

## Midnight 1291

### Chapter 1291

Jonathan, clad in black, emerged from the building, a shadow of the once towering figure in the business world. Now, even his walk hinted at a slight stoop, a bowing under invisible weights. It wasn't hard to see why. The recent blows life had dealt him - the loss of his wife

not long ago, and now, his only son's fate hanging in the balance - were enough to bend even the sturdiest of oaks.

As he stepped out, his gaze immediately fell on Dorothy and Kevin waiting nearby. His face darkened, his jaw set as he marched towards them, barely containing his wrath.

Dorothy felt a surge of anxiety, her mind racing through all possible scoldings she might receive. Kevin wasn't faring much better. After all, he was there primarily to ensure Dorothy's safety.

Jonathan wasted no time upon reaching them. He headed straight for Dorothy, fury in his eyes.

"Your mom always said you were trouble, and damn if she wasn't right!" he spat out, his hand raised in a threatening gesture.

Kevin moved to intervene but a look from Dorothy stopped him. The next moment, a sharp slap echoed, sending Dorothy staggering, nearly falling to the ground.

The incident, happening at such a bustling time at the airport, didn't go unnoticed. Many bystanders quickly took out their phones to capture the scene.

"I'm sorry..." Dorothy murmured, her role far from over. The stinging pain on her face made her lips quiver.

Kevin quickly stepped in, "This has nothing to do with Ms. Sanchez. It was Quincy! He's the one who poisoned Mr. Lopez!"

"Without Dorothy, how could Quincy have even thought to harm Everett?" Jonathan's anger was squarely aimed at her now.

Yet, she remained silent, head bowed, absorbing the blame.

Soon, the media caught wind of the confrontation.

"Mr. Lopez... he wouldn't have wanted you to treat Ms. Sanchez this way," Kevin attempted to reason, a desperate attempt to appeal to Jonathan's better nature.

But Jonathan was beyond reason,

his grief clouding all judgment. "This debt won't be easily settled! You claimed to love Everett, ready to die for him, right? Well, now he's gone. Why aren't you following him in death? Dorothy, that would at least show you meant your words!"

Jonathan's glare was unyielding, his words like daggers.

Kevin's heart raced, fearing Jonathan might really take drastic measures against Dorothy. If something happened to her, especially with Everett's situation still unresolved...

"Let's calm down and talk about this at the hotel. It's not appropriate to cause Jonathan, though still visibly upset, finally acquiesced and led the way to the car.

scene at the airport," he suggested, trying to defuse the situation.

Dorothy's tears didn't stop, even as they drove away. Whether it was the pain from the slap or the weight of the performance, her tears flowed freely, painting her as a figure of profound sorrow. Kevin gave her a reassuring pat on the shoulder, signaling that the airport scene was over and it was time to regroup.

Chapter 1292

Honestly, she didn't even know why she was crying, but the tears just wouldn't stop flowing... Sure, that slap stung, but it wasn't the pain that lingered this long.

Maybe it was Jonathan's declaration of undying love that stirred something deep within her!

Dorothy thought to herself, if this wasn't all an act, if it were real, then she... she wouldn't have come to the airport to pick up Jonathan today. She figured she would have gone off with Everett instead.

Just like she believed Everett would do the same for her.

Kevin sensed the tension in the car and didn't dare utter a word, just focused on driving them to the downtown hotel as quickly as possible!

He hadn't even accomplished the task Mr. Lopez had set out for him, fearing the impending scolding.

As they were about to reach the hotel, Jonathan, sitting in the passenger seat, suddenly spoke up-  
"Were there any media folks back at the airport?"

Kevin was puzzled by the sudden question but nodded, "There are always some paparazzi tailing me and Ms. Sanchez in disguise. Coming to the airport, it's likely we were followed." There would be new headlines by tomorrow.

He could already imagine the title-

Everett's Father Arrives in Eldorria City, Strikes Former Daughter-in-Law

"Mhm." After Jonathan hummed in response, he turned his gaze to Dorothy in the back seat, "That act back there, not bad."

He had been fooled for a moment.

As soon as he said that, not only Dorothy froze, but so did Kevin!

Mr. Lopez said... he hadn't informed his father?

Seeing the confused looks on their faces, Jonathan frowned, "Your acting might fool the media, but Everett is my son. Whether he's in trouble or not, I know."

"Though I don't know why you're doing all this, if my presence is required in this charade, I have no choice."

Dorothy bit her lower lip, feeling a bit guilty.

To think, at his age, he had to go through all this trouble because of her!

"I'm sorry..."

"I don't want to hear any apologies. Everett is my only child, and he's set his heart on you for life. If you truly have your heart on him as well,

then I hope you two stop causing any more trouble! I'm too old for this kind of shock."

Jonathan's words, though they sounded displeased, even a bit irritated upon a closer look...

Wasn't this just the same as acknowledging Dorothy as his daughter-in-law?

"When you're back home, I might not be the first to know if something happens, but try not to keep me in the dark!"

Kevin felt a bit awkward, "That was Mr. Lopez's decision, please don't blame Ms. Sanchez..."

"I know!" Jonathan glared, "If not for him, who else would dare to play me like this?"

In his life, no one had dared to treat him like that!

"Once we reach the hotel, I'll take a rest, and then you give me your phone, to prevent anyone from tapping my calls. I need to talk to that brat."

Kevin immediately nodded, "Of course!"

As soon as the

van car reached the

exit

Kevin was about to get

with the luggage,

Dorothy's phone rang-

Seeing an unknown number, her heart skipped a beat!

Looks like Lane couldn't sit still any longer, much earlier than she and Everett had anticipated.

Dorothy gave Kevin a look, then answered the call.

Having cried earlier, her voice was naturally hoarse, easy to detect.

"Have you been crying?"

Just as expected, Lane's first question was exactly that.

Chapter 1293

But it didn't take long before he answered his own question, "Makes sense, Everett's gone and you're struggling to deal with it."

"Why did you call me?" Dorothy sniffled deliberately, "It's because you got Quincy killed, that led to Everett's..."

"His death was his own doing! Getting involved with a woman like Quincy wasn't my doing."

"Lane, aren't you scared I'll call the cops on you? You're a fugitive now!"

Lane chuckled, his voice as carefree as ever.

"I'm not scared! Everyone else might go to the police, but not you, you can't."

Pretending to be clueless, Dorothy asked, "Why not?"

"Because-though Quincy is gone, that doesn't mean there's no antidote left in the world!"

"But if I die or get caught, then you're definitely going down with me."

"You, you have the antidote? Then why not bring it out!" Dorothy, hearing this, felt a sudden relief.

There's an antidote!

Knowing this, it felt like their efforts hadn't been in vain!

"Bring it out, then what? Save Everett? Dorothy, you're thinking too big. I wish Everett would drop dead this instant; why would I save him?" Lane's voice darkened at the mention of Everett, "All of this, having to sneak around, isn't it all because of him, Everett?!" "He just wanted me to work at the Lopez Corporation, it wasn't aimed at you!"

"But in the end, wasn't East Star Enterprises taken over, and I was driven out of Eldorria City like a stray dog?" Lane shouted, "Even now, after he's dead, you're still speaking for him! Dorothy, you better understand what you're doing!"

Dorothy realized she shouldn't have gone down that path.

She was habitually defending Everett, trying to explain for him.

After a few seconds to calm down, Dorothy clenched her fist before asking, "You say you have the antidote, what do you want?"

"What I want, can't you guess?"

"I can't."

Lane chuckled, "I want you, Dorothy!"

Now

who can save you is

You

perso Everett is gone, the understand that, right?" she

Dorothy glanced at Kevin, who was standing by the recorder, and pursed her lips "You're using the antidote to blackmail me? Lane, you claim to love and like me, but this is how you show it?"

"Cut the crap! pursued you earnestly before, were you ever moved? Did you ever even give me a chance?" Lane was fuming, "The only woman I've chased for so long and never got, is you! If I give you the antidote now, you'll just walk away,

maybe even call the

She couldn't help but smirk a bit.

Because he was right.

cops on me!"

But facing him now, she had to keep up the act, "I don't like being threatened!"

"So, you want to die? I know, after Everett's death, you've been sick because of the poison, right?"  
Sick?

Dorothy didn't recall playing that part recently!

She blurted out, "How did you know?"

"Your bestie told me, what's her name... Karen." Karen?!

"How did you two get in touch?!"

Chapter 1294

Kenneth was with me when those calls happened; I heard everything," Lane boasted, feeling like he had the upper hand. So, his demands came without hesitation, "I've got the antidote that could save you, but-" He paused on purpose, prompting Dorothy to bite.

"But what?"

"I want a night with you. Sleep with me, and it's yours."

"Lane, you're despicable!"

He burst into laughter. "Why the outrage? It's not like you haven't been with Everett before! What's with the act of innocence? If Everett can have you, why can't I?"

"I'd rather die than be with you! Keep your antidote!"

"Dorothy, even now, you're still playing hard to get? Didn't you see what happened to Everett?"

"Think it over. When you're ready, let me know."

With that, he hung up.

Dorothy looked up, her expression grave.

Lane reaching out meant there was a lead, but-

"So, Kenneth is with him?"

Who else could it be?

"Huh?" Kevin was just as confused.

"I need to get in touch with Kenneth." Dorothy quickly dialed Kenneth's number, only to find it turned off!

She could never have imagined Kenneth being dragged into this mess!

And from what it sounded like, Karen had known all along but hadn't told her.

"Can't get through?" Kevin raised an eyebrow.

"Yeah." Dorothy rubbed her temples, frustration bubbling up inside her.

She didn't want Kenneth to do anything for her, not anymore!

She already owed him more than she could repay, and because of certain boundaries, she had to keep her distance. And now...

The thought of something happening to Kenneth over this antidote was unbearable.

...

With a slap mark still visible on her face, Dorothy didn't dare return to the Bay Residence right away,- fearing Everett might notice. So she asked Kevin to take her somewhere secluded to wait it out.

It was a good opportunity to call Karen and get the full story.

"Are you out of your mind? How could you not tell me something this important?"

"Kenneth seemed so anxious, and he specifically told me not to tell you guys! I thought he had a way to get the antidote, so we all pitched in ideas didn't expect him to

actually..." Karen was regretful, but what was done was done,

Sitting in the car, Dorothy massaged her forehead.

"Being around Lane is dangerous! He's very unstable right now."

"I know! But Dorothy, knowing

Once he learned about your situation, it was hard for him not to get involved," Karen sighed, "Just let him be."

"I'm afraid he'll get hurt."

"Kenneth's not a child; he knows what he's doing."

After giving Karen some instructions, Dorothy ended the call.

Leaning against the car window, her irritability spread endlessly...

Kevin came back from a smoke break and saw her state, speaking gently, "Ms. Sanchez, shall we head back? Mr. Lopez must be worried."

Dorothy nodded, straightening up in the back seat, "Tomorrow, I plan to meet Lane."

The list of people caught up in this mess was growing.

No matter the outcome, she needed to end it soon.

Chapter 1295

Night had fallen, and Dorothy had been lost in thought ever since she returned to Bay Residence earlier today.

After Everett tucked Abigail and Langston into bed and returned to their bedroom, he found her sitting on the edge of the bed, staring off into space. She hadn't even noticed him entering the room!

"What's wrong?"

He approached Dorothy, gently placing a hand on her shoulder. "Did my dad say something harsh to you?"

Hearing his voice, Dorothy finally snapped back to reality, lifting her head with a forced smile. "No, he didn't say anything."

"Then what's bothering you?"

She bit her lip, debating whether to share what she learned about Kenneth with Everett.

At this point, telling Everett might only add to his worries, leading to more sleepless nights.

But keeping it to herself...

Kenneth being close to Lane could mean danger.

After a moment of thought, Dorothy decided it was better to face this together rather than keeping secrets.

"Today, Lane called me, and I found out... Kenneth is with Lane right now."

"Kenneth?" Everett was taken aback by this unexpected development.

Why did Kenneth have to appear out of nowhere...

"Yeah, he's trying to help me, that's why he infiltrated Lane's circle. But for the life of me, I can't ensure his safety."

Everett's brows furrowed, irritation clear in his eyes.

At this stage, all he wanted was for his plans to proceed smoothly without any hitches.

Yet here was Kenneth, throwing a wrench into the works!

"We can't just ignore Kenneth's safety!"

"I know." Despite the rivalry over Dorothy's affections, Everett was aware of Kenneth's significance to her.

And without Kenneth's past assistance, Dorothy's solo efforts to care for Abigail and Langston wouldn't have been easy.

By any account, Kenneth was, indirectly, a benefactor.

Most importantly...

"Don't worry, I'll think of something."

Sothy's distress, Everett et

spoke up to calm her, "What else did Lane say during the call?".

She recounted everything, especially the part where Lane made his demands.

Dorothy could clearly see Everett's expression darken!

If not for the antidote, she had no doubt that Everett would tear Lane apart with his bare hands right then and there.

"Everett, it's come to this, and I want to meet him," Dorothy voiced her thoughts.

As expected, Everett immediately objected.

"I can't let you go alone."

"It's fine! Lane has... other intentions with me. He won't harm me! And was hoping to maybe see Kenneth and get him out of this mess Dorothy truly didn't want to owe Kenneth anything anymore. If something happened to him because of the antidote... She couldn't bear to think further.

"I'll discuss this with Jeffrey. You stay out of it."

"Everett! Sooner or later, I have to face Lane!"

Dorothy placed her hand on his, gently caressing Everett's now thinner face, "I want all of this to be over soon. You've sacrificed so much for this whole situation."

#### Chapter 1296

Ever since Lane hung up the phone with Dorothy, his spirits were sky-high.

Not only did he have Kenneth whip up a couple extra dishes, he even went out and grabbed a six-pack of beer to celebrate. "Too bad I can't access my wine collection right now. Would've loved to pop open one of my prized bottles of red to celebrate!" Lane cracked open a can for himself and offered another to Kenneth.

Kenneth shook his head, declining. "I don't drink."

"On a day like this, how can you not celebrate with a drink? Everett's gone, your biggest enemy is out of the picture, and I'm feeling pretty damn good!" Lane tilted his head back, downing the beer in one go. "Do you have any idea how much I hated that guy? It wasn't just because he took Dorothy from me, but also the personal insults he hurled my way!"

With a flick of his wrists, Lane crushed the empty can, tossing it casually aside.

"I don't enjoy alcohol, and I don't need it to celebrate."

Initially, when Kenneth realized Dorothy would never fall for him, he too had tried to drown his sorrows in alcohol, attempting to escape reality.

But alcohol's effects are fleeting, and reality remains unchanged.

"Boring!" Lane scoffed but didn't press any further, taking the can he had opened for Kenneth and continued drinking.

One reason Kenneth refrained from drinking was the fear of getting drunk and spilling secrets that could jeopardize his chance of obtaining the antidote for Dorothy.



"You've been in touch with Dorothy?" Kenneth noted Lane's particularly good mood, even better than when he'd learned of Everett's "death," and guessed he must have heard from Dorothy and conveyed his threats to her.

And Dorothy's reaction must have pleased him.

"Yep!" Lane nodded, a sinister smile

playing on his lips. "I was initially planning to just give her the antidote But then I thought, after all this hassle, I deserve to get something sweet out of it! I've been chasing Dorothy for so long, and I haven't even touched her hand yet!"

The thought alone was enough to infuriate him!

With other women, regardless of whether they threw themselves him or he had to charm them, at least there had been some physical intimacy.

But Dorothy was the exception.

He had invested the most in her and got nothing in return!

The more Lane thought about it, the angrier he got, eventually spitting out, "When she ends up in my bed, I'll make

sure to have my fun! See what Everett's woman feels like!

He was blabbing under the influence, not guarding his words around Kenneth.

Meanwhile, Kenneth's fists were clenched tight with anger!

Listening to Lane's vile fantasies was like hearing him slander Dorothy, utterly disgusting! If it weren't for the need for the antidote...

Kenneth wished he could beat him senseless, maybe even tear his tongue out!

"You interested in trying?" Lane suddenly turned his gaze to Kenneth, catching him off-guard.

Luckily, Kenneth's eyes were downcast, hiding any rage that might have been visible.

He forced a smile and shrugged.

"Not really. Once you let me go, I've got a girlfriend to find."

"Oh, right! I forgot you already had a girlfriend." Lane seemed quite pleased with Kenneth's response.

Chapter 1297

Lane's suspicions about Kenneth never really ceased. After all, Kenneth's appearance in his life was nothing short of abrupt. Was it truly just as he claimed, wanting to see Everett out of the picture, or was there a deeper agenda? It was hard to tell.

Until he could secure Dorothy's safety, trust was a luxury Lane couldn't afford.

Kenneth, of course, was well aware of Lane's wariness. Hence, he tread carefully around him, fearful that a single word or gesture might betray him.

"Don't worry, if we ever run into each other again, even if I meet your girlfriend, I won't bring up your past with Dorothy," Lane said, clapping him on the shoulder with a knowing look. Kenneth offered a wry smile. "Thanks."

...

Having overindulged the previous night, Lane initially thought he was dreaming when Dorothy's call woke him up.

Rubbing the sleep from his eyes, he stared at his phone screen for a few seconds before answering groggily, "Dorothy?" "Yes."

"It's really you!"

There was a brief silence on the other end, as if Dorothy was unsure how to respond to Lane's bewildered greeting.

Quickly shaking off his drowsiness, Lane's voice took on a more casual tone. "Sorry, I didn't expect you to call so soon. Thought I was dreaming. What's up?"

After a pause, Dorothy said, "Lane, I need to see you."

Want to meet?Belongs to © n0velDrama.Org.

Lane's mind raced through all possible scenarios in an instant.

"Why the sudden change of heart? Last time, you said you'd never want to see me again."

"I... ended up in the hospital again last night. The doctors said without an antidote, I might end up like Everett soon."

The moment he heard she was in the hospital, Lane was fully awake.

He jumped out of bed and immediately said, "Which hospital are you at? I'm coming over-"

"You can't come." Dorothy's gentle interruption carried a hint of weakness in her voice. "You killed Quincy, the cops are looking for you everywhere. If you show up, you might get caught."

Lane had his reservations about Dorothy.

But hearing her express concern for his safety, even if it was possibly only because she needed the antidote he had, eased some of his distrust. Lane had never received any form of care from Dorothy before.

It had almost become an obsession.

"How will I get the antidote to you then?"

"Let's meet somewhere, just to talk. Is that okay?" she coughed forcefully, as if to prove her sincerity.

Not only did Lane hear it, but Kenneth, who had just come in to ask what Lane wanted for breakfast, heard it too.

"Didn't Quincy say he gave you something to ease the symptoms?" Lane had specifically asked Quincy about the antidotes given to Dorothy and Everett.

By all accounts...

Dorothy shouldn't be in this state now.

"Because of everything with Everett, I haven't slept for days. So, the poison acted faster than expected. Quincy told you, right?"

Lane was taken aback; this was news to him. But if Dorothy was willing to meet, he believed it couldn't be for any reason other than the antidote.

"If you're not up for it-"

"I am," Lane interrupted, his voice firm. "Where should we meet?"

Chapter 1298

After hanging up, Lane was stuck in a daze for a long while before finally snapping back to reality and looking up at Kenneth.

The two men locked eyes in the dim light of the hospital room before Kenneth finally broke the silence. "I was wondering what you wanted for breakfast." "I'll skip it. You go ahead."

With that, Lane hopped out of bed and headed straight to freshen up!

Hiding out here these past few days, Lane had let himself go quite a bit, not even bothering to shave.

Behind him, Kenneth didn't move towards the kitchen but remained standing still.

When Lane emerged from the bathroom, Kenneth was still there.

"You heading out?"

"Yeah. Dorothy wants to see me. She's been admitted to the hospital because there's no antidote available, and I've got to deliver it to her!"

A flicker of panic that couldn't be hidden crossed Kenneth's eyes.

"Admitted to the hospital? Did she say how she was?"

Since he was completely cut off from the outside world, he couldn't be sure if Dorothy was just putting on an act or if she really had been hospitalized! After all, her condition was real and still unresolved.

"She didn't specify, but she sounded pretty serious," Lane said, before realizing something was off.

"I thought you didn't care about Dorothy anymore?"

"I said I had no feelings for her, but she's still my sister's best friend. It's only natural for me to be concerned, right?"

Kenneth's response was quick, albeit a bit strained.

Fortunately, Lane was too anxious to dwell on whether Kenneth's explanation made sense.

"I don't know when I'll be back. If you get hungry, just eat something. Don't wait for me."

Lane was already at the door when he turned back to give one last instruction, "Once Dorothy and I come to an agreement, you're free to leave. Until then, stay put! I don't want to have to take drastic measures." It was a warning.

Kenneth nodded, "Alright, I won't run."

Watching Lane leave, Kenneth quickly changed his clothes and stealthily followed.

Of course, he wasn't planning to escape!

Being by Lane's side was his goal all along, to find out where the antidote was hidden.

His previous claims of wanting to leave were just to throw Lane off the scent, to prevent any suspicion.

...

Dorothy's call to Lane was something Everett was unaware of.

She didn't want Everett to always be the one taking risks and making plans!

Since the whole situation started because of Lane's obsession with her, it was up to her to put an end to it

"I've got

La to the hospital to put

late.

today, might come back care of Abigail

for me."

Dressed and ready, Dorothy was about to leave when Everett hugged her from behind.

"I'll have Kevin follow you."

"Okay." She nodded obediently, then turned around to hug him back, pulling on Everett's shirt to tiptoe and kiss him on the lips. "Everett, I have a feeling... our plan is about to work out."

"It will, and we'll be together."

No matter what it takes.

Dorothy smiled, her acting skills honed to the point where even Everett couldn't detect any deceit.

Meeting Lane was risky, she knew that well.

The man was unpredictable, possibly turning from cordial to threatening in a heartbeat!

But it was time to conclude this saga.

It couldn't drag on forever.

After a bit more sweet talk at the doorway, Dorothy finally stepped out.

Chapter 1299

No sooner had Dorothy settled into the passenger seat, Kevin, stationed behind the wheel, made no move to start the car. "Kevin?"

"Ms. Sanchez... maybe you should consider telling Mr. Lopez about it, discuss it with him before taking any steps?"

He was in on the secret, aware of who Dorothy was off to meet.

Truth be told, Dorothy had hoped to keep this venture from Kevin as well, but that was a tall order! Everett, out of concern for her safety, had Kevin stick close at all times.

If she were to part ways with Kevin, it was a given Everett would get wind of it.

"Everett's been losing sleep over this for days! I don't want to add to his worries."

"But if something were to happen to you, wouldn't that be like ripping Mr. Lopez's heart out?" Kevin clearly understood what Dorothy was driving at.

Both of them, intent on shielding the other!

Yet, the crux of the matter remained...

The consequences of keeping Everett in the dark were too grave for Kevin to bear.

"I won't let anything happen to me!" Dorothy glanced at her phone, noting a message from Lane confirming his arrival, "Lane's after me, so as long as I play it cool, he won't harm me!"

"It's the 'other demands' he might make that worry me."

Even something as simple as holding hands would drive Mr. Lopez up the wall if he found out, Kevin thought.

"Kevin, I can take care of myself."

Seeing him still hesitant to start the car, Dorothy added more firmly, "You know when I make a decision, I see it through! If you won't take me, I'll go myself. At least if you drive me, you can keep an eye on me from the shadows."

"If you tell Everett, can you imagine how guilty, how terrible he'd feel? You've been by his side long enough, you should know!"

Ever since this mess began, Everett had sprouted a few gray hairs.

He might not voice it, but Dorothy knew Everett's guilt had evolved into a sense of inadequacy.

Everett felt he had failed to protect Dorothy, leading to their current predicament.

If this dragged on...

He'd run himself into the ground.

"Kevin, Everett's done more than enough for me. In a relationship, et can't always be one person giving and the other just recov

The air hung heavy and silent for nearly a minute before Kevin finally sighed in resignation.

"Alright, but you have to promise me, if there's any danger, you'll call me immediately, and I'll come charging in!"

"Deal."

...

Lane first made a detour to fetch a portion of the antidote, securing the rest before donning a hat and mask to meet Dorothy as agreed.

It had been ages since he last saw her, and as he waited, he felt an unfamiliar flutter of nerves akin to a teenage boy on his first date

Lane couldn't help thinking he might be losing it, his fixation on Dorothy bordering on obsession.

As time ticked by, he caught himself repeatedly glancing at the diner's entrance, hoping against hope for her silhouette to materialize. Finally!

Dorothy arrived.

Dressed in a simple white tracksuit that accentuated her pallor yet underscored her frailty, she scanned the diner and spotted Lane by the window.

Striding over, she pulled out the chair across from him and sat down.

"Here's the antidote."

Lane, assuming Dorothy's first order of business would be the antidote, promptly handed it over.

Chapter 1300

But before he could finish his sentence, Dorothy cut off Lane.

After such a long time, he still had that roguish charm mixed with undeniable handsomeness. world.

Truth be told, if only he hadn't been so obsessed with her, Lane could have had a pretty decent life! At least back in the day, his East Star Enterprises was doing quite well, not quite on the level of the Lopez Corporation, but it had made a name for itself in the banking And now, seeing him again....

He had become a fugitive, wanted for murder.

Dorothy couldn't hide her dismay.

"Lane, do you regret killing Quincy?"

Caught off guard by the question, Lane paused for a moment, his thin lips twitching, "No regrets! Only by killing her could Everett be brought down!"

"Just because Everett bought out your company, you'd rather bear the weight of a life on your conscience, just to see him dead?" Dorothy's gaze fixed on him, compelling Lane to meet her eyes, "I don't get it, I really can't understand."

In the business world, being bought out by another company is nothing unusual!

If other companies can be acquired, why couldn't East Star Enterprises?

With the Lopez Corporation shining so bright, they could buy out any company they wanted.

Does that mean every CEO should go after Everett with a vengeance?

Lane took a sip of the coffee he had ordered earlier, "Do you really not know why Everett bought out East Star Enterprises? He was trying to force you back to the Lopez Corporation!"

"Yes, Everett did have that intention." Dorothy wasn't naive; she understood the underlying reason why Everett went to such lengths to acquire East Star Enterprises. But still... "At the end of the day, it was all about me! You could have just handed me over, and all of this could have been avoided."

Dorothy felt that back then, at least at that time, Lane wasn't so fixated on her!

He liked her, sure, but a rogue's affection for a woman couldn't possibly turn into obsession overnight!

Especially when she hadn't shown any interest in return.

"End it? Why would I want to end it! Handing you over would mean I've lost."

Lane raised a hand to rub his temple. Because of the cap he wore, Dorothy couldn't see his expression as he looked down.

"Dorothy, I hate it when someone so

blatantly steps on me! I'm a man have my pride! Besides... I actually thought Heather, that wench, genuinely wanted to collaborate!"

He truly believed that if his plan with Heather had succeeded, she would have gotten Everett, and he could continue pursuing the single Dorothy.

After a long silence, Dorothy finally spoke, "Lane, turn yourself in. Stop running."

That was the only thing she could say to Lane now.

"Turn myself in?" He laughed, a low chuckle that seemed to shake his chest, "Now that I'm as good as dead, you're suggesting I turn myself in, without considering the O consequences for yourself?"

"Dorothy, you have no idea what I've been through since leaving Eldorria City! I've never suffered suchS indignity in my life! So, I swore had to have you, even if it meant taking this final step!"

"Indignity?"

"Yes, indignity!" Lane slammed his coffee cup down, "I want to see Everett unable to rest in peace! The woman he schemed so hard to have is now going to be mine!"