

Midnight 1091

Chapter 1091

Before everything was resolved, he wouldn't leave.

Dorothy remained silent, just watching him. As she watched, a sudden smile appeared on her face.

"Everett, do you know? You were always so gentle that I mistook you for someone kind and considerate... I even forgot who you really are," she said, tugging at her lips. "How could I forget? You're a businessman, with power, prestige, and influence. After you stopped loving me, what right did I have to negotiate with you?"

She didn't even need to doubt Everett's words. He had said it himself. As long as he disagreed, the kids wouldn't be leaving Eldorria City, let alone the country. Yes! Everett certainly had that power. The problem was with herself. She had forgotten how powerful Everett's influence was, thinking he would respect her decisions as he used to, even if she was being unreasonable, even if she had abandoned him over and over again.

"You..." Everett's lips moved, but harsh words were all he could muster, "It's good you understand."

"What are you planning then? To imprison me if I insist on taking the kids with me?"

Dorothy laughed, "Although I don't know your purpose, let me tell you, you won't manipulate me! I'll take the kids. If you disagree, then I'll just have to do it by force."

"You wouldn't dare!"

"Watch me."

Their eyes locked, and in hers, Everett saw not only disappointment but determination. That was what Everett feared the most. "Dorothy, I've loved you. I don't want things to be this way."

"I don't want it either. So, after we break up, let's not linger on this. I'll take the kids, and you won't have to think about us anymore."

She wanted a clean break. Once they were separated, she wouldn't cling on, nor did she want to leave anything behind for him to ponder. "Then wait for Abigail and Langston to come back, and ask them if they want to leave."

That was Everett's last resort. He couldn't really confront Dorothy head-on! He couldn't bear it.

"What do you mean?"

"Abigail and Langston have been with you all these years, barely spending any days with both parents present. Now you want to leave again, did you ever consider their feelings?"

"So, leaving them behind to watch you marry Quincy and bring them a stepmother is considering their feelings?"

"_"

"I'll ask them." Dorothy didn't want to continue this topic. She cut him off coldly, "When Abigail and Langston come back, I'll talk to them. If the kids really want to stay with you, then I... I'll have to respect that."

She knew she wasn't the ideal mother, so the kids might prefer their father, Everett. Since he suggested respecting the children's wishes, indeed, she should ask. "If Abigail and Langston choose to stay, you'll still leave?"

"Yes, I'll leave."

"Do you have anything else? If not, don't show up in front of me again."

Dorothy couldn't help but think

about Quincy entering Everett's office, what would happen between them. Even just holding hands or getting close, she couldn't bear to imagine that scene! Everett mentioned explaining, and Dorothy really wanted to hear him promise like before, swearing he never touched Quincy, always kept his distance. If only Everett said so, she would believe him!

But he didn't. Other than wanting the kids and forcing her not to leave, he said nothing more.

Chapter 1092

Dorothy had made herself clear - it was time for Everett to leave, but he just couldn't bring himself to walk away.

He didn't know when he'd get another chance to see her again.

"Abigail and Langston... they'll be back soon. Let me see them before I go."

"See them some other time. Today, I need to talk to them alone."

Dorothy wished for nothing more than to get Everett out of the house as soon as possible. If he stayed any longer, she feared she might not be able to let him go, might even beg him to stay...

If it weren't for Quincy standing between them, Dorothy wouldn't have agreed to the breakup so readily. She would have been just like Everett, pleading for him to reconsider. But that was only if there was no third party involved.

Now that Everett had accepted Quincy into the equation, any action she took would just make her look like a begging fool in his eyes! She couldn't do it, nor did she want to. "I can't even see the kids?"

"Oh, I forgot, this is your house. So, I'll leave. You stay and see the kids, and I'll come back after you're gone."

As Dorothy spoke, she moved to grab her phone and jacket. Everett quickly stepped forward, grabbing her wrist firmly.

"Have you had enough? Is this really what you want?"

"Yes!" Dorothy's emotions reached a breaking point. She wasn't a saint devoid of feelings! With everything that had happened so quickly, was it so wrong for her to feel something? "Dorothy, please, calm down."

"Am I not calm? I think I'm being perfectly calm!" Dorothy tried to pull her hand from his grasp. But Everett's grip was too strong, leaving her no chance to break free. Despite her efforts, she couldn't escape his warmth. That warmth made her heart flutter, made it hard for her to let go.

"Even if we're breaking up, we're still family to Abigail and Langston. That will never change."

"Yes, we'll always be family. I never said otherwise." Dorothy frowned, "Now let go of me. Don't touch me."

"Who do you want touching you then?"

Dorothy looked up at him. Was now really the time to ask such a question?

"Definitely not you."

"So, you really want me gone that badly? Dorothy, it was you who kept insisting I come back to Bay Residence."

And now, she was the one wanting him out of her sight! He had finally found a good reason to come back, and he wasn't ready to leave just yet.

"It was me, but back then, I wanted

to fix things! thought you were just upset, missing the comfort of your mother and wanted some space from me! I never thought you'd suggest breaking up, and I certainly didn't expect-

Quincy to be the wedge between them.

How foolish she had been. She had truly believed Everett despised Quincy, that he would always despise him.

"...It's cold outside. I'll grab a few clothes before I leave."

Everett didn't want to upset her

further, fearing her condition might

worsen

He found an excuse to go

back to the bedroom. Dorothy didn't protest, remaining silent.

Her gaze lingered on Everett's hand, still gripping hers. Time ticked by and it seemed he had no intention of letting go. Dorothy spoke softly, "Let go. Either hold on forever or let me go completely."

Her eyes met Everett's handsome face once more. His brows, his lips, she wanted to see every detail clearly.

"What's your choice?"

Chapter 1093

"Dorothy, I..."

"It's okay, I know what you're going to say." Dorothy couldn't even bear to let him finish his sentence, afraid to confront her own defeat. "Go get your clothes. I don't want to make this any harder for either of us."

...

Truth be told, Everett wasn't in dire need of any clothes.

He merely wanted to linger a bit longer, to gaze upon Dorothy once more, to take in the sight of what had been their home.

What the future held was uncertain; despite his sharp intellect, Everett couldn't predict the unforeseen.

All he wished was for Dorothy to remain healthy, to not leave him, not like his mother had... wheeled out of the emergency room. Eventually, the clothes were packed, and Everett had no excuse to stay any longer.

He grabbed a few suits and made his way to the foyer.

"If you need anything, you can call me."

"There's nothing I need from you that you can give," Dorothy said, her back still turned to him, showing no signs of wanting him to stay.

Everett pressed his lips together, resigned to leave Bay Residence.

Back in his car, he didn't drive off immediately but continued to watch the living room of Bay Residence.

It wasn't hard to guess.

Dorothy must be crying by now.

No one knew her better than he did.

Suddenly, Everett's phone rang.

Pulling his gaze away, he saw it was Jonathan calling.

"Dad."

"You guessed right. Quincy just called

me said she needed a

Jonathan paused before continuing, "She wants to have dinner says it's to patch things up."

Everett's eyes darkened as he masked his thoughts.

you,

"Play it cool. Tell her I'm not okay with it at first. Then, in a day or two, mention we had a fight about it, and I reluctantly agreed."

"Alright!" Jonathan, now fully trusting his son, agreed instantly, though he couldn't help asking, "Everett, what exactly are you planning? I'm most here."

"It's nothing, just trying to shake off Quincy."

Everett didn't reveal the full extent of his plan to his father.

Having just lost his wife, if he knew this was to make Quincy poison him, Jonathan wouldn't have continued to assist!

"Nothing dangerous, right?"

Jonathan couldn't shake off a feeling of unease, "Everett, you tell me the truth! I can't handle more shocks, you're all I have."

"Don't worry, I'm fine."

"That's a relief! I'll do as you've asked. Once this is over, I won't let the Caldwell family get away with this!"

Jonathan might not understand all the details, but it was clear to him that the Caldwell family was using Quincy to manipulate Everett!

If the Lopez family could be so easily manipulated, he might as well have lived in vain.

After hanging up, Everett's gaze returned to where Dorothy was, even if he could only see a silhouette.

On his phone, Jeffrey had sent several messages.

"Everett, don't be mad at Karen! She didn't know any better and just blurted out stuff! I've calmed her down; she won't mess up your plans."

"Everett, please, don't hold it against Karen! I promise she won't cause more trouble."

Everett exhaled deeply, replying to give his friend some peace of mind, so he wouldn't worry over nothing.

"Karen is your wife and Dorothy's best friend; how could I possibly hold anything against her?"

Chapter 1094

Having someone like Karen by Dorothy's side actually made Everett feel a bit more at ease. Dorothy was the type to keep her grievances bottled up, never willing to voice her troubles, which only made them worry more about her.

****Glad to hear it! I was really worried you'd be upset.**** Jeffrey's response came quickly, showing he'd been anxiously waiting by his phone.

****It's fine, just don't pick a fight with Karen.****

Everett, much like Dorothy, didn't want to drag their friends into their mess.

But Karen... how could she just let things lie?

After Jeffrey practically dragged her home, Karen had been giving him the silent treatment, refusing to speak with him, and even skipped dinner. Jeffrey had knocked on the door multiple times, but she wouldn't even let him into their bedroom!

"Honey? Can you please open the door? Let's talk this out."

"I've got nothing to say to you! If you're siding with Everett, why don't you just move in with him and forget you have a wife!"

Jeffrey was at a loss, having just confirmed Everett wasn't upset, and now he had to soothe his wife, "Listen to me, please. Let them handle their own issues. I'm just trying to keep you out of the middle, okay?" Before he could finish, Karen suddenly flung the door open, startling Jeffrey.

"You're worried about Everett, and I'm worried about Dorothy being pushed around! It's clear to me now, none of you men are any good."

"What? How is this my fault?"

"You're always hanging out with Everett, how can it not be? You've been even more of a party animal than he ever was!" Karen rolled her eyes, "I've made up my mind. I'm taking the kids to my mom's for a few days to think things over between us."

"Come on, don't do that." Jeffrey quickly grabbed her arm, lowering his voice, "I kept you out of it to protect us! Look, whatever Everett's doing, that's on him, not me!"

"You're telling me Everett never mentioned anything about wanting to break up?!"

Karen wasn't buying it. She even suspected Jeffrey knew all along but chose not to tell her.

"I swear I didn't know." At this point, Jeffrey couldn't afford to admit anything, "I swear! Everett just mentioned he was feeling down, and I thought it was because his mom had passed away. It made sense he'd be upset. And after that, you saw I barely hung out with him."

The last thing Jeffrey wanted was for Karen to leave. It wasn't just about being lonely; it was about losing control. If Karen left, she'd be even more unpredictable.

What if she spent every day with

Dorothy, trying to set her up with Kenneth? That would really stir

things up. Currently, Dorothy

single Who knew if she might impulsively agree to Kenneth out of a momentary impulse?

"Move, I'm going back to my mom's."

Karen wasn't having any of his excuses and made to leave.

"Look at you! Why are you being like this? What does Dorothy's situation have to do with me?"

"Jeffrey, it's through Everett's mess

I've seen men for what they are! I need some time to cool off." Karen crossed her arms, scoffing at him, "Dorothy's thinking of leaving the country, and I'm considering going with her."

"What?!"

"You better not mess with me right now."

With Karen adamant about leaving, Jeffrey had no choice but to pull out all the stops.

Chapter 1095

Jeff scooped her up effortlessly and carried her back to their bedroom. With his tall frame, he pinned her down on the bed, refusing to let her move.

"Jeff, what are you trying to do? Let go of me!"

"I'd miss you too much if you left," Jeff murmured, nuzzling against his wife's cheek with a mischievous grin. "I promise, I won't pull an Everett on you and talk about splitting up, okay? Even if it kills me, I won't let you go."

"Ha! Everyone saw how hard Everett chased after Dorothy. And what happened in the end? The moment he laid eyes on another woman, he was ready to call it quits with Dorothy!"

To Karen, a breakup was one thing, but the reason behind it was entirely unacceptable.

Especially since it all boiled down to Everett's mother?

That was something Karen just couldn't stomach.

It was his mother who had stirred the pot first, and now Dorothy was taking the fall for it.

"You don't know the whole story," Jeff blurted out suddenly, his emotions getting the better of him.

Karen's eyebrows furrowed in confusion as she stared at him. "What do you mean? Is there something I should know?"

"Nothing, it's nothing."

"Jeff! Are you trying to push me into divorcing you?"

He sighed, "You seriously think Everett wants to break up with Dorothy for Quincy?"

"I can't say much right now, but just know that whatever Everett is doing, it's for Dorothy's best interest. And if you go spilling this to Dorothy now, you're only going to hurt her."

Quincy was at her wit's end trying to get close to Everett.

She had tried everything, even begging Jonathan for help, but to no avail.

As Dorothy and Everett's

relationship grew tenser, and her et

spies at the Bay Residence reported Everett wasn't coming home anymore, Quincy felt cornered.
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Desperate, she resorted to groveling before the Caldwell family.

"I need to see Everett. Think of something."

Ronin couldn't help but laugh at her request. "I thought you two were close? Why do you need my help to see him?"

"Don't come crying to me for favors later if you're just going to mock me now! Let me tell you, if I don't see Everett soon, you can kiss the

Caldwell family business goodbye"

I'm not threatening you; I'm being

dead serious."

"Why do you need to see him so badly? Tell me, and I'll consider helping you."

Quincy knew she had to spill some truth if she wanted her father's help.

"I need to poison Everett, then use that to control him."

"What?!" Ronin almost thought he was hallucinating. "Are you insane? If you want to die, don't drag the Caldwell family down with you!"

He wanted the Lopez family's support but certainly not at the cost of their lives.

"It's too late to back out now! Everett

only bailed out the Caldwell business because I poisoned Dorothy. He had no choice," Quincy said with a cold laugh. "Now that Everett and Dorothy have split, if I don't pass the poison on to Everett, just imagine how the Lopez family will deal with us."

"You're really trying to get me killed, aren't you?"

"It's your fault for forcing me into this mess! If you hadn't insisted I marry into the Lopez family, none of this would have anything to do with me."

She never wanted to be part of this in the first place.

Chapter 1096

Here's the revised translation based on the provided original text:

What's with Everett, what's with Dorothy, they were just names of patients to her once upon a time! Had it not been for the Caldwell family cornering her, why would she ever tremble with fear, linking her fate with a woman already frail in health?

"I just don't get it, what's so bad about marrying Everett? Do you have any idea how many women wish for that chance but never get it?" Ronin could never understand his daughter. You'd think, coming from a family as illustrious as the Lopezes, anyone would jump at the opportunity. How come this stroke of luck lands on his daughter, and it was Jonathan himself who brought it up, yet she's reluctant! "It's not about good or bad, he doesn't love me!"

"How old are you? All this talk about love, let me tell you, in this world, nothing's more important than money! With power and status, everything else is trivial."

Listening to her father, Quincy felt a profound sadness for him, for her mother, and more so for herself, being used as a pawn in this family.

"Arguing about this now is pointless. If you want to keep the Lopez family within your grip, if you want to cling to that high branch, you'll have to help me with this," Quincy stated coldly.

"Otherwise, if this blows up or if I can't keep Everett under control, do you think the Caldwells can wash their hands of it?"

Ronin fell silent. Because he didn't need to think hard to know the answer. Quincy was his daughter, and after gaining control over Everett, her first move was securing an investment for the Caldwell family. Denying it would be futile, no one would believe him.

"You! Why didn't you discuss such a thing with me?"

Ronin was terrified just hearing about it. He never imagined his seemingly indifferent daughter could pull off something so... sinister. That was poisoning, for heaven's sake, it could've killed someone! "How could I discuss it? Back then, all you wanted was for me to marry into the Lopez family! Did you even listen when I tried to talk to you?"

Back then, Quincy had no feelings

for Everett, envying Dorothy for having a man who loved her was extent of her thoughts. But now..
the

things were different. How even

Quincy wouldn't share her change of heart towards Everett with her father.

"But now, my relationship with Jonathan isn't as solid as before! After the last investment fiasco, we barely spoke. He might not even agree to help." "Anyway, I've laid it all out for you. I've been carrying this burden for so long, it's time you thought of a solution."

After hanging up the phone, Quincy

sat in the lab chair, holding her phone. All she hoped for now was for Everett to remember Dorothy was still the mother of their children, hoping his feelings wouldn't vanish so swiftly. But... men's affections are notoriously unreliable. She had some faith in Everett before, but now, no longer.

Glancing at her phone, then abruptly standing up, Quincy went over to the lab's shelves and grabbed a few test

tubes. These were the ingredet?

for the antidote. Fearing Everett might steal them, she never combined them, keeping them separate. If Everett fell into the trap, the poison transferring from Dorothy to him, she would then let Dorothy go.

This version adheres to the original plot and character dynamics while making the language and cultural context more suitable for an English-speaking audience.

Chapter 1097

Aside from Dorothy being of no further use, there was something else. Quincy, as a woman, couldn't help but feel a bit sorry for Dorothy.

Truth be told, she could have delayed handing over the antidote to Dorothy a while longer. As long as Dorothy didn't die, the timing of the antidote, sooner or later, didn't really make that much difference. But Quincy figured, since Dorothy was going to be out of the picture anyway, it might be kinder to let her bow out sooner rather than later.

"Dorothy, you can't blame me, you know. I did ask you about it before."

At that time, Quincy was still hesitating. She thought that if Dorothy would just drop the lawsuit, she wouldn't have to marry Everett and be used as a pawn in their game. That was the reason for their previous conversation. But Dorothy was ungrateful. Despite being asked numerous times, she never changed her mind. So Quincy felt she had no choice but to take this final step.

As soon as Ronin hung up the phone, his heart was in his throat! He didn't dare waste a second. This was about Everett! The sole heir to the Lopez family. If anything happened to him, the entire Caldwell family would be toast, thanks to Jonathan. But then again, did he have any other choice?

"I swear, I've raised a liability!" Ronin cursed under his breath as he dialed Jonathan.

"Jonathan, you mentioned before about joining our families through marriage. I've always been fond of your son, really hoped to match him with my daughter! But Everett, I don't know if he's just

too busy or what, he never has time to connect with my girl. How's that going to work? Maybe... you could find an excuse? Get the two of them to meet, maybe over dinner?"

"I'd love to! Your daughter's clearly a sensible girl, even saved my boy's life. She'd make a far better daughter-in-law than Dorothy! It's just these young people, I can't really control them anymore," Jonathan sighed as if helpless. "Look, if I tell him outright to meet your daughter, he'll never agree! We'll have to trick him."

Ronin brightened up at the prospect. "Trick him? Well, as long as it doesn't backfire, causing Everett to rebel and clash with you."

"We've had our disagreements

before! Especially after his mother passed away, he's been a bit more compliant, I'll find the right time, then tell him to meet me at a

restaurant. You send your daught

Quincy over! I really like her

genuinely want her to marry into the family."

"Are you sure this is okay?" Ronin feigned reluctance, but he was already keen on the idea.

"I don't see any other way! If you feel this is unfair to Quincy, then maybe we should—"

"Unfair? If she ends up with your son, she'll have a good life ahead of her! It's totally normal for the girl to take the initiative these days."

Jonathan chuckled. "That's settled then! I was worried you might feel slighted, and if the young couple ever hit a rough patch, you'd blame me for meddling."

"Not at all! If Quincy and Everett

really hit it off, any spat they might have would probably be due to my daughter's stubbornness! Everett's got so much on his plate, she needs to be understanding."

"Exactly, our families joining forces is the perfect match! So, it's agreed." "Agreed."

Even after hanging up, Ronin's brows remained furrowed. This was different from any other deal, involving actual lives! He was genuinely worried his daughter

might bite off more than

could

chew, potentially dragging the entire Caldwell family into a disaster. And they weren't just dealing with anyone here, but the Lopez family!

Chapter 1098

Dorothy had tried several times to bring up the subject of moving abroad with Abigail and Langston. Abigail seemed pretty easy-going about it, but Langston was obviously avoiding the conversation. Feeling it was too harsh to drop the news on the kids just yet, Dorothy decided to wait a few more days before talking to them about it.

Living in Bay Residence was becoming unbearable for Dorothy. The thought of staying there any longer filled her with dread. So, when Abigail and Langston got back from school today, she decided it was time to bring up the subject of moving abroad once again with Langston.

"Mom, can't we just stay here?" Langston finally asked, unable to avoid the conversation any longer. All content © N.ôvel/Dr/ama.Org.

"You don't want to leave, do you?"

He nodded, "I just started school here, and I've made good friends. If we go abroad, I'll have to start all over again."

Dorothy frowned slightly.

Frankly, it wasn't surprising to hear Langston say this. He always had a unique way of thinking, different from his peers.

But his words made Dorothy wonder if Everett had gone to Langston's school and talked to him about it.

"Langston, have you seen your dad recently?"

"No," Langston shook his head, his gaze fixed on his mom.

That look made Dorothy feel guilty.

How could she suspect Langston? He was just a child! And it wasn't like Everett to do something like that...

If Everett was that considerate, why would they have broken up?

"There's been a problem between your dad and me. I don't want to stay here anymore, although I'm not sure if you'll understand, but-"

"I get it!" Langston quickly said, grabbing her hand. "You and dad had a fight, you're unhappy, and that's why you want to leave."

"Mm..."

"It's like with my best friend at school! If we have a disagreement, I don't want to talk to him either."

Dorothy found his analogy

somewhat fitting, although the relationship between friends could likely be mended quickly, unlike her situation with Everett...

She couldn't bring herself to say the words "break up" to the kids, to tell them that the stable life they wanted was about to change.

"Mommy, hug!"

Abigail, not fully understanding their conversation, saw her mom looking upset and wrapped her arms around her neck, snuggling into her embrace. Dorothy gently stroked her daughter's hair, searching for the right words to say.

"Your dad's really busy with work. Even if we stay here, he won't come back." "So, mommy, do you really, really want to leave?" Abigail looked up at her.

Dorothy managed a bitter smile.

Did she want to leave?

Of course not.

But without Everett, staying in Bay Residence felt unbearable. Everywhere she looked reminded her of him, and Dorothy feared her depression might resurface. She was even more afraid that one day, in a moment of desperation, she might try to break Everett and Quincy apart!

Yes, she had felt that impulse.

To forget about useless things like morals or pride, like Quincy or Heather, and to want Everett back at any cost.

"Mommy... wants to leave Eldorria City."

"Then we don't have to stay here.

Can we go live with Aunt Karen instead? Langston clearly didn't want to leave, making it hard for Dorothy to continue the conversation.

Chapter 1099

"Aunt Karen just had a baby, so it's kinda hectic over there."

"But her place is huge, me and Lily can be super quiet! We won't make a peep," Langston insisted, raising his hand as if taking an oath.

Dorothy looked at Langston, letting out a silent sigh. She stayed quiet for a while before finally asking, "What if... you guys stayed with Dad, would that be okay?"

Immediately, Langston's guard was up. His brows furrowed, "Are you planning on leaving us? Mom, can't we just be one big happy family? It's okay if Dad's too busy to come home, me and Lily won't nag about wanting to see him anymore!"

"Dad's not too busy, he even found time to come to school-" All content © N/ovel/Dr/ama.Org.

Abigail's words were cut short as Langston quickly covered her mouth. He had warned Abigail not to mention their dad's visit, but did she listen? No, because Dad had to go and say he missed his daughter! That girl could spill the beans on everything without even realizing it!

"He went to the school?"

Despite Langston's attempt, Dorothy still caught the words "the school."

At this point, Langston couldn't deny it. "Yeah, he said he missed me and Lily."

"What else did he say?"

"Nothing much, just stopped by to see us."

Dorothy put on a stern face, "Tell me the truth."

"That's all! And he only came to the school once, didn't stay long."

Langston knew the weight of responsibility on his shoulders; he couldn't let his plan fail now.

"Is that true, Abigail?"

Dorothy smartened up, ignoring Langston and turning to her daughter instead.

After receiving a stern look from her brother, Abigail hesitated for a few seconds before nodding obediently, "Yeah, what he said."

Dorothy gently patted her children's heads, feeling helpless, "I know you guys don't want to be away from Dad and me, it's just..."

She paused, realizing that whatever she said would seem cruel to her kids.

"So, what?" Langston was still waiting for her to finish.

previous thought but instead

Dorothy smiled, not continuing et

offered, "How about this? Mommy will look for a new house, and the three of us can move there, okay?" en.swhovels.net

"So, we're not leaving Eldorria City?"

"Nope."

"Yay! Yes!" Langston clenched his fist in victory, happily dragging his sister away.

Watching their retreating figures, Dorothy felt her compromise was worth it. She definitely couldn't stay at Bay Residence anymore; leaving was inevitable. But Eldorria City was big enough to find another place. As long as they didn't run into Everett, it would be fine.

Ever since Karen settled down and had a child, life wasn't about living on a whim anymore.

What Dorothy didn't know was that as soon as Langston went back to his room, he quickly texted Everett.

"Mission accomplished! Don't forget to update my gaming system!"

"Your mom agreed to stay?" Everett's reply came almost instantly.

"Of course! I have my ways, and Mom always listens to me! She said we're not staying at Bay Residence but we're not leaving Eldorria City, so you can still come see me and Lily!"

Chapter 1100

Langston waited a couple of seconds before the person on the other side flashed an OK hand gesture.

He couldn't help but smile, feeling like he was entrusted with an important mission, a sense of accomplishment bubbling within him.

Beside him, Abigail peered curiously at her brother, who alternated between smiling and staring at his phone. "Who are you texting?" she asked.

"Dad," Langston replied, his attention shifting back to her as he remembered the more pressing matter at hand. He pulled Abigail closer, adopting a serious demeanor. "Abigail, will you listen to your brother?" "Of course!"

"Then you need to promise me that you won't mention anything about Dad in front of Mom. If she asks, just say you don't know, or tell her to ask me."

Abigail furrowed her brows, puzzled. "Why? Why can't we talk to Mom about Dad?"

"Because Mom and Dad have been arguing lately, and it's better not to bring him up."

"Arguing?" Abigail's face scrunched up in concern. "Then we should make Dad come home more and stop them from fighting."

Langston patted her head. "You don't understand, but all you need to do is follow my instructions. Don't worry about the rest." Content property of NôvelDra/ma.Org.

"I want to understand! I don't want to feel left out."

Langston chuckled at her innocence. "You're not being left out. My sister can't be clueless."

After all, if anyone was going to call her silly, it would only be him.

...

When Dorothy decided to move out of Bay Residence, Karen was the second to know, after Abigail and Langston.

"Dorothy, why don't you stay at my apartment? It's empty anyway, and looking for a new place is such a hassle. Plus, I worry about you."

"No, I need a larger place now that I have Abigail and Langston with me."

Karen pondered for a moment before suggesting, "What about my brother's-"

"Stop!" Dorothy quickly interrupted, "Don't even mention your brother's place. I need some peace and quiet with the kids."

Seeing Dorothy's reluctance, Karen didn't push further, respecting her decision.

But as long as Dorothy didn't leave Eldorria City, Karen felt reassured. She could still visit her best friend and not worry too much. That was what mattered. "Dorothy, managing on your own with the kids, I'm afraid it might be too much."

"Not really! Abigail and Langston are growing up and very well-behaved Plus, my project at the company is wrapping up soon. Once it's over, I can leave the Lopez Corporation." en.swhovels.net

That would free up her schedule significantly. Besides spending quality time with her kids, Dorothy could finally have some time to herself, to reflect on what she truly wanted in life.

"How about renting somewhere closer to me? I could come over and help out with the kids more often."

"No, you've got your own daughter to think about. I don't want to impose on anyone."

Dorothy didn't want to be a burden to Kenneth or Karen anymore than she already had. She felt enough guilt towards Kenneth as it was.

"You always do this! It makes me feel like you don't see me as your best friend," Karen pouted.

She genuinely wished Dorothy would

move closer so they could spend

more time together. Without her,

things just wouldn't be the same.

Having her best friend nearby would

mean the world to her.