

## Midnight 1231

Chapter 1231

If my guess is correct, that must be the child we once mistook for Jeffrey's daughter.

Instinctively, Dorothy wanted to grab Karen's hand and quickly walk away.

But in Karen's mind, she hadn't done anything wrong, nor did she owe Paige any apologies. Why should she hide? "Long time, no see, Ms. Miller."

Paige walked over, holding her daughter's hand, looking quite different from the haughty heiress she once was.

Gone was her air of superiority, and her clothes were simple and unassuming.

Contrastingly, Karen, now pampered by Jeffrey, carried herself with an air of aristocracy, as if she was born into wealth, adorned in gold and silver.

"Actually, I'm married now, so it's Mrs. Turner," Karen corrected, well aware of Paige's feelings for Jeffrey, and not willing to let this slide.

Why give Paige the impression she could be pushed around?

Paige's lips twisted, her voice tinged with either self-mockery or sarcasm, "Yes, Mrs. Turner," she echoed, "But stealing the man who was supposed to be mine doesn't give you much to be proud of, does it?" "Mine? Jeffrey was yours?" Karen laughed dismissively, rolling her eyes, "At best, he was 'yours' for the few hours you shared a bed! Jeffrey admitted to sleeping with you, but he never intended to marry you, did he?" "You-"

Paige's face twisted in anger.

Just as she stepped forward, Dorothy quickly blocked her, "Words are words, but let's not get physical! Karen, remember, you're pregnant."

Karen scoffed, "She approached me first, so she better be ready for a comeback!"

"You're... pregnant again?" Paige's gaze shifted to Karen's still-flat belly.

"Absolutely! Jeffrey loves me so much, he wants me to bear his children. Apart from me, he can't imagine being with anyone else, let alone have another woman carry his child," Karen retorted, her competitive nature fueled by Paige's tone. Dorothy, worried things might escalate, urged Karen to leave.

Had she known, she would have lingered at home a bit longer!

"Let's go, Karen!"

Urging her to move, Karen,

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alently, walked away with a determination to continue the

Dorothy.

Behind them, Paige watched them

leave,

Kahe

gaze alternating between

confident stride and her own

belly.

She's pregnant again!

Jeffrey not only wants one child with her but many!

And what about herself? Unable to even sneak one away, instead, she ended up hurting herself.

Biting her lip, Paige felt a fleeting urge to end Karen and then herself.

Suddenly-

Paige looked down at her daughter beside her.

In a moment, her frustration and resentment began to spread uncontrollably.

She took a deep breath, crouched down, and whispered, "Sweetheart, did you see? That woman is bullying mommy! Will you help mommy get back at her?"

The little girl, not fully understanding, nodded, "Okay."

"Chase after her, aim for her belly, and with all your strength, hit her for mommy." "Okay!"

Paige's lips curled into a twisted smile, her inner turmoil magnified, "Go."

Chapter 1232

Dorothy hurried Karen along, fearing that if she dwelled on their recent spat, she might turn back to pick another fight with Paige!

Normally, she wouldn't mind Karen's fiery temperament.

But Karen was pregnant now!

If anything happened, would Jeffrey not go insane?

"Oh, come on! Paige obviously still has a thing for Jeffrey, accusing me of stealing her man! Hilarious. If I didn't give her a piece of my mind, I'd lose sleep over it!"

"Lord have mercy, you're pregnant! And the first trimester is always the riskiest. Please, don't take any chances."

Karen waved her off, "I get it, you're fussier than Jeffrey!"

Just as Dorothy was about to respond, a timid voice called out from behind.

"Ladies! Ladies!"

The little girl's voice was high-pitched, clearly due to her young age.

Breathless from running after them, she struggled to catch her breath.

Dorothy turned around first, followed by Karen.

Upon seeing the child, Dorothy frowned, "Can we help you?"

Having followed them for quite a distance, Karen instinctively suspected this was Paige's doing, perhaps wanting to convey a message but too hesitant to approach directly.

But then, without any change in expression, the little girl charged straight at Karen's belly-

Caught completely off guard, they staggered backwards from the impact!

Dorothy reacted first, pulling the girl aside and scolding, "What are you doing?! Did your mom put you up to this?"

Intimidated by Dorothy's tone, the girl immediately burst into tears.

This drew the attention of passersby, with some whispering and pointing.

"How can adults bully a little girl like that!"

"I know! She's only a few years old, can barely talk properly!"

"She's so pretty, and they're making a big deal out of this."

Dorothy, without giving it much thought, searched for Paige, hoping she'd take her daughter away. Any further provocation could only

Eve

backfire on them, not Karen!

But as the crowd grew, Paige was nowhere to be seen. Failing to spot Paige, Dorothy turned back to check on Karen.

Suddenly,

the little girl shouted

again, "You, you stole Daddy!

Who stole him!"

Pointing directly at Karen, the murmurs shifted towards her.

Ignoring the gossip, Dorothy grabbed Karen's hand, concerned, "Are you okay?"

Karen reassured her with a wave, "I'm fine."

Hearing she was alright, Dorothy finally breathed a sigh of relief.

But now, they were surrounded, like animals on display at the zoo.

"Looks like a homewrecker to me! This woman definitely seems the type!" "She looks so ordinary, how did she manage to lure someone's dad?" "And her friend looks no better, probably up to no good as well."

Dorothy, inexperienced in handling such situations, had only one thought: Karen was pregnant.

needed to be safe!

She tried to break through the crowd, yelling, "Make way! Please, move!"

Suddenly-

Karen's expression changed.

She gripped Dorothy's arm, "I... I think I'm bleeding?"

Chapter 1233

Because of the jeans she was wearing, it wasn't immediately obvious.

They knew they'd have to find a restroom to check for sure.

Dorothy's face went pale in an instant, "I'm calling Jeffrey right now!"

Karen furrowed her brows and grabbed her arm, "Hold on! He'll freak out, let's just find a place and check. Maybe I'm just overthinking."

"You just got bumped, even if there's no blood, Jeffrey should still take you to the hospital for a check-up! Karen, this is serious, don't be stubborn."

Pregnancy is a big deal, especially the first three months!

Miscarriages can happen so easily during this time. Even those who are extra cautious might not be able to prevent it, let alone you, who just got bumped by that little girl!

"I'm telling you, it's fine! You don't know how much Jeffrey dotes on this baby. If he finds out, he might never let me out to have fun again!" Karen could already imagine Jeffrey wanting her to be under his watch 24/7.

Karen squeezed her hand, "Let's just get out of here!"

Paige was nowhere to be found, and that little girl had run off. They were surrounded by a crowd, and who knows what could happen next.

Dorothy nodded, "Alright, let's go check in the mall's restroom."

"Okay."

Worried about someone else bumping into Karen's belly, Dorothy took the lead, forging a path through the crowd.

Once inside the mall, she immediately started looking for the restroom.

Behind her, Karen was still grumbling.

"Paige just can't leave me alone! If I tell Jeffrey now, he really might forbid me from going out! But if I don't tell, it's just so frustrating! It's like letting Paige win."

Karen had never been this upset in her life!

It was eating her up inside, yet she couldn't talk about it.

Dorothy, holding her hand, sighed in resignation, "Let's just make sure you're not bleeding first. You're worried about whether you can go out in the future? Shouldn't we be more concerned about the baby's safety?"

"I feel like it should be fine! You know, in TV shows, if someone miscarries from a bump, they can't even stand straight because of the pain! Look at me, I can still walk around with you, no pain at all. It's just that... it felt like... maybe... I might be bleeding a bit."

Dorothy couldn't afford to be as bold as her, insisting they needed to check it out first.

Finally, they reached the restroom.

Just as Karen was about to enter, Dorothy's phone rang. It was Everett.

"You can go out shopping with Karen, but but you need to rest if you're tired! You know your cot make me worry."

"Yeah, okay."

Karen quickly gestured to Dorothy not to mention her situation, then she entered one of the stalls.

As soon as the door shut, Dorothy responded to Everett, "I know."

"Call me when you're done shopping. If I'm not in a meeting, I'll come pick you up."

"Okay."

As soon as she finished speaking, she heard Karen's voice from the stall!

"Oh no, Dorothy! I'm really bleeding! There's blood!"

Dorothy couldn't hang up the phone fast enough before rushing into the stall.

Sure enough!

There were traces of blood, but not much, just a spotting, nothing like the dramatic scenes in TV shows.

Chapter 1234

Dorothy was completely flabbergasted, at a loss for what to do next.

On the other end of the phone, Everett's voice came through, deep and concerned, "What happened?"

"It's Karen, she's bleeding! Tell Jeffrey to head to the hospital, we're on our way there now, and I'll explain everything once we get there!" "Alright."

After hanging up, Dorothy felt a shiver run down her spine, her fingers trembling uncontrollably.

She was panicked, but Karen was in an even worse state!

Just moments ago, Karen had been insisting she was fine, but now she was crying her eyes out.

"Dorothy, do you think... do you think I could be having a miscarriage?"

"Stop crying! We're going to the hospital right now!"

Dorothy realized that if she lost her composure now, things would only get worse.

She had to stay strong and reassure Karen.

"Don't worry... it might just be a shock! Everything will be okay once we get to the hospital."

...

When Everett broke the news to Jeffrey, he was buried in paperwork. The news made Jeffrey leap from his chair, only to collapse back into it, overwhelmed. "Which hospital? I'm on my way now!"

"I'll come with you."

Everett was worried about both Jeffrey and Dorothy.

This kind of scare must have been terrifying for her!

By the time Everett and Jeffrey arrived at the hospital, Karen was already being examined.

Jeffrey, eyes red with worry, turned to Dorothy, "What happened? Weren't you guys just out shopping? How could this have..."

"We had just gotten out of the car when, unfortunately, Karen ran into your ex, Raige! You know how Karen is, especially with Paige throwing taunts her way, she couldn't just let it slide! Then Paige had this little girl with her bump into Karen's stomach!"

"Paige!"

Jeffrey clenched his fists in anger.

At that moment, he felt like he could kill Paige himself!

Everett, knowing his brother's temper, frowned and stepped in front of Jeffrey, preventing him from rushing off.

"Let's not be hasty! Karen is still inside. What if something happens, are Dorothy and I supposed to make decisions on her behalf?" "You're right... my wife comes first!" Jeffrey realized.

Even though he stayed, he couldn't

help but use his phone to have his people find and detain Paige,

suspecting she'd try to flee, knowing the trouble she'd caused.

Everett sighed deeply and approached Dorothy.

Noticing her shaking, his eyebrows furrowed with concern.

"Don't be scared, we're here now."

As Dorothy looked up at him, tears finally broke free.

"Everett... there was so much blood! Karen won't be... will she?"

"Crying won't help. Let's just wait for the results. With today's medical technology, she should be fine."

Dorothy, still drowning in guilt, lowered her gaze, her voice filled with self-reproach.

"It's all my fault. I should've reacted faster! Knowing how much Paige despised Karen, I should've anticipated no good from that girl approaching. If only I had stood in front of her... It wouldn't matter if I got hurt, but Karen... she's pregnant!"

Everett pulled her into a hug, his hands gently stroking her back.

"This is on Paige, not you."

"That Paige... I won't let her off easily!" Jeffrey interjected fiercely, "I should've never been lenient with her before!"

Chapter 1235

"Let's not worry about that now. Once Karen's okay, you can do whatever you want with Paige."

But Paige couldn't escape even if she tried!

Jeffrey looked up, his expression even more panicked than Dorothy's, "Everett, you've got to make sure Karen and the baby are alright!"

Everett just sighed. He wasn't a miracle worker, after all.

Soon, the clinic door swung open.

A doctor stepped out, "Family of Karen, one of you can come in."

"That's me!"

Jeffrey quickly raised his hand and followed the doctor inside.

Since only one person was allowed in, Dorothy had to wait outside for the news.

Everett held her hand the entire time, worried she might break down.

Dorothy was a worrier by nature; if anything happened to Karen, she'd blame herself endlessly.

Everett knew her all too well.

"Everett..."

"Don't worry, it'll be okay."

...

Inside the clinic, Jeffrey couldn't even sit down; he just stood there.

"Doctor, how's my wife?"

The doctor glanced at him before handing over a medical report from the table, "It's a bit of a unique case. Your wife hasn't miscarried, but she did have some bleeding. The ultrasound we just did shows Jeffrey quickly looked at the report, but it was all Greek to him.

"It appears the clot is a result of some kind of impact. Can you tell me what happened?"

The doctor's tone suggested he was probing for signs of domestic violence.

"She was shopping and got bumped into by a kid!"

"Oh." The doctor's suspicious look faded upon hearing this, "We've

examined her, and this is the situation The clot might get absorbed as the pregnancy progresses, but being a foreign body, it could also lead to miscarriage."

Jeffrey was silent, processing the information.

"You and your wife might want to discuss whether to keep the baby, or not, considering the risks. It might be safer to terminate early rather than face potential complications later on."

The doctor adjusted his glasses before continuing, "If you decide to keep it, she'll need frequent check-ups and bed rest. But there's no guarantee the clot won't affect the baby."

"And my wife's health?"

"There don't seem to be any other issues right now, just the clot." Relieved Karen was otherwise okay, Jeffrey finally breathed a little easier.

"Alright, we'll talk it over."

He hurried to the room where Karen lay on the bed, sobbing intermittently.

Upon seeing him, she burst into tears, "Jeffrey! Our baby, is everything alright?"

"It's okay, the doctor said there's no miscarriage!" Jeffrey quickly wiped away her tears, not mentioning the clot just yet, wanting her to calm down first. Karen was nearly hyperventilating from crying, "Jeffrey, your ex-girlfriend... she's so vile! You have to... you have to get back at her for me!" "Yeah, don't worry, I won't let her get away with this."

At the mention of his ex, something clicked in Karen's head, and she pushed him away, tears still in her eyes.

"It's all your fault! All these ex-girlfriends, each one out to get me!"

"I know, it's all on me!" Jeffrey admitted, knowing that if Karen were to slap him right then, he'd have no choice but to take it.

blood clot in the womb, as you can see in the report here."

Chapter 1236

If not for herself, Karen wouldn't have to go through this ordeal!

At home, he could hardly bring himself to raise his voice, yet now, after someone had bullied him and even targeted his child, Jeffrey just couldn't stand it any longer.

"Honey, rest assured, I won't let Paige get away with this!"

He had already let Paige off once before, at Karen's pleading, which only led to today's trouble.

"Going after Paige is one thing, but leave the kid out of it," Karen, now a mother herself, naturally felt compassion for the little girl. "If Paige hadn't set her on us, she wouldn't have come after me. She's still so young, she doesn't understand." Jeffrey stroked her hair, holding her even tighter, "You're just too kind."

"Jeffrey... our child, they're really okay? Nothing's wrong?"

He hadn't said anything on his own, and Karen didn't dare ask too closely.

Since there was bleeding, she knew it couldn't be good.

But she was so scared...



"Don't worry, I'll always be by your side."

Jeffrey's evasion was answer enough.

She started to cry, each sob like a dagger to Jeffrey's heart...

Growing up, he had always had everything his way, but it was only after Karen came into his life that he realized there were so many things out of his control!

No wonder some people turned fervently to prayer. Now, if it could just keep their child safe, Jeffrey was ready to believe, too. He'd even build a few churches if he had to!

...

Inside, Karen's tears were heart-wrenching, and outside, Dorothy was hardly faring any better.

Because Everett was holding her hand, she could feel her body shaking.

"Jeffrey's been in there a long time without any news; it should be alright, don't worry."

Dorothy looked down, wishing she could steady herself.

But such incidents, perhaps not as frightening in the moment, grow more terrifying the more one dwells on them.

If that little girl had been any stronger, Karen might have been knocked to the ground. What then...

Dorothy couldn't believe she hadn't managed to protect her, especially when Karen had always been there to protect her in the past. She hadn't even noticed the little girl's O intentions!

Dorothy was filled with regret.

"Jeffrey really wanted this child."

He sighed deeply, gently stroking her

Uporothy, this isn't your fault You can't keep taking all the be upon yourself."

Jeffrey was worried about Karen, but Everett was even more concerned for Dorothy's health.

Her situation was even more delicate than Karen's!

A single misstep could cost her life.

Right after he finished speaking, his phone rang.

Glancing at it, his face showed a hint of irritation.

"Is it Quincy?" Dorothy quickly picked up on his change of expression.

"Yeah."

"Then go take the call. I'm fine!"

"It can wait. I'm more worried about you," Everett was more concerned about Dorothy.

She tried to smile, "Don't keep

Quincy waiting. It might make her feel you don't care about her! You're contacting Quincy for my antidote, right?"

"Go on, I'm really okay. I'll just wait here for them."

Everett could only nod, "I'll be right back after the call."

Chapter 1237

Everett didn't answer the call beside Dorothy, not because he had anything to hide from her, but the idea of chatting up another woman, especially with undertones of flirtation, in front of her just didn't sit right with him. Even if it meant securing the antidote that could save her life. He stepped away, though a quick glance back assured him he could still see where Dorothy was.

As soon as the call connected, Quincy's voice came through, soft and coquettishly sweet.

"Mr. Lopez... I'm sorry, I dozed off again last night..."

"It's fine."

"Did you take the medicine I gave you?"

There was a pause before Everett replied, "The one you said would make me feel better?"

"Mhm..."

"No," he said, his gaze drifting back to Dorothy's frail figure, his brows furrowing slightly, "Quincy, we need to meet. There's something I need to ask you."

Quincy was taken aback by the sudden invitation.

But, of course, she wouldn't refuse!

"Alright, shall we meet at that hotel again?"

"...Let's pick a diner. I haven't had dinner."

"Mr. Lopez hasn't had dinner yet? Then let me cook something for you, bring it over! You can taste my cooking."

"Maybe next time. I'm tied up today."

Hearing the seriousness in Everett's voice, Quincy realized this wasn't just a casual chat.

Could it be... Did Everett find out Dorothy hadn't taken the antidote?

But he was supposed to be over Dorothy, wasn't he?

That couldn't be it.

A whirlwind of speculation rushed through her mind.

"What do you want to talk about?" Quincy couldn't help but ask, seeking some reassurance.

"Just a doubt I need you to clear up for me. It's nothing major."

"Oh..." Since he put it that way, pressing him further seemed pointless.

Quincy didn't want to push her luck, pestering him with more questions. She'd find out soon enough.

After hanging up, Everett sent Quincy the diner's location, setting the meeting for two hours later.

After all, he couldn't just leave, not with Jeffrey's situation still up in the air.

Returning to Dorothy's side, she looked up at him, her eyes still rimmed with red but no longer teary. "Done?"

"Yeah," Everett nodded. "I need to meet Quincy later."

Dorothy paused briefly but didn't ask why.

It was Everett who brought it up. "I've had it with hospitals. I need to get that antidote faster."

It was a gamble.

"Hmm?"

"Quincy gave me part of the  
antidote, buying us some time,"

Everett explained. "Dorothy, I want to take a gamble. If it works, we need to act quickly to rid you of this poison!"

That poison was like a sword hanging over Everett's head, disrupting his peace.

Especially after Dorothy had been admitted to the hospital again, with doctors warning of irreversible damage to her health. She loved her job, yet now she was confined at home, unable to exert herself.

Though Dorothy never complained, Everett knew better than to ignore her suffering. "Okay, you gamble. I'm fine with it," Dorothy nodded, without a hint of worry. Everett raised an eyebrow.

"Aren't you scared?"

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"Not at all, she smiled. "I know if it came down to it, you'd lay down your life to save me. What do have to fear?"

Chapter 1238

Others she might not know well, but Everett, she knew like the back of her hand.

If it came down to trading his life for hers right now, he wouldn't hesitate for a second.

Everett squeezed her hand, his voice deep with a hint of sorrow, "Without me, none of this would have happened to you. I owe you."

"You don't owe me anything. Without you, I would have lost so much more."

Dorothy had come to terms with it all.

She figured that as long as there was light at the end of the tunnel, what did it matter how bitter the journey was? If you could endure it, wouldn't the sweetness that followed be all the more rewarding? Soon, Jeffrey emerged, carrying Karen in his arms.

Dorothy was taken aback, "What happened? Why is she being carried?"

"She said her legs gave out, scared stiff," Jeffrey explained, a touch of embarrassment in his voice.

Everett drove them home, and it was almost time for him to meet with Quincy.

"Karen's a bit shaken up. I'll stay here with her. You go on and do what you need to. We can touch base after you're done." "Alright."

Watching Everett drive off, Karen finally asked, "Where's he off to? Meeting Quincy?"

"Yeah."

"And you're okay with these meetings?"

Dorothy smiled, "My hero's out there figuring out how to save me. Why would I mind?"

She was too busy feeling grateful for his efforts.

...

It was clear Quincy had dolled herself up for the meeting with Everett.

Her efforts were all focused on this.

Unfortunately, Everett couldn't care less.

As soon as they sat down, Quincy started

Can a soft voice, "Mr. Lopez, ...

I call

you Everett? I feel like Mr.

Lopez is so formal now that we're... closer."

Everett glanced at her, his voice firm, "Mr. Lopez is fine. Heather used to call me Everett, and I don't like the reminder."

Hearing this, Quincy quickly agreed, "Then Mr. Lopez it is! Whatever you say."

He didn't continue, seemingly contemplating how to broach the subject.

Seeing Everett hesitate, Quincy took the initiative, "Mr. Lopez, if there's something on your mind, just ask. It's okay."

She felt they were practically engaged now, and after being intimate, what was there to be hesitant about?

"Alright, I'll just ask," Everett said, rarely looking her directly in the eye, "What was the meaning behind that medication you suddenly gave me?"

"...I told you, it's for bolstering a man's health, good for someone trying to conceive."

"Honestly, considering my sudden fainting spell before, I... suspect you might have poisoned me."

Quincy was shocked, her complexion changing slightly.

But she was somewhat prepared; given Everett's intelligence, it wasn't surprising he'd figured it out.

"Mr. Lopez, I-

"The truth is, I don't want to suspect you. I was ready to start a family with you, which would affect our relationship. But if you did poison me might need to reevaluate our relationship."

Everett cut her off, laying out his thoughts first.

This forced Quincy to swallow the excuses she had prepared, initially planning to confess and, at worst, continue to use the situation to manipulate Everett.

Chapter 1239

Just when she thought things couldn't get more complicated, Everett dropped the "F" bomb - feelings!

His feelings for her.

Acknowledging them now could shatter the delicate emotions she'd only just begun to cultivate in Everett's heart.

That was a no-go zone!

"Poison you? Absolutely not."

"Really?"

"Of course! Don't you trust me?" Quincy tried her best to mask her emotions.

Everett seemed hesitant but ultimately nodded.

"I do. Maybe it's just me not feeling well lately. Sorry, I shouldn't have doubted you. I'm planning to fly to Swevia Country this month for a check-up."

"... You're going to Swevia Country? You could get checked out here!"

"Well, there's a collaborative project happening there."

"Oh."

Quincy's heart sank.

The thought of Everett heading to Swevia Country for a medical check-up was worrisome.

Their medical facilities were leagues ahead, and while they couldn't cure poison, they could definitely detect it!

Meaning...

Everett might find out she poisoned him after his visit.

The only way out was to cure Everett of the poison before he left for Swevia Country.

Quincy looked at Everett, silent for a few seconds, then managed a stiff smile.

This needed careful thought.

Giving Everett the antidote would mean playing her ace.

But...

If she could bear Everett, the Lopez heir, wouldn't that be an ace up her sleeve too?

After all, a child is a lifetime bargaining chip.

"Does Mr. Lopez really have to rush over? I

time, f'd like to visit Swevia

one as thinking, after some

We could go together.

"I'm going for work; the check-up is secondary."

"Oh."

Quincy was already planning to consult her friends on how soon one could know if they're pregnant. Ideally, she'd be pregnant before Everett left, swapping one ace for another without losing.

And she could safely hand over the antidote.

Everett endured a bit more small talk with Quincy, wanting her to believe he was genuinely interested in

gafamily.

marrying her and starting

He was getting impatient.

Ever since Dorothy was hospitalized again, Everett found himself distracted even at work, pondering over his next move! Meeting with Quincy today was risky.

If she refused to give the antidote, all his plans would be in vain, requiring a whole new strategy.

But if he won this gamble, Dorothy could get the antidote soon.

...

Since Karen returned to the villa, Jeffrey insisted she rest without moving an inch.

Surprisingly, she obeyed, even swallowing the bitter medicine prescribed by the doctor without complaint. Exhausted from the ordeal, Karen fell asleep without having much of a conversation with Dorothy.

Once she was sound asleep, Dorothy quietly asked Jeffrey, "What did the doctor really say? Is she okay?"

Jeffrey sighed, "There's a blood clot. Whether it can be absorbed is

uncertain, and there's a chance.

might miscarry on her own."

"So, Karen is still at risk of miscarriage?!"

"Yeah." Though Jeffrey hated to admit it, "We can only hope for the best now."

Chapter 1240

"It's in God's hands now," is something people say when they're at their most helpless.

But for Jeffrey, there wasn't much else to say.

After a moment of silence, Dorothy whispered, "I'm sorry... I should have taken better care of her."

Jeffrey was taken aback, "What are you talking about? If Everett heard that, he'd have my head! I'm not blaming you!"

"I know you and Karen aren't blaming me, but... I just can't shake the feeling of guilt."

She couldn't help but think if she had reacted just a bit faster, stepped in front of that kid, maybe this whole mess could've been avoided.

"What guilt? It was Karen who dragged you out shopping to kill time! You didn't wish for her to get hurt. If I blamed you for this, what kind of person would that make me?" Besides, Jeffrey wouldn't dare!

Not just because of Everett, but also for Karen's sake, he couldn't possibly blame her best friend.

"I just hope Karen will be okay, and the baby too."

"I have a good feeling they will be," Jeffrey managed a smile, though it was clear it was forced.

...

After seeing Everett, Quincy was in a dilemma.

How could she quickly confirm whether she was pregnant...

After all, only with that assurance could she stop using poison to control Everett.

She didn't really want to.

Before, it was Dorothy, and whether she lived or died didn't affect Quincy's life directly.

But Everett was different. He was the man she was going to marry, the future father of her children. If he died young because of the poison, what would she do?

Left with no choice, Quincy went to the hospital again to seek help from her friend.

Seeing Quincy, her friend couldn't help but smile, "You're glowing! Are you... starting to try for a baby?"

"Yeah," Quincy nodded, relieved there was no one else in the examination room, "How soon can I find out if I'm pregnant?"

"At the earliest, ten days to two weeks. Any sooner and the embryo wouldn't have implanted yet."

"Isn't there a faster way? We've... done it several times, without taking any precautions."

As Quincy blushed, her friend walked over and patted her shoulder.

"Why the rush? Getting pregnant is all about timing. It'll happen when it happens. Some people get pregnant on their first try, it's not unheard of."

"You don't understand... I need to know if I'm pregnant as soon as possible."

Quincy felt cornered and shared Everett's situation, but she omitted the part about poisoning him. She only mentioned that the Lopez

family wasn't keen on having

her

marry into their family. If she wasn't pregnant, the Lopez family might not want her anymore!

"In this day and age, still relying on having a child to secure your position? her friend said, then immediately understood, "Well, given how desirable the other party is, in terms of wealth, power, and books, I guess they do have their standards."

"Exactly! So, is there...?"

"I mean, there's a way, but take it with a grain of salt."

"What is it?" Quincy urged.

"Even if you're not pregnant, you could fake it! Getting a fake pregnancy report for you wouldn't be hard."