

## **The Kiss 791**

### *Chapter 791*

*So, Mrs. Howard took a moment, then turned to Ellinor and said, "Miss, can we have a little chat in private? I've got some stuff to discuss with you!"*

*Ellinor responded with a smile, "Sure."*

*Byran was floored upon hearing Ellinor's agreement to converse with his mom without any explanation. "Mom, actually she is..."*

*Ellinor cut him off, "Mr. Howard, you should be hitting the books. I'll be back to check up on you."*

*Byran was left speechless and very puzzled.*

*After watching Ellinor follow his mom out of the room, Byran was left with a head full of questions. He was clueless as to why Ellinor pretended to be a teacher.*

*Ellinor followed Mrs. Howard into a vacant guestroom.*

*After closing the door, Mrs. Howard gave Ellinor a once-over before asking, "Miss, what's your name?"*

*With a smile, Ellinor replied, "You can call me Ms. Mendoza."*

*Mrs. Howard stood with her arms crossed and asked, "Ms. Mendoza, where did you graduate from? Can you tell me about yourself?"*

*Ellinor truthfully responded, "I graduated from Creston University with flying colors. I should be able to tutor your son well."*

*Upon hearing Creston University, Mrs. Howard was secretly impressed. That was one of the best universities in the country, accepting only the cream of the crop.*

*Mrs. Howard was satisfied with Ellinor's academic credentials, then she asked, "How much did Balfour shell out to get you to tutor my son?"*

*Ellinor maintained her smile, "Not too much. The exact amount is not something I can disclose."*

*Mrs. Howard smirked, "No matter what he paid, I can multiply that by ten."*

*Pretending to be surprised, Ellinor asked, "Mrs. Howard, I don't get it. You and Mr. Howard are family, right? Why do you want to pay twice for a tutor?"*

*Mrs. Howard stared at Ellinor, "Ms. Mendoza, be honest. Is Byran having you deliberately teach my son the wrong information to make him stupid, so he can't get into university?"*

*Ellinor kept her cool, "If I say no, Mrs. Howard, would you believe me?"*

*Mrs. Howard scoffed, "Do you think I would?"*

*With a shrug. Ellinor replied, "Since you wouldn't believe me anyway, just go with your gut. There's no need for me to answer."*

*Mrs. Howard squinted at Ellinor, "I don't care whether Balfour wants you to guide my son in the right direction or not. I'm willing to pay ten times the price as long as you can get my son into university. If you can get him into Creston University, I'll give you whatever you want."*

*Ellinor blinked, "Whatever I want, really?"*

*Mrs. Howard replied confidently, "Ms. Mendoza, you've seen our circumstances. Do you think there's anything I can't give you? As long as you can get my son into Creston University, nothing's off the table!"*

*Ellinor's lips curled into a smirk. She started walking forward, each step firm and resolute, until she was standing close to Mrs. Howard.*

*They locked eyes as Ellinor's twinkled with a sharp light, "What if I wanted your life?"*

*Ellinor's request effortlessly diminished Mrs. Howard's previous arrogance. She felt an indescribable fear and anger, "What did you say?"*

## *Chapter 792*

*I'm saying..." At this moment, Ellinor's gaze was like a terrifying ghost; her lips curled into a ghastly and eerie smile, "I'm coming for your life?"*

*After she said this, her hand shot up.*

*Instinctively, Mrs. Howard thought Ellinor was going for her throat. She was so scared that she stumbled backwards, almost falling, but luckily, she was caught.*

*"Mrs. Howard, are you okay?" It was Ellinor who had caught her and asked with concern.*

*Regaining her bearings, Mrs. Howard looked at Ellinor in terror. Now that Ellinor was smiling warmly, Mrs. Howard no longer found her scary at all.*

*How strange! Mrs. Howard even thought that what had just happened was a misperception. Her breath was knocked out of her, "What did you just do?"*

*Ellinor laughed. It took a while before she could say, "Mrs. Howard, I'm sorry. You suddenly offered me a tenfold raise, and I was too excited! I couldn't help but pull a prank on you!"*

*Mrs. Howard felt quite offended after seeing Ellinor be so casual. After steadying herself, she pushed Ellinor away, straightened her clothes, and unhappily said, "Ms. Mendoza, I hope you can keep your sense of humor at bay when tutoring my son"*

*Ellinor shook her finger, "Mrs. Howard, you might not know this, but education should be fun and engaging. That's how you get kids interested, and soon enough they actually learn something."*

*Mrs. Howard frowned. She didn't understand her philosophy and said impatiently. Whatever, I just care about the results!"*

*Ellinor nodded, assuring her. "I understand. I won't let you down, Mrs. Howard. I'll work hard to improve your son's grades."*

*That was more like it.*

*Mrs. Howard warned her again. "Also, what happens in the Howard family is none of your business. So it's best if you pretend that you didn't hear what I just said to my son in his room."*

*Ellinor made a zipping gesture across her lips, "Mrs. Howard, don't worry. My lips are sealed!"*

*\*And about the matter of me paying you extra, you can't let Balfour know.\**

*Ellinor gave an OK sign, "Got it!"*

*Mrs. Howard waved her hand, "Alright, off you go. Hurry and tutor Byran, or he won't finish his homework."*

*\*Sure thing!"*

*Ellinor complied and left the room as a sarcastic smirk played on her lips.*

*After watching the door close behind Ellinor, Mrs. Howard took a deep breath while her hand clutched her chest.*

*This teacher was a bit out there; she almost scared her to death!*

*After resting for a while, Mrs. Howard left the room, just in time to run into Patricia.*

*Patricia asked with confusion. "Mom? Why did you come out of this room? Where's dad? Isn't he supposed to be with you?"*

*Every time she thought of that man, Mrs. Howard felt her heart break a little.*

*Chapter 793*

*She just faked being sick to get her daughter to summon McNeil*

*Her daughter didn't let her down, and actually brought him over.*

*McNeil did come, but as soon as he stepped into the room, he asked where she was feeling unwell and whether or not he should call an ambulance.*

*She wasn't actually feeling unwell; she was just faking it. If they really called an ambulance and couldn't find anything wrong, then she'd be in hot water.*

*So she just said her head was a little dizzy, and she felt no other discomfort.*

*Next, her*

*husband, McNeil, pulled over a chair and sat by the bed to read a book. It was a very thick book, and he was very focused on it.*

*Sometimes she wondered if her husband was too engrossed in his own world. He'd rather read than pay attention to her?*

*Later, she couldn't keep up the act anymore and said she was feeling much better and wanted to get some fresh air.*

*McNeil didn't say much about it.*

*How was this kind of marriage different from being a widow?*

*However, she couldn't express her inner emptiness and physical needs to her daughter and could only helplessly shake her head, "Don't worry, your dad is reading in the room. Patri, what are you up to?"*

*Patricia was also very annoyed, "Mom, Baber is becoming more and more unruly. He cries as soon as I go in and only wants to be with the nanny. It's making me want to send him back to the orphanage!"*

*Mrs. Howard patted her daughter's shoulder understandingly. "That's not surprising. How could an adopted child be close to you? Just ignore him and have your own child in the future!"*

*Her mother's words startled Patricia. She quickly looked around to make sure no one was around, then quickly pulled Mrs. Howard into the guest room and whispered, "Mom, keep your voice down. If people find out I don't actually have infertility problems, how will I ever bring up the topic with Theo in the future?"*

*Mrs. Howard laughed, "I know. I'm more careful than you! I'm pretty sure no one's around. Everyone's been called to attend a banquet for a VIP today Speaking of which, I wonder what kind of VIP could make your grandparents act so seriously!"*

*Patricia let out a sigh of relief, "I heard it's someone who saved Grandpa's life; we have to accompany them at dinner tonight."*

*Mrs. Howard was dismissive, "I wonder what kind of status this person really has that our whole family needs to accompany them. Are they worth it?"*

*Patricia didn't care about the guest, "Whoever they are, if my grandparents say we must accompany them, then we must accompany them. It's just a meal. Mom, my problem with Theo is the most important right now. I can't reach Theo on the phone anymore; it's always redirected to his assistant. What should I do now?"*

*Mrs. Howard frowned, "Theo's not taking your calls anymore? What happened? Hasn't he always been at your beck and call?"*

*Recently, Patricia had been run so ragged by the adopted child that she hadn't had the chance to tell her mother about what happened in the last few days. So she took this opportunity to recount everything to Mrs. Howard.*

*After hearing everything, Mrs. Howard squinted her eyes in a cunning manner, "So it's because of Ellinor! She managed to make Theo so obedient; it seems like she's got her ways around men. Patri, you might have underestimated her before."*

*Patricia looked anxious, "Mom, I realize I might have underestimated her before, but now's not the time to reflect on my mistakes. You have to help me figure out a solution! If Theo keeps listening to Ellinor and*

*stops taking my calls and contacting me privately, how am I supposed to marry into the Blanchet family and help you gain some dignity?"*

*Mrs. Howard put her hands on Patricia's shoulders to comfort her, "Patri, don't panic; let me think about it."*

*Patricia couldn't calm down at all, "Mom, you have to think fast! Ellinor's still carrying Theo's child in her belly. If she really gives birth to Theo's child, I'll have no chance at all!"*

#### *Chapter 794*

*Mrs. Howard was trying to come up with a plan for her daughter when she asked, "Patri, do you have a photo of that girl, Ellinor? I want to see what she looks like."*

*At the mention of Ellinor, Patricia's eyes gleamed with jealousy. "Mom, I can't stand her. Why would I have her picture? But I have to admit that even without makeup, she's not too shabby looking. I wouldn't be surprised if she's had some work done"*

*Mrs. Howard wasn't taken aback. "Theo's got good taste, so of course the girl he's into would be a looker. Patri, Theo's pretty smitten with her right now, so don't go stirring up trouble; it'll just make him resent you."*

*Patricia retorted, "Mom! Are you saying I should just let this slide? I love Theo, and I want to be Mrs. Blanchet. He's the only guy I know who has excellent looks, status, and brains. He's perfect for me, so there's no way I'm backing down!"*

*Mrs. Howard tried to soothe her, "Patri, cool your jets! When did you get so hot-headed?"*

*Patricia replied, "It's all because of Ellinor! She swooped in and stole the guy I'd been working on for years. You're telling me to chill out? How could I possibly chill out?"*

*Mrs. Howard said, "I'm just saying you should lay low for a bit, not give up. Patri, we need to bide our time. This isn't the right moment to break Theo and Ellinor up*

*Trust me, I've been around the block a few times. A guy's infatuation with a new girl never lasts long. Once the novelty wears off, they'll naturally break up. So, our first order of business should be to deal with the bun in Ellinor's oven. Best case scenario, we make it so she can't ever have kids again and nip it in the bud."*

*Patricia recognized the need to address Ellinor's pregnancy. "Mom! Remember when I asked my brother to help me so I could get Quinton to take Ellinor for an abortion?*

*I even bribed the surgeon to take out her womb while they were at it to make sure she couldn't cause trouble in the future.*

*But just as Ellinor was about to go into surgery. Theo swooped in and whisked her away. We were so close to success.*

*After that, my brother never brought up the abortion again!"*

*Mrs. Howard pondered for a moment, "Patri, don't worry, I'll figure something out. Just give me some time. For now, go freshen up and get ready to dine with the man who saved your grandpa's life. Be gracious and sweet with your words.*

*You know how it is with your grandparents; I've never been able to effectively communicate with them. You need to handle them yourself. Your father doesn't have any real authority at home; he passed on all decision—*

*making powers to your brother years ago. Your brother won't listen to your father, so besides your brother, only your grandparents' opinions still carry weight. If we want to secure our place in the Howard family, we need their approval."*

*Patricia nodded, "I understand, mom. I've always respected my grandparents."*

*Mrs. Howard gently patted her daughter's shoulder, "Good girl! Now go get ready!"*

*Patricia seemed somewhat downcast as she turned to leave after listening to her mother.*

*Mrs. Howard squinted her eyes, wondering just how capable Ellinor was. She definitely needed to meet her at some point. How could she steal her daughter's man? She was way out of her league!*

*Meanwhile, Ellinor had returned to Byran's room.*

#### *Chapter 795*

*Holding Byran's assignment in her hands, she glanced at the problem he had just finished, "Hmm, not bad! Keep up the good work, and give it to me when you're done."*

*Byran scowled and grumbled as he said, "Ellinor, I showed you this to prove I could do it, not for you to check my entire homework. Know your place!"*

*Ellinor looked at him while crossing her arms leisurely. A smirk played at the corners of her lips as she said, "I'm very much aware of my place, you know. Now, hand over the assignment."*

*"Really?" Byran rolled his eyes disdainfully, "And who do you think you are?"*

*"Mr. Howard" She began, "I might not have had any right to interfere with your work earlier, but things have changed. I'm officially your teacher now. It's my job to help you check and correct every assignment and every question. That's what I'm here for!"*

*"What? A teacher? Who agreed to this?"*

*Ellinor replied, "Your mother, Mrs. Howard. She just called me out to officially hire me as your tutor. Your studies are now my responsibility"*

*Byran frowned as disbelief etched across his face, 'Ellinor, what are you up to? Why didn't you explain to my mom that you're not my teacher? Now you're agreeing to be my tutor? What's your game?"*

*Ellinor answered, "No game, really. Your mom offered a hefty pay, and I took it."*

*Byran gawked at her, "Quit kidding! You're with Theo now; aren't you rolling in dough? Ellinor, you must be up to something fishy! Are you planning to use this tutor gig to cause issues for my sister, Patricia?"*

*Ellinor laughed, "Why would I want to harm Patricia? She's no threat to me."*

*Byran was dumbfounded. He saw a cold indifference in Ellinor, like she didn't even consider his sister worth mentioning.*

*Ellinor was right. Patricia posed no threat to her because Theo only felt gratitude towards Patricia, not love.*

*Byran was seething for Patricia, but he couldn't deny the harsh reality.*

*After seeing Byran's displeased expression, Ellinor figured he was different from his mother and Patricia.*

*He was genuinely naive, one might even say a bit dim.*

*However, she had overheard Byran defending Balfour in front of their mother, and she was impressed that he managed to maintain his integrity despite his mother's and sister's influence. He was essentially a good person.*

*Ellinor agreed to tutor Byran mainly to get to know Mrs. Howard better.*

*She could've easily slacked off with Byran's tutoring, but something about her half-brother, whom she had no emotional connection with, stirred complex feelings within her.*

*So, she decided to take his tutoring seriously, at least to ensure he got into college and thought more independently, so he didn't get corrupted by his mother and sister.*

*"Ms. Mendoza, so you're here." The Howard family's butler, Fred's voice suddenly echoed.*

## *Chapter 796*

*The moment Ellinor heard the sound, she turned her head. She peered through the slightly ajar door and saw Fred standing there.*

*When she came back, she purposely left the door a bit open to avoid any misunderstandings.*

*Byran might be young, but he was still a boy. And the Howard family was a bit of a minefield, especially with Patricia, who could be a pain in the ass at any moment. It was better to be safe than sorry.*

*Ellinor walked over and opened the door. She politely replied to Fred, "Yes, Mr. Howard had a question he couldn't figure out, so I helped explain it to him."*

*Byran in the back snorted, mumbling, "I didn't ask for your help."*

*Fred replied with a smile, "See. Sorry to trouble you. Lunch is ready, and Grandma Alyssa has some cookies she baked just for you. She sent me to fetch*

*you.*

*Ellinor nodded, "Alright, I'll be right there."*

*Byran also put down his pen, "I want to try my grandma's cookies too!"*

*Ellinor turned to him sternly, "Mr. Howard, you can't go anywhere until you finish your homework."*

*Byran didn't take this lying down. He stood up to leave, I'm going! It's my house; I can do what I want!"*

*Ellinor didn't argue with him. She just calmly took out her phone, "Hello, Mr. Howard..."*

*Byran immediately came back, grabbing her phone, "I give up! I'll stay, okay? I'll finish my homework."*

*Ellinor put away her phone with satisfaction, "Good. Keep doing your homework. I won't hog all your grandma's cookies; I'll bring you some when you're done."*

*Byran glared at her unhappily. He had no choice but to go back to his homework.*

*Fred was a bit surprised by the whole scene. As they went downstairs, he couldn't help but ask, "Ms. Mendoza, you seem to know Mr. Howard pretty well."*

*Ellinor casually replied, "I wouldn't say I know him well, but I do know the person he's most afraid of is Mr. Howard."*

*The Howard family's lunch was quite fancy. It was specially prepared by Dean in his coffee room.*

*The coffee room had a great atmosphere, with one wall being a floor-to-ceiling window. Outside, you could see the meticulously maintained garden. It was a relaxing spot that was perfect for dining and chatting.*

*The Howard family's dining room was too big, and the table was too long and not conducive to conversation. It felt very formal and was more suited for dinner parties*

*Alyssa added some more food to Ellinor's plate, "Ellinor, we'll keep lunch simple. Dinner is when Grandpa Dean will have a feast prepared for you."*

*Ellinor politely replied, "Thank you, Grandma Alyssa. This lunch is already quite fancy! Please don't go all out for dinner. Just stick to your usual standards; otherwise, I really can't handle it."*

*Dean said, "Ellinor, you've done me a huge favor. You can handle it. Now, no more being modest; eat up."*

*Ellinor gave a helpless smile.*

*She knew it was pointless to say anything more, so she dropped the formalities, picked up her bowl, and focused on her meal.*

## *Chapter 797*

*She was starving too, and on top of that, she also had a bun in the oven.*

*The kid was getting bigger by the day, so she had been eating more and getting hungry more often.*

*Most old folks*

*were all for kids with big appetites, and Dean and Alyssa were no different. They watched Ellinor chow down with nothing but love in their eyes, taking turns to pile more food onto her plate..*

*Alyssa handed Ellinor a chicken wing and suddenly noticed the way she was holding her fork. The old woman paused and looked up at Ellinor's profile as her eyes flickered.*

*The way Ellinor held her fork, with her thumb slightly upturned, was exactly how their granddaughter, Pearl, used to do it when she was little.*

*She remembered how they had tried so hard to correct Pearl's fork-holding technique, but they never quite managed.*

*Alyssa felt a pang in her heart as she thought of Pearl, who had been missing for years.*

*She looked at Ellinor, who bore some resemblance to her missing granddaughter, and her mind filled with doubt and speculation.*

*From the moment Alyssa first laid eyes on Ellinor, she thought the girl resembled Pearl, and their ages were even similar.*

*People's faces change as they age, but their demeanor and some habits often don't.*

*At first, Alyssa thought she was overthinking.*

*But could this really be a coincidence? This kid not only resembled her granddaughter, Pearl, in demeanor, but even their fork-holding habits were the*

*same!*

*But Pearl had a distinctive mole in the middle of her eyebrows, which Ellinor didn't have.*

*As Ellinor put down her fork to sip her soup, Alyssa ventured to ask, "Ellinor, I just want to know a little about your family. You said your mom passed away. Is there anyone else in your family?"*

*After hearing Grandma Alyssa's question, Ellinor paused her soup-sipping, then replied, "No one else."*

*Dean thought it was rude for his wife to ask such questions, so he chided her, "Why are you asking things like that? Let the kid eat in peace!"*

*Alyssa ignored her husband. She was too eager to confirm her suspicions. She looked deep into Ellinor's face, "No one else? You mean you're all alone?"*

*Ellinor nodded, "Yeah, you could say that."*

*Alyssa asked again, "So, all your family members are deceased?"*

*Dean discreetly kicked his wife under the table, signaling her to stop asking.*

*Alyssa just glanced at him, ignoring his warning.*

*Ellinor took a sip of her soup, then answered calmly, "After my mom died, I was sent to live with a family in the countryside. But they didn't like me, so they sent me to a convent.*

*So, I grew up in a convent. And as for those people I call my 'family', most of them are still alive, but to me, we're not emotionally connected. They're like strangers; whether they're alive or not doesn't really make a difference to me.*

*The ‘family’ she talked about, whether it was the Mendozas or the Howards, was all the same to her. She felt nothing for them.*

*After he listened to Ellinor describe her upbringing, Dean felt a surge of sympathy, “Poor kid, you had it rough growing up. But don’t worry, you’re welcome to call this place home if you want.”*

*Ellinor put down her bowl and had a warm and peaceful smile on her face as she said, “I appreciate your kindness. I’m doing well now; I have friends and a loved one, and I’ve built a small family of my own*

*Chapter 798*

*Dean furrowed his brows, realizing that the lover Ellinor mentioned was Theo.*

*What a waste for such a cute gal to marry into the Blanchet family!*

*“Ellinor, where the heck did your mom go?” Alyssa asked again, more intently this time.*

*This question made Ellinor frown slightly, and a look of annoyance crossed her face.*

*After noticing Ellinor’s discomfort, Dean had to step in “Enough, Alyssa! Why are you so nosy today? Stop digging into Ellinor’s past. We invited her over to thank her for her help, not to make her uncomfortable!”*

*I*

*Alyssa noticed the unease on Ellinor’s face and apologized, “Ellinor, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to dredge up your past.”*

*Ellinor shook her head, “It’s okay; you’re just concerned about me.”*

*Alyssa was still unsure, “Ellinor, would you mind if I asked you one last question?”*

*Dean frowned, “What more do you want to know? Enough with the questions; let Ellinor enjoy her meal!”*

*Ellinor calmly responded, “It’s fine, I’m full. Grandma Alyssa, go ahead and ask.”*

*Alyssa studied her face, “Ellinor, did you have any moles removed when you were younger? Maybe one between your eyebrows?”*

*After his wife asked her question, Dean paused, then understood his wife’s suspicion and started observing Ellinor’s face as well.*

*Ellinor shook her head, “No.”*

*Alyssa pushed, “Are you sure? Could your family have removed it and you didn’t know?”*

*Ellinor laughed, “Grandma Alyssa, you said that was your last question. Can I not answer this one?”*

*Alyssa still held hope, but all she could do was give an awkward smile, “Sorry Ellinor, I shouldn’t have asked so many questions. Are you full? Try some dessert! Here, how do my cookies taste?”*

*With that, Alyssa presented a box of cookies to Ellinor.*

*Ellinor didn't hesitate, taking a bite and expressing her appreciation, "Mmm! Delicious, but not too sweet, and the flavor is much richer than store-bought cookies."*

*Alyssa beamed, as if she'd been praised by her own granddaughter, "Really? If you like them, have more! If it's not enough, I can bake more for you!"*

*Ellinor waved her off, "One is enough; my husband doesn't want me to eat too much sweet stuff. He'd scold me if he knew."*

*Dean became a bit unhappy after he heard her say that, "Ellinor, how dare Theo criticize you? Doesn't he treat you well?"*

*Ellinor shook her head, "So far, Mr. Blanchet has been very good to me. His limiting my sweets is for my health, not to restrict my freedom."*

*Dean's displeasure with the Blanchet family was clear. He huffed unhappily.*

*"Ellinor, if you ever change your mind and decide you don't like Mr. Blanchet anymore, let me know. I can introduce you to someone better anytime."*

*Someone better than Mr. Blanchet?*

*She doubted that such a person existed in the world, at least not in her eyes.*

*Ellinor couldn't help but smile, "Thank you for your kindness, but I might not need it."*

*Dean, both sympathetic*

*and worried, said earnestly, "You silly girl. You're so young, and you've already given your heart to one person. You should go out and see more before making a choice"*

*Ellinor raised an eyebrow, teasing, "Grandpa Dean, are you implying that you had other options besides Grandma Alyssa?"*

*Dean shot her a glance, struggling to find a good response.*

*Chapter 799*

*Damn! He wondered when they suddenly started talking about him.*

*Alyssa grinned at him, "I guess he also wants to go out and explore his other options. Men! They always get real at the last minute!"*

*Dean*

*frowned, "That's not it! Honey, what on earth are you talking about? We've been together a lifetime; do you really think I'm that type of guy?"*

*Alyssa scoffed, "If you're not, then what kind of nonsense are you teaching Ellinor?"*

*Deanell silent.*

*In truth, he just*

*couldn't stand the thought of such a good kid like Ellinor marrying into the Blanchet family. He just wanted to save the kid!*

*Dean sighed and turned to Ellinor, "Listen, Ellinor, your Grandma Alyssa and I are different. We grew up together, we're the same age; we understand each other deeply; and we truly love each other.*

*But Theo is almost ten years older than you; you don't even know him. You have no idea how crafty an old man can be; it's not something you can figure out quickly.*

*I just think you're still young; you should choose carefully and find someone who suits you."*

*Ellinor knew the Howard family and the Blanchet family didn't get along, so Dean's dislike for Theo was predictable.*

*She didn't give much thought to the old man's words, answered casually, and then sought to excuse herself, "Grandma Alyssa, can I have some cookies? Mr. Howard asked me to help him with his homework; I could bring some cookies to him."*

*"Of course, take as many as you want! Ellinor, we're sorry to have you over and then ask you to tutor Bryan."*

*Ellinor smiled, "It's alright. I knew him before; helping him is like a review of what I've learned before; otherwise, I would forget."*

*Alyssa, full of admiration, nodded and smiled, "Good girl, off you go! We'll call you for dinner."*

*"Okay!"*

*Then Ellinor took a plate of cookies and left.*

*As she stepped out of the room, she breathed a sigh of relief.*

*Dean was determined to stop her from being with Theo, and Alyssa seemed very suspicious of her identity, constantly investigating her background.*

*If she didn't find an excuse to leave, she might be exposed.*

*In the room, after Ellinor left, the expressions of the two elders of the Howard family became serious.*

*Dean frowned and asked, "Honey, you just asked Ellinor a lot of questions about her background; even if she had a mole in the middle of her eyebrows when she was a child, are you suspecting..."*

*Alyssa did not deny it and said, "Don't you think the girl's eyes resemble Pearl's?"*

*As Ellinor was carrying the cookies upstairs to find Bryan, she suddenly caught a strong smell of perfume.*

*The perfume didn't smell bad, she could tell it was a carefully crafted, high-end perfume.*

*However, no matter how good the perfume, if overused, it could still irritate the eyes.*

*Following the smell, she looked up just as the impeccably dressed Patricia was coming downstairs.*

*"Ellinor, what are you doing at my house?"*

*Chapter 800*

*Ellinor calmly stated, "I'm the guest*

*Patricia made a face like she just smelled something foul "Guest? Would we ever invite you?"*

*Ellinor gave a small smile. Grandpa Dean and Grandma Alyssa warmly invited me today I couldn't say no, so here I am*

*What?*

*Shocked, Patricia blurted out. "My grandparents invited you? Are you the one who saved my grandpa?"*

*Ellinor replied evenly. "I wouldn't say I'm a hero, but yes, I was indeed invited as a guest to your home"*

*Patricia was having none of it. She had made an effort to look her best for their guest, and now it turned out to be her nemesis, Ellinor*

*Ellinor was the one who saved her grandpa?*

*Suspicion soon crept into Patricia's thoughts. She eyed Ellinor skeptically "Was this all part of your plan, Ellinor? Setting a trap to get close to my grandpa, then pretending to save him?"*

*"Ms. Howard, you're reading too much into this. I have no reason to get close to your grandpa, nor the time to set up some elaborate scheme."*

*Patricia frowned as her gaze on Ellinor darkened. She descended a few stairs to stand in front of her*

*With the stairs creating a height difference between them, Patricia tried to use her elevated position to intimidate Ellinor, glaring down at her*

*But Ellinor just laughed. "What's the plan, Ms. Howard? Are you going to tumble down the stairs and blame me, or slap yourself and say it was me? Got any new tricks up your sleeve?"*

*Patricia gritted her teeth, her glare intensifying.*

*Just then, she remembered something her mother had recently told her.*

*She cooled down and then bowed. "Ellinor, I've done some inappropriate things to you because I was blinded by love. I know I was wrong, and I apologize. I'm sorry!"*

*This apology came out of nowhere. Ellinor glanced around. Who was Patricia putting on a show for?*

*Patricia gave a deep sigh, her voice heavy with relief. "I realize now that Theo only has eyes for you. Nothing I do will change that. So, I've decided not to get in the way of you and Theo anymore.*

*Ellinor, I'm over Theo. Let's not fight over a guy anymore. Let's call it water under the bridge, okay?"*

*Ellinor squinted her eyes. Was Patricia up to something new, or had she genuinely moved on from Theo?*

*Before Ellinor could respond, Patricia had already sidled up to her, linking her arm with Ellinor's. "If you stay silent, I'll take it as a sign that you've forgiven me I misunderstood you the last time you visited. Let me make it up to you by giving you a proper tour of our home."*

*Ellinor calmly extricated her arm, maintaining a safe distance from Patricia. "That won't be necessary. I have other things to attend to."*

*She didn't like physical contact with strangers, especially with someone she disliked, like Patricia.*

*Tears welled up in Patricia's eyes, making her look wronged "Ellinor, you still won't forgive me? I swear, I genuinely want to make peace with you. I'll show you every room in our house. It might be boring, but our house has a century-old history You won't lose anything by taking a look."*

*Every room?*

*Did that include the room her mom used to live in?*

*This thought piqued Ellinor's interest. Regardless of Patricia's motives today, she didn't want to miss this opportunity.*