

## **The Kiss 591**

### *Chapter 591*

*Ellinor just ignored her and continued on her way*

*Haillie, stomping her heels in annoyance, caught up and tried to stop her, "Ellinor, you can't have Theo, and you can't have Balfour either! With your poor background, the best you can hope for is to marry some rich guy from a small town. Don't be under any illusion that one day you could marry into a wealthy family! Can you get real and stop eyeing me and Patricia's boyfriends?"*

*Without hesitation, Ellinor nodded, "Sure, I promise. Can you move now?"*

*Haillie was taken aback, feeling like she had thrown a punch into thin air. "Ellinor, what's with your attitude?"*

*"I agreed to your request, aren't you satisfied?"*

*"Haillie, Ellinor, what are you guys arguing about?"*

*Patricia's gentle voice interrupted them.*

*Ellinor and Haillie both turned towards the source of the voice.*

*They saw Patricia dressed in gorgeous clothes and heavy makeup, almost absolutely unrecognizable.*

*Haillie said, "Patricia, aren't you about to perform for old Mr. Bagley? Why are you here?"*

*Patricia replied. "Haillie, I'm so nervous. I wanted to go to the bathroom before going on stage. I heard your voice when I came out, so I came over to check. Why are you and Ellinor arguing?"*

*Haillie shot a glance at Ellinor, not wanting to upset Patricia before her performance, so she said, "Patricia, it's nothing. We were not arguing. You should focus on your performance now!"*

*"That's good!" Patricia smiled and turned to Ellinor, "Ellinor, I'm going to perform on stage now! This is the gift I've prepared for my grandfather, and I've been practicing for a long time! Ellinor, how do you like my outfit?"*

*Ellinor looked at her and smiled slightly, "Mm, it suits you."*

*Patricia had always loved acting, so she should be good at singing too.*

*"Really? Theo also said I look pretty" Patricia's eyes were full of joy. "Ellinor, let's go! I'm about to go on stage now. Would you and Haillie like to come and listen?"*

*Ellinor naturally had no interest in going, but Haillie didn't want to disappoint her friend, so she decided to accompany her. She shot a glance at Ellinor, then took her by the arm and led her away, "Let's go! Patricia invited you, don't refuse!"*

*The last sentence was whispered into Ellinor's ear so that only she could hear it.*

*Haillie actually didn't want Ellinor to wander around alone at the Bagley's and snoop around. So she made sure to keep her close to prevent her from getting near Balfour. She felt safer with Ellinor in her sight.*

*Ellinor frowned, not wanting to go, but now that she was on Haillie's radar, she couldn't snoop around the Bagley's anymore, so she didn't resist.*

*As the three girls were descending the stairs together, Patricia suddenly tripped and tumbled down the stairs.*

*"Patricia Haillie cried out in shock, rushing down to help her, "Patricia, are you okay?"*

*Chapter 592*

*Patricia groaned in anguish, her face full of fear and frustration. "Ellinor, why did you push me?"*

*Haillie was taken aback, shooting Ellinor an angry look "It's you again, Ellinor! You wicked woman, why are you always picking on Patricia?"*

*Ellinor stood quietly to the side, responding to Patricia's accusation and Haillie's reproach with just a laugh.*

*Was this because Patricia had urgently asked her to see her birthday present earlier but failed?*

*Haillie carefully helped Patricia sit up "Patricia, how are you feeling? Where did you fall?"*

*Patricia looked at her with teary eyes. "Haillie, my foot hurts."*

*"Your foot hurts? Oh no, did you break it? What should we do?"*

*Haillie hurriedly examined Patricia's foot but couldn't tell what was wrong. She cast a worried glance at Ellinor and noticed the sneer on her face.*

*"Ellinor, how can you still laugh? Have you no humanity? Patricia never provoked you; she even invited you to her performance, but you pushed her! You vile woman, if anything happens to Patricia's foot, Balfour won't let you off!"*

*Ellinor replied nonchalantly. "Do you have any evidence that I pushed her?"*

*Haillie retorted angrily.*

*"I was there. I'm a witness! Ellinor, if you didn't push her, would Patricia throw herself down the stairs? Do you know how long*

*Patricia practiced for today's performance? She wouldn't risk injuring herself before going on stage."*

*Ellinor chuckled coldly, "We'll see about that!"*

*Patricia weakly tugged at Haillie's arm, "Enough, Haillie. You can't reason with her. Help me up; I think I can still perform."*

*Haillie shot Ellinor a glare before trying to help Patricia to her feet.*

*Patricia tried to stand but couldn't and she fell back to the floor in pain, "Ah! It hurts."*

*"Patricia! What's wrong?"*

*"I can't stand up"*

*"What? What do we do?"*

*"What's going on?" Balfour's voice suddenly rang out, and his footsteps got closer.*

*Hearing Balfour's voice, Haillie lifted her head, "Balfour, you're just in time! Ellinor pushed Patricia down the stairs just now. She's been complaining about her foot hurting: I'm worried she might have fractured it."*

*On hearing this, Balfour quickened his pace, rushing over to help Patricia up, "Patri, what happened?"*

*Patricia's voice was weak and she was trying hard to hold back tears so as not to ruin her makeup, "Balfour, I'm fine. It's just a bit of pain in my foot. Balfour, can you help me up? I still need to perform for Grandpa."*

*Balfour frowned with concern, "You can't even stand up and you want to perform? Listen to me, let's have your foot checked first."*

*With that, he scooped Patricia up in his arms, turning his head to issue a stern command, "Quinton, call the family doctor!"*

#### *Chapter 593*

*Patricia, full of resentment, stubbornly struggled in Balfour's arms, nearly bursting into tears "No! Balfour, I'm fine I need to perform! I've told Grandpa that I've prepared a special gift for him. If I don't go on stage, he'll be so disappointed Balfour, you know how long I've been preparing this gift"*

*Balfour frowned, "You need to behave! I'll explain what happened to Grandpa for you. Nothing is more important than your health right now. stop making a fuss!"*

*Patricia cried, "Balfour, no I've been preparing for so long that I don't want to give up now. Balfour, let me go, let me perform, I'm really fine*

*Balfour, holding the restless Patricia, was barely able to move due to her struggle. He simply couldn't get through to her.*

*Haillie, watching this scene, was both worried about Patricia's injury and feeling a headache for Balfour.*

*The more she thought, the angrier she became, and she pushed Ellinor hard, sending her stumbling back several steps.*

*"Ellinor! Look at what you've done to Patricia. You ruined all her hard work! I'd like to see how you're going to own up!"*

*Ellinor steadied herself and brushed off where Haillie had touched, "Haillie, be respectful with your words and actions. I won't accept baseless accusations, nor will I take blame that I don't deserve."*

*Haillie, enraged, tried to push her again, but this time Ellinor calmly dodged.*

*Haillie missed and almost fell flat on her face*

*"How dare you dodge! Ellinor, Patricia was clearly pushed by you and that's how she got injured. You've caused her to be unable to perform and you still have the nerve to act so confidently!"*

*Balfour's handsome eyes were coldly fixed on Ellinor, his gaze was icy and filled with complex anger. Yet he did not say anything and focused on his sister's injury.*

*Ellinor noticed Balfour's angry gaze and looked at Patricia in Balfour's arms, who stubbornly refused to get her injury treated. She found it ridiculous.*

*Others may not see it, but she could see clearly that Patricia was merely putting on an act to gain Balfour's sympathy and to make him angry at her.*

*"I didn't push Ms. Howard. If you don't believe me, just call the police! I'll cooperate fully with the investigation, but I won't accept baseless accusations."*

*Haillie sneered, "No evidence? Ellinor, don't think we can't take action just because there's no surveillance here! I can testify: the police will accept my statement! You want us to call the police? Fine, wait and see, I'm calling them now!"*

*Ellinor waited quietly, without any fear.*

*Patricia in Balfour's arms reached out to stop her, "Haillie, don't call the police. I think Ellinor might not have done it on purpose. I don't want to create a scene at Grandpa's birthday party. Haillie, let it go, put away your phone"*

*Haillie knew Patricia was right. It was indeed inappropriate to call the police at the birthday party. But she couldn't just let Ellinor get away with it.*

*With a look of grievance but determination, Patricia said, "Haillie, come and persuade Balfour to let me go. I still need to perform; it's not too late"*

*Balfour frowned, holding his injured sister even tighter, not wanting her to move recklessly, "Patricia!"*

*Seeing her insist on going on stage, Haillie, like Balfour, was worried about her injury.*

*Suddenly, an idea popped into Haillie's mind. She had a brilliant idea!*

*So, Haillie pointed at Ellinor again, "Ellinor, Patricia's injury is entirely your fault! Now she can't perform; if you can help her out of this predicament, her good intentions.*

*won't be wasted"*

*Ellinor raised an eyebrow, curiously asking. "Help her solve the problem? How could I help?"*

*Chapter 594*

*Haillie stared at Ellinor, "Don't you get it? I need you to step in for Patricia and finish the performance"*

*Ellinor frowned "Me, replace her on stage? What's the point?"*

*Haillie confidently replied,*

*"There's a point, alright! We all have to slap on makeup for the stage anyway, and with all that gunk on your face, who can tell who are you? So you Just go on stage, finish Patricia's bit, and we can pretend it was Patricia performing for the old man, no one will know!"*

*Upon hearing Haillie's suggestion, Patricia thought for a moment, quickly realizing her intentions.*

*This was just Haillie's sneaky way of setting Ellinor up for an epic fail.*

*There was no way someone like Ellinor, with her background, could pull this off.*

*Her upbringing and life circumstances had never given her a chance to learn how to perform. Once on stage, she'd definitely botch it, and old Mr. Bagley just couldn't stand people butchering his beloved tunes.*

*Patricia had put a lot of effort into this birthday gift for today, practicing for a long time just to get on old Mr. Bagley's good side.*

*But, judging from old Mr. Bagley's attitude towards her today, no matter how well she could sing, she wouldn't win his approval. If she didn't meet his standards, she'll only earn his disdain*

*So Patricia had no intention of going on stage in the first place, instead, she wanted to use this opportunity to pin the blame on Ellinor for her absence, making Balfour mad and kicking Ellinor out on the spot.*

*Patricia noticed that ever since old Mrs. Bagley mistook Ellinor for her daughter, old Mr. Bagley had been entertaining the idea of treating Ellinor like a granddaughter*

*If Ellinor took Haillie's advice, stepped in for Patricia, and butchered old Mr. Bagley's cherished songs, he'd definitely be pissed and completely abandon the idea of treating Ellinor like a granddaughter.*

*With this in mind, a sinister glint flashed in Patricia's eyes If she couldn't win old Mr. Bagley's approval, then this bitch Ellinor sure as hell wouldn't either!*

*She didn't reject Haillie's suggestion and just pretended to be worried, "Haillie, won't this be too hard on Ellinor?"*

*Haillie just shrugged, "What's so hard about it? It's just singing a song Patricia, your foot is all messed up ; there's no way you can perform, let Ellinor do it"*

*Patricia, lying in Balfour's arms, looked helplessly at Ellinor, "So, Ellinor, could you help me?"*

*"No"*

*Ellinor decisively rejected Patricia's request, then turned to Haillie, "If all you need is someone to stand in for Patricia and deliver the birthday gift to the old man, then Haillie, why don't you go on stage yourself and help your dear friend?"*

*Haillie's face turned ugly, and she blinked nervously, "I never learned, I can't do it!"*

*Ellinor found this amusing, "Haillie, you think just because you can't do something, why should I?"*

*Haillie started arguing.*

*"Even if you can't, you'd still do better than me. I'm a dancer, so I can't sing for peanuts. I need to stay of f stage to take care of Patricia; I can't take her place!*

*Chapter 595*

*Ellinor was all set to say no*

*But then Balfour cul in, stem and impatient "Enough all of you! Since Patri can't perform, there's no point in finding a replacement! Grandpa won't blame anyone, I'll explain the situation to him."*

*Hearing this. Ellinor was quite pleased*

*Patricia, on the other hand, insisted through her tears 'Balfour, apart from this performance, I don't have any other gift for Grandpa If I don't give him anything, even if he doesn't blame me this time, he'll think I ess of me in the future So I can't do that."*

*Balfour scrunched up his eyebrows, looking down at his stubborn sister in his arms Patri, listen to me, your health is what's most important! You don't have to pe rform for Grandpa today there's plenty of time in the future to sing for him!"*

*Patricia fired back. "No! Today is Grandpa's birthday, any other day won't do! Balfour, I've already told G randpa I have a special gift, I can't go back on my word! And Theo is waiting for me to go on stage. I don' t want to let him or Grandpa down."*

*Balfour darkened. "Patri!"*

*Haillie stepped up to them, defending her best friend. "Balfour, see, Patricia is stubborn about performin g. If you don't find someone to take her place, she won't cooperate with the check-up for her foot injury"*

*Only then did Balfour consider Haillie's suggestion*

*Patricia was gentle but incredibly stubborn. She had a strong will, as shown when she decided to marry T heo from a young age.*

*Haillie wasn't wrong either. Under these circumstances, even if they forced Patricia to go to the hospital, she wouldn't cooperate with the treatment. It would only make things more troublesome*

*Considering this, out of concern for Patricia's foot, Balfour looked up at Ellinor and commanded her. "Ellinor, go get ready, you 're going on stage for Patricia!\**

*Ellinor didn't have the same absolute attitude toward her boss as she did with Haillie and Patricia.*

*"Mr. Howard, aren't you scared I'll ruin the gift your sister worked so hard*

*on?*

*Balfour replied coldly. "To old Mr. Bagley, it doesn't matter if you sing well or not, it's the thought that co unt. Just go up there, sing a few lines, and express Patricia's feelings*

*Haillie chimed in, "Ellinor, if you don't go on stage for Patricia, she won't get treated. If something goes wrong with her foot because she didn't get timely treatment, can you take responsibility?"*

*"Are you guys really sure you want me to go on stage for Ms. Howard?"*

*Patricia looked at Ellinor with pleading eyes. "Ellinor, I'm injured now, I can't perform. If you could go on stage for me, I'd be really grateful. Your voice is so beautiful, I'm sure you'll sing and perform wonderfully. I believe in you."*

*Ellinor glanced at Patricia, then at her boss, Balfour. She considered the idea and let out a resigned sigh. "Fine! Since Mr. Howard is asking, I guess I have to do as the boss says. But if my performance isn't good, don't blame me."*

*"We won't! Thank you, Ellinor, for helping me!" Patricia gratefully said, then turned to Haillie. "Haillie, could you help me take Ellinor to get her makeup and costume on? We're running out of time!"*

*At this, Haillie gave a smug smile and nodded. "Sure, no problem. I'll take her right away!"*

*Chapter 596*

*"What are you daydreaming about? Come on, let me do your makeup!"*

*Haillie gave another disdainful glance at Ellinor, her tone laced with sarcasm*

*Ellinor sighed and couldn't help but show her helplessness, obediently following Haillie to get her makeup done.*

*Just like that Haillie took Ellinor to the backstage of the theater.*

*Standing still, Balfour's icy eyes swept over Ellinor's back, and his eyes slightly narrowed.*

*He didn't care about how Ellinor's performance on stage would turn out; he just had a vague feeling that Ellinor's reaction was a bit suspicious.*

*Wherever Ellinor went, things that upset people always seemed to happen.*

*He hoped that Ellinor wouldn't ruin his grandfather's birthday party*

*If it weren't for soothing his sister Patricia's mood and getting her to check the injury on her foot, he wouldn't have allowed Ellinor to stay here, let alone perform on stage.*

*At this moment, Quinton, along with the Bagley family's doctor, also arrived.*

*"Mr. Howard, Dr. Tam is here; how is Ms. Howard's condition?"*

*After saying that, Quinton looked worriedly at Patricia, who was being held by his boss.*

*Balfour kept his composure. "She's hurt her foot pretty bad, and she can't walk anymore. Let him check Patricia first, see if she's broken any bones."*

*"Right! Dr. Tam, come and examine Ms. Howard's foot"*

*The family doctor stepped forward, suggesting,*

*“Mr. Howard, it would be better to put Ms. Howard in a quiet place first, so that her foot can relax a bit, which would facilitate our examination of her actual condition.”*

*“Uh–huh.”*

*Balfour carried*

*Patricia into a guest room, gently placing his sister on the sofa to make it easier for the doctor to check her injury.*

*Patricia didn’t insist anymore, obediently following*

*Balfour’s instructions and cooperating with the doctor’s examination, with only a faint mischievous grin flashing across her innocent face*

*Actually, her foot didn’t hurt at all, it wasn’t injured.*

*Of course, this was all made up!*

*Old Mr. Bagley hated it when people who couldn’t perform messed up on stage, now this would make old Mr. Bagley thoroughly dislike Ellinor, saving her from scheming a plan to make them hate her.*

*“Ms. Howard, does it hurt here?” The doctor asked as he pressed on her ankle*

*Patricia lied as she made a face that showed*

*discomfort, “It still hurts a bit, but it’s much better than before; it really hurt when I fell down the stairs.”*

*“What about here?” The doctor pressed another part of her foot.*

*Patricia continued to act like it was painful.*

*After Dr. Tam thoroughly examined her, he frowned, stood up, and said, “Mr. Howard, Ms. Howard’s foot is only sprained, not broken; you can rest assured, there’s no major issue, applying some pain–relief cream will do*

*However, it’s best to let her avoid walking for a short time; she will gradually recover after resting for a while.”*

*Chapter 597*

*The doctor’s diagnosis put Balfour at ease, and he nodded with a sigh of relief, “Well, that’s good”*

*Patricia’s eyes twinkled,*

*“Balfour, the doc says my foot ain’t that bad, I wanna go check out Ellinor’s performance, I’m a bit worried about her*

*Balfour furrowed his eyebrows. “Patri, the doc advised you to stay put and get some rest*

*Patricia pouted “But I really wanna see Balfour, could you take me there, pretty please?”*

*Balfour’s brow furrowed even more. “No can do Patri, Ellinor’s performing in your name, if people see you there, it’s gonna stir up trouble”*



*Patricia was taken aback, she hadn't forgotten that. But she still wanted to see Ellinor's performance. If she screwed up and pissed off old Mr. Bagley she could always pop up and prove that it wasn't her on stage and make up a story about Ellinor pretending to be her to ruin old Mr. Bagley's birthday bash. That way, she could play the victim and frame Ellinor*

*"I just wanna peek from afar We can make sure nobody sees us."*

*Balfour didn't budge. "Patri, stop being so stubborn, you need to get treated and rest"*

*"But bro," Patricia whined with tears welling up in her eyes.*

*Balfour was unmoved*

*Quinton, watching the standoff between Balfour and Patricia, made a suggestion, "Ms. Howard, you should listen to Mr. Howard and rest here. I can stream Ellinor's performance for you on my phone"*

*Patricia, while disgruntled, knew that Balfour wouldn't change his mind and reluctantly accepted Quinton's proposal, "Alright. I'm counting on you then, Quinton."*

*Quinton replied respectfully. "That's too kind of you, Ms. Howard. It's no trouble at all."*

*Patricia always came across as approachable and understanding in front of others*

*Therefore, almost everyone who knew her thought she was friendly, like an innocent angel. Quinton was no exception.*

*Balfour didn't stop Quinton; he just watched his seemingly well-behaved but increasingly worrisome sister with a complex and seemingly tired expression*

*Backstage at that moment*

*Ellinor had finished her makeup and was ready to go.*

*Haillie looked at her, thinking she looked more sophisticated than Patricia after getting dolled up. She was more jealous and said grumpily. "Ellinor, you better nail your performance, don't embarrass Patricia!"*

*Ellinor looked at the arrogant Haillie in the mirror. "I've told you, I'm not a singer. You guys insisted on having me take Ms. Howard's place. If you're worried about me messing up. I think I'd better not perform"*

*Haillie was fuming.*

*"Ellinor, you're all made up now, stop being a diva! The show's already started, if you don't go on stage now, what about the other performers?"*

*Ellinor slowly stood up, "But, as I recall, my costume for this performance isn't the one I'm wearing now"*

*Haillie scoffed. "That costume's on Patricia right now, and we only have this one. Just do the performance that goes with this costume."*

*Ellinor sighed helplessly. "Well, I guess I have no choice, then. I'll just have to take Ms. Howard's place"*

*She took a deep breath to prepare herself, then reluctantly went on stage.*

*Seeing Ellinor go on stage, Haillie smirked, eager to see how she'd do.*

*Excited, Haillie left backstage to watch the performance.*

#### *Chapter 598*

*Haillie strutted down to the audience area, gave the crowd a quick scan, and then picked a seat right behind Mr and Mrs. Bagley in the front row. The Bagleys were Balfour's grandparents, and if Haillie could get on their good side, it would definitely be a plus for her and Balfour's budding romance. Polite as ever, Haillie greeted the Bagleys before taking her seat. Then she craned her neck towards the stage where Ellinor was about to perform.*

*The real show was about to kick off!*

*Ellinor stepped onto the stage with confidence; her movements were precise, and then she started to singing.*

*Her voice didn't crack, she didn't go off key, and she didn't mess up the lyrics.*

*Her voice was like music to the ears.*

*The audience couldn't help but shut their mouths, their attention fully drawn to the stage.*

*Haillie was gobsmacked, the look of anticipation previously on her face had vanished.*

*She even started to question whether she was hearing things. How could Ellinor be singing so professionally?*

*After carefully listening again to confirm she wasn't hallucinating, she realized Ellinor was indeed singing beautifully.*

*No freaking way!*

*How could that country bumpkin, Ellinor, be belting out such a beautiful tune?*

*The surrounding VIPS, mostly middle-aged and seniors, were already cheering for the performance on stage, their faces full of admiration.*

*Haillie still couldn't believe that the person on stage was Ellinor.*

*This couldn't be, something must be off.*

*She stood up in disbelief, staring wide-eyed at the person singing on stage, her face full of incredulity.*

*Yes, it was indeed Ellinor! It was really her.*

*Ellinor could actually sing so beautifully.*

*Didn't she say that she couldn't sing?*

*Right then, someone in the audience chuckled and asked old Mr. Bagley.*

*"Who's that on stage? She's killing it! Where'd you find her?"*

*Old Mr. Bagley was also stunned by the performance, so much so that he didn't even hear his friend's question*

*The performer on stage was truly impressive, her voice, movements, and positioning were breathtaking.*

*And she bore a striking resemblance to their long-lost daughter, Marlinie.*

*The performer was singing Marlinie's favorite piece*

*Now, the performer's movements, expressions, and singing style all reminded people of Marlinie's performances on stage.*

*Marlinie's father watched the performer, feeling like he was watching his daughter, Marlinie's mother felt the same.*

*Marlinie's mother, teary-eyed, stared at the performer on stage and choked out, "That's Marlinie."*

*Seeing his wife's reaction, Marlinie's father felt a pang of sorrow. He gently put his hand on her shaking shoulder and comforted her in a soft voice, "Darling, keep it down, let's let our daughter finish her song"*

*Chapter 599*

*Hearing her husband's words, mentally unstable old Mrs. Bagley was taken aback. The urge to rush up and hug her daughter was suppressed, and she quietly nodded, "Yes, Marlinie is singing so earnestly, we can't interrupt her. Marlinie doesn't like to be interrupted"*

*After the performance, the actors quickly exited the stage*

*Old Mrs. Bagley watched as her daughter turned and disappeared from her sight, her emotions becoming unstable. She anxiously stood up, intending to chase after her on*

*stage*

*Old Mr. Bagley, who had anticipated this, quickly grabbed her, "Dear, don't panic. Don't worry, Marlinie won't leave again."*

*After calming her down, Old Mr. Bagley instructed a nearby waiter, "Quick, bring over the lead performer from the stage!"*

*"Yes"*

*The waiter agreed and immediately departed.*

*Haillie had a bad feeling when she saw this.*

*She had originally intended for Ellinor to embarrass herself in front of everyone, but she hadn't expected that Ellinor would actually be able to perform opera. She even received praise from Old Mr. Bagley, furthermore, he wanted to meet her privately*

*How was that possible?*

*Old Mr. Bagley was clearly very pleased with Ellinor's performance just now. If he found out that the performer was Ellinor, he would certainly have a good impression of her, which would give that gold-digger Ellinor a chance!*

*Thinking this, Haillie quickly stepped forward, forcing a smile.*

*"Old Mr. Bagley, didn't you realize? The performer just now was actually Patricia! She has been practicing for a long time to give you this special gift!"*

*Old Mr. Bagley was shocked to hear this. What? That performer was actually Patricia? He didn't notice at all!*

*Then, Old Mr. Bagley remembered the special gift Patricia had mentioned to him not long ago.*

*So that was her gift!*

*Knowing it was Patricia, a hint of disappointment flashed in Old Mr. Bagley's eyes, but he still managed a smile, saying nonchalantly.*

*"Well, it's the thought that counts. It's not easy for her to practice her voice to that level."*

*At this point, old Mrs Bagley, who was getting anxious from not seeing her 'daughter', said impatiently. "Marlinie, dear, why isn't Marlinie here yet? I want to find Marlinie, I want to find my Marlinie."*

*Old Mr. Bagley quickly comforted Old Mrs. Bagley again, then turned to Haillie. "Haillie, go and bring Patricia here. Tell her I have something to say to her."*

*Haillie gave a fake smile and nodded, "Okay, Old Mr. Bagley, I'll go get Patricia to see you"*

*Haillie hurried backstage just as Ellinor was about to leave.*

*She unhappily blocked Ellinor's path, "Hold on! Where do you think you're going?"*

*Ellinor, still in her makeup—up, calmly replied. "Someone just came to tell me that Old Mr. Bagley wants to see me; I was about to go there."*

*Haillie looked at her disdainfully, "What are you going for? Remember, you were replacing Patricia on stage. Old Mr. Bagley is calling for Patricia. He wants to see Patricia, not you! Ellinor, don't think about stealing the spotlight!"*

*Ellinor raised an eyebrow, "So, you're saying I don't have to go?"*

*Haillie snorted arrogantly. "You're not qualified to go! Stay backstage where you belong, this isn't your business! Patricia will go see Old Mr. Bagley herself!"*

*Ellinor shrugged nonchalantly, "Alright! If I'm not needed, then I'll go take off my makeup."*

*Saying this, she yawned boredly and turned back to her makeup table.*

*Haillie frowned. She hated Ellinor's dismissive attitude*

*After a disgusted glance at Ellinor's retreating figure, Haillie turned to find Patricia, planning to have her good friend meet Old Mr. Bagley and Old Mrs. Bagley*

*Chapter 600*

*At this moment, Patricia was being taken care of by Balfour's staff, resting in the quest room, her face as pale as a sheet. On her usually innocent face, the current expression looked unnaturally forced*

*Just a moment ago, she had watched Ellinor's performance on stage through a video call with Balfour's subordinate, Quinton.*

*She was surprised, shocked, and jealous!*

*Ellinor's performance was beyond her expectations, and it was so good it had the audience clapping and cheering for her!*

*What on earth?*

*How could poor born Ellinor perform such a sophisticated art and sing so well? She was even better than Patricia herself, who had been practicing in secret for months!*

*Patricia was furious, this was not the outcome she wanted to see!*

*She had hoped Ellinor would sing out of tune due to her lack of performance skills, annoying the old Mr. Bagley to the point of disgust and even dismissal!*

*But Ellinor's performance was superb, and she must have received additional praise from the old Mr. Bagley, which was simply unbearable.*

*She knew she should not have agreed to let Ellinor replace her on stage in the first place, she should have just let Balfour kick Ellinor out, so none of this would have happened! She was full of regret!*

*Just then, Haillie knocked on the door and walked in, looking at Patricia's face, she asked with concern, "Patricia, how is your foot? What did the doctor say after the check-up?"*

*Seeing her friend, Patricia immediately put on a smile and replied, "Don't worry, Haillie, the doctor said I just sprained my foot. It's nothing serious, I'll be okay after some*

*rest*

*Relieved, Haillie*

*nodded, "That's a relief. I was so worried that your foot would be worsened by that cunning woman, Ellinor!"*

*Hearing Haillie mention Ellinor, Patricia's smile stiffened a bit, but she still tried to remain calm, though she was already annoyed with Haillie.*

*It was all Haillie's fault!*

*It was she who suggested letting Ellinor replace her on stage. Otherwise, Ellinor wouldn't have had the chance to perform!*

*Sometimes, her friend really gave her a headache!*

*Haillie, oblivious to Patricia's annoyance, continued, "Patricia, the old Mr. Bagley wants to see you. He has something to say!"*

*Patricia, still sulking, was taken aback, "What? Does the old Mr. Bagley want to see me? He has something to say to me?"*

*Haillie nodded, "Yes, because he really liked that performance just now, so the old Mr. Bagley wants to meet the lead performer!"*

*Patricia was a bit confused, she blinked, "The old Mr. Bagley wants to see the lead performer, but that person is,"*

*Patricia was about to say Ellinor's name, but Haillie interrupted her, "The lead performer is you, Patricia! Did you forget that Ellinor performed just now on your behalf? I've already told the old Mr Bagley that the performer was you, and it was a gift you prepared for him. So, of course, the person he wants to see is you!" Only then did Patricia realize what Haillie meant. She was so angry about Ellinor's great performance that she forgot Ellinor had performed in her name.*

*At this point, Patricia's gloom had lifted*