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Dorothy naturally wouldn't tell Karen who she was going to do it with. She wouldn't say a word until everything was settled.

In the evening, when Karen got off work and saw Dorothy packing again, she asked in a hurry. "What are you up to? You're moving out right after asking me about the patemity test? My brain's not catching up I don't get it

Dorothy stopped what she was doing and smiled. "is the hospital needs the paternity test. I'm moving because the company wants to investigate me thoroughly. I need to move to a designated location."

"They really are doing too much! Once you're proven innocent, III help you stand up to them at the company. If they don't compensate for your emotional distress, we'll que!"

Karen had always been an innocent and straightforward person. Her intention to protect Dorothy was written all over her face.

I find evidence to prove it Dorothy smirked, hiding the look in her eyes.

If there really was a blood relationship between her and Heather, then a lot of things would make sense.

Like why she was so eager to kick her out of the Lopez Corporation or why she was so worried about her being around Everett The next morning. Dorothy arrived at the Lopez Bulding as usual during work hours.

As soon as she walked in, she received a few strange looks.

Now that the internal notice of her accusations against Heather was issued, everyone became curious.

After all, no one would suspect Heather, the chief lawyer.

The issue could be hard to solve, but it could also be easy. They just had to fire Dorothy

She was a nobody, even if she found evidence to prove her innocence later, it wouldn't affect the company.

On the contrary, now that Heather's work had been halted, it would definitely affect the progress of some company projects and bring losses.

"I saw her hanging out with Kevin before.

Maybe they hooked up

"Do you need to ask? Who else could she hook up with? Mr. Lopez? Hal Kevin's been with Mr. Lopez for a very long time, so I bet he said something to Mr. Lopez which is why she's getting this special treatment"

After getting on the elevator Dorothy stood at the back and listened to the two women whispering in front of her

She frowned, wanting to rebuke the two rumor spreaders, but in the end, she didn't. Instead, she took out her phone and recorded their conversation.

She didn't want to say anything or argue with anyone. She just wanted to wait for the truth to come out.

When she got to the office, she realized she'd be the only one in today since Kevin was on a business trip to Lumina Bay

After turning on the computer, the computer interface also showed an anomaly, needing her to cooperate with the investigation.

Not long after logging in, Kevin sent her a message [You'll have to temporanly withdraw your name from the Social Networking Service project. Don't blame Mr. Lopez, he did his best.]

Dorothy really didn't blame Everett at all now.

At first, she thought she was in this mess because of him, so she was a bit upset. She felt like an innocent bystander

But then she started to think, Heather was a bit too eager to deal with her. She was even going for other reasons, right? it couldn't just be a feud.

If she really was that woman's daughter, then the whole thing had nothing to do with Everell.

On the contrary, as the CEO of a conglomerate, he was willing to be fair and halt Heather's work too.

She was really grateful to him

Never mind whether he believed her or not, at least he could stand in a neutral position to look at this

kill. There must have been some

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[Mr. Lopez nished back to Eldoma City overnight because of your issue. Now that things are getting really hot in Lumina Bay, he had to rush back. However, he said he'd be back in a few days, which just goes to show that Mr. Lopez also wants to get this mess sorted out] Dorothy chuckled as she stared at her computer screen, feeling a bit puzzled.

Was Everett doing this to clear his name? Or was he womed that if the truth came out, it would tamish Heather's reputation a bit more?

And what did he mean by 'I want to protect you?

She thought about it for a while but didn't spend too much time mulling over it.

Dorothy got up and walked out of her office, heading straight for the legal department.

"Hi, is Ms. Heather in the office today?" She asked a female staffer in the legal department as she got off the elevator.

Obviously, this woman was in the know about Dorothy and Heathers situation. Her eyes sparkled with a mix of caution and excitement, as if Dorothy were part of some grand dama

"What do you need from her?"

"I need to have a private chat with her about the company's investigation"

Dorothy stood her ground, neither arrogant nor guilty

The woman's eyes darted around. TII ask Ms. Heather. She's here, but she might not have time to see you

"Great, thank you for your trouble"

Dorothy stood waiting, and soon the woman scurried back

"Ms. Heather says you can just go in "

"Thank you"

She walked straight to Heather's office door knocked, and entered when she heard a response.

Heather locked up still wearing her gentle smile.

"I didn't expect you to come looking for me"

" didn't expect it either" Dorally looked at her face, which was somewhat similar to her own, and smiled. "I guess I was slow on the uptake. When we first met I didn't notice anything

Heather's hand gripping her pen pained.

A few seconds later, she moved. "Do you think that day was our first meeting?"

Dorothy looked at her silent

Heather stood up from behind her desk and walked over to her in high heels as a smirk played on her lips. "To be precise, that was our second meeting"

Dorothy fell silent

"I remember when you were in high school, you worked at a fast food joint after school. When I found out about it on my father's phone. I made a special trip to see you" Heather lightly brushed her shoulder with her finger. Her lone was casual, like she was telling someone else's story and not her own. "Do you know how happy I felt when I saw that you were skinny and malnourished?"

Dorothy clenched her fists and met Heather's gaze. "Only you and your mother could be so brazen about being the other woman" "What do you mean by Hie other woman'? Have you ever received a father's love? Did he ever care if you were alive or dead?" Heather scoffed mockingly. It's only in this era that a father can't unilaterally divorce his wife! He's brought up divorce so many times. He even took it to court, but your mother wouldn't agree! You know, I kind of pity her. It must be a shame to have to cling to that marriage license for a lifetime?

"I pity your mother too. It must be a shame to have to bear the title of the other woman for a lifetime" Dorothy retorted

That hit Heather where it hurt.

She raised her hand to hit Dorothy but this time, Donathy was prepared.

She grabbed Heather's wrist and, with a hard push, sent her sprawling on the Boor

Heathers unhealed surgical wound added to the pain, and sho

Suddenly the door to Heather's office was flung open.

Everett strode in with a dark expression on his handsome face.

whimper.

"Dorothy, what are you doing here?

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Saw Eventi.

Before Dorothy could react, Heather immediately reached out to him and screamed in pain as soon as she sa

"Everett, save me! L..I'm bleeding"

Everett's gaze shifted to her, and, indeed, Heather was covered in blood. She looked homifying

Everett immediately dialed 911. He then scooped Heather up and quickly left the office, without saying a word to Dorothy. He did not even spare her a glance.

After they left. Heather's assistant humed in. She saw the blood on the ground and then looked at Dorothy in terror

Was this a crime scene or something?

Dorothy didn't expect this to happen. She was just defending herself, and it turned into such a mess

Heather who started it

More and more people gathered from the Legal Department. It wasn't until Everett's assistant arrived that the commation died down,

"Get back to work, everyone. Mr. Lopez said there will be no discussing this! No photos or spreading rumors! Get back to work!"

After everyone left, he came to Dorothy and whispered, "Mr Lopez just called me. He wants you to wait for him at Bay Residence after

work."

"Okay" She nodded, but she didn't leave immediately. Instead, she took a tissue from the desk to wipe up Heathers remaining blood from the carpet, then packed it up.

Even though Heather had admitted their relationship, if she wanted to use it as evidence, she still needed it in black and white

She hadn't forgotten why she had come here.

In the hospital, Heather was rushed into the emergency room again.

Due to her surgical wound reopening, she lost a lot of blood and fainted in the ambulance.

Jeffrey ran straight from the hotel. He obviously just had a shower and was about to do something with his new girlfriend. His hair was still wet, and his shirt buttons were done wrong.

"What the hell happened? How did she suddenly lose so much blood?"

"Im not entirely sure. She and Dorothy might've had an argument" Everett replied.

As soon as Everett got to work, he started a meeting. When he found out Dorothy was coming to work that day, he immediately contacted Kevins office.

But no one answered, so he guessed that Dorothy might have gone to see Heather

He walked in just in time to see what happened.

"What? Dorothy again?! Is she trying to kill Heather? Jeffrey was fuming Everett, don't you think you're going too far? It's your company, and Heather is your chief lawyer. She is under investigation, and now she's in the hospital again! You can't keep brushing it

"Dorothy didn't do it on purpose."

"What was it then?"

Everett frowned. "Im not sure what happened yet. I just brought Ms. Heather to the hospital first."

Jeffrey stared at him as age welled up in his chest. Fine. If you don't know, then we should let the police find out if you say Dorothy didn't do it on purpose, then call the police. Let them investigate!"

As he was about to take out his phone, Everett snatched i

"Jeffrey, this is a company matter. You have no right to interfere"

This was the first time Everett had spoken to Jeffrey in this tone. Despite being in a position of power he had never used such a commanding tone.

For Dorothy, he really had broken too many records

Jeffrey was taken aback by Everetta Icy warning and calmed down a bit, no longer making a scene.

After a while, he let out a sigh. 'Everett, you really need to stop this game. Have you thought about the consequences?"

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1 wasn't fooling around."

"But you shouldn't take Dorothy so seriously. Amanda has always had her heart set on Heather us her daughter–in–law. Aren't you afraid of upsetting her again? Even if Heather doesn't mean anything to you, what about Amanda? She's your own mother."

Everett didn't answer. He just pursed his lips without saying a word.

His tall figure was half submerged in the darkness.

The light at the entrance of the emergency room suddenly went out, and the doctor walked out, removing his mask.

"Who is Heather's family?"

Jeffrey immediately stepped forward. "I am! How is she?"

patient has been bleeding heavily due to pi tear in her surgical wound it has been resutured, and she should be out soon!

"So there's no life-threatening danger, right?"

"Uh-huh, but you need to be careful. She had abdominal surgery, so if an infection occurs, it could get dicey The doctor left after speaking.

Jeffrey finally breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing she was okay.

After turning around, he saw Everett about to leave.

He quickly caught up and grabbed his arm. "Are you seriously leaving now? That's pretty heartless. Heather is about to come out. At the very least, help me push her into the ward. She doesn't have many friends here. It's just you and me."

"I have to go. Dorothy got scared when she saw the blood."

Even though he left in a hurry, he caught a glimpse of Darathy looking lost

"Aren't you afraid that Heather will get upset and report Dorothy for intentional harrn?"

If he wasn't worried about that, why would he have canied Heather to the hospital himself?

He was worried that if Heather didn't get medical attention in time and something happened, Darathy, as the person involved, wouldn't be able to escape responsibility.

Heather naturally felt happy when she saw Everett. She couldn't take her eyes off him.

"I'm okay, don't worry" She said weakly. "Don't blame Dorothy She didn't mean to push me"

Everett didn't say a word, but Jeffrey frowned.

"You're lying here like this, and yet you're still thinking about all that?! Besides, you shouldn't have seen Dorothy at a time like this. She's been claiming that you framed her."

"Don't talk about her like that... Everett's here. Anyway, she's Everett's girlfriend." Heather was unwilling to admit that the two of them were already married.

"But Jeffrey was about to say something, but a look from Heather stopped him.

Everett's handsome face was showing impatience.

"Everett, there's still a lot to do at the company right? You go ahead, Jeffrey is here with me."

Heather was reluctant, but she needed to maintain her image.

"Mmm" Everett didn't bother with civilities. He just nodded slightly and walked away.

Upon seeing this, Jeffrey snorted. "Why are you playing the magnanimous card? I had a hard time keeping him here."

"What can fe do here? His heart is already with Dorolly Heather said with a bitter smile. "You see, even though Dorothy sent me to the hospital, Event doesn't intend to blame her. As for the truth about the SinoSuccess Enterprises project, does it matter? Everett only believes her, maybe in the end, I will be the scapegoat for Dorothy."

"No way! Who would believe that you would frame Dorothy? It's ridiculous to even say it"

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But if the person she really cared about didn't believe her, what was the point if others did?

"Sometimes I really admire Dorothy." She admitted. "She's got Everett on a tight leash, and I've got nothing. All I do is help him in business."

"Hell see your worth sooner or later. Plus, you've got Amanda from the Lopez family on your side, so what's there to fear? With Dorothy's status, she can't even step foot into the Lopez's territory, let alone be acknowledged by his mom"

Heather didn't respond, but she knew better than Jeffrey If she wanted to limit Everett's actions now, she had to win over his mother. Surely, Everett wouldn't disregard his mother just to be with Dorothy

After leaving Heather's office, Dorothy headed straight to the paternity test center Karen had recommended with samples in hand.

Normally, this kind of rule-breaking wouldn't be allowed, but luckily she had Karen to vouch for her

After sorting everything out, Dorothy received a call from Everett on her way back to the office.

She had assumed he would be by Heather's side in the hospital.

"Where are you?"

"I'm at the office."

- "Dorothy, I'm in your affice"

Dorothy coughed lightly. "Ah, I was just a bit hungry, so I stepped out to grab something to eat. Ill be back soon."

He hung up seemingly upset.

I made sense

He must have been warned after seeing her confront Heather in her office. After all, Heather was his true love.

Expecting a lecture Dorothy returned to her office to find Everett waiting for her on the couch,

He was lounging there with a stem expression or his handsome face as his gaze fixed on Dorothy

"Why did you go to Heather without permission?"

"I had some things to ask her." Durathy replied, not feeling guilty

The worst she had done was accidentally knock Heather down. But if Heather hadn't made the first move, she wouldn't have pushed het. Everett frowned. "You should think twice before you act in situations like this.

"

If Heather had called the police, Dorothy would definitely have been taken in for questioning.

With no surveillance in Heather's office, all the blood would be left to Heather's interpretation. If she was charged with assault, Dorothy would have to spend some time in jail.

*I forgot she just had surgery, and besides, she started it."

"You shouldn't have gone in the first place."

"Mr. Lopez, if you keep saying I shouldn't do this or that how am I supposed to prove my innocence to anyone?" Dorothy didn't want to discuss this with Everett alone.

She wanted to avoid any gossip about her bribing or seducing the boss. But if Everett kept defending Heather she had to speak up for herself.

Everett looked of her. He suddenly stood up and walked his tall frame towards her.

After a while, he finally spoke, "Dorothy, you and I are married. My relationship with Heather is strictly professional. We are just boss and employee

Perhaps it was his imposing presence or the shocking revelation, but Dorothy was left speechless. Her mind entered a blank slate.

"I promised you that I'd handle this fairly. Can you give me some time?"

Before she could process their conversation, Everett's lips were already on hers.

His kiss was passionate, as if he was deliberately punishing Dorothy.

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Everett only let go of Dorothy's lips when she was just about to pass out

He had smudged a good deal of her lipstick, making her lips almost as flushed as her hot cheeks.

"Dorothy, I thought you were pretty sharp back in junior high. But now..."

Everett raised his hand, mussing up her hair. "I have a meeting. We'll talk more when I get home."

With that, he made to leave.

Dorothy quickly asked, "Hey! How's Heather doing now?"

After all, she had been the one to push her and the blood was real. Dorothy was

as still was

worried about it.

"She's fine. Don't worry."

"Oh"

After watching his silhouette disappear into the office. Dorothy couldn't help but ponder the meaning of Everett's words

He said he was married to her and that he and Heather were just boss and employee. It seemed like he was trying to clarify his attitude towards Heather

But the 0825 tattoo was still there, and he was still using 0825 for his door code.

Could it really be that Everett had had a sudden epiphany and decided to stop liking Heather?

So, was Everell's next move to get the tattoo removed?

For some reason, this possibility made her heart flutter in a strange way.

And she couldn't quite put her finger on why

After work, as soon as Dorothy stepped out of the company, she saw Everett's assistant waiting for her.

She looked around to make sure no one was paying attention before quickly getting in the car

"I can get to Bay Residence on my own."

"Mr. Lopez instructed me to pick you up.

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"My son has always been a neat freak. He never liked people entering his house before. Seems like he's changed quite a bit these past few years."

After changing her shoes, Amanda walked in, taking a good look around.

This nearly scared the living daylights out of Dorothy.

Because her clothes were in Everett's bedroom.

Luckily, Amanda was well aware of her son's need for privacy and personal space. She just further.

Dorothy quickly poured her a glass of water and handed it over. She actually looked like a m

on the living mom couch and went no

a maid now.

After all, she used to be an assistant at a company, so serving coffee and water was second nature to her. "Thanks." Amanda smiled. "You go about your business; don't mind me. I'll just wait for my son here."

"Okay"

Just as Dorothy was about to leave, Amanda stopped her. "Hey, how long have you been here?"

"Not long. About two months."

"Have you seen my son bring any girls here?" Amanda's smile deepened after she said this Tve been living abroad for years and just want to catch up on my son's life. Don't worry, whatever you tell me stays with me."

Dorothy thought for a moment and decided not to fb. "I don't think Mr. Lopez has brought any girls here, except me."

"You don't court! I mean this girl, Has my son brought her here?" After speaking, Amanda showed Dorothy a picture of Heather,

Dorothy was taken aback

Upon seeing Dorothy's bewildered expression, Armanca couldn't help but feel pleased. 'Has she been here?"

"Uh.

. maybe I missed it"

"This is his fiancée I came back this time thinking I would leave after their wedding."

Dorothy had a vague idea about Everett and Heather's relationship. Now, Amanda had confirmed it.

She felt like laughing at herself.

When Everett told her that he and Heather were just boss and employee, she actually felt a thril

Turned out that everything he said was a lie

"Don't they look great together?" Amanda was so focused on setting them up that she didn't notice Dorothy's expression.

"Yes, they are very compatible."

Dorothy nodded stiffly and took a look at the time. "Amanda, I've finished my work, so III leave now. When Mr. Lopez comes back, could you tell him for me?"

"Sure." Now that the house was all tidy, Amanda naturally let her leave.

After all, when she pushed her son to get married later, it wouldn't be nice to have outsiders present.

After leaving Bay Residence, Dorothy had to find a nearby hotel to stay at since she didn't bring any belongings with her.

After taking a bath, she fay on the bed.

She tossed and jumed several times, then finally called Karen and asked, "Why would a man, who obviously has a girl he is fond of, lie to you about their relationship?"

"You're still too naive! You don't understand this? He's just trying to sleep with you a few more times before revealing the truth" Karen -seemed to be eating something. Dorothy could hear her chewing.

"Tell me, Dorothy, you seem to have fallen for him. Who is this guy? Im so curious!"

"It doesn't matter. Consider him a contract lover, we both get what we need "

Karen smacked her lips. "You're either too conservative of too open-minded. Even i cant koop up. But based on your description, this guy is a totul jerk. Just have some fun and don't take it to heart"

•••

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Dorothy instinctively put her hand over her heart.

She asked herself.

Did she manage to keep it in her heart?

"Hey, hey, Dorothy Karen called her a few times from the other end of the call

Dorothy snapped back to reality. "Yeah, I'm here."

"Promise me that we won't go for guys who clearly have someone else in their heart, okay?"

She smiled faintly as her eyelashes began to droop. "Mmm. Okay."

Since all the work in Lumina Bay had been handed over to Kevin because Everett couldn't go there, he chose to work at the company until nine aclnck in the evening.

Once in the car, his slender fingers unbuttoned the top of his shirt and loosened his e

"Mr. Lopez, are we going back to Bay Residence? His assistant asked as he turned his face to meet his bass,

"Mm-hmm." He replied as he thought of something "Did you take her home?"

Yes, Ms. Sanchez is at Bay Residence."

Every time Everett thought of Dorothy, the corners of his thin lips unconsciously lifted attic.

She continuously cared about his relationship with Heather, which in a way, should mean that she cared about him to some extent. right?

Otherwise, with her personality, if she didn't care, she would definitely not mention again and again.

This could be considered as a small step forward their relationship.

The car arrived at Bay Residence, and Everett got out of the car with his briefcase in hand.

As soon as he unlocked the door, the sight of high heels at the entrance made him frown, and his heart sank.

Did his mother come?

"Everett, you're finally back. I was about to leave if you look any longer" Amanda stood up and walked to the door as she saw him.

Everett ir stinclively looked behind her.

There was no sign of Dorothy

She didn't meet his mother?

"Mom, why are you here?"

"I just wanted to see where you live every day. I was quite surprised to see that you've changed and hired a cleaning lady.

I haven't been around you for a long time; I didn't even realize that my son had changed"

Cleaning lady?

Everett's eyes deepened. "When you came, was there a girl here?"

"Yes. She was pretty young too. Wasn't she here to clean your house?" Amanda also quickly noticed the change in her son's expression. "Did she tell you that?"

"Mm-hmm" Amarida nodded. "Isn't she your cleaning lady?"

Everett immediately knew that this was something Dorothy would do. It was his fault for not knowing his mother would come.

Dorothy native panicked when she saw her

"Mom, tell me before you come next time.

"I didn't want to disturb you at work. Since middle school, you've always used that 01825 password. I tried it, but I didn't expect you to still use it it worked, so I came in Amanda chuckled as she took the briefcase from her son. "Speaking of which, 0825 represents Heather's birthday, right?"

Everett pursed his lips and took a deep breath.

"Mom, theres nothing between me and Hoother..."

*Nothing?" Amandas face instantly darkened. She was always quick to change her mood.

Everett held back the rest of his statement and simply walked in without saying more.

Amanda fallowed him. Her tone had switched from that of a gentle mother to that of a sharp and questioning elder. "Are you planning to go against me and your dad, Everett? Don't forget what you told me!"

Everett fell silent.

"You said it yourself. As long as I stop thinking about suicide, you'll consider marrying Heather!"

Everett's tall figure paused, and, after a while, he slightly turned his handsome face "Mom, I've got a lot going on recently I have my assistant take you home."

"It's fine if you're busy, but you must marry Heather! No one else is fit to be my daughter–in–law!"

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Amanda had always been a hard nut to crack. If it weren't for Heather constantly asking for more time for Everett, Amanda would have announced the engagement already.

Since her son chose to remain silent on the matter, she decided to lay down the law

"You two must get engaged before the end of this year. If you're busy with work, I take care of everything."

At the hotel, Dorothy had a short chat with Karen before hanging up.

After all her years of running around, it felt like she had very little time to just chill.

While lying there looking at the ceiling, she replayed Heather's vicious statements in her head and remembered her angry face. It was as

if Heather, nat her, was the one who had been rabbed of her father since childhood.

It was like this mother-daughter duo had never heard of the statement the pot calling the kettle black.

As she chuckled to herself, Dorothy was just about to pick up her phone when she noticed a voice message from Kenneth

After a moment's hesitation, she decided to listen to t

"Dorothy, good news! My fnend has been tracing the number that called you that day, and he found out that the call was made from the Lopez Building."

She quickly called him

"Is this really true? That's great!" Dorothy sat up immediately. "Now I just need to find evidence of Heather's contact with Regal Dominion Ventures, and I can prove I was framed."

"Yep, I've been keeping an eye on them too. As soon as I get any news, III let you know."

"Thank you so much!" She wouldn't have been able to do any of this on her own.

Kenneth laughed. "Were friends I couldn't just stand by and watch you be framed. Plus, it actually wasn't that hard

Dorothy knew tracking data and IP addresses wasn't as easy as he made it sound. The time and effort also cost him money

She owed Kenneth even more now.

After discussing his plans with Dorothy, he assured her that even if Heather wouldnt car less as long as the evidence kept piling up and pointing at her, Heather's denial would be useless.

They talked unt Dorothy's phone's battery was almost dead.

After she hung up and returned to the home screen, she was shocked to see several voice messages and texts from Everett.

"Where are you?"

"I'm coming to find you"

"Dorothy, who were you talking to?"

After looking at his texts and remembering Karen's advice, she decided to pretend that her phone had died, and thus she didn't see his

messages

After all, her phone was really about to die.

She planned to go do the paternity test on Heather's sample the next day, so she decided to turn in a little early.

Just as Dorothy was about to relax and get some sleep, there was a sudden knock on the hotel room door.

Suddenly, she thought of Everett

But it couldn't be, right?

With so many hotels in Eldoria City, how could he find her so quickly?

"Who is it?"

Dorothy walked over and asked, but the person at the door only knocked and didn't respond

She looked through the peephole.

If it wasn't Everett, who else could it be?

"How did you find me?"

Upon opening the door Everett's tall figure almost filled the doorway. His eyes were fixed on her face, and his brows were furrowed a usuai:

16:12

He asked, "Did my mom tell you something?

"Amanda didn't say anything." Dorothy forced a smile, trying to act casual "She doesn't even know me, so what could she possibly say?" "Did she say that Heather is my fiancée?"

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Dorothy blinked a few times before finally nodding. "Alright, she said so."

Everett, taking long strides, went straight into the hotel room and shut the door.

Although they had done more intimate things many times before, being suddenly cornered by him like this and surrounded by his scent still made Dorothy a bit flustered.

"What are you doing?"

"Don't listen to my mom's crap

Dorothy looked into his eyes and was shocked to see anxiety there.

"It's none of my business." She tried to put some distance between her and Everett. Being this close made her breath uneven.

But Everett, seemingly on purpose, followed her every move.

Finally, he sighed softly.

"My mom was kidnapped once and became withdrawn for a while after being rescued. She developed severe depression and often had suicidal tendencies."

Dorothy had no idea that Everett's mother had gone through all this. She had just met her and thought she was bubbly and talkative. Her voice was gentle and pleasing to the ear, she seemed like the perfect, caring mother. Dorothy had a hard time associating her with depression.

But why was he telling her all this?

"I can't just let her accept our marriage. I'm sorry" Everett said bitterly.

It took Dorothy almost a minute to digest this apology from Everett before she spoke, "Why are you apologizing to me?" She pursed her lips.

It took her a while to say, "Since Amanda only wants you to marry Heather, maybe we should just end our agreement early"

"Dorothy, don't even think about breaking the contract!"

Everett's voice suddenly rose several notches, startling Dorothy.

After seeing his furrowed and gloomy brow she wanted to bluntly ask if she was that good in bed. He still wouldn't break the contract, even with things looking like this? He, the CEO of the Lopez Corporation, could have any woman he wanted. Why bother with this?

Was it because he felt guilty for taking her virginity that night and was afraid of being labeled as a heartless and unrighteous man?

Or maybe Everett had a cleanliness fetish

The more Dorothy thought about it, the more she convinced herself.

Karen had once told her that powerful men care more about a woman's virginity. They see such women as pure, both physically and emotionally, and it greatly satisfied their male ego.

So after nearly ten minutes of silence, Dorothy plucked up her courage and just came out with it.

"Mr. Lopez, my virginity... it doesn't really mean anything, and even if we break the contract, I won't tell anyone about this."

Everett was stunned. "What?"

"Cough cough" Dorothy turned her face away, feeling a bit embarrassed. "I mean, if you feel that... if you feel obligated to me because that night was my first time, you really don't have to. I know you were drunk that night. It was unintentional, and I won't pester you because of it

She finished speaking and didn't dare look at Everett's expression, so she just stiffly turned her gaze elsewhere.

After a while, she heard Everett's low, grainy voice. "Do you know that the idea of a man losing control when he is drunk is bullshit?"

Dorothy was dumbfounded.

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"If I was toally drunk, I wouldn't have been able to do anything"