

## **The Kiss 241**

### *Chapter 241*

*Ellinor had it nailed. Theo must be under Patricia's thumb*

*Because of Patricia, he decided to play the waiting game instead of pulling the plug on the Knotts family immediately. It made sense, and it was something she saw coming. Ellinor thought momentarily, then told Collin, "All right, I'll tag along. But hold your horses."*

*Collin was a tad puzzled, "What are you waiting for?"*

*Ellinor replied, "Just need to clear the air with Haillie"*

*Collin was even more bewildered. He smelled a rat and was about to probe further, but Ellinor was already making her way to Haillie, who was bedridden*

*As soon as Ellinor got close, Byran stood up like a watchdog, barring her from approaching Haillie. He asked, "What are you up to?"*

*Ellinor calmly answered, "I can't completely wash my hands of Haillie's fall, I do bear some responsibility. Because I didn't want to help her fly a kite, she fell and got hurt. So, I should own up to it"*

*Hearing Ellinor's admission, Byran's strained expression eased a bit He said, "You shouldn't beat yourself up, I know this isn't really your fault."*

*He noticed it then. When Haillie fell, Ellinor and Belinda were flying their kite in the distance; they had no thing to do with it.*

*And Haillie did do a number on Ellinor before, so it was understandable that Ellinor didn't want to help her fly a kite.*

*However, Haillie, hearing Byran say this, was secretly scoffing at him.*

*She knew Ellinor's actions weren't all above board, there was another agenda.*

*So, Haillie played up her pain and said,*

*"Ellinor, don't bother, I don't need you to own up. It's your prerogative not to help me fly a kite. I won't hold it against you. I can only blame my rotten luck."*

*Ellinor smoothly sidestepped Byran, walked up to the bed, and looked at Haillie's pained face. She firmly said, "No, I must own up."*

*Haillie scrunched up her eyebrows, watching Ellinor warily, and put on a helpless face, "I've said you don't need to. Why insist? Ellinor, what do you want from me?"*

*Ellinor seemed sincere, smiling and saying "Relax, Haillie. I just want to make it up to you. Will you accept my offer?"*

*Haillie's eyes were full of disdain, but she feigned a look of despair and said bitterly,*

*"Make it up to me? What can you possibly make up for now? Can you make my foot good as new? If not, any form of compensation is meaningless! Forget it!"*

*"I can."*

*Ellinor said these words as light as a feather, pulling all eyes on her.*

*Everyone was surprised, intrigued, and filled with doubt and ridicule.*

*She said she could.*

*The stables doctor also looked at Ellinor with a puzzled face.*

*Hearing this, Haillie felt like she was being played for a fool. It was like a joke that wasn't funny in the slightest. She grieved, "The doctor said my ligament is torn. Even after surgery, it won't be the same! Ellinor, you say you*

*can make my foot good as new? How can you do that? You're just rubbing salt in my wound!"*

*Chapter 243*

*He walked over and picked up that black lump on the bed, it turned out it was a fake, realistic looking rat*  
*"Haillie, chillax It's just a toy ratt*

*What's up with Ellinor's weird hobby, carrying this thing around?*

*She's got the nerve to prank at a time like this!*

*Haillie's leg was out of commission, and she was still trying to scare her!*

*Wait a sec, Haillie was out of bed?*

*Byran caught on, surprisedly looking at Haillie, "Haillie, your leg's all good?"*

*Haillie's face froze, and she stood there dumbfounded. Only then did she realize she could stand, she even jumped up.*

*Oh crap, her quick leap off the bed after being scared by the fake rat was a dead giveaway. There's no way she can keep pretending now*

*Haillie quickly covered up her embarrassment and put on a surprised face. "Oh my gosh, my leg's really better! This is so surreal..."*

*When Ellinor was messing with her ankle, it hurt like hell. But after Ellinor was done, her leg felt pain-free and light as a feather*

*But there was no*

*way she would let Ellinor get all the glory so she pretended she didn't feel a thing Little did she know Ellinor would scare her with a toy rat.*

*She blew her cover!*

*Everyone was amazed at Ellinor, even the stable doctor had respect in his eyes.*

*To save face, Haillie decided to thank Ellinor. She hugged her and exclaimed,*

*"Ellinor, you really know your stuff! You're amazing! Thanks a lot! I no longer have to worry about my leg affecting my dancing!"*

*After her thank you, Haillie whispered into Ellinor's ear, "Ellinor, you win this round!"*

*Ellinor smiled and replied. "No biggie. I kinda had a hunch you were faking"*

*Haillie clenched her teeth in anger, her smile froze on her face, "Ellinor, don't get too cocky! Patricia just needs to make one call, and Theo will change his mind about pulling out his investment! It's clear who Theo values more!"*

*Ellinor responded, "Yeah, I get it. Patricia is the most important."*

*Haillie smirked,*

*"Glad you understand! So, stop trying to get Theo's attention with your useless tricks. No matter what you do, it's all for nothing! Theo only has eyes for Patricia: you can't compete."*

*Ellinor replied, "Actually, I've got zero interest in comparing who Theo values more between Patricia and me. And you, willing to gamble your career just to make Theo dislike me? Luckily it was just a sprain. If you had torn a ligament, wouldn't that be too expensive to pay?"*

*Haillie laughed, "For Patricia's happiness, I'd even gamble my career. So what?"*

*Ellinor sighed. Although Haillie's actions were over the top, her loyalty to her friend was real.*

*She didn't know Patricia, but she had to admit*

*Patricia had a friend who would give it all up for her, even at her own expense.*

*"What are you two ladies chatting about?"*

*Chapter 244*

*Jonah strolled over with a grin on his face, looking at the two of them*

*Haillie finally let go of Ellinor and turned her face towards Jonah with a smile, "Jonah, I was just thanking Ellinor for fixing my foot I was so stoked that I just kept hugging*

*her."*

*As she spoke, Haillie turned to Ellinor with a pretend look of concern, "Ellinor, I didn't scare you, did I?"*

*"Nope"*

*Ellinor was pretty chill about it, dusting off her clothes that got wrinkled during Haillie's embrace as if she had just had a fly land on her shoulder*

*Jonah shifted his gaze to Ellinor, his eyes squinting in a smile, "I can't believe you can treat sprains at such a young age, who'd you learn that from?"*

*Haillie was peeved hearing Jonah call Ellinor so casually and even compliment her. She was steaming inside*

*Before Ellinor could answer, Haillie cut in, "Jonah, I'm also surprised that Ellinor knows so much at such a young age, she must have learned it back in the sticks! Country kids know how to fend for themselves; they've got some mad life skills, nothing like us who've been pampered from birth!"*

*On the surface, it sounded like she was praising Ellinor, but the underlying message was a snide remark about her background*

*Haillie's few words seemed to draw a line between Ellinor and the rest of them, alienating Ellinor, hinting that she was not from their class!*

*Ellinor took the hint but just shrugged it off with a smirk.*

*Jonah said, "Haillie, since you're all better, there's no need to have the hospital send a car.*

*He pulled out his phone from his jacket pocket and handed it to Haillie, "The first number on the call log is the doctor I contacted for you; now you can call him and explain." Haillie took Jonah's phone, paused awkwardly, then forced a smile, "Um, okay, I guess I should call back and explain, I can't have the medical staff come all this way for nothing"*

*After giving Haillie his phone, Jonah didn't spare her another glance.*

*He turned to look at Ellinor, his already smiley eyes twinkling with admiration and curiosity.*

*He didn't show a hint of prejudice or ridicule towards Ellinor after Haillie's remarks.*

*Jonah naturally walked over to Ellinor and casually draped his arm around her shoulder*

*"Ellinor. I sprained this wrist a while ago, and it's never been right since. Seeing as I'm good buddies with your hubby, could you fix it for me?"*

*This affectionate gesture didn't feel inappropriate, more like a playful big brother messing with his little sister.*

*Ellinor glanced at Jonah, looked down at the arm around her shoulder, then raised an eyebrow at him, "Are you sure you want me to treat you?"*

*Jonah met Ellinor's piercing gaze, immediately withdrew his arm, and said with a smile,*

*"If you're genuinely offering to help, I'd be thrilled! But if you're looking for an excuse to teach me a lesson, I'll pass!"*

*Ellinor smirked, "You're a smart cookie!"*

*Jonah chuckled,*

*"If you keep disrespecting me like this, watch out, I might tell Theo to take you home and spank your butt!"*

*At the mention of "take you home", Ellinor thought Jonah was about to say something indescribable, and her cheeks instantly turned red.*

*Chapter 245*

*So, he was actually talking about spanking?*

*Ellinor frowned again, "So boring!"*

*Haillie had just finished a call with the doctor when she turned around to see Jonah and Ellinor chatting and laughing like old pals. This made her feel even more repulsed by*

*Ellinor.*

*Although Jonah is usually chatty and lively, he doesn't act this carefree with just anyone.*

*The fact that Ellinor could get Jonah to joke around with her showed that Jonah truly considered her a friend.*

*But if Jonah saw Ellinor as a friend, what about Patricia?*

*When Haillie was pondering how to get everyone to ostracize Ellinor, someone knocked on the suite door, drawing everyone's attention....*

*A female staff member from the racetrack was standing at the door, dressed in a uniform with "Mountain Racecourse" printed on it.*

*The staff member was smiling and respectful. She bowed to the distinguished guests before approaching Haillie*

*The staff member handed Haillie the bill, saying politely, "Haillie, this is the total cost for your group's expenses at the racetrack. Could you please settle the bill?"*

*Haillie frowned, "Who told you to come find me for the bill?\**

*The staff member was a bit taken aback, explaining, "Someone just told us at the front desk that you needed to settle the bill now, so we came over. If this is not a good time, we can find you when you check out!"*

*Had someone notified the front desk? And specifically, wanted her to pay?*

*Haillie felt something was fishy. She took the bill from the staff member, and her eyebrows knitted together, "280,000? Why is it so much? It wasn't this expensive every other time we came here!"*

*The staff member looked innocent, "Haillie, 280,000 includes not just the current expenses but also some pre-booked ones."*

*'Pre-booked expenses? What pre-booked expenses?'*

*"Yesterday, someone booked three days of private use of the Mountain Racecourse for next month, as well as three whole roast lambs and a lot of Western dishes. They said you would settle the bill today."*

*"What? A three-day private booking? Haillie looked surprised, "I have no idea about this! Whoever made the booking should pay for it, not me."*

*The staff member seemed confused, "But that person assured us you would cover the cost, so we've already ordered three of the best lambs from local shepherds, as well*

*as a lot of expensive cooking ingredients and drinks in advance. If you cancel now, it will be very troublesome for us..."*

*Haillie asked somewhat irritably, "Who made the booking? Who's running up tabs here and expecting me to foot the bill?"*

*Ellinor spoke up. "I made the booking"*

*Chapter 246*

*Haillie was taken aback; she looked at Ellinor, "So it's you, Ellinor! You've booked this place for three days next month, guess you're planning to invite everyone over again, huh?"*

*Ellinor nodded. "Yeah, it's on me"*

*Haillie scoffed, "Then I don't get it, if you're treating, why am I footing the bill? What's your game here?"*

*Ellinor kept her poker face, clearly seeing no issue here.*

*"Did you forget? Yesterday, you explicitly agreed that if I could prove that I didn't plant earrings in your shoe, you would cover everyone's daily expenses. So, is it that you don't want to foot the bill now, unwilling to admit your mistake?"*

*"Eh... Haillie was dumbstruck, she did forget about this!"*

*But when she agreed to foot the bill, she only expected their group's daily expenses to be a few ten thousand and at most.*

*Now, the bill came out to be 280k!*

*That's not chump change for anyone, she could use that money to buy a limited-edition designer bag!*

*"Ellinor, I did agree yesterday to cover everyone's daily expenses, but your booking for next month falls under next month's expenses; it shouldn't be counted in yesterday's bill, right?"*

*Instead of answering Haillie's question directly, Ellinor turned to the staff and asked, "Excuse me, could my booking from yesterday be counted in yesterday's expenses for settlement? Is there any problem with that?"*

*The staff respectfully replied, "Yes, your booking was made yesterday, the invoice and amount were recorded under yesterday's account, so it's reasonable to settle them together now, there's no problem"*

*The staff's answer made Haillie's face sour, but she said nothing.*

*Ellinor smiled slightly and said to Haillie, "I originally wanted to treat everyone to a nice meal yesterday, but some of Haillie's actions led to interrupting the event, and we couldn't have a good meal together.*

*If Haillie doesn't want to shell out for this, I guess I'll take care of it!"*

*With that, Ellinor took out her phone, ready to pay the bill.*

*Of course, the phone she used was Theo's; if she had to pay, it would use Theo's account.*

*She had no obligation to pay these people's expenses with her own money!*

*So, treating Theo's friends with Theo's money was completely justified.*

*Haillie put on a forced smile.*

*"Ellinor, you might have misunderstood, why would I be reluctant to foot the bill for this event? You're right; I should take half the responsibility for the unpleasantness of the gathering! My impulsive actions yesterday caused this problem, I should organize another gathering as compensation next month! By then, Patricia should be back in the country, we haven't seen each other for a long time and can catch up on old times! So, I'll take care of this bill!"*

*Although Haillie was willing to foot the bill, she didn't forget to mention Patricia's impending return, hinting at Ellinor.*

*However, Ellinor didn't mind, "Cool, I'll leave it to you then, Haillie"*

*Haillie walked over, picked up her bag, took out a bank card, and handed it to the staff, "Go swipe it, no pin."*

*"Sure thing" The staff took the card and went to swipe it.*

*At the same time, Haillie's smile grew brighter, she said to Ellinor, "Ellinor, it's no big deal. It's just a couple hundred grand, for us big spenders, it's just pocket change! Ellinor, you might not be used to this level of spending, huh? So you think it's high consumption, but it's really not!"*

*Although Haillie's words sounded polite, she subtly classed Ellinor as the only poor oddball here.*

*Chapter 247*

*However, Ellinor was not embarrassed at all. On the contrary, she nodded frankly, "Yes, I'm not really used to it.*

*I rarely spend my money on this kind of trivial entertainment, I mostly spend it on important things."*

*Haillie laughed and looked at Ellinor with a superior attitude*

*"No womnes, we simply have different perspectives. You'll get used to it. We, rich folks, have a lot of spare time and don't really need to do anything personally, so we like to spend our money on fun stuff"*

*Ellinor said, "Oh, sounds good."*

*Haillie then changed her tone,*

*"Ellinor, you need to hang out with us more. Otherwise, you may not be on the same page with Theo, who has lived comfortably since childhood"*

*Ellinor raised an eyebrow and replied, "Really? Maybe we should let him mingle with ordinary people to get rid of his arrogance"*

*She and Theo were from two different worlds, and she never intended to be part of his world.*

*So why should she adapt to their worldview? It didn't make sense to her*

*Her words left everyone stunned Then, Jonah leaned on Kemp's shoulder and laughed quietly.*

*Ellinor was really something!*

*Everyone else watched her with their own thoughts. Despite their differences, they admired Ellinor.*

*No other woman would dare to speak about Theo like that except for her.*

*Unaware, Theo had already returned when she spoke those words.*

*Hearing her comment, Theo paused at the door, squinting at her with an unreadable expression.*

*Did Ellinor really think of her husband in this way?*

*Haillie was taken aback; she sneered, "Ellinor, you sure know how to joke! Do you want Theo to change f or you? That's a tall order! You should know that the Blanchet family has pampered Theo since childhood , and he won't easily change his lifestyle. Besides, he doesn't need to change anything with what he has*

*Ellinor raised an eyebrow, "I'm sorry, but I'm not joking. I can't accept your values. So, the one who need s to change is him, not me. I don't want to become a vain and arrogant person like you guys. I don't think there's anything wrong with my values, and I don't plan to change them. Thanks!"*

*What?*

*Vain? Arrogant?*

*Haillie felt offended by Ellinor's words!*

*She sighed strangely, "Well, there's no helping it! You're so stubborn that you and Theo's values can never align! I must say, marriages with mismatched values usually don't last long!"*

*Ellinor didn't care. After all, her relationship with Theo was fake and wouldn't last anyway!*

*"Whether my wife and I share the same values or not, it's none of an outsider's business"*

*A man's deep and firm voice rang out*

*Chapter 248*

*Theo sauntered in giving his phone back to Byran. His gaze never left Ellinor. He moved to her side, tuckin g a loose strand of hair behind her ear as if she were a child "Even if we don't see eye to eye, we can still respect each other and live in peace"*

*Ellinor was taken aback.*

*She grinned unwittingly Did he hear that? Would he get mad?*

*Haillie was equally shocked by Theo's words. She struggled to accept it but didn't dare to show it. She could only awkwardly explain, "Theo, I was just joking with Ellinor!" Theo casually shifted to stand beside Ellinor, ca sting an icy glance at Haillie "If the joke isn't funny, it can hurt"*

*Haillie forced a smile. "Theo, I'm sorry. I just thought that girls like Ellinor, who grew up in the countrysid e, are usually innocent and kind, that's why I was joking. Ellinor, are you mad?"*



*Ellinor raised an eyebrow. If she got mad now, wouldn't she be seen as petty?*

*She was about to respond when Theo lifted his arm around her shoulder, giving it a light squeeze as if to silence her.*

*With a poker face. Theo said, "Indeed, my wife grew up in the countryside. Her innocence, kindness, and lack of fussiness are her strengths. But these are no excuses for others to bully her"*

*Upon being addressed, Ellinor blinked and turned to face him.*

*Haillie hurriedly explained,*

*"Thee! You misunderstood, why would I bully Ellinor? She just fixed my foot, I haven't even thanked her yet! She's amazing! She cured my foot. using traditional medicine. That's why I can walk now. I was just marveling at how strong and capable girls like Ellinor, who grew up in the countryside, are. Unlike me, so delicate, can't do a thing! Of course, I suggested she adjust her values to match ours to avoid future conflicts between you two."*

*"No need." Theo replied*

*He turned to Ellinor, giving her a faint smile. "My wife doesn't need to change anything It's me who should be more humble. Right, darling?"*

*Ellinor looked at Theo, puzzled. Why was he talking to her like this? She felt uneasy...*

*Haillie's smile vanished, her eyes filled with hatred as if all the bitterness wanted to burst out, all aimed at Ellinor, the girl she had looked down on!*

*Theo gently stroked Ellinor's cheek, his voice softer. "Didn't Collin say he would take you home first? Why are you still here?"*

*Ellinor lowered her eyes, "Oh, I'll leave now.*

*She turned, slipping from Theo's arm, "Collin, we can go now."*

*Collin finally got the hint, glancing at Theo's expression before responding, "Yes, Ellinor"*

*Suddenly, Ellinor stopped in her tracks.*

*Chapter 249*

*His wife finally remembered to say goodbye to him.*

*Ellinor turned to Haillie with a smile, "I almost forgot to thank you for the money and almost forgot to say goodbye."*

*Theo's face changed instantly.*

*Haillie was taken aback, feeling a bit provoked by Ellinor's words, but she could only smile back in front of everyone, "Ellinor, you're too kind"*

*Ellinor also smiled. She walked over to Haillie, hugged her, and whispered in her ear, "I forgot to clarify with you, I never thought about making Theo pull out his investment. I didn't even know he invested in your family. If you mess*

*with me, I'll handle my own problems, not by stirring up trouble between you and Theo Because myself would scare you more! I don't start trouble, but I'm not afraid of it. If you dare provoke me again, I'll kill you!"*

*Haillie immediately felt a wave of fear, but she also felt resentful. She was silently angry, her smile frozen*

*At that moment, she realized Ellinor booking the venue for next month wasn't to compensate everyone but to make her pay intentionally!*

*Though she acted like 280k was chump change, it still hurt...*

*She could've used that money to buy a designer bag, but now it's wasted!*

*But this woman, Ellinor, was too full of herself!*

*She even threatened her not to mess up again, or she won't let her off quickly*

*Ha, she was too confident!*

*Haillie admitted Ellinor was capable and a bit clever, but she was nowhere near her match.*

*The Knotts family might face hard times, but everyone knew their power surpassed someone like Ellinor!*

*Once Patricia comes back, Theo will lose interest in Ellinor!*

*Then, without Theo's protection, let's see how far she can keep up her arrogance!*

*Reality will show her she's nothing!*

*Having said that, Ellinor walked past Theo without giving him another glance.*

*Theo's face was terrible, this woman actually ignored him.*

*Jonah came over, patted Theo on the shoulder, and mocked him, "Theo, your wife is ignoring you!"*

*Theo frowned, slapped Jonah's hand away impatiently, and turned to leave....*

*At this moment, Byran came over and stopped him, asking seriously. "Theo, what did my sister say to you on the phone? Did she mention when she's coming back?"*

*Chapter 250*

*"She didn't say anything." Theo simply answered Byran's question.*

*Byran glumly said. "My sister keeps telling me she'll be back soon, but there's still no sign of her. It feels like there's no one on my side at home when she's not there. Especially, my brother, he criticizes me whenever he sees me, it's pretty suffocating"*

*"If you want to know when she's coming back, you could call her," Theo suggested*

*"Nah, I'd rather she rest and recuperate peacefully out there. I don't want to add stress to her," Byran replied.*

*Theo said, "Since Haillie's foot is better now, you should take good care of her and ensure she gets home safely."*

*Byran nodded, "All night, got it. Theo, where are you headed next?"*

*Theo had already started to leave "I have some stuff to take care of. I'm going to head out."*

*Seeing Theo about to leave, Haillie quickened her pace and called out loudly. "Theo, wait a minute, Theo.."*

*She wanted to stop Theo from leaving. She didn't want him to go with Ellinor*

*However, Theo didn't stop or turn around. He walked out of the suite with determination.*

*Haillie watched his retreating figure, her fists clenched in frustration.*

*Byran looked at Haillie and reminded, "Haillie, now that you're fine, you should call my sister to let her know you're safe. It'll put her mind at ease."*

*Haillie nodded helplessly. "Yeah, Byran, don't worry I'll call Patricia"*

*When Ellinor left the hotel lobby with her suitcase, Collin had already pulled up to the hotel entrance.*

*Belinda had also packed and came out with Ellinor.*

*The two girls handed their suitcases to Collin to put in the trunk. Then Belinda opened the backseat door to get in. However, she was surprised to see someone already in*

*the car*

*Theo was sitting in the car, leaning against the leather seat with a laptop on his long legs, engrossed in his emails.*

*Belinda was puzzled, "Huh, Theo, didn't Collin say you had something to deal with and wouldn't be coming back with us?"*

*Theo glanced at her, "I've finished dealing with that. I'm coming back with you guys."*

*His gaze shifted from Belinda to Ellinor for a few seconds before he returned to his laptop.*

*Belinda didn't think much of it. She returned to make room, "Ellinor, you go first."*

*Ellinor didn't move She shook her head, "You go first"*

*"Ellinor, you go first. You can sit next to Theo."*

*"No need, I want to sit by the window. In case I get carsick, I can get some fresh air."*

*"Oh,*

*I see. All right then." Belinda nodded understandingly and got into the car, saving the window seat for Ellinor.*

*Then Theo's eyes flickered on his laptop screen.*

*Carsick?*

*She seemed fine when they came over, and he didn't notice her getting carsick.*

*She's clearly just making excuses not to sit next to him!*

*As the car moved along, Belinda, who was sitting in the middle, started to regret it because the atmosphere in the car felt weird.*

*Both Theo and Ellinor were silent, especially Theo. Even though no one was bothering him, Belinda couldn't help but feel that he was acting strangely.*

*Ugh! She should've let Theo sit in the middle, next to Ellinor. Why did she have to sit in the middle?*

*Unfortunately, it was too late for regrets now.*

*Ellinor kept her headphones on. During the two-hour drive, neither of them spoke a word.*