

## Midnight 1051

### Chapter 1051

The moment the words left his lips, no one was more shocked than Jeffrey Turner!

"What?"

Instantly, all eyes were on him.

Jeffrey coughed a few times, offering a sheepish laugh, "I just think... if his leg's saved, why break up, you know..."

"You all don't need to worry," Kenneth Nelson said calmly, his voice smooth as butter, "Especially you, Dorothy. Don't overthink it. It's not about you that we're breaking up, and I won't interfere with your thing with Everett Lopez."

Dorothy Sanchez, of course, hoped he'd keep things going well with Eleanor. After all, they seemed such a good match, not to mention they'd been living together for so long, sharing more than a few moments of affection.

Kenneth got her, naturally knowing what she wanted to say.

So, he waved his hand, cutting her off, "No need for anyone to try and talk me out of it. I've mulled over this decision for a long time before bringing it up."

Karen Miller, on hearing this, didn't really object.

She was never a fan of Eleanor, thinking her a bit too dramatic. Even if Eleanor had her reasons, Karen and Eleanor simply didn't click.

"If you wanna split, then split. It's your life! I've got your back no matter what, but... dealing with your mom might be tough. Just don't let her blame Dorothy." Karen couldn't stand to see her best friend getting blamed again!

After all, it was Karen who had introduced them in the first place. If Sienna got upset, she'd take it out on Dorothy, and Karen couldn't just stand by and watch.

"I'll clear things up with my mom," Kenneth said, his gaze flicking to Dorothy for just a moment before looking away, "The main thing is, I've realized I haven't made room in my heart for a future girlfriend. With my heart already full, no matter who I'm with, she won't be happy."

Silence fell.

"Rather than that, I shouldn't hold Eleanor back, nor any other girl."

Kenneth decided to break up with Eleanor and then refuse any matchmaking attempts.

He'd thought it through carefully.

Only when he was completely over

Dorothy, when he could see her

as

just a sister or a stranger, would he consider his personal life again.

Jeffrey got the message.

So, the bottom line was, he still hadn't let go of Dorothy!

"Big bro, if your heart's always full, you're gonna stay single forever?"

Kenneth nodded, "Yeah, being alone's not bad. Better than leading other girls on."

"But if you didn't care about Eleanor

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at all, why'd you chase after her

when she stormed out?" Jeffrey tried to make his case, hoping to prevent the breakup.

Otherwise, with Everett in the mix, it was like having a burglar in the front yard and a fire in the back, not knowing which disaster to tackle first.

"She was furious when she left; I was worried something might happen to her."

"That's my point! You're worried

about her, which means you do have feelings!" Jeffrey clapped his hands, trying to reason with him,

"If it was like you said, you should've just let her be. That way, if anything happened, it wouldn't be on you, but her!"

Karen frowned at this.

"Jeffrey, why are you butting in? If you can't help, go home!"

"I'm just trying to help our big bro here think it through! You and Dorothy are women; how would you know what us men are thinking?"

Kenneth bowed his head, seemingly deep in thought, silent.

Karen suddenly said, "Oh, Dorothy, is Everett coming to pick you up later?"

Chapter 1052

Suddenly, the name Everett came up, and Dorothy froze for a moment. Karen, ever the oblivious one, didn't notice anything amiss, but Kenneth, with his sharp senses, detected something off in Dorothy's reaction. Yet, he didn't say anything. After all, he wasn't privy to the details. Perhaps it was just a simple quarrel.

"Everett's got his hands full! His mom just passed away, and the company needs him," Jeffrey quickly jumped in to defend his brother, wary of Kenneth seeing an opportunity to make a move. But Kenneth, clever as he was, picked up on the key information.

Amanda passed away? No wonder...

Dorothy's pallor earlier and her reaction now made sense. If he wasn't wrong, this must be the reason for their upset.

"Ah, right, he's too busy to pick me up. I'll just catch a cab back home later; you guys don't need to worry about me."

Karen nodded, "You didn't argue with Everett over his mom's passing, did you?"

Dorothy quickly laughed it off, "Of course not! How could I add to his troubles at a time like this?"

"That's good! And hey, if Everett ever gives you a hard time, you let me know." After Karen spoke, she realized that her cousin was also present. Maybe... it wasn't quite appropriate to discuss this matter in front of him.

Kenneth sensed the atmosphere in the room grow tense and offered a wry smile, "You all don't need to overthink or worry about me. How long have I been courting Dorothy? I'm well aware of her situation with Everett."

The others fell silent, unsure of how to continue the conversation. Only Kenneth sighed to himself, "I stand no chance against Everett unless he steps back himself. But I've tried enough times to know it won't happen."

"Did he really say that?"

"Yes!" Jeffrey's voice suddenly pitched higher, his phone nearly flying out of his hand, "Kenneth said, unless you step back voluntarily."

And now, Everett was indeed...

"Find a way to keep him from breaking up with that Eleanor."

"Man, you're putting me in a tough spot," Jeffrey lamented, on the verge of tears. "Kenneth and I barely talk, let alone him listening to me knowing I'm on your side."

Back in the hospital room, Jeffrey had already given Karen several warning glances. But now, Everett could only rely on him.

"Didn't you say Eleanor herself admitted she likes Kenneth?"

"Yeah! She even ran out crying that day!"

"Then make Eleanor find a way to cling to Kenneth." Whether it's guilt-tripping, making a scene, or whatever it takes, they just can't break up! As long as Kenneth has a girlfriend, he'll stay put.

Everett simply didn't have the energy to compete with Kenneth anymore, not with Quincy already taking up all his attention.

"Ah? But I'm even less acquainted with Eleanor!" Jeffrey had only met her a few times...

"I'm asking you to solve this problem, not question me."

"This is your task now! Today Quincy already sensed discord between me and Dorothy, she's made several attempts." Everett paused for a moment, his voice deepening, need this resolved quickly, to keep Dorothy out of this mess."

He feared that one day, he might end up like his father, watching the love of his life slip away outside an emergency room.

Chapter 1053

Everett felt a pang of guilt, recognizing his own failures as a son. The moment he received the news of his mother's passing, his mind raced not to her, but to Dorothy. He couldn't bear the thought of losing her too.

Everett had developed a phobia of emergency rooms, having seen his mother wheeled into them countless times. Now, it was Dorothy's turn, and the thought was unbearable.

In his desperation, Everett even considered the unthinkable-if it meant keeping Dorothy alive, he'd let her be with Kenneth. At least, if she was alive, he could catch glimpses of her from afar, and Abigail and Langston would still have their mother.

"Man, I'll do everything I can to help you out, Everett. You've put so much of your heart into this. If there's any justice up there, it's time it showed its face. You can't be the only one paying the price for being genuine," Jeffrey said, his voice heavy with concern. He hated seeing his buddy in pain.

Life with Dorothy seemed to be an endless series of hurdles, just because of their different backgrounds. Why did being together have to be so difficult?

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After being discharged from the hospital, Dorothy quickly sorted out her work projects. Knowing Everett was overwhelmed with his mother's passing, she didn't want to add to his worries.

Once she wrapped up her tasks, Dorothy checked Everett's company account online, which showed he was still active. He had promised the kids he'd be home after wrapping up work for the day, and Dorothy knew he wouldn't break that promise.

The wait for Everett's return seemed endless, prompting Dorothy to start cleaning up their Bay Residence to make the place more comfortable for him, knowing his preference for cleanliness.

Midway through her chores, Dorothy's phone rang. It was Karen on the other end. Dorothy braced herself, hoping it wasn't bad news about Kenneth.

"Karen, what's up?" Dorothy asked, trying to sound calm.

"Oh, nothing much," Karen replied with a laugh. "I was just wondering about you and Everett."

"Us?"

"Yeah," Karen sighed. "You know, at the hospital today, you might have thought you were fooling everyone but my brother and I could see right through you. Jeffrey probably did too, and who knows, maybe Everett has already talked to him about it."

Dorothy had thought she was doing a good job hiding her feelings.

"What's going on? Did you and Everett have a fight because of his mother's passing?"

"No fights! Why would we fight?" Dorothy replied, trying to sound convincing.

"Then what's wrong? Don't tell me it's nothing," Karen pressed, her voice laced with frustration.

"What's the use of hiding? You don't have to tell the whole world, but you can't keep things from me."

Dorothy felt a mix of emotions. She was touched by Karen's concern but struggled with her relationship with Everett.

After a brief silence, Dorothy softly

said, "I just think Everett's upset about his mother's death. I won't

take to heart whatever he said. It's just... it's hard not to feel a bit sad."

"What did he say?"

"Nothing much, just that I shouldn't get involved with the arrangements for his mother's funeral."

Karen's tone turned sharp. "His mom was the one who messed up first. Whether you choose to forgive or pursue it, isn't that your right? Why should you be the one walking on eggshells?"

Chapter 1054

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"No, seriously, nothing like that! Everett wasn't giving me the cold shoulder," Dorothy hurried to clear the air for Everett. "He's just been in a funk lately, thinks me and his mom's relationship was... well, troubled and that I shouldn't have shown up."

"What do you mean you shouldn't have shown up?! Back in medieval times, even the accusers could witness an execution!" Karen was quick to jump to her defense.

Dorothy understood where she was coming from, but some things, while they make sense in theory, just don't apply in reality. You can't just pick fights right after Everett's mom passed away, can you? Even if you're right, some actions just aren't right.

"Dorothy, you're too soft, I'm worried you'll get pushed around!"

"Who's going to push me around when I'm with Everett?" Dorothy laughed. "He'd never want to hurt me, he's just been feeling down. Empathy, you know. I was really down too, at one point..."

"That was because Bella was murdered! And it was Everett's mom who was behind it!"

Seeing Dorothy fall silent, Karen quickly apologized, "I'm sorry! I just can't seem to hold my tongue, I shouldn't have brought it up..."

"It's okay, it's all in the past." She had decided to start over, to let go of those troubles, and had made peace with herself.

"Dorothy, just remember, you've always got me! No matter what happens, I'm on your side, even if you and Jeffrey end up on opposite sides, I'd choose you without a second thought."

Dorothy felt a lump in her throat. "You just have to make me cry, don't you?"

Karen giggled, "I'm just worried you'll bottle everything up! You used to do that a lot."

She was never one to vent, always keeping things to herself. It always took Karen pressing her for Dorothy to finally open up. She was always worried about being a burden, always thinking she had to shoulder everything on her own.

"Not anymore, I've got you and Everett, I'm content. I won't look at the world so pessimistically anymore." After all, there were still so many people who loved her.

Talking to Karen seemed to lift the gloom that had taken hold of Dorothy. Even though she knew she had to be understanding towards Everett, it was hard not to feel upset. But after talking with Karen, it was like the clouds had parted!

Dorothy busied herself with some chores before checking on the company's software. Noticing Everett's account was offline indicated it was getting dark

outside... Everett must be covel.net

home soon?

A smile couldn't help but spread across Dorothy's face.

Abigail and Langston were the first to arrive home, their chatter instantly filling the house with a lively warmth.

"Mommy! Is daddy not home yet?"

Abigail rushed over, always the first to hug Dorothy.

"Not yet, but he should be soon! You

On Your brother should get s

on your homework, he might rent

back before you're done."

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"Yay! I'll get to it then." She skipped off to her room.

Dorothy looked up to find Langston watching her.

"Langston?"

"Mommy, what's going on with you and dad?"

"...Nothing's going on."

"Mommy, I don't want to live separately from you or dad anymore."

Langston's calm statement hit Dorothy like a punch to the heart. It hurt!

"I'm sorry, Langston... It won't happen again, mommy and daddy will always be with you!"

Chapter 1055

At that moment, guilt completely engulfed Dorothy's heart.

She had been too stubborn in the past, fixated on the idea that she must clear her mother's name, without giving much thought to anything else.

As Abigail and Langston grew older and wiser by the day, their understanding of what home meant became increasingly clear.

Was Everett the only one with regrets in his heart?

Dorothy was the one who should feel the most regret! Her children should have been by her side, enjoying a life with their mother. Yet, because she was busy collecting evidence and hiding their whereabouts, she had left Langston abroad and entrusted Abigail to Karen.

Aside from giving birth to them, she had done too little for her children.

Even after Everett took over their care, he had spent more time with them than she had.

Watching Abigail and Langston return to their rooms, Dorothy remained lost in her thoughts, sitting alone on the couch for a long time...

Until she suddenly remembered that Everett had promised to come home today.

That was what Abigail and Langston were most looking forward to.

But Dorothy waited and waited, and there was still no sign of Everett returning.

Seeing that it was nearly bedtime for the kids, she couldn't wait any longer and decided to give Everett a call.

The first call went unanswered.

A bad feeling started to form in her heart, prompting her to call a second time.

Thankfully, Everett picked up this time.

"What's up?"

His voice was cold, just like how he talked to others at work.

Dorothy wasn't used to it, but she understood.

What good mood could Everett possibly be in at this time?

"You... promised Abigail and Langston that you'd come home today. They're waiting for you."

After a pause, Everett replied, "Got held up with work at the office, I'll be back soon."

"Okay."

Hanging up the phone, Dorothy felt her heart sink.

She knew Everett was lying.

His company account had been offline for quite a while, indicating he wasn't at the office! So, why did he say he was delayed because of work? Dorothy slightly frowned.

"Maybe he had a meeting outside, that must be it."

After all, work wasn't something that could only be done in the office.

Dorothy silently reminded herself

this?

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Whatever he did, he had his reasons, and he wouldn't hurt her. That was enough.

Finally, half an hour later.

Everett's car pulled up at the Bay Residence.

Abigail and Langston rushed to the living room, ready to welcome their dad home.

As he opened the door, the two kids ran up to him!

"Dad!"

Abigail had already embraced him tightly before he could even put down his car keys.

Langston, usually so composed, also looked at him with a big smile.

"Dad, if you hadn't come back, I would have fallen asleep."

Everett lifted his daughter into his arms, his gaze falling on Dorothy.

She walked over with a gentle smile, "Let me take your coat."

"Uh-huh."

Everett let her help him out of his  
suit jacket and then put on slippers  
to play with the kids.

The heavy weight in Dorothy's heart finally lifted, listening to the chatter of Abigail and Langston,  
and to Everett's deep, yet warm voice. This was what home felt like.

She took the coat, intending to take it for cleaning.

But after only a few steps...

Dorothy sensed something was off.

She brought the coat closer to her nose for a sniff.

It was the scent of perfume.

Quincy's perfume!

At least, she had never smelled this scent on anyone else.

Chapter 1056

So...

After Everett's account was removed from the company, did he go to see Quincy?

Dorothy's mind was flooded with an array of unsettling thoughts, which she quickly dismissed.

"He must have visited Quincy because of my illness, seeking treatment for me."

Otherwise, if Everett wanted to meet Quincy, he would have done so openly. Why the need to deceive?

Or maybe...

It was just a brief encounter, possibly Quincy reaching out to him first, and then Everett had to rush off for work matters.

In that case, Everett hadn't lied.

It was all in her head.

Taking a deep breath, Dorothy pushed those thoughts away, telling herself to stop overthinking.

In the children's room, Langston bombarded his dad with all the tech and internet questions he had accumulated over time.

Everett fixed his computer and arranged for Kevin to come over the next day with an upgraded version.

Abigail, with nothing to ask, clung to her dad like a koala, refusing to let go.



"Daddy, are you coming back tomorrow?"

Everett stroked his daughter's hair. "Daddy has to work hard. Only then can I afford to buy you sweets."

Abigail pouted. "I don't need sweets. Just come back home! Stop working."

"Really? No more sweets?"

"Mhm."

Everett knew what his daughter meant.

Despite their age, his kids were fully aware of the recent tension at home.

"Abigail and Langston, listen to me!

Nor what happens, you both

need to help daddy protect mommy.

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Make sure she doesn't get hurt! If she's sad, comfort her."

Langston, puzzled, said, "That sounds strange, Dad."

"Indeed. There's something I can't discuss directly with you. And don't mention this to mommy. It's about her health. If you want to keep her out of the hospital and prevent her condition from worsening, help me, okay?"

Abigail found the conversation a bit complex, but Langston quickly grasped the essence.

After a brief thought, he nodded. "Okay, I'll help! Just let me know what you need. As long as it's good for mommy, I'll do it."

"Good boy."

Everett trusted his son. Instead of keeping him in the dark, it was better to have an ally at home.

Who knows when it might come in handy?

Moreover...

Everett didn't want his children to feel anxious anymore.

They might not express it, but they understood everything very well.

After their dad left the room, Abigail whispered to her brother, "Langston, what did daddy mean by all that?"

"Well..." Langston pondered how to

simplify the conversation but

realized it might still be too

complicated for his sister. "It means he will always love mommy, and we shouldn't worry."

"Eh?" Abigail's eyes widened. "Is that what he meant?"

"Exactly," Langston raised an eyebrow. "You doubt me?"

Abigail shook her head immediately. "Nope! As long as you understand, that's enough. I'll follow your lead."

"That's how it should be."

Langston patted his sister's head. "I'm older, after all. You should listen to me."

Chapter 1057

Everett walked back into the living room, only to find Dorothy waiting for him on the couch.

She hadn't entered earlier, not wanting to interrupt his precious moments with the kids.

"Are they asleep?"

Dorothy smiled and stood up.

"Not yet, but soon," Everett's voice wasn't exactly warm, but it was less icy than before.

Dorothy followed him silently, her heart filled with quiet anticipation.

However, Everett broke the silence.

"I'll sleep in the guest room."

"I've been coming home late, I don't want to disturb your sleep."

He had made an excuse, at least sparing Dorothy some embarrassment.

But the message was the same: he wanted a separation.

Dorothy didn't necessarily want to share a bed for any particular reason; she just felt...

Like sleeping together meant their hearts were also together.

Separation would mean drifting into an emotional winter.

She had just reached a stable place with Everett, and she wasn't ready for them to grow cold.

"How could you disturb me? It's not a problem, I'm not busy with anything anyway." Dorothy stepped over her own pride to make her case.

If this had been in the past, she would have never uttered such words.

She would have overthought everything, worried that Everett might see her as too forward, and her pride wouldn't allow her to beg a man not to separate.

But now, Dorothy didn't care about any of that.

She would even cling to Everett's sleeve if it meant he would stay; she was willing to do anything.

"Aren't you busy with work?"

"Work stuff, I can handle it from the office, doesn't take up much time at home," Dorothy brushed off his question with a smile. "Everett, why don't you stay in the master bedroom? Please?" She reached out her hand, but Everett dodged it quickly.

"No."

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"I need some peace right now, we'll talk about this later."

With that, he turned toward the guest room.

Dorothy clenched her fist, trying to suppress the pride bubbling up inside her.

"Everett, wait!"

He stopped and turned, "What now?"

"Yes!" She rushed to his side. "Then

let me

you in the guest

I'm tired of the master bedroom

anyway."

"Didn't I say I needed peace? Can't you understand that?"

"I understand! Don't worry, I'll be as quiet as a mouse," Dorothy squinted her eyes and grinned.

"We'll just try it for one night. If... if you still find me bothersome, I'll go back to the master bedroom."

Everett was clearly taken aback by Dorothy's boldness.

This was beyond his expectations.

"You don't have to do this."

Truth be told, Dorothy's initiative had already started to sway him.

If it weren't for needing an antidote, why would he ever want Dorothy to humble herself like this?

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"Please, let's just try. One night won't mess up your sleep too much."

"If you don't say anything, I'll take it as a yes."

Dorothy rushed past him into the guest room.

Behind her, he rubbed his temples, finding himself on the verge of a laugh.

So, Dorothy could be this forward.

He was still adjusting to this new side of her.

But then his thoughts darkened at the mention of Quincy.

How long would it take to get the antidote from Quincy to ensure Dorothy's safety?

Chapter 1058

Everett, determined to maintain his composure, headed straight to the shower the moment he entered the guest room. He needed to cool down, both physically and mentally, fearing he might lose his calm demeanor around Dorothy.

Dorothy, true to her word, remained absolutely silent. She didn't make a sound, going so far as to mute her phone early on. She knew Everett wanted peace and quiet, and she was determined to give it to him to avoid giving him any reason to send her out of the room.

After his shower, Everett, while drying his hair, naturally glanced at the lump under the bed covers. Was she asleep? He paused, then walked over to check. Dorothy appeared to be sleeping, and that was a relief for him. It meant he didn't have to keep up the act any longer.

After changing into his pajamas, Everett had just settled into bed when he felt a small hand tentatively touch him. In the dimly lit room, he could almost feel Dorothy's gaze on him. She didn't say a word, just placed a hand on his waist, not daring to come any closer.

What Dorothy didn't realize was how difficult this was for Everett, who had been abstaining for a while. He didn't want to miss out on his "exercise," not even for a day. But for now, he had to resist.

"Stop," he said coldly, making Dorothy quickly retract her hand. She wanted to apologize but remembered his desire for silence and swallowed her words. Everett, facing away from her, clenched his jaw, trying to distract himself. He thought about maybe taking another cold shower or dealing with things himself in the bathroom.

But Dorothy just wouldn't sleep. Without even turning around, Everett knew she was awake and watching him. Eventually, he couldn't take it anymore.

"Can't you just sleep?" he blurted out.

Dorothy, startled, responded, "I didn't make a sound. Am I still bothering you?"

Silence.

"Alright, I'll sleep now," she said hurriedly, unsure if he was annoyed since she couldn't see his expression, and promptly closed her eyes. But sleep was far from her. Her eyes were shut, but her ears were keenly tuned to Everett's increasingly heavy breathing, which indicated discomfort like he was unwell.

Carefully, Dorothy reached out to touch Everett. His skin felt warm.

"Everett... are you running a fever?"

"Just sleep," he replied.

Dorothy

me

ated, "You're not well! Let

doctor. With all the

stress, you can't afford to be sick

t belongs to snowne

No sooner had she finished speaking than Everett turned to face her directly.

"I told you to be quiet. Speak again, and you're out."

"I won't say anything," Dorothy quickly zipped her lips.

Then Everett's breathing grew heavier He tried to get out of bed, and Dorothy immediately followed.

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"Should I call a doctor?" she asked.

"Don't talk," he replied.

"You're clearly pushing yourself!

Stop pretending you're fine.

trying to

Everett suddenly turned to look at her.

"Help me?"

"Yes! How could I possibly harm you? You seem like you're running a fever."

Abruptly, he grabbed her wrist. "Do you even know what I want?"

Chapter 1059

Dorothy blinked, slowly catching on to what Everett was getting at. Yet, she got it, but also didn't. She was right there, why the need for restraint? It wasn't their first time, why was Everett suddenly playing coy?

"Got it now."

"Yeah."

Releasing her wrist with a huff, Everett grumbled, "Now that you know, just sleep tight and behave."

This turn of events wasn't quite what Dorothy had envisioned. They settled back into bed, but this time Dorothy didn't dare to make even a slight move, curling up like a scared little mouse under the covers. Everett was waiting for her to fall asleep, but little did he know, Dorothy was doing the same, waiting for him to drift off! As time ticked by, it was clear they were both wide awake.

Everett felt a headache coming on from holding back, deciding to get up and head to the master bedroom for a shower, to put some distance between them. But as he made to move, Dorothy grabbed him. "Everett, don't go."

"I've got something to take care of."

"Then I'll come with you."

Dorothy was determined to stick by him. Before, pride and the need to save face kept her from being too clingy or sweet, but tonight, she let all that go, realizing there was no point in holding back. Why hide anything from Everett? Speak her mind, tell him anything and everything.

"Dorothy, why are you-"

"All clingy all of a sudden? Is that it?"

Everett was about to lose his temper when he was met with Dorothy's smiling face, instantly dousing his anger.

"Everett, I'll try to be more affectionate, just give me some time," Dorothy said, snuggling onto his lap, "Whatever you want, I'll learn. I just want to make you happy."

Everett knew he should be touched by her words, but all he could think about was not moving an inch. Especially with Dorothy lying on his lap, making it impossible for him to leave.

"If you want me, then have me," Dorothy blushed, "I'm all yours, willingly."

"I..." Everett started to say he didn't want to, but his voice was so hoarse it barely sounded like him.

Dorothy reached out her hand, not quite sure where to touch, just fumbling around.

"I want you, to want me."

"Move aside."

"I won't. I belong right here," Dorothy declared with resolve, "Everett, I don't care what you're thinking or why you're keeping your distance. It doesn't matter. I'm yours, and you're mine, and nobody can take you away from me."

She was determined to protect their family at all costs. For herself and for their kids.

Everett pursed his lips, his headache intensifying.

"Move aside."

"I won't." Dorothy pouted, "Why are you holding back?"

She couldn't understand! It wasn't like seeing Quincy made her forbid Everett from being intimate, right?

"Because I don't want to. It's not about holding back."

"You don't want to, yet why are you...?" Dorothy boldly prodded h

clearly skeptical, "Everett, you hing

you'd never lie to me."

Everett couldn't take it anymore. With a swift motion, he scooped Dorothy into his arms.

"Do you even realize what you're doing?"

"I do." Dorothy smiled, "I'm fighting for my family."

She wouldn't let anyone break them

apart. Best Quincy or Jonathan,

Dorothy was prepared to do

everything in her power to keep her

family together.

Everett didn't want to hear another word, turning his head to capture her lips in a decisive kiss.

Chapter 1060

Between every clash of lips, Everett felt as if he had finally come to life. Dorothy was also nervous, her hand gripping his pajama top as she looked up to meet his kiss, a flush of modesty coloring her cheeks. But when the kiss ended, he made no move to go further.

Everett suddenly pulled away, standing up on the floor, "Enough."

"Everett?"

"My mother just passed away a few days ago, I can't do this with you."

Dorothy's lips quivered, her eyes cast down, "I'm sorry, I'll just go sleep in the master bedroom then."

She hadn't thought it all through. She just wanted to be by his side.

As Dorothy slowly rose and walked out of the guest room, closing the door behind her, Everett suddenly called out, "Dorothy."

"Yes?" She looked up, hope flickering in her eyes. She thought Everett would ask her to stay. But his next words extinguished the light in Dorothy's eyes completely.

"I can't keep going on like this with you."

"I was too obsessed before, insisting on having you, and that led us into all this trouble. Your mother passed away, and my mother too... Dorothy, I can't get past these things and be with you without any reservations."

Dorothy opened her mouth, her voice hoarse, "I've already told you about my mother's situation! I've let it go."

"But my mom is gone."

"We'll always have to carry these burdens forward! I'm tired."

Dorothy panicked. She had said these words to Everett countless times, but while he might have been angry, he had never truly let go and accepted them. But now, they were coming from his mouth. How could Dorothy not be scared?

She walked back, grabbing Everett's hand, "Can't we just turn the page on this? Let all that be in the past! You, me, the kids, we can still have a good life together."

"No."

Everett stepped back, "Everyone

advised you to drop the lawsuit, to give up, but you refused. I just wanted to indulge you, to make you happy without truly understanding the pain of losing your mother. But now, I've felt it."

"Indeed, I can't let it go."

Dorothy stubbornly approached him, shaking her head, "You can't just say these things! Everett, we've come so far, Abigail and Langston can't go through this turmoil again! And me, I can't lose you."

She had been open for so long, so long that she felt it was too much, but now she was ready to fully embrace Everett! Her heart, whole and complete, was his!

"Abigail and Langston, whether they're with you or me, it doesn't matter, you... consider me as having let you down."

Everett's words were final, leaving

no room for Dorothy. It was more of

a reminder to himself that he couldn't leave any room for doubt. Could he really wait for Dorothy's condition to worsen, for her to be hospitalized, before regretting all this? The more precious that kiss had felt, the more he feared losing her forever.

"I don't believe it."

Dorothy was silent for a long while, then suddenly spoke, "Everett, something must have happened. Tell me! I don't believe you'd just suddenly... want to break up with me." After everything they'd been through, why give up now?

"Suddenly?" Everett looked at her, "Because my mother also passed away suddenly. It's only after she left that I realized how much stands between us."