

## Midnight 1111

Chapter 1111

He really was something else...

Any woman who got close to him felt it.

"In the future, Ms. Sanchez, I'd rather you not play the good Samaritan here at the hospital. If he and I end up fighting over this, I'll hold a grudge against you." "Don't worry, I won't be coming back."

Dorothy was too drained to engage in a war of words with Quincy.

It wasn't about winning or losing; she simply couldn't muster the energy.

"That's for the best."

"Can you move now?" Dorothy frowned. "A good dog doesn't block the path."

"You"

"If you don't stand in my way, you're not a dog."

If she continued to stand there, well, that was another story.

Quincy huffed coldly, a stark contrast to her usually gentle demeanor.

"You can handle it yourself. No one's better at saying one thing and meaning another than you."

As soon as she stepped aside, Dorothy walked away without hesitation.

She never liked places like this to begin with.

Quincy knocked on the hospital room door, waiting for a response before daring to enter.

Seeing Everett lying in the hospital bed, she lowered her head, a complete turnaround from her standoff with Dorothy.

"Mr. Lopez."

"Why are you here? Leave."

Everett didn't mince his words, sending her away immediately.

"Kevin called me, said you were sick, and asked me to come check on you." Quincy didn't leave, instead moving closer to him. "How are you feeling? What made you suddenly ill?" Everett scoffed internally, though his face still showed impatience.

"I don't need your concern."

"Mr. Lopez, you always push me away, even after your split with Ms. Sanchez. I don't get it. I saved your life twice. If anyone deserves your trust, it's me."

"Where's Kevin?" Everett suddenly asked.

Quincy was taken aback. "I don't know."

"Get him to come here and take you away. You're annoying."

Everett turned his body away from her, leaving Quincy feeling awkward.

She almost blurted out that his condition was due to her poisoning him, but she held back. The poison needed more time to take full effect, and she had to be sure before revealing anything.

If he sought treatment too early and the poison hadn't fully integrated into his bloodstream, her efforts would be wasted.

"Mr. Lopez, I hope you get better."

"There are doctors here for that. I don't need you."

Even though Everett was cold, Quincy felt they had made progress.

At least...

He was willing to talk to her more.

"Let me stay with you. If you don't want to hear me talk, I'll stay quiet, okay?"

Everett didn't respond.

Quincy sighed, "Do you think I poisoned Ms. Sanchez, and that makes me a bad person? That I'm cruel and calculating?"

Her tone was full of resignation. "All I

wanted was freedom! I even asked Ms. Sanchez; if she dropped the lawsuit, wouldn't have poisoned her. My intention was to live my life, not be trapped in an arranged marriage."

Everett didn't say anything, but he didn't tell her to leave either.

So Quincy boldly continued, "Mr. Lopez, don't judge me based on this alone! You and Ms. Sanchez are overal plan to free her from this, I'll give her the antidote

belongs to en.sw

Everett's fingertips twitched slightly on the bed.

But he had to remain composed, "Do what you want."

"I want to prove, I'm not a bad woman!"

Chapter 1112

"Go ahead if you want to, but you don't need my permission."

"Do you even care a tiny bit about Dorothy's health anymore?" Quincy quirked a brow, her tone laced with sarcasm. "Heartless, much?" Everett frowned at her, irritation clear in his gaze. "Leave."

"I just came to see how you're doing."

"Don't bother, just go."

Silence.

Everett turned away, pulling the blanket over his head in a clear sign he had no interest in engaging further.

It wasn't long before Quincy's footsteps faded away.

Only once he was sure the door had clicked shut did Everett sit up again.

He grabbed his phone and dialed Kevin. "Where are you?"

"Picking up the kids, on our way back to their place!" Kevin's voice perked up at the sound of Mr. Lopez. "Mr. Lopez, are you feeling better?"

"Send me your location." Everett bypassed the question.

"Sure, sending it now."

After hanging up, Everett swung his legs out of bed and left the hospital.

Dorothy was back at their place, waiting for Abigail and Langston.

She took the opportunity to whip up some dinner, thinking the kids could eat as soon as they got home.

Just as she finished setting the table and washed her hands, a knock sounded at the door.

"Coming!"

Dorothy hurried over, a smile spreading across her face as she opened the door-

And then, her smile froze.

"Everett?"

Wasn't he supposed to be in the hospital...

"Daddy!" Langston's excitement filled the air as he saw her. "I dreamt about dad last night and missed him so much today. So, I asked Kevin to call him, and guess what? He was free to come home with us!"

Dorothy glanced at Everett, noticing his pale, unwell appearance.

"Mommy?"

"Your dad's sick, he should be in the hospital."

Dorothy was hesitant to let Everett in.

She thought she had made herself clear at the hospital.

But faced with Langston's pleading eyes, she couldn't bring herself to turn Everett away.

"I just want daddy today!"

It was rare for Langston to be this adamant, clinging to Everett's arm, refusing to let go.

Seeing her brother's determination,

Abigail

ed in, "Mommy! I missed

I

! Can he stay with missed

please?"

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Caught in a difficult position, Dorothy shot Everett a look, signaling him to decline.

But Everett, usually so sharp, seemed to feign ignorance at that moment!

"I'm feeling a bit dizzy, may I come in and sit down?"

Dorothy wanted to tell him it served him right! Just discharged from the hospital and now claiming dizziness, what did he expect?

Yet, with the situation as it was, she had no real opportunity to refuse.

With a sigh, Dorothy stepped aside. "Come in, then."

She couldn't just leave a sick person standing at the doorstep.

At her concession, Langston looked up and winked at his dad, a smug little victory in his eyes.

Everett quietly acknowledged him with a thumbs up while maintaining a facade of weakness.

"Wow! Mommy cooked today, dad, you should eat with us!"

Langston immediately went to pull Everett toward the table. Everett's eyes sought Dorothy's again...

Somehow Dorothy felt as if she were being roasted over a fire! Every look from Everett seemed to ask for her approval, yet in front of the kids, she found she couldn't voice any refusal.

Chapter 1113

Dorothy could only relent, stepping back a tad.

"I'll grab another set of cutlery."

"Thanks."

After Everett spoke, Langston eagerly pulled him down to sit.

"Dad! You sit between me and sis!"

"Sure."

He nodded at his son, eyes lingering on the busy figure in the kitchen.

By now, Quincy was probably sure about his poisoning, hence his earlier offer of the antidote to Dorothy.

For the moment, he could breathe a little easier, just waiting for Dorothy to be fully cured.

Abigail and Langston were as chatty and lively as ever, buzzing around.

When Dorothy emerged from the kitchen with plates and utensils, she saw Everett encircled by the two, deep in conversation and laughter.

The scene couldn't have been more harmonious.

She sighed softly, approaching them.

"Abigail and Langston, go easy on Dad. His health isn't great."

"I'm fine." Everett immediately reassured.

"Well, if you're fine, then let's eat and head out afterward."

He paused, then slowly raised a hand to his forehead, "Suddenly, I'm feeling a bit dizzy again."

As if worried Dorothy wouldn't believe him, he added, "Really."

"Really?" Dorothy eyed him, then reached for her phone. "I'll call Kevin, have him take you back to the hospital."

She was genuinely worried about Everett after the scare at the office!

"No need, Langston would be disappointed, right, Langston?"

Everett now had the perfect excuse.

And Langston eagerly agreed.

"Yeah! Dad, please don't go to the hospital. Stay here with me!"

"Dad! Abigail doesn't want you to go either!"

"Alright, I won't go."

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Dorothy eyed the trio, their performance making her feel ensnared yet without evidence.

But seeing Abigail and Langston so happy, she didn't want to dwell on it.

After all, splitting with Everett was a done deal, and him being their father was unchangeable. She had to get used to this dynamic eventually, not forcing Abigail and Langston to disown their father.

If that was impossible, she had to accept Everett's unavoidable presence in their lives.

After dinner, Dorothy got up to tidy up.

Everett whispered something to his son, then followed her into the kitchen with the dishes.

Dorothy paused, hastily saying, "No need, I can clean up."

"It's just some dishes, nothing more."

Watching Everett gather the plates and meticulously clean each one placing them aside, she couldn't help but admit his cleanliness left no room for worry. But still...

"Everett, dinner's over. You should find an opportunity to leave."

Whether it was returning to the hospital for treatment or going back to work, it was none of her concern now.

He paused slightly, not looking at Dorothy, continuing his task, "In such a hurry to get rid of me, have plans?"

"..." What was he even talking about? "It's getting dark, don't you think it's inappropriate for you to be here?"

"What's inappropriate? Abigail and Langston are my kids. They missed me,

Wcame to see them, what wrong with that?"

Dorothy was taken aback, "But we're split up! Aren't you worried Quincy will find out?"

"Not worried."

He knew Dorothy wouldn't go out of her way to tell Quincy.

"You really are something..."

Chapter 1114

"No matter who comes around, I'm always gonna be Abigail and Langston's dad."

He was right, and Dorothy knew it. There was no coming back from that statement.

"You haven't answered my question, got any plans tonight?" Everett seemed almost too eager to find out, as if it was his mission. He was curious.

Well, she didn't feel like satisfying his curiosity!

"That's my own business as a single woman," she retorted, ready to walk away, but Everett suddenly grabbed her wrist, holding it tight.

"You got a date?"

"Everett, let go!"

His hand was slightly damp and cool from washing the dishes, an unexpected reminder of their once shared domestic life. Dorothy had intended to set clear boundaries, to stop herself from harboring any more illusions. Yet, she hadn't anticipated such a strong reaction from him.

"Who are you seeing? Karen?"

"Do I only have Karen as a friend?" Dorothy snapped back, even though she knew the remark lacked bite. After all, Karen really was her only female friend. "But I have guy friends too!"

At this, Everett's expression visibly darkened.

"Guy friends? Kenneth?"

"He's not the only one."

"Dorothy!" Everett's tone cooled several degrees. "You better be careful with your words."

Dorothy tried to shake off his grip, growing more frustrated when she couldn't. Her temper flared.

"Everett, you should really check yourself! We're over, and the only reason I let you in today was for the kids! You've had your dinner, now it's time for you to leave and stop meddling in my personal life!" "Your personal life becomes my business when you start messing around with other men!"

The accusation was like a slap in the face.

"How come it's all fine and dandy  
when you're with Quincy, but I'm  
'messing around' if I have met  
friends? Everett, you're being completely irrational!"

Quincy had been there for Everett after his mother passed, and he hadn't pushed her away. Yet, when it came to Dorothy, he resorted to derogatory terms.

"I"

"Just save it, Everett. Please, just go. I don't want to argue and I don't want the kids to overhear us."

Dorothy was close to breaking point. She had been trying so hard to keep it together, and she didn't want Everett to be the reason she fell apart now. "Let go of me," she insisted.

"I need to know who these guy friends are."

Everett seemed to ignore everything she'd said before, focused solely on the "guy friends" part.

"You don't need to know. And what right do you have to ask, anyway?"

"...As their father!"

"Fine, you're Abigail and Langston's dad. To me, that makes you an ex at best. We're divorced, Everett. You're my ex-husband! What right do you have to meddle in your ex-wife's personal life?"

Even Everett had to admit he was out of line.

But he couldn't help himself.

"How can I not have a right? The kids are with you. What if you bring some guy home and it affects them? I have to know who he is!"

"Dorothy, I've entrusted you with Abigail and Langston. You can't just recklessly decide on a stepdad for them!"

Hearing these words come out of Everett's mouth was almost unbelievable to Dorothy.

Chapter 1115

"Breaking up was your idea, Everett, not mine!"

Her voice carried a mix of disbelief and hurt, as if she was suddenly the one in the wrong, the one who betrayed their love.

Silence.

"Do I need to remind you again? Everett, you fell for Quincy. It was you who walked away from us! When I was ready to trust you, you chose to let go!"

Tears streamed down Dorothy's cheeks, a dam burst after holding back for so long.

She had tried to remain composed, not wanting to show her suffering.

After all, Kenneth was starting a new chapter in his life; she couldn't intrude. And Karen, with her family and endless responsibilities, had her own life to worry about.

She didn't want to burden them with her pain.

Yet, why couldn't Everett just leave her be?

"I..."

Everett's lips parted slightly, a struggle visible in his eyes.

He wanted to tell Dorothy that he had never given up on her, that he'd rather give up his own life than let go of her. But because she meant so much, she couldn't be the one to suffer the fate his mother did, never leaving the emergency room.

"Did you hear me? If you understand, then let go of my hand. Find an excuse and leave with the kids," Dorothy looked away, unwilling to face him. "And in the future... stay away. If Abigail and Langston really miss you, then take them for a few days."

"I'm sorry... I shouldn't have asked."

"As long as you know."

"But since I've already apologized, I might as well go all in. Tell me, who are you meeting?"

It was late outside.

Who could Dorothy possibly be meeting?

She didn't respond, just frowned.

"I didn't say I had a meeting."

"But in your heart? Is there someone else in there?"

Everett paused before forcing the words out through clenched teeth.

Dorothy was about to respond when he quickly added, "Forget it, don't tell me. I don't want to know, not now."

"You're free, Dorothy."

"Then let go."

Her wrist was warm from his grip, a physical reminder of their connection.

Dorothy thought his words meant he had accepted the end.

But in the next second, she was pinned against the wall, her

raised above her head, her

wontent

loosening but tightening! belongs to

"Everett! What are you-mmph-"

The kiss was unexpected.

She stared wide-eyed, trying to struggle, to push him away, but her hands were immobilized.



"Mmph! Mmph!"

When Dorothy bit him, Everett didn't flinch.

The taste of blood mingled

between them, but he didn't release her lips or her hands.

Forcefully, he invaded her mouth.

"Mmph!"

Dorothy fought desperately.

It was only when she noticed the redness in Everett's eyes that she hesitated, giving him the chance to deepen their kiss, passionately and fervently.

When the kiss ended, Dorothy's heart pounded erratically.

She wanted to question Everett's intentions, but the moisture in his eyes told a story of its own.

"Everett, what are you doing?"

Chapter 1116

Watching his body inching closer, Dorothy took a step back as if waking from a trance.

"Everett, we're over."

It was as if the reality of their situation had just dawned on him too, his handsome face unreadable.

"Please leave my house now," Dorothy's voice turned icy, her back to him. "And don't come back ever again."

"If I leave, Abigail and Langston will be upset."

Everett had worked hard to be welcomed into this home, knowing well that leaving now might mean he'd never be allowed back.

"So, what, you plan to stay here forever?"

"I'll leave once they've gone to bed," Everett tried to sound like he was only concerned for the kids.

"Besides, I didn't drive here. Kevin dropped me off, and he's swamped right now. He'll come get me once he's free."

Dorothy turned to glance at him.

"No car? Kevin's busy?"

"Yes."

"Fine, I'll just call Kevin and check."

Without hesitation, she pulled out her phone and dialed Kevin's number.

Dorothy wasn't about to give Everett any time to coordinate his story with Kevin!

After a few rings, Kevin picked up-

Dorothy shot Everett a look that said, if you confess to lying now, I won't expose you in front of Kevin, sparing you some dignity as a CEO.

But Everett, despite a fleeting look of evasion, said nothing.

"Hello? Ms. Sanchez, what's up?"

"A bit of an issue. Where are you? Can you come pick up your CEO? He's not feeling well and needs to go back to the hospital."

As soon as Dorothy finished speaking, Everett tried to interject, "I—"

But she silenced him with a glare.

This time, she made sure Everett couldn't utter a single word that might hint at collusion.

"Mr. Lopez isn't feeling well?" Kevin repeated.

"Yes, he's feeling terrible. He even mentioned feeling dizzy earlier! I'm worried about his health; delaying a hospital visit could worsen his condition."

Kevin responded with a thoughtful "Oh," adding, "I'm tied up with something at the moment, Ms. Sanchez. Could Mr. Lopez wait a bit? I'll head over as soon as I'm done here. Let Mr. Lopez rest at your place for a while; I'll be quick."

Hearing this, Dorothy glanced at Everett again.

He spread his hands, his face the picture of innocence, as if to say, see, I told you the truth!

"Is that okay with you, Ms. Sanchez?"

I know things are a bit awkward between you two, but considering Mr. Lopez's health, it's not like we can leave him outside waiting! It'll only be for a short while, please bear with us; I'll be there as soon as I can."

"...Understood."

Dorothy ended the call, frowning.

Everett just shrugged, "He really is busy. I know how much the company demands, that's why I told you."

"Then stay put and don't you dare—"

Don't you dare touch me again!

The words hung unspoken as Dorothy recalled the warmth of his lips, her cheeks flushing. She turned and walked away. Everett's lips curled into a smirk before he picked up his phone.

Soon after, a text from Kevin arrived.

[Don't worry, Mr. Lopez. As long as the call doesn't come from you asking for a ride, I'll always be 'too busy'!]

After all, Kevin knew exactly what kind of man Mr. Lopez was from working closely with him.

Chapter 1117

If he really wanted to leave, Mr. Lopez would've definitely called him himself!

Listening to Dorothy earlier, it didn't sound like Mr. Lopez had fainted or was out cold. As long as Mr. Lopez was conscious, there was no way Dorothy would be the one calling him! This was probably just the boss making excuses not to leave.

[This year's bonuses are doubled.]

Everett texted back, keeping it short and sweet.

Quickly, Kevin replied: [Long live Mr. Lopez.]

Everett couldn't help but smirk, then glanced outside.

Dorothy was tidying up the couch, with Abigail and Langston playing nearby.

This scene...

He felt everything he did was worth it, and soon, he would be back with his family!

Once Dorothy took the antidote, once... she was out of danger.

"Dad! Mommy said you're feeling really bad?"

Langston must have asked Dorothy and suddenly ran into the kitchen.

Everett patted his head, smiling, "Dad's fine."

Langston pouted, "So you're pretending again just to stay?"

Although true, having his son bluntly say it out loud was still a bit embarrassing.

"Dad, how long are you gonna keep this up? Why don't you pretend to be dizzy later and just stay over?"

Everett sighed, "No can do, if I really fainted, your mom would definitely send me away."

He had to pretend to be weak.

Dorothy was stubborn and difficult to talk to, but she had a soft heart.

She wouldn't really kick him out.

Dorothy finished tidying up the couch and then started checking Abigail and Langston's homework.

Her life was quite fulfilling, always busy with something.

As long as she wasn't idle, it was fine.

In the kitchen, Everett, holding Langston's hand, walked out.

Dorothy glanced over subconsciously but didn't plan on engaging.

Her phone suddenly rang, catching Everett's immediate attention!

It was Karen.

"Hey, Karen."

Hearing this, Everett seemed to breathe a sigh of relief.

He stopped standing around and joined Abigail and Langston.

"What are you up to? Let's go out for a bit! I'm free today."

"I'll pass, don't feel like moving." With Everett still around, how could she leave?

Dorothy was still worried Everett might faint.

After all, him being hospitalized was true.

"Come on! My brother's coming too; he said he wants to talk to you."

Hearing Kenneth was involved made Dorothy even more hesitant.

"Tell your brother to rest up; his leg's still healing. He shouldn't be leaving

Say hospital all the time." (

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"Your brother," once she said that, Everett instantly looked over-

Who else could Karen's brother be?

"Him, listen? I've told him several times,

you

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my brother's stubborn! f

don't come out, he'll probably just come find you himself

Karen sounded really troubled.

"What does he want to talk about?"

"I honestly don't know, I swear! If I did, I'd tell you."

Dorothy frowned, "I really don't want to go out."

"Then brace yourself for my brother to come looking for you."

"... No, don't let him come!" Dorothy blurted out instinctively, "Don't let him come here."

Everett was still there!

Dorothy didn't want Karen to know

she was still in touch with I

king it seem like they

couldn't cut

Chapter 1118

"Can you come out? Is that alright?"

"Yeah, just tell him to hold on a sec, I'll give you a call once I'm done here."

"Great! See you in a bit."

After hanging up, Dorothy put her phone down and turned around, only to jump at the sight of Everett, who had somehow appeared right beside her without her noticing!

"You... what are you doing here?!"

"You're meeting Kenneth?"

The moment he spoke, Everett's emotions were hard to hide.

"It's none of your business. If you can stay, stay. If not, better leave."

Dorothy didn't want to engage in conversation. Ever since that kiss in the kitchen, she quickly stepped back to put some distance between herself and this dangerous man.

To avoid any chance of her ex-boyfriend, now clearly a past chapter, making unwelcome advances again.

"Dorothy, you're not going."

"Go see a doctor if you're sick, but don't come here causing a scene! Who I meet is my choice."

Since when did her ex get to dictate her life!

"That Kenneth, he's not up to any good! He doesn't just want to be friends! The moment we hit a rough patch, he breaks up with his girlfriend. What do you think that means?"

It was blatantly obvious!

"So what? We're broken up, that's the point."

Dorothy didn't feel like she needed Everett's approval to make friends.

"..." Once again, she left Everett speechless.

"Oh, right." Seeing him looking deflated, she couldn't help but tease, "Weren't you worried about me hastily finding a step-dad for Abigail and Langston? Kenneth has known them since they were babies, especially Langston. He practically raised him, so it's not like it's a rash decision."

Hearing this, Everett closed the gap, cornering her!

"Dorothy! Say that again?"

"Back off! Abigail and Langston are still around!"

Dorothy felt her breath hitch as he approached.

The next second, Langston, Abigail along, called

"Mommy! We're going to

belongs to en.swnovelet while you talk to Daddy!" et

Everett didn't step back; he even reached out to grab her hand.

"Please, don't meet Kenneth, okay?"

"This is my choice, now please leave. Kevin is busy, so just take a cab!"

At this point, Dorothy regretted not being firmer earlier. She should've just turned him away coldly.

"I'm not leaving. If you go meet Kenneth, I'll follow you."

"... On what grounds?" Dorothy, not one to back down easily, was getting annoyed, "Everett, on one hand, you break up, and on the other, you meddle in my affairs! What, you want to have it both ways? Didn't you have Quincy?"

She still remembered Quincy's haughty demeanor.

"When

blurted Quincy?" Everett

in response, "I... didn't

tell you? Nothing happened between us! Really, nothing."

MS

"That's between you two, no need to update me."

"I'm not updating, because nothing ever happened."

He couldn't let this misunderstanding continue.

"So, what now?" Dorothy didn't avoid his gaze, looking straight at him, "What's the point of telling me all this?"

Getting back together?

Was Everett hinting at a reconciliation?

It seemed like his next words might just be about that.

"I..."

Chapter 1119

Dorothy couldn't help but wonder if there was something Everett wasn't telling her. Was someone threatening him, or was he facing some kind of impossible dilemma? "Just say it, I'm listening."

"I just think... You and Kenneth aren't right for each other."

Everett desperately wanted to pour his heart out to her, to take her in his arms and whisper over and over again that he loved her, and only her.

There had never been anyone else.

"That's it?"

"Yeah."

Dorothy looked at him, speechless for a few moments.

"Whether we're right for each other, that's for me to decide."

"Everett, I won't let you disrupt my life again. Never."

It seemed more like she was trying to convince herself than him.

At the hospital, Kenneth was anxiously sitting in his wheelchair, repeatedly asking Karen.

"Has Dorothy called yet? Did she say when she might be free?"

"Not yet, bro. Just wait a bit longer."

Karen reassured Kenneth that Dorothy had agreed to meet, and he had dressed up early in anticipation.

"Are you sure she agreed?"

"Yeah, trust me! Would I lie to you?" Karen glanced at her brother, sighing. "Bro, what do you plan to tell her?"

"I can't tell you. It's something I need to discuss with Dorothy alone."

Karen pouted. "Keeping secrets from me now? I might not help you next time!"

"Don't be mad. I just don't want to say anything until I get some sort of response." "Alright."

Kenneth adjusted his shirt. "How do I look? Do you think Dorothy will think I look old?" After all, he was several years older than Dorothy, unlike Everett, who was her age. "You look like you're in your early twenties."

Karen might have been trying to boost Kenneth's spirits, but he genuinely did look young. If it weren't for the time he had spent in the hospital, he could easily blend in at a college campus.

"That's good." Kenneth's smile briefly brightened before fading again. "Karen do you think... can I ever stand on my feet again? I'm afraid

Dorothy might not want a boyfriend who's disabled."

"You're overthinking it." Karen tried to reassure him. "If you're really concerned, let's follow Dr. Jeffrey Turner's advice and seek treatment abroad! He said your condition is treatable!" Jeffrey?

Kenneth forced a smile.

"Don't forget, Jeffrey's relationship

with Everett! Yes, he's your

e

brother-in-law, and your husband, but he's known Everett longer Don't you think he's been a bit too @ger to help with my leg?"

"He's just trying to help."

"I think it's to get me to leave the country, so I stop seeing Dorothy."

Karen paused, considering this.

The thought had crossed her mind, but she didn't want to give up any chance of healing Kenneth's leg. If it didn't work, she'd confront Jeffrey herself.

"Would Jeffrey really do that?"

"Why wouldn't he?"

Karen thought for a moment, frowning. "But... Everett was the one who initiated the breakup! If he still cared about Dorothy, why end things? And if he's moved on, why involve Jeffrey?" "I think Everett is hiding something from all of us."

Suddenly, Karen remembered something Jeffrey had let slip previously.

Chapter 1120

"Why on earth would Everett keep secrets? I just can't wrap my head around it. Why would he rather break up with Dorothy than spill the beans?" Karen had pondered this but couldn't find a reasonable explanation. "Bro, do you have any clue?"

Jeffrey glanced at his sister. "Karen, do you wish for me to be with Dorothy, or do you see her more with Everett?"

That question put Karen in a tight spot.

A few years back, she would've loved nothing more than to see Dorothy become her sister-in-law, officially joining the family! She knew her brother well; he'd never mistreat Dorothy.

But ever since she got a hint of Everett's true feelings for Dorothy, and the lengths he'd gone to show his affection, plus Karen being with Jeffrey herself, she started to understand matters of the heart a bit more. She began to feel Everett might be a better match for Dorothy.

With Dorothy's stubborn streak, few could put up with her indefinitely.

She figured Kenneth was just fixated because he hadn't had a chance with Dorothy. Once they got together, Dorothy's temperament and future in-laws were bound to clash. Over time, that initial charm might fade.

"Bro, don't you think Dorothy would be happier with Everett?"

For Dorothy, as well as for Abigail and Langston.

Kenneth chuckled, "And what about me? In this happy ending, I'm just left out?"

"That's why I said 'happier', not 'happy for everyone'."

Karen frowned at Kenneth, "Why are you bringing this up all of a sudden? Do you know something?"

"Not a thing. I'm just as curious as you are."

Kenneth decided to keep his suspicions to himself.

Had Karen wished for Dorothy to be with him, he might have confessed. But since...

That wasn't the answer he hoped for.

So, he kept quiet.

Especially now that Everett had walked away from Dorothy on his own, it seemed like a personal decision, unrelated to anyone else.

"But you just said..."

"I'm just as puzzled as you."

"Okay." Though Karen nodded, she remained uneasy.



Soon after, Dorothy called.

"Karen, I really can't make it today. Maybe tomorrow?" She sounded troubled.

Karen glanced at Kenneth, who had been ready and waiting for a while, and sighed, "It's just a little bit of your time."

"Dorothy, I get it, you're in a tough spot. I don't want to push you, but my brother has been getting ready even changed his outfit, just sitting there waiting to meet you! If I tell him now it's not happening, he'd be so disappointed."

Karen dreaded facing that kind of disappointment.

And she struggled to find the words to break the news.

After a moment of silence, Dorothy finally said, "Everett's here with me."

"What? I thought you two were..."

"He's sick, but Abigail and Langston insisted on seeing him. Kevin's t up and can't come right away, so go.

Co just leave him as

"Everett's sick?"

"Yeah, he was in the hospital today."