

The Kiss 1201

Chapter 1201

Bartlett knew Theo well. The guy was as sharp as a tack and could spot problems from a mile away.

Without wasting a second, he was on his feet, grabbing his coat, and striding out of the office. He needed to pick up Ellinor himself to be at ease.

Ellinor replied to Bartlett's message and put her phone down to continue eating.

"Never force yourself to eat something you don't like." Theo seemed to be hinting at something.

Ellinor froze mid-bite as she looked up at Theo. He was watching her with that intense gaze again.

"I don't dislike any food! I chose all of this myself, so why wouldn't I like it?" Ellinor replied, a smile playing on her scarred face.

Theo chuckled darkly under his breath.

Sophia changed the subject. "Moon, you mentioned that your inspiration for the Blanchet Building was love. But it seems like it didn't end well. Can I ask why you and your lover broke up?"

Ellinor frowned at the question. "That's my personal business. Is it really necessary to discuss it?"

Sophia leaned her cheek against her hand with a curious look on her face. "I'm just curious! What kind of man inspired such a grand and unique building like the Blanchet Building? I bet he was a real hunk, huh?"

Ellinor didn't deny it. "Yes, he was good-looking. But looks aren't everything."

Sophia blinked. "Sounds like you're holding a grudge against your ex. Did he betray you? Broke your heart?"

Ellinor put down her utensils. "Ms. Sophia, do you always enjoy prying into other people's private lives? Is that a hobby of yours?"

Sophia shook her head. "Of course not! I'm just curious about you. I want to know why the man who inspired so much in you ended up splitting up with you."

Ellinor gave her a cold smile. "We broke up. What's so strange about that? Ms. Sophia, you can't be that naive, right? Can't you understand something as simple as that there is no such thing as eternal love."

Sophia agreed solemnly. "You're right. There's no such thing as eternal love. When you love someone, it's real. When you don't, it's also real. Someone always falls out of love first."

Ellinor grabbed her lemon water and finished her meal. She was done and couldn't eat another bite.

As soon as the car Bartlett had sent arrived, she was out of there.

Sophia's eyes sparkled with curiosity as she watched her go. "So who fell out of love first? You or your ex?"

Ellinor looked at her seriously. "Does it matter?"

Sophia smiled. "I'm just curious! Can you tell me? Since you guys have broken up, can you talk about what was wrong with your ex?"

"There's nothing to talk about."

"Oh, so you're so disgusted with him that you don't even want to mention him?"

Ellinor replied with a poker face. "Sure, you could say that."

Sophia was usually good at reading the room, but she didn't stop now. She continued, "So he must have betrayed you; that's why you're so disgusted with him, right?" Ellinor looked irritated. "Ms. Sophia, has anyone ever told you that being too curious isn't always a good thing?"

Sophia shrugged. "No worries! I'm always curious. If I don't get answers, it keeps me up at night. Can you tell me?"

Chapter 1202

Ellinor took a sip of her lemon water. "Sophia, you expect me, a stranger, to deal with your insomnia caused by excessive curiosity? Isn't that a bit ridiculous?" Sophia shrugged and threw up her hands. "Alright! If you're not keen on talking about the past, I won't ask! Let's eat; you need to fill up!"

Her phone started to vibrate.

Ellinor glanced down. It was a message from Bartlett.

"I'm here."

She put down her lemon water, gathered her things, and stood up. "I'm full. My friend is here to pick me up; I won't intrude on your meal any longer. Bye!"

Theo didn't show any particular reaction; he pushed his phone towards her. "Moon, could I get your contact details?"

Ellinor looked at his phone screen. "Mr. Blanchet, don't you already have my email address? If you need anything. Just email me. It's not convenient for me to leave any other contact details."

With that, Ellinor turned and left.

Sophia watched Moon's back. "Thea, do you think that Moon could be..."

Before Sophia could finish, Theo stood up and followed her out.

Ellinor exited the restaurant and got straight into a white Bugatti. The car slowly drove away as the scene faded into the unfathomable eyes of Theo inside the glass door of the restaurant.

Inside the white Bugatti, Ellinor's hand tightly gripped the seat belt as she let out a long sigh.

The car wasn't going fast, but the way Ellinor was gripping the seat belt made the man driving a little worried. "Are you okay? Not feeling well?"

Ellinor shook her head. "I'm fine."

Bartlett reached over, patting her shoulder in a comforting manner. "It's okay; don't worry, I'm here."

Ellinor gave Bartlett a weak look. "Didn't you say you were sending someone to pick me up? Why did you come by yourself?"

Bartlett gave a wry smile. "How could I not worry when you said you were having dinner with Theo? So I decided to pick you up myself."

"There's no need to worry; I played my part well. He didn't suspect a thing."

She was still wearing an incredibly convincing mask; even at close range, you couldn't spot a flaw. Bartlett wasn't worried about Theo discovering anything.

What he was worried about was her falling for Theo again.

"So, after half a year of not seeing him, how did it feel to have dinner with him today?" Bartlett asked tentatively.

"I felt nothing." Ellinor leaned back in her seat casually and replied.

Bartlett raised an eyebrow. "You really felt nothing? You didn't look like you felt nothing."

"I felt very uncomfortable!"

Bartlett laughed. "That's good; I thought the moment you saw him, you'd ditch me."

Ellinor rolled her eyes. "When did I ever choose you? Don't make up stories!"

Bartlett shrugged. "Okay, guess I overthought it. Since we're out, where do you want to go? I can take you there."

Ellinor waved her hand. "No need; I don't want to go anywhere; just take me home. I'm really tired; I want to go back and sleep."

Chapter 1203

"Well, yeah." Bartlett said. "Take off the mask in the car. It must be stuffy having that thing on your face."

Ellinor closed her eyes to rest, feeling too lazy to move. "Let's take it off when we get home."

Seeing that Ellinor was clearly exhausted, Bartlett didn't say anything more. He sped up the car and headed for the outskirts.

Two hours later, they finally arrived at the villa in the suburbs.

Ellinor had been sleeping in the car, but it was anything but comfortable. She had a stressful dream where Theo wouldn't let her leave and wanted to take away the child in her belly.

In the end, it was Bartlett who woke her up.

She opened her eyes and saw Bartlett's face very close to hers. She instinctively placed her hand on him. "What are you doing?"

Bartlett gave her an innocent, wry smile. "We're home. I called you several times, but you didn't wake up. I had to get a little closer to wake you."

Ellinor straightened up a bit, looked out the car window, and confirmed that they were home.

She had been living here for half a year, but she never considered this place home; it was just a temporary residence.

“Thanks for taking the time to drive me home, especially with your busy schedule. I’m going in now. You should head back before it gets dark.” Ellinor politely but coolly said.

Bartlett frowned. “Ellinor, I’m tired from driving so long. Aren’t you going to let me in to rest a bit before I leave?”

Ellinor didn’t want him to come in, but considering the fatigue he must have felt from the long-distance driving, she agreed. “Alright, come in and rest with me. I’m just worried about you driving back alone when it gets dark.”

Bartlett chuckled. “Good, we’re making progress! You’re actually worried about my safety.”

Ellinor ignored him and got out of the car.

Back at the villa, she first drank a large glass of warm water to calm down.

Although the impulse to see Theo had passed, the stress from the dream of fighting with Theo over the child was still there. Even though it was just a dream, it messed with her head.

Bartlett looked at her with sympathy. “Just seeing him once has had such a big impact on you?”

Ellinor glanced at Bartlett. “It’s not because I saw him; it’s because I had a nightmare in your car. Can’t I drink some water to calm down?”

Bartlett stared deeply at her. “I see, what nightmare? Want to talk about it so I can share the burden?”

Ellinor shook her head. “It’s just a nightmare. I can handle it.”

Bartlett laughed. “Alright, you can take off the mask on your face now. We’re home, and there’s no need to fear being seen. It’s really bothering me.”

Ellinor almost forgot she was still wearing the fake mask. She finally took it off.

The material of the mask was soft, and the texture was very similar to real skin. Her skin felt uncomfortable from sweating under it.

Bartlett handed her a couple of tissues. “After today, we won’t need to meet Theo anymore. After the baby is born, I’ll figure out a way to get you a new identity and send you and the baby overseas without the Blanchet family knowing.”

Ellinor looked at him with gratitude. “Okay, thank you very much. If you ever need my help in the future, I won’t hesitate to lend a hand.”

Bartlett gave a subtle smile and said meaningfully, “You don’t have to thank me so much, because I have my own selfish reasons for helping you with this.”

Selfish reasons?

Ellinor paused slightly, not quite understanding, and asked. "What selfish reasons?"

Chapter 1204

Bartlett gave her a light flick on the forehead, "Duh, my special feeling for you is obvious! If I can get you and the kid out of the country, I've still got a shot. But if the Blanchet family finds you, I'm screwed. Ellinor, are you playing dumb or are you really that clueless?"

After saying that, he playfully flicked Ellinor's forehead again.

Ellinor lightly touched her forehead, which had been flicked. "Well, don't get your hopes up too high! I know you've been a big help these past six months. Besides reciprocating feelings, I'm willing to do anything to repay you."

Bartlett let out a sigh of disappointment. "Silly goose! Why are you so tense? I won't force anything on you."

The nickname "silly goose" sounded a bit odd in this context.

Feeling awkward, Ellinor gave him a glare. "Are you done resting? If you are, you should head home early. The lighting in the suburbs isn't good at night, so it's not safe to drive. It's better to head back early."

Bartlett leaned in close, pretending to be hurt. "You know it's unsafe to drive at night, but you won't let me stay over?"

Ellinor did indeed have no intention of letting him stay. "That's not appropriate. Don't you have work to handle at the company tomorrow? You should head back early."

Indeed, he had rescheduled all his meetings to tomorrow, and there was a ton of work waiting for him.

But Bartlett was also reluctant to leave: he stepped forward and bent down slightly in a gentlemanly and tender manner. "I'll come see you again in a few days. Ellinor, if it's possible, let me take care of you and the child officially. I hope you'll consider it."

Without warning, he planted a light kiss on her forehead.

Ellinor was stunned; by the time she came back to her senses, all she saw was Bartlett walking out the door.

Then she heard the sound of a car engine. Bartlett had left.

Ellinor was a bit dazed, the farewell kiss on her forehead was still warm.

Bartlett had done a lot for her over the past six months, and her feelings for him were hard to express.

Did he just propose to her?

As she was lost in thought, the ringing of a phone interrupted her.

It wasn't her phone ringing. After looking around, she saw Bartlett's phone on the couch.

At the same time, the sound of the car engine returned, and soon there was a knock on the door.

Bartlett forgot his phone!

Ellinor picked up the phone from the couch and walked towards the door.

As she came across the servant going to open the door, Ellinor said, "I'll do it. He forgot his phone; I'll open the door for him."

The servant nodded and went back to his work.

She didn't answer the ongoing call and just opened the door, thinking Bartlett would handle it.

But as she opened the door, Theo's face unexpectedly appeared before her eyes.

Ellinor's pupils dilated, and all her oxygen left her body.

How how did he find this place?!

Crap, she wasn't wearing her mask.

Theo's extremely handsome face was expressionless; he looked at her from above, his eyes cold.

Ellinor originally thought that Theo would grab her angrily and question why she ran away.

But he didn't

He didn't say anything and just looked at her coldly, then glanced at the decorations in the villa's hall with a trace of sarcasm in his eyes.

The atmosphere turned tense, so Ellinor couldn't help but speak first. "Mr. Blanchet, what on earth are you doing here?"

As Theo's gaze fell back on her face, it seemed to grow even colder. He slightly lifted the corner of his mouth, giving a faint smile. Then he gracefully stepped back, got into his car, and drove away.

Ellinor stood frozen at the door, watching the car speed away, subconsciously clenching her fists.

Chapter 1205

She started to wonder if all of that was real or if it was just her imagination playing tricks on her.

But the pain coursing through her body assured her that this was no dream or illusion.

Every bit of it was real.

Theo had really found her!

But he didn't say a word and left just like that.

That was not like Theo at all. Why didn't he blow his top when he found her?

He didn't take her away either; he just knocked, took one look at her, and left?

It was so puzzling!

Ellinor snapped back to reality when Bartlett's phone rang again.

She answered the call in a daze.

Bartlett's gentle voice came through. "Ellinor, I forgot my phone; I will send someone to get it tomorrow."

"Okay, got it." Ellinor replied, then hung up.

Her mind was in chaos; this kind of confusion was like nothing she'd ever felt!

What was Theo trying to say with his actions?

She should be relieved that Theo didn't blow his top and didn't do anything to her. He didn't even take her back to the Blanchet Villa.

But why was there this suffocating feeling in her chest?

The servants didn't know what had happened; they were just drawn by the noise of the wind.

A servant hurried over to close the door after noticing that Ellinor was standing at the door with her hair in a mess from the wind.

"Ms. Mendoza, it's windy outside! You might catch a cold! You should go rest; we'll call you when dinner's ready."

Ellinor nodded numbly, then headed back to her room.

Although she was tired, she tossed and turned, unable to sleep.

Her mind was filled with the image of Theo standing at the door, looking at her.

There seemed to be a slight smile on his face, but there was no warmth in it, just sarcasm.

What did that mean?

Ellinor was so frustrated that she picked up the phone and called Ida.

This was the first time she'd called Ida in six months. They usually texted because she was afraid of being found by the Blanchet family.

But now that Theo had found her and knew where she was, she didn't need to hide so carefully anymore.

The phone rang for a while before it was picked up.

"Hello? Boss..."

Ida's voice sounded a bit hoarse, as if she weren't well.

Ellinor asked with concern, "What's wrong? Why is your voice hoarse?"

Ida's voice sounded even stranger. "Nothing! Boss, what's up? I..."

Ellinor was on high alert. "Where are you? What's with your voice? Is someone giving you trouble?"

Her gut told her that maybe Theo had sent someone to give Ida and Chase a hard time since he didn't do anything to her just now, which was so not like him. He must be taking it out on her friends!

Based on Theo's style, he wouldn't just do nothing!

"Boss..."

Chapter 1206

Ellinor was feeling really wound up. "What the heck is going on with you?"

Ida didn't respond and the phone was suddenly snatched away.

"She can't talk right now. You can tell me what's up or call back in two hours!"

Ellinor was speechless.

That was Byran's voice.

What were they up to?!

On the other side of the line, Ida's voice came with a hint of confusion. "Can you wait until I'm done with the call? Oh... bug off!"

Ellinor's face turned beet red, and she immediately hung up the phone.

What the hell?!

Feeling a headache coming on, Ellinor started massaging her temples, lying on the bed, and covered her head with the blanket.

Meanwhile.

Byran pinned Ida down on the bed. Her usually gentle and beautiful face was now flushed.

Not for any odd reasons, but because Byran rudely grabbed her phone and blatantly hinted at their intimate actions.

It was super embarrassing! So damn embarrassing!

She had no intention of answering the call at this moment, but she had no idea it was Ellinor who called. For the past six months, Ellinor hadn't been in touch.

She thought it was a work call, so she picked up.

If it was a work call, she could handle it smoothly without any anomalies.

But the moment she heard it was Ellinor, she freaked out.

Ellinor must have guessed what she and Byran were up to. Could anything be more embarrassing than this?

The more she thought about it, the more irritated she got. She hugged Byran's neck and scratched ten bloody marks on his back!

However, Byran didn't recoil from the pain but got even more aroused due to the stimulation on his back and got even more into it!

Byran pushed Ida to her limits.

"You...don't..."

Byran leaned down to kiss her. "Ida, I like you; I really like you..."

Ida's rationality was blurred by his passionate kiss; she held his head in response, getting lost in their intimacy.

Every time Byran got into bed, he was like a little beast; she just couldn't control him.

An hour later.

Byran got out of bed to take a shower.

Ida put on a nightgown and sat on the bed to return Ellinor's call.

Ellinor picked up quickly but didn't speak.

Ida started somewhat awkwardly. "I'm sorry, I was a bit busy just now..."

Ellinor sneered. "Are you done now?"

Ida forced a laugh. "Yeah, all done."

Ellinor asked. "What are your plans with Byran? He's just come of age; he doesn't know anything yet!"

Chapter 1207

Ida sighed deeply. "I get it; I didn't see this coming either; he's such a stubborn kid. Ellinor, I know Byran is your half-brother. Don't worry, I won't hurt him. When he's had enough, I'll stop contacting him."

Ellinor felt a headache coming on as she massaged her temples. "Ida, you're such a dunce! I'm worried for you! He's young and rich, so there will always be girls around him. What harm could he get? I'm afraid you'll get hurt."

Ida laughed. "Ellinor, you're overthinking! Do you really think I'd get hurt by a kid like Byran? Once he's over the thrill, I'll have grown tired too."

Ellinor gave a bitter smile. "I hope so."

Before every relationship started, everyone thought they were in control and that they wouldn't be the ones getting hurt.

But usually, the one who fell in love first was also the first to move on, leaving the other one more deeply hurt.

After her relationship with Theo, Ellinor lost all confidence in love.

So she didn't think Ida could easily break it off with Byran.

Up till now, Ida didn't feel any deep attachment to Byran. She was just enjoying the ride. Her biggest worry was Ellinor getting upset.

"By the way! Ellinor, why did you call directly today? Aren't you afraid the Blanchets might listen in? Is something up?"

Over the phone, Ellinor's eyes dimmed. "Nothing urgent; I just wanted to chat. As for the Blanchets, there's no need to hide from them."

Ida sensed something. "What happened? You got discovered at the ribbon-cutting ceremony today?"

Ellinor shook her head. "Not at the ceremony, but Theo found out where I'm living now."

Hearing this made Ida sit up straight. "What? He found you? Ellinor, are you okay? Did Theo give you any trouble?"

Ellinor sighed. "No, he didn't do anything and just left."

Ida relaxed but was puzzled. "He just left without doing anything? Ellinor, what's Theo up to? He went through all that trouble just to find you and then did nothing?"

"I'm also confused. He just found me, knocked on my door, looked at me, then at my place, and left. Ida, what do you think he's up to?"

Ida couldn't figure out Theo's intentions either. "Ellinor, didn't he say anything?"

"No, not a word; just a cold laugh. Then he left."

"Cold laugh?" Ida frowned. "Ellinor, this might be the calm before the storm; you can't stay there anymore! Chase and I will come get you, okay?"

Ellinor squinted. "Calm before the storm?"

Yes, this could be the calm before the storm. Theo saw her big belly, thought about his child inside her, and didn't do anything because he was probably worried about scaring her and affecting the baby.

Maybe he was waiting for the right moment to make his move.

Once she safely gave birth, he would show up and fight for custody!

Ellinor couldn't help but recall her nightmare in Bartlett's car, where Theo fought her for the baby.

With that in mind, Ellinor felt she couldn't stay in Bartlett's villa anymore.

"Ida, it's late. You and Chase can come tomorrow. He didn't do anything today, which means he's not planning to make a move. One more day won't matter."

Ida nodded. "Alright, Chase and I will come get you tomorrow morning."

They hung up after that.

"Who are you picking up tomorrow morning? I wanna come too!" Byran walked over while drying his hair and flopped down next to her, rubbing against her like a big puppy. Ida pushed her phone aside and gave him a push. "You just got out of the shower; can you chill and stay away from me?"

Byran pouted. "You didn't answer me! Who're you picking up tomorrow morning?"

Chapter 1208

Ida looked at him sternly. "This is grown-up stuff. Butt out! I'm going for a shower. I'll drop you off at home after that. If we're late, your brother might get mad and whack you!" Byran immediately sprang up in protest. "How could you say that about me, Ida? You just involved me in grown-up stuff, and now I'm suddenly a kid again?"

Ida was a tad annoyed by his question. She glared at him coldly. "If you keep this up, I'm not hanging out with you tomorrow."

After hearing this threat, Byran quickly softened his tone. "Tell me, who are you picking up tomorrow? A guy or a girl? I know you have to mingle with guys because of work, but I hate it when you meet other men! If you're going, I'm going too!"

Ida answered him helplessly. "It's a girl! I'm picking up Ellinor tomorrow, not someone else."

After hearing this, Byran immediately perked up. "Ellinor? You finally found her?"

"Mhm."

"Then I want to go too! I want to meet Ellinor with you guys; I haven't seen her in ages!"

Ida gently played with Byran's chin. "How are you going? Don't you have school tomorrow?"

"I can take a leave!"

Ida laughed. "Think it through then. If your brother finds out you're skipping school, it might be harder for you to meet me next time."

Byran seemed to take this seriously, and he thought for a moment. "It should be fine! If I tell my brother I'm going to see Ellinor, he'll definitely agree. He's been looking for her too."

Ida's expression turned serious. "No, you can't tell your brother about this for now."

"Why? My brother has been looking for her. He'd be thrilled if we found her."

"Unless Ellinor gives her consent, you can't reveal this. Otherwise, you're betraying me."

"Alright, I won't tell my brother! I won't betray you!"

"Get up: I'm going to shower."

Byran continued to pester her like a child. "Ida, aren't you tired?"

Ida immediately became alert. "Are you serious? Cut the crap; I need to get up early tomorrow!"

Byran, like a sulking puppy, clung to Ida and whined. "Alright, I won't mess around today. There's always next time."

Ida gave him a wry smile. "You youngsters sure have energy! Let go; I need to shower."

Only then did Byran obediently let go.

The next morning, Chase and Ida arrived at Bartlett's detached house in the suburbs.

Ellinor hadn't slept much and had her bags packed. She was just waiting in the living room.

After seeing strangers, the house staff became wary. They prepared to call Bartlett and report the situation.

However, before they could dial, Bartlett walked in.

He looked somewhat surprised at Chase and Ida, who were helping Ellinor with her luggage, and at Ellinor, who was ready to leave. "Ellinor, are you leaving? Where to?"

Chapter 1209

Ellinor nodded. "Yeah, I'm planning to go home and prepare for the baby. Bartlett, I put your phone in your room's drawer and turned it off for you. You can check if there were any missed calls. Thanks for taking care of me all this while."

After that, she, Chase, and Ida started to leave.

Bartlett had a hard time accepting her sudden departure. He blocked her way with a complicated expression. "We were still together yesterday. Why are you leaving now?" Ellinor felt helpless. "Theo found out I'm here. If I continue to stay with you, it'll bring you a lot of trouble. So it's better for me to go home."

Theo found out? Bartlett was taken aback, and then he looked at her deeply. "Ellinor, do you think I'm afraid of trouble? If I were, I wouldn't have agreed to help you in the first place."

"I know you're not the type to shy away from problems, but now that he's found out, there's no point in me staying here in the suburbs. It's more convenient to go home and prepare for the baby. We can think about the rest in the long run."

Bartlett stayed silent for a few seconds and then nodded. "Alright, we'll stay in touch after you go home."

Ellinor agreed. "Okay."

Bartlett watched Ellinor get into Chase's car with squinted eyes. Theo had found her sooner than he expected.

After a two-hour drive, they finally arrived back in the city.

Chase asked over his shoulder. "Boss, should we eat first or drop you off at home and then eat?"

"We can eat later. I need to go to the office and check the financial reports and other documents from the past six months."

She was now prepared for the worst. If Theo found her, he might take action against Crescent Society. She needed to understand the company's situation and find a solution fast.

For the past six months, she had been avoiding Theo and taking care of her pregnancy, barely managing the company's affairs. There was a lot she didn't know.

Crescent Society.

Belinda was sitting on the sofa in the waiting area downstairs while looking at her phone. She felt some people passing by, looked up, and was stunned.

"Ellinor!" She shouted in disbelief.

Ellinor stopped after hearing the shout.

Belinda ran over, overjoyed. "It's really you! Do you know how hard my uncle's been looking for you? Where have you been these past six months? We've been so worried!" Ellinor looked at her calmly but didn't answer her question. She looked at the place where she was sitting and raised an eyebrow. "Why are you sitting here during work hours?" Belinda was taken aback and then explained. "Oh, you might not know, but I don't work at Crescent Society anymore. It's almost lunchtime, and I'm waiting for someone here."

Ellinor didn't know that Belinda no longer worked at Crescent Society. "Who are you waiting for?"

As she asked, she glanced at Chase.

Chase just stood there quietly, looking at Belinda. Noticing Ellinor's glance, he shrugged innocently. "Boss, don't look at me! She's not here for me!"

Belinda glanced at Chase calmly and said, "Right! I'm not here for him; I'm waiting for my boyfriend to finish work so we can have lunch together. Ellinor, it's been a while; why don't you join us? I can call my uncle over for a surprise!"

When did Belinda get a boyfriend? Ellinor realized she had missed out on some things and shook her head. "No need; I don't want to be a third wheel. You don't have to wait downstairs; you can wait for your boyfriend upstairs with us."

Chapter 1210

Belinda mulled it over for a sec, then with a nod, she said, "Alright. Thanks, Ellinor."

She still had her Crescent Society staff ID, so she could stroll right into the company without a problem. You see, she never formally quit or anything like that. She just decided to stop showing up.

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The reason she didn't hang around the company building waiting for her boyfriend, Jacob, was scene.

because she didn't want to bump into Chase upstairs and create an awkward

But now that she had run into Ellinor, who had been MIA for half a year, she decided to throw caution to the wind.

So Belinda hopped onto the elevator with Ellinor.

Belinda had all eyes on Ellinor, totally oblivious to the fact that she was standing right next to Chase in the elevator. It wasn't until she caught a whiff of his signature cologne that she realized she was standing way too close to him.

But if she moved now, it would look way too obvious.

Besides, they wouldn't be in the elevator for long.

"Ellinor, where have you been these past six months?" Belinda asked as curiosity got the better of her.

Ellinor played it cool and didn't answer.

Belinda was puzzled. "Why? Are you really not with my uncle anymore?"

Ellinor responded. "Your uncle and I were just business partners. Now that the partnership's over, we've got no ties."

Belinda didn't quite get it. "But you're pregnant now. The baby is definitely my uncle's..."

The elevator doors opened, and without waiting for Belinda to finish or answering her question, Ellinor made a beeline out of there.

Ida followed right behind her.

Belinda frowned, her mind spinning.

Why was Ellinor acting so strange? She had vanished for half a year without a trace, and now she was back but acting all weird.

"If you don't get it, don't overthink it, and don't meddle in your uncle's love life."

Belinda heard Chase's voice behind her, which was way too close for comfort.

Her heart started racing, and she bolted out of the elevator, ignoring Chase.

Chase stood there, hands in his pockets, looking cool as a cucumber.

The girl had brushed him off, but he just shrugged it off, chuckled, and stepped out of the elevator.

When he stepped out, he saw Belinda chatting away with a male coworker.

Her pretty little face was all lit up with laughter, which was kinda hard to take.

Jacob noticed Chase staring at him and stood up, feeling a bit rattled. "Mr. Larios, can I help you with anything?"

Chase strolled over with a smile on his face. "If there was something I needed you for, I'd have your manager let you know."

Jacob fell silent.

Belinda listened to Chase's banter with her boyfriend, rolling her eyes in annoyance as if to say she were standing up for her man.