

Midnight 1321

Chapter 1321

He finished speaking and quickly pulled something that looked like a remote control from his pocket.

Without a moment's hesitation, he pressed it!

"You've all deceived me, so I'll make sure none of you can get the antidote! Everett, or Dorothy, choose who will join me in death!"

Upon hearing this, Kevin immediately responded, "Mr. Lopez, I'll send someone to dismantle the device upstairs!"

Everett's icy gaze suddenly narrowed.

He knew if Lane could laugh so freely, he definitely wouldn't make it easy for anyone to tamper with his setup!

Sure enough, as soon as Lane heard Kevin's words, even as he spat blood, he let out a piercing laugh.

He waved the remote in his hand.

"You have five minutes! Not even a miracle worker can dismantle it in time!" Lane said, turning his attention to Everett, "You think I've lost? No, I've won! Today, either you or Dorothy must join me in death! Go for the antidote, and you die; don't go for it, and in five minutes, the antidote will be destroyed! Dorothy's death will be certain."

When Everett heard the word "death", almost simultaneously, he turned and started for the rooftop!

Dorothy's heart sank, and she grasped his clothes with all her might, "Everett, no! Didn't you hear? You'll die!"

"The antidote! Dorothy, I promised I'd get it for you!" Everett's voice was tight as he clenched her hand, his Adam's apple moving up and down, "I need you to survive!"

"But what's the point of living without you!" Dorothy cried out, shaking her head vigorously, "No, Everett, don't go! I'd rather have you with me in my final moments than lose you now!"

Kevin, witnessing the scene, was deeply moved.

He hesitated for a few seconds before stepping forward, "Mr. Lopez, maybe I could-"

"Nobody but Everett can unlock that door! It's facial recognition locked, and only Everett's face is registered! I advise you not to entertain any other ideas because by the time you've unlocked it, five minutes will be up." Lane had planned every detail, foreseeing this very moment.

He had thought Everett was already dead and had considered deactivating the device.

Fortunately, he hadn't!

Otherwise, he'd be on his way alone!

Dorothy glared fiercely, "You're despicable! Lane, you're truly revolting!"

Lane spat out blood, his eyes swollen but not concealing his triumphant smirk.

"I am revolting, what are you going to do about it? Everett, let me remind you, five minutes... isn't
swnov

Suddenly-

Kenneth, who had been silent, spoke up sharply.

"Lane, did you really think I've been around you all this time and done nothing?"

"Your facial recognition, besides Everett's, I added mine too."

Dorothy instinctively looked at him, and Lane's eyes bulged, "You! You had the chance to act!"

Kenneth pressed his cracked lips together, turning away from the others to face Everett.

"I didn't speak up because I was wondering, if you truly died, could ... could I have Dorothy..."

Everett's brow furrowed, but he remained silent.

Because if he did die, entrusting Dorothy to Kenneth was the only choice he felt at peace with. "The answer is, I couldn't."

Kenneth answered his own question before lowering his gaze, "So Everett, you must treat Dorothy well! Carry

my share of care for he

Chapter 1322

Before anyone else could react, Kenneth quickly stepped forward, gave Everett a hard shove, then turned and made his way to the top floor- He didn't even...

Glance back at Dorothy one last time!

Because Kenneth was afraid he wouldn't be able to leave if he did.

Caught off guard, Everett stumbled a few steps and crashed hard against the wall, but he ignored the pain, immediately getting up to chase after Kenneth.

If he died in his place, Dorothy would live with guilt for the rest of her life, and he would owe Kenneth forever!

He didn't want to owe that man anything!

"Everett!"

Dorothy cried out instinctively.

She too ran after Everett, but unfortunately... they both missed the direct elevator to the rooftop!

At that moment, with no time to spare for second thoughts, Everett immediately took to the stairs, chasing upwards-

He didn't even look up, so he had no idea how many floors he had climbed when suddenly, a gunshot rang out from the rooftop!

It was so piercing.

As if it hit Everett right in the heart!

His steps halted, his entire body feeling as if it had been drenched in ice-cold water, completely frozen.

"Kenneth!"

That was Dorothy's shriek!

She wasn't as fast as Everett, so she was two flights of stairs below.

Everett had never felt such shock before, even forgetting how to react!

Until he heard Kevin's voice from downstairs, "Ms. Johnson, Ms. Johnson, wake up, please! Don't scare me!"

"Mr. Thompson! You need to come back, Ms. Johnson has fainted!"

...

Dorothy felt like she had been in a long dream.

She dreamt she was poisoned by Quincy, dreamt Lane killed Quincy, dreamt Everett arrived just in time to save her, and then... Then Kenneth!

She dreamt Kenneth was dead!

Dorothy suddenly opened her eyes, a blinding light shining down on her, causing her to furrow her brows in discomfort. "You're awake!"

Perhaps because she had just regained consciousness, Dorothy could hear someone speaking beside her, but she couldn't make out the words clearly.

She tried to move her fingers, only to realize her hand was being held by someone.

The palm was warm...

A familiar sensation.

Dorothy turned her head towards the person, locking eyes with Everett's deep gaze. "Ev..."

She tried to speak, but her throat was so hoarse that no words came out!

Everett raised his hand, gently stroking her gaunt cheek, "You've just woken up, don't rush to speak, take it easy."

But now, Dorothy had so many questions!

She looked at Everett, trying to read something from the subtle expressions on his handsome face.

But then.

Dorothy's heart sank.

Because after Everett said those words, he fell silent.

What did that mean?

If Kenneth was alright, then Everett would have told her straight away to put her mind at ease, instead of keeping silent, telling her not to speak yet.

"He... he really is..."

Dorothy's voice had never sounded as terrible as it did in that moment, as if her throat had been destroyed, barely able to produce a hoarse monosyllable.

Everett pressed his lips together, and after a moment, lowered his eyelashes.

"The doctors did everything they could."

He had gathered the best doctors in all of Eldorria City to the hospital, but... Kenneth's injuries were too severe. Unless a miracle happened.

A tear suddenly slid down Dorothy's cheek.

Chapter 1323

She couldn't bear this ending. It was too much.

Kenneth had done nothing wrong, so why did he have to bear the consequences?

Dorothy felt like a curse, as if she was the one who had doomed Kenneth. And now, she couldn't even muster the strength to weep aloud, her voice simply wouldn't come out. "Oh, Everett... it hurts so much..."

"I know." Everett's eyes were tinged with red, his hand firmly holding hers, afraid to let go for even a second. "I know."

She weakly moved her hand to her chest, unable to cry out loud, yet tears flowed like a broken faucet.

"It hurts..."

The pain was suffocating her!

Dorothy wished it had been her who died, not Kenneth, and definitely not Everett.

If she had known this would be the outcome, she would have wished to turn back time and end her own life, sparing everyone else the trouble. Everett was at a loss for words.

This trap was meant for him, set by Lane for his own downfall.

If it hadn't been for Kenneth, it would've been Everett fighting for an antidote right now, possibly facing his own demise.

"Kenneth... did he... say anything...?"

Dorothy knew she shouldn't speak, but she couldn't help it.

What did it matter if her throat was sore? Kenneth had lost his life!

Everett's eyes dropped, his voice low, "When he was rushed to the hospital, he was still breathing. He asked to see me, and then... he told me..."

He choked up, unable to continue for a few seconds before finally managing to say, "He told me to take good care of you, to never let you down, or he'd haunt me as a ghost."

...

At that moment, Dorothy couldn't bear to hear any more.

Kenneth had left a message for her too.

...

Outside, Karen had already fainted from crying three times.

The doctor gave Jeffrey a stern warning - if Karen kept this up, they might lose the baby.

But how could anyone control Karen's grief?

Each time she woke up, her cries filled the hospital room.

"My brother, my brother is gone! Jeffrey, I don't have a brother anymore!"

Karen clung to Jeffrey, her tears soaking his shirt.

Seeing his wife like this, Jeffrey's heart ached with compassion.

Knowing Kenneth died trying to get an antidote for Dorothy, Jeffrey couldn't help but feel guilty. He thought back to when...

He had suggested sending Kenneth away, just to keep him from getting close to Dorothy.

Now, he realized, Kenneth just wanted a fair chance at love. What was so wrong about that?

If Kenneth had any ill intentions, Dorothy would have been his long ago. Why would he wait so painfully long?

"Honey, please stop crying. Our baby

can't take it," Jeffrey tried to console

her, his words dry, "Death... is irreversible. Kenneth chose to trade his life for Dorothy's antidote. We have to respect that."

"He was such a good, kind person. Why did this have to happen to him? Why not Lane!" Karen's voice was hoarse with rage, "Jeffrey, I want Lane to suffer. I want him dead!"

"Don't worry about that. Lane won't get off easily."

"I'm not talking about execution!"

Karen's fists clenched tightly. Her

eyes blazing with fury. "I want him to experience every kind of pain!

A quick death would be too merciful.

Jeffrey quickly assured her, "Everett has already made it clear. He won't let Lane off the hook."

Chapter 1324

But Karen couldn't find solace in those words.

Losing Kenneth, who loved her so dearly, was a reality she couldn't accept.

"Honey, I think Dorothy might be awake... Do you want to go check on her?"

He thought getting Karen to move around might help, instead of sitting there, drowning in tears.

But Karen's body stiffened, her eyes brimming with tears.

"I'll go in a bit, I just need a moment to gather myself."

Karen took a deep breath, her sobs breaking through now and then, her eyes red and swollen, her nose tinged with the same hue, "Even though I know that Kenneth made his own choice, it's just so hard. On one hand, there's Kenneth, who treated me like his own sister, and on the other, my best friend. I just "

She couldn't finish, but Jeffrey understood.

"If I could do it all over again, if it meant Kenneth could come back to life just once, I'd even kneel before Dorothy, begging her to accept my brother's love, even if just for a day! So he could leave this world without any regrets."

Karen knew that even if given another chance, Kenneth, being so hopelessly devoted to Dorothy, would still choose to sacrifice himself for her cure.

She couldn't blame Dorothy, nor did she want to.

It was guilt that weighed on her heart.

Why hadn't she helped Kenneth fulfill his wish while he was alive?

"Ever since we were kids... Kenneth always looked out for me." Karen's voice broke, unable to speak continuously, "Anything I wanted that our parents wouldn't buy, I just had to ask him... and he'd get it for me!" Jeffrey held her close, his own heart aching, "Stop, honey, please don't."

"I need to say this! Just let me finish!" Karen's tears soaked his shirt, "When grew up... he worried about me living in a rental, so he gave me money to buy an apartment. He always... worried I wouldn't eat well, would starve myself, so he'd send food-over regularly..."

"Jeffrey, my brother did so much for me... and now I feel so ashamed! Ashamed that I never did anything for him in return!"

She knew what Kenneth had wanted most.

She knew what he had longed for all these years.

Clutching her chest, Karen found herself unable to continue.

Even Jeffrey couldn't help but shed tears, moved by the depth of her sorrow.

"Why do people have to die... why? My brother was such a good person, why couldn't it have been Lane instead!"

All Jeffrey could do was stroke her hair, feeling helpless in comforting Karen further.

Time seemed to stand still as they cried together, until Karen had no more tears left to cry.

Crying so hard had nearly drained all the energy from her, especially being pregnant.

"Jeffrey, help me up. I want to see Dorothy."

"Maybe you should rest a bit more!" he suggested, noting Karen's lack of energy, even her voice was weak. "That's the person my brother gave his life to protect. Now that he's gone... it's up to me to keep her safe."

Jeffrey pursed his lips, nodding,

"Okay, I'll carry you there. But you have to promise me one thing, no more crying! Honey, I can't bear the thought of any risk to you, losing you is my greatest fear."

Carrying the weight of a pregnancy already fraught with danger, especially now, with the risk of a miscarriage ever-present, was a burden Jeffrey couldn't bear to think about.

Chapter 1325

Karen gave a reluctant nod and found herself suddenly swept off her feet.

Cradled in Jeffrey's arms, listening to the steady beat of his heart, a question bubbled up inside her.

"Jeffrey."

"Mm?"

"What if... it was me who was poisoned, would you—"

"I would!" Jeffrey cut her off before she could finish, giving Karen his answer, "I can't bear the thought of you leaving before me!"

In the past, he never truly pondered the significance of life.

He simply believed that life and death were predestined, so why worry about it?

But since going through so much, having someone he wanted to protect and love for a lifetime by his side, Jeffrey truly feared the concept of "death"!

The idea of being worlds apart was something he absolutely could not accept.

If Karen were to leave first, he was certain he'd follow her immediately!

"Don't... I don't want you to die..." Karen clung to his neck tightly, her tears falling once more.

The loss of Kenneth was something she found incredibly hard to accept.

Jeffrey quickly wrapped his arms around her, "I won't die! I'll never die; I'll always be by your side!"

After Dorothy was treated with the antidote, her vital signs began to improve.

However, her mood...

From morning to night, she hardly ate or drank, just staring at the ceiling.

The rare times she shed a tear were the only changes in her expression.

Karen visited several times, trying to console her, but it was as if she couldn't hear.

Outside, night fell once again.

Everett walked slowly into the room, cautiously approaching her.

"Dorothy, please eat something. You can't live on IV fluids forever." He reached out, grasping her cold hand in his palm.

But no matter how much he rubbed or warmed it, as soon as he let go, it quickly became cold again.

Dorothy slightly turned her head, her eyes meeting Everett's, her voice hoarse.

"Kenneth's... funeral..."

"It's tomorrow. Do you want to go?" Everett hadn't dared to bring up this subject with Dorothy.

Given her current condition, he feared she might faint from crying again!

At Karen's end, Jeffrey had already tried several times to persuade her not to go.

"I want to go." Dorothy's voice was still raspy, but her tone was determined, "Let me go."

Everett, heartbroken, held her in his embrace, repeatedly stroking her hair.

"Alright, I won't stop you! You... you should say goodbye."

He knew if he forcibly prevented her, Dorothy would regret it for a lifetime!

Dorothy felt her eyes dry, perhaps from crying too much lately. At this moment, she felt a suffocating discomfort but couldn't cry anymore!

"Everett... it's my fault..."

"No! Kenneth died for me." Everett's brow furrowed, his handsome face somber, "His family is well taken care of, and I'll look after their needs from now on."

At least, he wouldn't let Kenneth's parents worry about their old age after his passing.

"He died getting the antidote for me!"

"But Lane was always after me, not Kenneth."

Dorothy leaned against Everett's shoulder, inhaling his unique scent. "Everett... I don't want you to die either..."

Silence fell between them for a long moment before Everett spoke softly, "Abigail and Langston are waiting for you to come home. You need to get better, if not for yourself, then for the kids, for me."

Chapter 1326

Dorothy lifted her eyes, their movement stiff and awkward. "Everett, I... I don't know how to express what I'm feeling right now..."

She had dreamed of growing old with Everett, of being there for their son and daughter forever.

But-

She couldn't bear the thought of her happiness being built on someone else's suffering.

"I understand," Everett said, his voice soft and comforting as if he were soothing his daughter. He gently rubbed her back. "What's done is done. We can't go back, even if we wish we could."

If he could turn back time, he would never have allowed Quincy the chance to poison, and then Kenneth would still be alive.

But he was only human, not a deity.

He didn't have that power.

"Dorothy, Kenneth said his last wish was for you to take the antidote, to recover, and to live well," Everett continued.

Silence.

"Don't let him have died in vain, okay?"

It took a long, long time before Dorothy, held in his embrace, finally nodded slowly.

...

The day of Kenneth's funeral dawned overcast and gray, as if it might rain.

Dressed in black, Dorothy went directly from the hospital to the funeral home.

For the sake of privacy and peace, there was only one service scheduled there that day. Only Kenneth's family, friends, and former colleagues were allowed inside.

"Dorothy."

Karen, who herself needed support to stand, made her way over to Dorothy upon seeing her.

In just a few days, Dorothy had become almost gaunt, her cheeks hollow, her voice weak.

"Karen..."

"Don't go up front later," Karen said, her voice laced with worry. "My brother's family-when they see you-"

"He paid with his life. How could I

not pay my respects?" Dorothy managed a weak smile. "They blame me, hit me; it's what deserve."

Karen was about to protest when Jeffrey interjected, "Honey, Everett's here too. He won't let her get hurt."

Silence.

Karen glanced at Everett

by

black and chose to hold her

side, both dressed in

peace

Everett gave Jeffrey a look, signaling him to take Karen inside first.

Once they were alone, Dorothy finally spoke, "If later...if Kenneth's family blames me, please don't retaliate." Everett knew her too well.

"You mean if Kenneth's family curses you, you want me not to react, right?"

"Yes. They're bound to resent me. I want them to vent, not to keep it all bottled up."

"I won't stop them because I know that might be the only way to alleviate your guilt, even if just a little," Everett said, understanding the heavy burden on her heart.

"I can never repay Kenneth in this lifetime."

"Dorothy, he made his choice because he wanted you to live well. Remember what he left you with."

Dorothy's eyes, veiled by long lashes, almost seemed to lose their focus.

Standing here, it all felt like a dream to her!

How she wished to wake up to find her mother and Kenneth still alive.

That no one had to leave her side!

"The memorial service is about to start. Let's go in," Everett said, taking Dorothy's hand. "I'm with you."

She looked up, nodding slightly, "Okay."

Chapter 1327

Just as expected.

The moment the Nelsons laid eyes on Dorothy, the tirade began.

But it was Kenneth's mother, Sienna, who led the charge!

"It's all because of you! You witch, you curse! How could my son have been so blind to fall for you! You've taken him from us, so young, so soon!"

"Kenneth! If you can hear me, take this woman with you! Take her to be with you!"

Everett had been frowning through the accusations, managing to hold his tongue.

But Sienna's last remark was too much for him.

He was about to step forward when Dorothy quickly grabbed his wrist, shaking her head gently.

"She's crossed the line."

"Everett, nothing she says right now is too much."

Worried he might actually start a conflict at the funeral, Dorothy gently caressed his hand, "Put yourself in their shoes, imagine their grief! You don't need to come with me, just wait here." "No." Everett's gaze hardened, "They're not thinking straight."

"I told you! Whatever they do or say right now, it's not too much." Dorothy's voice was weak, still recovering from the ordeal, lacking its usual strength, "Please, just do this for me, will you?"

"Everett?"

He stood frozen, eventually conceding, "Come back soon."

"I will."

Leaving the comforting warmth of Everett's palm, Dorothy slowly approached Sienna.

The Nelsons, having benefited from Everett's generosity, naturally felt inclined to defend Dorothy.

"Kenneth made his choice, respect it!"

"What respect? My only son is gone, and all you have are cold words! I know it was her! She must have bribed you!" Sienna was beyond reason, ready to confront Dorothy if not for the others holding her back. "It's all your fault! You killed my son!"

Dorothy faced the barrage of accusations and blame without a word of rebuttal.

She continued forward until she stood before Sienna, then...

In front of everyone, she knelt down!

Behind her Everett frowned deeply his body moving forward

he remembered

his

to Dorothy.

"Sienna, I am to blame for Kenneth's death. Whatever you say, I accept, it's my fault." "Don't think this will soften me!"

"I don't." Tears welled in Dorothy's

eyes, spilling over and streaming et

down her cheeks, "It's my fault, and Kenneth paid the price. I have no defense."

Sienna wasn't about to forgive just because of Dorothy's kneeling or her admission of guilt. What mother could easily let go of the pain of losing a child, a part of herself?

For a moment, Sienna said nothing, just glaring venomously at Dorothy.

As those holding her back eased up, she suddenly shoved them aside, charging at Dorothy!

Before anyone could react, Sienna's slap landed fiercely across Dorothy's face! She didn't dodge.

Or rather, the moment she knelt before Sienna, she was bracing for this blow. Dorothy's heart was heavy.

Ever since the incident, every time she closed her eyes, she saw Kenneth's face! So young... Gentle, kind, a true gentleman.

As if all the world's beauty was meant to describe him.

Chapter 1328

Kenneth's stubbornness in matters of the heart was no less intense than Everett's.

Otherwise, they wouldn't find themselves in this mess today.

Unable to contain himself any longer, Everett strode forward, pulling Dorothy into his arms protectively.

"It doesn't hurt."

Dorothy didn't need to look up to know Everett had come for her.

This man, he could never stand to see her in the slightest bit of pain.

"Your face is all flushed, and you're telling me it doesn't hurt?"

"It's just a bit red, nothing compared to losing a life like Kenneth did."

Everett disliked her pessimistic tone.

Dorothy had been battling depression, and it was unpredictable when she might spiral again.

"Don't you realize why Kenneth died?"

"If he saw you now, wallowing in sadness and not valuing the life he sacrificed his own for, wouldn't his death be in vain?" Dorothy's lips quivered, unable to form words.

"You can grieve, but there's a limit."

After a moment, she slowly nodded.

"Yeah."

She couldn't let Kenneth's sacrifice be for nothing.

...

Kenneth's ashes were laid to rest next to Bella's in adjoining plots.

Dorothy had thought about it but hesitated because of Everett. To her surprise, it was he who suggested it first.

Not only that, but Everett went as far as to purchase the entire hillside, ensuring they could rest undisturbed.

Amidst a series of challenging

events, perhaps the only piece of et

good news was that Dorothy, after taking the antidote, genuinely began to recover.

Today, she met the criteria to be discharged.

"Are you sure she's okay now? What about the organ damage from before?" Everett was anxious for reassurance, following the doctor, seeking confirmation.

Recently, aside from necessary business, he spent most days in the
worried

hospital by Dorothy's siir

she might have a moment of despair he wouldn't catch in time.

That would be a lifelong regret.

"Currently, all her tests are normal. However, due to the toxin, the damage it caused is irreversible. But, there's no need for excessive worry. With proper care, rest, and diet at home, it won't cause major issues."

QUMS

"Okay."

Leaving the doctor's office, Everett entered Dorothy's room to find her on the phone.

He didn't interrupt, instead texting Kevin to come to the hospital and handle the discharge procedures.

After Dorothy finished her call, she looked up at Everett.

She didn't mention who it was, and he didn't ask.

"It was Ephraim."

"Okay." Everett sat by the bed, his slender hands carefully peeling an apple for Dorothy. "Is it about Heather Garcia's case?"

"Yeah, the execution's been approved, set for early next month."

Everett showed no reaction, as if it didn't concern him at all.

It was Dorothy who sighed softly, "Maxton Sanchez must know by now."

"Don't worry, as long as you don't want to see them, none of these people will get the chance to trouble you."

How could he let others hurt the person he couldn't bear to scold?

"I don't want to see him."

On this matter, Dorothy harbored no sentimentality or softness.

That man had caused her mother a lifetime of regret and plunged Heather and her daughter into despair. Seeing him would be pointless.

Chapter 1329

Maybe when she was a kid, Dorothy harbored some hope for her father's love, but as she grew up, all that was left for the role of a father in her heart was disgust!

It wasn't until she saw how Everett showered Abigail and Langston with love and affection, treating them like treasures, that Dorothy began to rethink her stance. She had once thought that all fathers in the world were like Maxton! "Alright, see you then."

Everett squeezed her hand.

Ever since the poison had been neutralized, her body had been recovering, but her limbs remained cold, so whenever Everett had the chance, he would hold her hands to warm them up.

A little warmth was better than none.

Soon, the hospital room filled with noise.

Karen and Jeffrey hurried over as well.

Looking at Karen's growing belly, Dorothy spoke with a soft voice, "You didn't have to come all this way for something so minor!"

"How could it be minor? It's your discharge day!" Karen said with a smile, having lost a fair bit of weight from the stress of the past few days.

It was only because Jeffrey constantly reminded her that she was pregnant that Karen managed to eat properly at all.

Dorothy hesitated for a moment before reaching out to take her hand.

Before she could say anything, Karen cut her off.

"Dorothy, I know what you're about to say."

"They might not understand me, but I can't do the same! I lived through the whole ordeal." Karen patted her hand, "You did nothing wrong, this was my brother's choice." Karen never blamed Dorothy for anything.

It was just that her regrets were too many.

But now that the person in question was gone, regrets were pointless.

"I'm just worried that because of me, you'll have a hard time with the family."

As long as she didn't have to face Kenneth's parents, she wouldn't have any problems, but Karen was still their relative! They were bound to meet sooner or later. And they would certainly make things difficult for Karen.

"You're overthinking it. My aunt just lost her son, her heart is definitely not at peace, but even the deepest wounds will heal over time... it'll be okay."

Even though she said that, Karen's eyes still filled with tears.

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Now, whenever she mentioned Kenneth, her tears would flow uncontrollably. "Karen."

Seeing her cry, Dorothy couldn't help but join in.

This was the first time the two women had cried together since the incident.

Just as Jeffrey was about to speak, Everett pulled him outside.

"Let them vent their emotions, it's okay."

"Sigh!"

If it weren't for Karen's pregnancy, he wouldn't be chasing after her like a mother hen, constantly reminding her.

"What about Lane? Is everything taken care of?"

The mention of that man filled Jeffrey with rage.

"Absolutely! Don't worry, we won't let him die before the second trial. He'll be awake to taste every kind of torture!"

If it weren't for Karen, and if he didn't need

avoid trouble, Jeffrey

would've loved to personally take

care of that scumbag! Conne

"Good." Everett trusted Jeffrey with handling the matter.

The two men stood side by side at the door of the hospital room, exchanging glances.

"Smoke?"

"No, quit." Everett raised an eyebrow, "You smoke?"

Jeffrey gestured to his lips, "Occasionally, on the sly." "Karen's pregnant, you should be careful."

"Yeah." He nodded, then lowered his voice, winking, "Now that the poison is out of the way, and there's nothing else stopping you two, shouldn't you and Dorothy... maybe tie the knot again?" Their current relationship was...

A bit unconventional.

Chapter 1330

Marriage was definitely on Everett's mind.

He frowned, glancing at the hospital door. "If Kenneth hadn't passed away, I'd have asked already, but now..."

How could he possibly broach the subject of proposing to Dorothy when Kenneth's loss was so fresh? It just didn't seem right, on any level.

"Sigh, you're right. Better wait," Jeffrey said, thinking of Kenneth. It seemed like all he could do was sigh - there were no words to express how he felt. "After all, Kenneth played a big part in bringing you two together. He had his heart set on Dorothy for so long, and in the end... he died for her. Everett, you've really thought this through."

Everett gave a thin smile. It was all thanks to Dorothy that he was so considerate.

How could he not think everything through when she was by his side?

...

After returning to Bay Residence from the hospital, Everett made sure Dorothy had some lighter tasks to keep her busy. It was better than letting her dwell on her thoughts. But this was only a temporary solution.

"Everett, I feel I'm ready to get back to work at my company," Dorothy said, knocking on the study door, placing the documents he had given her on the desk.

He looked up, standing from his chair. "Wait until next month, and I won't stop you. But not now."

"Why not?"

"Because Lopez Corporation has a lot on its plate right now, and I could really use your help!"

As soon as Everett said this, Dorothy sighed, finding herself pulled into his embrace, her only option to look up at him.

"Don't tell me it's just these simple reports and data issues! Anyone in Lopez Corporation could handle these tasks well."

She couldn't be fooled by Everett that easily.

"But these tasks require confidentiality, and you're the best person for the job." Everett was getting better at keeping a straight face when he stretched the truth. It was all practice.

Dorothy still had her doubts.

She flipped through the documents again. "Is this project really that confidential?"

"Of course! It's all patented," he said, pointing at the text.

Everett had anticipated this question and had deliberately included the patent details. "Alright then."

Hearing him insist, Dorothy couldn't refuse any longer. She wriggled out of his embrace, intending to leave the study and not disturb Everett's work. But as she reached the door, something came to her mind, and she turned back to him.

"Karen called me just now!"

"Oh? Something happened?"

"Yes! She and Jeffrey went for a prenatal checkup and sneakily asked the doctor about the baby's gender."

It seemed like Karen was already midway through her pregnancy, and the reveal was intriguing to Everett.

"So, is it a boy or a girl?"

Dorothy smiled, her eyes twinkling. "I didn't tell you straight away because I wanted you to guess."

"...With a fifty-fifty chance, guessing

"A boy, to have one each."

Det be too hard," Everett

"You guessed-wrong!" She clapped

her hands, her smile widening. another girl! Congratulations to Jeffrey, now father to two daughters!"

Everett raised an eyebrow, clearly in a good mood.

It wasn't so much about Jeffrey having two daughters, but rather... Dorothy had just laughed.

That was the first time she'd laughed so freely since Kenneth's tragic incident.

It had been a heavy blow to her, indeed.