

Midnight 1081

Chapter 1081

Everett glanced up at her, his handsome face betraying few emotions.

After a pause, he spoke, "So you're here to deliver the antidote?"

"Something like that."

"Alright, just hand it over." Everett said, reaching out to continue sorting through the papers on his desk.

Quincy frowned, seemingly puzzled by his calm demeanor.

This was not what she had expected.

"Anything else?"

Everett looked back at her when he noticed she hadn't moved.

"I get the feeling, Mr. Lopez, that you're not as desperate for Ms. Sanchez's antidote as you used to be." She said it with a smile too, trying to hide the panic inside.

At this point, Quincy naturally didn't want to lay all her cards on the table, losing her negotiating edge.

"Had the antidote been due, wouldn't you have contacted me?"

"Busy with work, can't keep track of the dates, but you remember, that's enough for me." Everett's gaze returned to the document in his hand, "Besides, you wouldn't let her die." Quincy frowned, "And what if I forgot the date?"

"Isn't this what you obsess over day and night?"

How could she forget?

Everett's indifference and his routine demeanor towards Quincy were unsettling.

From his words, it was apparent he didn't seem as concerned about Dorothy's antidote as before! He even expected Quincy to keep track of the timeline.

"But what if I forget just once, and Ms. Sanchez's life..."

"If she dies, you'll be the murderer."

Everett didn't even bother to look up as he said this.

This calmness was the last thing Quincy wanted to see.

"Are you trying to show me that you don't care about Ms. Sanchez anymore, hoping I'd just give her the finakantidote?" She steadied herself, making one last attempt to probe.

Since it had come to this, she might as well be direct.

Everett smirked slightly, "If you think I'm putting on a show, then why bother coming at all?"

After all, it was she who had come to Lopez Corporation, not Everett seeking her out.

"I've just realized, you won't let Dorothy die. As long as she don heed to waste my time

insisting on the final antiset

Quincy pressed her lips together, "Aren't you afraid I'll suddenly decide not to give it to her?"

"Quincy, if this is all you came for, then you might as well leave. I'm busy."

Everett clearly didn't want to waste more words, standing up to leave.

Quincy quickly stepped in front of him, "Wait!"

He frowned, clearly impatient.

"I don't have time for your probes. If you're here to deliver the antidote, just leave it and go."

"I came not only to deliver this round of antidote for Ms. Sanchez but there's something else!"

Everett visibly restrained himself, giving her a chance to continue.

"You once offered to take Ms. Sanchez's place, to bear the poison yourself. I'm here to accept that offer. If you agree to take my poison, and it takes effect within a month, I will give Ms. Sanchez the final antidote."

She had to wait until the poison took effect. That was Quincy's bottom line.

But after a few seconds of silence, instead of hearing Everett's agreement, she heard a low chuckle.

"No need for theatrics."

"?"

"Just make sure you deliver the antidote on time."

Quincy was stunned.

Was this his way of refusing?

Chapter 1082

"Anything else?"

Everett frowned, clearly on his last nerve. "I'm swamped, don't have time for this."

"You really don't care if Dorothy makes it or not?"

"Have I not cared? You didn't let her die, did you?"

Everett stopped looking at her, opened the door, and called out, "Kevin, take her away."

"Sure thing, Mr. Lopez." Kevin hurried over with a grin. "Quincy, this way, please."

Quincy clenched her fists.

No need for any more testing.

Everett truly didn't love Dorothy anymore, or at least, not as much as before.

If he had flat-out ignored the antidote, one might guess he was putting on an act, pretending.

If he had agreed to replace Dorothy straight away, it could mean it was all a play, that he still cared for Dorothy.

But Everett did neither!

He was indifferent, even treating it as if it was just another business matter.

He wasn't entirely neglecting Dorothy's wellbeing, but he wasn't as desperate for the final cure as before.

"Mr. Lopez! Dorothy is the mother of your children, don't you care at all? Her health is failing; she might not last a few years even with regular doses!" "That's your concern, not mine."

Everett's final look said it all. "If Dorothy dies, the cops will investigate her death, and you'll be the one they're after, not me."

Kevin chimed in just in time, "After you, Quincy."

Dorothy didn't even know how she managed to get back to Bay Residence.

She felt like a walking corpse.

Because she had never imagined a day when Everett would truly stop loving her, truly move on.

Through all their breakups and makeups, Dorothy now realized she had been too confident, knowing deep down Everett would always be waiting, always come back for her.

But now.

He was truly gone.

Abigail and Langston hadn't come home yet; in this vast house, she was all alone.

The laughter and joy of the past were gone.

The dream she thought was given by fate was finally being taken back.

Dorothy's heart ached so much she couldn't stand straight! She could only curl up, squatting on the floor.

Watching her tears fall one by one, hitting the ground, slowly pooling together...

Suddenly, she grabbed her phone and dialed Everett's number.

The first time, no answer.

The same on the second try.

On the third attempt, Everett's voice finally came through.

"What's up?"

"Everett..." As soon as Dorothy spoke, her emotions overflowed, "I'll do anything you say from now on, I won't be stubborn, I'll trust you completely, please come back, okay?" Everett paused before speaking, "Are you drunk?"

"I'm not, I'm sober." Dorothy's tears wouldn't stop falling, "Please, don't fall for Quincy, don't leave me behind! I can't do this alone, I just can't..."

"Everett, please come back. I don't care about my pride or our fights anymore, I just want you back, I want our family to be whole! Abigail and Langston need you, I... I need you too." She couldn't imagine life without Everett.

She couldn't bear to think what life would be like!

"Dorothy, what's going on?"

"I saw... Quincy went to see you today, you had Kevin bring her up."

Chapter 1083

"Where were you then?"

"Yeah."

Though she really wished she hadn't been there!

If she hadn't seen Quincy being picked up, she might have been able to fool herself into thinking that Everett's feelings could change, maybe he'd snap out of it in a few days.

But with someone new in the picture...

"Everett, are you seriously going to be with Quincy?"

"I've got things to do, I'm busy."

"Don't dodge my question! I just want to know, are you going to be with Quincy?" Dorothy wiped away a tear, trying hard to keep her emotions in check, "If you just need some space because of everything that's going on with your mom and you're unsure about us, I can wait! However long it takes! But if you've fallen for Quincy and you plan to be with her..."

"Dorothy, I told you, I'm busy. I don't have time for this."

The light in Dorothy's eyes dimmed.

She forced a smile, "Alright, go on with your busy schedule then."

"I"

"Goodbye."

Dorothy hung up first.

She desperately wanted to fight for their relationship, to be with Everett, but if his decision was to leave her behind...

Then she couldn't be a burden to him.

Perhaps... this was for the best.

Back at the office, Everett stared at the disconnected call, taken aback.

Then he dialed the intercom, summoning Kevin.

"Mr. Lopez, did you need me?"

"Did Quincy leave?"

Kevin nodded, "Yeah! She even tried to fish for info about whether you've been in touch with Ms. Sanchez privately, claiming it's only natural for Mr. Lopez to keep in communication with Ms. Sanchez since there are ongoing projects at the company."

Everett nodded.

That's exactly the vibe he wanted.

It couldn't seem too abrupt with Dorothy, that would be too suspicious! Anyone would think it was all an act, and instead of hooking Quincy, it would just put her on high alert.

This operation only had one shot, and it couldn't fail.

"Another thing, was Dorothy there when you went to pick up Quincy?"

Kevin grimaced, "Yes, I didn't expect it to be such a coincidence! If I had known, I would have gone down earlier."

Everett rubbed his temples.

Actually, having Dorothy show up could further convince Quincy that there was trouble between him and Dorothy, which was a good thing, but...

He knew Dorothy's character all too well; she probably wouldn't get any sleep tonight!

She was already in poor health.

Her voice on the phone just now was clearly tearful.

"Try to avoid her next time."

"Got it!"

"That'll be all, you can go."

Everett gestured dismissively. Hearing Dorothy cry earlier had unsettled him.

He wished he could return to Bay Residence right now, to stop her tears and hold her, but for now...

He was so close.

Just one more step.

Quincy had made a proposition for an exchange, and he hadn't agreed.

She wouldn't let it go easily.

The next act had to be played out perfectly, to make it look like she had succeeded naturally.

Unable to sit still, worried about Dorothy, Everett was about to head to Bay Residence when Jeffrey's call came through.

"Everett, Dorothy just called Karen, and I don't know what she said, but Karen rushed off immediately! Did something happen?" Everett frowned, "She saw me invite Quincy to the CEO's office."

Chapter 1084

"Ah? No wonder..."

"Is everything set with Kenneth?"

Everett had to strategize not just around Quincy but also keep an eye out for Kenneth, who was lurking behind, eyeing his position.

"Don't even start! After I spoke to them, Karen and Kenneth's mom were thrilled. They agreed right away, and Kenneth seemed okay with it too. But for some reason, Kenneth suddenly backed out."

"...Backed out?"

"Yeah! Refuses to go to therapy now." If Everett hadn't asked, Jeffrey would've been too embarrassed to bring it up, "I don't know if he sensed something."

"Did Karen head over to Bay Residence?"

"Not sure, I'll give her a call. She probably did."

Everett rubbed his temples, "Karen's not going to say anything good about me."

Jeffrey chuckled nervously. He knew that much!

Given how protective Karen was over Dorothy, if she found out Everett "cheated" with Quincy, she'd blow her top.

And just as they anticipated, when Dorothy called Karen in tears, Karen was fuming.

"Who's been messing with you? Don't cry, tell me, and I'll get back at them for you!"

Arriving at Bay Residence, Karen immediately hugged Dorothy. She rarely saw Dorothy this emotionally shattered. Even when troubled, she would usually hold it in! Something major must've happened to make her cry like this.

Dorothy didn't want to explain, didn't want to talk about her and Everett, she just wept.

Karen, putting on her thinking cap, quickly zeroed in on Everett.

"It's Everett, isn't it?"

Dorothy remained silent, but Karen clapped her hands, "I knew it must be him! Tell me, what happened, Dorothy?"

If it wasn't Everett upsetting Dorothy, then he would be the one comforting her, seeking revenge on her behalf. It wouldn't be Karen's place to support her best friend; Everett would be the one to react first. "We broke up..." Dorothy's eyes were swollen from crying, evoking pity, "He initiated it."

"Everett told you he wanted to break up?"

Dorothy nodded.

Karen immediately stood up, "You wait, I'm calling Jeffrey."

Dorothy quickly grabbed her, "No, don't! Karen, I just wanted someone to be with me for a while, not to confront anyone."

"But I need to know why, right? No offense, but my brother waited years for you, and you chose Everett. And now he's taking you for granted, even breaking up with you!"

Dorothy lowered her gaze, tears still hanging on her lashes.

"It's because of his mother..."

"Bullshit! His mother was the reason you lost your mom, not the other way around! Besides, that's all in the past now. Is he just finding out? His mom died from her illness, not because of you, Dorothy!" Why should Dorothy be blamed now?!

Dorothy held Karen back, not wanting her to confront anyone.

"Karen, who he wants to be with is his choice. If he doesn't love me anymore and wants to break up, I don't want to hold him back..."

Him and Quincy.

Dorothy couldn't bring herself to say the rest.

"What about the years he's wasted of yours, then?"

Chapter 1085

Karen always played by one rule: never let herself be shortchanged!

After all, if her best friend was involved, Karen automatically assumed she was in the right.

"Karen, love isn't something you can tally up like a grocery bill," Dorothy said, wiping away a tear and forcing a smile. "And I don't want to."

It was over. That was that.

If Quincy hadn't shown up in Everett's life, Dorothy would have held on a bit longer, even against his cold indifference. But now, there was someone else.

Everything had changed.

"Everett is breaking up with you just because of his mom? I swear, Quincy's got to be part of the reason."

Karen couldn't believe that the love Everett had shown Dorothy could be overshadowed by his mom's passing. It either meant his past affection was a facade, or there was more to the story. Dorothy didn't respond, neither confirming nor denying. Everett had never admitted to anything with Quincy, but all signs pointed that way.

"No, I've got to confront Jeffrey about this. If he can't give me a straight answer, I'm going straight to Everett."

Her friend was not going to be the one to lose out.

"Please, don't," Dorothy begged.

If Karen intervened, it would seem like Dorothy had sanctioned it. They had loved each other once, shared two kids, and were bound to cross paths again. Dorothy didn't want to seem desperate.

"You!" Karen was frustrated yet sympathetic.

Just when it seemed like all the storms had passed and they could finally be at peace, it all fell apart.

"Dorothy, are you really okay with letting Everett go?"

"What choice do I have?" Dorothy sighed. "By his account, I owe him. Every time I mentioned breaking up, I was decisive, never considering his feelings. So now, it's his turn."

"Doesn't he realize you were trying to protect his reputation? If you had made him take your side publicly against his mom, he'd be the one everyone hated! Dorothy, did you ever tell him that?" Dorothy shook her head. "I don't want his pity."

"Karen, I'm thinking of taking the kids and leaving Eldorria City, maybe even the country."

Dorothy wanted to escape to a place where Everett didn't exist, perhaps fooling herself into believing they never met again. With the legal matters settled, moving abroad seemed like a fresh start for her and the kids.

"But..."

Before, Karen would have immediately agreed and started packing. But now, she had her daughter and Jeffrey.

She couldn't just up and leave anymore.

"Karen, don't worry about me. I'll manage on my own," Dorothy assured her, patting her hand. "You stay in Eldorria City and be happy. Jeffrey is good to you. You two will be happy." "How can I not worry? Maybe my brother can-"

Chapter 1086

"Stop! Don't you dare tell your brother about this."

Karen looked at Dorothy for a long moment before sighing. "What's all this about, huh? You finally fall for Everett, and now he wants to break up with you! My brother has been waiting for you for years, and you haven't even given him a chance."

"...That's exactly why I can't lead Kenneth on."

"Everett managed to get with you because he waited long enough, right? My brother has waited just as long, and he wouldn't mind waiting a few more years. Honestly, you should give my brother a chance." Karen wasn't in a rush to find the next guy for her best friend; she was just in an awkward position.

On one hand, her lifelong friend; on the other, the brother who had always protected her.

If those two could end up together, well...

It would be a perfect match!

At least, Karen would be happy to see it.

"I'm not going to let anyone in, not anymore."

Dorothy's heart felt like a lake frozen solid.

Opening up once had taken all her strength.

"You can't spend the rest of your life alone!" Karen frowned. "You're still young. Don't be so pessimistic! Going abroad is fine, I support you, but take some time to heal, then start fresh! Don't give in to despair." She couldn't follow Dorothy abroad, which was already worrying enough, and now this.

"Karen, I won't attempt suicide again, at least not over this."

Dorothy still had her pride.

Using suicide as a tactic to coerce a man into coming back was something she couldn't do.

...

Everett borrowed Kevin's car to return to Bay Residence.

If he had taken his car, Dorothy would have spotted it immediately.

The living room light was still on; probably Karen staying over to keep her company.

Everett's gaze lingered on the glass of the floor-to-ceiling window, barely making out a figure inside but unsure whether it was Dorothy or Karen.

Once this was all over, he'd have to replace that glass!

Opt for something that allowed a clear view of every move inside.

He'd originally kept it for privacy, but now he regretted it.

Suddenly!

Everett's phone buzzed.

Glancing down, it was Kenneth's number.

This call, at such a crucial moment, sent a sinking feeling through Everett, an ominous premonition.

"Everett, are you really breaking up with Dorothy?"

Right off the bat, Kenneth went straight to the point.

No need to guess, Everett knew Kenneth hadn't heard it from Dorothy, but from Karen.

After all, she was Kenneth's own sister. With him and Dorothy parting ways, she'd naturally do everything to play cupid for her brother.

"What's it to you?" Everett snapped back, his tone far from friendly.

Who talks sweetly to a rival in love?

"If you guys split, it does concern me."

"You had Dorothy's trust, promised to cherish her forever, yet you ended up breaking her heart! Everett, if that's how it is, then let her come back to me."

Kenneth was ready to take care of her, to protect her with all he had for a lifetime!

Come back to him?

That phrase really made Everett narrow his eyes.

"She was never yours to begin with. What do you mean, 'come back to you'?"

"After you two separated, we were doing just fine! Dorothy wasn't as heartbroken as she is now. We just needed to gather evidence, look after the kids, and Dorothy was working hard, living earnestly! But then you showed up, and everything changed."

Kenneth had tried countless times to convince himself to move on from Dorothy, that she was happy now.

But all those premises hinged on Everett treating Dorothy right!

Chapter 1087

Every time Kenneth saw the way Dorothy looked at Everett, it was like watching a live romantic movie-the kind of love that fills the room with its unspoken intensity. So, he knew it was time to

step aside. Kenneth had lost all hope because he felt miracles just didn't happen in his life. Dorothy wouldn't leave Everett. He never stood a chance. But then, wasn't this the miracle he'd been cynically waiting for? And it was Everett who had made room for him, of all people.

"All this talk is pointless, Dorothy won't accept you," Everett's voice lost its previous edge, his words slow but filled with certainty. He was on guard against Kenneth. Mostly, he feared Karen playing matchmake or brewing some other scheme. He was wary of Kenneth, of Karen, but definitely not Dorothy. She had said in a fit of pique that if she ended up with Quincy, she'd go to Kenneth, but that was clearly said in anger. Everett could tell the difference.

"When you first pursued Dorothy, she didn't accept you either. You were relentless for years, and she eventually gave in. You chased her for over a decade, no problem, I can do it too, twenty or even thirty years! But you, you've already thrown in the towel."

"Kenneth, what do you know?!"

Kenneth just chuckled, "I know nothing, and I prefer it that way! Don't try to explain anything to me. Even if I listened, I wouldn't tell a soul!" He wasn't so generous as to help Dorothy wait for an Everett who might never turn back.

Kenneth's words hinted that he had pieced together some of the truth. He knew Everett's sudden decision to break up with Dorothy had other reasons behind it.

"Speaking of which, I really should thank you for stepping aside."

"Kenneth, she won't accept you."

"Maybe not right away." Kenneth paused, smiling again, "But time changes everything! You haven't heard yet, but Karen just messaged me, telling me Dorothy is planning to leave the country."

"What?!" Everett's voice rose in alarm.

"I'll be leaving with her."

Before Kenneth could finish, Everett had hung up and was striding towards Bay Residence. He unlocked the door and saw Karen and Dorothy sitting on the couch. Everett's sudden appearance took both Karen and Dorothy by surprise.

"You're leaving?" Without thinking, Everett blurted out the question. Dorothy paused, glancing at Karen. She had only shared her plans with Karen, so if the news had leaked, it would have been through her. Karen grimaced, "I mentioned it to my brother." But she hadn't expected Everett to find out! Dorothy felt cornered, but with Everett confronting her, she saw no reason to hide her plans.

"Yes, I'm leaving. I'll move out of Bay Residence as soon as I can."

"I won't allow you to leave."

As soon as Everett spoke, Karen snapped back, "On what grounds? Dorothy is free to do as she pleases. Who are you to stop her?"

"Karen..." Dorothy didn't want things to escalate, gently tugging at Karen's sleeve.

"You can't leave."

"Why not?"

Dorothy looked up at Everett, their gazes locking, a mix of complex emotions swirling between them.

"If I say you can't, then you just can't." He was scrambling for a reason, ending up just repeating himself. "Everett, we've already broken up. You're the one who said it."

Chapter 1088

Everett couldn't bring himself to meet her gaze any longer, his eyes darting away. He had to keep his emotions under wraps. After all, the plan had Quincy hooked, and they were just a heartbeat away from securing the antidote for Dorothy...

"We... we broke up, but Abigail and Langston are my kids. I can't let them go abroad with you."

Dorothy's eyes widened in shock, staring at him in disbelief. "What do you mean? You want to keep the kids here?"

Karen, overhearing this, immediately got worked up. "The kids are Dorothy's. What right do you have? It's you who wanted the breakup, so what grounds do you have to make demands?"

Dorothy couldn't believe these words were coming from Everett. How could he change like this?

"The kids have to stay here, no matter what. I can't let you take them."

Everett knew too well that Dorothy couldn't bear to leave Abigail and Langston behind, effectively anchoring her to stay.

"You're being unreasonable!" Karen was fuming, itching to give Everett a piece of her mind.

"Wasn't it you who pursued Dorothy first? And then your family didn't approve, even causing Dorothy's mother's death. Did she ever blame you? She never thought of revenge, even went ahead to have your kids after leaving you! And you?"

"Your mother caused the death of Dorothy's only kin. Have you ever thought about how Dorothy is supposed to live her life now? Oh, now your mother is gone and you feel bad, so you decide to drag Dorothy down with you! Everett, I never realized you were so unreasonable."

Dorothy didn't want Karen to get more involved in this mess, especially since there was Jeffrey in the middle, making things awkward. But it was because of her.

"Karen, let us handle this, please go back."

Dorothy went over to pull at Karen's hand. But she shook it off, visibly upset, standing up for her friend.

"Everett, you think just because you're in a position of power, you can manipulate Dorothy? Well, don't forget, it was you who begged Dorothy to be with you! If not for you, there would be plenty of others lined up for Dorothy, not your turn at all!"

"Karen, stay out of this." Everett was getting a headache from her accusations. He didn't like confronting women. Especially since Karen had a temper, and if a real argument broke out, he doubted he could outtalk her. And then there's Jeffrey... He really couldn't use any tactics on Karen.

"Why should I stay out of it? Dorothy is my family, and it's not okay for you to bully her!"

"Karen! Let me talk to Everett, please go back, okay?" Dorothy was mainly worried things would escalate. With Karen there, the situation could blow up in any direction.

"Don't make me leave, I don't want you to be bullied."

"He won't bully me."

"Not bully you? He's practically stealing Abigail and Langston!" Karen was so angry she could have pointed right at Everett's nose, fearless as always. "You heartbreaker, it's true, men are no good!"

Luckily, Jeffrey arrived soon after. No one had called him; he had just felt something was off, worried that Karen might push Dorothy into accepting Kenneth, potentially backstabbing his own brother. When he got there, Karen was still laying into Everett, word for word, sentence by sentence, calling out his betrayal.

Chapter 1089

"Let's head back, Karen!" Jeff urged as he tried to catch Karen's eye, signaling her to leave.

But Karen was seething, her anger blinding her to Jeff's pleading looks.

"I'm not leaving! I won't let anyone bully Dorothy!"

"She'll be fine, just come with me."

Out of options, Jeff walked over and, without further ado, scooped his wife into his arms.

"Jeff, put me down this instant!"

"We'll talk about it at home! Uh... Everett, Dorothy, you guys chat. We're heading out."

Everett wished for nothing more than their immediate disappearance.

Dorothy could only offer an awkward smile. "Karen, don't worry about me. I'll call you after we're done here."

"Jeff! Let me go, you-"

Somehow, Jeff managed to whisk Karen away.

Now, only Dorothy and Everett remained in the Bay Residence, facing each other in silence.

Once, they had longed for a moment alone. Now, they found themselves at a loss for words.

"You..."

"Everett, I can't give you the children."

Dorothy didn't want to hear any excuses. She had to stand up for her own rights.

Abigail and Langston had been without their mother for too long. If she were to leave them behind and move overseas, she couldn't call herself a mother!

"I can live without the children. Just don't leave the country."

"And what would I do in Eldorria City? Watch you and Quincy play house?" Dorothy's voice was cold as ice. "I don't understand why you insist on me staying! Everett, if you truly care for Quincy, then stop meddling in my affairs. I'll take the kids with me; they'll give you two the space you need."

Dorothy would never leave Abigail and Langston with Everett.

It wasn't just about her reluctance to part with her children; she simply couldn't trust Quincy to care for them.

If Everett married Quincy, she would become Abigail and Langston's stepmother.

How could Dorothy ever be at peace with that?

"Listen to me! What you think is happening between Quincy and me-it's not like that."

"Then what is it like?"

Dorothy was all ears, always waiting for Everett to clarify things.

But where was his explanation?

All he had done since returning to the Bay Residence was demand the children-demand she be separated from her own!

"I..." Everett frowned, "Dorothy, don't ask too many questions. Stay here at the Bay Residence with the kids. Even if we break up, the house is yours to keep."

"I don't want it," Dorothy refused flatly. "I won't continue living here."

The house held special significance for both of them, which made it all the more painful for Dorothy to consider staying after their breakup.

"If you insist on leaving the country, you can't take the kids. Without my consent, you won't be able to."

Everett couldn't continue. He simply laid out the stark reality in a cold voice.

Whether or not Dorothy could accept it, she had to.

If Dorothy left, what would become of the poison in her system? Everett couldn't monitor it from afar.

And as for acquiring the ultimate antidote, he needed to ensure its efficacy himself.

As for trusting Quincy? That was out of the question.

"Is this really what you want?"

Disappointment filled Dorothy's eyes.

She couldn't understand how Everett had become so unrecognizable.

Chapter 1090

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"Yeah."

"Is it my mother's death that's made you start hating me?" Dorothy could only think of that as an explanation.

He hated himself.

Otherwise, why would he be so heartless?

"...Don't bring that up.

Dorothy pursed her lips. At this point, she didn't want to argue with Everett. It was too exhausting, and because there had been love.

The only real relationship she had, she didn't want it to end in embarrassment for both of them.

"Everett, I'm begging you, okay?"

Dorothy turned away, refusing to look at him.

Because she didn't want to cry in front of Everett.

She didn't want anyone to see her at her weakest.

"I'm begging you, let me take the kids and leave. I promise I won't contact you again, I won't disturb you!"

"Dorothy..."

"Maybe you're right. Our relationship has too much baggage, too deeply entangled, involving the deaths of both our mothers! Indeed, being together we only hurt each other. So, let's not be together. It's a way to free ourselves."

Dorothy wasn't one to take things lightly. She had been thinking about this for days.

Why she and Everett just couldn't work out.

From the beginning, the difference in status was something that could never fully be erased! If she had been someone of note, someone whose background matched that of the Lopez family, then... there wouldn't have been any issue with Heather, would there?

At the root of it, it was because she wasn't good enough for Everett.

Although she had understood this early on, it felt like a cruel joke by fate.

It let her live a dream, a ludicrous daydream.

Now that she had awoken from the dream, not clinging to it was the only way to preserve the last bit of her dignity.

"What about me if you take the kids away?"

Everett's voice couldn't maintain its previously cold tone.

Even though he tried, he still trembled slightly, out of fear.

He was afraid, terrified even!

Afraid that once Dorothy left, he'd never find her again.

Afraid that she would truly give up on him, and even if she later learned the whole truth, she wouldn't come back to him, like before!

Knowing Dorothy, she wasn't one to easily trust. It had taken him over a decade of effort to finally make her believe in him.

"You can have more kids with Quincy! She can give you that." Dorothy lowered her head, secretly wiping away her tears, "Just let me have Abigail and Langston. I can't be without them."

"I can't be without them either."

"Everett!" Dorothy suddenly turned to face him, her eyes shimmering with tears and disappointment, "Do you really... want me to die?"

Without Everett, and now possibly losing the kids too.

She really felt there was nothing left in this world worth staying for!

"I'm not trying to take the kids! You just need to stay here, stay in Bay Residence, the kids will be with you."

Everett's intention wasn't to take the kids away.

He just wanted to keep Dorothy.

"Don't push me."

"Dorothy, just calm down and listen to me." Everett tried not to escalate the situation, "Abigail and Langston are attending school here in Eldorria City. Suddenly changing schools, even moving abroad, it's going to be hard on them! You can't just think about your own feelings and drag the kids along with you."

"If you don't want to stay at Bay Residence, you can move somewhere else! I promise... I won't come to disturb you."