

## **The Kiss 701**

### *Chapter 701*

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*Theo snorted and furrowed his brow, "Play by the book? Just based on what some people from the Howard family said, you want to take my wife away as a murder suspect?"*

*Wait, what?!*

*This girl named Ellinor Mendoza was Mr. Blanchet's wife?!*

*The cops were now totally flustered!*

*At first, when they saw the girl standing next to Mr. Blanchet, they thought she might just be his girlfriend. They never expected her to be Mr. Blanchet's wife*

*They couldn't afford to offend her. If Mrs. Blanchet really was innocent, they could hardly imagine the consequences. Even their bosses might not have been able to handle the fallout*

*Balfour could tell that the cops were intimidated by Theo's power. He frowned, stepped forward, and said, "Theo, the police just want to take Ellinor back for questioning, not to arrest her! If she's really innocent, they'll let her go. Don't challenge the law"*

*Theo stared at him coldly, and everyone fell silent. The cops were clueless about what to do.*

*Just then, Balfour's phone started buzzing. He toned down his aggression a bit, pulled out his phone, and saw it was Quinton calling.*

*Worried that something might have happened to Baber, Balfour didn't delay and stepped aside to answer the call.*

*Balfour asked, "What's up? How's Baber doing?"*

*Quinton hurriedly said, "Baber's okay; you don't need to worry!"*

*After hearing that Baber was fine, Balfour's brow relaxed a little, "Anything else?"*

*Quinton was silent for a few seconds, then said with a complex tone, "Baber just said it wasn't Ellinor who hurt him, so... I thought you should know this so you don't get the wrong idea about Ms. Mendoza."*

*Balfour's eyebrows knitted together, and his icy gaze tightened, "What exactly did Baber say?"*

*Quinton told Balfour everything about Baber's situation.*

*After hanging up, Balfour looked troubled, then turned around and said in a deep voice. "Officers, you can head back now! This was all a misunderstanding; my apologies."*

*The sudden twist left everyone dumbfounded*

*The cops, on the other hand, breathed a sigh of relief. They were already at their wits end.*

*Dealing with both the Howard family and the Blanchet family was no picnic.*

*If this assault was just a misunderstanding and both parties were willing to settle it privately, it would save them a lot of trouble.*

*The leading officer waved his hand, "No worries! Call us anytime if you need anything!"*

*Balfour nodded courteously, "Okay. Someone, please show the officers out"*

*The household servants immediately stepped forward, politely guiding the cops out.*

*Patricia looked shocked as she watched the cops leave. She asked resentfully, "Why did you just let the cops go like that? Ellinor really hurt Baber on purpose today! I saw it with my own eyes, how could it be a misunderstanding?"*

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### *Chapter 703*

*Balfour was feeling like Patricia was a stranger to him at this moment. Not wanting to dwell on it any longer, he took a deep breath. "Patri, I hope you weren't lying to me!"*

*Balfour didn't probe any further. Patricia heaved a sigh of relief, although she still felt uneasy. It seemed like Balfour was disappointed in her and no longer trusted her as much.*

*After such a long squabble, Balfour was also feeling knackered. He didn't look at Patri anymore and turned to Theo and Ellinor "You guys should go now! Luckily, Baber's okay. Let's call it a day!"*

*Theo sneered "You think you're off the hook just like that? That's too easy! You've been grilling my wife as if she's the culprit, and now you're just gonna call it quits because you say so?"*

*Balfour frowned. "I just don't want to continue this. It's not that Ellinor is not a suspect! Theo, can't you just give it a rest?"*

*A hint of sarcasm flashed in Theo's eyes. "Mr. Howard, I know what a nitpicker you are. If you were sure, you wouldn't let my wife off the hook so easily! You're just trying to put an end to this because you know you've made a mistake!"*

*Balfour's face darkened, and his jaw clenched. "So, what do you want?"*

*Theo gently stroked Ellinor's head, like a father protecting his child. "I want you to admit your mistake to my wife and apologize!"*

*Balfour's eyebrows knitted together, and he glanced at Ellinor "Theo, don't push it!"*

*How could the eldest son of the Howard family apologize to this little girl in front of all the servants because of what Theo said?*

*That was ridiculous!*

*Theo stared at him determinedly.*

*"Balfour, if you consider yourself a man, you should apologize for your mistake!"*

*Balfour's face was turning awfully grim.*

*"What are you all arguing about?"*

*Suddenly, an old voice broke the tension in the kitchen.*

*Upon hearing the old man's voice, all the servants in the Howard family became very respectful and quiet, not even whispering to each other*

*Soon, an old man with a walking stick was helped into the kitchen.*

*The old man looked at the scene in the kitchen and frowned. "I only went out for a walk, and when I came back, there was no one in the sitting room. What are you all doing in the kitchen?"*

*Ellinor recognized him at a glance. That old man was Balfour's grandfather.*

*He was the blind old man she had run into at The Bund of Trent River before.*

*At that time, a car had blocked the blind lane, and the old man, in his rage, hit the car with his walking stick. The car owner happened to come back and wanted to hit the old man.*

*She was passing by and helped the old man deal with the irresponsible car owner.*

*She remembered clearly that the old man was blind. How come it seemed like he had regained his sight now?*

*"Grandpa, you're back!"*

*Chapter 704*

*Upon seeing her grandpa return, Patricia raced towards him, wiping away the tears from her eyes in distress*

*Dean Howard took a look at the teary-eyed Patri, furrowing his brows, "Why are you crying again? You're always complaining about not feeling well or crying over minor issues. Your grandma and I are much older than you, but we aren't this fragile"*

*Patricia fell silent.*

*She was expecting comfort from her grandpa, but instead, she got a scolding Patricia looked embarrassed*

*Growing up, she was pampered at home. Her parents and brothers all treated her like a treasure. However, in front of her grandparents, she felt a bit inferior compared to Balfour and Byran Howard.*

*So she always felt that her grandparents favored boys.*

*“Grandpa, I didn’t cry on purpose, it’s because someone caused a commotion at home today”*

*“Grandpa, it was just a small matter earlier, it’s all sorted now. You don’t have to worry about it” Balfour interrupted Patricia, giving her a stern look. He then turned Dean, “Grandpa, you must be tired from your trip; let them help you upstairs to rest.”*

*Dean looked at Balfour, clearly not pleased, and huffed,*

*“I think you’ve overly pampered Patri! She’s so fragile now that any small problem makes her cry, even a gust of wind could shatter her!”*

*Dean’s words made Balfour frown. He began to wonder if he had spoiled Patri too much over the years.*

*Seeing that nothing much was happening in the kitchen, Dean didn’t care to investigate further. He signaled his attendant to help him upstairs to rest.*

*As Dean left, the people in the kitchen dispersed.*

*Ellinor yawned sleepily. “Theo, it’s late, let’s go home and sleep”*

*Theo looked down at her as his heart ached, “Just like that?”*

*Ellinor shrugged nonchalantly after recognizing that Theo was referring to her being falsely accused by the Howard family, “Let it be, you can’t wake a person that’s pretending to be asleep.”*

*She was referring to Balfour.*

*Being a smart man, he knew that Patricia might be at fault, yet he chose to protect her and hide the truth to end the matter*

*Balfour, who*

*was escorting Dean out of the kitchen, paused and turned back, squinting at Theo and Ellinor*

*He surely caught Ellinor’s sarcastic remark. Balfour’s face darkened, and his eyes revealed a hint of annoyance, but he couldn’t react with Dean still around.*

*Meanwhile, Patricia, still in the kitchen, was glaring at Theo and Ellinor. Seeing the man she loved talk to another woman so gently made jealousy bubble up inside her like sulfuric acid corroding her from within.*

*Had all her meticulous planning today been for nothing?*

*Why! Why could Ellinor always escape trouble? It was infuriating!*

*Ellinor didn't want to dwell on it, but Theo wasn't about to let Balfour off so easily. Some things were intolerable to him. The Howard family's false accusations and humiliation of her had happened more than once.*

*they weren't taught a lesson, they might never realize the gravity of their actions.*

*However, Theo didn't want to waste time at the Howard family's place. Considering she was tired and sleepy, he decided to take her home to rest. The issue at hand. could wait for another time to make the Howard family pay.*

*Theo replied, "Alright, let's go home."*

*Theo gripped her hand tightly, leading her slowly towards the door.*

*They'd just left the kitchen when suddenly a cane came swinging at them.*

*The cane was clearly aimed at Ellinor!*

*Theo reacted swiftly, grabbing the cane and shielding Ellinor behind him.*

*To his surprise, it was Dean!*

*Theo frowned, "Dean, what's the deal?"*

*Balfour looked just as surprised, "Grandpa?"*

*Chapter 705*

*Dean ignored them. His aged yet sharp eyes were fixed on Ellinor, who was now protected behind Theo.*

*He took back his cane from Theo and pointed it at Ellinor, "Were you the one speaking just now?"*

*Ellinor was taken aback and frowned. What was up with the elders in the Howard family?*

*Regaining her composure, she nodded, "Yes, I was speaking. Is there a problem?"*

*Dean's pupils twitched, and he looked at her with a piercing gaze. He studied Ellinor with his deep eyes, "Have we met before?"*

*Instead of answering immediately, Ellinor glanced at Balfour. As expected, his handsome yet cold eyes held a hint of wariness.*

*If she acknowledged meeting him and explained the circumstances of their previous encounter, it would look like sucking up. Given Balfour's petty nature, he might think she was trying to curry favor with the Howard family by getting close to Dean.*

*After a moment's thought, Ellinor shook her head and said, "I don't think we've met, you must have mistaken me for someone else."*

*Her answer left Balfour a bit perplexed and his eyes full of curiosity.*

*Ellinor didn't want to stick around. She bypassed Dean's cane, grabbed Theo's hand, and continued towards the door.*

*"Hold on!"*

*Dean's voice made her pause.*

*Ellinor turned to look at him, "What is it now?"*

*Dean leaned on his cane and hurriedly took a few steps towards her, "I remember now, you're the girl who helped me at The Bund of Trent River. I remember your voice, I'm sure of it!"*

*Ellinor fell silent.*

*Dean was quite sharp. How could he recognize her just from her voice?*

*See that, Balfour? I wasn't trying to get close to your grandpa, he recognized me first!*

*Dean's face gradually softened into a smile, "Have you been out of the country? I had my grandson looking for you for quite some time, he kept telling me he couldn't find you!"*

*He was looking for her?*

*Ellinor was a bit puzzled as to why Dean was looking for her. She glanced at Balfour, realizing that he hadn't been unable to find her, he just didn't want his grandpa to interact too much with a girl from the countryside. So he brushed him off, telling him he couldn't find her.*

*"What do you need me for?" She asked.*

*Chapter 706*

*Dean had a twinkle in his eye for Ellinor. "No biggie, I just wanted to meet the young lady who saved my life!"*

*Ellinor gave a small smile, "You're laying it on thick; I just happened to be passing by and lent a hand. I wouldn't say I saved your life, you're giving me too much credit."*

*Dean was adamant, "But you did! If you hadn't shown up. I could've been seriously hurt by that classless woman or even kicked the bucket at the hospital"*

*Ellinor didn't know how to respond*

*Dean*

*flashed a warm smile, "Can't have the person who saved my life show up and not roll out the red carpet! Come, let's sit in the living room and chew the fat."*

*Ellinor was at a loss for words.*

*She was never too hot on the Howard family.*

*Despite being blood related, everyone in the Howard family had a hand in driving her mother away, not a single one of them stood up for her*

*In her eyes, they were all the enemy.*

*But right now, she hadn't figured out the whole story behind what happened, so she couldn't avenge her mother yet.*

*Dean was too gung ho. Ellinor tried to escape the situation, but her attempts were useless. Finally, she gave in, "Fine"*

*After hearing Ellinor agree to stay, Dean immediately ordered his staff to prepare top-notch coffee for her and led her to the living room.*

*Theo kept quiet and followed alongside Ellinor.*

*Balfour was frowning He was not too thrilled about the situation, but he couldn't go against Dean's wishes.*

*At that moment, Patricia came over with a puzzled look, "What's going on? Why did Grandpa say Ellinor saved his life?"*

*Balfour was in a foul mood, he shot Patricia a cold look and said sternly, "Patri, you still owe me an explanation for your behavior just now! Go back to your room and think about it, you better have a good explanation when you come out!"*

*Patricia felt a sinking feeling, did he really not trust her anymore?*

*What could she do? She needed to figure out how to explain this to him.*

*Before heading back to her room, Patricia shot Ellinor a resentful glance, seeing Dean chatting warmly with Ellinor really stuck in her craw!*

*That dam Ellinor! First, she stole her man, and now she was sucking up to Dean. What was she up to?*

*They sat down in the living room, and the staff brought in coffee and fruit.*

*Dean looked at Ellinor kindly, "Last time we met, I had temporary blindness from a chemical burn in my eyes during an experiment. I just recently regained my sight! Now I can finally see you; you're just as beautiful as I imagined"*

*He continued to gaze at Ellinor, nodding approvingly with a look of delight in his eyes.*

*Balfour, sitting on a single-seater sofa, felt it was a bit inappropriate for Dean to stare at Ellinor like that. So he cleared his throat to remind him, "Grandpa!"*

*Chapter 707*

*Dean didn't pay any heed to him. Instead, he chuckled and asked Ellinor, "How old are you this year?"*

*Ellinor took a sip of her coffee and answered calmly. "I just turned twenty"*

*Twenty! Such a young age!" Dean nodded approvingly, his expression turning serious, "I bet you're not seeing anyone, huh? Funny enough, I know a very eligible bachelor. Would you like me to introduce you to him?"*

*Ellinor gave a small laugh, "1..."*

Dean continued, "No need to be shy! You've gotta snatch up a good man early, otherwise, they get swooped up by others, and all you're left with is the dregs!"

Theo, who was sitting nearby, frowned deeply. He took a sip of his coffee and gave Ellinor the side-eye.

Ellinor's mouth twitched slightly. She hadn't expected Dean's invitation was to try and set her up.

Following this, Dean began his pitch, "Ellinor, you saved my life. I wouldn't introduce you to just any guy.

See, I have this friend. He's an old professor, and his grandson is a pop star, the kind all you young girls swoon over. He's handsome, can sing and dance, and comes from a good family. I've watched him grow up and seen that he has a solid character. He is truly a man you can spend your life with!"

Just as Ellinor was about to politely refuse, Dean dropped the pop star's name.

"His name is Halley, and he's very famous. If you don't believe me, you can look him up online, you'll find his photos and videos! Once you see him, you'll know I'm not pulling your leg, he really is a catch!"

Ellinor originally planning to refuse Dean's kind offer.

At this moment, her eyes suddenly lit up. She asked in disbelief, "Dean, are you talking about Halley? Halley, the lead singer of Dream Band?"

Dean nodded, "Yes, that's him, Dream Band! So, you know him, don't you?"

Of course she did

In Ellinor's life, she only ever had two idols. One was the hacker AAAres, whom she admired for his skills.

The other was Halley, the pop star, whom she had a crush on in her teens. Halley's voice had accompanied her through many lonely nights.

She couldn't help but ask with a hint of expectation, "Could I really meet Halley through you?"

Dean responded, "Of course! Isn't that the whole point of me introducing him to you as a boyfriend? What do you think?"

"I think..." Before Ellinor could finish, she heard a cold cough.

Theo cleared his throat as his icy aura filled every nook and cranny of the Howard family's living room.

Only then did Ellinor remember that Theo was still there. She turned to look at him and found him looking rather pale, sipping his coffee, and staring at her, waiting for her response

If she wasn't mistaken, Theo seemed to be angry.

Turning back to Dean, she said, "I appreciate your kindness, but I already have a boyfriend"

Dean looked at her in disbelief, "What? You already have a boyfriend? Who? Tell me, I want to see if this guy is good enough for you!"

Chapter 708

*Ellinor casually*

*look Theo's hand and introduced him. "This is my boyfriend, I'm sure you know him, so no need for introductions"*

*Dean was taken aback, "What? He's your boyfriend? Ellinor, Isn't he way older than you?"*

*Theo initially was pleased with how Ellinor was presenting him, but at the mention of their age difference from Dean, his mood instantly soured.*

*Dean was a straight shooter and tended to be a bit dramatic*

*After seeing Dean's over-the-*

*top reaction, Ellinor chuckled a bit helplessly, "Yes, he's older than me, but he's really my boyfriend"*

*Dean shook his head and sighed, "Ellinor, you're so young, why'd you go for such a serious and older guy?"*

*Balfour, who had been quietly observing from the side, couldn't help but laugh, despite being in a sour mood.*

*At this point Theo's expression darkened, and he shot Balfour an annoyed glance.*

*Dean continued, as if advising a misguided youngster, "Ellinor, it's not too late to listen to me. Break up with him before you get married, and I'll introduce you to a handsome and nice young man!"*

*With that, Theo snapped. He held Ellinor's hand tightly and emphasized, "I'm sorry, we're already married! Dean, I didn't have the chance to introduce her earlier, this is my wife, Ellinor"*

*Dean frowned after hearing Theo speak. He'd seen Theo at the event but chose to ignore him due to a longstanding grudge.*

*Wasn't Theo involved with Patricia? How did he get tangled up with sweet Ellinor?*

*Theo pulled Ellinor up. "It's getting late, we won't disturb your rest any longer. Goodbye"*

*His emphasis on the last sentence was loaded with menace.*

*After saying that, Theo draped his arm around Ellinor's shoulder and led her away.*

*Dean felt a mix of indignation and loss as he watched their retreating figures. He felt like Theo had the sweet Ellinor stolen away.*

*So, he got up and yelled after them, "Ellinor, that young man I mentioned earlier is a good catch; he won't mind if you're divorced. I can still set you two up!"*

*Theo, who was just leaving, suddenly halted. His aura turned icy cold, if it were tangible, it would have felt like sharp icicles piercing everyone in the room.*

*Balfour rubbed his temples, somewhat exasperated at his grandfather's antics, "Grandpa, what are you doing? I thought you didn't like meddling in other people's business."*

*After seeing that Ellinor had been led away by Theo, Dean sat back down, feeling a tad irritated, "Is this meddling? I visited the Porters today. Mr. Porter's health is deteriorating rapidly; he might not have much time left.*

*He always wanted to see his grandson get married, but Halley hasn't found the right girl yet. He can't just marry anyone.*

*Good girls are hard to come by these days. Ellinor is such an innocent girl, maybe if she married Halley, it would fulfill Mr. Porter's dying wish."*

*Balfour was silent for a few seconds, understanding his grandfather's concern for the Porter family but puzzled by his assessment of Ellinor.*

*"Grandpa, why do you think Ellinor is innocent?"*

*Dean gave him a stern look after hearing his question..*

*Chapter 709*

*I've been around the block and seen my fair share of people. You think I can't tell a good girl from a bad one? You dare question Ellinor's character?*

*The reason I didn't introduce her to you is because you don't deserve her!"*

*Balfour raised an eyebrow, feeling unimpressed "And why is that?"*

*Dean looked at his grandson He didn't spoil him like other grandparents Instead, he was rather disgruntled "I'm your grandpa, don't you think I know what type of person you are? You might look all high and mighty, but you're nothing more than a low life*

*Even if I introduced a nice girl to you, you wouldn't treat her right, you'd just mess things up.*

*Introducing a good girl to a guy like you would be bloody criminal!*

*But Halley is a good lad. He's just a bit green when it comes to love and too wrapped up in his music. If Ellinor ended up with him, she'd be well taken care of.*

*What a shame that such a good girl got snatched up by Theo!*

*Balfour sipped his coffee, forcing a smile.*

*Sure, he agreed with his grandpa's scathing opinion of Theo, but he wasn't too thrilled about the old man's assessment of him either.*

*What kind of grandpa talked about his grandson like that?*

*However, Dean insisting on finding a girlfriend for Halley brought back some old memories.*

*The Porter family and the Howard family go way back; they even had a marriage arrangement.*

*Mr. Porter's grandson had been engaged to Mr. Howard Senior's granddaughter since they were kids.*

*But the granddaughter that was part of the arrangement wasn't Patricia, it was his long-lost sister, Pearl Howard.*

*With Pearl missing, the marriage was put on hold. Some people thought about having Patricia fulfill the marriage contract.*

*But it was no secret that Patricia had always been head over heels for Theo. Everyone knew it, and the Howard family chose not to bring it up anymore.*

*Because of this, Dean always felt indebted to the Porter family. Now, with Mr. Ponter seriously ill and on his deathbed, Dean was in a rush to find a good girl for Halley so that Mr. Porter could pass away in peace.*

*Dean was a picky man, he even found Patricia lacking.*

*The fact that Ellinor received praise from him and that he wanted to introduce her to the Porter family was as intriguing.*

*But seeing Theo's face turn sour was pretty amusing.*

*Meanwhile, outside the Howard family's mansion, in a black car.*

*"Regrets?" Theo opened a bottle of water and handed it to Ellinor.*

*Ellinor took the bottle, raising an eyebrow in confusion. "Regret what?"*

*Theo opened another bottle for himself, taking a serious sip. "Didn't you want to meet that talented singer and dancer? Aren't you regretting not saying yes to Dean?"*

*Chapter 710*

*Ellinor blinked, "I have no regrets!"*

*Theo chuckled lightly. "Are you sure about that? If I hadn't been there, would you have agreed to meet with that young fellow?" Ellinor sipped her water thoughtfully. She blushed and nodded, "Yeah, I guess I would have!"*

*Theo's expression darkened, "At least you have the guts to admit it!"*

*Ellinor looked at him with clear eyes and was unfazed*

*"Yep, I kinda wanted to meet Halley, but not for a date or anything I just wanted to meet my idol and maybe get his autograph!"*

*Theo went silent and drank half a bottle of water, keeping his usual poker face.*

*Ellinor looked at his stern profile. Was he jealous?*

*She pondered for a moment and asked with a frown, "Didn't you have idols when you were a kid? You know, that innocent admiration and nothing else?"*

*Theo's eyes glared cold, "I didn't have a childhood."*

*He recalled the time at the Mountain Racecourse when Ellinor fell off the cliff and he went to rescue her*

*They chatted at the bottom of the cliff, and Ellinor mentioned her idol, telling him with a longing look.*

*"The man I loved when I was eighteen was named Halley. I loved his songs and even imagined marrying him one day.*

*That was what Ellinor had told him!*

*Even though they were just partners at that time and he hadn't confessed his feelings to her, it still didn't sit well with him when he thought about how Ellinor once candidly said she wanted to marry another man. He couldn't brush it off as a joke.*

*Ellinor, however, was focused on what he casually mentioned. He didn't have a childhood?*

*She looked at Theo's handsome face and suddenly realized that she didn't truly know his past or what his childhood was like.*

*Imagine a man born into a wealthy family, burdened with the family's future from a young age, and naturally receiving an education that was much stricter than*

*most*

*His childhood probably lacked freedom and choices, so... he didn't have a childhood.*

*Despite having countless delicacies and high-end clothes, he was never pampered as an ordinary child. From a young age, he had to meet high standards in various aspects, growing up under immense pressure and honing his skills to become today's business tycoon.*

*Ellinor always thought her own childhood was bleak, but when she thought about how Theo had to struggle alone in a family with no affection from a young age, it made her heart ache. It wasn't much different from her own.*

*Her heart*

*suddenly felt a pang of sadness. When she thought of all this, she apologized to Theo and explained obediently, "I just admire*

*Halley's work and his voice, not him! if this upsets you, I won't admire him anymore!"*

*The icy look on Theo's face returned to normal within a second. He even seemed a bit surprised. He turned his head and looked at her incredulously, "Are you bullshitting me?"*

*Ellinor knew Theo was upset because he was jealous. It was a bit awkward, but it also showed his cute side. This trait, combined with his mature personality, created a surprising contrast.*

*She squinted her beautiful eyes and chuckled, "Do you have any finished works?"*

*Theo raised an eyebrow, "My works?"*

*Ellinor's eyes sparkled, "Yeah! You're so talented; I bet you have made tons of masterpieces in your free time! Can I see them? Maybe I'll be smitten by your talent and fall head over heels for you!"*

*She was messing with him on purpose.*