

The Kiss 541

Chapter 541

Balfour's eyebrows knitted in deep dissatisfaction with the outcome.

Patricia appeared utterly shocked and baffled "What the heck? Why is the CCTV from our private dining room the only one without a memory card? Bro, this is really weird!"

Balfour found it equally puzzling. The CCTV was fixed, but only the camera in their private dining room was missing a memory card. It was hard to believe it was a

coincidence

His eyes were bright and thoughtful as they swept over Ellinor, who was also investigating the truth, as a hint of suspicion flickered within him.

Seeing her brother's reaction, Patricia also turned her gaze toward Ellinor. Seeming to have thought of something, she said.

"Ellinor, I remember you left the room after Theo and I. Could it be that you took the memory card from the camera to destroy the evidence?"

Hearing his sister's suspicions, Balfour's doubt grew. "Ellinor, what's your answer?"

Ellinor responded, "I didn't take any memory card."

But her denial, without any proof, seemed rather weak.

Patricia shook her head as her face filled with disbelief. I see. Ellinor, you had already taken the memory card from the camera beforehand! That's why you're so confident. You're pretending to be righteous by asking us to check the CCTV together and claiming to prove your innocence. In reality, you're just pretending not to feel guilty and want us to see you as calm and composed, so my brother and the others might believe you're innocent! Right?"

From the moment she entered the restaurant, Ellinor had been standing quietly by the side, not voicing any opinions. Now that the stolen memory card had made her the prime suspect, she wasn't surprised

Because the moment Patricia suddenly changed her attitude and agreed to come and check the CCTV, she knew things wouldn't easily go her way.

The memory card being taken indicated it held the truth of the situation, which could expose Patricia's attempt at framing her. That's why it was urgently removed.

This undoubtedly proved that the disappearance of the memory card was directly related to Patricia. Without a doubt, Patricia was the one who was most afraid of everyone seeing the CCTV footage.

But Patricia had been with them the whole time, with no chance to take the memory card. So there were only two possibilities.

One possibility was that Patricia had already sent someone to take the memory card.

The other was that someone in the restaurant was in cahoots with Patricia and had taken care of it for her.

As Ellinor remained silent, Patricia asked mockingly. "Ellinor, why aren't you speaking? Have you realized you're wrong? If you'd admitted your mistake earlier, I might have forgiven you. But you let things escalate to this point! Even if I wanted to forgive you now, my brother wouldn't let you off the hook so easily!"

Ellinor still ignored Patricia, knowing full well that Patricia was behind this.

She turned to the restaurant owner and asked, "Has anyone else dined in that room after we left?"

The owner shook her head, 'No, it was past dining hours after you left, no other customers came in. Since there were no other customers, it could only be the restaurant staff.

Ellinor asked further, "Where is the waiter who refilled our soup at noon?"

Chapter 542

The restaurant manager's eyes flickered with caution. "That waiter should be in his dorm right now. He told me he wasn't feeling well, so he took half a day off to rest! What do you need from him?"

Ellinor said, "Regarding the child that got burned in our private room today, I have a few questions for him."

The manager frowned, "I want to make it clear that before you guys arrived, I had a serious talk with our staff! He said the incident of the kid getting burned by hot soup had nothing to do with him. I feel that you shouldn't drag our waiters into your affairs, after all, they're just regular folks trying to make a living"

Ellinor smiled and nodded, showing her understanding, "Don't worry, I just want to ask him a few questions; I won't put him in a tough spot"

The manager was torn between protecting her employee and not offending her customers. After a moment of thought, she flagged down a waiter who was cleaning up and instructed, "Go get Gavin from the dorm, tell him I need him"

Soon enough, Gavin, the waiter in question, was called over from his dorm by his colleague.

Gavin walked in shyly, "Boss, you called for me?"

The manager said, "The guests you served in the private room this afternoon are looking for you and have a few questions. Just tell them what you told me earlier. Don't be afraid, just tell them the truth!"

Upon seeing Ellinor and a few others, Gavin's face immediately turned tense, and then he pointed at Ellinor and blurted out.

"Boss, it was her! She grabbed the soup pot from my hand! I was refilling the hotpot on the table when his lady suddenly stood up, snatched the soup pot from my hand, and splashed it directly onto the kid's face!"

Everyone turned to look at Ellinor in shock, finding it hard to believe.

Ellinor could confirm that this waiter was the one who had added soup to their pot.

And his version was exactly the same as Patricia's?

Ellinor's expression slowly grew complex, but not because everyone was blaming her. Instead, she was very clear that she had not done such a thing to hurt a child, but the lies told by Patricia and the waiter, two people who should have nothing in common, were identical.

Therefore, it could be confirmed that there was a connection between this waiter and Patricia, and it seemed they had coordinated their stories.

Ellinor had thought that the child's burn was just an accident caused by a nervous waiter, and Patricia took advantage of the situation to frame her

But now she realized that things were not that simple and that the truth might be more terrifying

If Patricia and this waiter were connected, and they had premeditated on how to accuse her and describe the situation, then it could be inferred that the waiter didn't accidentally hurt the child but did it intentionally under Patricia's instruction.

This was not an accident but a trap carefully set by Patricia, who even didn't hesitate to have a waiter burn her own child.

What kind of mother would do such a thing?!

Ellinor was shocked by her discovery, and her new understanding of the extent of human depravity left her stunned.

"Ellinor, the witness has accused you. Anything else to say?"

Balfour's cold and angry voice echoed. His patience had worn thin and he felt like he wanted to throw her in jail right away and never let her out.

Patricia, with a quivering voice, urged her, "Ellinor, just admit your wrongdoing. If you show the right attitude, I can plead for you with my brother."

Chapter 543

Ellinor slowly snapped back to reality. She glanced at the furious Balfour and then at the seemingly sweet but deviously cunning Patricia.

She snorted, "Mr. Howard, how can this waiter named Gavin be considered a witness?"

Balfour stared at her coldly, "And why can't he be? Patricia and he are not close, yet their testimonies match perfectly. I think that's proof enough"

Not close?

It seemed like Balfour really had no clue about his scheming sister. Well, she will just help him see the light today!

"Mr. Howard, can I have ten minutes? I'll prove that this waiter, Gavin, can't be a witness and that his testimony is invalid!"

Ellinor didn't rush to refute Balfour's words; she simply requested for ten minutes.

Balfour didn't object and calmly watched her struggle

Patnoia felt like victory was in her grasp and wasn't panicked at all. She and the waiter, Gavin, had planned everything perfectly, even the memory card from the surveillance camera had been removed and destroyed. There was no way things could turn around now, Ellinor's struggles were futile!

Ellinor calmly asked the waiter, "You said I snatched the soup pot from your hand and splashed the kid. So tell me, which hand did I use to grab the soup pot from you?"

The waiter's eyes flickered, he subconsciously looked at Patricia, but she didn't look back at him or exchange any glances.

"The situation...the situation happened so suddenly, I...I can't remember those details!"

Ellinor wasn't in a hurry, "Well, it's okay if you can't remember, I'll ask you some other questions, so please answer truthfully."

Gavin frowned, "Go ahead, I'm telling the truth anyway!"

Ellinor stared into Gavin's shifting eyes and asked, "After all of us left the restaurant, did you enter that private room again?"

The waiter immediately shook his head, "No!"

Ellinor squinted, "Are you sure you didn't?"

Waiter Gavin answered resolutely, "I'm sure I didn't!"

Ellinor nodded, "Alright, remember what you just said!"

Then, Ellinor turned to the computer engineer Balfour had brought, politely asking. "You just said that only the surveillance from that private room can't be accessed, right? Can the rest be accessed?"

The engineer confirmed, "Yes, that's correct."

Ellinor gave a slight smile, "Could you please pull up the surveillance footage from the hallway outside the private room. Let's see if our waiter Gavin here entered

the room after we left!"

Upon hearing this, Gavin's face turned pale, and his guilty and nervous eyes darted toward Patricia.

Oh boy, Patricia hadn't expected Ellinor to check the surveillance from this angle.

"Alright then"

Chapter 544

The computer engineer once again sat down in front of the computer to review the surveillance footage.

Fetching the video would take a bit of time, and Ellinor was getting a tad tired standing around. She scanned the room, looking for a chair to park herself on.

And just as she was on the hunt for a seat, her gaze once again collided with Theo's deep-set eyes.

Theo was also there, given that it was about the real story behind his son's burn injury.

But he didn't approach or say anything

and just found himself a chair where he could chill out and smoke a cigarette, looking like he couldn't care less about what was going down.

The smoke blurred her vision, making it impossible for Ellinor to read

Theo's mind. She had a hunch that he wasn't all that concerned about his wife and child.

Just then, a slender hand passed her a bottle of mineral water.

Ellinor looked at the water, then up at Bartlett's handsome and gentle smile. "Thanks" She said as she took the bottle.

She was indeed a bit

parched. She uncapped the bottle, took a sip, and threw a glance at Patricia sitting nearby.

Patricia seemed to be keeping her cool, looking like she had nerves of steel.

The waiter, Gavin, on the other hand, wasn't as cool. He seemed really on edge and his fingers were fidgeting non-stop.

A few minutes later, the computer engineer got up to report, "Mr. Howard, the waiter named Gavin went to the private room again after Ms. Howard and her friends left, coming out about a minute later. I've clipped the relevant part of the footage. You can come take a look."

Balfour walked over, checked the footage, and confirmed that Gavin did indeed go to that room again about 20 minutes ago.

Then, Balfour turned to Ellinor with a serious look, "What does him going back to that room imply?"

Ellinor responded, "Mr. Howard, it implies a lot. Because this is enough to prove that he took the memory card from the room's surveillance camera"

Balfour looked at the waiter, "Did you take the memory card from the surveillance camera?"

Gavin quickly shook his head in denial, "No! Not me! What memory card? I, I don't know!"

Ellinor calmly capped her bottle of water and said, "Gavin, the hallway's surveillance video has recorded that you entered that room again after we left. Are you still going to deny it?"

1. I just went to clean up!"

"Oh? Is that so? Did you finish cleaning in just

one minute? Even if you're super efficient, why did you lie just now? You obviously went to the room, but you said you didn't. What are you trying to cover up?"

Chapter 545

Gavin said awkwardly, "Well maybe I got mixed up! I have to clean so many rooms every day, it's easy to lose track of which is which!"

Ellinor laughed, "Gavin, with a memory like yours, do you often serve the wrong dishes? If you're always like this, I doubt your boss will keep you on for long!"

Waiter Gavin's eyes flickered nervously, "I'm not feeling well today, so my memory's a bit off. Miss, you foolishly took the soup pot from me to hurt that kid. Why are you trying to pin it on me now?"

"Did I say you had anything to do with the kid's burns? I'm just looking for the memory card" Ellinor snickered, then turned serious, "Gavin, it's not too late to hand over the memory card. Otherwise, I'll call the cops and let them use their professional means to find out who took the memory card instead!"

"I'm sure you were careful to wipe off your fingerprints when you took the memory card! But what you might not know is that police technology is so advanced now that even if you wiped off your fingerprints, the air around you would have recorded your body cells for up to 24 hours. The police just need to collect these cells from the air with their special equipment, and they can immediately verify whether the suspect's DNA matches yours! That's called the Body Cell Evidence Law!"

"If the police find out you took the memory card, combined with your illogical behavior, it would be hard for them not to suspect you of causing premeditated harm

to the child."

Her words left the three highly educated gentlemen, Theo, Balfour, and Bartlett, puzzled. They looked at each other, wondering if they'd heard wrong. What was this "Body Cell Evidence Law?"

That's night, Ellinor made it up! There was no such law, she was just trying to scare Gavin.

Gavin, not well educated, didn't understand what body cells were. But seeing how confident she sounded, he believed her and was terrified.

He was scared that the advanced police technology would find his DNA and he freaked out, "I... I didn't! I have no grudge against you, why would I hurt a kid I don't

know?"

Ellinor seized the opportunity to press him, "So admit it, did you take the memory card? Who told you to?"

Gavin became extremely uneasy and began subconsciously looking at Patricia, "She asked me to..."

The truth was about to be exposed. Ellinor narrowed her eyes, "Who is she?"

Gavin looked confused and was struggling to cope with the situation. His eyes fell on Patricia as if his defenses were about to break, "It's..."

Suddenly, Patricia began to cough as if she were choked by something.

“Patn, what’s wrong?” Balfour, worried, supported his sister and gently patted her back.

Patricia coughed for a while before slowly recovering. Her face was pale, and she said weakly, “Bro, I’m okay, just a bit choked by the smell of the kitchen’s smoke.”

Balfour breathed a sigh of relief, “As long as you’re okay.”

During the coughing fit, Patricia had secretly signaled Gavin.

Gavin paused as if he had received some sort of prompt or threat. He looked around in confusion, then suddenly pointed at Ellinor, “It was you! Weren’t you the one who asked me to take the memory card from the camera? You said you were afraid of being caught and sent to jail for hurting the kid, so you transferred some money to me and asked me to destroy the evidence on the memory card. Now you’re trying to put all the blame on me! You really can’t be trusted”

Ellinor’s eyebrows furrowed, the situation was back in Patricia’s hands!

Chapter 546

“When did I ever tell you to take out the memory card and destroy it? How did I contact you? Which bank did I use to transfer money to you? How much did I transfer?”

Ellinor quickly fired a series of questions at the waiter, Gavin, demanding immediate answers.

There was no doubt that this waiter, Gavin, was lying. He must be under pressure from Patricia, hence why he suddenly started lying just as the truth was about to

come out

What the hell did Patricia do to him?

However, such hastily made-up lies would definitely have many holes and would be easily picked apart.

Faced with such questioning, Gavin’s face turned tense again, hurriedly scrambling for answers, “It was half an hour ago. You contacted me through social media, asked me to do this thing for you, and even transferred some money to me”

Ellinor raised her eyebrows coolly,

“Oh? Social media? So where’s our chat history? Show it to everyone!”

Gavin swallowed nervously, “What chat history? You were careful; after contacting me, you asked me to delete all your contact information and chat history!”

“Really? We only met

for the first time today, when did we exchange social media contact information? How come I don’t know about it?”

“Ummm... you specifically found me before you left and asked for my social media account, how can you pretend not to know now?”

Ellinor snorted, “When I left, you had already run off. Where was I supposed to find you for your contact information?”

Alright, let's say what you said is true. If I really asked for your contact information, gave you money, and asked you to destroy the evidence, then why did you accuse me of snatching the soup pot from your hands and scalding that kid when you first saw me?

Since you took my money, you should be speaking up for me and perjuring yourself. Why aren't you saying nice things for me?

Gavin, don't you think your statements are contradictory and illogical?"

Gavin was already sweating bullets from Ellinor's calm counter-questioning. Her logical thinking ability was far superior to his and he was on the verge of a meltdown.

"It was you... you told me to say it like that, you said it would sound more real..."

Ellinor couldn't help but laugh, "So, to make it more real, you've taken my money and betrayed me?"

Patricia was cursing Gavin inwardly for being useless. How could he not even be able to make up a decent lie?

Patricia put on an unbearable expression. With red eyes, she tugged at Balfour Howard's arm, looking like she simply wanted to stand up for the underdog.

"Ellinor is being so harsh; isn't she forcing the waiter to change his story? Why is she pushing the blame onto an innocent worker? I think it's really unfair!"

Balfour looked down at his almost tearful sister and frowned, and his gaze toward Ellinor became extremely impatient.

Quinton also stepped forward to report his findings to everyone, "Mr. Howard, we've checked the waiter's account, there was indeed a transfer of money into his account half an hour ago."

Chapter 547

Balfour was looking at Ellinor with an unwavering gaze that was full of seriousness.

"Ellinor, cut the crap! Given the circumstances, there's no point in playing your little games. No one's buying what you're selling anymore!"

Ellinor calmly faced Balfour, "Mr. Howard, don't you find the allegations the waiter has against me a little bit fishy?"

Balfour frowned, "Then why would a waiter who had no beef with you before try to frame you out of the blue?"

Ellinor was disdainful of Balfour's irrational behavior whenever his sister was involved and gave a sarcastic laugh.

"Mr. Howard, do you think it's possible that the waiter injured your nephew and is trying to pin the blame on me to save his own skin? And he's the one who took the memory card? Maybe he was trying to wipe out evidence of his own wrongdoing."

The money in his account was unsigned. Could it be that someone else transferred it to him?"

As she said the last sentence, she cast a meaningful look at Patricia.

Patricia looked wronged and clung to her brother nervously, "Why is Ellinor looking at me like that? I haven't done anything to upset her."

To shield his sister from Ellinor's intimidating attitude, Balfour pulled Patricia into his arms, patted her shoulder comfortingly, and glared at Ellinor.

"Ellinor, if you put all these smarts to good use, I bet you'd be a real whiz. But right now, you're out of options. Either turn yourself in, or I'll call the cops. Your

choice"

"Wait till you realize you're barking up the wrong tree, I choose to clear my own name!" Ellinor rolled her eyes, having lost her patience with Balfour

She walked up, rudely pushed aside Balfour and Patricia, who were blocking her way, and strutted towards the restaurant's counter, where the engineer was still sitting in front of the computer. She waved at him, saying, "Get up. I need to do some digging

The engineer felt the pressure as the strong-willed woman approached, but he couldn't allow her to tamper with the surveillance system, so he looked up to his boss for instructions.

Balfour, who was just pushed aside, looked unhappy. He thought for a moment, then nodded, signaling his subordinate to get up and let her investigate.

Let's see what Ellinor could dig up. Was she really not giving up until the last minute?

With the boss's permission, the engineer finally got up and made way for Ellinor.

Ellinor sat at the computer desk and began to check the surveillance footage.

The memory card from the private room's surveillance was missing, but the surveillance from other angles in the restaurant was fine.

Patricia and Gavin's statements were very consistent, indicating that they must have had contact. The most likely scenario was that they had a conversation after Patricia came out of the restroom.

As long as she could find this video, it would prove that the person colluding with the waiter, Gavin, was not her, but Patricia!

Chapter 548

Patricia watched as Ellinor frantically hustled and bustled in front of the computer, not worried in the slightest but rather finding her utterly ridiculous.

The memory card from the box's surveillance was already destroyed, what could she possibly find from all her bustling?

Moreover, till now. Theo had just been sitting there, watching, not intervening or speaking a word for Ellinor, it seemed like he had completely given up on her.

This was great. As long as Theo believed Ellinor was a bad woman whod harm a child, her goal would be achieved

*Her heart filled with joy, but on the surface. Patricia feigned a sigh of helplessness With an innocent face, she walked up to the counter and gently said,
“Ellinor, it’s useless to insist that you’re right. How long are you planning to deny it? If you admit your mistake now, I’ll convince my brother to let you off*

Ellinor didn’t pay any mind to Patricia, she didn’t even furrow her brows and just kept her focus on the computer screen, then lightly tapped the enter key twice

“Done!”

Ellinor captured two segments of surveillance video and lifted her hand to signal Balfour, “Mr. Howard, please come over and see for yourself!”

Balfour furrowed his brows, then impatiently walked over, “What am I looking at?”

Ellinor stood up, politely offering her seat to her boss Balfour, “Mr. Howard, you sit first, take your time.”

Balfour was out of patience, he sat down with a stern face, looking at the two video files on the computer screen, waiting to hear how Ellinor would defend herself.

Ellinor stood next to the chair, moved the mouse, and opened one of the video files.

*“Mr. Howard, this is nearly an hour—
long surveillance footage, from when Mr. Rex, Mr. Blanchet, Ms. Howard and I entered this restaurant to when we left. covers all angles of surveillance within the restaurant.*

*I’ll play it for you at high speed now. You can see that I had
no interaction with this waiter from beginning to end. We hadn’t even met before he entered the box to add soup, and I did not, as he claimed, seek him out for contact info when I left.”*

*Balfour, with furrowed brows, watched the fast—
forwarded footage and narrowed his eyes, still filled with doubt.*

Ellinor then said. “Don’t worry, Mr. Howard, although the video is sped up, I did not edit the surveillance footage, you can have your computer engineer verify it later.”

Balfour snorted, “There’s no surveillance that doesn’t have blind spots! Ellinor, you think this clears you of suspicion?”

Ellinor gave a slight smile, “I understand it’s a bit of a stretch. That’s why I’d like you to watch another surveillance video that was less than ten minutes long!”

After she finished speaking, she moved the mouse again and opened another video file to play

“Mr. Howard, this is footage from the surveillance camera at the restroom door.

In this footage, we can see that after your sister Patricia came out of the restroom, she called over the waiter Gavin in the hallway, and they chatted for about five to six minutes.

Mr. Howard, would you like to know what they talked about?"

Balfour's expression instantly turned serious when he saw the second surveillance video. He couldn't help but look up at Patricia, who was standing by the counter.

Chapter 549

At this point, Patricia's face was kinda frozen and her expression was a bit off. She never expected Ellinor to spot a hole in her conversation with the waiter, Gavin. "Mr. Howard, just take another look. When your sister was chatting with Gavin, they clearly had some hand to hand contact."

Ellinor rewound the video by a good ten seconds and played it back in slow motion.

"Look, their hand movements are pretty telling Ms. Howard took something out of her pocket and slipped it into Gavin's hand on the sly

Mr. Howard, do you reckon two total strangers would need to exchange items in secret after a few words of small talk?"

At this point, Ellinor's tone was laced with sarcasm, but she wasn't over the top. She was simply giving Balfour a taste of his own medicine for his previous coldness towards her

Balfour didn't say a word. After watching the two videos Ellinor had pulled up, his expression gradually turned serious.

Then he stood up, looking deeply at his beloved sister, his eyes growing complex.

"Patricia, did you know this waiter before?"

Although Patricia was feeling a bit guilty, she put on her best innocent face, fluttering her bright eyes and shaking her head, "I...I didn't know him before"

Balfour asked sternly. "So, what were you two talking about? What did you sneak him? Tell me the truth!"

Patricia was really spooked by her brother's unusual harshness and loud voice. She was extremely nervous and afraid of losing his trust. She knew her brother hated lies more than anything.

Patricia put on a pitiful face and her voice choked up. "I...I was just ordering from the waiter, I didn't say anything..."

Balfour frowned, clearly unsatisfied with his sister's explanation.

Ellinor chuckled at the side, "What sort of habit is this, Ms. Howard? Ordering food at the restroom door? That's a bit too unique, huh? And you were at it for five or six minutes? I wonder what you actually ordered:

Patricia's face was visibly strained, but she didn't show any signs of panic. She quickly composed herself and answered in an innocent and pitiful tone. "Ellinor, could you please stop making fun of me?"

I saw you vomiting painfully in the restroom and knew your stomach was upset. So when I saw the waiter outside, I asked him if there was any light and stomach-friendly food, so I could add a few more dishes you'd like"

Ellinor laughed it off, raising an eyebrow, "So, what did you order? I didn't see any new dishes on the table."

"L..actually didn't order anything. The waiter told us we'd already ordered plenty and advised us not to waste food. So I didn't actually place an order"

Ellinor smirked, "Oh, so you chatted with the waiter for a few minutes and didn't order a single dish? Mr. Howard, what's your take on this?"

Balfour's face darkened, his disappointment was evident. He didn't answer Ellinor's question but sternly asked Patricia, "Patri, what exactly did you hand to the waiter?"

Chapter 550

Tears welled up in Patricia's eyes as she looked up at her brother, "...I just gave him a bit of extra cash. What's the big deal?"

Balfour frowned, "Just a bit of extra cash?"

Patricia innocently nodded, "Yes! I asked him about the light and delicious dishes here, and he patiently explained them to me for quite a while. But I didn't order anything in the end and I felt like I had troubled him, so I gave him some extra money"

Ellinor smirked, "Just now, Ms Howard, you said that Gavin advised you not to order too much to avoid wasting food, but now you're saying he spent a long time introducing dishes to you? And even if you wanted to give him money, there was no need to do it so sneakily, right?"

Patricia knew that every word Ellinor said was to expose her, so she ignored her and quickly explained to her brother,

"You know, I've developed a habit of tipping the waitstaff extra. I don't see any problem with that. I gave it to him secretly because I was worried his colleagues would see it and try to snatch it"

Balfour squinted at his sister's innocent face, finding it hard to believe that she could be so conniving

Ellinor chuckled, "Mr. Howard, if you're so easily convinced by Ms. Howard's words, then I have nothing more to say! Call the cops!"

At Ellinor's words, Balfour frowned, then turned to the startled waiter, Gavin.

"You! Tell me! What exactly did you two talk about, and what did she give you?"

Gavin was about to answer Balfour's question according to Patricia's words.

At that moment, Ellinor tilted her head and reminded him with a smile, "Gavin, this is your last chance to tell the truth. If you dare lie or try to deceive us, Mr. Howard will definitely call the police to investigate until we find out who hurt his nephew. There will be no mercy!"

Gavin's heart fluttered at her words, and he was truly scared by the escalating situation.

He only wanted to make a quick buck, but he never expected to be dragged into such a complicated dispute.

Under the pressure, Gavin hesitated for a moment, then decided to confess, "Ms. Howard called me over to..."

Balfour's eyes narrowed, "For what?"

Gavin paused, glancing nervously at Patricia.

Patricia was staring at him intensely, her eyes clearly warning him not to misspeak.

What could he do? Patricia had something on him.

Previously, Ms. Howard and her friends dined here. She witnessed him picking up a customer's phone from a blind spot of the surveillance camera and pocketing it. She recorded the whole thing.

Today, she used the incident of him stealing the customer's phone and the allure of money to pressure him into harming a child and blaming it on Ms. Mendoza.

He didn't want to harm an innocent child and initially refused, but Ms. Howard threatened him with the video of him stealing the customer's phone.

If the owner found out he stole a customer's phone, he'd definitely be furious and fire him.