

The Kiss 1021

Chapter 1021

After the nurses had settled Ellinor, they left to attend to other duties.

Before they left, one nurse told Patricia, who was staying with the deceased, "I get that you're attached to the deceased, but as a girl, you shouldn't hang around here too long. Say a few words and then leave."

Patricia nodded. "Don't worry, I'm fine."

The nurse added, "And whatever you do, don't lift the sheet off the deceased. She died in a car accident, and it might be a bit gruesome to look at. It's usually too much for most people to handle. Just stay on her side and wait until the morticians have cleaned her up to see her again."

Patricia chuckled inwardly but put on a mournful face and nodded. "Yeah, sure thing!"

Then the nurses left the morgue together.

As soon as the nurses were gone, Patricia lifted the sheet off Ellinor's face. The sight of her mangled face was certainly unsettling.

However, Patricia suddenly burst into laughter, "Hahahaha... Ellinor, who would have thought you'd see this day! Finally, you can't breathe in my presence anymore!

Did you get hit by a car? Now I actually wish you weren't dead!

If you were only disfigured, I would have loved to see if Theo would still like you!

I bet he wouldn't; he'd probably puke at the sight of you!

Men, they're all about looks! He only liked you because you were pretty!

Such a shame. Why did you have to die?

I feel a bit regretful about your death!

You died when Theo loved you most; you must feel so lucky, huh?

If you were only disfigured and lost the baby, you'd get to experience the pain of Theo gradually getting sick of you, slowly ignoring you, and eventually ditching you!

The thought makes me so happy! Ellinor, what a waste! Hahahaha!"

Patricia was alone in the morgue. Even though the room was filled with the scent of death, she felt no discomfort or fear and was nothing like the fragile girl she appeared to be.

Her laughter grew louder and more deranged, then suddenly she stopped. She spat on Ellinor's mangled face, "Pah! Ellinor, you think you're worthy of my Theo? You're a country girl with nothing but a pretty face; what do you have that could compare to me?

What pisses me off the most is that you had the audacity to say that you saved Theo's life, you despicable woman! You think saving Theo means you get to be with him forever?

You're dreaming! Theo is mine! From now on, I'll be with Theo, bear his children, and grow old with him!

I'd like to see how you compete with me for Theo now! You sneaky woman!"

Chapter 1022

Knowing that there was no surveillance camera in the morgue, Patricia totally let loose, cursing the hell out of Ellinor's body with every nasty word she could think of.

Finally, she got all that pent-up resentment off her chest.

During this time, all of Ellinor's schemes against her had come to nothing; she'd never had a real win.

Today, she finally got rid of all the resentment in her heart.

Originally, she didn't intend to kill Ellinor. In her eyes, Ellinor was just a country bumpkin who was not worthy of her dirtying her own hands.

But Ellinor just wouldn't back off. If stealing her boyfriend wasn't enough, she even tried to snatch her position in the Howard family, causing her to lose the love of her brother, the care of her father, and the affection of her grandparents.

Her death? She was asking for it!

Having given Ellinor a good verbal thrashing, Patricia was ready to leave the icy morgue. But as she turned around, she saw Ellinor standing about two meters behind her, staring at her.

A GHOST?!

Patricia took a step back in fright, almost tripping over. She glanced at the corpse of Ellinor on the table, then at the perfectly intact Ellinor in front of her, both wearing identical clothes.

"Are you human or a ghost?"

Ellinor's intact figure stood there; the dim light from that angle made it hard to tell if she was a solid entity or just a vague shadow.

In response to Patricia's terrified question, Ellinor just smiled and said nothing.

The more silent she was, the more sinister her smile seemed.

After calming down for a while, Patricia swallowed hard, staring at Ellinor with a horrified and disgusted look. "Even if you're a ghost, I'm not afraid of you! I wasn't afraid of you when you were alive; why would I be scared of a ghost?"

Saying this, Patricia subconsciously took out her phone from her pocket and threw it at the perfectly intact Ellinor who was standing there.

Her phone just went straight through Ellinor's body and fell to the ground.

Patricia was stunned. The Ellinor in front of her was not solid, so had she really seen a ghost?

“Ellinor, you’re already dead; why don’t you go straight to hell? Who are you trying to scare by lingering around here?”

Ellinor’s ghost chuckled lightly, “I want to scare you to death.”

Patricia took a deep breath, then snorted with renewed courage, “You want to scare me to death? You’re gonna be disappointed! I’m brave; I won’t be scared to death by a female ghost like you!”

Ellinor’s ghost slightly frowned, “Really? I thought a pampered girl like you would surely be a scaredy-cat.”

Noticing that Ellinor’s ghost was just standing there talking in a light voice without ever approaching, Patricia gradually gained confidence.

Chapter 1023

Ellinor was already dead as a doornail, a ghost. If she had the power to harm her, she would’ve attacked her already. But she never approached, probably because she couldn’t really hurt her.

Patricia cleared her throat and said, “Ellinor, save your breath; you ain’t scaring me!”

Ellinor sighed in frustration, “Alright then! If I can’t spook you, could you be a doll and tell me how I died?”

Patricia frowned in confusion, “What don’t you get?”

Ellinor blinked, “I’m curious! Curious about how you are so good at playing pretend and using people? What’s impressive is, why do people around you willingly do your bidding?”

Patricia looked at her with disdain, “Ellinor, don’t feed me a line of bull! The people who used to care about me have all lost trust in me because of you!”

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, “Is it my doing? Or did you bring it upon yourself? Patricia, you deceive and use your closest brothers, friends, and lovers. Is there anyone you genuinely care about in this world?”

Patricia laughed, “Of course I care about people; I always have!”

Ellinor squinted her ghostly eyes at Patricia, “Caring for them means using them?”

Patricia crossed her arms in a victorious pose, “Isn’t that what relationships are all about? Using each other? You think they didn’t use me? Ellinor, you’re dead; why are you still trying to play innocent?”

Ellinor didn’t mind her insults and asked again, “But all I see is you using others, not them using you. What did they use you for?”

Patricia replied, “You’re dead; stay out of the living’s business! Step aside, I’m getting out; I’ve had enough chit-chat with a ghost.”

But Ellinor still didn’t move, “Ms. Howard, I’m already dead and there’s no one else here; just enlighten me. If I get a second chance at life, I’ll learn how to manipulate people from you.”

Patricia was getting impatient, but she was still a bit scared to walk past a ghost, “What do you want to know?”

"I want to know about your brothers, Balfour and Byran, your good friend, Haillie, your beloved Theo, and his sister, Veronica. You've used them all. What did they use you for? As far as I can see, they were all genuinely good to you."

While looking at Ellinor's curious face, Patricia wondered if she would keep haunting her unless she spilled the beans.

After thinking it over, Patricia decided to just tell her. After all, what was there to be afraid of when talking to a dead person's spirit?

"They may seem very kind to me, but they all have their own ulterior motives. They're not much better than me."

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, "Like what?"

Patricia scoffed, "Like my brother, Balfour, who seems to adore me, rushing to my aid no matter what, unconditionally supporting me. But in reality, he never really cared about me."

Ellinor tilted her head in confusion, "How so? Mr. Howard obviously cares a lot about you; he was even willing to overlook right and wrong and abandon his principles for you."

Patricia sneered, "That sanctimonious man, he wasn't doing it for me! His heart only had room for his long-lost sister.

When I first came to the Howard family with my mother, Balfour didn't even give me the time of day; he wouldn't even glance my way!"

Chapter 1024

"The reason he treats me like his sister is because I purposely mimic his sister's traits and habits. He sees me this way because I look a bit similar to his real sister.

In reality. I've been nothing but a stand-in for his sister for all these years. Everything he's done for me is to make up for the regret and guilt he feels about his real sister.

So, I've never been grateful to him; I just think he's a big phony!"

Ellinor was taken aback, and after a moment of silence, she asked, "What about your real brother, Byran? As far as I know, he genuinely cares about you as his sister."

Patricia snorted, "That blockhead Byran has no conscience! He's nice to me only so that I'd put in a good word for him to our brother when he fails his exams, to lessen his punishment. Later on, he didn't hesitate to start backing you, telling me about how good you are all the time. Does he not realize that I am his real sister, yet he supports you, a stranger! What a dimwit!"

Ellinor asked, "How did Theo use you then? You lied to him once, yet he has always treated you as the one who saved his life, and treated you like a VIP guest."

Mentioning her favorite man made Patricia look like she was daydreaming, "Before you showed up, Theo was indeed very good to me.

However, although I liked him, I knew his kindness towards me was not pure.

On one hand, he thought I once truly saved his life; on the other hand, the Howard family and the Blanchet family not only have family feuds but are also business rivals. He could use me to get a grasp on the Howard family's affairs, and he knew that I would tell him everything I knew.

Several times, he won the bidding against my brother just by the info I deliberately leaked."

Ellinor pondered for a moment and asked, "What about Veronica? She always hoped that you could become Theo's wife; because of you, she has always been hostile to me and caused trouble for me."

Patricia rolled her eyes at the mention of Veronica, "That woman with bad taste? Veronica is even more superficial than me! She only treats me well because I always gift her designer bags and shoes.

Veronica is Putnam Blanchet's illegitimate daughter. For generations, the Blanchet family's wives could only birth boys and not girls, but they made an exception to let this girl into the Blanchet family.

Although she was raised in the Blanchet family, she didn't have much money to spend due to strict parenting, so she had never seen anything good, and she only recognized big brands when shopping.

Every time I see bags or shoes that aren't selling well, I buy them for her. She'd be over the moon, wagging her tail just like a dog. What a fool!TM

Ellinor fell silent.

"What about your good friend, Haillie? She's always been genuine to you, right?" Ellinor asked.

The disgust in Patricia's eyes wasn't any less when it came to Haillie, "Haillie? I never really considered her a friend! It's clear that she got close to me because she likes my brother and wanted to get close to him through me so she could get into the Howard family.

Ellinor asked, "So, have you ever really considered helping Haillie get together with your brother?"

Patricia sneered, "Of course not! What's my brother's status? He's the CEO of the Howard Group, one of the richest people in the country. What's Haillie? The Knotts family is nowhere near good enough for my brother's status; marrying a woman like her would not only lower my brother's status but also our family's status. However, this time she did help me get rid of you, vile person. I guess I should thank her for that."

Chapter 1025

Ellinor eyed her sharply. "So your idea of thanking her is to have her shoulder all your sins and do your jail time?" Patricia answered carelessly. "I'll visit her often and bump up her prison allowance, so she can eat a bit better."

Ellinor sighed softly, "Ms. Howard, do you really think you're being generous here?"

Patricia glared at Ellinor, feeling annoyed, "You're a nasty piece of work; don't you dare preach to me! Ellinor, before you came along, everyone around me respected me. They loved me, trusted me, and were willing to go the extra mile for me. They never doubted me. Now, no one gives a damn about me because of you. You deserve punishment! I hate you, not only because you stole my Theo but also because you nearly took everything that was mine. You forced me to start all over again!"

Ellinor just looked at her coldly, her eyes unreadable, “Did you ever consider that it was your own scheming and insincerity that cost you the love and trust of those around you?”

Patricia brushed off Ellinor’s words, “Since you have time to lecture me, why don’t you rush off to your next life, so you won’t end up in the back of the line and reincarnate as an animal?”

With that, she burst into laughter.

Ellinor just gently clapped her hands, “Everyone, please rise. Get a good look at the true face of your sweet, innocent Ms. Howard!”

After hearing Ellinor’s words, Patricia froze, not understanding what Ellinor was up to. Who was she calling?

Then, to Patricia’s horror, all the bodies in the morgue sat up, and their shrouds fell off.

Patricia sat on the floor, pale with fear. What was happening? Did Ellinor actually know some magic and turn the dead into zombies to threaten her?

Just as she was shaking all over, one of the bodies got off its gurney, strode towards her, and slapped her hard.

*Patricia, you wicked woman! What an actress you are! I thought of you as my best friend for years; I went through hell and high water for you, and this is how you see me? You used me! You’re not worthy of the trust I placed in you all these years!”

Patricia, clutching her swollen face, stared in terror at the body that had slapped her. It was then that she realized that it was Haillie.

Haillie?!

Why was she here pretending to be a corpse?

Before Patricia could react, another slap landed on her other cheek.

Veronica also got up from her bed, charged at Patricia, and gave her a resounding slap.

Chapter 1026

“You’re such a witch! All these years, I respected you like a sister, and you made fun of me for not having taste! You even called me stupid! You tricked me with those ugly bags and shoes! You talked behind my back about my background, making it sound so awful! You really can’t judge a book by its cover, huh? All my sincerity towards you these years was just wasted! No wonder my brother didn’t choose you; you’re not even worthy of a hair on Ellinor’s head! You’re such trash!”

Patricia’s face was swelling from the slap. While showing a shocked and embarrassed expression, she tried to explain, “Veronica, you got it all wrong... I was just talking to Ellinor; I didn’t mean it... I’ve been good to you all these years and bought you all the expensive stuff I could, you know that.”

But Veronica was still fuming, so she slapped her two more times.

SMACK!

SMACK!

“Stop grossing me out! If I hadn’t heard it with my own ears, I wouldn’t have believed that those words came out of your mouth! How can you have the nerve to explain yourself? You’re so shameless!”

Veronica was ranting, and she put her hands on her waist. It seemed like she twisted her waist a little from the slaps.

It was all this hypocritical Patricia’s fault!

Thank goodness Ellinor was smart enough to guess Patricia’s every move, allowing them to prepare ahead of time.

At first, she didn’t want to cooperate with Ellinor. She couldn’t believe that the Patricia she knew could be a bad person.

Now she finally saw it clearly. Patricia was more than just a hypocrite; she was an evil, scheming woman, and she played it very well. She almost fooled everyone!

Patricia sat on the ground. Her hair was disheveled by Veronica’s hits, and she covered her face, putting on her best innocent and wronged look, trying to explain, “Veronica... it’s really not what you think...”

But the person standing in front of her now was not Veronica, but her own little brother, Byran.

Byran was here too?

Patricia felt a little bit better after seeing her brother. She thought that he would support and protect her, so she reached out to grab Byran’s arm, “Byran, you’re here! Quick, help me up...”

Unlike before, Byran didn’t care about her situation. He stood straight, and no matter how Patricia pulled him, he didn’t help her up. He lowered his head, looking at his once perfect, kind, and angel-like sister with disappointment and sadness.

After a while, he violently shook off Patricia’s hand and shouted, “Don’t touch me! You evil woman! You’re not my sister! How could I, Byran, have a hypocritical, evil, and shameless sister like you?!”

Patricia, who had just regained a bit of security, was knocked down again by her own little brother; this time she fell harder than before. Just a while ago, Haillie and Veronica attacked her, but even the strength of the two girls couldn’t compare to a man’s.

Byran’s shove almost made her fall flat on the ground.

After a while, Patricia finally stood up again and grabbed her brother’s leg to plead, “Byran, how could you treat me like this? I’ve been loving you since we were little; how could you treat me like a stranger?”

Byran seemed extremely disgusted by her touch, so he pushed her hand away, then shoved her away again.

“You just called me an ungrateful person, right? Well, let me tell you, I, Byran, am that ungrateful person! I’d rather be called ungrateful than acknowledge a sister as evil-minded as you! Get lost!”

After saying his piece, Bryan turned and bolted out, rubbing away his tears as he ran.

Today had hit him hard. His beliefs had pretty much been smashed to smithereens.

He couldn't believe that his own sister was the kind of person he despised the most.

If it weren't for Ellinor texting him to come to the hospital to see his sister's true colors, he wouldn't have believed it until he saw it with his own eyes. It was tough to swallow.

In the past, he had done many awful things to Ellinor to help his sister snag a guy, and now he was kicking himself.

After Bryan ran out, Patricia, who was in total panic, tried to get up to chase after him, wanting to explain things to her brother. She had already lost the trust of her grandparents, older brother, and father. She couldn't afford to lose her younger brother's trust too.

In her and her mother's plan, Bryan was supposed to inherit all of the Howard family's assets in the future. She was counting on her little brother for her future.

However, she might have been so shocked and hurt that she couldn't even get up. She felt limp and weak, as if her limbs were jelly.

As she crawled, a familiar pair of leather shoes suddenly appeared before her. Patricia tried to lift her head to see. Her messy hair almost covered most of her face, making her look like a ghost.

She recognized the owner of the shoes standing in front of her. It was her brother, Balfour.

"Brother..." Patricia cried out, "Brother, can you help me get up? I feel so weak, I can't stand up..."

Balfour just looked at her coldly, "What did you call me?"

Patricia reached out her hand, crying, hoping her brother would help her up like he used to, "Brother, it's me, Patri!"

Balfour scoffed, "Patri?"

"Yes, it's me! I'm your sister, Patri. Your beloved Patri! Brother, I can't get up. Can you help me?"

"I know who you are."

Patricia smiled, "Brother, as long as you recognize me, help me. I feel terrible; I think I've been poisoned; I can't use my strength..."

Balfour just looked at her coldly, "I'm sorry, miss. Don't call me your brother. You know I've been treating you like a sister substitute, so why are you still calling me brother?"

Patricia was stunned, "Brother, it's not... It's not what you think. What I said wasn't true; I was just trying to piss off Ellinor, you mustn't believe it."

"You've really disappointed me! I was nice to you because you reminded me of Pearl, but that doesn't mean I didn't care about you! And you think I'm a hypocrite?"

"Brother, brother..."

“You’re even worse than I thought!”

Chapter 1028

Patricia couldn’t feel her brother’s affection anymore. She reached out, her hand shaking, and grabbed onto Balfour’s pant leg.

“Brother, I’m not like that... The things I just said were all influenced by Ellinor’s ghost... She gets her kicks seeing this; even after death, she torments me. She won’t be satisfied until she sees me abandoned! Brother, don’t fall for her tricks!”

Balfour, standing over her, frowned in disgust. He kicked his leg free from Patricia’s grip and took a few steps back, distancing himself from his sister, who had utterly disappointed him.

Throwing her dignity to the wind, Patricia scrambled on the floor, attempting to get closer to her brother, hoping for a shred of his affection.

“Patri, just let it go!”

As Patricia was crawling towards him, she suddenly heard her grandmother’s voice. She froze and turned to the source of the sound, her eyes wide in shock.

She saw Ellinor helping Alyssa walk in, and Dean, who was also being supported by his old attendant.

Ellinor was alive?

Patricia glanced back at “Ellinor’s” disfigured corpse, trembling with fear.

The body was still on the morgue table; it hadn’t disappeared.

The spot where Ellinor’s ghost had originally appeared was now empty, with only Veronica standing there, arms crossed and looking pissed off.

How could Ellinor be alive and help her grandmother? Wasn’t she dead?

Patricia was certain that when she threw her phone at Ellinor earlier, it passed right through her.

What the hell was going on?!

Everyone showing up here and hearing what she shouldn’t have said wasn’t a coincidence.

It had to be Ellinor’s doing! Was she not dead?

While Patricia was going over everything in her head, Dean and Alyssa had reached her.

Alyssa sighed in disappointment, “Patri, we heard everything you said to Ellinor. There’s no point in making excuses now.

Over the years, we’ve been very fond of you, partly because you remind us of Pearl. But just like Pearl, you’re a Howard. How could we not care about you? Did you really think you were just a stand-in?

Especially your brother. He’s been spoiling and protecting you all these years; you know that better than anyone. How could you say such things about him?

And using people for your own gains, you think this is the right way? Are these the values your mother instilled in you?"

Patricia shook her head vigorously, her voice shaky, "Grandma, no, it's not like that..."

Dean huffed, "Don't hold your breath for her to change! She's becoming more and more like her calculating mother, stooping to any lows with no remorse!"

Chapter 1029

Patricia turned to Dean again and looked at him with eyes filled with sorrow. "Grandpa... I didn't... It was Ellinor... She tricked me into saying those things."

Dean turned away, looking disappointed. He refused to acknowledge the black sheep in his proud family.

Patricia had lost all sympathy from her family and friends, and she was on the verge of a total breakdown.

When a person hit rock bottom, they could lose all reason. Patricia pointed at Ellinor, who was standing next to Alyssa, looking indifferent.

"It's her! It's all her doing! How else could she have faked her own death and now stand here unscathed!"

Dean and Alyssa looked at Patricia, who was beyond reason, and frowned.

Ellinor looked down at her and smirked. "Unscathed? Patricia, which eye of yours sees me unscathed? Am I not injured?"

As she said this, she pointed to the bandage wrapped around her forehead.

Patricia glared at her and said, "Ellinor, you only got a little hurt; why did you have to fake your death? Just to make me spill everything, right?" Ellinor didn't deny it, nodding. "Yes, I faked my death to make you reveal your thoughts."

Patricia's eyes lit up, and she quickly turned her pitiful eyes to Dean and Alyssa. "Grandpa, Grandma, Brother, did you hear that? Ellinor admitted it; she tricked me into saying those things!"

But Dean, Alyssa, and Balfour didn't harbor any doubts about Ellinor; they only looked at Patricia, who seemed beyond hope.

Ellinor calmly said, "Yes, I led you on. I made you think I was dead, so you'd lower your guard and reveal your true feelings. Ms. Howard, the words you said were not out of anger but your deepest desires, weren't they?"

Patricia, humiliated and angry, lunged at Ellinor. "No! It was you who set me up and led me on; it's all your fault!"

Ellinor stepped back just in time to avoid the wild Patricia.

At that moment, Balfour stepped forward, shielding Ellinor and kicking the crazed Patricia away.

Patricia fell to the ground and struggled to get up, but it didn't stop her madness. She screamed, "Brother, you kicked me? Balfour, you kicked me for Ellinor? And you said you cared about me and treated me like a sister? Who would kick their own sister for a stranger? And you say you're not a hypocrite! Do you think you're a good brother?"

Balfour's angry eyes were filled with disbelief. "It's my fault for not educating you well and letting you become like this! Now that you're grown up, I can't educate you anymore; let those who can educate you do it!"

With that, Balfour turned to the door and said, "Officers, please come in. Help us solve this problem. Take her away for reformation so she can take the punishment she deserves."

Patricia froze. The police were here?

She instinctively looked towards the door.

Chapter 1030

Sure enough, several stern, burly cops walked in. Two of them cuffed Haillie first, while the rest helped Patricia up from the floor, preparing to cuff her too.

This made Patricia snap back to reality, shaking off the handcuffs that were about to be placed on her wrists. She objected loudly, "Why are you arresting me?"

The lead cop said, "Ms. Howard, you're suspected of inciting murder. We need you to come with us to the station for questioning."

Patricia scoffed, "Inciting murder? Do you have evidence? Did Ellinor call you guys to arrest me? She's just making baseless accusations. Why should I go to the station with you?"

The cop kept a stern face and firmly said, "Ms. Mendoza provided us with solid evidence. From the recording she gave us, we clearly heard you inciting Haillie to commit murder. So, you must come with us for questioning."

Patricia was stunned again, but she didn't believe it one bit. "What recording? Where did this recording come from?"

She was sure she had destroyed all the recordings.

Where did Ellinor get this one from?

Seeing her uncooperative attitude, the cop pulled out a small player and played the recording for Patricia.

The player played a conversation between Patricia and Haillie, unedited.

Patricia was completely taken aback. How could this be?

How did the stuff she deleted reappear?

Patricia glared at Ellinor resentfully, "You did this, but how could you possibly..."

Ellinor gave a slight smile. To her, this was just a small matter.

Patricia did delete the true recording, but Ellinor used technical means to restore it and handed it over to the police.

Patricia had nothing to say and was taken away by the police with Haillie.

As she was being led away, Patricia stubbornly stopped in her tracks and glared fiercely at Ellinor. Despite the cops attempts to drag her away, she refused to budge.

Facing Patricia, Ellinor just smiled, "Do you want to ask me how the phone just went through my body just now?"

Patricia frowned, gritting her teeth. She was already extremely annoyed with Ellinor, and now she felt even more uncomfortable for being seen through.

Ellinor laughed again, "Ms. Howard, you're always busy planning this and that, but you don't have time to keep up with the latest technological advancements. You're a bit behind. Have you even seen a holographic projection?"

"You..." Patricia was so angry that she was about to explode.

Ellinor was too cunning. She would actually use technology to deceive people; it was simply too despicable!

The cops were out of patience. They didn't care whether she was willing to cooperate anymore and forcibly took Patricia away.