

The Kiss 771

Chapter 771

“So, if you ever need help with anything, don’t hesitate to reach out to me, not him, okay, Ms. Howard?”

Ellinor’s voice was gentle, and her words left no room for objection.

At the same time, she kindly took Patricia’s hand and personally slipped the bracelet onto her wrist. “Just like that, Ms. Howard. If you ever need help with anything, come to me. We’re both women, it’s much easier for you to ask for my help than his.”

Ellinor had forced Patricia to accept not only the bracelet but also this seemingly considerate arrangement.

Who would have thought that Ellinor would play this card, effectively cutting off any chance for Patricia to contact Theo privately.

Ellinor was too cunning!

After all that talking, Ellinor was tired. After she put on the bracelet for Patricia, she lazily stretched, “Let’s go, Theo. I’m tired. Let’s go home and sleep”

Theo agreed with a smile. He had been quietly enjoying his partner’s balanced mix of grace and assertiveness. It was simply adorable.

In his nearly thirty years of life, this was the first time someone had stood up for him and fought for his rights, with a hint of possessiveness towards

him.

He had to admit, he enjoyed the process; hence, he hadn’t interrupted.

Everything Ellinor had said made sense; her arrangements were appropriate, and Theo felt good about it.

Before leaving, he said to Patricia, “Ms. Howard, I’m married now, so it’s not really appropriate for us to keep in touch privately. Don’t worry, I’ll find the best nanny in the world to help you with the child.

If you have any problems in the future, please go directly to my wife. Collin will assist her in resolving any issues you have. If there’s anything they can’t handle, my wife will let me know.”

Patricia’s heart was shattered, “Theo...”

Theo didn’t give her a chance to say anything else. He had already turned around to follow Ellinor, gently taking her hand and wrapping it tenderly **in his**

own.

Patricia stood

there alone, watching Theo and Ellinor leave. Jonah and Kemp exchanged glances, knowing they should not interfere in this love triangle.

Jonah changed the subject with a laugh. "Kemp, now that Theo, who's tightly controlled by his wife, has left. Let's have a few more drinks!"

Bartlett also took his eyes off Ellinor, smiling and nodding in agreement. He was ready to join them back at the bar when Patricia suddenly called out to him.

"Bartlett!"

Bartlett stopped, "Hmm? What's up, Patri?"

Patricia said seriously. "I have something to tell you. Can we talk in private?"

Bartlett was slightly puzzled, but he nodded gently, "Sure."

So they both headed to the terrace.

"Patri, what did you want to talk about?" Bartlett asked.

Chapter **772**

Patricia looked at him with clear eyes, "Bartlett, do you have a thing for Ellinor?"

Bartlett paused for a bit, "What makes you think that?"

Patricia replied. The first time I came downstairs, I saw you looking at a photo on your phone, and I saw you **crop** out just Ellinor's photo and save it in your private album. If you're not into her, why would you secretly keep her photo?"

Bartlett was caught off guard, and then he said frankly, "Well, yeah, I do like Ellinor. But she's already taken; I missed my chance, and I can't force it."

Patricia shook her head. "If you're really into someone, you'll always find a way. Bartlett, we could join forces!"

Bartlett looked like he was deep in thought as he gazed at Patricia with a hint of a smile on his lips, "Join forces? Patri, how would we even team up?"

In the car, Belinda was driving and blasting rock music, totally enjoying herself.

Ellinor and Theo were in the back, his hand tightly holding hers, never letting go..

He gently touched her head and spoke like he was praising a child, "You did well just now. You even stood **up** for me."

Ellinor lazily glanced at him, "Because you're so indecisive! You've been morally blackmailed for so many years; don't you know *how* to fight back?"

Theo's eyes darkened.

He knew Ellinor had a point. Over the years, he was indeed tied down by Patricia's favor and couldn't break free.

He was actually tired of it. Patricia's feelings for him were obvious, and many of her actions had crossed the line..

But every time Patricia mentioned what she had lost to save him, he would bear with it out of guilt, trying to meet her needs.

He sighed, "If she just saved my life, that would be one thing. But Patricia got an irreversible disease because she saved me; she can never get pregnant. This is damage I can't repay."

Ellinor knew how important childbearing was to a woman, especially to a woman who loved children. Being told that she could never have her own children was like being sentenced to death.

If Patricia was really unable to have kids because she saved him, then it was worth his lifelong care for her.

But she doubted that was the truth.

Ellinor turned her head and looked at him, "Can you tell me where Ms. Howard saved your life? Can you tell me what happened?"

He thought for a moment, then quietly told her, "In a small mountain village in West Water Ridge, I was being hunted and got seriously injured. I was hiding in the bushes when I was bitten by a poisonous snake and lost my sight.

At that time, Patricia was vacationing at a nearby resort. She found me when she passed by. She sucked the poison out of my wound and treated my injuries."

But because she didn't completely clear the toxins in her body, she got poisoned and is now infertile.

"Serious injury? Where were you injured? Who dared to hunt you down?" Ellinor's eyes tightened, and her brows deeply furrowed.

Theo gently touched her head, "An enemy, I've fully recovered from the injury."

Ellinor frowned, "Does that enemy still exist?"

Theo raised an eyebrow, "What? Are you going to avenge me?"

Ellinor looked serious, "I need to know more. I can't risk becoming a widow at any time. If necessary, I can help you eliminate that enemy!"

Chapter 773

Theo burst into laughter at Ellinor's response, "Are you really that tough? Then I've got a bodyguard from now on!"

Ellinor stared at him angrily, "What's so funny? I'm serious! You're my man, only I can bully you!"

Theo paused for a moment, looking at Ellinor's protective expression. He was touched, and he couldn't help but lean in and give her a gentle kiss. Then **he** whispered, "It's okay, don't worry. That was all a long time ago. I'll take care of myself and won't leave you alone."

Ellinor blushed when she was kissed suddenly and shyly buried her head in his chest, "I'm serious, don't just kiss people like that. It's not fair!"

Theo chuckled and ruffled her hair, "Sorry, I'll try to control myself"

Ellinor leaned against him, her mood gradually calming as she started to recall the small village of West Water Ridge that Theo had mentioned.

She had been there before.

When she was a kid, she went with Karan from the monastery to find a rare herb, and they stayed in one of the villagers' houses.

At that time, she'd get up early every day to pick herbs with Karan. Sometimes she'd lose track of him because she got distracted, and then she'd have to make her way back to the village on her own.

One day, she got separated from Karan and ran into an injured man on her way down the mountain.

The man was wounded and had been bitten by a snake, which had blinded him with its venom.

That day, she found the exact herb that could neutralize the venom. So she sucked the venomous blood out of his wound and applied the crushed herb to

1. it.

At **first**, the man thought she was a bad person and was rather unfriendly. But when he realized that she was trying to save him, he softened up.

However, he was a man of few words and didn't really talk to her.

After that, whenever she passed by, she would bring him some food. He didn't say much, but he always said thank you.

And then one day, he was just... gone.

When she remembered this memory that was deeply buried in her heart, Ellinor's heart skipped a beat.

Could it be...

She snapped back to reality, grabbed Theo's arm, and pointed at a spot on his forearm, "Is this where you were bitten by the snake?"

A hint of surprise flashed in Theo's eyes, "How did you know?"

Ellinor continued, "You were blind at the time and never saw the person who saved you, right?"

-Theo nodded, "Yeah, what about it?"

Ellinor asked again, "And the day you left, you wanted to say goodbye to the person who saved you, but you were in a hurry. So you left a bracelet with one of your men to give to that person as a token of gratitude?"

Theo confirmed, "Exactly, that's what happened."

As it happened, Patricia was vacationing at a country lodge nearby that day and happened to pass by.

Seeing that Patricia was about the same age as Ellinor, Theo's man mistook Patricia for the savior.

Thus, Patricia conveniently started to pretend to be the life-saving hero.

Ah, so that's what happened!

She had always thought that Patricia, being as selfish as she was, would never risk her own life to help a stranger.

As she was deep in thought, a rough finger gently scraped her nose, "Ellinor, what's going on? What are you thinking about?"

Chapter 774

Suddenly, the pieces fell into place for Ellinor as she stared at Theo's face, which was looking more and more familiar. She was shocked.

Turned out she had met him a long time ago and had even saved him under special circumstances.

She remembered that back then, he looked very young. He was a frail but pretty boy.

He was pale and weak from an injury and poisoning, but still very handsome.

Now **that** he had matured, his body had become stronger, and his demeanor had become colder.

No wonder she didn't recognize him before!

Theo frowned as she kept staring at him, "Why are you staring at me like that? Is there something on my face?"

Ellinor blinked before nodding. Yeah, there's something."

His eyebrows raised, "What is it? Help me get it off."

Ellinor shook her head, "Can't."

Theo was puzzled. "What is it?"

Ellinor said sincerely, "Your handsomeness!"

Theo was taken aback for a moment before laughing.

Then he leaned in close, his nose almost touching hers, 'Really? So you think I'm handsome? Don't you want to give me a kiss?"

Ellinor fell silent.

Theo was like a devil who always wanted to kiss her. It seemed like that was all he ever thought about.

Before Ellinor could refuse, Theo was already leaning in.

Belinda, who was driving in front, couldn't take it anymore, and she cleared her throat in protest, "Theo, I'm just listening to some music; my ears are perfectly fine! Can't you stop this? Save it for when you get home!"

Ellinor was taken aback; she had forgotten Belinda was in front. She quickly pushed the man away, straightened her clothes, and kept her distance.

Theo was displeased when he saw Ellinor move away from him, and he glared at Belinda in the front seat, "Keep your eyes on the road, not on us!"

Belinda stuck out her tongue at the rear-view mirror, "Okay!"

The Blanchet villa.

After dropping Theo and Ellinor off at the Blanchet villa, Belinda drove off.

As soon as Theo entered the house with Ellinor, he saw the mess all over the place. His face darkened instantly.

There was water everywhere; a few vases were broken in the living room, and shards were all over the floor.

There were no servants in the house, and it didn't look like anyone had cleaned up.

"Where is everyone?" He asked in a deep voice.

Devin hurriedly came out of the kitchen, "Mr. Blanchet, Ellinor, you're back."

Theo's face was grim, "What happened?"

Devin explained helplessly, "Mr. Blanchet, Ms. Veronica was cleaning and she accidentally made this mess."

Theo frowned, "She was cleaning?"

Devin nodded, "Yes, Mr. Blanchet."

Theo was a neat freak and couldn't stand the mess in the house, so he asked coldly. "Who let her do this? Does she even know how to clean?"

Theo's attitude scared Devin, "It was Ellinor who asked Ms. Veronica to do it."

Theo looked displeased, after a moment of silence, he turned to Ellinor beside him and started to tuck her stray hair behind her ear, "Ellinor, why did you ask her to do this? Does she even know how to clean?"

Devin's eyes widened in surprise. He felt like he had just stepped into a new world.

Chapter 775

Mr. Blanchet's mood swung like a pendulum; one minute he was raising hell, and the next he was talking to Ellinor in soft whispers.

Ellinor **stifled** a yawn and responded, "She needs to learn and needs to challenge herself. Otherwise, how is your **sis** gonna survive out there? What if she can't even get married?"

Theo patted her head in agreement, "Yeah, time to throw her in the deep end."

Devin was speechless.

Was Mr. Blanchet really such a loose cannon?

Theo turned his face, and any trace of a smile was gone. He spoke coldly, "Where is she? Bring her here!"

Devin answered respectfully, "Ms. Veronica is washing dishes in the kitchen."

Before he could finish his sentence, the sound of dishes shattering came from the kitchen, almost blowing everyone's eardrums.

Devin awkwardly continued, "I will fetch Ms. Veronica right away."

With that, he made a beeline for the kitchen.

Not long after, Veronica Blanchet emerged from the kitchen, dirt-streaked and flustered, "Theo, you're back!"

Theo squinted at her pathetic state, his temple starting to throb as he asked, "That's all you noticed?"

Only then did Veronica notice Ellinor next to Theo and greet her, "Ellinor, you're back too!"

Ellinor nodded in response.

Theo scolded her, "You're grown up, yet you can't even do some simple housework? And you can't study either! What can you even do?"

Veronica lowered her head, "Theo, I didn't mean to. I've never done housework before."

Theo cut her off, "You have one hour to clean this mess up!"

"Alright..."

Ellinor tugged at his hand. "You go up and take a shower first; I'll talk to her."

Theo gave Veronica a cold glance before turning to Ellinor, his demeanor softening instantly as he lightly stroked Ellinor's cheek, "Be careful not to slip, and watch out for the broken shards."

Ellinor nodded, "Alright."

Then Theo strode over the mess on the floor and headed upstairs.

Once Theo's figure disappeared at the top of the stairs, Veronica turned her head and glared at Ellinor venomously.

“Ellinor, you wicked woman! This is all your fault! I got scolded by Theo again because of your

Ellinor ignored her, simply asking, “Have you eaten?”

Veronica was taken aback, and she glared back, “What are you even saying? You know I haven’t eaten! You gave all the servants the day off, who’s supposed to cook for me?”

Ellinor lifted up a box in her hand, “Theo and I had dinner outside and brought you something. I’ll go warm it up.”

Veronica was dumbfounded again, not understanding Ellinor’s intentions.

“I don’t want your leftovers!”

“It’s not leftovers; we had the waiter make a fresh one after we finished eating” Ellinor explained as she stepped over the mess on the floor and headed for the kitchen.

Before long, she reheated the food and served it on a plate.

“Come eat! The food from this place is pretty good”

Veronica walked over and looked at the food on the table. She was originally not planning to eat, but the food did look tempting.

After a long day of bustle and bustle, she **was** famished. Her stomach growled uncontrollably

In the

end, hunger trumped pride. Veronica **sat** down and picked up a fork. Before she started eating, she shot Ellinor another glare, “Just because you brought me food doesn’t mean I’ll stop hating you!”

Ellinor pulled out a **chair** and sat down leisurely **across** from her, “Don’t worry, the feeling’s mutual.”

Veronica was starving: she shoveled a large spoonful of food into her mouth but still had an annoyed expression on her face, “Who cares what some country bumpkin thinks of me? Do you have something to say to me? Spit it out if you do, otherwise, get out of my face!”

Chapter 776

Ellinor glanced at Veronica, who was eating with such an unpleasant expression, and chuckled.

“**Veronica**, because of your brother, I have to put up with you, so I can’t treat you like everyone else. But don’t think I won’t fight back when threatened”

Veronica continued to be defiant even after she heard Ellinor’s warning. She dropped her fork and scoffed, “Huh! What can you do to me? At the end of the day, you’re just going to threaten me and get my brother to kick me out, right? Ellinor, what else can you do without my brother?”

“Getting your brother to kick you out is my last resort. Before that, I have a hundred ways to handle you”

“Hahaha! That’s hilarious! A hundred ways? If you’re so tough, why don’t you tell me what you’ve got? I’d like to see if I’ll be scared.”

Ellinor smiled, "For example, posting your test scores from childhood to adulthood on the notice board of your current school, Creston University, so your classmates can see how Ms. Veronica got in through family connections."

Veronica cared a lot about her dignity, and she had always been a poor student. This would definitely hit a nerve. Her face changed instantly. "Ellinor, you wouldn't dare!"

Ellinor smiled, "Or, for instance, revealing the love letter you once wrote to a certain heartthrob at your school. Letting everyone see how talented Ms. Veronica really is."

Veronica gritted her teeth, "Ellinor, don't push it!"

God, how did Ellinor find out she had written a love letter?

No matter how Ellinor had found out, that love letter could never be revealed. It contained many cheesy phrases she found online, and the guy even rejected her.

If the other students saw it, she would be a laughingstock.

Ellinor lazily watched her, "Veronica, I recall telling you that I'd treat you the same way you treat others. If you think I'm going too far, it's probably because you went too far first"

Veronica slammed the table in frustration, "Ellinor, you were clearly provoking me today, and now you have the nerve to say all this! I have no idea what my brother sees in you!"

Ellinor raised her eyebrows, "Did you forget what you did to me? You pretended to invite me shopping, then had someone knock me out and take me to a hotel for someone to take advantage of, and then made it look like I took money to do it. You even went to the press and ruined my reputation! I didn't fall for your plan completely, but that doesn't mean you're innocent now."

"I just wanted to get you out of our house as soon as possible." Veronica knew she was wrong in hindsight, and her gaze started to shift, "I didn't think it through..."

"You didn't think it through, but you almost ruined someone's life."

Veronica couldn't respond, so she just lowered her head.

Ellinor knew full well that Veronica wasn't smart enough to come up with such a thorough plan. Someone must have advised her from behind the scenes. That person was likely Patricia, who was skilled at manipulating others to achieve her own goals.

Maybe Patricia had already started planning to frame her from afar.

Thinking of this, Ellinor said to Veronica again.

"Forget it; you've also been detained in the police station for half a month and received your punishment. I can forgive your past actions."

Chapter 777

Veronica grumbled with a hint of displeasure, "Well, you got what you wanted, so why the long face?"

Ellinor glanced at the mess in the room, "Before I had you do these chores, it was you who started the fight, trying to get me to do them. Feeling the pinch now, huh? You should know better than to force people to do things they don't like."

Veronica's resolve seemed to waver, but her pride wouldn't let her admit her mistake, "You. Don't lecture me. Who do you think you are?"

Ellinor calmly asked, "How old are you this year?"

Veronica glanced at her, "Twenty-one, so what?"

"Hmm, you're a year older than me, yet you're at home waiting for others to do everything. Usually, people your age are starting internships or working."

Veronica shrugged it off, "I don't want to go out and work like the rest of the world, I'm not short of money!"

Ellinor nodded slightly. "True, you're well off, so there's no need to worry about your future livelihood. But if one day you meet someone you like, what do you think he'll like about you?"

Veronica fell silent.

She did have someone she liked, the boy she wrote a love letter to before, but he didn't like her back, and she didn't know why.

Ellinor continued, "Would you rather your future partner be with you for your wealth or because he loves your kindness, independence, and unique charisma? Which kind of affection do you think is more enduring and more real?"

Veronica stayed silent.

"You must wonder why your brother likes a country bumpkin like me but not a gentle and beautiful girl like Patricia, who comes from an equally wealthy family, right? In theory, Patricia's family is much better off than mine, and she's no less attractive, right?"

Veronica pondered for a moment. "It's because you're a vixen and you seduced my brother!"

Ellinor chuckled, "Patricia and you were spoiled by your families, having nothing to do all day. When you fall for a guy, you devote all your energy and even sacrifice yourself for him, which only bores him and makes him feel overwhelmed.

I survive on my own, with my own aspirations and lots of other things to do. I won't revolve my life around a man, which actually earns me his respect."

Veronica frowned, "So you're saying Patricia loves my brother too much, and you don't love him that much?"

Ellinor chuckled, "I don't need to prove to you whether I love your brother or not."

Veronica glared at her, "Humph! Then why the heck are you lecturing me?"

"I just want to remind you that if you don't strive when you're young, you'll only feel regret and sorrow when you're old.

You can search online for the outcomes of those incapable rich girls and see how they're exploited and ditched when they become worthless.

Veronica, you need to understand that your family background is just a safety net; you also need your own abilities and wisdom. Your brother, your parents, and even your future husband, none of them are guaranteed to support you for a lifetime."

Veronica was taken aback, sensing the truth in Ellinor's words, but she was too stubborn to admit it, "Humph, you're just scaring **me**! If I don't learn anything, I'll have no value to be exploited; who would want to use me?"

Chapter 778

Ellinor took a sip of the water Devin brought over, "Tell me, why do you want Patricia to be your brother's wife?" **Veronica** immediately answered. "Because Patricia is very beautiful, has a kind heart, and treats me really well!"

Beautiful and kind-hearted? Ellinor thought it was hilarious to describe Patricia like that.

"Oh, how exactly does she treat you well?"

Veronica didn't hide her fondness for Patricia at all, "Every time Patricia saw a nice bag, she would always remember to buy one for me! Even if it **was** a limited edition, no matter how much she liked it, she would buy it for me first. Anyway, you broke people wouldn't understand!"

Ellinor casually nodded, "I indeed wouldn't buy you designer bags; I wouldn't buy such things for myself either. I think those luxuries are just consumer traps, most of them aren't worth the price."

Veronica gave Ellinor a disgusted glance.

Ellinor chuckled. "Have you ever wondered why she would frequently give you expensive gifts for no reason? She even willingly gave you the limited-edition bags she liked. Do you think she likes you as **a** person, or does she like Theo?"

Veronica was stunned. She had never seriously thought about this. Whenever she received gifts from Patricia, she was usually busy being happy and showing off in front of her friends.

"Are you saying Patricia is using me? Ellinor, you're really funny! Patricia is the beloved baby of the Howard family, okay? She's the most innocent and kind person I've ever met, and not as scheming as your

Looking at the clueless Veronica, Ellinor said all she had to say and shrugged, "Think about what **said** today."

After saying that, she stood up. Before turning around, she added, "By the way, I won't buy you bags, but I will give you a gift tomorrow"

Veronica looked surprised, "What gift will you give me?"

Ellinor didn't reveal the gift and said, "You'll know tomorrow"

Veronica gave her another disgusted glance, "Humph! Don't think you can win me over with gifts. I will never accept you as my brother's wife! I only recognize Patricia!"

Ellinor yawned, feeling unbothered, "After eating, remember to clean up the house. If your brother wakes up tomorrow morning and sees this mess, I won't help you if he scolds you"

After saying that, Ellinor turned around, walked through the messy stuff on the floor, and went upstairs.

Veronica stared at Ellinor's annoying back, scratching her head, "Ugh! So annoying!"

The house was a complete mess; how was she supposed to clean it?

If she knew how to do housework, it wouldn't look like this.

Besides, what Ellinor just said to her, although she didn't want to hear it, she did listen, and she started to rethink her issues.

She looked down at the food Ellinor brought back, thinking it seemed simple and crude.

Her brother actually went to eat such simple food with Ellinor?

However, the food tasted pretty good, and she complained while taking another big bite.

Back in her room, Theo was still in the bathroom, and she could hear the sound of running water.

She didn't mind, and she went to the closet to find clean clothes to change into.

While looking for clothes, she heard the bathroom door open, but she didn't turn around.

Chapter 779

Someone grabbed her from behind. As she was about to fight back, she was suddenly spun around, and a man's fresh scent filled her nostrils.

Theo's kiss was passionate and quick.

Ellinor thought she would fall backward while receiving his passionate kiss, but his long arm gently supported her waist, cherishing her as if she were a precious gem.

Finally finding a chance to catch her breath as her eyes nearly welled up with tears, Ellinor protested, "Mr. Blanchet, didn't we agree to take it **easy** today?" Theo's eyes were filled with tenderness as he panted lightly, "Take it easy; I'm just kissing you."

Seeing him about to kiss her again, Ellinor quickly raised her hand to cover his mouth, "Enough, I'm beat."

He frowned slightly, gently removing her hand, "Why?"

Ellinor rolled her **eyes at** him, "What do you mean why? I'm just tired!"

Helplessly cradling her cheek, Theo asked, "Ellinor, why can't you love me as deeply as I love **you**? You always seem so indifferent."

Ellinor blushed, "Mr. Blanchet, don't you think you're a bit too enthusiastic? Young people in love don't get this heated, and I'm genuinely wiped out."

Knowing she was tired, he decided to give her a break today.

Suppressing his own urges, he picked up Ellinor and gently sat her down on the bed.

He squatted down in front of her, looking at her tenderly

He was only clad in a bathrobe; his hair was still wet and not styled as **usual**. It added a youthful touch to his face.

As Ellinor looked at him, she couldn't help but marvel at how handsome this man was!

Theo noticed

her staring and gently touched her nose, "I didn't ask you in the car because there were people around. Tell me now, what's the deal with you and Balfour? He actually came to our house for you this morning, and his attitude toward you at Pearl Moon had changed. Is it because of **you**?"

Ellinor didn't hide anything from him and told him the truth, Well... to be exact, he's my biological brother."

Theo seemed surprised, "What do you mean?"

Ellinor shrugged nonchalantly, "I mean, I am the long-lost daughter of the Howard family."

Theo looked at her, asking in disbelief, "You're Pearl?"

Ellinor nodded, "Yeah, I think that was my name before."

Theo furrowed his brows as if he had thought of something.

Ellinor roughly guessed what he was thinking, "Don't worry, I won't acknowledge that family, and I don't consider myself a member of the Howard family. So the past conflicts between the Blanchets and the Howards won't affect our relationship"

Snapping out of his thoughts, Theo smiled faintly and gently stroked her head, "Good girl."

Ellinor blinked and then asked, "If the elders of the Blanchet family found out about my blood ties with the Howard family and strongly objected to us being together, would you listen to them and break up with me?"

Chapter 780

Theo squatted down. He was just a bit lower than Ellinor, who was sitting on the bed. He looked up at her with a sincere and smitten gaze. "Absolutely **not**."

Ellinor then asked, "What if they threaten you to break up with me?"

Theo chuckled, "In this world, no one can threaten me except for you."

Ellinor rolled her eyes. What can I threaten you with? Men's words are all lies!"

Theo replied seriously, "Ellinor, to be honest, if I knew you were a daughter of the Howard family from the beginning, I might not have approached you. But now, I'm not letting you go, not ever."

Ellinor was taken aback. She saw stars in his eyes, and suddenly she wanted to kiss him.

But she knew that if she actually did, it wouldn't stop at just a simple kiss tonight.

Ellinor kept her wits about her, "Uh, Mr. Blanchet, I'm going to take a **bath** now."

Theo asked softly. "Aren't you really tired today? Do you want me to help you?"

Ellinor frowned, looking at him warily, "No! Don't even think about it!"

Theo watched as she walked to the bathroom, chuckling. Take it slow; be careful not to slip."

"I know!" Ellinor went into the bathroom, quickly closing the door behind her to prevent any intrusions.

Theo looked out the window as Ellinor went to the bathroom, his gaze complex.

The next day.

Ellinor was woken up by a phone call. While feeling very groggily, she reached out from under the covers to answer, "Hello?"

"Is this Ellinor?"

An old man's voice came from the other end of the line.

Ellinor asked somewhat puzzled, "Hello, who is this?"

The old man laughed, "Ellinor! It's me, Grandpa Dean!"

Grandpa Dean?

Ellinor was startled for a moment before becoming fully alert, "You're Mr. Howard's grandfather?"

The old man was very friendly, "Yes, that's me! Ellinor, just call me Grandpa, there's no need to be so formal."

Ellinor wasn't really fond of the Howard family, but she politely asked out of courtesy, "Grandpa Dean, what can I do for you?"

Dean enthusiastically invited her over, "Ellinor, are you free to come over for dinner at our house today? We didn't really get to chat when we met yesterday, and I didn't have the chance to properly host **you**. If you're free today, why don't you come over for dinner? I'd like to thank you in person for your help."

Ellinor politely declined, "No need, Grandpa Dean. What I did before **was** just what I should have done; it's not a big deal. You don't have to go through the trouble; I won't be coming."

"Your help **was** a big deal to me! I have high blood pressure, and if it weren't for your help that day, I might have gotten overly angry because of that internet celebrity. Ellinor, if you don't accept my thanks, I'll feel bad. Come have a meal, good girl!"

“Grandpa Dean, you’re not planning to set me up on a blind date, are you? I’m sorry, but I already have a boyfriend, and I have no plans on switching boyfriends at the moment.”