

The Kiss 941

Chapter 941

[Look, she's pissed again!]

[Is she the real Ellinor?]

Lucky Belin: [Bullshit!!!]

After reading the comment section for a while, Ellinor knew that the keen netizen called "LuckyBelin" was Belinda.

She left the live stream and replied to Belinda, "You should hit the sack early, no need to argue with them."

Belinda quickly sent back a message. "But it's getting my goat! They're bashing you without knowing jack!"

Ellinor replied, "If you're on the up and up, you don't need to worry about misconceptions. Be a good girl, don't bother with them."

Belinda sent back a 'crazy' gif.

Ellinor didn't reply but opened a group chat below Belinda's.

Chase: [What's the scoop? Why are people suddenly badmouthing you?]

Ida Gipson: [It's a no-brainer that Ellinor was a straight-A student. Who in our village didn't know Ellinor was a brainiac?]

Chase [Exactly! Those folks are talking through their hats! They even said Ellinor stole that girl's grades, that's why she got accepted to Creston University. In fact, it was the Dean of Creston University who personally invited Ellinor!]

Ellinor replied [When rumors fly, the truth often gets lost in the shuffle.]

Chase. [Who the heck are that wailing mother and daughter in the live stream? Blanchet Corporation's shares are still plummeting badly. This whole thing is a bigger deal than I thought!]

Ellinor replied: [She is my high school classmate and that's her mom. They couldn't have caused such a ruckus on their own. Someone must be stirring the pot for them now.]

Chase. [So, what should we do now? With your tech skills, shutting down this forum should be a piece of cake!]

Ellinor pondered and replied: [Let's see how things play out first, play it by ear. Chase, have you been keeping tabs on the Mendoza family recently?]

Chase: [The Mendoza family? Ever since you cut ties with them, I've stopped paying attention. Wait, does this have something to do with the Mendoza family?】

Ellinor [Please have someone keep a close eye on the Mendoza family's activities, see who they've been hanging out with. Let me know as soon as possible if anything comes up.]

Chase [Got it!]

Ida: [Ellinor, are you okay? Has Mr. Blanchet taken it out on you?]

Due to this incident, the Blanchet Corporation's stock has experienced an unprecedented decline. Ellinor, as the main character, could be held accountable.

Ellinor: [Don't worry, I'm fine. He's not the type to fly off the handle]

Ida: (That's a relief. If the Blanchet family treats you badly, come home right away!)

Ellinor replied [Okay.]

Ida and Chase were not only her subordinates but also her family who grew up with her and experienced countless trials and tribulations.

She left the group chat. Below was an unread message from Bartlett.

Every time she thought of Bartlett's excessively handsome face, she didn't feel like opening his messages. But she did anyway.

*【
Ellinor, are you doing okay? Has the Blanchet family mistreated you? If you need any help, just say the word】*

This time, Bartlett didn't say anything weird like he usually did.

However, even though Ellinor didn't plan to reply, Theo, who just got out of the shower, saw Bartlett's message.

Chapter 942

Theo, after drying his hair, walked over to the bed and sat down, catching a glimpse of a message from Bartlett on her phone.

He seemed a bit downcast and asked. "You still keep in touch with Bartlett privately?"

Ellinor raised her head to meet his gaze. "Not really. He occasionally hits me up, but I never respond."

Theo sounded a bit miffed. "When did you start saving his contact info?"

*Ellinor
had no intention of beating around the bush. She answered truthfully, "The day we took our wedding photos. When we got back from Pearl Moon, he sent me a friend request. I didn't accept it at first, but he kept sending it every day. Eventually, I felt bad for ghosting him and accepted."*

*Theo moved closer to her, gently ruffling her hair with his large hand.
"Don't pay him any mind when I'm not around."*

Ellinor blinked curiously. "I wasn't planning to! But isn't he your friend? Shouldn't I be polite to your friends?"

Theo

gazed into her eyes. "You don't have to be polite to anyone on my account. If you want to deal with him, do it. If not, don't. It's your call."

Ellinor squinted her eyes. "So, you're not too keen on your buddy Bartlett? I heard you guys grew up together?"

"Even friends you grow up with can be close or distant."

"Oh... So, you're closer with Jonah and Mr. Larios?"

Theo slightly furrowed his brow. "We should get some sleep now. Stop worrying about them."

With that, he dove under the covers, carrying a hint of shower gel scent.

Ellinor blushed, immediately feeling something was off. "Hold on, I haven't showered yet! I'll go shower now!"

He wrapped his arms around her, holding her tightly as if he couldn't get close enough. "No need for a shower. Let me hold you."

Ellinor looked up at his handsome chin, protesting. "If I don't shower, I won't be able to sleep!"

Theo leaned in closer, lightly rubbing her head. "You'll be able to sleep if I hold you. Don't worry, I won't take advantage of you tonight. Sleep."

"But..."

"Be good."

Ellinor was helpless. He held her so tightly that she couldn't even move.

Perhaps his odor was simply too alluring. She intended to wait until he fell asleep before showering. But she also ended up falling asleep unintentionally,

The next day.

When Ellinor woke up, she found Theo still next to her.

Typically, he would already be at work when she awoke

But on that day, as she opened her eyes, she saw Theo lying next to her, propping his head on one hand, wearing a teasing smile. She had no idea how long he'd been there.

Ellinor felt slightly uncomfortable, frowning, "Theo, why haven't you gone to work yet? Why are you looking at me like that?"

Theo said, "There's not much going on at the office today, so there's no need to rush. I can still make it after you have breakfast"

Despite the significant drop in Blanchet Corporation's stock due to yesterday's events, he remained so nonchalant. Shouldn't he be hurrying to the office to pacify the shareholders?

Ellinor smirked slightly. "Still, there's no need for you to stare at me, is there?"

Theo's eyes narrowed a bit. "What's wrong with looking at my wife?"

Chapter 943

Ellinor blushed at the mention of her being called 'wife' She immediately sat up and said, "I didn't take a bath last night, so I have to hit the shower

now!"

Watching Ellinor rush into the bathroom and lock the door, he chuckled. Then got up and changed.

After Ellinor showered, he went to freshen up. Then they both left the bedroom to grab some breakfast.

However, the presence of an extra person in the dining room made Theo's face turn serious.

Seeing them come down, Marissa said with a smile, "Theo, Ellinor, come, join us for breakfast. I made seafood soup! Ellinor, give it a try and tell me if it's any good"

Ellinor replied with a smile, "Thanks."

Then she politely turned to Putnam, who was seated at the head of the table, and said, "Good morning, Putnam."

Putnam, still brooding over yesterday's events, just grunted in response.

Ellinor didn't mind. She was about to sit down when she noticed Theo hadn't followed her.

She turned to look at Theo and saw that his gaze was fixed on Moran, who was sitting next to Veronica.

Marissa also noticed his odd behavior. She glanced at Moran and said, "This is Veronica's tutor. He arrived early today, so I invited him to join us for breakfast."

Moran stood up courteously and smiled at Ellinor, "Good morning, Ellinor!"

Ellinor returned the smile and said, "Morning."

Then, Moran's gaze turned to Theo. The atmosphere between the two was a little strange.

After a moment of silence, Moran said, "Good morning, Mr. Blanchet!"

This remark made Theo's face even more grim.

Marissa, completely unaware of the backstory, felt that Theo's attitude towards the tutor was somewhat rude.

Hearing Moran say Ellinor's name, Marissa suddenly realized, "Ellinor, do you know him?"

Ellinor nodded, "He is an esteemed alumnus from my university."

Then, Putnam snorted, "University, huh! Who knows if the degree you got is even yours!"

Marissa glared at him disapprovingly and whispered, "Can't you keep it down during a meal?"

Even though Moran was an outsider, he understood the innuendo in Putnam's words.

He had seen last night's online public opinion.

He sent Ellinor many messages asking about the situation, but she didn't reply.

He was worried, so he came early today to check on her

Seeing Ellinor and Theo together, he thought she was unaffected, which gave him some relief.

But after hearing Putnam's ambiguous words, coupled with the significant drop in the Blanchet Corporation's stock, he was worried again.

Despite the online doubts about her academic qualifications and performance, he knew Ellinor's talent was no fraud. He had a crush on her back then, so he paid close attention to everything about her.

Therefore, he couldn't help but defend his 'goddess'. He said, "The rumors on the internet are false. Ellinor got into Creston University on her own merit. I can vouch for that!"

Chapter 944

Theo squinted his narrow eyes, revealing no emotions. He approached the table and drew out a dining chair to sit down on.

Putnam and Marissa turned their attention to Moran, who was speaking up for Ellinor.

Veronica also looked up at Moran, then glanced at Theo's not-so-pleasant expression. She tugged at Moran's clothing, indicating that he should pipe down.

Clearing his throat, Putnam questioned, "You said you could vouch for her? And how would you do that?"

Moran's face was firm as he responded, "Ellinor scored exceptionally well in her college entrance exam. She was a brilliant student that every prestigious university wanted. It's a well-known fact in our school that the president of Creston University personally approached Ellinor to invite her to study there. If, as the rumors suggest, Ellinor took someone else's place to get into Creston University, she would've found it very difficult to keep up the facade of being an excellent student. But she continued to be a top student at Creston University, making all of us alumni proud"

He continued, "When those hot topics cropped up yesterday, a lot of our alumni were puzzled. Many stood up for Ellinor online, but our voices got drowned out. If you don't believe what I'm saying, you could send someone to our school to investigate or even verify it with our former president." After listening, Putnam looked at Ellinor thoughtfully, then back at Moran, saying sternly, "I will send someone to Creston University to confirm whether or not your claims are accurate. We will not simply accept your word. If you are telling the truth, fair enough. But if you are not, we will not hire you!"

Moran wanted to say something else, but Ellinor interrupted him, "Moran, thank you for sticking up for me, but it's breakfast time. Let's eat."

With that, she also drew out a chair, sitting down next to Theo, and started eating.

Moran frowned in frustration, "Ellinor, I..."

Ellinor calmly replied, "Moran, you're here as Veronica's tutor today. Just do your job and help Veronica with her homework. You don't need to worry about anything else."

Moran still wanted to speak, "But..."

Veronica handed Moran a glass of milk and pulled at his clothes to sit him down, "Moran, have some milk first!"

Theos expression wasn't great. If Moran kept going, he could freeze someone with his icy gaze.

Unable to persuade her husband, Marissa had to lighten the mood herself. She laughed and said, "Ellinor, taste my seafood soup. How is it?"

Ellinor stirred the soup with a spoon, tasted it after allowing it to cool, and then nodded in approval, "It's really good! Your cooking skills are as amazing as ever!"

Marissa was very pleased after hearing this.

Putnam, on the other hand, snorted coldly. "So young and already such a smooth talker!"

Ellinor gave Putnam a light look, smiled slightly, and chose not to respond.

Chapter 945

She didn't mean to butter up Marissa Blanchet; she was merely complimenting her hard work, and she genuinely thought the seafood soup tasted great.

Putnam had made it clear he didn't like her, so no matter what she did, it was never good enough for the old man.

She could be polite to the elders, but if he really couldn't stand her, she wouldn't force it.

Marissa felt super awkward, shot Putnam an annoyed look in secret and sighed helplessly. Then she said to Ellinor, "Ellinor, ignore him. If you like it, have more. There's plenty more in the kitchen!"

Ellinor didn't give a damn about Putnam's attitude and smiled sweetly.

"Sure!" she replied cheerfully.

As she was having her soup, her phone buzzed twice. Ellinor took it out while eating.

It was a message from Chase.

Chase: Just as you predicted, Tracy Mendoza and Sheila Mendoza left early this morning to meet Patricia Howard in a park. Patricia gave them a suitcase, probably filled with cash.]

Along with the message, he sent a photo.

Looking at the message from Chase, Ellinor wasn't surprised at all. She calmly continued to have her soup while opening the photo in the message.

The photo was taken from a hidden angle. Behind some greenery, Patricia was handing a black suitcase to Sheila.

At that moment, the man next to her stood up.

After a few bites, Theo got up, took his coat, gave a quick greeting to Marissa and Putnam, then turned to leave.

Seeing him about to leave, Ellinor took a sip of water, stood up, and said, "Putnam, Marissa, I have some business to attend to with Mr. Blanchet. Take your time with breakfast."

Then she turned to Moran and Veronica and said, "You two eat more, then study hard."

After saying this, she followed the man's steps and left the house.

Once outside, Theo gave the girl a cold sidelong glance and said in a low voice, "What are you doing following me?"

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, "Can't I follow you?"

He snorted, "Your classmate even came to your house, why are you following me? Shouldn't you stay at home and keep him company?"

Ellinor knew it was about that. She shrugged, "Theo, haven't we talked about this already? Moran is your sister's crush. I brought him to tutor Veronica's classes to create opportunities for her! Otherwise, if she ends up bringing you a good-for-nothing brother-in-law, you'll be even more upset!"

Theo glanced at her, still sulky, "If my brother-in-law has designs on my wife, wouldn't that be even more annoying?"

Ellinor gave a slight smile, "Teenage boys always have some unrealistic desires. In fact, I don't know him well! Just like you and me, we weren't each other's ideal type before, but we still ended up together, didn't we?"

"Huh, yeah, this old man fell into the hands of a little girl like you!" Theo's face finally softened a bit. He looked like he couldn't stay mad at her. "Why didn't you wear a coat when you came out?" he asked, removing his coat and placing it on her shoulders.

Ellinor gave a pout, "You left so fast. You didn't even wait for me."

Chapter 946

Theo bent slightly towards her and asked, "Did I do something wrong again?"

Ellinor jutted out her chin, "Is it my fault then?"

"Alright, alright, I'm at fault!" Theo chuckled, "Are you heading to the company with me?"

Ellinor shook her head, "No. I want you to drop me off at the Howard family's house."

Theo looked at her and asked, "What's up with you going there alone?"

Every time she meets the Howard family, something unpleasant always happens.

Naturally. Theo couldn't feel at ease..

Ellinor said in a serious tone, "I need to sort out the online mess. This has been a serious issue since yesterday, so I need to handle it."

Theo paused slightly, then caught her drift, "Is it Patricia's doing?"

Ellinor affirmed and stated, "She is quite extreme. If she cannot have you, she intends to ruin me, sparing neither you nor the Blanchet Corporation."

Theo frowned, "Let's go together then."

Ellinor shook her head, "You should be at the company right now, stabilizing the Blanchet Corporation's stock market. I can handle things here on my own."

Theo knitted his brows, somewhat disgruntled, "So you don't need me anymore?"

Ellinor knew he was worried. She told him in a solemn tone, "It's not that I don't need you, it's just that there are things that are more important. If the Blanchet Corporation's stocks keep dropping, your grandfather might even want to murder me."

Understanding his grandfather, Theo recognized that she made sense. He gently stroked her hair and said, "I'm okay with not going with you, but you have to let Balfour accompany you today."

Mentioning Balfour, Ellinor seemed unhappy, "I don't want to deal with him."

In fact, the relationship between Theo and Balfour was also just so—so, but he knew Balfour cared a lot about her.

Previously, Balfour had prejudices against her because he didn't know she was his own sister.

But now, as long as Balfour was present, he wouldn't let others bully her.

He would only go to the company if Balfour was with her.

Theo said softly, "If you don't want to deal with him, then don't. But he must be there. Otherwise, I can't rest easy letting you go alone."

Ellinor reluctantly nodded, "Okay then. Whatever!"

"Good girl." He tenderly stroked her head, "I'll go to the company first, then pick you up, okay?"

Ellinor replied, "Okay."

They got into the car. Theo buckled her seat belt and then dialed Balfour's number.

At this time, Balfour was on his way to the company, looking at the stock market, worrying about the Blanchet Corporation

In the past, he wouldn't care about the Blanchet Corporation no matter what, since their family relations weren't good.

But now things have changed. His most cherished sister unexpectedly married into the Blanchet family, so he had to put aside those family feuds. For Ellinor's sake, he decided to help the Blanchet family resolve this issue as much as possible.

The online rumors were all about Ellinor. If they continued to develop, her days in the Blanchet family wouldn't be easy.

Balfour was thinking about how to help the Blanchet Corporation stabilize the turbulence in the stock market. His phone rang, and the caller was Theo.

He raised an eyebrow with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Chapter 947

Typically, Theo wouldn't ring him up. The only link between them was Ellinor. Something must've happened to Ellinor, right?

This thought made him pick up the phone instantly.

After Theo's words, Balfour's pupils constricted, and earnestly replied, "Alright, got it. I'll stay home for the day."

After hanging up, Balfour shut down his laptop and looked up and ordered the driver, "Turn around, take me home."

The driver was dumbfounded, "Mr. Howard, you're not going to the office today?"

"No, I'm not going. Take me home."

"Alright."

When Balfour rushed back, he ran into Theo, who was dropping off Ellinor.

Seeing Theo's car, Balfour also had his driver pull up at the gate. He got out of the car and headed towards Ellinor.

Theo and Ellinor got out of the car together. Theo adjusted her loose hair with his slender fingers and whispered something to her.

Then, he straightened up, looked at Balfour who had walked up close, and said solemnly, "Please take good care of her."

Balfour gave a slight nod and said, "Don't worry, I will."

Without any more words, Theo patted Ellinor's head and said, "Call me if anything comes up."

Ellinor nodded, "I got it! You should hurry to work. You're already late."

Balfour spoke softly, "Let's go, Ellinor. Come inside with me."

Ellinor replied and followed Balfour through the gate.

Watching Ellinor leave, Theo finally drove off.

It was a few hundred meters from the gate to the Howard family's house.

Ellinor kept pace with Balfour, not uttering a word all the way.

Balfour had questions for her. He turned to look at her, asking gently, 'Ellinor, I'm glad you could come home today, but I'm curious why you're here.'

Theo didn't say why Ellinor was coming over, just that she would be coming by their house.

He knew that Ellinor wasn't there to return to her roots. There must be something else.

Ellinor kept looking at the road ahead as she stated, "I came to chat with your sister."

Balfour squinted slightly, somewhat surprised. He thought, "She came to see Patricia?"

After their last encounter, Ellinor and Patricia were on pretty bad terms. Why would she want to see Patricia?

Before Balfour could ask another question, they walked into the Howard family's house. As soon as they entered, they heard Patricia's mother, Xenia speaking in front of Dean Howard and Alyssa Howard.

"You guys have seen the news on the internet too, right? I've always had a hunch that Ellinor wasn't a good kid.

*But since she saved Dean's life, I kept my mouth shut. Now that her dirty laundry's been aired, it confirms my suspicions! Dean, I think her saving you wasn't a mere coincidence, but very purposeful!**

Dean had always had a good impression of Ellinor. Despite the rumors on the internet, he still kept an open mind.

Chapter 948

"I don't buy the fact that Ellinor is like what they say on the internet. Besides, what would she want from an old fart like me? Balfour once tried to thank her with a check for half a million for saving my life, and she didn't even take it!"

Alyssa also nodded in agreement with her husband. From their first meeting, she had a natural fondness for Ellinor. Maybe it was because Ellinor slightly reminded them of their missing granddaughter, Pearl.

All in all, they didn't peg Ellinor as a scheming kid.

Hearing Dean's words, Xenia frowned and shook her head, "You guys are too naive! If she had a bigger fish to fry, of course she wouldn't be interested in Balfour's measly half a million!"

Dean has always been a bit skeptical of his daughter-in-law's words. He frowned, "So what's this bigger fish a young girl like her would be after?"

Xenia looked worried and sighed, "You guys didn't go to the hospital the day Byran was admitted, but you must've heard about what happened, right? Ellinor denied that Patri was Mr. Blanchet's lifesaver just to break off Patri's connection with him! And Mr. Blanchet bought Ellinor's story hook, line, and sinker, thinking Patri had been lying to him all these years."

Hearing that, Dean and Alyssa looked at each other.

Dean frowned and said, "We did hear about that, but isn't it true that Patri made up a lie about being infertile just to get Mr. Blanchet to commit to her? What she did was wrong She's been lying to him for years, isn't that enough to shame our Howard family? Besides, our family has never supported her marriage with the Blanchets. She never listened. You, as Patri's mother, knew about our conflict with the Blanchets but didn't do anything. Now you're trying to pin the blame on Ellinor?"

Dean's views were still lucid and his arguments sound, despite his old age.

Xenia's face turned a little pale at Dean's words. She forced a smile, "It's not that I didn't want to interfere with Patri, but when it comes to matters of the heart, I can't control them! Patri has been spoiled by Balfour since she was a child, always getting what she wants. So, when she sets her sights on a man, she won't rest until she's got him! I wanted to talk to her, but I can't dictate her marriage!"

She

continued, "But that being said, Patri really did save Mr. Blanchet, and it's because of his snakebite that she was left with a health issue. It's just that after all these years, she unknowingly recovered. Even she didn't realize it! Patri is the child you raised; you should know what kind of person she is. She might be stubborn, hell-bent on marrying Theo, but she never made up the facts. On the other hand, Ellinor, just with a few words, discredited all the good things Patri had done and made everyone believe her. Isn't that frightening?"

Chapter 949

Dean glanced at his granddaughter Patricia, who was sitting next to Xenia. Her eyes were red and swollen from crying. He couldn't help but feel a strong affection for her.

From a young age, Dean and his wife raised Patricia. Although she could be a bit emotionally stubborn at times, she was still usually kind, considerate, and definitely not the lying type.

Seeing Dean wavering. Xenia seized the opportunity to speak, "What I said about Ellinor saving you isn't as simple as it seems. I think she planned it to get rid of Patricia, who could potentially compete with her for Mr. Blanchet. She must have intended to use that opportunity to infiltrate the Howard family, get the inside scoop, and then cut off Patricia's contact with Mr. Blanchet completely"

She continued, "Turns out, her plan worked! After learning about how Patricia saved Mr. Blanchet from us, she used some details that Patricia couldn't recall to discredit Patricia's life-saving act, and Patricia lost any chance of getting close to Mr. Blanchet."

She kept going. "Of course, we, the Howard family, wanted Patricia and Mr. Blanchet to cut ties. But we can't doubt Patricia just because of what Ellinor says My daughter is not the lying type as Ellinor claims! These past few days Patricia has been crying at home because everyone misunderstands her. Her eyes are almost swollen from crying."

But she did not stop there, "It's one thing for Mr. Blanchet to believe Ellinor's lies and ignore Patricia. But it's another for Balfour, who loves Patricia the most, to misunderstand Patricia because of Ellinor's lies and ignore her. She is heartbroken over her beloved brother's attitude. So, I hope you can see Ellinor for who she truly is and not misunderstand your only granddaughter because of her baseless words. Ellinor's slander of Patricia shows how scheming she is! Now it's been exposed that she's cheated on her grades and had multiple abortions. You just can't trust a woman who's good at lying"

Hearing her mom defend her so staunchly, Patricia chimed in, wiping away her tears and saying with a wronged expression, "Grandpa, Grandma, I'm innocent! I didn't lie. Ellinor has been targeting me on purpose! Even my dad and brother are ignoring me now. When I went to visit Bryan at the hospital, he also ignored me. I feel so helpless. The people who loved me the most are now ignoring me because of the nonsense from an outsider. I'm so sad and don't know what to do."

Her crying intensified. She rose from the couch and suddenly knelt on the floor, "Grandpa, grandma, you can't treat me like dad and Bryan did! Otherwise, I really can't breathe. I might not be able to live..."

Seeing her cry so hard, Dean and Alyssa couldn't help but frown.

Dean said, "Patri, stand up first!"

Alyssa also comforted her, "Yes, Patri, stand up, then talk! The floor is cold!"

Seeing their concern for her, Patricia's lips curled up slightly in a barely noticeable smile.

Just then, a servant came to notify them, "Mr. Howard is back, and he's brought Ms. Mendoza with him."

Xenia and Patricia exchanged glances. They didn't expect Ellinor to come after them so soon. They left no trace of their actions.

Chapter 950

Xenia and Patricia thought they'd covered their tracks well. They hoped Ellinor hadn't caught on to anything.

At that moment, Patricia was still kneeling on the ground. Seeing Balfour and Ellinor standing together, she became irritated and instinctively on guard. "Didn't you go to office? Why did you come back?"

Balfour had heard the slanderous things Xenia and Patricia had said about Ellinor in front of their grandparents. He already had a distaste for his stepmother, Xenia, and that only added to his dislike. Seeing his once beloved sister Patricia, disappointment filled his eyes.

"Ellinor said she had something to discuss with you, so I came back." Balfour responded.

"Ellinor, you...what did you want from me?" Patricia got up from the ground, blinking her eyes in confusion at Ellinor.

Ellinor just gave her a cool glance, not answering for the moment. She turned to the two elderly people, politely nodding her head and saying, "Good morning, Grandpa Dean, Grandma Alyssa. Sorry to bother you again."

The two elders still had a soft spot for Ellinor. They hoped she wasn't as bad as what they'd read on the internet.

Dean remarked to Ellinor, "Ellinor, don't be formal. Sit down and tell us what's on your mind."

Alyssa nodded, "Yes, sit down and we'll talk."

"Alright, I won't hold back then." Ellinor smiled, going over to sit on the single-seat sofa next to them.

Being pregnant, she got tired from standing too long.

Then she lifted her head, looking at Patricia standing on the side, "Ms. Howard, why don't you have a seat as well? We can talk things over."

Patricia frowned, feeling uncomfortable with Ellinor's assertiveness. But she had to put on a gracious front.

She forced a smile and elegantly sat back down on the sofa, demonstrating her hostess demeanor, "Alright. Ellinor, make yourself at home. Someone, bring Ellinor a drink!"

Ellinor did not hold back, "I don't need any drinks, just a glass of water will do."

Balfour was silently observing the situation as he sat down on the chair that a servant had offered.

When the servant brought the water, Ellinor took a drink to moisten her throat before asking. "Ms. Howard, did you go out this morning?"

Patricia was taken aback, "No! I slept late last night so I just woke up."

Ellinor took another sip of water, raised an eyebrow and asked, "Really? Then why did someone see you in the park outside, carrying a black

suitcase?"

Hearing this, Patricia's expression shifted, "What? Ellinor, who told you this? How strange! I haven't left the house today. They must have

mistaken someone else for me!"

Ellinor smiled, clicked on her phone a few times, then turned the screen around for everyone to see, "But the person in this photo is clearly you,

Isn't it, Ms. Howard?"