

## Midnight 1201

### Chapter 1201

"Can you believe she's done nothing but trouble, and here I am worrying about whether she's dead or alive?"

"But the kid's innocent!"

Everett Lopez spread his hands wide, "Not my circus, not my monkeys, why should I care?"

Dorothy Sanchez glared at him, as he pulled her close, "Why do I get the feeling you've turned into such a scoundrel? Who've you been learning from?"

That idea, it's so twisted... who'd even think of something like that?

"You wanna know who I learned it from?"

"Who? Jeffrey Turner?"

"Nope," Everett said, chuckling softly, "But it's related to him."

Dorothy looked up, "Hmm? Don't tell me it's Caren!"

"Of course not! It's that girl who used to hang around Jeffrey... what's her name? Pai something."

"Paige."

"Right! She's the one who inspired me."

Dorothy couldn't help but crack a sarcastic smile.

Boy, he really can come up with anything!

"Wait till Quincy hears about this, she's gonna lose her mind." Dorothy could already imagine the look on Quincy's face. Everett gently patted her head.

"And do you know how crazy I went when I found out you were poisoned?"

" II

"And here you are, worried about what Quincy will do! If she dies, it's her own fault."

If it weren't for the antidote not being secured, Everett would've gladly sent her packing to the pearly gates himself!

Dorothy laughed helplessly, "Have you noticed something?"

"Hmm?"

"The women who fall for you... they don't seem to end up well."

Everett quickly covered her mouth, "Don't jinx it!"

Dorothy raised an eyebrow, puzzled, "What's got you so worked up?"

"You're not falling for me?"

Dorothy opened her mouth but no words came out, and after a while, she couldn't help but laugh, pushing Everett away, "You shameless man! Who's falling for you!"

"Fine, then I'm hopelessly falling for you."

Dorothy, wary of him dragging her into some early morning exercise, hurriedly washed her hands and went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast.

Soon, Abigail and Langston would wake up, and the Bay Residence would buzz with activity.

Once breakfast was ready, Langston came out in his Crayon Shin-chan pajamas, yawning.

"Mommy, Daddy, good morning."

"Morning." Dorothy glanced at his pajamas and couldn't help but smile, "Only because Jeffrey gave them to him, he'd wear them! Otherwise, Langston really takes after you, even his pajamas are black!"

Everett's wardrobe was a sea of black too!

And the thing was, before Langston had ever met Everett, he too was all about black.

"My son, of course, he's like me."

"Proud of what? He's so young, and wearing black is just odd." Dorothy had always been a bit worried that Langston wouldn't fit in with kids his age. After all, she had spent so little time with him.

"You have to give him time, it'll

come!" Everett patted her shoulder, comforting her, "I know what you're worried about, don't be afraid.

Qu

Whatever Abigail and Langston have

lost,

make sure to double down

and give it back!"

"Okay." Dorothy nodded, resting on his shoulder.

Langston, holding his milk, witnessed this scene.

He grimaced, "Dad, is being in love always this mushy?"

"... You wouldn't understand!" Everett flicked his forehead lightly.

Langston rubbed his head, "Then I never wanna be in love, sounds like a hassle! Having to cheer up a girl when she's upset? I'd rather spend that time gaming!" "Tell me that again in twenty years!"

Chapter 1202

Langston nonchalantly shrugged his shoulders.

"Whatever, playing video games is way more fun than hanging out with girls!"

Everett was about to grab his phone, "Say that again, and I'll record it for your future girlfriend to hear."

"Go ahead! Fine by me!"

Dorothy, while dishing out some cereal for breakfast, couldn't help but chime in, "You two are acting like you're not even two years old combined! Everett, are you really stooping to his level?" Langston was just a kid!

Of course, he was all about fun and games right now. How could he understand the importance of a girlfriend?

"I'm just collecting some dirt on him early! That way, if he steps out of line when he's got a girlfriend, I'll have something to hold over him," Everett said as he naturally took over Dorothy's task. Dorothy raised an eyebrow, "Oh? And you're planning to meddle in who he dates?"

Just like... Jonathan Lopez would meddle in his.

"Of course not," Everett laughed, "As long as the kid stays loyal, he won't tarnish my reputation."

He might as well have said, don't be like Mr. Turner! Having fun is all good until you meet someone you genuinely like, and then it's just one problem after another.

"Don't worry, listening to your son, he doesn't plan on finding anyone."

"Him? No way! If it's genetic, by middle school, he'll definitely have someone he likes."

Dorothy glanced over, only to find Everett had been looking at her for who knows how long.

Langston rolled his eyes in exasperation.

"I've had enough of this."

With Everett setting the scene, it was now Dorothy's turn to take action.

Having her involved certainly moved things along significantly, cutting through a lot of red tape.

Quincy knew he was about to have a child with Everett, which practically sealed her position as his fiancée without him saying it outright!

Though he hadn't made it explicit, the very suggestion of wanting her to carry the Lopez family's next generation was acknowledgment enough.

"Have you made up your mind? Are you okay with this?"

When Quincy called again, her tone wasn't as frantic.

Instead, she sounded quite composed.

Dorothy was reviewing some office renovation designs and quickly excused herself with an apologetic look to the designer before stepping aside. "Is this the best you can do for me?"

"Aren't you satisfied?"

"Who wouldn't want more?" Dorothy chuckled, "Especially from Everett He's got so much, and this is just a drop n the ocean! Even for child

support, it's hardly enough

Quincy scoffed, "Child support? If you hadn't brought it up, I'd have forgotten to tell you! Mr. Lopez said it's time to start trying for a baby We're probably going to have our own child soon! By then... you might not even get this much. You better think it over."

"Trying for a baby?!" Dorothy's voice pitched higher, "You're actually planning to have a baby? Did Everett actually say that?"

"Of course!"

"I don't believe it!" Dorothy immediately retorted, "I can't believe Everett would say that to you! He clearly... clearly told me he would love me forever!"

Quincy felt this reaction was more like it.

Previously, Dorothy seemed indifferent, but that was all a façade!

Without this reaction from Dorothy, Quincy wouldn't have felt the sweet taste of victory.

"From the moment you insisted on

going to court, it was over between you two! Now, Mr. Lopez has decided to follow his father's advice, marry me, and settle down

Chapter 1203

"Quincy! It must've been one of your tricks!"

"What tricks could I possibly use? You brought this on yourself."

Dorothy paused dramatically before speaking, "Do you really think marrying Everett is such a great catch?" Quincy chuckled, "I'd love to hear why it wouldn't be."

Dorothy glanced around to make sure they were alone before she whispered the lines she had rehearsed.

"I remember back in Aspen, you told me you've never had a boyfriend."

"...True! I'm untainted."

"Well, you're in for a rough ride. Everett has... let's just say, unique tastes in the bedroom! It's not as easy to satisfy him as you might think!"

Quincy had expected something more shocking.

That's it?

"If you can satisfy him, so can I."

"Well, good luck then! He likes to darken the room completely, tie up his women, and blindfold them! I was terrified every single time!"

"

Dorothy sighed, almost pityingly, "I advise you to heed the words of someone who's been there. Don't be fooled by Everett's perfect facade. The more perfect they seem, the wilder their secrets. And that Jeffrey guy he hangs around with, you must've heard something. If Everett didn't share similar interests, how could they have been friends for so long?"

Dorothy was earnest, but Quincy couldn't help laughing.

"Ms. Sanchez, you simply don't get it. It's called spicing up the marriage! Even if Mr. Lopez was into that, I'd be game."

"...Well, I've said my piece. The rest is up to you."

After hanging up, Dorothy looked at her phone and scoffed.

As she had spoken, her mind couldn't help but wander to that imagery....

Tied up, blindfolded.

It... was actually kind of thrilling.

Dorothy took a deep breath and walked back to her designer.

"I don't need much space here, but we need clear divisions for each department! HR should move to the southeast corner for easy access." "Got it, Ms. Sanchez."

She then dove back into the blueprint, striving for perfection in every detail.

Hours flew by.

When she looked up again, it was nearly evening!

Luckily, Everett had a galaght, or

he'd surely be nagging her

working late again.

"That's enough for today."

"Alright."

Just as the designer left, a text from Everett popped up.

Not at Bay Residence?

Dorothy quickly grabbed her car keys

and headed downstairs, t n my way! 30 minuteng

home yet?

[No, still in a meeting. Just messing with you.

You

II

"

Dorothy's hand, poised to press the elevator button, retracted as she rolled her eyes.

She knew it! How could Everett be home so early?

Turning back to the office, Dorothy

review some details,

find the door she had.

pet

Jocked

now ajar!

A burglar?!

But the office was empty, the decor minimal. What was there to steal?

Dorothy felt a pang of fear but mustered her courage and pushed the door open-

"Surprise?"

There, in the center of the room, stood Everett in a sleek black suit.

The moment he saw Dorothy, his eyes sparkled with excitement.

No matter the occasion, they always did.

Chapter 1204

"

"Hey... when did you get here?"

"I saw you hustling out in a hurry." Everett strode over, his long legs closing the distance quickly, and wrapped her in an embrace.

That distinct scent of his enveloped her, offering Dorothy an endless sense of security.

"Why didn't you give me a heads up?"

Dorothy pouted.

"Since when do you announce a surprise check in advance?" Everett raised an eyebrow, his warm smile spreading.

"You're doing surprise checks on me now?"

"Of course! With all these rivals around, who knows if Kenneth Nelson hears about your new venture and comes running to help, trying to sweep you off your feet!" That got Dorothy laughing.

"So, what you're saying is, unless Kenneth is married, you're going to be on guard against him no matter what?"

"Even marriage wouldn't cut it."

It's not like Kenneth never had a girlfriend. Still ended up the same, right?

Dorothy lifted a finger to poke his side, "Jealous much?"

"Absolutely!"

"Childish!"

"Guilty as charged."

Everett had come to realize that persistence was indeed effective.

After all, why bother with pride in front of his woman?

"I'm done here. How about we pick up Abigail and Langston together?"

"Kevin's on it. They prefer him picking them up anyway. We might as well do something else."

Dorothy was puzzled, "Why's that?"

"Because of your daughter, of course. Kevin's always got candy in his pockets."

She found it both infuriating and

hilarious! Going forward, Abigail's et

dating life would be a

breeze-whomever had the most

candy would win her

What a silly girl.

Everett, holding Dorothy's hand, led her outside, magically producing two movie tickets from his jacket pocket.

"Would Ms. Sanchez honor me with her company at a movie?"

Dorothy took the tickets, glanced at the time, "You bought these in the morning? Been a slow day at Lopez Corp?"

Everett lightly tapped her forehead, "Way to kill the mood! I always have time for you."

But truth be told, he owed his current leisure to Dorothy.

During her absence, apart from work, he had little else to console him, so he took the chance to get ahead on some projects. Now, he could afford this free time.

"Well, alright, I'll join you for a movie! But once Ms. Sanchez takes her seat, I won't have time for these outings."

"That's no issue. Eldorria City's

business scene is bustling, and there are plenty of opportunities not yet linked to Lopez Corp. I can represent Lopez Corp and talk business with your company directly! Ideally, we wrap up just in time to clock out."

Dorothy grimaced.

That was exactly what she was afraid of!

"Everett, I want to succeed on my own merit. Please, don't interfere too much."

"Why shouldn't Lopez Corp collaborate with a powerhouse like yours? Ms. Sanchez, isn't this business discrimination?" Dorothy looked up at him.

Just as she was about to roll her eyes, Everett pinned her against the elevator wall for a kiss.

Luckily, they were alone.

Dorothy's cheeks flamed red as she pushed him away, "What are you doing? There are cameras!"

"Is it illegal? And since when are we camera shy?"

"...Why must you always have a comeback?"

Everett wasn't always like this!

"So, it's fine for you to learn from Karen Miller, but I can't pick up a few tricks from Jeffrey?" He nodded solemnly, "Maybe if I'd listened to Jeffrey sooner, adopting a bit of his rogue charm, you would've been with me since middle school."

Chapter 1205

"You're definitely overthinking this, I'd more likely call the cops on you!"

Everett was well aware of this.

So, he always played it cool, never too aggressive.

Otherwise, with Dorothy's fiery temper, the moment he got too close, she'd leap away and cut ties forever, wishing they never had to cross paths again.

Back in middle school, it wasn't like there weren't boys secretly crushing on her.

Their class had one!

Everett didn't interfere; he was curious to see how Dorothy would react to an admirer.

But before the boy could even confess, he simply offered Dorothy a bottle of water during a sports event, and the very next day, she insisted on giving him a dollar for it. After that, she avoided him like the plague.

Everett couldn't recall a single instance of Dorothy speaking to him after that.

With such a precedent, how could Everett ever take the risk?

But none of that mattered now! After all, he had won her over; she was his.

When Quincy mentioned Everett's conditions to Ronin, he immediately agreed to hand over the commercial building to her!

"Quincy, who would've thought, Everett finally fell for you! Once you're carrying the Lopez heir, you'll be cementing your place as Mrs. Lopez!"

"Yeah, which is why I'm saying you better weigh up what you should and shouldn't be doing."

Ronin chuckled, "I'm just worried, you know! Your brother's at that age where he needs money, hasn't even found a wife yet! I gotta think about him too."

"You can start thinking now."

"No, not yet! Once you're pregnant with a Lopez, Everett will give you whatever you want, right?" Ronin had his schemes, "I heard Jonathan, ever since his wife passed, has been constantly sick and in the hospital. Doesn't seem like he has many years left. When the time comes, all the power will be in Everett's hands, and as his wife..."

He dared not finish his thought, considering how glorious the Caldwell family would be by then!

Would they even need to care about others in the business world?



The Caldwell family, connected by blood to the Lopez dynasty!

"I'm giving you the chance to show

makport. Help me out, and I

the Caldwell family is well

taken care of."

"Of course! Don't worry, you'll always be my precious daughter."

'Precious daughter' - those words made Quincy's skin crawl. Such empty words!

If Quincy didn't feel so isolated, worried about needing the Caldwell family's support in the future, she wouldn't even consider calling her

father. move

When they need her, she's the 'precious daughter'.

When they don't, they act as if she'd drag the Caldwell name through the mud.

Who would want such a family?

After hanging up, Quincy glanced at the time and grabbed her purse to leave.

She had an appointment with the doctor for a full physical, to identify her fertile window!

On her way, thinking about getting physically close to Everett made her cheeks flush with color.

She had never been so intimate with a guy before, not even a kiss, now she was about to take t  
straight to having a baby.

Straight to having a babeel

How could she not be embarrassed?

Back in Swevia Country, Quincy accidentally overheard Everett and Dorothy in a hospital room...

Although it wasn't clear, she definitely heard something.

Quincy quickly slapped her cheeks, "Oh, what am I thinking! Really."

Chapter 1206

Shake off those thoughts, Quincy thought as the car neared the hospital.

She made her way straight to the agreed-upon doctor's office and knocked on the door.

Dr. Quincy knew well - a former college buddy who'd spent years abroad before recently returning to start her practice. "Quincy! It's been ages, and look at you, more beautiful than ever. There's this grace about you that just shines through." That had always been Quincy's way.

Her smile was serene and gentle, as if she was eternally untouched by the harshness of the world.

"Oh, stop it..." Flustered by the compliment, Quincy took a seat, "I'm here to get a check-up, we're planning on starting a family."

The doctor nodded, inevitably curious, "Did you come alone? Where's your husband?"

Planning for a baby usually meant she was married.

"He's...he's swamped with work! And, well, we're not married yet, but it's happening soon. I asked him to come, but it felt awkward."

The doctor chuckled, "Landing a gorgeous wife like you, your fiancé is one lucky man!"

"Not at all, he's pretty remarkable himself."

Hastily, Quincy pulled out her phone to show a sneaky snapshot she'd taken of Everett.

"This is him."

Taking the phone, the doctor admired the photo, "Wow, he's handsome! Looks like a movie star. You two are quite the pair!"

"He's not a celebrity." Quincy wanted to elaborate on Everett's status but decided against it, fearing it might lead to future requests for favors, "He's in business." "You're blushing! You've got that newlywed glow."

"We have to tie the knot at some point, I can't stay single forever."

"That's true."

The examination went smoothly, covering all necessary bases.

"Your health is excellent, no issues at all! Just keep track of your ovulation, that's all we can predict for now." The doctor whispered, "I noticed...um...you've not been intimate?"

Quincy's cheeks turned scarlet as she nodded.

"That first time might be a bit painful."

"Oh, stop it!" She felt her face burning up.

After chatting a bit more, Quincy left the hospital and sent a photo to Everett.

I should be ovulating in about three to four days. Just had a check-up, everything is healthy.

Everett was watching a movie with Dorothy when Quincy's message arrived.

His phone was on silent.

He didn't notice the vibration, but Dorothy did.

"Your phone."

"Let me check."

Everett dimmed his phone to avoid disturbing others.

Reading the message, his brow furrowed in disgust. Dorothy, peeking over, smirked instead.

It wasn't until the movie ended and they were leaving the theater that Everett confronted her, "You see

another woman trying to seduce me and you laugh instead of getting jealous?"

"Well, it's not like you're actually going to sleep with her, why should I be jealous?"

"You should be jealous! It means you care."

Dorothy quickly agreed, "Okay, okay,  
I'm seriously going through with this plan  
OS! Everett, are you

Chapter 1207

She still felt it was a bit off.

It felt somewhat wrong, a tad unscrupulous.

"Look, you insisted on knowing everything. Now that you know, you worry about this and that! Let me tell you, whatever happens to Quincy, she had it coming!"

"You're not wrong." Dorothy wanted to say more, but ended up sighing, "When you think about it, she and Heather Garcia were just after the same thing - you!" Everett playfully tapped her on the head.

"I'm yours, who else do you want to have me?"

Dorothy smiled, linking her arm through his, "You don't need to keep reminding me, I know you're mine."

After all they'd been through, she knew he'd chosen her for life.

Kevin's routine was now working by day and looking after kids by evening.

Mr. Lopez was all lovey-dovey, leaving Kevin with an extra part-time job.

"Kevin, the strawberry candies in your pocket are so tasty! I love them!" Abigail rummaged through his suit pocket, eventually taking all the strawberry candies.

Kevin tried to grab some back but, looking into Abigail's big, twinkling eyes, he couldn't bear to.

"My little tyrant, you can't eat them all! I bought four bags of candies today."

If she ate them all in one go, Ms. Sanchez would probably fire him from his childcare gig tomorrow!

"Don't worry, Kevin!" Abigail divided the candies into two portions, pointing out, "These, I'll eat before dinner tonight!"

"Good girl!"

"And these, after dinner."

Kevin paused, then chuckled wryly.

"So you're planning to finish them all today?"

Langston, with his laptop on the couch, glanced over and smirked "Sis, if you eat too much, you'll get fat, and then that boy Harry in class won't want to hug you anymore."

"Why not?!"

"He won't be able to lift you if you're too heavy!"

"..." Abigail genuinely pondered this dilemma.

Langston scoffed, "Love-struck."

Seeing Langston's expression reminded Kevin of Mr. Lopez as a boy.

Probably not just the looks but the personality was identical.

If he really inherited his father's fine traditions...

Kevin thought to himself, amused.

He'd be just as love-struck!

Perhaps even more so than Abigail!

When Everett and Dorothy returned Kevin was playing

rock-paper-scissors with Abigail,

who had to give him a co

lost.

she

He couldn't very well just snatch the candies away; he had to outwit her openly.

"Mr. Lopez, you're back!" Kevin quickly stood up upon seeing them.

Dorothy, seeing Abigail hastily trying to hide her candies, said helplessly, "You've got cavities, you can't eat more candies!"

"I haven't, mommy, I didn't eat any!" Abigail pointed at Kevin, "Kevin can vouch for me!"

"...Ah, yes, I vouch for the young miss."

Dorothy, seeing Kevin's resigned look, couldn't help but laugh.

"We've discussed it, and starting next month, we're doubling your salary for all the extra work."

"I wouldn't have much to do back

home anyway. Staying here, looking after Abigail and Langston, it's actually quite fun!" Kevin looked at Mr. Lopez, whispering, "Mr. Lopez, Langston just built a simple app for me. It's going to make project calculations so much easier! It's amazing, the kid's a genius. Those genetics are something else!"

Chapter 1208

It wasn't just any app; without it, Lopez Corporation was at a standstill.

Kevin was astounded. Langston, just a kid, had whipped up this incredibly user-friendly program after merely overhearing Kevin mention how cumbersome the current calculation method was! Thinking back to his own childhood...

He was probably still making mud pies.

Everett, on the other hand, wasn't surprised. He walked over to his son, patting the boy's small shoulders.

"In the future, I doubt he'll want to go into business. He should pursue a career in tech."

"But what about Lopez Corporation?" Kevin asked instinctively.

After all, Mr. Lopez only had one son and one daughter, and Abigail hadn't shown any signs of business acumen.

Everett hadn't thought that far ahead, considering he wasn't planning on stepping down anytime soon.

Dorothy came over with a bowl of freshly washed fruit, smiling at Kevin. "I'll try to give Mr. Lopez another heir to take over Lopez Corporation."

"That's the spirit!"

"Then Kevin, it looks like you'll be even busier."

Kevin waved dismissively, "Back at my place, all I do is look over reports and rest. If I get a day off, I might take a stroll in the park. I don't have many hobbies. Might as well have a mission, gives me a sense of purpose."

Their gazes shifted to Everett, who was cuddling his daughter, their noses rubbing together. Abigail hugged her father's neck tightly, showering his cheek with kisses. The scene was heartwarmingly beautiful. It made one think about marriage and having kids.

"Kevin, when are you going to settle down?"

Everett himself wasn't much of a ladies' man, and sticking by his side didn't offer many opportunities to meet women!

He was at the age where he should be thinking about settling down.

"Me? I don't really have time for dating! I've been set up before, but everyone thought I was too blunt and too busy. It never worked out, so I stopped trying. Felt like a waste of time."

Rather sleep than go through all that again, was his logic.

Dorothy sighed at his typical bachelor response.

"Everett, I really think you should hire another secretary! Give Kevin some personal time. You're all set with a family. What about him?"

Everett, holding his daughter, looked over and raised an eyebrow. "Sure, Kevin, contact HR on Monday."

"If it's just to give me some

downtime, then it's not necessary! I feel like I'm learning a lot working for Mr. Lopez. As for marriage... I can wait a few more years. No rush. Once I've saved enough, I'll buy a big house in Eldorria City, then we'll see."

"Got your eye on any particular area?" Everett asked, setting his daughter down to play with her brother.

"The area near the company is too noisy for me. I was thinking about the southern part of town. I could just hop on the highway and be at the office in no time."

The only downside was the steep price tag in that area. Every apartment complex there was outrageously expensive.

Dorothy glanced at Everett, immediately guessing his intentions.

Sure enough, he pulled out his phone, scrolling through his assets, then said, "Guardian Avenue in the Southern District, Quill Estate, black C3, units 1802 and 1902. Check them out when you have time. The code is my usual one. Pick one; it's yours."

Chapter 1209

"Wait... You're giving it to me?"

Kevin was completely dumbfounded.

He had just been thrilled about getting a raise, and now the CEO was gifting him a house? A house in Quill Estate, no less! The homes there were massive, starting at 4,000 square feet. Kevin had once dreamt of living there but had quickly dismissed it as fantasy.

"Yes, as a reward," Everett nodded, a small smile on his face. "The missus mentioned you should start dating, but you said you wanted to wait because of housing issues. So, what choice did I have but to gift you one?"

He glanced over at Dorothy, who winked at Kevin, "Take it, Kevin! The boss here has deep pockets; he won't miss it. Miss an offer like this, and who knows if the next Mrs. Lopez will be as generous!" "The next Mrs. Lopez?"

Everett's ears pricked up at the hint of mischief in her words.

Dorothy nodded playfully, "Yeah, who says there'll only be one Mrs. Lopez at the helm of Lopez Corporation?"

"Dorothy!" His voice turned stern as he pulled her close, "There's only one."

"Come on, I was just joking."

"I don't like those kinds of jokes."

She sighed, "Alright, just one."

Kevin found himself smirking, tasting what felt suspiciously like couple dynamics in the air.

...

Nighttime.

Whenever Everett wasn't caught up in international video conferences, he'd make it a point to tuck Abigail and Langston into bed himself. He wanted to make up for the fatherly love he hadn't been able to provide before, knowing well that some things couldn't be compensated for. Still, it eased his conscience.

Abigail, after her bedtime routine, was already dozing off with her teddy bear in her arms.

Exiting her room, Everett expected Langston to be asleep too, but upon opening his door- Langston was still up, glued to his computer.

"It's past your bedtime," Everett said, ruffling his son's hair as he approached.

"Just a sec! My mentor is about to send me a set of codes. I'll be done soon."

Langston was too excited to notice his dad's growing concern.

"Your mentor? Byte 7?"

"Yeah!" Langston nodded eagerly.

Everett narrowed his eyes, his mind racing with thoughts.

"Have you been in touch all this time?"

"There was a while my mentor got really busy and didn't contact me didn't even know where to find him! It was only recently, with the new system, that he got back in touch."

Langston's excitement was palpable, oblivious to his father's darkening mood. Rivals seemed to lurk in every corner, not just Kenneth.

"Did he... ask about your mom?"

Langston looked up, grinning mischievously, "Dad, how do you know everything? Did you sneak a peek at my computer?"

"He always asks about mom. Last time, he even wanted me to sneak a picture of her for him! I refused, so me for days."

he stopped contacting heart

Everett raised an eyebrow, "And then?"

"So, I took the picture."

"You're certainly my son," Everett said, his smile not reaching his eyes as he patted Langston's shoulder a bit too firmly, causing the boy to yelp.

"Dad! That's bullying!"

"You dare spy on your mom for another man?! Miles Lopez, consider yourself lucky you're my son!"

Everett was calling Langston by his full name now, a clear sign of his fury.

Chapter 1210

Langston immediately shrank back, "I mean... I only snapped a photo of her from behind! If you're mad, go after my mentor. He's the one who told me to do it!" "Don't worry, he won't get away with it."

Everett couldn't bear to upset his son before bedtime, so after a stern warning, he let the incident slide for the moment.

After ensuring Langston was asleep and checking that Abigail's blankets were snug around her, Everett retired to the master bedroom.

Lately, Dorothy had been busier than Everett!

Even though there was an antidote to ease the effects, the toxins in her body were still a concern for her health.

Staying up late working on designs and various tasks, Everett feared she might relapse.

If he could turn back time, he would definitely never drink the glass of water Dorothy handed him!

"I keep saying, Kevin could sort all this out in two days, and yet you insist on doing it yourself."

Delegating follow-up tasks was Kevin's forte.

"What, you're suggesting sending Kevin over to help out at my company?"

"If you want, it's not out of the question."

Dorothy smiled slyly, inching closer into his embrace, "I thought about taking more hands-on approach. I don't have much experience, and if I'm not diligent, the company, despite being launched, would eventually just become another headache for you!"

"I like it when you cause me headaches."

He was actually afraid that Dorothy's troubles would be handled by someone else, not him!

"What's with that tone?" Dorothy suddenly noticed something off in Everett's voice.

It sounded...jealous?

But lately, she hadn't been in contact with Kenneth, and besides Kevin, there weren't any other men around her!

"It's nothing, just want to treat you better, to keep you from others' thoughts."

"Everett, if this is about Kenneth again, I think you really have nothing to worry about! At this point, do you still fear I might have something with him?"

Kenneth, in fact, only appeared

whenever they argued or broke. reconciled, he

Oruding.

After Everett's confrontation with Kenneth near Karen's apartment, Kenneth hadn't contacted her again.

"Besides Kenneth, there's no one else?"

"Who else could there be?"

"Hmm, perhaps you're just unaware," Everett thought about how his son had betrayed him! It was frustrating, yet he couldn't exactly lash out at him.

Dorothy found Everett's behavior since his return quite perplexing.

Avoiding discussions about Byte 7, he decisively pulled her into a passionate kiss before heading to the shower.

Behind him, Dorothy pouted...

Men claim women are complicated, but she found men to be even more enigmatic.

"Dorothy, the towel's not in the bathroom."

Suddenly, Everett's voice echoed from inside.

Dorothy stood up from her



, raising an eyebrow,

strange, I just took a shower,

and it was there."

"There's really none, come see if you don't believe me."

"...I'll just get you another one then."

She dashed to the linen closet, pulling out a fresh towel to pass to him.

The bathroom door opened, and instead of reaching for the towel, Everett grabbed Dorothy's wrist!

"Ah!"

Caught off guard, she was pulled into the bathroom.

Everett intentionally maneuvered her under the shower, and soon, warm water drenched Dorothy's pajamas! "What are you doing?!"

"Showering together."