinor was back. So she walked up to her, trying to make peace.

"Ellinor, let's just call it quits today! Whether you admit your mistake or not, I'm ready to forgive you. As long as you stop causing trouble for my family, I won't hold a grudge"

Seeing her approach, Ellinor quickly backed off, her disgust evident on her face, as if she had just spotted a pesky bug.

"Stop! Ms. Howard, don't you dare forgive me, I don't need it! What I need now is to prove my innocence!"

"Ellinor" Patricia played the victim, the good hearted one who offered forgiveness but wasn't appreciated, still trying to convince Ellinor to mend her ways, "Please stop being so stubborn, I really want to make peace with you"

Ellinor had enough of Patricia's performance. She ignored her, lifted her head, and turned to Balfour.

"Mr. Howard, I just heard Mr. Blanchet mention that the restaurant's surveillance can be fixed. Please take Ms. Howard and me to check the footage right now to clear my name!"

Before Balfour could respond, Patricia intervened.

“Brother, let it go, let’s not bother with her anymore; let her leave! I’m tired, I don’t want to drag this on. Taking care of the baby here at the hospital is more important!”

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, “Ms. Howard, why do you seem so scared to check the surveillance? I, the so-called ‘criminal, am not scared. What are you afraid of?”

Patricia was speechless and caught off guard by Ellinor’s remark.

Seeing

Ellinor’s determined and composed demeanor, Balfour, who was observing, slightly frowned. He began to believe that maybe she was really innocent, while

his sister’s reaction was somewhat odd.

At first, Patri was adamant about seeking justice for Baber, but her attitude changed when Theo mentioned the surveillance could be fixed.

Could it be? Was Patri lying

about Baber being harmed by Ellinor, all to win Theo’s heart and make him despise Ellinor, ultimately defeating her love rival?

The thought made Balfour’s gaze on his sister, Patricia, more scrutinizing. If Patri was lying, he would feel like he never really knew his sister.

His sister, Patri, who had always been so kind and innocent, couldn’t be such a scheming villain, right?

Patricia felt her brother’s suspicion. She was a bit flustered but didn’t completely lose control.

The more she was suspected, the calmer she had to be. The matter wasn’t settled yet and she definitely wouldn’t admit defeat now

Patricia quickly thought of a plan and immediately put on an offended look, I’m not scared, I’m only thinking of your well-being. I don’t want you to get too hurt!”

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“Ellinor, you’ve gotta

understand that once they check out the surveillance footage, my bro will surely seek revenge for me and my child and use the tape as evidence to charge you with assault!

The only reason I don’t want to press charges is because you’ve helped Theo deal with the old folks at home before, so you’re sorta an old friend. But why the hell can’t you change? Why the heck are you still choosing the wrong path?”

She said all this with such righteous indignation that anyone who didn’t know the truth would think Ms. Howard was a beautiful, kind, and forgiving lady.

Ellinor saw through her act and chuckled lightly, “Ms Howard, I appreciate the sentiment, but I’ve always been someone who’s not afraid to face the music. If the cameras did catch me doing what you’re accusing

ng me of, I'd march myself into prison without a second thought, no matter how many years they gave me, I wouldn't appeal!"

Patricia glared at her, grinding her teeth in frustration, but still managed to put on a show of being teary-eyed and wronged.

She knew very well that things had come to this point because Ellinor was backing her into a corner. If she didn't ask to see the restaurant's surveillance now, she'd look super guilty and suspicious, since even her brother was starting to doubt her.

"Fine! Let's do it your way!" Patricia, after all her theatrics, put on a face of helplessness and sighed deeply. "Bro, I was thinking of letting Ellinor off the hook this time since I was worried that you'd want to avenge Baber as soon as you saw the tape and be too harsh on Ellinor. But Ellinor doesn't appreciate it, and she even hints that I'm lying and that I'm scared. It's just too much! In that case, I guess there's no need for me to pull any punches! Bro, let's go check the hotel's surveillance right now!"

Balfour's suspicion faded when she saw his sister's reaction getting back to normal, "Alright, let's go!"

Baber's nanny had arrived at the hospital. So Patricia gave her a few instructions and was ready to leave.

Ellinor, on the other hand, was alert to Patricia's change of attitude.

Patricia knew that the truth from the surveillance would only prove her to be a liar, but she was suddenly not afraid to check the footage, there must have been something shady going on.

Balfour and Patricia turned around with their eyes full of hostility. He glanced at Ellinor, who was in deep thought, and said sarcastically. "What are you daydreaming about? You wanted to prove your innocence, right? Let's go!"

Ellinor snapped back to reality, nodded, and followed the siblings out.

Bartlett walked over to Ellinor and whispered, "Ellinor, where'd you disappear to earlier?"

Ellinor answered, "Nowhere, I just took a stroll and got some air"

"Oh, I thought you ditched me!"

Ellinor gave him a sidelong glance, "Mr. Rex, you're a grown-up; you can take care of yourself without me. If you want to leave, just go! You're not needed here!"

Bartlett chuckled lightly, "No, we came together and we should leave together. That's what I call seeing things through!"

Theo squinted coldly as he watched Ellinor and Bartlett walk side by side. Just then, he received a call from Collin.

"Mr. Blanchet, I've checked all the OB-GYN appointment records in all hospitals; Ms. Mendoza is indeed,"

When the restaurant owner saw several important guests come back asking to review the surveillance footage, she became very nervous and quickly explained. "Guys, it's not that I don't wanna let you see the tapes, but our security system's really got some bugs I can't open it and I can't see a thing"

Balfour coolly looked up and checked out the cameras around the restaurant and the counter. Just like Theo said, the cameras were not broken because the power lights were still flashing

So he told the owner, "We already know your security system's messed up, so we brought our tech guy to fix it. You just need to go along with this"

Even

though the owner didn't recognize these guests, she could tell from their outfits and demeanor that they were not ordinary people. And the problem did happen

in her restaurant, so she didn't refuse.

"Alright

Balfour called over his best computer engineer from the company, signaling him to check where the system had gone wrong.

The engineer, getting the boss's orders, nodded and got the owner's permission. He went behind the counter and started to check why the security system wouldn't open and kept crashing

The owner was standing nearby, mumbling about when the system might have gone wrong and if it would be hard to fix

The

Howard Group's computer engineer was very professional. He quickly found out the problem was a coding error in the system that caused it to crash whenever it was opened and he immediately started fixing it.

In less than ten minutes, the engineer finished the job.

"Mr. Howard, it's fixed."

The owner was surprised, "Wow, it's really fixed! How did you do it so fast? You guys are amazing!"

Balfour then instructed. "Now find the surveillance footage from the private room where these four had lunch."

"Sure thing. Mr. Howard"

After getting the instruction, the engineer turned to the owner, "Could you tell me the name of the room and the exact lunchtime?"

The owner answered truthfully.

The engineer nodded and started looking for the footage, but soon ran into a problem and said with a frown, "Mr. Howard, I can't find the footage. All other surveillance has been restored, except there's no memory card in that room's camera"

Balfour frowned and looked at the owner questioningly, "What's going on?"

The owner looked bewildered and shook her head, "I have no idea! There should be a memory card. No one has touched those cameras since the system went down. They're all hung high up, where even our cleaning staff can't reach!"

Balfour looked at the owner, feeling like she wasn't lying, so he told his engineer, "Go check that room."

'On it."

In less than a minute, the engineer came back and reported regretfully. "Mr. Howard, there is indeed no memory card in the camera in the room. It must have been

taken!"