

The Kiss 891

Chapter 891

Devin said with a grin, "Ms. Blanchet, no worries. Ellinor already brought back your new bag yesterday. It's in your walk-in closet." Only then did Veronica breathe a sigh of relief. She frowned at Ellinor, "Ellinor, you're pulling my leg again!"

Ellinor casually sipped her soup and asked, "What time did you come back from handing out flyers with Moran yesterday?" Veronica's *face* turned red at the mention of Moran. She became shy and coughed. "Um, probably around eight."

Ellinor chuckled, "The school gates are usually empty by six, right? Where did you guys go after that?"

"We didn't go anywhere special; we just took a random stroll." Veronica lowered her head to eat, looking somewhat shy.

Devin came over with a kettle to refill Ellinor's cup. He whispered, "Ellinor, the bodyguard saw Ms. Blanchet with a boy on the street yesterday. The boy even walked Ms. Blanchet home."

No wonder Veronica was in such a good mood today; things seemed to be going well.

Ellinor didn't find it surprising. Moran was well-mannered and would never let a girl walk home alone.

Veronica suddenly remembered something, "Oh right, Ellinor, my grandparents are coming back in a few days."

"Oh." Ellinor replied without any particular reaction, continuing to sip her soup.

She had met Marissa Blanchet before and thought she was a very kind woman.

She had not met Putnam Blanchet, who apparently forced Theo to get married. He said he wouldn't undergo surgery unless Theo got married.

Seeing that Ellinor was in her own world, Veronica added, "My grandma likes you, but my grandpa is very picky. He might not approve of you, so prepare yourself!"

"Thanks for the heads-up." Ellinor continued sipping her soup, still in her own world.

What was she supposed to prepare for?

They might not even end up as family.

She decided to just go with the flow.

At this moment, a servant came in and said, "Ellinor, a person claiming to be your classmate is looking for you outside."

Before Ellinor could react, Veronica became alert, "A boy or a girl?"

The servant truthfully replied, "It's a male classmate."

Veronica frowned,

"What are you up to, Ellinor? Why are you having guys over while my brother is not home?"

Ellinor looked at her, "Are you more jealous than your brother now? Can't I have a male friend?"

Veronica blinked unnaturally, lifted her chin, and snorted, "Hmph! Who's jealous of you? You're full of yourself!"

Ellinor ignored her and turned to the servant, "If he's looking for me, let him in."

"Yes." The servant left to carry out the order.

Shortly after, the servant led Moran in.

The moment Veronica saw that

it was Moran, she realized she was still in her pajamas and ran upstairs immediately.

As Moran approached the dining room, he only saw the figure of a girl running upstairs.

"Ellinor, what's wrong with her?"

Ellinor chuckled, "She went to get her phone. You're here early; have you had breakfast?"

A mix of disappointment

and complexity flashed in Moran's eyes. He tried to keep his composure, "I ate already, Ellinor, don't worry." Ellinor gestured, "If you're not eating, then please have a seat."

A waiter came over to pull out a chair for him. Moran sat down and asked, "Ellinor, did you call me over to tutor someone? Do you have kids in the house?"

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Ellinor was almost done eating. She took a sip of water and said, "Actually, it's not a kid I'm talking about, it's Veronica."

Moran was taken aback and he furrowed his brows, "Ellinor, Veronica is a university student; I only tutor elementary and middle school students."

"Can't you just tutor her like she's a kid?"

"Oh How's that gonna work? She's a university student; tutoring her elementary school content would feel freaking weird, wouldn't it?"

Ellinor said seriously. "Our little sister here has been slacking off since she was a kid, so her basic knowledge is super weak. I think you know about her grades at Creston University, right?"

Moran was silent. Veronica's grades really sucked.

Ellinor continued. "She was born into a family like ours, so she doesn't need much education to make a living. But I want her to learn more about basic knowledge and common sense. Moran, can you help tutor her?"

7m sorry. Ellinor. I might not be the right guy for this.”

Moran remembered that he once rejected Veronica’s love confession, so he thought he should stay away from her to avoid any misunderstandings.

He only took Veronica with him to distribute flyers because Ellinor asked him to.

Seeing his reluctance, Ellinor offered again. “We can pay you more. Aren’t you trying to earn your tuition by working part–time? And save up some start–up funds before graduation?”

Although Moran wasn’t from a super–rich family, his family was well–off. He was working part–time because he wanted to be independent as soon as possible.

When it came to start–up funds, Moran hesitated. He really needed the money.

After thinking about it, Moran nodded, “Alright, Ellinor, I’ll take on this task! How far do I need to get her?”

Elinor smiled. “Until you feel you can call it a day!”

Moran thought for a moment, “Okay! I’ll do my best to make you satisfied.”

After they reached an agreement, Ellinor turned to Devin, “Devin, have someone clear out a guest room, take out the bed, and replace it with a large desk. I’ll be the study room for Veronica’s tutor.”

Devin was surprised that Ellinor was concerned about Veronica’s studies; he immediately sent someone to do as she instructed.

When Veronica came downstairs for some fruits and drinks, she intentionally stopped in front of Ellinor, her tone somewhat irritated, “Hey!

Elinor

Elinor was daydreaming, and Veronica knocked her back down to earth, “Hmm? What?”

Veronica took a while to say, “Thank you!”

Elinor smiled, “Why thank me?”

Amph! You know exactly why!” Veronica flipped her chin up, grabbed her fruits and drinks, and went up stairs for tutoring.

After watching Veronica run upstairs, Ellinor daydreamed for a while longer, then excused herself to Devin and walked out the door.

The construction site for the Crescent Moon Project.

It was the plot of land that the Blanchet Corporation had bought to build a new office building. It wasn’t originally vacant.

It used to be a run-down neighborhood in the city center. All the old buildings had been demolished before construction began, and the foundation work had started recently.

The foundation work was very important as it concerned the safety of the Blanchet Corporation staff for many years to come.

Wearing a safety helmet Ellinor inspected the entire site.

Chase followed her nervously, offering help from time to time, worried she might trip or hit something. He was very careful, "Ellinor, there's dust everywhere. You really shouldn't be here."

After making sure there were no issues with the foundation, Ellinor sternly told Chase. "This project is huge, and it concerns our company's reputation. We need to closely monitor every step and make sure no one's cutting corners!"

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Although Chase was quite the joker, he was dead serious when it came to work. "Ellinor, no worries, I'll have someone watch over this place every day."

Ellinor trusted Chase's abilities implicitly, but not being able to be there in person always left her a bit unsettled.

Chase chuckled when he saw Ellinore be more serious than casual, jokingly saying, "Ellinor, you seem to be really concerned about Mr. Blanchet. Look at how concerned you are about the safety of his future workplace."

Ellinor gave him a pointed look, "I care about whether our results will satisfy the client. I can redraw blueprints, but you can't just demolish and rebuild a building."

Chase laughed and handed her an opened bottle of mineral water, "Okay, got it! I'm on watch here, so you don't need to keep coming. You're carrying a baby! Pregnant ladies should avoid construction sites." Just as Ellinor took the water bottle and was about to drink, she spotted a tall man in a sharp suit with neatly combed hair strolling over from a distance.

The man, followed by a few others, was being shown around the construction site by the site supervisor. It was Theo!

Like a knee-jerk reaction, Ellinor quickly turned and hid behind a nearby truck.

Chase also ducked behind the truck with her.

On the other side, Theo halted, as if sensing that something was wrong. His sharp gaze landed on the truck not far away.

"Do you have any female workers on your team?"

Caught off guard, the supervisor scratched his head, "Female workers? Nah, ladies usually don't do this kind of dirty and strenuous work." Theo squinted his eyes, then shifted his gaze and followed the supervisor to another area.

Once Theo was out of sight, Chase peeked out to make sure that he was walking away, "Ellinor, why are you hiding? That's your husband; are you still afraid he'll see you?"

Ellinor leaned lazily against the truck, "He only knows I hold shares in Crescent Society; he doesn't know the rest. I don't want him to know my real situation in Crescent Society yet, nor that I, Moon, am the designer of the Blanchet Building."

Chase was confused, "Didn't you say trust is important in a relationship, Ellinor?"

Ellinor lifted her water bottle, took a big gulp, and then said, "Trust is mutual; one-sided trust is foolish."

Chase sensed that something was wrong, "Did you quarrel with Mr. Blanchet?"

Ellinor replied, "No."

"Then why..."

Just then, Chase's mobile rang.

"Hold on, Ellinor, I need to take this call."

Chase stepped away to answer his phone, "I'm at the site; what's up? I'm not hungry; you eat. Just leave it on my desk; I'll eat it later. Yeah, keep up the good work."

After ending the call, Chase turned back, "Ellinor, where were we?"

Instead of answering, Ellinor countered, "Who was that?"

Chase shrugged and answered truthfully, "A clerk trying to get close to me. She has been bringing me food lately. I'm getting chubby; my abs are about to disappear!"

Ellinor frowned, "Stay away from her."

Chase's eyes flashed, "Oh? Ellinor, do you know her?"

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Ellinor said, "My kin."

Chase frowned, then chuckled, "Ellinor, we grew up together in the countryside. Who are you kidding? You don't have any relatives! I bet it's Mr. Blanchet's relatives, right? Ellinor, you treat Mr. Blanchet's family like your own!"

Ellinor glared at him, "You're not allowed to touch her. She's a good girl, not someone you can mess around with. Stay out of trouble."

Even though Chase was scared of getting hit by Ellinor, he pouted, a little unhappy, "Ellinor, what're you implying? So, she's a good girl, and I'm not a good guy?"

Ellinor watched this guy grow up. She knew him better than anyone!

Ellinor didn't have the energy to deal with Chase. She got up and left, "I'm off!"

Chase followed, "Ellinor, wait up! My car's parked on the other side. Let's go together; I'll give you a ride!"

Without looking back, Ellinor waved him off, "No need, I'll take a cab!"

Watching Ellinor's retreating figure, Chase shrugged helplessly. That's Ellinor, always low-key. She didn't even own a car!

Chase swiftly redirected his attention to his phone upon hearing two pings.

It was a picture from Belinda, four dishes and a soup, "Boss, your lunch!"

Chase casually sent a "hungry" emoji back to her.

So, this girl was Theo's relative? How'd she end up in their company?

Chase put away his phone and stepped out from behind the truck, only to see Theo standing there with his hands in his pockets, staring at him expressionlessly.

Chase paused for a moment, then regained his composure. He smiled, "Mr. Blanchet, are you here to check on our work?"

Ellinor wasn't far from the construction site when a black car pulled over next to her.

She turned to look. The car's rear window slowly rolled down, and Patricia's innocent face appeared, beaming brightly at her. She seemed completely unbothered by the embarrassment of being exposed at the hospital a few days ago.

"Ellinor, what a coincidence, running into you here!"

Ellinor nodded and said, "Quite a coincidence."

Patricia asked with a sweet smile, "Where are you headed, Ellinor? Can I give you a lift?"

Ellinor didn't want to deal with her, "Thanks, but I don't need it."

With that, Ellinor walked off, ignoring Patricia.

However, Patricia didn't give up. She instructed her driver to go slow, trailing behind Ellinor at a leisurely pace.

"Ellinor, get in the car. Let me give you a ride! I've missed you so much these past few days!"

Doesn't Patricia feel nauseous spouting such nonsense?

Ellinor wasn't a fool, and there was no way she would believe Patricia's lies about missing her.

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Patricia had been giving her the cold shoulder from the get-go, and now it was even worse!

Ellinor stared ahead with determined eyes and replied coolly. "Seems like we're not heading in the same direction."

Patricia laughed cordially. "Even if we're not, I can take a detour and give you a lift! We know each other well enough. It's no biggie to drop you off!"

"No need to go out of your way."

"Ellinor, you're not scared of me, are you?"

Ellinor chuckled lightly, "What would I be scared of?"

Patricia still had her best innocent smile on her face, "You're afraid I'll retaliate, aren't you? Ha ha, relax, Ellinor. After what happened last time. even if I wanted to get back at you, I wouldn't do it now, and definitely not in my car! That would just land me in hot water! I'm not that stupid to shoot myself in the foot!"

Ellinor gave her a sidelong glance, "So what's your game?"

Patricia looked dead serious, "I just want to have a chat with you. Is that okay?"

Even though Ellinor knew Patricia's sincerity was all for show, she still got in the car.

She was fed up with Patricia following her around, and she couldn't find a ride anyway!

Once she got in the car, Ellinor let out a tired yawn, "I need to get home, so you might as well drop me off!"

Patricia awkwardly said, "Ellinor, I need to drop lunch off to my brother at the office first. Can I take you home after that?"

Ellinor knew it wouldn't be a straight shot; she furrowed her brows and sighed, "Fine!"

Patricia patted the lunchbox next to her, grinning like a Cheshire cat, "My brother loves the food from this place. He always finishes everything when I bring it to him."

Ellinor didn't even bother to look up; she responded nonchalantly, "Oh, really?"

She knew from the start that Patricia wouldn't have anything interesting to say!

Seeing Ellinor's disinterested look, Patricia's smile faded a bit. She was a tad peeved but quickly plastered a brighter smile on her face, "Ellinor, I've accepted the thing with Theo now! But how did you manage to change my brother's attitude towards you? Care to share?"

Ellinor gave a light smile, "I'm curious too, Ms. Howard. Did your brother's attitude towards me really change? From my perspective, it doesn't seem like it!"

Patricia frowned slightly, trying to keep her sweet smile, "Ellinor, don't play dumb! My brother clearly didn't like you at first, but then he obviously warmed up to you, didn't he?"

Without thinking, Ellinor answered, "Your brother may not have been fond of me initially, but it's not like he hated me. The reason he ended up disliking me, isn't it because of all the misunderstandings you

stirred up? Now that everything's cleared up, he obviously realized he was wrong about me, hence his slightly better attitude."

Patricia smirked slightly, and she couldn't hide her irritation and let out a scoff, "Slightly better? The way my brother treats you now is way over the top! Not normal at all! Ellinor, do you and my brother have a secret or something?"

Patricia's probing made Ellinor cautious. Recently, Patricia and her mother Xenia had been investigating her in the countryside. Although she had Chase deal with it, she couldn't be sure they wouldn't accidentally find some leads.

She couldn't let them find out about her blood ties with the Howard family yet. It wouldn't help the investigation into her mother's past! After a few seconds of silence, Ellinor chuckled, "Ms. Howard, are you jealous? Your brother, who's always doted on you, is showing a bit of affection towards another girl, and you can't handle it?"

Patricia was hit where it hurt. She gritted her teeth secretly; her smile was even brighter as she said, "Jealous? Why would I be? My brother has plenty of women around him. Why would I be jealous of them? Can any woman compare to his own sister in his heart? I'm just baffled; my brother never liked your type before!"

Ellinor smiled subtly, "Why don't you ask your brother then? Ask him why he changed his attitude towards me. He dotes on you so much, so he'd definitely tell you!"

Chapter 896

Ellinor's words made Patricia's brow furrow, and she was struggling to keep up her seemingly "innocent" smile!

She couldn't get any answers from Balfour, so she tried to dig up some info from Ellinor, and it seemed like Ellinor was hinting that her status at Balfour's was no more.

Patricia didn't want Ellinor to see her discomfort from the sarcasm, so she answered in a forced, calm manner, "Hmm, you make a good point, Ellinor. I guess I'll have to ask my brother."

After saying this with a smile, Patricia turned her head to look out the car window with a cunning expression on her face, and she even touched her teeth.

"Ellinor, we're at the company. I'm going to bring lunch to my brother now. Do you want to come with me?"

Ellinor lazily leaned back in her seat, seemingly taking a little snooze, showing no interest in this. "No need, I'll just wait for you here. But you better hurry. I don't have much patience today."

Patricia didn't insist on inviting her anymore, and she just politely said, "All right, then you wait here, Ellinor. Don't go anywhere, okay? I have some stuff about Theo to tell you later!"

Ellinor replied indifferently, not showing any interest.

Patricia gave her a silent glance, then took the packed food and walked into the Howard Group.

In the Howard Group.

At the entrance to the CEO's office.

Quinton stopped Patricia and said, "Ms. Howard, what are you doing here again? Didn't Mr. Howard already say he doesn't want you to keep bringing him lunch?"

Patricia gently shook her head, "I don't mind! I don't have much to do at home anyway, and my brother is so busy every day. I worry he's not eating properly... Quinton, can you go in and tell my brother that I brought his favorite dish today and that he should eat it while it's still hot!"

Quinton frowned, reaching out his hand, "Ms. Howard, hand me the food. Once Mr. Howard is done with his work, I'll bring it in for him."

Patricia obviously wasn't willing to do this. Instead of handing over the food, she looked at Quinton with doe-eyed innocence, "Quinton, is my brother really that busy? I can't even see him for a moment? My brother hasn't been home for several days; I miss him..."

Quinton looked uncomfortable. Mr. Howard had been working overtime at the company for the past few days, not returning home because he didn't want to see Ms. Howard and hear her explanations about the things that gave him a headache.

"Mr. Howard really is busy with work these days. He's been working overtime at the company. But you don't have to worry; I'll remind him to eat on time. You can just give me the food."

Patricia seemed doubtful of Quinton's words, her tears nearly falling, "Quinton, I know it was wrong to lie to you before, and I understand that it was wrong to scheme against Ellinor to win Theo's heart. I know I was wrong, and I've corrected my mistakes. I just ran into Ellinor on the road. I politely invited her into the car, planning to have the driver take a detour to take her home. I've corrected my mistakes. Why doesn't my brother want to see me?"

Quinton's expression changed slightly, "You mean Ms. Mendoza is here too?"

Patricia wanted Quinton to see that she really knew she was wrong, that she had deeply reflected, and corrected her actions, hoping Quinton could put in a few good words for her to Balfour.

So, she mentioned her good deed of helping Ellinor to prove her change of heart.

However, Quinton seemed to have missed the point; his concern was that Ellinor was here too.

Patricia was puzzled, then she nodded, "Yes! I just ran into Ellinor on the road, and I saw her walking alone. So I invited her into the car, intending to give her a lift. Quinton, let me see my brother, please. I'll leave as soon as I see him. Ellinor is still waiting downstairs for me to take her home!"

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Quinton pondered for a moment, "Hang tight for a sec. I'll go in and let Mr. Howard know."

A smug smile crossed Patricia Howard's face, feeling like she'd won again. As long as Quinton went in and told him about her remorse, her brother would no longer be so cold-hearted toward her!

Just as Patricia had imagined, not long after, Balfour Howard came out to meet her himself!

"Brother! I brought your favorite stir-fried veggies!" Patricia ran towards Balfour like she used to, acting like a child and being playful in his arms.

However, Balfour coldly pushed her away, his gaze sweeping the surroundings deeply, "Where's Ellinor Mendoza? Wasn't she with you?"

Patricia was taken aback. Why was his focus on Ellinor too?

"Uh...Ellinor's waiting for me in the car downstairs! Brother, I've made peace with Ellinor. She agreed to ride in my car, which means she's willing to forgive me! Brother, I know I was wrong. Can you stop being mad at me?"

As she spoke, Patricia tried to snuggle into Balfour's arms again.

With one hand on Patricia's shoulder, not allowing her to get any closer, Balfour asked in a deep voice, "Why didn't she come up?"

Patricia's eyebrows furrowed slightly, feeling that her brother's concern for Ellinor was a bit too much, but she didn't dare to show her discontent...

"Brother, I invited Ellinor to come up, but she didn't want to. She said she'd wait for me in the car, so I didn't force her."

Balfour's gaze darkened, "You invited her, and she didn't want to come up?"

Patricia nodded in agreement.

Balfour felt helpless. Ellinor didn't want to come up, surely because she didn't want to see him, her disappointing brother!

Quinton, knowing the situation and the boss's mind, stepped forward and asked, "Mr. Howard, shall I go and invite Ms. Mendoza up?"

Balfour nodded slightly, "Yeah, talk to her nicely and ask her to come up."

"Don't worry, Mr. Howard, I know what to do!" Quinton accepted the task professionally and turned to leave.

Watching Quinton leave, Balfour seemed a bit worried, fearing that Quinton wouldn't be able to convince Ellinor. He wanted to go himself but thought it might draw too much attention.

Meanwhile, Patricia was seeing an uneasy expression on Balfour's face for the first time. Was it because of Ellinor?

She was extremely curious, why did her brother care so much about Ellinor?

"Brother, why do you value Ellinor so much, even asking Quinton to personally invite her?"

Out of sheer curiosity, she couldn't help but ask.

Balfour snapped out of it and glanced down at Patricia, his expression bland.

"She saved our grandfather's life, and the Howard family has always been disrespectful to her. And you, you should know well what you've done to her in the past! We were wrong. Shouldn't we value her more?"

Chapter 898

Patricia scrunched up her face in innocence, "Bro, I get it. I messed up, and I owe Ellinor an apology. But I don't think we need to make a big deal out of this. Ellinor is now Mrs. Blanchet, a part of the Blanchet family. And we all know the Howards and the Blanchets aren't exactly best buds. If you're bending over backward for Mrs. Blanchet, people might think we're chickening out..."

Balfour's face turned grim. "The Blanchets are the Blanchets, and she is she! Do you think we shouldn't take her seriously? You, of all people, should treat her right!"

Patricia was taken aback, quickly defending herself, "Bro, I do respect Ellinor. I even invited her for a ride today, didn't mind asking the driver to go out of the way to drop her home. I just feel you haven't really done anything wrong to her, and there's no need for you to grovel. It breaks my heart to see you like this..."

Balfour gave her a cold stare and said, "You don't need to worry about me."

With that, he turned and walked back into his office.

With no one stopping her, Patricia bit her lip in frustration, picked up her packed food, and followed Balfour into the CEO's office.

Down in the Howard Group's building lobby.

Ellinor was almost dozing off when someone knocked on her car window, waking her up.

"Ms. Mendoza!" Quinton called out softly.

Ellinor came to her senses, rolling down the window with a dazed look, "Quinton, what's up?"

He hadn't been too friendly towards Ellinor because of Balfour's attitude before, but Ms. Mendoza never held it against him and was always polite.

"Ms. Mendoza, the boss has invited you up. Since you're here already, would you like to join us for lunch?"

Ellinor waved him off nonchalantly, "Thanks for the offer, but I'll pass."

Quinton had expected this and wasn't too surprised, although he couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed.

Ms. Mendoza didn't have the best experience working at the Howard Group, so her reluctance to come upstairs was understandable.

Quinton thought for a moment, then invited her again, "Ms. Mendoza, it's lunchtime here at the company. I remember you used to like our cafeteria food. Treat the Howard Group as a restaurant; come up for a meal. It would make your trip worthwhile."

Ellinor really did like the Howard Group's cafeteria food, especially the grilled salmon. It was to her liking, and she remembered its taste from her days working there!

Back then, Quinton had been ordered by Balfour to keep tabs on her, so he knew her cafeteria preferences.

Ellinor raised an eyebrow, her interest piqued by the food, "Even if I'm not a Howard Group employee, I can still eat in your cafeteria?"

Quinton nodded respectfully, "Of course, if it's you."

Ellinor asked again, "Do I need to pay?"

Quinton replied, "Impossible! Mr. Howard would never let you pay. You can have whatever you want, as much as you want!"

Ellinor's face fell, her interest instantly gone, "I won't eat if I don't have to pay! Forget it!"

Quinton managed a weak smile, "Then you can pay!"

That finally got Ellinor out of the car, ready to have a meal before heading back to the Blanchet family's house. After all, there was nothing awaiting her back home anyway.

Before entering the Howard Group, Ellinor saw a line by the ice cream window of a fast food restaurant across the street. Wanting some, she told Quinton, "Quinton, you go on ahead. I'll join the queue for an ice cream across the street before going up."

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Quinton glanced at the ice cream stand and then told Ms. Mendoza, "You head upstairs; I'll stand in line and get your ice cream. Let me know your flavor."

"Vanilla." Ellinor said, pulling out a bill from her bag and handing it to him, "Here's the cash."

Just as Quinton was about to refuse it. Ellinor's gaze turned stern.

It seemed like Ms. Mendoza wasn't going anywhere unless he took the money.

With no other choice, Quinton reluctantly accepted the money and went to queue up.

With someone else waiting in line for the ice cream, Ellinor went upstairs.

Who knew that she'd bump into an old acquaintance as soon as she got in the elevator?

A woman, all dolled up with red lipstick, looked at Ellinor stepping into the elevator, paused for a second, and then said sarcastically, "I was wondering who you are! Aren't you Ellinor? Mr. Howard's former secretary, who got a promotion to sales manager?"

Ellinor recognized her too; she was an employee from the Howard Group.

After Balfour transferred her to the sales department, this woman took her place as Balfour's secretary, though she couldn't remember her name.

Ellinor didn't waste her energy on unimportant people, so she just nodded and smiled, "Yeah, long time no see."

The woman deliberately moved closer to Ellinor, scoffing. "I heard you were fired by Mr. Howard! What brings you here today?"

Ellinor replied casually, "Lunch."

The woman frowned and chuckled, "You're here for lunch? Ellinor, do you think our company is some kind of diner? That's hilarious!"

Ellinor glanced at the rising elevator floor numbers and yawned out of boredom, "Oh, I think it's pretty funny too."

The woman felt annoyed by Ellinor's dismissive attitude. She didn't believe she was just here for lunch, so she tried to pry a bit more, "Hey! Ellinor! Tell me the truth; what are you really here for? Are you trying to get your job back?"

Ellinor turned her head and looked at her, "Why are you so curious about me?"

The woman rolled her eyes, "We're colleagues; can't I show some concern?"

Of course, it was more than just curiosity. She had been sent by Mr. Howard's sister, Patricia, to keep an eye on Ellinor and report any updates about her.

But not long after, Mr. Howard fired Ellinor and she lost touch with Patricia.

Now that Ellinor showed up at the office again, she planned to dig out what she was up to and then use this chance to reconnect with Patricia, report the situation, and build a better relationship, hoping Patricia could give her a promotion.

But Ellinor ignored her.

The woman didn't give up; she asked again, but Ellinor still didn't respond. She started getting pissed off. "Hey! Ellinor, I'm talking to you!"

"Do you think you're too good to talk to me?"

"Ellinor, what makes you so arrogant? You were just a sales manager for a few days, and then you got fired by Mr. Howard!"

If you're here to reapply for a job, I must tell you, the sales manager position is already taken. And the person who got it has a higher degree, better skills, and is way better than you. There's no way you can get this position back!"

Chapter 900

Ellinor didn't even bat an eye at her and didn't even glance her way. She just lifted her hand and used her pinky to dig in her ear, as if she were just hearing some annoying noise.

This laid-back attitude pissed the female employee off even more. She immediately grabbed Ellinor's arm. "Hey! I've been talking to you for ages; are you deaf? You haven't even said a word back? You're being so bloody rude!"

Just as the elevator doors opened. A man who was about to step in saw the scene inside and immediately became serious.

Knowing that his sister was downstairs, Balfour was anxiously waiting and worried that Ellinor might leave. He was about to go down and meet her when he saw this scene in the elevator.

"What are you doing?" Balfour's voice was low and cold.

The female employee was startled, turning around to see her boss looking at her. She felt awkward and quickly tried to explain, "Mr. Howard, do you remember her? You fired her before; who knows why she's back today? I asked her, but she wouldn't answer. It's really suspicious! I think she might be here to steal our trade secrets, so I..."

"Let her go." Balfour's voice was even lower, cutting her off before she could finish.

The stern tone scared the employee, and she immediately let go.

Balfour walked into the elevator, came in front of Ellinor, and gently checked her hand.

Balfour's expression darkened after seeing that his sister's wrist was all red from the employee's hold.

He turned around and asked harshly, "Which department are you from?"

The female employee was lost and slightly upset, "Um... Mr. Howard, I used to be your secretary, then got transferred to the marketing department. Don't you remember me?"

"Pack your things and leave." Balfour didn't hesitate a second before coldly announcing this to her.

The female employee was stunned; her eyes were wide with fear, "Mr. Howard? I..."

"Out!" Balfour lost his patience, not wanting to hear another word from her.

Then he turned to his sister, his voice immediately softening, "What took you so long? Had lunch yet?"

Ellinor pulled her hand out of Balfour's grasp, coldly replying, "Not yet; I came here for lunch."

Balfour wasn't upset by her indifference and continued to be gentle, "Hmm, I knew you weren't here to see me. Come on, let's go have lunch." Ellinor frowned, not really wanting to go to the cafeteria with Balfour, but she knew she couldn't shake him off here, so she didn't struggle and followed him.

The female employee was still standing there, frozen.

Mr. Howard fired her? But why?

Was it because she was rude to Ellinor?

But didn't Mr. Howard dislike Ellinor before? He even fired her himself.

What on earth was going on?

Mr. Howard's attitude towards Ellinor today was so gentle that it looked like he was afraid to upset her.

As the female employee was most confused, Patricia slowly walked up to her, looking serious. She squinted her eyes that were filled with confusion and dissatisfaction towards the direction Balfour and Ellinor went.