

The Kiss 601

Chapter 601

It seemed Haillie wasn't as helpless as she thought. When push came to shove, this friend could be quite handy

Patricia felt at ease and smiled Haillie, thanks for defending me in front of Grandpa"

Haillie replied. "Ah, it's nothing! Patricia we're best buds. How could I just sit back and watch Ellinor bully you and steal your limelight?"

I swear, she was totally out to get you today, pushing you down the stairs on purpose so she could hog the spotlight!

But don't you worry, I've got someone keeping tabs on her backstage. There's no way she'll get a chance to speak in front of old Mr. Bagley

Patricia chuckled and put on her innocent act, pretending to be clueless, Haillie, don't be so hard on Ellinor or I don't think she did it on purpose"

"As if Patricia, you're just too kind hearted. You're giving her too much credit! Haillie genuinely thought her friend was too nice and easily bullied She felt a strong protective instinct for Patricia, who was also going to be her relative in the future and was determined to look out for her

"Patricia, let's drop the subject of Ellinor! Come on, I've got a wheelchair for you. Your foot is hurt, and it's hard for you to walk. I'll push you to see old Mr. Bagley, see what he has to say?"

Patricia nodded and said, "All right"

Balfour had just left a few servants to look after her, then left.

Without Balfour, the remaining servants were easier to persuade Seeing the wheelchair, they didn't stop them from going out.

And so, Haillie pushed Patricia in front of old Mr and Mrs Bagley

Haillie said, 'Old Mr. Bagley, I've brought Patricia!'

Old Mr. Bagley's stern eyes fell on Patricia, who was still in her stage makeup and sitting in the wheelchair. He squinted his sharp, though aged eyes, quickly noticing something was off, and asked in a deep voice.

"Why have you changed your clothes? Why are you in a wheelchair? What's going on?"

Patricia explained, looking a bit embarrassed, "Grandpa. I'm sorry I can't stand up to talk to you. It's very rude of me. I just changed out of my costume in a hurry after my performance and didn't see the steps, so I accidentally twisted my ankle."

Old Mr. Bagley looked at her pitiful appearance for a moment, then, his doubts vanished. He began to feel some pity and respect for Ms. Howard, whom he had never liked and a kind smile appeared on his face. He said gently, "All right, your sincerity is clear to both

your grandma and me. You did a splendid job in your performance just now, and it's clear you've prepared for a long time. I really enjoyed your performance, and so did the other guests. Now that your foot is injured, you should rest. Don't move around too much, and you'll have another chance to perform for us later."

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Hearing the usually frosty old Mr. Bagley suddenly showing such concern for her. Patricia felt somewhat pampered She quickly nodded obediently and then said

"Grandpa, actually, my foot isn't that big of a deal If you need me to go on stage, I can still sing a lot

But I know you're worried sick about me and probably don't have the mood to keep watching the show So, I don't want to worry you either I'll just sing for you another time! However, while I'm nursing my foot. I'll practice my singing chops so I can belt out even better next time for you!"

Looking at the thoughtful Patricia, a sense of admiration sparkled in old Mr. Bagley's eyes that had never been there before He then said

"All right, just focus on getting better No need to strain your vocal cords. Your singing today was already top notch

This wasn't just empty flattery but a heartfelt compliment.

She had indeed sung remarkably well just now. Not only did he think so, but the applause from the audience attested to that too!

With a voice like hers, it's not hard to imagine her killing it in other songs too!

Old Mr. Bagley's attitude towards Patricia had significantly changed!

Previously, he wasn't too fond of Patricia and had a negative impression of this girl from the Howard family. He always thought of her as somewhat two faced. Even though she was thorough in her actions, he felt that she was cunning She appeared kind but might not actually be as nice as she seemed

But after hearing

her sing today, he realized that she's a girl with a heart, showing her sincerity through her effort!

Maybe he had misunderstood this girl before.

For years, he had been wanting to find comfort for old Mrs. Bagley, who had Alzheimer's. He wanted to find a girl who resembled their missing daughter to keep old Mrs. Bagley company.

Now, since this girl from the Howard family was so earnest, there's no need to look for anyone else. After all, they were somewhat of a family. Letting her accompany old Mrs Bagley would put his mind at ease..

Also, she did bear some resemblance to their missing granddaughter, particularly the mole between her eyebrows.

This resemblance might make old Mrs. Bagley, who had Alzheimer's, feel more at ease.

From now on, let her come over frequently and keep old Mrs. Bagley company as Marlinie. Chatting with her might alleviate old Mrs. Bagley's longing for her daughter and her condition.

At this moment, old Mrs. Bagley was restlessly looking at the stage, eager to leave. She said, "Marlinie, Marlinie has left. We need to find Marlinie quickly, we must leave immediately"

Old Mr. Bagley snapped back to reality and quickly stopped old Mrs. Bagley from leaving. He comforted her, "Dear, Marlinie hasn't left. She's still here! Look over there, isn't that Marlinie? She's right here now!"

While saying this, old Mr. Bagley pointed at Patricia, who was sitting in the wheelchair for old Mrs. Bagley to see.

The old Mrs Bagley looked over, and her restless gaze fell on Patricia's face, frowning and staring at her for a while.

Then, possibly because Patricia's clothes were vastly different from the performers, old Mrs. Bagley didn't come closer but instead backed away, "No, no, it's not her."

Seeing old Mrs. Bagley backing away instead of coming forward, old Mr. Bagley felt puzzled, and his worries deepened, "Dear, what's going on? Didn't you just say you wanted to see Marlinie?"

Chapter 603

Old Mrs. Bagley's eyes were filled with defiance as she shook her head vigorously. I want to find Marlinie She's not Marine Hearing this, old Mr. Bagley was all knotty browed, clueless on how to respond What brought about this sudden change in old Mrs Barey? Despite earning the trust of old Mr. Bagley, Patricia was now facing rejection from old Mrs Bagley She couldn't help but feel a twinge of guilt

She looked up and shot her bestie Haillie a pleading look, mimicking a puzzled expression, hoping her friend could help her dodge this bullet

Seeing Patricia's

SOS, Haillie immediately jumped to her defense. "Old Mrs Bagley, she is Martinie! No doubt about it!

She's the girl who just performed on stage, only now in a new outfit and makeup, that's probably why you didn't recognize her

She just changed because she's about to perform another act Old Mrs Bagley don't freak out Just chill a bit and take another look, okay?

The old Mr. Bagley was also trying to pacify old Mrs Bagley, saying, "Yeah, Take another look, and this is exactly the girl you were just demanding to see. How can you not recognize Marline?

Hearing everyone say this, old Mrs. Bagley, guided by old Mr. Bagley and Haillie, took another look at Patricia. She stared at her intently, starting to waver, "You are

Marlinie?

Old Mr. Bagley gave a wink, signaling Patricia to say something.

Patricia, being the sly for she was, knew what the old man was up to, he wanted her to play along and pretend to be their daughter Marlinie to soothe old Mrs. Bagley

And that suited her just fine!

As long as old Mrs Bagley depended on her like her lost daughter, the Bagley family would be another powerful ally for her, besides the Howard family!

So. Patricia put on a sentimental act, her eyes even turning red. She tentatively held old Mrs. Bagley's hand, while gently saying. Yes, it's me! I'm Marlinie, Mom, I'm back

"Marlinie

Hearing this familiar name, old Mrs Bagley seemed to be transported back to the days when her daughter was still by her side. Tears instantly filled her eyes, and she held Patricia's hand tremblingly. "Marlinie, my Marline, you've suffered"

Patricia rested her head on old Mrs. Bagley's shoulder, a satisfied smile playing on her lips.

Witnessing this, old Mr. Bagley felt a pang of sadness but also a relief. It was a good thing that Patricia was accepted by old Mrs. Bagley so easily. This should help soothe old Mrs. Bagley's longing for her daughter.

Just as this touching scene was unfolding, a lazy voice barged in

"Sorry to interrupt{"

Everyone turned in surprise toward the source of the voice.

Ellinor had somehow joined them, her face filled with a smile, effortlessly merging into the conversation.

Seeing Ellinor suddenly appear, Haillie and Patricia both couldn't help but go on high alert.

What's this annoying woman doing here?

Was she trying to stir the pot again?

Chapter 604

Ellinor flashed Patricia a smile and said. "Ms. Howard, I've already stripped off the costume and left it backstage at the makeup station. Make sure someone scoops it up.

I reckon this finely made costume is bespoke, right? I'd suggest you send someone to check it out now If it's lost or damaged later, don't point fingers at me

Her words were light as a feather, but suddenly, the air got thick

Patricia and Haillie's faces stiffened. They didn't know how to respond just shot Ellinor a dirty look, then glanced nervously at old man Bagley

Old man Bagley, previously friendly, now looked grim. He glanced at the innocent Patricia in her wheelchair, then at Ellinor, who had removed her stage makeup, his brow

furrowed in deep thought.

Ellinor just grinned at old man Bagley. Seeing no response from Patricia, she continued

“Ms Howard, you’re not saying anything? Silence is golden, huh? If there’s no problem, I’ll be on my way Later!”

After saying her piece, she respectfully bowed to old man Bagley and his wife. “Mr. and Mrs. Bagley, it was an honor to attend your party. I’ll take my leave now Goodbye”

With that, she turned to leave

Suddenly, Mrs Bagley came to, reaching out to stop Ellinor. “It’s Marlinie. She’s Marlinie. Don’t go, Marlinie”

Ellinor paused slightly at the name Marlinie but didn’t stop walking or turn to look at Mrs. Bagley

Mrs Bagley’s outburst snapped Mr. Bagley back to reality. He steadied his wife, then called out to Ellinor. “Ms. Mendoza, wait!”

Ellinor stopped, turned, and smiled. “Mr. Bagley, you called?”

Mr Bagley asked her, “From what you said earlier, you just took off the costume?”

Ellinor nodded “Yes”

Mr. Bagley’s brow furrowed. “So, the one who was singing and performing on stage was actually you?”

Ellinor raised an eyebrow but didn’t immediately reply. Instead, she glanced at Patricia in her wheelchair.

Patricia was pale, staring at Ellinor with a calm but threatening gaze.

She was warning Ellinor not to spill the beans

But Ellinor was unfazed by Patricia’s look and truthfully answered Mr. Bagley. “Yes, it was me on stage. Sorry for the trouble.”

Upon learning the truth, Mr. Bagley’s face darkened. His fondness for Patricia instantly vanished, replaced by a deep revulsion. He was also livid at himself for so readily believing a lie.

Mr. Bagley shot a harsh glare at Patricia and Haillie, who had just been performing together. He grunted heavily, then coldly asked Patricia, “Didn’t you just claim that the person performing on stage was you?”

Chapter 605

Patricia tried her best not to look too nervous, but her face looked a bit off “Grandpa.”

Haillie quickly came up with an excuse, immediately stepping in for Patricia “Mr. Bagley, don’t listen to Ellinor How could the performance be hers? Does she look like she could perform? She’s just a regular employee at Balfour is company from some poor, hick town How could she possibly have the chance to learn acting and singing?”

Haillie turned to Ellinor, mocking. "Ellinor, don't be green-eyed because Patricia stole the show and got all the applause and admiration. You can't just waltz in here trying to steal the credit, blowing your trumpet too high! Do you really think people would believe that it was you singing just because you said so? The other performers backstage can prove it was Patricia, clear as day"

Seeing Haillie so adamant, Mr. Bagley was a bit puzzled, asking, "Who really performed the piece just now?"

Before Ellinor and Patricia could answer, Haillie took over, saying, "Mr. Bagley, of course, it was Patricia! You can't listen to Ellinor's claptrap. She's a piece of work! She's working at Balfour's company but not doing her job, always trying to make a pass at men, looking for shortcuts. She even tried to hit on Patricia's boyfriend, Theo, but with no luck. Then tried to make a pass at Balfour, but no dice! Now she's here spreading rumors, looking for a man. Mr. Bagley just holds on. I will get the other performers to testify that it was Patricia on the stage!"

Soon, the performers from backstage were called over. As expected, they were all arranged by Haillie, and they all vouched for Patricia, which gave Haillie confidence.

As for this. Ellinor didn't bother to explain anymore, just smiled faintly, "All right, let's just say I'm lying. I'll leave you to it."

Haillie gave a smug grin

Thought Ellinor can outsmart her? Tried to ruin Patricia's show? In her dreams!

However, Mr. Bagley didn't completely let go of his doubts. He called out to Ellinor, "Wait! Ms. Mendoza, don't go!"

Ellinor paused, "Mr. Bagley, what else do you want?"

Haillie looked a bit nervous, then interrupted, "Mr. Bagley, it's been proven that she's lying. What else do you want with her? Just let her go!"

Mr. Bagley cast a serious glance at Haillie, "Everyone can lie, but voices don't. Since they both claimed the performance was theirs, let them sing a few lines. I'll know who it was right away"

Patricia, who had just breathed a sigh of relief, faced a crisis again. Her face was stiff, but she tried to stay calm. She quietly gave Haillie a sharp pinch.

Feeling Patricia's reproach, Haillie panicked. She hadn't expected this and hurriedly said, "Mr. Bagley, Patricia has been injured. The doctor said she needed to rest. I'm afraid she can't sing now."

Chapter 606

throat! A couple lines of singing would just prove her ability Don't worry, she won't wear herself out

Haillie was on the fence, "Uh"

"Enough with your excuses! Old Mr. Bagley was clearly over it and didn't bother with Haillie anymore. His icy gaze swept over Patricia and then Ellinor.

"Sing! Which one of you is going first?"

Patricia knew she was stuck between a rock and a hard place. She put on a brave face, smiled, and said, "Well, it doesn't really matter who goes first! Ellinor, who do you think should start?"

Ellinor looked at Patricia, who was smiling but seemed to have eyes that were filled with fear and threats. Clearly, she was warning Ellinor not to spill the beans, or else!

Ellinor found this amusing Patricia's reputation was on the brink of ruin, and she was still trying to scare her?

Whispers started to spread among the guests.

"Whose kid is that? How dare she try to steal the limelight from Ms. Howard?"

"I don't know. I've never seen her before!"

"She claimed that she sang the part earlier, is that true?"

"I highly doubt it Ms. Howard has always been talented, it's not surprising she can sing so well."

"Yeah! That performance was probably something Ms. Howard practiced specifically for Old Mr. Bagley's birthday. As for the girl we've never seen before, who knows whose daughter she is? She's probably just trying to steal credit and suck up to Old Mr. Bagley."

"Girls these days are so cunning, and they don't even think! Old Mr. Bagley isn't someone you can fool easily. Look, he's making her prove herself by singing on the spot! She's probably scared out of her wits!"

Amid the chatter, Ellinor calmly said. "I'll go first then."

She wasn't going to let Patricia get her way, she was going to show Patricia that she couldn't just pretend to be someone else! Especially when that person was her beloved mother!

Ellinor cleared her throat gently and then sang a line with her clear voice

It was a challenging line, as lively as the one sung by the person on stage earlier.

The onlookers' impressions of Ellinor changed instantly

Old Mr. Bagley already knew the truth, he admired Ellinor, and his doubts were completely cleared, but he still gave Patricia a cold look.

"Ms. Mendoza's performance is over, it's your turn now. Start your performance!"

Patricia felt extremely embarrassed and forced a couple of laughs. She reluctantly prepared to start, but just as she was about to, she pretended to have a sore throat and stopped to make an excuse. "I may have gotten too carried away performing earlier, my throat feels a bit dry, I'm afraid I might not be able to perform."

Chapter 607

Old Mr. Bagley wasn't buying Patricia's act.

"Someone, get her a glass of water Let's soothe that throat of hers."

Patricia fell silent

After drinking the water brought by the Bagley's servant, Patricia was at a loss for words and started singing

She had been practicing for months, so her voice should've been on par with Ellinor's

She and Ellinor sang the same lyrics, but she cracked on the final note, sparking a wave of snickers from the crowd.

Patricia's face was a mix of embarrassment and mortification like never before. Trying to explain herself, she said, "I'm sorry, Grandpa. My voice is hoarse from singing that's why I don't sound like myself"

"Really" Your voice is

hoarse?" Old Mr. Bagley interrupted her coldly, his voice dripping with sarcasm I remember when you were pretending to be a performer just now, your throat was fine! You think I can't tell that your voice isn't the same as before?"

Patricia's eyes grew moist and she looked like she

was about to burst into tears, "No, Grandpa. It's just that my throat was a bit tense and it made me sound different. I wasn't lying! It was really me"

Old Mr. Bagley scowled, his voice was now even colder, "Hmm! You still have the cheek to deny your mistake! The one thing I detest most in my life is lying. Now leave! Go back to your Howard family! Don't you dare call me grandpa again or step foot into the Bagley's residence! Don't even mention any kinship with the Bagley's, I don't have a granddaughter like you

Ms Howard didn't expect the consequences to be so severe and she immediately burst into

tears, "Grandpa... I was wrong. I admit my mistake... I was originally going to sing for you myself, but I let Ellinor take over because I sprained my ankle. This performance was meant to celebrate your birthday."

Haillie

also hurriedly chimed in, "Yes! Old Mr. Bagley, Patricia really did prepare this present for you; she just didn't expect her foot to get injured by Ellinor."

"Enough! Are you two still trying to pull a fast one on me? You think that just because I'm old, I can't tell the difference?" Old Mr. Bagley coldly interrupted them, looking very

angry.

Patricia's eyes were full of tears, she still wanted to defend herself, but she didn't dare to speak, "Grandpa."

Old Mr. Bagley ignored her.

Ellinor gave a slight smile and left feeling relieved once she saw that old Mr. Bagley was no longer being deceived by Patricia and Haillie.

She came to reveal Patricia's true colors, not to steal the limelight or be praised, those things were irrelevant to her.

She just couldn't bear to see old Mr. Bagley and old Mrs. Bagley being fooled and exploited by Patricia, so she intervened.

Now that the problem was solved, she could leave with peace of mind.

"Hold on, Ms. Mendoza, don't leave yet."

Old Mr. Bagley's steady voice came from behind again.

Ellinor stopped in her tracks when she heard her name. She turned around, tilting her head slightly, and asked politely, "Old Mr. Bagley, is there something else you need?"

Old Mr. Bagley looked at her with satisfaction and his stern tone had softened considerably. "Come with me to the study, I have something wanting to discuss with you."

Ellinor raised an eyebrow in confusion, pondering for a moment before nodding, "Alright."

She didn't want to acknowledge their kinship for now to avoid complicating things. But she couldn't bear to refuse the elderly Mr. Bagley's request, so she decided to listen to what he had to say

Chapter 608

as she watched Ellinor being called away by old Mr. Bagley to his study

wheelchair? ture of confusion Patricia why are you in

what the heck happened"

He'd been hacking out in a side room playing mobile games with a few friends to avoid running into Balfour because he was afraid he'd be gitted about his schoolwork When he finally came out he saw everyone gathered around but he was clueless about what was going on

Still fuming from what had just transpired Haillie spat out.

the hell invited her here today"

Byran looked skepti

As he said this

use of that bitch Ellinor! She purposely pushed Patricia down the stairs and sprained her ankle Who way Ellmor would never do such a thing Hallie don't talk nonsense"

ced up at Byran her heart sunk further and her eyes were filled unprecedented

Byron had never seen his usually gentle and obedient sister with such a face and gloomy expression. He was

Hallie thumped Byron what de

Byron was dismissive. Hallie is not like you

Patricia, what's wrong?"

mean by nontante saw it with my own eyes. Are you suggesting I'm making it up and framing Elinor?"

(I framed her before I just don't get why you

are clearly brainwashed by the

picking on Elinor, she hasn't done anything to provoke you"

Hallie was fuming Byron,

Byron was proved

He is not an

If she really wanted to

(just think Elinor that malicious or bored to push Patricia down the

throat Patricia she would have done it behind

her back Why would she least a

show in front of you.

You guys have had misunderstandings

in the past and they all turned out to be nothing. There has to be another misunderstanding!"

Hallie was speechless wishing she could

come tense into Byron's head

she was on the verge of losing her composure

making a speech

but she held back her anger. Trough, Hallie Doet #gue wi

Byron. We have guests watching, and

myself. Take me back to my room

stung Patricia's embarrassment, Hallie

Feeling guilty for the series of events she had caused including inviting Elinor to embark on a

quickly agreed. Alright Patricia I'll take you

toom night away??”

As the war about to push Patricia away in her whenichan old M. Bagley returned

Hailie stopped in her tracks joining Patricia in watching fllinor She was wondering what old khi Bagley had sa (to them in his study How could they be done so soon?

However they haw old Mi Bagley Trading Itimor straight onto the stage Facing the puzzied inactiona

“Dear relatives and friends welcome to my birthday ceintration (have some happy hewa to share

This young lady beside me Mi Mendoza will be joining the fagiry family My wife and i have

The crowd gasped no one saw the coming

After a moment of silence a round of applausnir and well wishes erupted from the audience

Everyone knew that old Mr. Hagley and his wife had lost their daughter and granddaughter years ago,

Now that they had found a girl they liked it gave them something to hold on to

the audience the old man announced solemnly yet cheerfully

adopt her as our granddaughtert

always been a

for them

Chapter 609

Byran looked dumbfounded, “What the heck? Grandpa actually accepted Ellinor as las granddaughter? So, does that mean she’s gonna be my relative now?”

At this moment, the usually gentle Patricia was staring at Ellinor on the stage. Her eyes were filled with rage, she was no longer able to maintain her practiced innocent facade

Ellinor! Ellinor’ Ellinar

That annoying Ellinor had ruined her plans again and snatched away the treatment that should have been herst

If it weren’t for Ellinor, it would have been her, who was now being highly praised on stage by old Mr. Bagley

Ellinor, you sneaky woman!

To avoid making a scene, Patricia forcibly suppressed her anger and said. ‘I’m beat! Haillie, wheel me back to my room to rest.”

Haillie was also displeased to see Ellinor

suddenly become the granddaughter of the Bagley family, but she had no choice but to push Patricia away from the crowd and back to the room to plan their next moves.

After the announcement, Ellinor followed old Mr. Bagley off the stage.

Old Mr. Bagley then introduced her to some close relatives in the family.

Ellinor barely managed to slip away from the crowd, leaving old Mr. Bagley to deal with the blessings of friends and relatives.

Byran came over again with a puzzled look on his face, 'Ellinor, what did you do? How did you manage to get my grandpa to suddenly accept you as his granddaughter?'

Ellinor went to the buffet table, took a sip of juice, and then answered the approaching Byran in a joking tone, "Didn't do anything, maybe I'm just too cute!"

Byran rolled his eyes in disdain, "Humph!"

Actually, Ellinor was quite cute. She was pretty, had a good temperament, genuine, and was not pretentious. She was indeed very likable.

But

old Mr. Bagley was no ordinary man. The fact that such a serious old man was willing to accept Ellinor as his granddaughter at their first meeting was truly surprising.

Ellinor sipped her juice leisurely, facing this sudden change with ease.

Just now,

when she was called into the study by old Mr. Bagley, the old Mrs. Bagley affectionately held her hand, as if she were afraid she would leave.

Old Mr. Bagley frankly expressed his desire to establish kinship with her.

She politely declined, but when asked why by old Mr. Bagley, she gave a reasonable explanation. However, old Mr. Bagley pointed at the mentally unstable old Mrs. Bagley to explain her illness, hoping she would reconsider.

Ellinor hesitated.

She wasn't totally unwilling to acknowledge her grandparents, but she was afraid that doing so might alert those who had hurt her

mother, and they would destroy the evidence hidden in the dark, making things harder to investigate.

However, if she accepted them as relatives in name, it probably wouldn't expose her identity.

Faced with old Mr. Bagley's warm invitation and old Mrs. Bagley's worrying health condition, Ellinor gave it some thought and finally agreed.

Old Mr. Bagley hoped she could spare one day a week to accompany the Alzheimer's-stricken old Mrs. Bagley. It wasn't a hard task, so she agreed.

Chapter 610

They were her own grandparents, how could she possibly not care? Just standing by and watching them bear the pain of missing their daughter for so many years, not to mention the suffering brought by their illnesses was enough to make anybody tear up.

If her mom knew about her grandparents' situation, she'd be heartbroken too

Byran who was standing by scratched his chin. "So, Ellinor Does this mean you'll be my sister from now on?"

Ellinor raised an eyebrow at him, "What? Are you excited about that?"

Byran cocked his chin and proudly declared, Humph What's there to be happy about? It's not like I'm short of sisters!"

Ellinor chuckled lightly, ignoring him, and turned to leave

Byran frowned and quickly caught up with her, "Hey, where are you going?"

Ellinor responded indifferently. "Going to keep old Mrs Ragley company"

Byran puffed up his chest and kept pace with her, "Wait for me, I want to visit grandma too!"

Ellinor gave him a sidelong glance, not rejecting him.

Meanwhile, in another quest room.

After Haillie pushed Patricia into the quest room, she began to apologize and blame herself.

"Patricia, it's all my fault! If I hadn't suggested that Ellinor replace you on stage, things wouldn't have turned out this way I'm sorry"

In the privacy of the quest room, Patricia couldn't control her facial expressions anymore, She couldn't keep the act up and sneered, "Yeah, it's all you, you idiot! You're just making things worse!"

Haillie was taken aback, "Patricia?"

She was sincerely apologizing, but she didn't expect the usually gentle and generous Patricia to call her an idiot?

Patricia, in Haillie's mind, was always the kindest, most pure-hearted girl in the world. She had never seen this harsh side of Patricia,

She was a bit dazed for a moment, wondering if she had misheard.

"Patricia, I'm really sorry I had good intentions. I thought if Ellinor went on stage, she'd make a fool of herself and anger old Mr. Bagley. Who knew she could actually sing?" Patricia glared at Haillie with disgust and sneered,

"For my sake? Well, isn't this great? Now Ellinor has become the granddaughter of the Bagley family. With the Bagleys backing her, she'll be even more arrogant in front of me!"

Haillie truly felt guilty, but her shock outweighed her guilt because the Patricia in front of her, with her sharp words, didn't seem like the same person she knew.

"Patricia," Haillie frowned, looking at Patricia with a sense of unfamiliarity.

Noticing Haillie's scrutinizing gaze, Patricia felt irritated. She gritted her teeth, trying to calm herself down

Then she successfully recovered from her emotional outburst and her face returned to its usual innocent gentleness.

“Haillie, don’t get me wrong. My outburst just now wasn’t at you; it was at Ellinor! You know, I’m not usually like this. I was just so mad at Ellinor that my mind was a mess

Haillie was stunned for a moment. Looking at the now calmed Patricia, her shock gradually subsided. This was the good friend she knew.

“Oh! Patricia, you have every right to be mad at me. Because it’s my fault that Ellinor got her way today”

Patricia wheeled herself over to Haillie, gently took her hand, and comforted her, “Haillie, I don’t blame you. I know you were looking out for me. If there’s anyone to blame. it’s Ellinor for being so cunning and scheming.”