

## Midnight 1061

### Chapter 1061

"But I don't believe you can just let go."

After his mother passed away, he was heartbroken and downcast, wanting to vent the sadness within. Dorothy could understand all that, but she couldn't grasp how Everett could claim he was suddenly over it, ready to let go of their relationship. It just didn't sit right with her.

Over a decade together wasn't something you could just drop like a hot potato.

"I need some space," Everett admitted, knowing full well that simply stating he was over it wouldn't convince Dorothy.

"So, all this time, when you said you needed space, you were actually figuring out how to let go of me, of us?"

Dorothy felt her heart being squeezed at the thought!

She had believed... that Everett was trying to cool off and then return to their family life.

"I won't let you do this! Everett, you've spoiled me so much, who else would ever treat me like you do if you were gone?"

In this world, she was convinced there would never be another who could fill his shoes!

Everett looked at Dorothy, wanting to mention Kenneth, but he stopped himself before the words could escape. He feared Dorothy might do something rash in a moment of desperation... "Everett, please, give me another chance."

"You've done nothing wrong; you don't need a 'chance' from me."

"But you're leaving!" Dorothy's eyes welled up, though she fought back the tears, "You want to let go of our relationship, and it terrifies me."

She was willing to admit to anything, apologize for anything, whatever it took!

Everett clenched his fists, holding back the urge to embrace her. He had to act fast, to ensure Dorothy's safety above all else.

"Dorothy, remember? I was always afraid of you leaving, you were always so decisive."

"It was always you taking the time to think about us. Now, I need to do the same."

Everett took a deep breath, "This will be my last night at Bay Residence until I've figured things out. I won't come back."

"Everett..."

"And don't let the kids call me. You didn't use them to hold on to me when you left."

Dorothy wanted to explain she

hadn't intentionally had Abigail call him, but Everett's words made it

clear he had made up his mind. Any explanation seemed pointless now.

Though Kenneth's leg wasn't amputated, it was nearly as useless. The doctors said that even with aggressive rehabilitation, he might manage a few steps at best, and with a limp. In the hospital, everyone kept the severity from him, but Kenneth knew his leg was beyond saving.

After calming down for a few days, Eleanor showed up at the hospital. She had been so upset by Karen's words the last time, she had cried for days. But now, she had come to terms with it all.

Seeing her, Kenneth smiled, showing no resentment.

"Sit."

Eleanor nodded and took a seat beside him, "I'm sorry I haven't visited..."

"There's nothing to apologize for. They told me how my mom and sister gave you a hard time in the ER. If anyone should be saying sorry, it's me." With Kenneth's polite dismissal, Eleanor's heart fluttered with unease.

"I've thought about it, and it's really my fault. We argued, and I just had to storm out, leading to... your condition."

"Who could've seen it coming? You couldn't have known."

"Kenneth." Eleanor spoke softly, "No matter what happens, I'll take care of you for the rest of my life."

Chapter 1062

Eleanor always thought her heart belonged to someone else.

Being with Kenneth was comfortable, convenient. They both had someone else in mind, and that arrangement seemed to work just fine.

But people change, especially when they spend every day together.

Eleanor found herself growing accustomed to Kenneth's presence. He was there when she got home from work, ready to hit the grocery store or cook dinner together. At night, they fell asleep in each other's

arms.

This newfound closeness turned what was once an advantage of their relationship into a thorn in her side. The more she fell for Kenneth, the more it hurt knowing he was thinking of someone else. Someone named Dorothy.

Eleanor felt like Kenneth looked through her, hoping to see a face that wasn't hers.

Jealousy turned into anger.

Lying in his hospital bed, Kenneth offered a weak smile. "I've done a lot of thinking while you were away."

"Thinking of me?"

"Sort of," he nodded. "I've been thinking... I shouldn't hold you back anymore."

"We should break up," Kenneth said calmly, without the emotional turmoil that Eleanor felt. "You were right during our fight. You said I treated you as a stand-in, and that's just cruel. You said I shouldn't be so selfish."

"Kenneth, I was just-"

"Let me finish!" he insisted. "I can't get over Dorothy, even after all this time, even though she's happily married now, with a loving husband and healthy kids. I can't move past it."

Kenneth realized that by holding onto Eleanor, he was just wasting her time and youth, with no real benefit to either of them.

"She'll never be with you!"

"I know, I've always known."

Kenneth wasn't naive. He knew Dorothy had never really considered him, no matter how hot and cold she seemed with Everett. Her heart was always with someone else.

Now, with no obstacles in their way, Kenneth's chances were even slimmer.

If only he could convince himself to give up hope.

"Why keep doing this?" Eleanor stood up, frustration in her voice. "Kenneth, do you realize what you're doing? How old are you now?!" Kenneth gave a bitter smile. "I know."

"If you don't settle down, have kids, you might miss your chance forever! Your parents only have you. Don't you think about them?"

"... But no matter who I'm with, I can't

fully commit. You know this. The next person will too. I don't want to be a heartbreaker, to be called unfaithful."

Kenneth had agreed to be with Eleanor initially, just to put Dorothy at ease.

Now that she was happy with Everett, he no longer needed to put on a show.

"No, Kenneth, I won't accept a breakup. I want to be with you." "Eleanor, try to calm down."

"How can I calm down?" Tears streamed down Eleanor's face. "If you didn't have any feelings for me why did you chase after me? Your legs, I'm responsible for them. For that alone, I need to take care of you."

"It's not necessary. My job doesn't require legs. I guess... this is it for me."

Kenneth had given up on himself.

Without his love, nothing else mattered.

Chapter 1063

Eleanor finally understood.

It wasn't about whether she wanted to take responsibility or not. It was that... she didn't even qualify to do so.

They didn't need her at all!

"Kenneth, I don't know whether to call you passionate or heartless. Are you really this hung up on her? Even though she's been sharing her bed with another man and has kids with someone else, you're willing to spend your life waiting?"

Eleanor just couldn't wrap her head around it.

She had loved her ex too, thought she'd never love anyone else. But she moved on, found a new boyfriend, and gradually let go.

But why was Kenneth so adamant about Dorothy?

"I'm not waiting for her. I'm waiting for my heart to be ready to accept someone else."

"...And what if you never get over her?"

"Then I guess fate's been too cruel to me," Kenneth said with a smile. "I'll just have to stay single."

Otherwise, any girl who ends up with me is just getting a raw deal.

Eleanor wanted to say more, but it felt pointless to open her mouth.

Could she change Kenneth?

Clearly not.

All the setbacks and hurt hadn't made him give up on Dorothy, so what was she in comparison?

Eleanor fell silent for a while, then chuckled, "Alright, then I won't keep you from waiting for her. I hope you do end up with Dorothy one day." Kenneth looked at her, actually nodding in agreement.

"Yeah, I hope so too."

Everett finally left.

Dorothy had thought maybe their relationship could improve, but it only got worse.

She regretted insisting on living with Everett. If... if she hadn't insisted on sharing the spare bedroom, maybe Everett could've gone back to Bay Residence?

She wouldn't have had to hear those words.

Abigail and Langston had gone to work, leaving Dorothy alone on the couch.

Her mind was a mess...

Everett's words kept repeating over and over.

Until her phone rang, bringing her back to reality.

Slowly, she picked it up. It was Karen calling.

Dorothy took a deep breath before answering, "Karen."

"My brother broke up with that Eleanor!" Karen got straight to the point.

"...She dumped Kenneth?"

"No, my brother was the one who wanted to break up," Karen sighed. "What's he playing at? Initially,

didn't like Eleanor. I thought she was

too much, but now, I kind of feel sorry for her!"

Dorothy should have been joining Karen in advising Kenneth.

But she was in no mood for it.

Her own life was in shambles. How could she possibly advise someone else?

"Oh, if they broke up, they broke up. We should respect Kenneth's decision."

"I think my brother's breakup is because of you! At least, that's how my aunt sees it," Karen sounded

helpless. "If you get any strange

calls, from numbers you don't.net

recognize, just hang up. Don't mind what they say!"

"Okay."

After Dorothy responded, Karen realized something was off.

"What's wrong? You seem upset."

"It's nothing. Maybe I just didn't sleep well last night."

"Liar!" Karen saw right through

"What's really going on? Tell me

Otherwise,

worrying belongs to

"It's nothing, really."

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"Fine, I'm coming over to Bay Residence right now!"

Hearing this, Dorothy quickly said, "I... Everett and I are having some issues."

Chapter 1064

"Is it because of Quincy?"

Karen went straight for the jugular.

She wasn't clueless, just straightforward. Lately, the only new addition to Everett's life seemed to be this woman! And even Jeffrey had mentioned her.

"It's not about her."

Dorothy preferred to keep her personal issues under wraps, not keen on airing her dirty laundry for the world to critique. She still hoped to find a way to mend things with Everett.

If their argument became public knowledge...

It might make reconciliation harder, with Everett too proud to make amends.

"Then what's it about? His mom passing away?"

"Yeah, he's just been in a bad mood, that's all. Give it some time, and he'll be fine. You don't need to worry about it."

"If I don't look after you, who will?" Karen's voice rose in pitch. "Dorothy, you're usually so vigilant! How come you become so naive when it comes to love? Men, especially someone like Everett, they don't just get upset for no reason! I think his mom's death is just an excuse, and it's actually all because of Quincy."

Karen had more experience in love than Dorothy did, after all.

Dorothy had only ever been with Everett.

"Everett doesn't like Quincy."

"That doesn't stop Quincy from trying to get close to him! Maybe she's using the opportunity, with Everett's mom gone, to worm her way in and drive a wedge between you two." Karen grew more convinced as she spoke. "Wait and see, I'm going to grill Jeffrey later! I'll make sure he spills the beans!"

Dorothy quickly interjected, "No! Don't ask Jeffrey. I don't want Everett to think we're making a big deal out of a small fight."

If it weren't for Karen's probing, she wouldn't have mentioned it at all.

"And when were you planning to ask? Wait until Quincy steals your man?"

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"The Lopez family always wanted Quincy to marry Everett! Now with one gone, who knows what the other

Maybe Everett's just listening  
to his dad."

Dorothy hadn't considered this angle before.

She thought it was just Everett grieving his mother's passing, and that time might heal their issues.

But... Karen's words sowed seeds of doubt.

Everett's mother's death was indeed a catalyst, and Dorothy's absence gave Quincy an opportunity.

Especially since Dorothy had caught a whiff of Quincy's perfume on Everett.

The more she thought about it, the more anxious she became. "Karen, Everett's clothes..."

Dorothy stopped herself midway.

No.

Karen was too impulsive.

If she found out, there was bound to be a scene.

Dorothy didn't want to escalate things further. If possible, she'd rather

thend she hadn't notice.net

perfume or Quincy's presence.

As long as Everett came back.

"What about him?"

"Nothing." Dorothy cleared her

throat, speaking softly, "Karen, let et

me handle this. Please don't get involved. If I need you, I'll let you know."

"I just don't want to see you get hurt!"

"I know, but I trust Everett. He's not like that."

Quincy wasn't the first woman to come into Everett's life. There was Heather Garcia before her, and he hadn't fallen for her, either.

Chapter 1065

For over a decade, whenever Everett even hinted at giving up, there was always a line of women ready to step up to the plate. Dorothy believed that a single Quincy wasn't enough to shake the solid foundation she had built with Everett. If Quincy could so easily take her place, then... Well, Dorothy hadn't even let that thought cross her mind. She couldn't fathom what it would be like if Everett truly left her! "Alright, but you better tell me if something's up! Don't you dare keep it to yourself," Karen said, knowing all too well Dorothy's tendency to bottle things up. Suffering in silence was Dorothy's MO. "Okay."

After hanging up, Dorothy leaned on the armrest of her couch, replaying every moment she and Everett had shared. Each memory was a testament to how deeply he loved her. How could he possibly get tangled up with Quincy?

Once the call ended, Karen couldn't help but dwell on their conversation. Dorothy had made her promise not to confront Jeffrey directly, so she had to be a bit more covert in her approach. "You haven't been going to the office much lately."

Karen pushed open the door to the kids' room, finding Jeffrey cradling their daughter. Having a precious daughter had practically turned him into a stay-at-home dad!

"With the office being slow, why bother going in?" Jeffrey looked up at his wife, raising an eyebrow, "What's up?"

"Nothing much." Karen sat on the bed, giving him a sidelong glance, "Everett's mom passed away, he should be swamped, right?"

"Yeah, he was always busy, but now he's literally running off his feet."

"So busy he hasn't had time to return to Bay Residence."

At Karen's words, Jeffrey instantly turned to her. Something about that statement... didn't sit right.

"You've been talking to Dorothy?"

"Yeah, I wanted some parenting

advice, and we chatted a bit," Karen avoided his gaze, pretending to look elsewhere, "I felt like Dorothy was a bit off, thought maybe she and Everett had a fight."

Jeffrey smirked, leaning in, "What did she say?"

"She said they're fine, just that Everett's been too busy, that's all."

"Ha, those two, always playing the same game."

"Huh?" Karen perked up, sensing drama, "What do you mean?"

"Nothing, nothing." Jeffrey quickly shook his head, "Just saying, they're cut from the same cloth."

Even when facing significant issues, they'd claim everything was peachy. Everett was like that, and so was Dorothy.

"Are you keeping something from

me?" Karen narrowed her eyes, "Just so you know, if you dare lie to me, you'll have me to answer to! Dorothy is my best friend, and I won't let her get hurt! If Everett has done something to wrong her, and you know but don't tell me, citing some bro code, you better believe I'll consider divorce."

Jeffrey was inwardly shaken. But he had to keep his lips sealed for his buddy's sake. Everett had already sacrificed so much; he couldn't let things fall apart because of him.

"Does Quincy contact Everett privately?"

Karen figured if she was asking, she might as well get the whole picture.

Jeffrey shook his head quickly, "Don't know."

"Bull! How could you not know? Does Quincy like Everett or not?"

Chapter 1066

Jeff shook his head, his expression a mix of frustration and disbelief.

"Fine! If you're going to keep secrets from me, I might as well go back to my mom's house."

"Wait, no!" He quickly pulled Karen back, his voice edged with panic. "I'll tell you, okay? Quincy's got a thing for Everett. And Jonathan, he's hell-bent on getting her to join the Lopez family." Karen slapped her hands together, her eyes blazing. "I knew it! But what about Everett? He's not going to go for it, right?"

Jeff looked like he was on the verge of tears. "I honestly don't know. Maybe you should talk to Everett?"

"Talk? I'll talk! If he dares to let Dorothy down, I swear I'll find her someone better, someone who'll make Everett eat his heart out. Let Abigail and Langston call some other guy dad!" Jeff swallowed hard, feeling a knot in his stomach.

In his heart, he knew that when it came to playing mind games, Karen was in a league of her own.

Everett might be able to handle a little turbulence with Dorothy, but the thought of some other guy stepping in...

The mere idea of Abigail and Langston calling someone else 'Dad' was enough to drive Everett to madness.

Quincy was still in her lab when she got a call from Ronin. After their last fallout, she was surprised he'd even consider reaching out again.



Did he not learn his lesson?

"You want me to break the news to Everett again?"

"No, no!" Ronin's voice oozed with a sickening sweetness. "I'm calling because Jonathan just phoned me. He's set on having you marry into the Lopez family. Thinks you're the perfect fit-your background, your skills in medicine, everything matches up with the Lopez prestige."

Quincy was caught off guard. The Lopez family changing their tune was unexpected.

"Have you and Everett been getting along? Did he say something to his father?"

Quincy scoffed internally.

That man barely spared her a glance, let alone fostered any sort of closeness. It was all about the antidote for him.

"What else did he say?"

"Not much more, but from the sounds of it, ever since Everett's mom passed, things with Dorothy have been on the rocks. They were for marriage, and now? Not a

all

peep."

"Don't get too excited. It might all be an act."

Quincy wasn't naive. Her life was entangled in this mess, so caution was her best ally.

Everett's love for Dorothy had

weathered many storms. His mother's death would strain any relationship, but the idea of suddenly wanting to marry Quincy out of the blue was far-fetched.

"Doesn't matter if it's an act. Marry into the Lopez family, secure your position, and everything else will follow."

Quincy's response was icy. "What's it to you?"

"Come on..."

"Save it. I'm done helping the Caldwells."

She hung up, her mind racing, unable to settle back into her previous calm.

A gut feeling told her that the rift

between Everett and Dorothy was et 3rious than anyone knew,

hidden only by deliberate effort.

If there was a chance they could truly part ways...

Quincy took a deep breath and dialed Everett's number.

"Mr. Lopez, my father just called me. Said Jonathan... wants me to marry you again?"

There was a pause before Everett finally spoke.

"Yes."

"And this time, Mr. Lopez, do you agree?"

Chapter 1067

"I disagree, there's no need to test me."

Staring at the disconnected call, Quincy was somewhat baffled.

Yet, at the same time, she felt her suspicions were increasingly justified! The more Everett sulked and scowled, the more Quincy was convinced that something real was going wrong between him and Dorothy, not just a show put on for her benefit.

For now, all she had to do was sit back and watch.

If Dorothy became a lost cause, she'd need to make plans accordingly.

After Jonathan hung up the call with Ronin, he turned to look at his son, feeling more puzzled by the day.

"You... don't plan to marry Dorothy, you want to marry Quincy now?"

That call was made at Everett's behest, intended for his father to relay messages he couldn't say directly, playing the part perfectly.

"No, Dorothy is the only one I'll marry."

"Then why did you-" Jonathan frowned, "I said I don't care about your dealings with Dorothy. If you want to marry her, go ahead. But then you make me call, insisting on bringing Quincy into our family!" "I have my reasons."

Everett, feeling his point had been made, got up to leave.

Jonathan quickly stopped him. "Everett, what exactly is going on? At least give me a clue! Your mother's passed, and it's been hard on me. With all this guessing, I feel like I'm about to join her." "It's nothing. I just need to get something from Quincy."

"She's using Dorothy to threaten you, and you want to break free from that?"

Jonathan, after all, understood his son and the Caldwell family's way of handling things.

"Yeah."

Everett nodded in acknowledgment.

"Ah, well. You've always had your way of doing things, I won't say anymore, Jonathan patted his son's shoulder. "If you need me, just say the word. My only wish now... is that you don't hold a grudge against me and your mother over Dorothy."

Now that his wife was gone and couldn't make amends, it was up to Jonathan to do more.

"I have no right to hold a grudge. The one wronged isn't me."

As for whether Dorothy forgives or not, Everett never wanted to decide for her.

He left the house and as soon as he got into his car, Jeffrey called.

"Dude, don't you think you should consider another plan? I feel like... your plan might end up losing on all fronts."

Everett started the car engine, furrowing his brows, "Speak plainly."

"Look, you get the antidote for

Dorothy, she becomes normal again, but then because of some misunderstanding, she marries someone else. What then?

"I'm betting Dorothy won't."

"If Karen wasn't around, maybe. But Karen said if you mess with her sister, she'd set Dorothy up with new guy, let Abigail and Langston call another man dad!"

Everett's expression hardened, his gaze turning steely, "I think, you should take Karen on a trip abroad."

"Uh."

"All expenses paid by me."

Just hearing about it was unbearable for Everett. If this turned into reality, he couldn't imagine what he'd do.

Jeffrey sighed, "Chances are, Karen won't go."

Such an obvious attempt to remove her from the equation, she'd see right through it.

Sitting in the car, Everett was silent for a few seconds before speaking.

"Jeffrey, I'm not... as noble as I thought I was."

...

"I can't stand the thought of Dorothy in another man's arms, no matter who it is."

Chapter 1068

He had imagined it-Dorothy storming off and ending up with another man. At the time, Everett felt a pang of discomfort, but compared to that, Dorothy's life was far more important. But today, when Jeffrey brought it up, he seriously pictured the scene...

Dorothy standing next to another man, letting him wrap an arm around her waist, with Abigail and Langston on each side, even calling that man 'Dad'. It seemed... No matter who that man was, Everett would lose his mind.

"So, should we think of another plan?"

"Do you have one?"

"..." No.

They were completely on the back foot here. Especially since Quincy had Everett by the throat from the start! Dorothy's life was his Achilles' heel. If it were anyone else, even Everett himself, it wouldn't be this complicated.

"So, I just have to speed things up, make sure Dorothy doesn't have the chance or time to fall for someone else."

Jeffrey sighed, "All I can do is try to buy you time, keep Karen from getting too close to Dorothy! But... I can't even bring myself to tell you-Kenneth broke up with his girlfriend, all because of Dorothy." Honestly, he admired the lengths to which Kenneth would go. At least Everett had had Dorothy, even had kids with her, some fond memories to hold onto. But Kenneth? He had been pining away for years, without getting anything in return. Jeffrey, an outsider, could see Dorothy didn't feel that way about Kenneth, seeing him only as a friend, and he couldn't believe Kenneth didn't see it. Still, he waited! Hard to say if it was devotion or folly.

"Dorothy won't end up with him."

"Under normal circumstances, no. But women, they're unpredictable! Sometimes they're not so rational, might do something in a moment, something they can't even explain, on a whim."

Jeffrey had never really studied

women before; he didn't understand.

Since he started spending every day with Karen, his understanding of women, this mysterious being, had been constantly updated.

Everett rubbed his temples, feeling a headache coming on. "Jeffrey, I'm out of options."

It's not like he could save Dorothy by sacrificing thousands of lives for her to test treatments on. Even if he could, Dorothy wouldn't have that much time. When Everett was out of

ideas, Jeffrey was even more clueless.

"Isn't there anything that could threaten Quincy?"

"Her parents favored her brother since they were kids; Quincy has always had a rocky relationship with her family." If there was a way to use that, Everett would have thought of it already.

"Ah!"

"The only way is to make Quincy believe I don't care about Dorothy anymore, forcing her to seek other options."

"Other options?" Jeffrey realized, "You-you're not thinking of sacrificing yourself for Dorothy, are you?"

Everett lowered his lashes, "The only way to make Quincy confidently let go of Dorothy, her lifeline, is to replace her with me."

"... You want to force Quincy to poison you?"

"Yes."

Quincy had her concerns. She feared

that once Dorothy's poison was

cured, if Everett no longer took the

poison as leverage, she'd be

doomed. But if before that, she

could confirm Everett was poison and Dorothy's utility was diminished, then she'd surely discard that pawn. After all, an antidote wasn't easy to come by. She couldn't provide for two people, and Quincy didn't really want to take lives.

Chapter 1069

If Dorothy died, even if Everett didn't pursue justice, the investigation into her death would inevitably drag Quincy into the mess. She was using Dorothy's wellbeing to threaten Everett, aiming to live comfortably, not to end up behind bars.

"You... you really do value Dorothy more than your own life."

We're talking about poison here, the life-threatening kind. So, it's fair to say that if anything happened to Quincy before he received the final antidote-whether he died or lost his mind-Everett would be the one to pay the price! The risk hadn't disappeared; it had merely shifted onto Everett's shoulders.

"This is my only option."

"But if Dorothy finds out, she would never agree to this!"

Everett suddenly raised his voice, "She must never know. Absolutely not."

"Don't worry, buddy, I'm always on your side! Even though I think your decision is somewhat harsh on yourself, you've made your choice to go this far. I can't let it all fall apart on my watch."

When it came down to serious matters, Jeffrey knew what he had to do and what he needed to avoid.

"Yeah, I don't want Dorothy to find out about this." Everett closed his eyes, "I've said it before, my love for her is my own burden; she shouldn't have to carry any part of it."

He didn't want Dorothy to feel even the slightest bit of obligation or guilt.

"Whatever you need, just let me know. Even if it means crossing Karen, I've got to help you! If it wasn't for you helping me with that blood type evidence, my daughter might not have been born. I'll never forget what you've done for me."

No matter how much Jeffrey messed up, he always acknowledged the deeds Everett had done for him.

Everett never returned to Bay Residence. But Dorothy changed her mind. Since he didn't want to come back, she decided to visit him at the office instead. Even a glimpse from afar would suffice!

So now, every day, as soon as

Abigail and Langston went to

school, she'd quickly get ready and

head to

project office, making even

project team member Austin think she was exceptionally diligent,, putting everyone else to shame. But as the project deadline approached, what reason would Dorothy have to visit the office? She couldn't just say she was there under a contract to hang around; that would invite gossip.

As the workday neared its end, Dorothy was reluctant to leave. She checked the company software and saw Everett was in a meeting in

Conference Room One.

hadn't seen him at all today, so she was particularly eager to catch a glimpse of him.

Unable to resist her longing, she covertly attempted to access the meeting room, thinking she'd peek in and then leave! But the computer screen asked for a password, and Dorothy's attempt... was incorrect. Had Everett changed it? Dorothy, stubborn, tried again. She thought maybe she had remembered it wrong or hit the wrong key. But no matter how many times she tried, the password was incorrect.

Dorothy suddenly stood up from her chair, a bit unsteady... A wave of unease washed over her.

"Ms. Sanchez, what's wrong?"

Seeing Dorothy stagger out of her office, Austin quickly asked. After all, she had once vomited blood in the office!

"It's... it's nothing. I just need to step out."

Dorothy waved him off, managing a weak smile before heading to the elevator. Austin pursed his lips, watching her for a moment. Noticing Dorothy had gone to the floor with the CEO's office, he felt relieved.

She must be going to see Mr. Lopez.

Chapter 1070

As the elevator doors slid open at Everett's office level, Dorothy stepped out with a sense of urgency, only to spot Kevin emerging from his own office. "Ms. Sanchez?" Kevin called out, a hint of surprise in his voice.

"Yeah," Dorothy replied, trying to mask her anxiousness with a forced calmness. "Is Everett around?"

Kevin hesitated for a moment before nodding. "Yeah, he's in, but he's tied up in a meeting."

"How long do you reckon it'll last?"

"It's hard to say."

Dorothy pursed her lips, her determination not waning. "Then I'll wait for him here."

Kevin seemed a bit uneasy. "Mr. Lopez might be a while... Maybe you can tell me what you need, and I can pass the message?"

Dorothy caught on to something in his tone. She smiled slightly, "Everett told you not to let me in, didn't he?"

"No, not at all! Ms. Sanchez, you're reading too much into it. Why would Mr. Lopez say something like that?"

"Then go tell him I'm here to see him. I'll wait right outside."

"...He really is in a meeting!"

Dorothy met his gaze, firm and clear. "Everett has dropped countless meetings for me before, no matter how important they were. Why can't he do it now?"

There was a heavy silence before Kevin capitulated. "Okay. I'll let him know you're here."

Dorothy wasn't aiming to corner Kevin; after all, he had helped her out a lot in the past. Even if things were tense with Everett, she believed in not dragging others into their personal issues. That was always her principle.

"Alright." Kevin, realizing he couldn't dissuade Dorothy, turned back to the office.

He knocked and upon entering, Everett seemed to sense something, his gaze immediately locking onto Kevin.

"Is she here?" Everett asked before Kevin could even speak.

"Yeah," Kevin nodded. "She said she'll wait outside until your meeting is over. I tried talking her out of it, but she won't budge."

Left with no other option, Everett gestured dismissively. "Don't worry about it. I'll handle it after the meeting."

"Got it."

Kevin left the office, catching Dorothy's expectant gaze as he did. Without needing to exchange words, they understood each other's stance.

"Mr. Lopez will come out after his meeting," Kevin informed her.

Dorothy nodded her thanks. "Appreciate it, Kevin."

"It's no trouble. Just doing my job."

As Kevin walked towards the elevator, he couldn't help but glance back at Dorothy.

"Ms. Sanchez... Everett's been in a rough spot lately. Please, go easy on him."

Dorothy paused, absorbing his words. "Yeah, I know."

She had been mindful of the

emotional turmoil Everett was going through after his mother's passing, avoiding confrontations and trying to be understanding.

Everett needed his space, time to think, maybe even a break from their shared home at Bay Residence.

But that didn't mean he could just walk away from their relationship!

It took her a lot to open up to him, and she feared he might be the only one she could ever open up to in this lifetime.

"Have a good talk. Everett's got a lot on his plate too."

Kevin had been swamped with taking over most of the company's operations since Everett had been otherwise occupied, leaving him out of the loop on the specifics of their personal issues. Yet, he instinctively felt that whatever Everett was doing, it was for a reason, and ultimately, for Ms. Sanchez's best interest.

