

The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 121

In order not to make Everett think she was throwing a tantrum, she thought about it and texted him back a simple 'Hmm' before finally putting down her phone to sleep.

Somehow, that night, she dreamed of the scene when her father admitted to cheating on her mother and having an illegitimate daughter.

"Yes, she's about the same age as Dorothy. Not even a year after you were pregnant, she was found to be pregnant too. If you're willing to accept them, both mother and daughter then we don't have to get a divorce. I promise, from now on, you two will be the only women in my life. I won't look for a third one. Who would let you occupy the position of the wife, but you can't even give birth to a son?! Fine, if you don't agree to a divorce, then you can live as a widow!"

At that time, Dorothy was very young. Her mother, Bella, had her back to her, so she couldn't see her expression.

What struck her most were these sentences and the look of disgust in her father's eyes when he saw her

Later, her mother attempted to commit suicide by jumping off a building in a fit of anger. She reached out to grab her mother, but was tripped by a chair and couldn't grasp her clothes.

Suddenly, Dorothy opened her eyes.

She was panting heavily, and it took a while to recover from the dream.

"Are you awake?" Karen was right next to her, staring at her with wide eyes.

It seemed that Karen was afraid Dorothy would do something stupid, so she stayed and slept in the same bed. "My brother is on his way here."

Upon hearing this, Dorothy hurriedly got up to clean up.

Just as she finished getting ready, the doorbell rang.

Kenneth brought three friends this time. Although they didn't look like much, they worked wonders with Dorothy's phone.

Apart from the blocked and destroyed information, almost all the messages were recovered.

“Is there any way to get the recording of the call Heather made to me? Dorothy knew this was nearly impossible, but she asked anyway. One of the men, who was tall and skinny, pursed his lips. “It’s tough. Too much time has passed.”

“If Henry says it can’t be done, it probably can’t. But you can still find the deleted message.” Another short and skinny man pointed to a bunch of data codes on the computer. “This should be the one that was deleted. The person who texted you was prepared. This message wasn’t deleted by hacking into your phone system. Instead, it was set to be automatically deleted after being read.”

Even though Dorothy knew Heather was prepared, she still felt a chill run down her spine when she heard this.

She trusted Heather completely at the time. She even genuinely thanked her for working overtime on the SinoSuccess Enterprises project contract. But behind her back, Heather had already planned to frame her.

“But recovering this message doesn’t prove it was Heather who sent it to you.” Kenneth was quick to point out the key issue.

Dorothy had thought about this too. If Heather had planned this out meticulously, she could have anticipated that Dorothy might recover the text message.

“But at least it shows that someone had asked me for the core technical blueprint during that period.”

“Dorothy, what exactly is the issue between you and Ms. Heather? She seems determined to crush you.” Even Karen, who was watching from the side, felt terrified.

She had seen Heather’s photos a few times before and thought she was a gentle and likable girl who was good at her job and worth admiring. But then she turned around and framed her best friend.

What a bitch!

“I don’t know,” Dorothy pressed her lips together. “Maybe... she just hates the fact that we look alike.”

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If not, then she wouldn’t have become a substitute, taking her place by Everett’s side.

“She is totally nuts! What we look like is determined by the genes our parents passed on to us. It’s not something you can choose. Karen rolled her eyes. If ever meet someone who’s not related to me by blood but looks like me, I’d be over the moon. I’d wanna make her my sister. What a coincidence that would be, right?”

Blood ties...

Karen’s casual comment made Dorothy frown deeply.

“What’s wrong?”

“Nothing” She shook her head.

Before Dorothy could say another word, her phone rang.

She glanced at it. It was Kevin.

“Hello?”

“Tell me everything that happened. I help you think of a solution. Kevin got straight to the point. thought about it. Ms. Heather has a solid reputation within the Lopez Corporation, so no matter what her reasons for framing you are, not many people will believe it! Your evidence needs to be rock solid.”

“Yeah, I know”

“Mr. Lopez already knows about this. He’s in a tough spot. On one hand, he wants to trust you and back you because of your good friendship, and on the other, Ms.

Heather is a valuable asset to the Lopez Corporation. You might not understand how important she is. She represented the corporation in many major lawsuits and won all of them.”

Dorothy pulled a wry smile. “I get it. If the problem lies with me, the Lopez Corporation can easily fire me with little to no consequences. They can blame it on a bit of bad hiring. But if the truth comes out that Heather deliberately framed me, the Lopez Corporation might not fire Heather, right?”

“You have to understand Mr. Lopez’s situation. He’s actually been very considerate of you. Firing Ms. Heather would be a big deal. Not only would the corporation lose a major asset but they’d also have to worry about the possibility of Ms. Heather working for another company and becoming a threat.”

Because Heather’s capabilities were well known, many companies would be eager to have her.

And while this incident could be devastating for Dorothy, an investment banking assistant, it wouldn't be a big deal for a lawyer like Heather.

She could easily fabricate any reason against Dorothy,

She could even use her dislike of Dorothy as a reason.

At most, people might just start saying she liked to pick on newbies.

"So, should I, the victim, just let myself be manipulated?"

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"I'm not saying that. I'm just analyzing the situation for you." Kevin sighed.

"Don't blame Mr. Lopez for not being loyal. Because of your situation, he even skipped a contract signing this morning. He probably went back to Eldora City overnight"

Everett also came back to Eldonia City?

Grandeur Mansion.

Amanda got up early in the morning and started exercising in the courtyard.

Even though I was a bit far from the city, it was surrounded by plants, and the air was exceptionally fresh. It was a great place for recuperation.

"You've been exercising for 20 minutes. You should take a break don't tire yourself out Heather, dressed for work, quickly walked over to support her.

Amanda smiled. "I'm fine, but I feel sorry for you. Staying with me in the suburbs every day and having to get up early to drive to work. It must be a hassle"

"I'm doing this so I can spend more time with you. If Everett doesn't have time, I can't just leave you alone."

"OK. I know you're the best!"

As soon as Amanda finished happily praising Heather they both saw a black car driving into the courtyard.

"Isn't that Everest's car? Didn't he say he wouldn't be back for a few days?"

Heather's hand clenched subtly, and her smile stiffened. "Yeah. Looks like he came back early"

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It seemed that for Dorothy's sake, he could even put his project in Lumina Bay on hold.

Everett got out of the car, looking like he hadn't gotten much sleep last night. His handsome face looked a bit tired, and his eyes were shadowed with dark circles.

"What happened?" Amanda, noticing her son's unusual state, asked as she approached him.

"Nothing. I've just been busy with work and didn't get much shut-eye. He didn't want to reveal these issues to his mom, so he turned his gaze to Heather, who was standing beside her. "Ms. Heather can I have a word with you in private?"

Heather nodded and smiled. "You can give me a lift to the office. It saves me from having to drive. Amanda Everett's gonna take me. Ill be heading off with him."

"Off you go! Amanda was all too happy to see this.

She was thrilled to see her son finally warming up to Heather.

With his mom around, Everett didn't say much. Let's get going then."

"Alright. Come back after work."

"Sure"

Everett started walking, not bothering to wait for Heather, who was lagging behind.

She almost twisted her ankle. She couldn't keep up with him in her high heels.

Once they got in the car, Heather acted as if nothing had happened. "What made you come back from Lumina Bay all of a sudden?"

"Why are you targeting Dorothy?"

Everett's question wasn't really a question, but a statement.

Heather looked at him with disappointment written all over her face. "You think I did this? Because Dorothy told you I was out to get her?"

"Then what?"

"I've been at the Lopez Corporation for years. I've always done my job well. Have I ever done anything to harm the company's interests?" Heather stared at Everett's icy face as her grievances started to surface. "And your Dorothy, how long has she been with the Lopez Corporation? What has she done for the company?"

Everett remained silent

"I thought you wouldn't suspect me." Heather's eyes were full of disappointment. "At least do some digging first before coming straight to me with your accusations! Show me a little respect!"

"Dorothy has no reason to sell the core technical blueprint."

This was why Everett believed in Dorothy.

He could give her whatever she wanted. She wouldn't need to resort to this.

"Why not? Do I need to remind you of her financial situation? Sure, you gave her money for her mom's hospital bills, but that doesn't mean she's satisfied. The other company must have offered her a large sum of money. How can you be so sure she wouldn't be tempted?"

Everyone at the Prosperity Consortium knew Dorothy was in need of money.

But Heather wasn't. She had more than enough from her years at the Lopez Corporation, enough to splash out for the rest of her life. From any angle, Dorothy was the one with a motive,

"She's not that kind of person."

"So, I'm the one who'd sell the company for money? Her retort was quick

Disappointment and bitterness were the only things that could be heard in her tone.

And it made sense. Over the years, she had given so much to the Lopez Corporation. Even now, with her surgery scar still healing, she was still at work, never missing a beat of the legal department

"So, I'm asking you, why target Dorothy?"

Everett didn't believe Heather would do this for money either.

She laughed. "Couldn't it be Dorothy envying me? Couldn't she be selling the company's secrets and then framing me? Everett, she's from poor background. You can't apply your thinking to her. A poor person, when they're desperate, can do anything!"

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Everett clearly didn't want to hear her out. She could see that his eyebrows were furrowed in irritation

"Do you think Dorothy Ekes you?" Heather suddenly threw this question at him

He pursed his lips. "That's got nothing to do with this."

"How is it not? It is! She clearly has no feelings for you yet she could sign a contract with you for money. She basically sold herself for marriage. What else wouldn't she sell?"

"Heather" This was the first time in all the years they'd known each other that Everett had called her name with such sternness.

The atmosphere in the car turned icy, and neither of them spoke

Heather turned her head to look out the window. She tried hard to stay calm, not wanting to start a real argument with Everett at this time.

ce that we

we disagree."

"Drive away from here first. Amanda is probably still watching from behind. We can't let her see

Heather's tone was pleading, and her posture had become low

Everell glanced in the rearview mirror

Sure enough, Amanda was still standing at the entrance of the mansion, watching them.

“Everett, before we have solid evidence, can you please stay neutral? Don’t judge me se quickly, I’m begging you”

The usually proud Heather now spoke with a tremble in her voice. She seemed to be on the verge of tears.

Heather’s request was reasonable.

Currently, Dorothy had no evidence to prove that Heather was involved.

Everett didn’t give her a response. Instead, he stepped on the gas and drove away from the mansion.

Dorothy arrived at the Prosperity Consortium with the evidence she had found, accompanied by Karen.

Upon seeing her, Mr. Percy quickly stormed over “Found any evidence?”

“Trecovered the message she sent me. Have a look.” Dorothy handed him her phone.

The message only contained an email address, and the phone number was now cut of service.

“This crap proves that Ms. Heather framed you?” Mr. Percy raised an eyebrow in disbelief.

This sounded like a fairy tale, didn’t it?

The CEO of SinoSuccess Enterprises had personally come to ask for clarification on this matter, putting Mr. Percy under immense pressure similar to Dorothy’s.

“But it was indeed Heather who called me at the time. She said she urgently needed the core technical blueprint. I questioned why she needed them, but she said the project would be impacted if she didn’t get them, so I gave them to her.” Dorothy was speaking the complete truth

She had trusted Heather’s loyalty to the Lopez Corporation and believed she wouldn’t betray the company.

“Who would believe this story you’ve spun?” Mr. Percy’s face changed dramatically, and he threw the phone back at her.

“Dorothy, can you think before you speak? Don’t just spout nonsenso if you want to drag someone down with you! That’s Heather, the chief lawyer of the Lopez Corporation. What woud she gain from framing an assistant like you? Are you sure she doesn’t just find you annoying?!”

"I think it might be because..... I've been working of the HQ of the Lopez Corporation lately and have been getting close to Mr. Lopez She's jealous."

"Ms.

Heather suspects you of seducing Mr. Lopez?

"How ridiculous!" Mr. Percy was speechless. He couldn't help but roll his eyes. "Who are you? Who is Heather? Is there any comparison between you two? Dorothy, do I need to remind you of Ms. Heather's status and identity?"

Karen, who had been standing by, was not pleased with his attitude.

"What do you mean? Just because she's richer than Dorothy, is whoever she does justified? That's discrimination |

"Who the hell do you think you're talking to?" Mr. Percy immediately started cursing at her. "Karen, no one wants to sort this out more than I do right now As long as you provide concrete evidence that Ms. Heather framed Dorothy, I'll believe anything! Even if you say it was Mr. Lopez who framed Dorothy, I'll believe it! Where's the evidence? Bring It!"

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Karen was left speechless by his strong and assertive response. She couldn't help sneaking a glance at Dorothy

"Give me some time. I definitely find it."

"How long? SinoSuccess Enterprises is no pushover If I say yes, they may not

Dorothy clenched her fists. "Ten days."

ot be as generous with time"

"I can only spare you three days. If you can't find it, I have to announce to the public that you leaked the core technical blueprint." Mr. Percy wasn't in the mood for chitchat.

Their team had been hitting bumps all year, ruffling the feathers of the higher ups.

Now, with this Dorothy debacle, he was considering going to the church to pray. Was he born under a bad star?

After watching him storm out. Karen tugged on Dorothy's sleeve.

"What are we gonna do? Can we make it in three days?"

"Im not sure." In fact, Dorothy couldn't figure out where to start.

Heather definitely wasn't going to confess. The gap in power between the two sides was substantial.

There was no silver lining in sight

"Why don't you lure Heather out? Record her secretly, then we can get evidence of her confession"

Dorothy sat down and rubbed her temples.

"You're oversimplifying things. She's probably got all her bases covered.

"

"Or you could turn to Mr. Lopez. From your conversation with Mr. Percy, it seems like there might be a chance. If Heather's only doing this because of a minor issue, maybe Mr. Lopez would be willing to mediate

Dorothy shook her head. "You think he'd help me?"

"I think, Mr. Lopez is a fair leader. Even if it's his fiancée, he shouldn't let the innocent take the fall

"I'm going to pay a visit to Regal Dominion Ventures. Since they're insisting I did it, I want to know who contacted me and what benefits they offered."

"Alright! I'll go with you."

"You don't need to. You still have work today. I can

an manage." Dorothy knew Karen was worried for her, but once this was over, Karen still had to work at the Prosperity Consortium. Getting too involved might tamish her reputation

Karen pouted. Her face was etched with worry. "But I'm not comfortable with you going alone."

“They wouldn’t dare do anything to me in broad daylight.”

Weirdly, Dorothy had to reassure Karen of her safety before leaving. Like Karen was the one in the situation.

As she reached the bottom of the Prosperity Consortium building, she saw Kenneth, who had dropped them off earlier, still waiting.

After seeing Dorothy, he quickly got out of the car. “Need a lift?”

“Mr. Nelson, it’s not the weekend. Don’t you have class?”

“I’ve taken a leave. It’s okay”

She frowned and stepped back. “You don’t need to do this. Go do your thing. Please give your friends a thank you from me. The messages they retrieved are very crucial for me. I’m grateful enough, so I can’t accept any more help from you.”

“But you’re alone, and who knows how many people are behind Heather planning this? Can you fight them on your own?”

Dorothy was at a loss for words.

“I just want to help you. It’s hard to see someone who works so hard like you being used as a scapegoat. This could ruin your entire future. Dorothy, if your boyfriend were here, I’d leave right away. But he’s probably busy, right? So, consider me as a family member or even just a chauffeur. Let’s find the evidence first and turn things around. You can thank me properly later”

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Dorothy knew Kenneth was just trying to help her out. But she couldn’t give him anything in return.

Seeing her reluctance Kenneth subconsciously reached out to grab her wrist.

Suddenly, Dorothy felt a pull from behind her. She stumbled and fell into a solid, muscular embrace

She looked up and was taken aback.

It was Everett, What was he doing here?

"No need to bother yourself, Mr. Nelson. I can take her."

Kenneth shot a glance at Dorothy, then at Everett. "Are you Dorothy's boyfriend?"

"No, he's not" Dorothy quickly denied it.

Time froze for a few seconds. Everett moved His lips but said nothing

Kenneth wanted to insist, but Dorothy was already whisked away by Everell

They had been driving for a while when she finally spoke, "You can drop me off at the intersection up ahead."

I've already arranged for the company's audit department to investigate this. You can take a break for a few days."

"The company's investigation is their business. I'm gathering evidence to prove my innocence." She wasn't going to sit around waiting for someone else's verdict

Everett's thick eyebrows furrowed. His handsome face was adorned with a stern expression.

"He talked to Heather. She said she didn't do it."

"Of course she would say that! Who would frame someone and then admit to it? Heather is not a fool." Dorothy looked out the window and took a deep breath, not wanting to argue.

She didn't want to take out her frustration on Everett, who had been paying her mother's medical expenses. "Mr.

Lopez, still have the right to prove my innocence, right?"

"You do but all the signs point to Heather not framing you"

"I know" Dorothy forced a smile. "I don't expect anyone to believe me without evidence understand if you suspect my motives. I don't need your help. Stop reminding me!"

And now he came to the Prosperity Consortium to tell her that the evidence proved Heather didn't frame her

Was he trying to brainwash her?

“Dorothy, can you be rational? Don’t let your emotions interfere. I’m talking about the case itself,

“I’m not discussing feelings with your Frustrated, she rubbed her temples. “Can you let me out? I’m not in a good mood because of this. I might say something offensive.”

Everett pulled over but didn’t unlock the doors. He turned to look at her

“You don’t need Kenneth to recover the messages. I handle it.”

Dorothy met his gaze. She was just as stubborn as him “Let me say it again, Mr Lopez i find a way to prove my innocence. I didn’t do it, and I don’t need anyone to handle it for me.”

On the contrary, she was worried that Everett’s involvement might tip the scales.

Everett could see the distrust in her eyes.

Just like in school, she never trusted anyone. She was always like a lone wolf, weak but unwilling to follow the crowd.

Everett promised, “If Heather did this, I won’t side with her”

—“Don’t you get it? Dorothy frowned. “We’re not on the same side. I’m certain that I didn’t do this, but you keep saying it! So, you’re either

neutral or on Heather’s side.”

“So, is Kenneth on your side?”

“At least he’s not supporting Heather.”

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Everett’s eyebrows knotted together.

*To clear your name, you need evidence Kenneth’s trust in you is enough to save you.”

"I know That's why I'm going to gather evidence

With that Dorothy yanked the car door handle with her eyebrows furrowed. "Unlock the deer"

"According to your logic, you need to get Heather herself admitting it or direct proal she ordered you to send the blueprint Going to Regal Dominion Ventures is pointless. They're adamant the blueprints were their pan work."

In the industry, Regal Dominion Ventures was notorious. Everyone knew what kind of company they were.

Dorothy going there would be fruitless, and if somente snapped a photo or video of her there, it would only add fuel to the fie

"Can you make her admit it? Dorothy turned to look at him.

"So, it's all useless. I need to figure it out myself." Darchy knew the road ahead was tough, but she had no choice but to move forward.

Any shred of evidence would help

She couldn't just 5t around and

for the worst to happen.

"Calm down and listen to me Everett reached out and grasped her slender wrist. "Ti figure something out. You're being impulsive and might make the wrong decision. Let me handle it. You need to take a break."

"Am I taking a break? Or am I forever leaving the investment banking industry?" She shot back

Her every word felt like a dagger piercing his heart.

"Ive told you if you're innocent, no one can frame you"

"But I am innocent! And how many people are trying to frame me? Today I went to the Prosperity Consortium. I'm not deaf, I heard their whispers.

They were saying I'm desperate for morey and that I'm ungrateful for betraying the company. I didn't I really didnt" Dorothy's voice broke as she lost control of her emotions.

She covered her face with her hands.

She didn't want anyone to see her crying

She could bear hardships and suffering, but being unfairly accused was unbearable

Unfortunately she was no match for Heather

It was like an egg going up against a rock. Even if the rock started it, the one to shatter would always be the egg.

Dorothy was that egg.

Everett remained silent. He simply listened to her soft cries, then handed her a tissue

After a while, he said. "After all this, I'll arrange for you to move to another branch

Dorothy stiffened and lifted her head to look at him with red rimmed eyes. "Even if I find evidence, I still have to move to a branch office?"

She had worked so hard to secure a position at the headquarters. She had been working diligently and conscientiously for so long. Now she had to avoid Heather because of her plot?

"You've always wanted to be an investment director. You'd get to lead a team at the branch office

"Everett," Dorothy cut him off. "I don't need you to arrange anything for me. Our agreement doesn't specify that I have to work at the Lopez Corporation"

He frowned as his grip on her hand tightened. "You want to quit?"

"I haven't thought about it. At least not now. I won't leave the Lopez Corporation when I've done nothing wrong. If I leave now, wouldn't that be the same as admitting guilt?"

So, she decided that she would go to work as usual at the headquarters tomorrow. So wouldn't listen to Everett's advice to take a break.

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Everett knew she was stubborn. The more she got stuck on something, the less she would listen to anyone else

After taking a deep breath, he tried to calm her down. 'Let's grab some grab first. I bet you skipped breakfast this morning: you'll get a tummy ache.'

As he said this, he started the car engine again.

Dorothy wiped away her tears. I'm not hungry. I want to get

"Though the contract doesn't say you have to work at the Lopez Corporation, it does say you have to be on-call if I need you" Helpless. Everett could only bring up their agreement.

"But the needs written in the contract don't mean hating meals" Dorothy retorted.

Then come back with me to Bay Residence and take care of my needs,"

Dorothy almost bit her tongue off. Then let's just eat."

At the Lopez Corporation's legal department "ce.

After handling a document, Heather saw a notice for a joint investigation on the company app.

She pursed her lips and opened it

stated that due to Dorothy's accusations, chief lawyer, Heather was suspected of framing and setting her up. She was now required to suspend her involvement in the SinoSuccess Enterprises project while waiting for the investigation results.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

"Come in Heather locked up. It was Jeffrey

He had heard about this big fuss. Just after finishing his own work, he rushed over

"Everett actually issued a joint investigation notice within the company Isn't this just an insult to you? This means he's doubting you" Jeffrey closed the office door, stormed to her desk, and banged on it. "This is unheard of! To stop the chief lawyer's work for a mere assistant? Is he senile?"

Heather calmly smiled, got up, and poured him a cup of coffee

Compared to his agitation, she seemed quite calm

“No biggie.

I just take it as a break”

“So is this thing really related to you?” Jeffrey took the coffee and asked tentatively.

Heather raised an eyebrow at him. “What do you think?”

“Frankly, I don’t think you would do such a thing.” Jeffrey analyzed. “Sure, Dorothy is a pain in the ass, and she’s a nuisance between you and Everett But the Lopez family only recognizes you as their daughter-in-law. Sooner or later, Everett will have to settle down and many

you. You wouldn’t go to great lengths to frame her”

“Thank you for believing in me.”

“Any sane person would think the same. You and Dorothy have no other grudges. There’s no need to be so harsh”

if Dorothy was really framed, whoever did it sent her straight to hell. There would be no chance for her to turn things around in investment banking What a grudge that would be

“But Event doesn’t think so. He believes Dorothy.” Heather took a deep breath and shrugged. ‘I don’t care. Let them investigate and see what they can find’

“This is unkind to you! I go talk to him.” Jeffrey frowned unhappily “Almost, Dorothy was just a woman he liked when he was young. You’ve been by his side all these years, so he should know which side his bread is buttered on. The Lopez Corporation Insuring Dorothy wouldn’t be a lay deal, but without you, could it even function?”

Even now he thought his friend must have been bewitched by Dorothy

How could a normally calm and self-possessed person like him not even be able to talk straight?

“Don’t go!” Heather stopped him, shaking her head. ‘Don’t go I don’t want him to feel like I’m pressuring him.’

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You may think that the truth will prevail, but what if Dorothy's been playing the victim and gaining sympathy all this time? You know what they say, pillow talk is the most dangerous type of talk".

Heather laughed at his exaggerated expression and waved him off. "It's actually perfect timing Everett's mom is in the country I can take advantage of the investigation to slack off and spend some time with her. Don't you dare mess this up for me."

Jeffrey just stared at her then sighed after a good while. 'You really spoil Everett, don't you? At this rate, when will he ever realize your worth?"

"It's not like I'm doing all this for him to see. I genuinely like his mom and see her as my own mother."

Jeffrey nodded, then suddenly asked. "By the way, why haven't heard much about your father over the years? He and your mother must have been very much in love to have produced such a tender and considerate daughter like you."

"Yes. They were very much in love."

But they were not mated

Everett parked the car in front of a restaurant

He had already ordered the food on the way, and they were led to a private room as soon as they entered.

Dorothy didn't think she was hungry, but seeing the exquisite food on the table made her stomach growl

Everett personally disinfected her fork and knife and then in front of her.

After a few bites, Dorothy suddenly remembered something You just came back like this? What about Lumina Bay?"

The original business trip plan was far from ever

Kevin will handle it for me."

"Can it work without you there for such a key project? Dorothy wasn't dumb she knew that I Kevin could handle the project without Everett, he wouldn't have rushed to Lumina Bay right after returning from Verdant Cy.

Everett added a piece of beef to her bowl, 'Once everything is settled here, I'll go over

Her hand holding the fork paused. Don't let my issue delay the project. Go back to Lumina Bay, I can handle myself.

”

“Dorothy I want to protect you

No matter how hard the road ahead was, he wanted to stand in front of Dorothy and shield her from any harm.

Upon hearing Pis, Dorothy immediately lowered her head, pretending not to hear it

But her heart was in a mess.

What did he mean?

Protect her?

“Eat more. No matter what happens, your health is still the most important thing” Everett didn't expect any response from her.

This woman always chose to escape anyway, and he didn't want to push her to accept too quickly.

“Let's move back to Bay Residence tonight. I'm afraid that it's not safe for you to stay at Karen's.”

Dorothy was taken aback. It seemed that he had returned to Bay Residence and saw that she had moved all her belongings.

“No, I'm not used to living there. if. If there's anything you can call me, and I'll come over.”

The thought of the strawberries in the fridge and everything Everest had done there for Heather made her feel repulsed by Bay Residence.

How could she move back now?

“Karen's neighborhood is too ordinary, the security isn't great. If someone kidnapped you, you wouldn't even know who to call for help.”

“How do you know where Karen lives?!”

also know that Kenneth has been frequenting Karen's place ever since you moved there.”

He even investigated that? Wasn't he being a bit too intrusive?

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Throughout the meal, Dorothy had half a mind to ask him what the hell he meant by what he just said. But in the end, she kept it all bottled up inside.

Right now she should be going all out to find evidence, not getting distracted by these wild thoughts.

After dinner, Everett got dragged away by a phone call

But before that, he made sure to drop Dorothy back at Karen's place. However, like a broken record, he repeated that she had to move back to Bay Residence by tomorrow at the latest

After returning to her room, her mind was a mess. She couldn't make heads or tails of anything

Suddenly, her phone rang

It was Bella.

"Back from your business trip?"

"Uh-huh, but work's been crazy, so I haven't had a chance to come and see you

Bella chuckled. "You do your thing. If you don't have time, there's no need to come see me. I'm still kicking!"

Dorothy didn't tell her mom about what happened. She didn't want another person to worry about it

"Just wait till I sort out everything here, then I'll come over"

"Bring Kenneth along then. I've got something to tell him. You've been so busy, he should be more understanding

Dorothy paused, not saying a word.

She'd planned to tell her mom everything after her surgery. But she didn't have the energy to deal with her mom right now, She just wanted to find the evidence ASAP

"He's also swamped. I don't want to bother him."

"You shouldn't think like that! A man needs to be kept busy, not idle, so you can see through his actions if he truly cares about y

All Dorothy could do was sigh at her mom's preaching
got it"

"Why do I get the feeling you're tired today? Dorothy, did something happen?" Bella finally sensed something was off.

Dorothy didn't want to say anything, but then she changed her mind.

"Mom, have you ever seen that woman before?"

Suddenly, she was met with silence on the other end.

Dorothy quickly asked, "Mom Mom?"

"Why the hell are you asking about her out of the blue?" Balla asked, catching her off-guard.

I just want to see what she looks like. I've never ther before."
you."

"What would she look like? She's just a sly for Same goes for her daughter Bella's anger shot up at the mention of this. "Don't make me remember what she looks like it makes me sick?"

Dorothy tried to put on a brave face. "Mom, do you think... Could I look a bit like that bastard child?"

After all, they share the came father. There should be some similarities, right?

"Do they even match? Hal"

Dorothy knew she wouldn't get anything else out of her mom, and she didn't want to arouse suspicion, so she dropped it

"Mom, you get well. I've got things to do."

“Alright, remember to take care of yourself and eat.

Dorothy hummed in agreement a few times, then hung up.

She felt like the nason Heather framed her might not be just because of Everett.

There might be other grudges involved.

Dorothys in a daze for a while before dialing Karen

“Karen, do you know where I can get a paternity test done?”

“Yeah Chave a client who does that. He’s very accurate. Karen, curious, immediately asked, “Hey, why do you ask?”

“I want to have a paternity test done.”

She had a question in her mind, and she wanted to know the answer.

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