

Midnight 1311

Chapter 1311

Her mind racing, she lowered her voice, "You better not stick so close to me. If Lane's crew spots us, they might think I'm still tied up with the Lopez family. That's not going to look good for Everett's plan." The mention of the plan made Kevin halt immediately.

"Alright, Ms. Sanchez, I'll stay put right here! Just hurry back once you're done."

"Got it."

Dorothy nodded, secretly patting herself on the back for her acting skills, which seemed to improve by the day. It was almost second nature to her now.

She did actually head towards the bakery, but once she was sure Kevin was out of sight, Dorothy picked up her pace and dashed away from the bakery's entrance!

A taxi was parked by the roadside. Dorothy waved it down and hopped into the back seat.

"Take me here, please."

"Sure thing."

It wasn't until the car started moving that Dorothy glanced back towards where Kevin was standing.

She needed to act quickly! Whether she could get the antidote today or not, she had to return as soon as possible.

In truth, Dorothy wasn't just there to steal the antidote; she wanted to scope out the situation on her own!

She had no idea what kind of traps Lane might have set up in the place where he hid the antidote - the deadly kind, knowing his current level of madness. Dorothy had come to suspect everything. She didn't want to risk anyone else's life just to get the antidote for herself.

The taxi made quick progress, and soon, they arrived near the location Kenneth had sent her.

Instead of directing the driver to stop right at the complex entrance, Dorothy chose a spot slightly away.

After paying the fare, she stepped out of the car.

The area wasn't too far from the bustling streets, but due to its previous life as a funeral home - even though it had moved - it

wasn't exactly a thriving spot. There were only a few apartment buildings around, with mostly older residents.

She pulled a hat and a mask from her bag, intending to wear them, but then decided against it, opting for just the mask.

Dressing up too suspiciously would only draw more attention.

Dorothy made her way to the location, encountering an elderly lady with silver hair.

"Excuse me, do you know if any of the apartments here are for sale?"

She couldn't just outright ask about the specific apartment Kenneth had pinpointed. She needed to gather some general information first-like the layout of the buildings and the number of entrances to the complex.

"There are," the elderly lady replied, eyeing Dorothy with a hint of curiosity. "Are you looking to buy?"

"Not for me, for my parents!" Dorothy offered a smile, keeping an eye on her surroundings.

"I was about to say! A young thing like you, wanting to buy in this place?" The lady pointed ahead.

"Just go straight and then look to et

your right! That whole building there is practically on sale. Though, heard someone bought out the entire first unit. Only the second and third units are left."

Dorothy looked where she was pointing.

That was exactly where Kenneth's location had led her.

So...

The place where Lane hid the antidote was also a recent purchase of his.

Dorothy realized she had underestimated the man's cunning. He always seemed to walk the dangerous path, but it was precisely this strategy that threw off suspicion!

Chapter 1312

a neither-here-nor-there location would have given Lane enough time to move the antidote.

If it hadn't been for Kenneth's pinpoint accuracy, Everett would've been casting a wide net in the search, likely starting from the out-of-the-way places before gradually moving closer to downtown. Or even if he had started from downtown and worked his way outward, such I had thought he just stumbled upon Quincy and cooked up the antidote as a trump card to hold over me and Everett.

Turns out, Lane was loaded for bear!

Without Quincy, things might not have gone as smoothly for him, but he was always waiting for his moment.

Thinking about it, this situation might not be so bad after all!

What if Lane, unable to find his moment, got desperate and went for Everett with a knife?

At least now, there's room to maneuver.

"Ma'am, would you mind showing me the house?" Dorothy asked, noticing her surprise and quickly pulling out some bills from her bag. "This is for your trouble. I don't want to overpay, you know? Just say I'm a relative of yours looking to buy a house, okay?" The old lady seemed ready to refuse, but the sight of money quickly changed her mind.

"Alright, alright! You young folks sure are sharp. I've lived here for over a decade, know all the neighbors. If you find something you like, I can help you get a good deal!"

"Thank you." Dorothy watched as she pocketed the money, then cheerfully led the way.

Having such a long-term resident by her side meant Dorothy didn't have to worry about drawing too much attention.

As they neared the targeted building, Dorothy casually mentioned, "It's something, isn't it? Someone buying an entire unit. Must be loaded!"

The old lady didn't mince words,

"Don't know what kind of fool! With that kind of money, why not buy in the city center instead of here? Other than a couple of grocery stores, there's nothing around. Gotta take a bus just to shop!"

Realizing she might have said too much, she quickly added with a laugh, "But it's suitable for the elderly, I guess. The markets have what you need. Not like young people always wanting something exotic." "Right, suitable for the elderly."

Reaching the building's entrance, the

old lady pointed inside, "We've all been guessing that whoever bought this unit might be up to no good! Even went to the community center about it, but they had talked to the owner, who even let a representative of ours take a look. They didn't even bother to decorate."

"Someone went inside?"

"Yes!" the old lady was quite forthcoming, "This used to be funeral home, you know. We were worried this person bought the

whole unit just to store urns

But

after taking a look, that was clearly not the case."

Dorothy immediately followed up, "What's inside then? You can't just leave a house empty all year round."

"I haven't been in myself! But those who did said it's left as is, bare bones. A few floors have surveillance installed, and people come by to patrol now and then." "...People come by?"

The old lady nodded, "Yes!"

"So, it means no one lives here, it's just under surveillance."

Chapter 1313

"Absolutely! How can anyone live in a place like this, sweetheart!" The old lady chuckled at her remark. "Not even a proper bathroom in sight, wonder how anyone manages their... you know." Laughing along, Dorothy added, "Look at me, not thinking straight as usual!"

Waving her hand dismissively, the old lady continued, "I just don't get the young folk these days. Buying up properties and not bothering to do them up or even live in them. Just slap a security camera on there, and for what? Makes you think we're all out to swipe something. And what's there to take? Nothing but dirt and dust."

Of course, she was clueless, but Dorothy was in on the secret!

This had to be the place where Lane hid the antidote.

But...

With an entire block to consider, and assuming it's two apartments per floor, that's twenty-two homes across eleven stories! She couldn't possibly search each one. Dorothy hesitated.

Should she call Everett now for a thorough search?

As long as the antidote was here, Everett would surely find it. They could search the whole complex without fear.

But the critical issue was... she wasn't entirely sure the antidote was here.

If it wasn't, it wouldn't just mean failing to find the antidote. Revealing that Everett wasn't dead could put Kenneth in danger too!

"Ma'am, do you know anyone who's been inside this block?"

Left with no choice, Dorothy pressed further.

The old lady wasn't naive. Catching on, she said, "Dear, I have a feeling you're not really here to buy a property. You seem awfully interested in what's going on inside this block!"

Caught in the act and with no one around, Dorothy quickly pulled her aside and stuffed more money into her purse. "Ma'am, not to hide

anything from you, but someone

took something of mine. I suspect it's hidden here! This money's for you. Could you possibly help me find someone who's been inside? I just want to ask a few questions."

The old lady was cautious, not immediately taking the money but looking at her suspiciously, "What got taken from you? It's nothing illegal, I hope! I won't be a part of that." "Look at me, do I look like someone who'd do something illegal?"

"Well... you can't judge a book by its cover."

Handing over money right away does raise suspicions.

Dorothy had no choice but to fib.

She couldn't just stand there and explain the whole antidote and poisoning situation to the lady. Besides, the story was too complicated, and she might not even believe it! "Ma'am, my child is missing... You mentioned earlier that you suspected foul play here, right? I think they might have hidden my child inside! I just want to check." Hearing about the child, the old lady's demeanor changed instantly!

"Child, I can't take this money, but I will help you! A child's welfare is paramount. She thought for a moment, then pulled Dorothy

towards another building, "Here net

come Sit in my apartment while I go find someone for you! The ones who've been inside were all men, and we women don't dare venture in."

Dorothy nodded, "Thank you so much, you've been incredibly kind."

"I said it's nothing, and I mean it!" The old lady pushed the money back, smiling, "Just sit tight in my place, I'll be right back." "Okay!" A

Chapter 1314

Dorothy stepped into the old lady's cozy little house, the kitchen greeting her right from the entrance, with the bathroom tucked neatly beside it.

The living room, though small, was impeccably tidy.

She hardly had a moment to take it all in when her phone buzzed to life in her pocket.

It was Kevin calling.

Probably wondering where she'd vanished to, growing impatient by the minute.

"Kevin, listen... I suddenly craved something else, so I went out to grab a bite. I'll be back soon, just hang on a bit longer for me!"

"Why don't you come back first? I can drive us out, and we can pick up whatever you're craving together!" Kevin seemed to sense something was off, not quite buying her story.

"I'm already halfway there. By the time I come back, I could've already grabbed it and returned!"

"...Dorothy, you didn't run off, did you?"

Dorothy sighed, "Why would I run off? I genuinely wanted to pick something up. I'll be back soon."

She had indeed shelved the idea of barging in unannounced.

Now, she intended to get the lay of the land from the old lady, then head back to discuss things with Everett!

"Alright then, make it quick! And keep your phone on. If you go dark, I'm calling Mr. Lopez straight away!" "Fine, I won't turn it off."

As Dorothy hung up, she heard footsteps outside.

Looks like the old lady had fetched someone quickly.

And there, standing beside the old lady, was none other than Lane.

Instinctively, Dorothy retreated a few steps.

"Dorothy, how did you find this place?" Lane's gaze was heavy, fixed on her.

In her wildest dreams, Dorothy hadn't imagined... that the old lady was one of Lane's people!

Pointing at Dorothy, the old lady chided, "You know each other? This girl, sneaking around, trying to get into your suite! The moment heard, I rushed to fetch you!"

"My dear, did you really think your lies would go unnoticed? Let me tell you, everyone in this neighborhood is under Mr. Lane's protection. The money you offered? We wouldn't even glance at it!"

Frowning, Lane spoke in a deep tone, "Dorothy, you wanted to take a look inside, right? I'll take you."

He extended his hand towards her, but she stepped back, fumbling for her phone to contact Kevin!

In a swift move, Lane snatched the phone from her hand and smashed it to pieces-

"My patience has its limits! You came here on your own today; don't even think about leaving!"

"Lane, if you dare harm me, I'll haunt you as a ghost!"

Lane laughed, spreading his hands "I personally took care of Quincy and look at me, still standing. ghosts were real, she'd be the first to seek vengeance."

"Stop your futile struggles. I don't want to cause a scene here."

Dorothy knew she had walked into a trap.

A direct confrontation with Lane would likely end badly for her.

"I'll go with you, but don't you dare touch me!"

Lane chuckled, his gaze sweeping over her face, a playful glimmer in his eyes.

"Even now, you're making demands? Don't worry, I won't kill you, but... Kenneth is a different story."

"If I'm not mistaken, your being able to find this place is thanks to Kenneth, right?"

Chapter 1315

Dorothy stood tall and unwavering, "I have no idea what you're talking about. What does he have to do with this?" "Oh, you'll understand soon enough!"

With her phone shattered on the ground, Dorothy could only hope that Kevin would realize she was in trouble soon.

Lane indeed took Dorothy to the apartment building.

Walking in, the presence of surveillance cameras in every corner was unmistakable, and not a single apartment looked lived in; all were bare, echoing the emptiness of the place.

It felt eerie due to the lack of human presence.

"So, you wanted to come in, take a look around," Lane turned, a mocking smile on his face. "Is it because Kenneth told you there's some kind of antidote here, and you just had to come?"

"Does he have the freedom to just call you like that, to contact you whenever?" Dorothy tried to keep her composure and stall for time.

Lane paused at her question.

"How would I know how he contacts you?"

"Exactly, because he didn't contact me." Dorothy slightly tilted her head to look at him, "You know, all this talk about killing people, it really makes it hard for me to be around you. For all I know, I could be next on your list."

"I heard your call, I guessed you would head straight here, so I followed, and here I am. But then you jump to conclusions, thinking Kenneth told me, even going as far as wanting to kill him." Dorothy forced a smile, "See how terrifying you've become?" Dorothy was gambling.

Gambling that Lane hadn't come directly here!

Because she hadn't actually followed him; it was just a desperate move to divert attention away from Kenneth.

If she was right, then Kenneth would be safe for now.

After saying this, Dorothy's gaze locked onto Lane's face.

Judging by his expression, she felt she had won the bet.

"I'm terrifying because you pushed

me to this! It was you and Everett

pushing

me together! Why couldn't

you just accept me when I pursued

you?"

wne

"Lane, be reasonable! I made myself clear when I rejected you. Just because you like me, does that mean I have to reciprocate?"

If Dorothy had accepted his

advances, enjoying the privileges et

and protection he offered, only to

reject him later, she'd be to blame.

But she didn't.

Once she knew Lane had feelings for her, she intentionally kept her distance, even avoiding private dinners.

"You rejected me because I'm not as rich as Everett? In the end, you chose him over me!"

Every time Everett's name came up, Lane seethed with rage.

Dorothy didn't immediately respond, instead, she silently observed him. After nearly a minute, she softly spoke.

"That's the difference between you and Everett; you don't understand love."

"Everett pursued me for more than a day or two. We went through countless trials to be together!

But to you, it's all about weighing benefits, money, and power.

Lane hated this topic, his brow furrowing in displeasure.

"Stop reminiscing about your past with him in front of me! Dorothy, he's gone, and you're mine now! You better understand that!"

Chapter 1316

Dorothy didn't want to rile up Lane; all she desired was to buy as much time as possible. "Fine, I won't say anything."

"Don't think you're the only ones with brains. Do you think I, Lane, am an idiot? Even if you manage to enter this place today, all you'll find is a temporary antidote at best! The real cure isn't here," Lane scoffed, raising an eyebrow.

"Of course, you might not believe me! How about we play a game? If you can find the temporary antidote here within an hour, I'll reveal the location of the real cure."

Dorothy just looked at him.

Clearly, Lane had only revealed half of the story!

"But if... you can't find it." He paused on purpose, his gaze landing on Dorothy, "Then today, right here, you're mine!"

"You said you wouldn't force me!"

"That was under the assumption that you'd behave! If I hadn't seen you here today, I might have agreed to your request."

But what could be done? She had shown up!

Making Lane realize in a flash that this woman never intended to just sit quietly and wait for him to marry her!

All those so-called rules they had set were just to reject him!

"Lane, be reasonable! I'm currently poisoned by Quincy, constantly in and out of the hospital, my life hanging by a thread! And you, on one hand, claim to love me so dearly, yet on the other, you're using the antidote to blackmail me! Can't I do everything in my power to find the real cure for my own life?"

"How can I believe that you truly love me?"

Lane frowned at her, "So, you mean if I give you the real antidote, you'll believe I love you?"

"From what I've seen, even though I've been rushed to the ER multiple times, possibly dying there, you still haven't given it to me, have you?"

"Ha! Dorothy, I guarantee, the moment I give you the antidote, you'll disappear from my life forever!" He spread his hands, laughing somewhat ferociously, "You won't fall in love with me just because I give you the antidote."

Dorothy remained silent, watching him as he stepped closer.

"Game time, one hour." He shrugged, his lips barely moving. "Time starts now."

...

It was only five minutes later when Kevin called Dorothy.

After hearing the voicemail signal, he didn't hesitate to dial Mr. Lopez's backup number.

"Track her location!"

The moment Everett heard Dorothy was missing, his voice instantly turned grave.

"I'm sending it to you now."

"Get someone on it immediately, leave no stone unturned!"

"Understood, Mr. Lopez."

After hanging up, Kevin immediately started making arrangements.

He also jumped out of the car and sprinted to a bakery, "Excuse me, did Beautiful girl come in here to

a very

buy some pastries reove

"No, sorry! We don't sell pastries here, just bread."

Kevin's heart sank.

This was bad!

He should have realized sooner he'd been duped by Ms. Sanchez.

If something happened to her, he couldn't even bear to think of the consequences...

Ten minutes later, Everett's car arrived at the location Kevin had sent.

"Mr. Lopez Ms. Sanchez must have left on her own! She said she was going to buy some pastries and didn't want me to follow. Then, we lost contact."

"What's happening on Lane's end?"

Kevin quickly checked the latest message from his informant,

left his hideout and gone to a elet

residential building."

Chapter 1317

Everett had this gut feeling, a premonition that made him act without hesitation.

"Head to the apartment building."

Kevin hesitated for a moment, then whispered, "Mr. Lopez, maybe I should go? Your current status... it's not exactly low-profile. What if he's set a trap? You could be walking into danger!" The depth of hatred Lane harbored for Everett was no secret, evident through recent events.

While he might not harm Dorothy, there was no doubt that given the chance, Lane wouldn't hesitate to strike at Everett with full force.

"Dorothy could be in Lane's clutches. Do you really think I can just sit back, worried about my own safety?"

"Mr. Lopez..."

A single glance from Everett silenced Kevin.

He could even see a flash of deep, seething anger in Mr. Lopez's eyes.

Lane... he had touched a nerve, messed with someone Everett held dear.

...

An hour, it seemed like an impossible feat.

Dorothy couldn't even make it from the top floor to the bottom in that time!

All she could hope for was that within the hour, Kevin would notice her absence and somehow pinpoint her location...

Though even Dorothy herself doubted the likelihood of that happening.

Behind her, Lane's towering figure loomed, his lips curled in a smirk.

"Dorothy, just call me 'husband', and I'll grant you an extra ten minutes."

She furrowed her brows, giving him a glance before resuming her frantic search for the antidote.

Lane's patience snapped, and he advanced, gripping her jaw tightly.

The pain made Dorothy's frown deepen.

"What are you doing?"

"Dorothy, when will you realize the

Pent you're in?" Lane hissed,

the fury in his eyes unmistakable, "Why do you insist on maintaining this aloof attitude with me

"Let go of me!"

"You're already cornered, yet still so defiant. Save your energy." The difference in their strength and height was so significant that Dorothy was almost lifted off her feet. Soon, you'll be under me, screaming."

Dorothy struggled, but his grip was overpowering.

"You! You promised an hour!"

"I did, but I make the rules here!" Lane's laugh was cold and menacing. "After an hour, I've even arranged for a little audience to enjoy the show!" Dorothy paled, "Lane, this is too much!"

"You and Kenneth keep insisting there's nothing between you, right? So, I figured... he wouldn't mind watching us, would he?"

"If he shows even the slightest bit of

discomfort, send him to join Quincy, along with Everett!" Lane,

despite seeing some logic in Dorothy's words, was far from convinced to dismiss his suspicions about Kenneth.

His sudden appearance was suspicious enough.

And with Dorothy ending up in this apartment building, Lane considered it highly likely that Kenneth had somehow tipped her off.

"Another murder? Lane, you're beyond redemption! Is this your twisted version of love?"

"Don't worry, even if Kenneth sees your body, I won't hold it against you!" His laughter was cruel, each chuckle a hammer to Dorothy's heart. Just an hour.

If no one came to her rescue...

Dorothy had no doubts about the lengths Lane would go to fulfill his twisted desires.

He was beyond any reason now.

Chapter 1318

As the seconds ticked by, Dorothy felt her heart sink deeper and deeper.

The horrifying thought crossed her mind - if, if she were violated by Lane... she couldn't bear the thought of living on!

Even though she knew Everett would tell her he didn't mind, that it didn't matter to him, Dorothy couldn't accept it for herself. Suddenly.

There was a scattering of footsteps outside the apartment building.

Dorothy and Lane turned almost at the same time towards the source of the noise-

It was Kenneth.

His hands were tied, and he had been brought here.

"Mr. Lane, here's the person you asked me to bring." This content © Nôv/elDr(a)m/a.Org.

"Alright," Lane gestured with his hand that the messenger could leave, then his gaze landed on Dorothy and Kenneth, a sly smile forming, "What, pretending you don't know each other in front of me? This act is too fake!"

Dorothy looked at the man before her, his face and body covered in wounds and blood, and she nearly lost her composure!

If Kenneth hadn't gotten involved in this mess trying to help her find the antidote, he could have stayed out of it entirely. "Kenneth, if you just come clean about how you've been signaling the outside world, maybe I'll spare your life!"

As soon as Lane finished speaking, Kenneth rasped, "I didn't."

Lane scoffed and kicked him fiercely!

The kick was strong, and with Kenneth's hands tied, it was hard for him to keep his balance. He fell straight to the ground! The thud made Dorothy's heart tremble violently.

"Lane, are you insane? He said he didn't betray you! What did Kenneth do wrong?"

"He said he didn't, so he didn't?" Lane's gaze shifted back to Dorothy, "It hurts you to see him kicked?"

Dorothy didn't dare speak, unsure which word might trigger Lane's temper.

This man had become unreasonable.

Suddenly, from nowhere, Lane had a black handgun in his hand!

Dorothy's pupils dilated at the sight.

"What are you doing?!"

"I've already killed Quincy, adding Kenneth to the list isn't a big deal! Seeing you protect him really pisses me off," Lane gritted his teeth, his voice laced with fierceness, "Why? You can care for Everett, you can feel for Kenneth, this cripple, but you can't have a bit of sympathy for me?"

Dorothy instinctively wanted to rush forward, to snatch the gun from Lane.

At this point, he might just end Kenneth's life with a single bullet in the next moment!

And that wasn't any ordinary weapon.

The fatality rate of a gunshot was well understood by everyone present.

But as she moved, Kenneth

suddenly spoke, "He won't believe anything you say now, I've explained that there's nothing between you and me... but Lane won't believe it."

Dorothy instinctively looked into Kenneth's eyes.

His eye sockets were swollen, half of his face covered in blood.

Yet...

Kenneth still gave Dorothy a warning glance.

Signaling her not to try for the gun.

It was too dangerous!

"You all think you can play me for a fool, Everett did, and so do you!" Lane stormed towards Dorothy, his eyes filled with resentment, "My patience has run out, today, I must have you!"

He advanced, and Dorothy retreated.

But the room was too small...

In just a few steps, she was backed against the wall.

Chapter 1319

"Lane! Touch me and I'll drop dead right here for you to see!"

But even as Dorothy screamed those words, Lane didn't stop. Not even for a second.

"Drop dead?" He chuckled darkly, his thin lips curling up in amusement. "You mean, die of pleasure? Don't worry, I've got way more tricks up my sleeve than Everett ever did. I'll make sure you're well taken care of!" As Lane's hand reached out for her-

Dorothy braced herself, ready to fight with every ounce of strength she had.

Suddenly!

Lane let out a sharp cry of pain.

"Ah!"

It was Kenneth.

Grimacing in pain, he got up from the ground and, like a madman, threw his body at Lane!

It was a suicidal move.

Especially considering Lane was armed!

"Damn it, I'll kill you!" True to form, as soon as Lane recovered, he charged at Kenneth!

"No!" Dorothy ran over, grabbing hold of Lane's shirt, clutching it tightly in her fist. "Kenneth, run!"

"He's not going anywhere!" Lane, though physically restrained by her, could easily shake her off if he wanted to. "You think this place is some sort of come-and-go as you please?" Dorothy looked up at Lane, defiance in her eyes. "This all started because of me. It has nothing to do with anyone else! Kenneth has been an outsider from the start. Let him go!" "You're pleading for him."

A murderous glint flashed in Lane's eyes. "Dorothy, you're pleading for Kenneth! Didn't you say you had nothing to do with him? Why plead for him now!"

Why could she lower herself for other men but never for him!

"Shouldn't? If I don't, you'll kill an innocent-man!" Dorothy positioned herself in front of Kenneth, her small frame hardly shielding his larger one. Lane, please, I'm begging you, let Kenneth go!"

Lane glanced at Kenneth, struggling to stand, then back at Dorothy's determined face.

"Letting him go... isn't out of the question."

That statement clearly had a catch.

Dorothy's heart threatened to leap out of her

throat, yet she forced

to meet Lane's gaze

"What's your condition?"

"Simple." Lane spread his hands. "You, willingly come with me. After I've had you, I'll spare Kenneth's life."

...

Dorothy's fists clenched so tightly her nails dug into her palms.

Behind her, Kenneth suddenly laughed.

"Don't agree to it!"

In a flash, Lane raised his gun, aiming straight at Kenneth's head!

"Lane!" Dorothy, terrified, stepped in front of the barrel. "If you're going to kill him, you'll have to kill me first!"

After all, she owed Kenneth too much already. If it came down to using her life to repay him, she couldn't consider it unjust.

"You'd die for him? You love him?" This was beyond what Lane had expected.

He had always thought Dorothy was the type of woman whose heart had room for Everett alone.

And Kenneth? At best, it was unrequited love.

But now...

These two were staging some kind of tragic love story right in front of him!

"Lane! To you, it's all about romance, isn't it? But there's more to life than that; there's friendship, there's family. But I guess you wouldn't understand any of that."

Chapter 1320

"Ha, if you say I won't get it, well, guess what? I don't even care to understand!" Lane sneered, his voice dripping with disdain. "You know what I can't stand? Your holier-than-thou attitude! What, you think you're something special? Just another plaything left behind!" Dorothy realized there was no saving him.

Maybe Lane hadn't turned bad; maybe he was rotten to the core from the get-go!

The murderous glint in his eyes was unmistakable.

Yet, Dorothy didn't move an inch, resolutely standing in front of Kenneth.

Behind her, Kenneth's voice was almost pleading, "Dorothy, please move!"

"No way! If I leave, he'll definitely kill you, Lane's lost it!"

"I don't care if I die... but you... you have to survive... for Abigail and Langston..."

Just as Dorothy was about to argue, Lane bellowed.

"Enough! Dorothy, you don't seriously think I'd spare Kenneth if I got rid of you, do you? There are only two outcomes today: either Kenneth dies, or... both of you do!"

"I'm begging you, Lane, Kenneth has nothing to do with this!"

"As I said, if you willingly be mine, let me have my way just once, maybe then I'd consider sparing him."

Lane kept advancing, giving Dorothy no time to think.

"Dorothy, don't!" Kenneth was desperately trying to break free from the ropes binding him, but it was futile.

Dorothy's lips quivered, and in the next second, she grabbed Lane's wrist again.

"Play nice, and I can make you happy! Give you a good time!"

She clenched her teeth, then suddenly raised her hand-

A slap echoed loudly across Lane's cheek!

Lane was furious, his hand shooting out to grasp Dorothy's neck.

"Damn it, you're really asking for it!"

Suddenly!

Just as Lane was about to squeeze, a force tackled him to the ground! When he saw who it was, his eyes widened in shock and disbelief. "Everett?! I thought you were dead!"

"Wishful thinking!" Everett clenched

his

eth, his furious punches

theel

leaving Lane bleeding from the nose and mouth! t

His hands were covered in blood, a vivid red!

Dorothy snapped back to reality and rushed forward to pull him away, "Everett, stop! Don't kill him!"

If he continued, Lane would die right there and then!

"I want him dead! Now!"

Everett was almost in a frenzy.

Rushing in to see Lane choking Dorothy had stripped away all his reason!

Thankfully.

Kevin burst in, quickly untying Kenneth, then joined Dorothy in trying to calm Mr. Lopez down.

"Mr. Lopez, please, calm down! If Lane dies, we'll never get the antidote!"

That sentence finally brought a semblance of clarity to Everett's enraged eyes.

Lane, now a bloody mess, suddenly laughed, "The antidote? You

the antidote? Ha! Even if I tell you where it is, you'll never get it!ö

"The antidote is in the top floor of this apartment building! But good luck getting in without me. It's booby-trapped; the first one through the door gets a deadly surprise Lane laughed maniacally.

"Everett, you love Dorothy so much, you'll surely go for it, right? I want to see you torn apart! Ha!"