

The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 251 - Read The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 251

Chapter 251

*Sure thing, Mr Lopez

The driver headed straight for the Dreamscape Hotel

Only after the vehicle came to a halt did Everett slowly open his eyes and exit the car

He cast a glance at the hotel in front of him. The scenery was pretty decent, but the building's modest exterior made it clear that was no fancy establishment. "Mr. Lopez, would you like me to help you with your luggage? The driver asked eyeing the suitcase which didn't seem to be carrying more than a few clothing items. "No need" Everett picked up the suitcase himself and headed towards the entrance.

Suddenly a little girl at the hotel door yelled out. "Mammy"

Usually, Everett was indifferent towards children. He neither disliked nor was particularly fond of them

But today that childish voice seemed to captivate him.

He looked in the direction of the voice spotting a two or three year old girl with a tiny ponytail hobbling along with her movements, which only added to her outburst

The girl had her back to him and Everett could only make out her chubby cheek. They looked around and plump as a mini burger

He glanced around but saw no accompanying adults. He froze when the girl was calling out to

His steps faltered for a moment, but exhaustion ultimately won. Clasp his suitcase, he worked straight into the hotel.

Outside, Abigail was pouting. She was impatiently waiting for her tardy mom. "Mommy! Aunt Karen! Please hurry up!"

Soon, Karen came rushing over. She picked up Abigail and planted an affectionate kiss on her cheek. "Shh! Don't rush your mommy. She's dealing with some work duty over the phone. Aunt Karen will take you out for a treat. Can we wait for a bit?"

"OK" Abigail obediently nodded and wrapped her chubby arms around Karen's neck. "Wum Karen! Just saw a really tall man!"

"Did you? Abigail, do you want to grow up tall too?"

"Yes" Abigail nodded vigorously as her eyes drifted towards where Everett

had disappeared. That man was so fall!”

Karen followed her gaze, but no one was in sight.

She assumed Abigail was just infinigued by att

“ger and sicht ge it another thought

“Winght, sweetie Aunt Kate will take you to the supermarket now. We’ll have a look around, and by the time we’s done, your

mommy should be ready. Then, we can head to the night market

“May I want to buy a la lipap

“You can only have one, and to fish it before your mo–my finds out”

Abigal’s purpy dog eyes were Karen’s weakness. She could hardly we say no to the little gif requests.

Everett took the leator in the executive i that Keen had booked for him.

While it was no luxury hotel, the place was clean and tidy Everett knew this was likely due to Kren’s meticulous insinctions.

Aber so many years by his side, Exeteteti was well andre of Kevans mention to detail, healing that of a personal assistant.

After a shower Everett noticed a missed call from Kean or “is phare

He returned the call simultaneously using the remote to open the curtains to the floor to ceiling window

*Mr. Lopez, how are you finding the accommodation? Do you need me to get in touch with the hotel manager 15 improve any

facilities? “No. I primarily come in Everglow City for some peace and quiet!

He didn’t want to draw attention and nsk being disturbed

“Understood.”

“Any recommendations while I’m here?” Everett poured himself a glass of red wine and took a sip. Tooder sightseeing spots?”

“Mr. Lopez, Everglow City has a night market”

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Kevin finished speaking, then quickly added. “Mr. Loper, the lifestyle in Everglow City is a bit less bustling compared to the big cities. Other than this right market, there’s hardly any nightlife. If you’re interested in going out during the day, I can recommend some nice retourants.”

Evenen put down his wine glass and glanced at his watch

“Send me the location of the night market.”

“You’re going” Kevin was a bit supened

After all, Mr Lopez was a notorious clean freak. He had always despised crowded places and would’t team of partaking in

ambiguous street food Vel, now he had suddenly expressed an interest in the night market. How novel

“Well, perhaps after the resort development project is completed, we could consider launching a luxury hotel project. This place has a beautiful view of the Everette that the scenery here was quite pleasant, and the air was clean. I was a place where one could find peace of mind and tranquility.

There must be many people who would also appreciate a place like this so unwind.

“Mr. Lopez, do you need me to go with you to help you out there?”

No need. Just have the driver wait for me at the hotel entrance.”

“Understood, Mr. Lopez.”

After hanging up the phone, Everett changed out of his usual business suit and into a casual black outfit.

In the coming days, he had no plans of wearing a suit. Since he was here to relax, he might as well let go completely.

Dorothy received a call from Austin explaining that George, who had previously accepted the payout, was causing trouble again.

He probably heard something or finally put two and two together.

She told Kare to take Abrast to the night market first, and then the word join them later after dealing with this situation.

After rushing back in her car to Austin's place, she found George ranting loudly and relentlessly. “You’re all con artists! I’m going to expose you on the news!!”

“Why were you called out of? Dorothy asked.

This caught the arrogant and domineering George off guard directly as she strode over in her high heels without a hint of fear.

“I was just looking for you. You said the design blueprints had changed, now you guys have suddenly gone back to your original blueprints?”

“You accepted the compensation and signed your consent. This property has nothing to do with you anymore. As for how we

want to design the project since when did we need your approval?”

“TOU.”

Dorothy spared him a glance. She had met plenty of his kind before and had anticipated this, just not so soon.

“If you don’t want to squander the money you’ve received and end up in jail, then behave yourself and learn. I won’t call the police,

but if you continue to make an ass of yourself, all have to take drastic measures.”

“You’re not beating me, what can the police do? You’re the cat who caught me.”

“What’s your evidence? Were you the one who came begging us to this?”

Dorothy raised an eyebrow at him. "Since you rejected my proposal time, we haven't bothered you at all." George struggled to find a coherent response. She chuckled as she stood in front of a man much taller and broader than her without the slightest inkling of fear. She had honed her interpersonal skills over the years. "Your choice whether you quietly go home or wait to be nested for disturbing the peace? Dorothy finished and gave Austin a knowing look. He immediately understood "Bring me my phone."

"When do you need your phone for George jumped like a startled rabbit. "To call the police, of course Ms. Sanchez is merciful. She even gave you two choices, but I'm not as berescent. You're sad, disturbing nur mal ao do we how to put up with your antica? I don't have time for that!

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Aulet's try be nice and give him a chance." Dorothy the dama had unfolded enough, so it was time to reel it back in. She intervened then shot George a look, signaling him to leave. Once George hastily left, Austin's expression shifted from seething anger to a broad and beaming smile. "My Sanchez admire you?" "What's there to admire? He was someone's waiting for me" after more money so it was obvious a threat of jail would calm him down" Dorothy glanced at the clock. Austin, I have to go. Austin chuckled. "Oh, in your husband in Everglow City!" "Yes" De nodded and added, "He doesn't have much time, so better go!" "Sire, go ahead. Next time, bring him along. Let's grab a meal together." Laughing, Dorothy nodded and left. To the world, she had to claim to be in a committed relationship. Firstly because she had a child and if she claimed otherwise, it would be a father. What if someone pointed towards Everett? God forbid up speculation about her child's. Secondly, it served as a deterrent for me in the workplace who tried to hit on her. She didn't work and earning as much money as possible, nothing else mattered (the time or energy to entertain them. She just wanted to focus on her. Once in her car Dorothy called Karen. "At the night market There's a street performer here, who Abigail

The night market was incredible
are nearby. Are you done with your work

busy, so karm hatta mase

Dorothy has been to the night market only once so she had a vague memory
of the place

I'm done. I'm on my way now. Keep your phone handy. I'll call you! I can't find
you?

After ending the call, Dorothy took a deep breath and started the
Everglow City's night market was bustling. As night fell, many sleepless
souls found solace there as other faces were shut for
the night

It wasn't a weekend so this was to be
expected

His chauffeur parked the car by the roadside, and to end in Everett wore a cap
before stepping out

How tall and broad his figure did attract a few stares in this little southern
The chauffeur, a local, recommended a very popular and delicious local snack to
Everett

Everett bought them all but didn't eat any

"Mr. Lopez, being a Texan, you must be red all day, right? The chauffeur
started a conversation, so he made sure he
wasn't rude. He feared any stupid remarks might upset his passenger
"Not really. I'm used to it. Everett handed over the snacks to him. Here. These
are for you

"All for me? The chauffeur was surprised

"Yes"

Everett couldn't convince himself to try the snacks. The neat freak part of him
would allow. Upon seeing the chauffeur's delight
over the snacks, Everett couldn't help but crack a smile. Suddenly his
gaze fell upon a little girl behind the chauffeur.

entrance of the Dreamscape Hotel

Her recognizable double bun hairstyle, her marshmallow-like face, and those
familiar big eyes.

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Abner chuckled, tugging at the corners of Everett's lips.

He came to Everglow City in hopes of forgetting Dorothy and starting over, yet
the sight of the young child reminded him of her
face.

His mother used to say he was obsessed, and now he was finally ready to

admit it.

Before he knew it, the little girl had disappeared. He instinctively glanced around, but she was nowhere to be found

“Tim losing it.” He depressingly muttered to himself

He had allowed himself to be captivated by a little girl of all things.

“Did you say something Mr. Lopez?”

“No, let’s head back to the hotel” Everett decided it

might not be the best day to be out and about it was best to go get some rest to avoid seeing her face in every passing

Though puzzled, the driver nodded obediently. After all, he could not afford to offend his employer

“Alright

Mr. Lopez

Everell turned and began to walk against the flow of the crowd.

The driver, dutiful as ever began to speak of Everglow City’s unique features and other hot spots. “Tomorrow, can go hiking in the

morning when it’s not too hot. The view from the top is breathtaking. Then can take you to a popular local restaurant for some

succulent barbecue ribs in the afternoon” Mr. Lopez

Everett got into the car as he nodded in agreement

He hadn’t taken a break in years, so when he suddenly found himself with free time, he was at a loss. So why not let the driver plan the day!

As the car pulled away from the bustling night market, the driver, more like a tour guide now, began to talk about the local

customs painting picture of warm and friendly

scenery while nodding his head now and then

Suddenly his gaze fell on the driver’s seat of a car next to theirs, and he froze, even his blood cold

That profile was one he would never forget.

I was Dorothy

The woman he had been painstakingly searching for was right there at night?”

With only three seconds left until the light would turn green, Everell turned to the driver and asked, “Do you see that black Audi on

our

“Yes, it’s

the latest A4 model” The driver said misunderstanding his question

Then, in a deep voice, Loretta said. ‘Ha if’

“Do it buy you a new car

Dorothy couldn't believe her luck

Everglow City was practically deserted at night, yet there were 30 many traffic lights.

She was in a hurry to get to the night market, yet she had hit over a dozen red lights. And as if that weren't enough, some reckless driver had just crashed into her.

GRASH!

All Dorothy knew was that her car had shuddered a

sharp jolt, which then resulted in the dashboard displaying an enormous error message.

Speechless, she glanced at the other driver through the rearview mirror. After some hateful thoughts crossed her mind, she stepped out of the car.

"How did you manage to hit me on such a

late night? I was lost in thought. The other driver apologized profusely as soon as he got out of the car. His attitude was such that

Dorothy couldn't muster up the energy to scold him further

She walked around to inspect her car. The collision

caused some serious damage to the paint job and even left a dent

Just as she was about to call the insurance company the other driver quickly said. "I'll cover all the repair costs, there's no need to

contact your insurance company. Here. give me your phone number so I can use the money to you later"

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Since he asked for her number, Dorothy rummaged inside her car and handed him business card

"Here's my number"

As she said this, she instinctively glanced at his car

There seemed to be someone in the back seat. It was probably a man, but he never got out, so Dorothy didn't see his face

The driver took the card with both hands, then immediately added her contact on WhatsApp and gave her a thousand dollars to her

"I'm really sorry about this, Ms. Sanchez. Go ahead | get your car fixed, and if that's not enough, just let me know"

Dorothy appreciated his sincerity and willingness to make amends. "This should be more than enough. I send you the receipt and refund the balance"

She was the type to take advantage of the situation.

"Alright"

Once she had settled the matter Donathy quickly drove off to the night market in her scratched up car Karen had been texting her to hurry up for a while now

Behind her, the driver watched her leave before returning to his car.

“Mr. Lopez here her card and her contact

The driver respectfully handed over both the card and his own phone Everett’s gaze was intensely fixed on the card and phone as he extended a hand to receive them. Till buy your WhatsApp

account. Delete everyone except her from the

Right away Mr Lopez The driver didn’t question him and began to do as instructed

Everett sat in silence for a moment before dialing Kean’s number

Took up this number”

Before long, a reply came M Lopez, this number belongs to a woman and Karm

Everett frowned his brow

No wonder he couldn’t find Dorothy’s contact information

She had been using Karen’s phone number all along

“Do you want me to look into this Karen? We may be able to find some clues about Dorothy through her” Kevin remembered that

Karen was Dorothy’s friend He was curious as to why Mr. Lopez was suddenly bringing her up

Had she come to Everglow City to forget about Dorothy and start anew Night Market

The crowd had mostly dispersed by the time Dorothy arrived.

Luckily, Karen was the definition of a lively character. With her around. Abigail was having a blast.

“Why are you so late? You did even answer my calls, I thought something happened to you”

“Nothing much just got

involved in a car accident, some driver hit my car I was dealing with the compensation issue and didn’t check my phone,” Shocked, Karen

quickly looked Dorothy over. “A car accident! Are you hurt?”

“Tire, only the car’s damaged”

“That’s good As long as you’re alright.”

Dorothy chuckled as she pulled her daughter into her arms and planted a kiss on her cheek. “Yeah, the guy was very proactive

about compensating me. He transferred fifty thousand dollars straight away for me to fix the car”

“Fifty thousand? He must be loaded What did he look like? Was he

handsome?" Kansas widened in surprise.
When it came to rich, handsome men, Karen did not play games.
After all, fifty thousand was quite excessive for just a paint job.

"All you think about are handsome guys. The one who got out to negotiate was probably just a driver.

Think the boss stayed in the car Dorothy tried to recall the faint silhouette she saw in the backseat. It was vague, but she could make out a tall square. Her intuition told her that he was a man of great stature. "The boss must be someone of high status. He didn't get out of the car throughout the entire ordeal."

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"Everglow City isn't exactly a hub for bigshots. You're so beautiful that if he got out of his car and now you, he'd definitely be hot on your heels." Karen teased her tone was laced with sarcasm. She sighed, reaching out to touch Abigail's cheek. "That then again, it's no surprise you don't have eyes for the handsome ones, considering you turned down one of the most handsome ones."

Dorothy from understanding the hidden meaning behind his. The mention of that person she wanted to mention without naming names.

"Looks like the night market's almost closing. Let's find a diner or something, grab a bite, and head home" Dorothy quickly changed the subject.

Karen said. "That's really silly. You're still hung up on him. Why else would you be changing the topic?"

"I'm not."

"You and Dorothy we've been besties for years. Do you think I don't know you?"

Dorothy took a deep breath and, in a soft but firm voice, countered Karen's accusation. "I've moved on. He's married now and I can't be thinking about a married man."

With that she held Abigail's hand and started walking ahead.

Karen quickly caught up with her. "If you've really moved on, why haven't you accepted any suitors all this time? And don't give me the 'I'm too busy with work' excuse."

"Karen, you should spend your time figuring yourself out first. Your mom told me during our last meeting that if you do bring home a boyfriend by the end of the year she's going to start angling your marriage."

Karen chuckled 1 don't mind in fact, why don't you join me for a blind date next weekend! I show you what charm in "

"Sure am My brother

甲

her "You're going on a blind dateTMTMTM

arette and comes from a good family. Apmanage prospect

"But why would tagalong on your blind date?"

Was she supposed to be a third wheel!

"You're my best friend! You can keep an eye out for me Karen took out her phone and showed Dorothy a picture of her date.

"What in you think? Not bad, right?"

Dorothy took a closer look

He was a clean-cut, handsome man. He was very refined and a bit skinny

She smiled a Karen. "Is this your type?!"

"What? You dont think he's good?"

I just think you might be too lively form

"That's why we're meeting for a blind date. We need to get to know each

Karen mimicked Abigail and began

go our separate ways. But you have to come.

I wants to go towards to go with Aunt Karet

Abigail didn't understand their conversation, but her big adorable eyes blinked

as she led Mommy Abigail wants to

"Then I see if I'm free next weekend"

Everett didn't have more follow Dorothy's car. He was

I she would notion and get spooked

Now that he knew the w in Everglow City and working at East Star

Enterprises, it would be easy for him to keep tabs on het

"M: Loper, Ms. Sanchez was involved in the Everglow City Resort project

found the oldes from ourous collaboration. Her name is

indeeded"

Kevin announced while handing over the documents to

Sure mough, in the column for project leaders. Dorothy's name was clearly witten

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cher name. His gaze was deepening, and an indescribable feeling was stirring within him.

Just as he'd resolved to let po late had orchestrated another encounter with her

1 year? Kevin asked cautiously

Mr. Lopez? Would you like me to further investigate Ms. Sanchez's actions over these past years

He could figure out what she was thinking and he dared not. After all, Ms. Sanchez was serious

"No need" Everett paused for a few seconds before adding. "Not for now!"

He had to think clearly about what he should do and what he truly wanted.

After hanging up the phone Everett poured himself a glass of red wine, the rodents on the floor to ceiling windows of his hotel room

podglass home

The small town was very quiet at night, a stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of the big city.

Everett took a sip of his wine. The tart taste washed over his palate and trickled down his throat as he slowly lost himself in thought.

The breeze wafting through the window brought him to his senses

Reason dictated that, since he had made up his mind to give up booze he should change his mind in a hurry

Seeing Dorothy again was a test of his resolve

That was right. This was just a test

Feeling that the wind wasn't strong enough to clear his mind, he set down his wine glass, threw on a random jacket and left his room.

Down on the hotel's ground floor, the night wind blew stronger due to the absence of pedestrians and buildings. The tall trees on either side of the road didn't provide much shelter, making the wind feel even more powerful

Powerful enough to bring him some relief

Everett stood there on the road in front of the hotel. His tall figure seemed somewhat lonely as his jacket flapped in the wind like

it was trying to break free

Suddenly, he heard footsteps **ADDYDAK**

Everett instinctively looked toward the sound it was the little girl with eyes like Dorothy

She was dressed in a blue puff dress and also staying at the Dreamscape Hotel

Everett hesitated, then decided to approach her. He stepped forward in front of her and asked, "Hey kiddo, where are you from?"

Abigail was clearly startled

She quickly extended her chubby little hand, signaling for Everett to be quiet

don't have a Daddy and Mommy's working. She's very busy and can't play with me, so I came down to play by myself. You mustn't tell my e

That phrase could easily make one think of unhyrcumstances
Everett

prävitched, and on an impulse, he reached out to pat Abigals head. 'Okay, I monil tell. But can't find you

But you can leave the hotel otherwise, your mommy will w

Abigal pouted and blinked her big beautiful eyes, making her look all the more paful "an Burl want to buy candy! I can leave the

tel As she spoke took out a five dollar bel and wareda, a little

Het aunt Karen had given her the money as a reward, telling her she could buy candy with it, which Abigail remembered vindy.

When Aunt Kasen del asleep alusleker mommy was will buy working the truck out with the manej

but now this strange sun was not letting her leave the hotel.

Typical of a child, het stences were disorganized and incoherent.

Her pleading eyes made impossible for Exetell to say no to her.

"Alright Thert, Ill take you back to your hotel room and ask your mommy. If she agees, take you to buy candy"

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Upon hearing this, Abigails eyes widened, and her shook

"No, you can ill Mommy!" She was certain her mother wouldn't approve

"Wright then, how about go and get you some candy? You ris here and don't wanderoll, okay? Eit was worried that the child's

parents would paric if they could And her Since he had already taken up the me of the good guy he might as well help her out

'Um

Abigaled her hear and mulled it over for quite sometime Eventually with a serious expression, she handed over her for dollar to the handsome man in front of her

She then turned her little eyes on him, unable to hide her doubts about this man. "So, you're not going to cheat me out of her money

Who would have thought that the CEO of the Loper Coporation of all people would be suspected of cheating leg out of dol

Everen could help but laugh. Thant worry I will be right back."

He took the money, not because he needed it, but because he dit want her to

run off with it while he buying the candy without the money, she was I help to stay put at the hotel entrance Everett with his long sides, headed towards the nearby supermarket. He glanced down at the for dullors in his hand and couldn't help but smile.

For some reason. The little girl possessed a certain charm that made him want to be near her Maybe it was because she was in histues, or maybe it was because her yes resembled someone else's.

He didn't usually have the time or interest in children, but something about little girl softened his heart.

A thought suddenly popped into his head

2

How nice would it be if she were his daughter?

This thought made Everett pause before his eyes dimmed. He was keen to have children in his mech but he wanted them to grow up in a less household One at the supermarket, Everett picked several types of candy from the shelves He got milk candy, IcePops and more.

He had no idea what the girl would like.

Of course, the five dollars would be enough.

After paying for the candy he made his way back to the hotel bearing as he imagined the joy on the little girl's face when she saw the bag of candy Surely her family would light up with delight.

But when Everett returned to the hotel

The girl was nowhere to be found

He went inside to look for her but found no trace of her

Everett assumed she had been found by her parents, but he still had her candy. Did that mean he owed her five dollars?

After a moment's hesitation, he went to the front desk and asked in a deep voice. "Excuse me could you tell me whom the girl who was of the name

The receptionist looked up and was momentarily stunned by his handsome face.

"Sir are you acquainted with her name?"

"Not exactly" Ah yes, her name is driven know her name.

I'm sorry, but we can't disclose guest information

Everett held up the bag of candy "I wanted to give her this"

"In that case, let me call the room and check. Could you please hold a moment" Everett waited patiently as the receptionist dialed the room. Out of the corner of

his eye, he noticed number 901 played on the phone screen.

This must be that Imo girl's room number.

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It appeared the hotel management had some flaw, particularly in customer confidentiality

But Evercit only took a glance, he had no intention of going there this late in the evening. He had merely planned to ask for the room number so he could deliver it morom.

Since the little girl had previously mentioned she didn't have a father, if she wasn't lying then she and her mother must be staying here. It would be inappropriate for him, a grown man to go over there.

Sean, the receptionist hung up the phone and looked up in Evertell

"Sit they said they don't know you. If you want to deliver something, you can leave these, and they can pick it up from the front desk tomorrow"

"That's fine." Everell nodded, leaving the candy on the counter

Perhaps because Everett's handsome face caught her attention, the receptionist tried to engage him in further conversation. As he was about to step away, she asked, "Do you like children?"

"She's adorable"

That little girl is super cute. Her big eyes and fair skin are irresistible. Her mom is pretty too

Everett passed after hearing her talk about the girl's mother "Have you seen her?"

"Yes, she has been staying here for over a week, so I've seen her around. But the girl only arrived recently."

Everett paused for a moment, realizing he was prying into the privacy of someone he had never met, which was inappropriate.

He quickly composed himself and returned to his room

The night went on, but he was not sleepy in the slightest.

He had a few glasses of red wine, but his mind was still set on Bowth's face.

After so many years, he could recognize her in an instant. He didn't even need to see her full on with a side profile, or perhaps even just a blurred shout, he could

Everett put down his wine glass as a self-mocking grin flashed in his eyes.

Despite all this time, he still hadn't made any progress

He picked up his phone and dialed Kevin's number
The call was quickly answered with the same old greeting. M: Loper"
'About Dorothy
'Do you want me to track her down?
"No Act as if this manner happened." Everett's ever dimmed "And book ma
flight out of Exerglow Gly
This was something Kevin hadn't expected.
Although he knew Mr. Lopez was determined to start over and forget about
her, he also knew that encountering Dorothy at this
point would ruin everything
So he was surprised are he received this order
took him a few seconds to mply. Alright, Mi Loper do you want the earliest
fight
"Tamonow noon.
Everett thought for a moment before speaking, have something to do marrow
morning"
He needed to completely eradicate all his lingering thoughts.
Dorothy came down and found Abigail
Karen had fallen asleep and had no idea that Abigail had run away. I want
until Dorothy finished her work and went to tuck her
daughter in that she realized Abigail want
in the room

Not wanting to disturb the exhausted Karen, who had spent the day taking
case of Abigail, Dorothy took Abigail back to her wom
It was a rare moment for muller and daughter to spend time dore Dorothy
bathed her daughter and then personally blow died her
balt

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Promise me you wont go wandering off again, okay? Mammy was scared to
death"
Abigal nodded as her eyes sparkled as she looked up thither, "Mommy, there
was a really el men down there"
"What on earth is Aunt Karen teaching you? Dolly muttered, not thinking much
of i
1 want to see the cool man again tomorrow
And maybe even get her five dollars back, but that was just an afterthought
Dorothy paused and glanced at her daughter's reflection in the minor when I
was your age. I didn't know anything about boys
You're so young, and you're already boperasy

Abigail didn't quite understand what being boy-crazy meant, but she booked her big eyes and giggled. Her laughter almost sounded like tinkling bells. Hehe, I'm awesome! I'm bored!

Abigail fell silent. What was going on in this timer's head?

Once they finished their nightly routine, Dorothy cradled her daughter while gently patting her back.

Despite the exhaustion of the day Abigail seemed not sleepy, while Dorothy was already falling deep

In her drowsy state. Dorothy thought she heard Abigail whisper. "Mum, my big brother. The cool one from today he looked

just like my big brother... Big brother

Dorothy immediately snapped back to reality, counting Abigail's mouth with her hand

"Don't mention your brother. Don't talk about him to anyone, understand?"

After seeing her daughter nod Dorothy felt slightly relieved. Go to sleep now, Aunt Karen will take you out again tomorrow.

Remember, no matter who asks you you can't say anything about your brother, okay?. Especially not what he looks like

Abigail was startled by her mother's intense reaction. Her eyes altered with tears as she nodded. "I want to talk about him"

'That's

"Don't mention your brother. Don't talk about him to anyone, understand?"

Dorothy's drowsiness disappeared, and she continued to pat Abigail back until she heard the steady rhythm of her daughter's breathing

Once Abigail was asleep. Dorothy carefully slipped out of bed

She walked out to the front window and pulled out her phone to watch a video over and over again

The little boy in the video was engrossed in a book. His focus and seriousness made him seem older than his years.

Near the end of the video, the boy finally looked up

His face was the spitting image of Everen

They were practically identical

Yes, Dorothy had seen birth to twins, a boy and a girl

Originally they all lived together, but as the boy grew older more and more people commented on his familiar appearance, comparing him to a certain quality

Some even outright mentioned Everen's name

This satisfied Dorothy. She was afraid the Lopez family would find out and try to take her children away

They had proven that they would stop at nothing to get what they wanted even if it meant taking a life. Three years later, they could just as easily try to take custody of her child. She could only imagine how the Loper family would treat her children. For now she was no match for them. After much deliberation, she sent her son to a boarding school overseas and hired a caretaker to look after him. She took every opportunity she could to fly over and visit him where he finished a project. Luckily Abigail resembled her more than she did Everett, as she could stay with her mother.

But like Austin, people were starting to notice the resemblance between Abigail and that man. Both knew these comments would become more frequent because Everett's genes were just too dominant.

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Chapter 261

She needed to start considering a move overseas after she finished this project with the company. While there were higher salaries available here due to the demand for talent, she needed to make sacrifices for her children.

Dorothy swung open the French doors to let in some fresh air. Remembering that her daughter was still asleep, she quickly closed them and slipped on her flats to head downstairs to the hotel lobby.

Everglow City was surrounded by mountains, so the night breeze brought with it a scent of trees and grass, that made you feel

a refreshing coolness. A gust of wind seemed enough to clear one's mind. Just as Dorothy was about to step out of the hotel, the receptionist at the front desk called out to her. "M. Sanchez Are you here to pick up a package?"

Package?

Dorothy paused "What package?"

"A gentleman left it here for your daughter. The receptionist quickly retrieved a bag of candy.

If it hadn't been mentioned, Dorothy would have forgotten. She glanced into the bag to see an assortment of candies.

With a resigned smile, Dorothy sighed deeply
This must be the result of her daughter begging for candy again, and some kind soul indulged her. This was not the first time
such an incident had occurred. Abigail had charmed many people with her cute looks before, coaxing them into buying her candy
Over time. Abigail had learned the art of acting cute to get candy
It seemed being cute could have a detrimental effect on her teeth
Dorothy smiled at the receptionist. Please thank him for me. If I bump into him, I have my daughter thank him in person

“He’s checking out tomorrow” The receptionist’s face fell as she mentioned this, just found out that he canceled his extended stay

“Then please give him this.”

Dorothy handed over a business card with her name and contact number on it. “I noticed he bought a lot of different and rather expensive candy. If he contacts me, I’d like to reimburse him”

“He probably won’t accept it. He’s staying in our most luxurious room. He even booked it for a month. That’s nearly 20,000 dollars in hotel fees!”

“Oh? It seems Everglow City has attracted some high-profile visitors. But it is indeed a prime location

The scenery was beautiful, and the climate was ideal. Dorothy truly believed investing here was a good move.

The receptionist chuckled as she pocketed Dorothy’s business card. Hopefully when more people come, we’ll see more guests like him”

Dorothy laughed

It seemed this gentleman had not only charmed her daughter but also the hotel receptionist. He must be quite attractive.

The following morning, Dorothy was promptly woken up by a call from Austin
She rushed to drive to the construction site, where she found Austin in a heated argument with a group of people.

Dorothy quickly approached the scene, immediately spotting a familiar face
George.

But this time, he wasn’t alone. He was accompanied by over a dozen men and women.

“You’re tricking the common people You’re cheating us out of our homes

“We followed the agreement to the letter, and every cent was paid. How did I cheat you?” Austin, not very skilled at verbal

sparring was losing ground.

Dorothy had an idea of why these people were here. As she moved towards the crowd, she dialed 911 on her phone.

She intentionally spoke out loud. "Hello, I'd like to report a disturbance! I have people causing a ruckus here."

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Suddenly, she saw a figure approaching

George stormed over is het all ques blazing Without ullering a word, he snatched her phone and hurled it away with all his might

In no time, the phone was smashed into smithereens.

At this moment, Dorothy realized that she had underestimated how aggressive these people would be

"You' intentionally damaging my property and that's legal' She said

"And what about you? Aren't you swinding the common folk out of the hard earned money? How much is your phone worth anyway?"

Dorothy furrowed her brons. If you believe you're in the night, then why don't you let me call the police? You should want me to get them here to see justice served

"Who knows if you ve got the cops in your pocket or if you've greased their palms?! George roared before turning to the crowd

"Do you see this?! This lady's in catnois with the people who are coping me off She's the boss, so she's probably pocketing our cash!"

Hearing this, a few bly men instantly lunged at Dorothy

It was early morning, and the security staff hadn't started their shift yet. Austin tried to intervene, but he was no match for these construction workers, who were used to hard physical labor

"Hey what are you doing? Assault is illegal Dorothy retreated a few steps, but lost her footing and fell to the ground

Before she could ter another word, she felt a searing par from in her scalp Looking up, she saw a man clutching her hair intent on dragging her into the crowd.

Dorothy tried to resist, but more hands reached towards her. Austin couldn't escape either, he was punched and fell to the ground

She wanted to scream for help, but she knew that it was unlikely anyone would come to her rescue at a construction site at this time.

Pain spread quickly from various parts of her body.
A punch landed on the back of her head, and Dorothy felt the world spin
around her. Her consciousness was slowly fading
She tried to stay alert, knowing that she could be beaten to death by these
angry men. But it was a severe blow and her body
wasn't responding.

In a daze, Dorothy heard a familiar, deep voice

"Don't be afraid, it's me... I'm here....."

Dorothy felt her body becoming lighter. It was like she could float
She tried to reach out for something, but her body didn't respond.
She couldn't move a muscle

The more Dorothy tried to move the more she felt constrained.

Then she suddenly heard a doctor's voice near her ear.

"The patient has a severe concussion. She may experience headaches and
vomiting when she wakes up You should keep a
close eye on her."

"We understand"

I must be the nurse speaking

Dorothy tried to move her fingers, and after a while, she slowly opened her
eyes.

All she could see was a glaringly white ceiling and the smell of disinfectant
filled the room. It was unpleasant
it seemed like she was still alive

"Oh, you're awake" The nurse noticed her first and quickly called the doctor
over

After conducting several checks and confirming she was fine, the doctor finally
breathed a sigh of relief

Dorothy could even see the beads of sweat on his forehead

Was it really that serious? She wasn't anyone important

She smiled as the doctor relaxed and quickly walked out, saying "Quick! Tell
him that she's okay. Now!"

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Before Dorothy could ask, a piercing pain shot through her skull, contorting
her pretty features into a grimace

Seeing her agony, the doctor rushed to provide her with some pain relief.

Minutes later, the young nurse who had previously left, hurried back into the
room. "That gentleman said he knows now"

"He's not coming over?"

"No, he already went

As Dorothy extended to the change between the nurse and doctor there was a strange feeling in her gut. But before she could say anything a wave of nausea hit her again.

After enduring the discomfort for a while the little strength she had left was quickly and Dorothy closed her eyes and drifted back into unconsciousness

When she woke up again, she was already in a regular hospital room. The first thing she saw upon opening her eyes was Austin. His forehead was wrapped in gauze, and he lay nearby

Alongside him was Lane his towering figure seemed to have been washed over with travel grime, and his face was filled with concern

"Thank God you're awake!"

Lane strode to her bedside as soon as he saw her eyes flutter open. Dorothy felt dizzy but the pain had lessened. She guessed the painkillers were still working their magic.

"You really scared me!" Lane's English had a foreign accent. "I'm sorry something happened to you because of the Everglow City's project, I'd never forgive myself" She had applied for a transfer but he had persuaded her to stay.

Dorothy managed a weak smile as her thoughts raced. The mysterious "he" the doctor had mentioned. They must have been referring to

To think that she had even allowed herself to entertain the hope that it might have been... "How did you get here?"

Lane.

"I was back home inspecting another project. When I heard about your accident, I immediately came to the resort here. Luckily the doctors said you're fine. You're lucky, you know. The best doctors in Everglow City were all gathered here today"

"I've always been lucky, especially since I have such a great boss. Dorothy joined to sit up

Lane quickly helped her, propping a pillow behind her. Her help was cut off as she spoke faintly. "With this incident, our resort project should be

Austin, who has been about to express his gratitude to Dorothy for her selfless help was cut off by a stroke. When unobstructed now

George has been arrested, right?"

seen hall

Lane didn't know whether to be exasperated or to commend her dedication at that point

"You're in this state, and you're still thinking about the project if they had evenusly hurt you today those thugs would have s

"Lane, those residents were incited. Don't be too harsh on them. Moreown Masover I purposely provoked Grange. I just didn't expect him to be so ruthless" Dorothy knew that unless George suffered some repercussions, he would never back down. So calling the police was meant to get them arrested for causing a disturbance, especially since the police witnessed it firsthand. That should see Tim detained for a few days.

Upon hearing this, Austin immediately chastised her "Dorothy don't ever do this again. While the project is important, your personal safety is paramount. If a good Samaritan hadn't happened to pass by and save you today, who knows what could have happened?"

"Good Samaritan? Austin, did you get his contact details? I'd like to thank him personally"

Austin shook his head. "I was in a bind myself. I was surrounded by those thugs, so I did get a good look at the man he seemed to be tall and slim and was wearing a

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"Lane, check if there's any surveillance footage. If we can find the guy, I'd love to show our company's appreciation. Without him, I'm sure things would have been much

As they were engrossed in their discussion, both failed to notice that Dorothy's thoughts seemed to drift away

All, skinny man. Could it be him?
as just an illusion

Before she passed out she thought she heard a familiar voice. It was just as gentle as it was years ago. She was sure it was

Everett was supposed to be getting married abroad, wasn't he? How could he be here, saving her?

But Austin's words made her heart race. A strange intuition began to surge within her

Dorothy asked "Austin, any news from the investment firm today? Did anyone come to inspect?

Austin was taken aback. "No, don't worry. We won't let them see what happened. It won't affect the project"

Dorothy's lips quivered "Are you sure?"

“Absolutely someone from the investment firm came and didn't know about it, I would be fit to be the project manager Austin assured her with a smile, which ended up being a grimace due to his injuries. Both Lane and Austin thought she was concerned about the company's project. They comforted her saying that even if the incident was seen by the investment firm, it wouldn't be an issue as long as it was resolved

What they didn't know was that Dorothy simply wanted to know one thing Did Everett come?

But she didn't ask. Rationality told her it was impossible. It was just a hallucination triggered by all the chaos

At Dreamscape Hotel

Everett had packed his bags and was discussing the details of a new project with Kevin

On the other side of the video call, Kevin hesitated before finally asking “Mr. Lopez, do you want to change your flight?” Everett paused for a second before he responded, “No need”

“Wright. Should I continue to monitor the hospital situation for you? The doctor did say she was severely injured

“Kevin, it was a mere coincidence that I met a colleague” His voice was calm and indifferent

“I apologize, Mr. Lopez”

Kevin knew he had stepped out of line and quickly apologized

Everett took a deep breath, falling into silence before finally saying. “I've been tracking her whereabouts for four years. It's we had a knot in my heart that I couldn't untie I was obsessed and frantically seeking any news about her Now, having seen her do well and achieve success in her career, I realize I was the only one who couldn't move on. It's time for me to do so.”

He rarely spoke so much and rarely expressed his thoughts

“I understand, Mr. Lopez” Kevin replied

“Have a car pick me up. I'm heading to the airport

“Alright”

After ending the call, Everett packed up his laptop. Once he was sure he hadn't left anything behind, he headed out

As he reached the hotel's front desk, someone called out to him from behind.

Everett turned around. It was the receptionist to whom he had given the candy

“Yes”

“The mom of the girl you gave candy to let a business card for you? She

handed him the card

Before the business card even reached Everett's hand, he averted his gaze

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He didn't want to remember anything about his visit to Eglow City, and that included the little girl. Once he'd made up his mind to forget, he planned to do just that. The receptionist watched him leave and sighed heavily

"Oh! I should have been bold enough to ask if he was single!

Once Everett got in his car, he buried his nose in a contract from work. There had been a scandal at one of the branches: The

CEO of the branch was caught in an affair. There were explicit photos of him with his secretary causing the company's stock to

plummet. The projects that the branch had invested in were hanging in the balance, waiting for someone to clean up this mess

His phone rang. It was Kevin. "Mr. Loper, are you suggesting we replace the CEO or?"

"He's dreading the company's collapse, acted out, and could face criminal charges

The Loper Corporation can't keep him onboard"

Then who do you suggest should take his place

This position, although seemingly lucrative, was actually quite challenging

Unless the new appointee could turn things around

right away, not only would prior efforts be wasted, but the main branch of the

Lopez Corporation would hold them accountable

Mr. Loper thought for a moment, then spoke with his thin lips barely moving.

"His wife was a formidable leader before she retired

to look after the family. Get in touch with

"But she's in the middle of a divorce!

Any woman would find it hard to tolerate such a scandal. Even if they had been leading separate lives and were aware of their

partner's activities, they could turn a blind eye as long as it wasn't out in the open

Now that the veil had been lifted, she would have to face it so she could preserve her own reputation and dignity

"They have a child. When do you think a woman needs most after divorce?

Money?

incident as

"That's why she desperately needs to gain control. Use this incident as her reentry into the corporate world while gradually taking

away the rights from her adulterous husband. And to reassure other

shareholders and partners, she won't hesitate to do whatever it takes to turn things around.

At that point, all the Loper Corporation has to do is lend a helping hand. Kevin immediately responded, "I understand, Mr. Lopez. I'll send some to hint at this to her right away, then call a shareholders meeting to elect a new and invite

"Good" Everett rubbed his temples. "No one knows about my return, right? No. The shareholders all think you're getting married abroad. Many business people have contacted me. They want to send you wedding gifts!

"Don't refuse all of them. Accept some and find a way to return the favor!"
"Understood"

After hanging up, Everett put away his phone.

He wanted to close his eyes and rest, but for some reason, he couldn't stop thinking about that adorable little girl. He had left so abruptly that he hadn't given her the five dollars and candy personally. He didn't even know her name.

He frowned slightly and sent Kent a text.

Kevin, are you heading to Everglow City for a business trip in the next few days?

Yes. The resort project there is starting.

Then go to room 908 in the Dreamscape Hotel and secretly take a picture of the little girl staying there. Ask her name.]

He just wanted to forget Dorothy; that's all it didn't concern anyone else. It felt like he was meant to meet that little girl, so at least he should know her name, right?

Chapter 266

Surely, Everett could anticipate the shock on Kevin's face upon receiving. After all, it was a request he would typically make. Yet Everett felt a certain connection to the girl, and he was certain that they were bound to cross paths again.

Dorothy was in the hospital until late in the evening, and it was at this time that Karen called to check on her. Unable to keep it a

secret any longer, she confessed that she had been hospitalized.

Not long after, Karen and Abigail rushed to the hospital.

"Let's see what sort of jerk did this to your Kamryn!" she shouted while bursting through the door.

"Hush! This is a hospital. Empress Dorothy quickly gestured for her to stop it with her index finger, showing Karen a slight smile. I'm okay. I'm still alive and

Tut you were attacked, and you're saying you're okay? Dorothy, quit your job it's too dangerous

Karen, with her hands on her hip, was raging at Dorothy's bedside, locking every bit of rage in to do whatever it took to get Dorothy out of there

Dorothy knew Karen was just worried about her,

"Karen, Fred made money in recovering that footage. If I don't ram enough, I give up my night is the truth

This was her mother she was talking about. The woman who struggled to raise her could be allowed to see in, leaving her helpless without even a shred of evidence

"You need money? It's easy Just agree to date my cousin

"Karen" Dorothy cut her off

Karen pouted and turned away abruptly

Abigail didn't fully understand their argument, but upon seeing the IV needle in her mother's hand, she immediately moved closer as her big eyes welled up with tears. "Mummy keep her

Dorothy quickly smiled and pulled herself up to trade her daughter. "Mommy's fine, don't cry A smiling Abigail is much prettier than a crying one

"Did someone bully Mommy? Abigail will fight them!" Abigail wrapped her small arms around her mother's neck, warmly nuzzling against her "Abigail is grown up now. I can protect Mommy"

"Yes My Abigail the best Dorothy stroked her hair and then took a deep breath, as if she were making a major decision herself, I plan to finish the resort project, then take Abigail abroad to settle down I've already notified the company"

Karen raised an eyebrow * you certain?

Dorothy moderated

can't deprive my child of a mother's love, but it's too dangerous here. It's better to

he realized that as long as she was here she couldn't let go of thoughts that she shouldn't entertain

Even if she could deceive herself, she couldn't fool her heart

Even when she was in danger, she would hallucinate hearing his voice

The more she thought about it, the more she realized she couldn't go on like this.

Tina, whatever you decide. I will support you. Anyway if you leave. I'm coming with you. My cousin is also abroad, so he can take care of me. You both can't get rid of me
Tina, thank you for everything you've done for me over the years."

“Stop, stop stop!” Kasen toled her eyes. “I don’t want to hear that I just want you to stay out of danger

Just as Dorothy was about to respond she noticed a figure shipping past the hospital room door I was a male doctor.

it wasn’t Lane or Austin

16:551

Karen followed her gaze in silence.

Chapter 267

“No idea” Dorothy found it add.

She was the only patient in this room, so the doctor must have come specifically for her. But instead of coming in, he just stood furtively at the doorway, and the moment their eyes mrt, he turned and left. It was all very add

“Do you think he finds you attractive and has fallen for you?”

You’re

thinking” Dorothy refrained from telling Karen about her daydream of Everett appearing to save her.

The more she thought about it, the more impossible seemed. There wasn’t even a Th chance.

The told my cousin about your plans to leave the country. He’ll look after us He’s been single all these years; don’t tell me you don’t know why”

Of course. Dorothy knew.

But she had ahready made her intentions clear. As for Kenneths decisions, those were up to him. She couldnt control him

Everett had just tumed to the headquarters of the Loper Copotion Before he could even meet the shareholders. Jeffrey came storming in

“You’re back at the officer He blurted out, then quickly connected himself

“No,am for You’re getting mament, and don’t even know who the bride

When he first saw the news, he thought it was take. It wasn’t until Everetts parents called to ask him who their son was marrying that Jeffrey realized it was true

But how was he supposed to know who Everett was marrying?

“It doesnt matter.” Everett was engrossed in his work and flipping through the documents, completely unfazed by Jethay’s outburst

Seeing his inference, Jeffrey snatched the documents from his hands in frustration

consider you my best friend and you're getting married without telling me?"

His eyebrows furrowed as though for four years, and

now you're suddenly together again

Jeffrey questioned Everett. "Is it Dorothy? You two haven't been

At the mention of Dorothy,

Jeffrey's fingers momentarily paused

He finally looked up at Jeffrey.

"Dorothy and I are over"

"Not her Jeffrey was even more shocked. After all, he had racked his brains but could think of another candidate

Over the years, Everett had been even more of a workaholic than he ever was

before. He made no time for socializing. He didn't

even have a mosquito in his life, let alone a woman. Jeffrey knew this all too well. It can't be Heather

Everett interrupted him coldly, then glanced at the office door. "It's work hours now. Anything

The message was clear. He was being dismissed

But Jeffrey was about to leave without getting answers

"Of course there is! You the CEO of the Lopez Corporation, suddenly

announce your marriage, and don't tell me a shareholder,

who your bride is. I have every right to ask. After all, if she has a tainted past, it

could affect the future of the Lopez Corporation

Over the years, Jeffrey had learned to use business as an excuse to ask

about his personal matters

"Then you can sell your shares." Everett's was clear and concise, he spoke

without a moment of hesitation

Jeffrey laughed. "Everett, the fact that you would even say it in this way

confirms it. You're marrying Cory! You can't fool me!"

Everett didn't respond, but his mind was no longer focused on his

work. The known you for quite a while now. Besides Dorothy, you've never made an

exception for anyone else. Normally you're

meticulous to a fault, even towards yourself. So, you can't fool me. Spill the

beans. Are you back together with Dorothy? Have you

emailed

"No"

"You were married. That was just a ruse." Jeffrey hit the mat on the head,

leaving the usually composed Everett speechless.

Seeing him flinch, Jeffrey cursed his lips and sighed. "I know what you're thinking

Your mom pushed you to marry Heather, but you

couldn't accept it, so you put on this charade, hoping they'd give up to show

them that you would never marry Heather, right?”

“Yes, I just don’t want to be hassled anymore.”

Over the years, of course women have ended up latching onto him and establishing some sort of correction camp outside his office, desperately seeking contact information.

Now, by publicizing his marriage, Everett hoped to end all this once and for all. “You’re not back with Dorothy then?”

Jeffrey was silent for a few seconds before lifting his thick eyebrows. “Are you really not planning to get back with Dorothy? Have you completely given up on her?” Exell looked at him. “She gave up on me long ago, not the other way around. Did my mom ask you to ask this?”

“Of course not. I was on your parents’ side, would be here talking to you about this? They really thought you were getting married.

When they asked, even covered for you! Said at your age, elopement is normal.”

On the plane leaving Everyow Day, Everett wanted to message Revit several times to ask him to check on Dorothy’s condition, but he never did.

Over the

night

he would decisively close deals worth beer in the business world, but when it came to matters concerning Dorothy he was always indecisive. “You announced your marriage to the world, so she must have seen it. What if she wanted to come back in you and then saw your marriage announcement? That would be the end of you two. Can you bear to let Dorothy go?”

Jeffrey moved his face closer trying to get a better read of Everett’s expression. He might not know everything but he definitely knew about Everett’s love for Dorothy. Even the stone-hearted Everett could bloom, learning to care for and consider others, which said a lot about Dorothy’s irreplaceable position in his heart.

Now by announcing his marriage, Everett had effectively cut off any chances they had.

Jeffrey felt there must be more to it.

“Without me, she has been doing well. Back then she did the same. “Everett found she truly did. I need her.”

“Not exactly found just accidentally learned about her situation.”

Jeffrey frowned as he spread his hands out and spoke in a matter-of-fact tone, “Logically she should be living better now than

before. Dorothy used to work her tail off to pay for her mother's medical bills, which wasn't a small expense. Now she'd vanished since her mom."

Ezreti suddenly locked up as his eyebrows knitted together in alarm. What happened to her mom?

Realising his blunder Jeffrey quickly covered his mouth and shook his head "No Nothing"

Chapter 269

Everett's voice had such a commanding tone that even his old friend Jeffrey, was taken aback by his demeanor

"Her mother passed away"

Teren rose abruptly from his chair "When did that happen

"It's been a while Jeffrey did want to let him so he left his statement vague to prevent Everett from probing further

In they had a "hunch about Dorothy's mother's death, even though he wasn't directly involved.

He wasn't intent on orally keeping things from Everett, it was just the fact that the uprising party was his own mother. Even if Everett

knew what could he do? Apart from his endless regret and guilt towards Dorothy he wouldn't be able to do anything else it was best if he remained in the dark.

"How did you find out about this? Everett immediately sensed something was off

He had asked Keen to investigate any news about Dorothy for years, but he always came up empty handed. about her

whereabouts. Well Jeffrey knew about her mother's passing?

Well, by chance, he would still be clueless

That meant Dorothy's mother must have passed away four years ago. before

she left the Loper Corporation, possibly even before

she got divorced. Trish Dovelly She told me, and she asked me not to tell you don't think it was a big deal, so I didn't tell you"

Jeffrey shrunk back, fearing that any more might lead

to anything. Anyway, I have some business to attend to. Can't think too much about Dorothy was the one who left you first. Her

mother's situation wasn't your fault, so why bother?

With that, he dashed away as if someone were after him.

Evening frowned deeply, immediately pulling out his phone to call Keen.

I want you to look into Dorothy

“Mr Lopez” Kevi” cut him Ms. Sanches in fine now. She can be discharged after another night of reservation. There are two men taking care of her. Cresa mindrace gentleman seemingly a company executive named Lane and the other is Austin from their company. The attacker has been severely punished according to my instructors. He won’t be free for at least a year or there. Everell was rendered speechless by her nudesports. So, everyone knew he couldn’t truly let go of Dorothy and he couldn’t be indifferent towards her. Even after telling Keen multiple times to stop masturbating he still kept ads on her recent activities.

Mr Lopez, I checked These women are Ms. Sanchez’s colleagues. They take good care of her because of diligent work ethic. However, they don’t seem to have any personal relationships outside of work.” That’s not what I’m asking Everett’s eyebrow furrowed, then suddenly maxed “Nevermind stop investigating her. I don’t want to know about her updates”

Ken paused for a few seconds, then said “What about her friend- The one named Kas?”

Everett fell silent

“She seems to have gotten married and had a child Well I’m not sure about the marriage, but she does have a daughter. She brought her to visit Ms. Sanchez at the hospital. They ran me a surveillance video. Would you like to see if she had a daughter?”

“I don’t want to know anything about Dorothy let alone her daughter”

Chapter 270

After hanging up the phone. Everett sank back into his chair and stared deeply at his mobile device

Jeffrey was right. If he was going to cut ties he needed to do it thoroughly. He couldn’t care to inquire about anything

Despite the mounting workload at her job, Dorothy didn’t stop working even while in the hospital

She did! want Karen to bring her daughter to the hospital. This wasn’t a good place for little Abigail

After sending them all, Dorothy logged into her company account on her laptop To avoid Evesell over the years, she usually only marked her work account with an initial instead of a full name. Even though there were countless people with the surname Sanchez, Evesell still found her she wrote name.

But maybe he was neat lucking for her in the first place.
Dorothy could solideary remember Ewert saying "rate you"
Those worth houred her even in her dreams.
She knew that she had deeply hurt Event
"Ding"

A message from Austin popped up on her laptop scen
Durity clicked it open.

Me Sanchez you should be resting at this hour not working if the bars finds
out, hell scoldme for not taking care of you
She smiled

If you don't tell Lane, he wont find out Our legal department is busy with other
projects, so cant just outsource the resorts to push
myself a you'll say some good words for me at the annual meeting Austin)
Thope

Of course! Ever I don't, Lane wil, for sure. Aber leaving the hospital today, he
said if you went manes, defitely pursue you. It's
rare to find a woman who's sa passionate about her work and proactive.

Dorothy forced sale and replied with an emoji

She claimed to be mamed to avoid complications

Since joining the company Lane had never hesitated to take care of her was
clear that what he was doing was beyond the usual
camwadene that coworkers would share. But Dorothy never reciprocated, let
alone fe any romantic feelings.

Until the truth about her mother's death was needs ca-1 want to think about
antigelse but eating meny

Lane has praises you multiple times. He says you're exactly his type

She paused for a few seconds, then typed, Be careful with what you say. Il my
husband frols out, he'll get jealous |

Dorothy knew exactly what Austin meari.

He was probing her on Lane's behalf. If she didn't reject him clearly, Lane
might be more forward with her

in the workplace, especially among male leaders, they didn't care whether a
woman was mamed or not. What they cared about
was conquest, challenge exchement, and

But she didn't have lime for such romantic games. So, she made it clear in her
reply that she was married and not planning to
cheat

(Haha, I'd better take bace what i said. Just pretend I didnt say anything. If
you need help, just holler. I'm alus pulling an all-
nighter]

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Chapter 271

Along the chat Dorothy took a deep breath and subconsciously glanced outside the hospital

Her mother Bela, had spent the majority of her life in hospices. Perhaps on such nights, she too watched the constant flow of

patients and doctors in the hallway as her mind filled with unknown thoughts.

Her mother's death was the best gift of her life

She regretted not listening to her mother's advice to stay from the Lipper family which had eventually brought trouble upon herself.

No matter how good Exeter had been to her, no matter how much she loved him, that meant betraying her mother's wish, she didn't want

Dorothy wanted to live a normal life. She wanted to go to work, maybe do volunteer work in the hospital in her spare time, and

throw herself into her career,

at least, she came back to reality

There were unread messages on her computer

Dorothy opened them and now that they were from Lane

Most likely Austin had told Lane everything she had told him, including work and personal matters.

[As your boss, Lenker you take a proper rest in the hospital. No overtime Lane even added an angry emoji at the end.

Dorothy wanted to repeat what she had just told Austin, but before she could finish typing, he sent another message

I know you're worried about the project. The company has hired more legal counsel. The investors take our project very seriously

so they've decided to send their senior lawyer to assist. You can rest easy now

The investors' lawyer is coming?

Dorothy quickly asked if the lawyer from the Lopez Corporation was ready?

I'm not sure where exactly they're sent from, but judging by their current attitude, anyone they send is certainly highly competent.

You don't need to worry about Pria. Also, let you know in advance, I've secured your end bars. If the company questions you less.

I will make up the difference]

If a greentone in the workforce saw this message. They would certainly be

overjoyed Lane had a way with with He wouldn't make people feel uncomfortable and could achieve his goal, knowing that he had power in the company and won wealthy privately

But what surprised Corocity was that when after she had made her rejection of him so clear, which Austin had surely told him, he was still trying to chat with her privately [Lane will only take what ingetfully deserve

Even if she really "redetit

[OK, but I was really just

– be kind. I thought you'd be hasty]

[Thank you Lane, appreciate it. Also, Lane, could you find out what the surname of the lawyer the other party is sending is? I

would like to know in advance. I help our cooperation

Dorothy was very worried that the person they were sending was leather Not because she feared her but because now was not the time for direct condonation yet.

Singh, 11 ask for you tomorrow]

He frowned, shut down his computer, and walked over to the liquor cabinet to pour himself a glass of red wine.

After returning to his seat on the couch, he received a call.

'H, Lane You're still up this late?

On the other end of the line was a man's voice. "Quit pretending. I know you're back in the country. Are you coming to Eldoma

City this time I'll show you a good time"

hat this time I'm on a tight schedule I only came back to pursue a girl, but she rejected me, I should be going"

Landspeaking and glanced at his computer again, sighing

This was esteem he had faced defeat in his part of a woman. Furthermore, she had rejected a very fly

"Oh? Even you got rejected? Introduce her to me Maybe I can send her over

That more interesting I'm currently free I work at the Lopaz Corporation, come to Everglow City to find you"

Chapter 272

Wight. The scenery here is great. Let's drink and we drop before leave."

The voice on the other end of the phone chuckled. "I'm mainly going to see a beauty. You think I'm going to meet you? The woman who could make you come back from

abroad must be an exce

Lane smoked at this comment!

“She’s not the party type

“A good wife and mother Your Da

“Well, she’s not exactly a homemaker but when look at her and her strong, independent demeanor, I like shed make alent wil

FE}}}

After hearing this, the person on the other side almost laughed out loud. Are you kidding? You’re considering marriage? Didn’t we agree that no one should get Fun is fun, but don’t get emotional, or rends body. There’s a binad example tight next to me

Lane sedim his wine glas “th” You mean Everett the CEO of (2 Corporation? He just announced his marriage, right?

Bingo You Can you believe that? The CEO of the Lopez Coperation, who could have a woman he wants, is head over heels for

just one woman He gave up the whole fortfarande tree Lane dont fellow in his foorsteps. Stay cool”

“You haven’t met het yet. After spending time with unly feel like mamage wouldn’t be so bad”

The man on the other end of the call almost rolled his eyes at him, “Wake up! She’s mamed Even if she gets a divorce share her second manage

“I don’t care “Lane smaled as his urges revealed his deep fascination for Dorothy “My admitation for her is not affected by these things

“Stop! I’m booking a flight night now! I’ve met the woman who bewitched Everett, nom

to see what the woman who beched you looks like

Dorothy spent one night in the hospital and applied for discharge the next day

There were piles of work waiting for her at the conviction site. How could she just spend all day lying in a hospital bed?

“If you dont test far a fow more days, Lane will blame me’ Jusan quickly walkedover when he saw her at the coroduction site

“I’m kne now” Dorothy handed the contract to Austin. “I checked this last night.

There are no problems. Il you’re not at ease with

the food bidding at the resort, you can ask a professional to take a look.

Teroutlined several key points, and the bidding

suggestions are all in the file. Lane has enghasized the food safety issue

many times before We must pay close attention to this

and can’t let the resort be involved in any negativen naman

Austin gave her a thumbs up Thurt you was about to legu, then suddenly stopped “Hey Austin, & heard that the man who fit me has been detained and in “Yes. That’s what the police old” aling prosecution.” Otherwise, for such a small injury would be most detention plus compensation. Dorothy didnt expect “They said the specifics could not Dorothy frowned “Did Lane disclosed. But it seems like someone above has gun in order to stently punish those who hit you” We really shouldn’t be making them allagers. Austin shrugged ‘It wasnt Lane. We dont know who it was Everglow City is not Lane’s fentory, so even if he were to get involved, it would be useless. The person behind this must be quie powerlut otherwise, the locals would have definitely sided wi Their own villagers”

Chapter 273

Upon seeing the perplexed look on Dorothy’s face, Austin gue bereaning pat on the shoulder. Don’t overthink it “He said “My beat queen is that the local authonlin ane just worried about their new development project being affected. The rest is a big deal for Pergow City The project’s compromised because the willagers attacked the project manage, they wouldn’t be happy” Darchy ronded feeling somewhat relieved. “You might be right. You and Lare shouldn’t get et involved. These villegersbly trying to squeeze out cash a human wouse. We wouldnt want to escalate the situation and expertize the project “You and your projects Aushinchuckled. No wonder your cited so high so fast. In all my years in busness, I’ve seen plenty of women who used at sorts of tricks to get ahead. But not you. Dorothy You’ve gotten where you are on your gun ment Others might not know it, but Ausnidd With Late’s affection for Dorothy, she could have any position the warned. All shed have to do is ask Dorothy smiled “Save those compliments for me you said them in kort af ather women, it might caure some cardioversy “P” Austin spalted Im just telling t

She chuckled and headed deeper into the concourse.

The recent project was a complex that many offerers compare that she had to oversee from security for food and beverage

services to negotiating contracts for accommodations and entertainment,

Dorothy was in charge of it also she had a lot on her

plate. But she had willingly taken on these tasks in the hope of earning a larger share of the project's profits

"Ms. Sanchez here he has preliminary designs for some of the leisure facilities

The project manager handed her a folder

Dorothy scanned the plans, causing her brow to furrow as she tried to grasp the number of these

extreme rides. Her guests are going to be people of

a certain status. Do you really think they're going to want to go on a giant roller coaster

"But people at The Tull

"I think you guys are just seeing dollar signs" Dorothy said cutting him off "I don't care about increasing the budget for this

department. What care about is the one involved you're willing to take full

responsibility for any potential consequences, then I'm all in to

conclude"

The project manager immediately waved his hands and chuckled anewards

"I'll make the necessary "Good" decisions and handed her back the

blueprints before moving on to inspect other areas of the

construction site.

The work was progressing quickly so Dorothy knew she had to keep a close eye on things. The workers need to know that they

could cut back as she was watching

The day flew by and it was almost dark when Dorothy finally realized she was hungry. She decided to head back in the house

Comed dust, she stopped by the bathroom to wash up before the bed. As she entered the overhead a couple of women gossiping

about her

"Did you hear that Ms. Sanchez is mated with kids? But no one ever seen her husband but she's a mess. That's why her

husband never shows up

TO PRQT

Ten heard that too. Every time there's a company event that allows plus ones, she never brings him. But honestly if it looked like

her I'd take shortcuts too. There's no way she got to where she is without playing dirty"

Dorothy wasted her hands with an impassive look on her face. She walked over to the bathroom stall and knocked
“Who is it? This stall’s occupied”

Chapter 274

As soon as she said her name, Dorothy could see the shop intake of breath from the gossipers.

Clearly, they hadn’t expected their high-ranking director to still be at work at this hour and even more surprisingly, to have overheard the gossip. They had been caught

A tense silence filled the air for nearly ten seconds before the door of the bathroom stall slowly creaked open

They all locked eyes.

Dorothy recognized these two women. They were project accounts assigned to the company.

“Go on, tell me. Who am I supposedly the mistress of? I’m dying to know

“Ms. Sanchez we just heard it from someone else”

Dorothy scoffed and crossed her arms as she stared at them “Who did you hear it from? Call them out. I want to hold them

accountable for spreading rumors.” Both women immediately clammed up

But Dorothy didn’t really intend to make things difficult for them. She just wanted to shake them up a bit and put a stop to this

rumor mill. After all, it was hard enough being a woman in the corporate world.

She didn’t want these negative vibes following her

around. They were bound to escalate if they were not nipped in the bud

“You were so certain when you were whispering earlier. What happened?

You’re moments. Do you understand what your words

imply? You’re throwing mud at me for no reason. Don’t tell me you don’t have any shred of evidence

“Ms. Sanchez, we’re sorry. We were just making idle chat after work. We won’t do it again!”

“Yes, yes, we promise we won’t do it again! You’re so beautiful and

competent. Please be the bigger person and forgive us for

our loose lips. Everyone says you’re the

The Two women were afraid of Dorothy

Her reputation for stress was well-known throughout the company. She was

even harsh on herself and was like a drill sergeant to

her own subordinates. But that wasn’t the point

The point was that the company’s top brass all
as easy as pie

stop brass all praised her. Although her position wasn't high—ranking her words carried weight. If she wanted to fire these two, it would be

means I'm not kind?

"So, if I don't forgive you that means I'm

Dorothy shot back.

The two women fell silent again

Seeing that they d

I enough, Dorothy began, "You've probably gossiped about me more than once in private. Tell me, who else has been talking

about me? Maybe if min

slide and not hold you two responsible

The two women exchanged uneasy glances

they spoke up, they naked escalating the situation, which would make the lives at work difficult

If they stayed quiet, they might not be able to get away with it today

"Don't worry I just want to know who's taking about me. I won't hold anyone accountable. I just mark to know"

Hearing this, one of the women hesitated before finally confessing with a resigned look it was Alisa from the planning

"What did she say?"

Seeing that the other woman had spilled the beans, the second one had so choice but to follow suit "She just said she speculated

that you're you're a mistress for the

Dorothyseal eyebrows frowns "Anything else?"

your daughter is ve

is very beautiful and very much like Ever, the CEO of the Lopez Corporation.

She suggested that

"Alisa said she had seen your daughter. She thinks that your maybe you are his."

The sudden mention of Everett made Dorothy's heart skip a beat

Chapter 275

Have nothing to do with him!"

The word tumbled out of Dorothy's mouth almost before she realized it

The two people in front of her startled. They thought they had said something wrong again.

Dorothy stood still, calming herself for a few seconds, before wing her hands

del Lets go Don't blurt out such things recklessly

Wee in a society of laws. If this goes to court you want just lose money but

also your future career prospects.

"We understand! We're sorry! We're really som

She was tired to say anything else. She just gestured for them to leave.

Hearing these rumors had drained her of all energy. Even her fingertips were trembling uncontrollably

years, she still couldn't completely erase him from her life

Turned out that it was not good to encounter someone too stunning in life.

They become unforgettable

Back at her hotel, Karen had just put Abigail to bed. Seeing Dorothy's dispirited face she thought someone must have bothered her

again.

"Tell me what happened Did they pack on you again?"

"No Dorothy managed a then as she sat on the edge of the bed while looking

"Karen, Take Abigail back tomorrow

Karen paused only briefly before nodding her head in agreement. "Okay Wait for you there "

Karen did not probe further She knew that if Dorothy was saying this, there must be something bothering her here

Over the years, the only things motivating Dorothy to keep going anything did she would love a friend

money and her two children. Karen couldn't let anything happen to the people Dorothy cared about. II

"Don't worry Abigail's a good girl. I'll take good care of her. She's so excited about seeing her brother that she doesn't even want to sleep at night!

Dorothy chuckled it seemed like only the mention of her children could bring a genuine smile to her face.

The next morning, Dorothy arranged for a car to take Karen and Abigail away before heading to the construction herself

As she approached she saw Lane's car parked at the entrance. He had actually come to the construction site himself, which was a rare sight

Lane always had an air of prestige about him. Although he was a very approachable leader and never made things difficult for people, he still despised places full of dust and dirt, like construction site.

Dorothy got out of her car and walked into the site

Lane spotted her from a distance Dorothy over here!"

He waved enthusiastically at her completely oblivious to the mention he was

drawing. But after what happened last night, Dorothy was very conscious of She walked Towards him with steady steps and greeted him with a respectful and distant “Mr. Lane”

Taken aback by her formality. Lane stammered

“Mr. Lane, why didn’t you let Austin know you were coming to the site? He could have arranged things for you”

“I came to see you. There’s no need for Austin to amange anything” Lane squinted his eyes and smiled Tmleaving the country in a few days and thought for your hard work. So, I minating you to lunch hould treat you

Dorothy was hesitant to accept his invitation. Just as she was about to decine, Lane quickly added, “I’s not just us There’s also someone with some clot in the business world thought induce you. Who knows? You might have a chance to collaborate in the future”

Lane raised his yebrows mysteriously. “You’ll find out when we get ere. If you’re not comfortable, you can bring Aussin along it’s just a gentlemanly nation. Don’t

Chapter 276

Dorothy pondered for a moment and then grinned lightly. “Let’s bring Austin along. He’s contributed the most to this project. If you only bring me to network, Austin might get jealous.”

Lane chuckled helplessly. “Alright, if you say so. But I’m genuinely curious about how your husband managed to win you over.”

She was bright and tactful, always maintaining a certain distance from people without ever causing any discomfort. She was approachable yet somewhat inaccessible at the same time.

What would one have to do to earn a place in such a woman’s heart?

Dorothy didn’t respond to his question. After all, that story was too much for even her to think about.

Everglow City Airport.

Once Lane left the construction site, he headed straight to pick someone up. Perhaps it had been a while since he’d seen his friend, and he was missing him.

As soon as the clock hit the right hour, he saw the man walk out of the airport. He was alone, with no luggage in sight.

“Over here!” Lane waved his hand and rushed forward to greet him with a tight hug

“Can you tone down the enthusiasm? People might get the wrong idea.” The man complained, but had a beaming smile on his face.

Lane laughed and patted his shoulder. “You’re still as handsome as ever! You haven’t been breaking girls’ hearts back home, have you?” “Me? With my workaholic boss? I don’t even have time to go hunting. It’s a tough life, buddy”

“You better not tell me you have unsuitable thoughts about my crush?”

“Judging by your reaction, if I said yes, you’d be ready to put me back on the plane, right?” The man laughed heartily and shook his head. “I’m just curious, that’s all Don’t worry, you couldn’t even make a move on her, so I’m not going to overestimate my abilities.”

Lane sighed when the topic was brought up. “Jeffrey, why couldn’t be the one to meet her first? I wonder what’s so good about her husband that she’s so devoted to him!”

Jeffrey raised an eyebrow. “Have you met her husband?”

“No, but I can tell she really loves him.” Lane and Jeffrey chatted as they walked to the car. “You’ll understand when you meet her She’s perfect”

“Alright, alright, I’m looking forward to it. If it doesn’t work out, I think of something for you.”

“I invited her to dinner, but she was on guard, so she insisted on bringing Austin from the project along”

Lane had been around a lot of women over the years. He had seen all kinds. Among them were some who were hard to pursue, but that was just a matter of putting in more effort. So, he always believed that as long as you worked hard enough, there was no such thing as a woman you couldn’t have.

But he hit a wall with Dorothy.

She was immune to all his tactics. She didn’t even give him a chance to be alone with her. Even when Lane tried to offer her benefits through his position, she only accepted what she believed she deserved and returned everything else.

And it was this that made Lane’s heart flutter.

He thought that having a wife like her would provide reassurance. She was immune to temptation and would faithfully follow her husband.

The car kept going until it finally stopped in front of a hotel.

Just as Jeffrey was about to get out of the car, Lane stopped him and warned him carefully. "She doesn't like jokes much, so don't go overboard."

"Don't worry! I've got to make a good impression on your future wife." Jeffrey waved his hand, smiled as he got out of the car, and looked up.

There was a familiar face he would never forget

Chapter 277

Like a statue, Jeffrey stood stock-still. His fingers twitched slightly as he vigorously rubbed his eyes.

Was he seeing things?

She was actually in Everglow City?

But then again, it all made sense. No wonder Everett had changed his mind about so many things after his brief stay in Everglow

City

"What are you standing around for? Go say hi Lane, who hadn't noticed Dorothy, had just gotten out of the car and saw Jeffrey standing there. frozen

"I ran into someone I know." Jeffrey said, pointing towards Dorothy in the distance

Following his gaze, Lane broke into a grin. "You know her?"

"Yeah, she's...

the girl like."

Jeffery was dumbfounded.

"Pretty, isn't she?" Lane continued, oblivious to the fact that the man beside him was turning to stone. "But it's not just her looks that appreciate It's the way she focuses when she works that really gets me. What do you think?"

Jeffrey's mouth twitched, and his voice became strangled with tension. "Nothing special"

"Nothing special?!" Lane immediately questioned Jeffrey's eyes. He turned to see his friend's pale and stunned face What's

wrong with your Suddenly, Jeffrey clutched Lane's arm "Wait Did you say she's married?!"

"Yeah!" Lane nodded, surprised by his reaction. 'She's been married since she joined the company. Everyone knows. She's never tried to h

"Have you ever met her husband?"

"No." Lane was even more curious than Jeffrey about what kind of man she was married to. "But you can tell they're deeply in

love. Their bond is stronger than gold”

Stronger than gold?

Jeffrey wished he could record those words and let Everett hear them, so he'd finally give up and agree to marry Heather.

“Lane, you probably don't stand a chance.”

“Why?”

“Because men who are a thousand times better than you have been rejected by her.”

Jeffrey had always wondered what kind of woman could resist a man like Lane. He was a rich second generation heir with good looks and marriage intentions. But the moment he saw Dorothy, he knew Dorothy was indeed a rare woman.

As Dorothy and Austin discussed their project, they walked forward.

Austin laughed heartily. “I'm just riding your coattails. Otherwise, I wouldn't have such an honor.”

“If you say so, then I'd better not go I can't handle the gossip at the office. I'm afraid my husband would get jealous.”

“Your husband is lucky to have you!”

As Dorothy waved him off and turned around, she found herself looking right at Lane and Jeffrey

Her face changed instantly, and she instinctively turned to leave.

Lane quickly followed her “What's wrong?”

I just remembered that I have something to do at home. I can't join you for dinner today I'm sorry!”

Is there some misunderstanding between you and Jeffrey?” Lane wasn't a fool It was clear that something was off between

Dorothy and Jeffrey. He's my friend. If he's offended you in any way, I'll have him apologize to you!”

As Dorothy began to feel nervous, her hand tightened into a fist “No it's not that I really have something to do”

“Lane, let me talk to her alone” Before Lane finished speaking, Jeffrey had already stepped in front of Dorothy as a devious smile played on his handsome face.

Chapter 278

Before Lane could utter a word, Dorothy flatly rejected him.

“Jeffrey, there's nothing I want to discuss with you.”

“You'd prefer they hear about your past?”

Dorothy's posture noticeably stiffened. Was Jeffrey threatening her?

He guessed that Dorothy hadn't shared her history with Everett with anyone

else. He didn't know why, but he was sure she had her reasons and that they were enough to make her listen to him. "What are you two taking about?" Lane asked as his eyes darted between Dorothy and Jeffrey.

Jeffrey smiled and said, "You might not know this, but Ms Sanchez used to be involved with.."

"Enough!" Dorothy cut him off sharply and turned her gaze to Jeffrey. "We can talk, but let's go over there."

Jeffrey gave an OK gesture with his hand. "Lane, you go ahead. Don't worry, I'll make sure she comes for dinner."

Lane had no idea what was going on,

He looked at Dorothy. Since she did not protest, he could only nod. "Okay, I'll wait for you.."

As he turned and disappeared into the restaurant, Dorothy spoke in a cold voice, "Mr. Turner, recall we have no quarrel. The Lopez family and Heather wanted me to stay away from Everett, and I did. Why are you here threatening me?"

Jeffrey pulled out a pack of cigarettes and lit one. "I'm just wondering how you got involved with Lane."

The word 'involved' had a certain implication.

It was hard not to think of something negative.

Dorothy clenched her fists as her nails dug into her flesh. "My relationship with him is purely professional. If you think there's a problem, he can fire me. If you're here just to humiliate me, Mr. Turner, then please get to the point. I have work to do."

Jeffrey took a drag from his cigarette and grinned. "Why would I humiliate you? I'm just curious. You had Everett wrapped around your finger and now Lane seems quite taken with you. And yet you marry some nobody. Is this some kind of game? Dorothy, what's your real agenda?"

He could only assume that Dorothy was back for revenge.

Even though she obediently left Everett behind and didn't pursue the truth behind her mother's death, Jeffrey had a hunch that

Dorothy wasn't so easy to get rid of. She didn't want money or power, so what was her real motive? Would she want to come back and reclaim everything one day?

"So, what are you afraid of? Why are you standing here and questioning me? Instead of answering, Dorothy threw the question back at him.

Exactly! What was he afraid of? And what were the Lopez family and Heather

afraid of?

If they hadn't done anything wrong, if they were truly innocent, why be afraid of her return?

Jeffrey was speechless. He hadn't expected Dorothy, after so many years, to have honed her wit and become deadly sharp.

"I know you're a good friend of Everett's, and you want him to be with Heather. But all of that has nothing to do with me now. As for your question, all I can tell you is that my goal is not to get back with Everett."

Jeffrey's cigarette ash fell to the ground, narrowly missing his hand. He squinted at the woman standing before him. "Did you know he's getting married?"

"I know"

"And you don't care?"

"I don't."

Chapter 279

"Heh" Jeffrey chuckled softly. "You really are as tough as nails. No wonder Everett was so taken with you."

Dorothy frowned. "What are you getting at?"

Jeffrey shrugged. "I didn't expect to see you again after all these years, so I just thought we could catch up. There's no hidden agenda. You don't need to be so defensive; I'm not like the others"

"I don't have anything to chit-chat about with you Dorothy was ready to make her exit."

Jeffrey stepped in front of her to block her path. "I thought you might want to ask me about Everett, like who he's marrying"

He didn't believe for a second that Dorothy was curious

"Do I need to know?" Dorothy asked

Who else would Everett marry other than Heather? The Lopez family wouldn't have it any other way.

After seeing her indifferent expression, Jeffrey felt extremely annoyed. He pulled out his phone and dialed Everett's number.

Everett never used to pick up so quickly, probably because he always assumed Jeffrey was up to no good. This time, however, he answered after only two rings.

Dorothy's fingers were clenched tightly. It was as if a sharp thumb had pierced her heart.

"Hello? What is it?"

Ignoring Everett's question, Jeffrey put the call on speaker and turned to Dorothy

“Well, still got nothing to say? Why don’t you ask him yourself who the bride-to-be is?”

Dorothy fell silent.

“Everett, guess who’s standing in front of me right now?” Jeffrey teasingly raised an eyebrow at Dorothy.

Dorothy glanced instinctively at the phone screen, feeling like she could see him through it.

Time seemed to stand still. She could even hear her own breathing. It had been so many years.

This was the closest she had been to him. So close that she felt like hiding the wanted to leave Everglow City right then and there.

A few seconds passed and then Everett’s calm and steady voice with a hint of imitation rang out. “I’m not interested”

“Wast, you.. Jeffrey’s surprised response was cut short when the call ended abruptly.

At that moment, Dorothy knew that Everett must have guessed everything. He was so smart, he probably knew the moment

Jeffrey opened his mouth

It seemed he had nothing to say to her and didn’t want to get involved with her anymore.

Right He hated her; he had said so himself.

Dorothy took a deep breath, trying to appear normal so as not to let her inner turmoil show. “Mr. Turner, isn’t your curiosity

salised yet? Please leave me alone! If you think there’s something between me and Lane, then I can just resign and leave. After

this project, I was planning on leaving the country anyway.

She wanted to get away from this place where she had to be constantly on guard

She had run into too many people from her past recently, and there were too many people who thought of Everett when they saw

Abigail.

She was living in constant fear,

“Who mentioned anything about Lane? I was talking about you and Everett.”

“There’s even less chance of anything happening between me and him. You saw it yourself. Everest doesn’t want anything to do

with me, and have no intention of getting involved with him either. So, rest assured, I won’t interfere with his marriage to Heather”

Jeffrey paused as his thin lips curled up slightly. “He didn’t marry Heather.”

Dorothy was left speechless.

“Everett once said he would never marry the person who hurt you”

Chapter 280

Dorothy felt like her heart was being squeezed tight as her mind entered a blank slate.

Everett didn't marry Heather?

“So how could you just remarry someone else? Dorally, you have such a cold heart, elfroy clicked his tongue a few times and adopted a sardonic tone. “You played with Everett's heart like it was a toy and now you can easily bewlich Lane. I have to say you're quite talented.” “Are you done yet? Darchy interrupted him coldly She didn't want to hear Everett's name anymore. I made her heart flutter every time it was mentioned. “I don't know why you brought all this up today, but let me make it clear i will not have any relationship with Everett ever again! You know as well as I do that if I wanted to contact Everett, I have many ways to do so, none of which you or anyone else could stop. Rest assured. I truly do not want to have anything to do with him anymore. As for the Lopez family and Heather, as long as they are upright, they have nothing to fear. They don't need to worry about me, a nobody. So, you don't have to waste your time talking to me. Your sarcasm doesn't affect me.”

“You...” Truth be told Jeffrey didn't know what he was trying to accomplish. On one hand, he was relieved that his good buddy had escaped his suffering by breaking up with this heartless woman. On the other hand, he felt sorry for Evereti.

Seeing Dorothy able to start her e anew, pick up her career again, and even marry another man made him angry

Angry at his foolish friend, who still hadn't gotten over Dorally

Despite Everett's constant denial, Jeffrey knew better.

“My husband and I are very happy now. You can ask Lane about our relationship.” Dorothy thought that Jeffrey was here to confirm that she would not go after Everett again, so she decided to give him a definite answer. “Even if Everett stood before me now, I would still choose my husband without hesitation.”

With that, Dorothy turned on her heels and walked away.

She couldn't keep her promise to pretend like everything was fine and have dinner with Lane. She would have to apologize to him later.

Behind her, Jeffrey silently took out his phone.

The call duration read: 10.29.

“Did you hear all that?”

“Yeah”

Yes, after Everett hung up, Jeffrey had dialed him again without taking the phone out of his pocket or letting Dorothy see.

Everett didn't hang up. He simply listened quietly to Dorothy and Jeffrey's conversation.

He heard her refer to some other man as “my husband.”

At that moment, Jeffrey regretted his impulsive decision to make Everett hear all that, knowing that every word Dorothy said was like a knife stabbing into Everett's heart.

“Everett, I..”

“It's okay. She being happy is all that matters.” Everett's voice didn't betray any emotion, but Jeffrey knew he was suppressing his feelings.

For years, a smile had been absent from Everett's face. And Dorothy was to blame.

“She's already married, the whole company knows it. Everett, she's so damn cold? She's just plain cruel! You should get married too! Marry Heather Why upset your parents over her?”

“Jeffrey, who I love is my business”

Whether she loved him back or not was her choice.

Everett had never wanted to impose his feelings on Dorothy. Neither in the past nor in the present.

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Chapter 281

Despite his resources and capabilities, he could have easily manipulated Dorothy into staying by his side. But he didn't. He couldn't bear the thought of Dorothy getting hurt. He wanted Dorothy to be happy. If her happiness couldn't include him, he'd rather disappear.

“But she's already hurt you so much! I can't stand to see it anymore, Everett! Just give me the word, and I'll find out who her husband is and let him know who he's messed with! If that doesn't work. I'll confront her! make Dorothy come back to you, even if

it means dragging her back!”

“No.” Everett’s voice finally broke, barely able to conceal his desolation. Truly love her, but it’s time for me to let go.”

Instead of returning to the construction site, Dorothy went back to her hotel. She lay down on the bed without even taking off her coat or setting down her purse.

Everett’s voice kept replaying in her head.

Truth be told, she missed Everett. She wanted to record his voice and listen to it when she felt like she was losing control, so she could find some sort of peace.

Like a junkie finding relief in their addiction,
But reality wouldn’t allow it.

There were too many complications. She had to remind herself to stay away from Everett

Her phone rang abruptly from inside her purse, making Dorothy sit up. Tears fell from her eyes down to her coat, and only then did she realize that she was crying

After taking a few deep breaths. Dorothy reached for her phone and answered the call.

“Hello. Lane.”

“Why haven’t you come back? Did Jeffrey do something? Tell me! I may be friends with him, but justice is on my side.” Lane sounded anxious. He assumed Jeffrey must have caused some trouble.

Corporation, remember? There was a minor misunderstanding

Lane seemed skeptical “it’s just a minor misunderstanding, then let’s clear it up face-to-face

“No, we just talked about the past. We used to work together at the Lopez Corpora

“No need I won’t cross paths with him anymore, so there’s no need to clear anything up. Lane, after this project, I’m leaving the country, I don’t want my past to haunt me anymore.” Dorothy paused. “I’m sorry I couldn’t make it for dinner. I promise I treat you next time. I’m not feeling well today.”

There wasn’t much Lane could say to that

“Even though I don’t know the details between you and Jeffrey, I know you’re a good person. If there’s a conflict, it’s definitely Jeffrey’s fault. Don’t worry, at least in my presence, you won’t get hurt.”

“Lane, that’s a strong statement. My husband wouldn’t like that” Dorothy said while laughing lightly. She didn’t want to embarrass Lane, but she also didn’t want him to harbor any illusions.

fit

She didn't have the energy to entertain anyone's pursuit, even if it was her caring boss.

Because no one could ever be as good to her as Everett had been.

Absolutely no one

12

Chapter 282

"So, you're really smitten with your husband, huh?" Although Lane tried to pass it off as a joke his voice betrayed his disappointment.

He knew he'd probably never win the spot in her heart he longed for

"Lane, I don't want any drama in my life. I just want to be an ordinary woman"

"But does your husband feel the same way about you?" Lane persisted. He was unwilling to let it go.

Dorothy hesitated for a long time before finally whispering. "No one could love me more than he does."

"Alright, Tunderstand"

After hanging up the phone, Dorothy set it aside. She felt completely drained.

All her courage had been spent on her

confrontation with Jeffrey earlier.

Every second of it was incredibly hard to be

She was terrified Jeffrey would detect something amiss and that held realize she was lying

She wouldn't see Everett again, but she still loved him.

In the restaurant, Lane had been visibly upset since returning from his call

Jeffrey knew he'd messed up their meeting and could only try to make up for it by refilling Lane's glass. "Long time no see. Want you have a drink with me?"

Lane lifted his gaze to meet Jeffrey's as he downed his drink in one go. "Tell me what's going on between you and Dorothy. I've known her for a long time, and I've never seen her so unsettled."

Dorothy was known to be easy-going and hardworking at the office. She even often helped new employees. As a leader, she

wasn't arrogant, and while she wasn't everyone's favorite, no one ever had anything bad to say about her

This was the first time Lane had ever seen her like this.

Jeffrey poured himself another drink and also finished it in one gulp. "This one's on me. I messed up the dinner"

“Lasked for the reason!”

“I really can’t tell you.” Jeffrey’s main concem was for Everett.

Now that Dorothy had made her stance deat he didn’t want her to have any further twolvement with his best friend. He hoped they’d have no

Lane opened his mouth, seemingly wanting to ask for clarity, but hesitated and stayed lent.

“Forget it, I won’t ask anymore. Im just her boss; we’re not even friends outside of work” He sighed it’s pretty pitiful, isn’t it? The one woman who makes my heart flutter is the one woman I can never get.”

“Has she ever shown any interest in you?” Jeffrey arched an eyebrow. He was quite curious about Dorothy’s charm.

What was it that made Everett and Lane, two elighle bachelors, so captivated by her?

“She’s always been professional at work and never crossed any lines. That’s what makes her stand out, recalled a project that had trouble getting approved by investors. Dorothy decided to camp out in her office, conducting research and interviews during the day and writing reports at night. All she had to do was sweet talk the investors, maybe also agree to have dinner with them, and they would’ve agreed. But she refused, preferring to perfect the project’s documentation to leave them with no objections.”

“Then Dorothy is definitely special”

“Yes, the man who marries her is truly blessed.” Lane massaged his temples, locking a bit dejected Plus, her husband must be pretty handsome, given how beautiful Dorothy’s daughteris.”

Wait a minute.

“Daughter? Dorothy has a daughter?”

Chapter 283

“Yeah, she has a daughter. She’s a real cutey Lane turned to Jeffrey. “You didn’t know?”

No sooner had the words left his mouth than Jeffrey shot up from his chair. The sudden movement knocked over his cup, causing it to shatter on the floor

“She has a child?! She actually has a child?! Are you sure?!” Jeffrey felt his mind go blank. It was as if he had just been struck by lightning, once and then again.

Could it could it be what he was thinking?

Im sure she does. Now will you spill it? Lane was truly left hanging by Jeffrey’s reaction.

He initially thought that if he introduced Dorothy to Jeffrey, he could possibly offer some advice. But instead, Jeffrey had caused quite a stir, and he was still in the dark about what was going on.

“How old is her daughter, do you know?”

“I think two years old”

Jeffrey’s mouth twitched involuntarily.

Two years old...

Then it definitely wasn’t Everett’s

They had been separated for four years and hadn’t seen each other since.

Jeffrey knew this because Everett had exhausted

every possible channel to hear news about Dorothy but had come up empty handed

Jeffrey’s energy, which had been so frenzied a moment ago, suddenly drained away as if he were a balloon that had been pricked.

had bee

“Is there something wrong with her being two years old? Spit it out! Are you trying to kill me with suspense

Jeffrey waved his hand dismissively and took a deep breath. “You know Everett, night?”

“Of course! Who wouldn’t know the CEO of Lopez Corporation? Don’t tell me “You guessed it.” Jeffrey nodded while looking at Lane. “Dorothy is Everett’s ex-girlfriend, no, ex-wife.”

Even though he hated to acknowledge it, Everett and Dorothy had indeed been mamed,

Lane’s eyebrows furrowed. “So why did they get a divorce? Did Mr. Lopez cheat?”

“No, Dorothy fell out of love! Jeffrey couldn’t help but defend his best friend.

“Everett gave up everything for her, even his own

parents! But Dorothy just said she felt too much pressure being with him and left.”

Lane didn’t respond to that. In his eyes, Dorothy didnt seem like the kind of person who would do such a thing

She was so dedicated to her work and was not the type to back down when faced with challenges. She should be the same in relationships

As for the pressure, she was a staff member with no background who had struggled her way up to her current position based on

her capabilities. The pressure must have been immense. What other pressure could be greater than that at work?

Unless it came from other “pressures.”

“Mr. Lopez’s parents didn’t approve of them, did they?”

“Exactly” Jeffrey nodded “Dorothy didn’t have a good background, she basically had nothing. The Lopez family would never agree. They probably thought she was a gold digger”

Lane guessed as much

This was a common occurrence in high society.

Every couple who wanted to break the class barrier and be together would face this problem. Especially for a family as wealthy

as the Lopez’s, I was not surprising that they looked down on Dorothy

“Dorothy is not the kind of person to sacrifice love for money.”

“I know that too” Jeffrey understood the different viewpoints and positions in this matter, but he and felt that Dorothy had been too ruthless.

“So, why were you so surprised when you heard Dorothy has a daughter?”

Lane finally realized the significance of this

“They were married before, so I thought Dorothy’s daughter.”

“Dorothy’s daughter is Everett’s?”

Chapter 284

Lane was dumbstruck the moment he said this.

Others might not know, but Lane sure did. He’d seen Dorothy’s daughter, and she indeed looked a lot like Everett

In that instant, he could even confirm it

Dorothy’s daughter was Everett’s

Luckily, Jeffrey didn’t notice Lane’s reaction, and he just nodded to himself, letting out a long sigh of relief. “But thank goodness

they’ve been separated for over four years and that her kids only two It can’t be Everett’s”

Jellery still felt like something was wrong with this whole scenario.

“Hey, do you have a picture of Dorothy’s daughter?” After he asked, he noticed that Lane seemed a bit distracted, so he waved his hand in front of him. “What are you thinking about?”

Lane gave him an awkward smile. “Ah nothing, just some work stuff! What were you saying?”

“Do you have a picture of Dorothy’s daughter?want to see her

Lane’s handsome face paused for a moment, then he shook his head stiffly.

“No, her Twitter and Instagram are all work stuff.”

“Oh, never mind then. Im not that curious about what her daughter looks like, as long as she’s not Everetts. Let’s get back to our

drinks, turn the page on this one and pretend you never knew.” Jeffrey flagged down a waiter to change their glasses. He could now finally eat and drink with a weight lifted off his shoulders. Lane, after a long silence, managed to conjure a smile again. “Yes, let’s turn the page! Are you planning on telling Mr. Lopez about this when you get back to Odomia City?”

“What? That I ran into Dorothy? He already knows

“But he doesn’t know about her having a daughter, does he?”

Jeffrey waved him off. “Nape. I just found out right now. I haven’t had the chance to tell h

Lane chuckled as he refilled Jeffrey’s glass. “You shouldn’t tell him. For how upset Mr. Lopez more, night? They’ve been divorced for four years, and Dorothy’s already remarried and had a daughter. What good would it do to tell him about this? It just makes him upset all over again,”

“You don’t get it. My buddy doesn’t know when to quit. He might say he’s given up, but I know he hasn’t. He’s still hung up on Dorothy, and I need him to get over her completely”

Lane shook his head. “That’s exactly why you shouldn’t tell him! I can tell Mr. Lopez still has a thing for Dorothy, but he’s too stubborn to admit it. Don’t tell him. In time, he’ll forget her. What he needs now is to hear less of Dorothy”

Jeffrey raised an eyebrow. “Really?”

“Absolutely! There’s a saying, isn’t there? Time heals all wounds”

“Hmm... makes sense. I’ll pretend I don’t know anything, and I won’t mention Dorothy when I get back. She doesn’t seem interested in getting back with him anyway”

Lane nodded and felt pleased to see that the topic was settled. He then quickly changed the subject. “Come on, let’s eat. This is a local delicacy in Everglow City. Try it!”

“Sure, it’s good. Very tasty.”

Jeffrey just thought that Lane was being very hospitable and didn’t give it another thought

He had no idea that Lane, who had been downcast just moments ago, was suddenly exhilarated.

Lane’s thin lips couldn’t stop curling up. Because he had found Dorothy’s biggest secret, and with this, how could Dorothy refuse him?

Chapter 285

Meanwhile, at the Eldoma City Airport.

An international flight had just landed.

A woman, dragging her suitcase, emerged from the terminal. She stood at the entrance of the airport, removing the oversized sunglasses from her face

After looking up at the blue sky and white clouds, her lips curled into a slight smile.

“Eldarria City, I’m back!”

It had been years since Heather last set foot on this ground. She had given Everett space to heal from his heartbreak with

Dorothy. She avoided upsetting him and stayed out of his sight as much as possible, only to find out he was getting married.

And she was not the bride-to-be.

How could that be?

If she could separate Everett and Dorothy four years ago, then she could defeat any woman trying to steal Everett from her now.

Heather refused to believe that all the effort she put into Everett would not win him over

After a moment’s pause at the entrance, she pulled out her phone and dialed Jeffrey’s number. “I’m back”

“Back where? Home?”

“Eldoria City” Heather laughed. “Everett didn’t even tell me about his wedding. That’s not cool. I have to rush back to see his bride.”

There was silence from Jeffrey on the other end of the line before he finally spoke. “Stop beating around the bush, you’re here to steal him back, aren’t you?”

Heather didn’t feel embarrassed after being called out

She hailed a cab outside the airport and slid into the backseat. “Shouldn’t come? If his fiancée isn’t accepted by the Lopez family or by his parents, then the marriage is mald”

“Cant you see? Everett doesn’t like you. You should just give up.”

“Would you give up a project you’ve spent your whole life planning?”

Heather’s tone was heavy, she then followed it up with a

cold laugh. “Of course. I don’t expect you to understand. Just tell me who the new woman in Everett’s life is. What’s her name? ill

find out the rest myself.”

Im not in Eldoria City, and I don’t know He’s kept this one very hidden, so I can’t help you.”

Heather's eyebrows furrowed, and her posture straightened. "I don't believe you don't know?"

"Believe it or not, that's your problem. Why don't you ask Everett? You guys never consulted me when you were scheming against Dorothy. I'm worried that if Everett knew the truth. I can't even imagine the consequences. I won't get involved now."

Understanding his meaning, Heather let out a sigh of mocking resignation.

"What are you afraid of? Even if he knew, it was his parents who did it. What does it have to do with you? I won't tell him anything. You and him are good buddies, which gives you more reason to understand that him marrying me is the best choice for the Lopez Corporation! I can sacrifice everything for him. No one loves him more than I do!"

"That's only if Everett himself is willing"

"Never mind it doesn't matter if you don't help me. Anyway, I'm already here."

Heather's lips twisted into a smirk. "He was so in love with Dorothy back then and was ready to give up everything for her, but they still broke up. You can hide from me, but I find out in the end. This is me giving you a chance to pick sides"

Jeffrey laughed oddly from the other end. "Then you go ahead and find out. Take your time."

His response aroused suspicion in Heather. If he was saying this, it meant things were not as simple as they seemed.

"It can't be... Dorothy is back, is she?"

Chapter 286

"Stop it! It's not her fault!" Jeffrey urged. "You've already caused the death of her mother. How could you have the heart to do that?"

He didn't approve of Everett and Dorothy's relationship either. Because he thought Everett was being irrational and his emotions were impeding his career. But he never thought of forcing Dorothy away from him in such a devious, lethal way.

"We didn't harm her mother. Her mother's emotional instability led to her illness and death."

"We both know what really happened. We have been friends for many years, and I haven't told Everett about this. I kept this a secret for you, but that's all I can do for you. Don't expect to use me anymore."

Then Jeffrey hung up.

Heather stared at the now dark screen with her eyebrows furrowed in deep thought.

Something was off.

Jeffrey's reaction was clearly protective of Dorothy. They had met overseas before, but Jeffrey hadn't shown any favoritism towards Dorothy at that time. Now, however, he was constantly warning Heather to leave Dorothy alone.

This could only mean that Dorothy had reappeared.

Something must have happened between them again.

"Dorothy. Why won't you just disappear?!"

The next morning. Dorothy went straight from the hotel to the construction site.

She was surprised to see Lane talking to Austin from afar.

She thought she had made it clear to Lane that she wouldn't consider him, so he should have left the country. Why was he still here?

Austin was the first to notice Dorothy. He waved cheerfully at her then walked over with Lane

"If you're not feeling well, you don't have to come to the construction site. It's dusty here. It's not a place for a lady." Austin's attitude towards Dorothy had become more and more respectful, all thanks to whatever Lane had told him.

He was obsequious, flattering, and overly respectful

Not at all the way a supervisor should behave towards an employee.

"There are many things here that need supervision and finalization. I'm strict about the details, and I worry that they might cut corners when I'm not around."

"I'm here too, so you can just tell me." Austin quickly added, "Oh, I just remembered I have something else to do. You two chat, I'll leave first."

He didn't wait for Dorothy to respond and turned to leave, as if someone were chasing him

Once Austin left, only Dorothy and Lane were left. An awkward atmosphere hung between them

"Um. I should go too."

"You don't really have a husband, do you?" Lane asked.

Dorothy was speechless

Dorothy didn't expect Lane to say that outright.

She was taken aback and just stood there staring at him.

“You made up the husband because you didn’t want to be pursued “Lane continued.

“You’re overthinking Not only do I have a husband, but I also have a daughter. Surely you don’t think I made that up too?”

Lane smiled as his thin lips curled up.

“You do have a daughter, but she’s not two years old, right?”

“What do you know?”

“Jeffrey told me everything about you and Me Lopez Lane’s gaze met her frantic eyes. “Including your manage history”

Chapter 287

Being a divorcee, the news of Dorothy’s pregnancy and the birth of her daughter seemed like a natural progression of events.

In truth, the moment Lane discovered the connection between Dorothy and Everett, he didn’t need any further proof.

The uncanny resemblance between father and daughter was so obvious that only a fool would fail to see it.

Dorothy felt like her knees were about to buckle. She could put on a brave face at any time to appear strong and invincible, but not when it came to her children

She couldn’t let the Lopez family know about her daughter, let alone her son.

“What are you trying to achieve by telling me all this?” Dorothy’s eyes turned sharp and vigilant. She looked at Lane as though

he was a potential threat.

Lane raised his hands in surrender, signaling her to calm down. “Don’t jump to conclusions just yet. Yesterday, I had a long chat with Jeffrey. He even asked me for a picture of your daughter, and I told him I didn’t have one.”

“You have a picture of my daughter?”

Lane shrugged. “I don’t have one on me, but if I wanted one, I could just check the security cameras at the Dreamscape Hotel couldn’t I?”

Dorothy was at a loss for words.

“But I didn’t do that. I even managed to curb Jeffrey’s curiosity and convince him not to tell Everett about your child.” Lane tried to

soothe her growing anxiety. “You don’t have to worry anymore. You should know by now that I’m on your side”

Dorothy knew he was probably telling the truth. Otherwise, with Jeffrey’s temperament, he would ve confronted her by now

Everett might have even reached Everglow City by this time.

“So, you’re pressing me for confirmation? Is that it?” Something told her there was more to this than just curiosity or a simple interest in helping her.

“Somewhat.” Lane admitted with a small laugh. “When I found out about all this, I was actually quite thrilled. I thought you were so in love with your husband that I wouldn’t stand a chance. But now that I know it’s all a fabrication, I see a window of opportunity to pursue you.”

Dorothy pressed her lips together and spoke in a stern tone, “I won’t accept anyone’s pursuit, Lane. I’m telling you this straight so that you won’t waste your time on me. You’re worth the effort.”

“But whether it’s a waste of time or not is for me to decide. I believe you

“Lane, I can tell you the outcome right now.”

Lane smirked lazily. “No one can predict the future, not even you.”

“You don’t want to tell Everett about your child. There must be a reason, and I’m guessing it’s because there’s an irreconcilable issue between the two of you. As long as that issue exists, you two are off the table, which means I still have a chance.” Lane cut her off as he leaned closer to her. “Don’t rush to reject me. I can keep your secret, and I promise that I will treat your daughter like she is mine. Everett will never find out.”

He sounded like he was making a promise, but it felt more like a threat

Being a businessman, he knew how to manipulate a situation to his advantage, especially when he had the upper hand

Dorothy had known Lane for some time now. Though they didn’t have a lot of personal interaction, she knew his tactics. He

might look like a rich, carefree playboy who spent his days partying and occasionally running his business, but the truth was,

Lane had a firm grip on his company’s

Chapter 288

He was well aware of the company’s recent projects and their profits. He consistently found ways to retain talented employees and was always approachable in conversation.

His penchant for fun was just a facade. It was designed to disarm people and put them at ease.

For a woman like Dorothy, a man of his caliber was someone she couldn’t get too close to. She knew that her limited abilities

and cunning were no match for him.

“Lane, I think you only see me as good because you don’t fully know me.” Dorothy said, managing to keep her emotions in check. She flashed him a polite smile and subtly put some distance between them. “Jeffrey must have told you something about Everett and me. I wonder if he mentioned that it was me who ended things with Everett. I asked for the divorce because I fell for another man”

“He did mention that you fell for someone else.” Lane said, cutting her off before she could continue. “But I don’t believe him”

He was confident in his judgment of character. He had been observing Dorothy for some time, otherwise, he wouldn’t have pursued her especially knowing she was married. People in business do not fall for others easily.

“The truth is what it is, whether you believe it or not. You can ask Everett if you want.”

“I won’t ask him. Your past is your past.” Lane said while spreading his hands as a gesture of surrender. Realizing the conversation was leading them nowhere, he softened his tone. “I think you’ve misunderstood me. I don’t mean to threaten you or force you to be with me. I just want you to give me a chance.”

Dorothy remained silent.

? Who

“Just one chance; if it doesn’t work out, I won’t force you. You’re single, and I’m single, so why are you so adamant about rejecting me? I know? You might even end up liking me

Lane’s plea was humble, to say the least. Dorothy knew that if she rejected him harshly, she might provoke him.

People from high society always care about saving dignity. Embarrassing them could lead to uncontrollable situations.

Moreover, she feared that Lane might tell Jeffrey about their conversation. That would be beyond her control

“Lane, I’ve got a lot on my plate with the ongoing projects. Let’s do this once I’m less tied up with work. I’ll give you my decision then. Is that okay?”

Lane made an ‘OK’ gesture with his hand. “Sure, I’m willing to wait

Finally, she managed to get rid of him

Dorothy felt as if she’d just fought a war.

The situation was spiraling out of control, and she needed to think carefully

about her next move. She didn't want to be caught off guard when the next crisis hit.

Seeing Dorothy finally relent felt like a small victory to Lane.

He drove to the hotel where Jeffrey was staying. The guy had drunk too much last night and was still in bed.

Upon seeing Lane, he lazily got up as he rubbed his eyes in his bathrobe.

"You've really improved your tolerance. We drank the same amount last night, yet here you are, bright and early, as if nothing happened"

"Well, happy occasions tend to boost one's spints"

"Hmm?"

"Nothing You're a guest here, so I thought I should come and see you. I've just ordered breakfast. It be here soon. Why don't you freshen up?"

Chapter 289

Jeffrey nodded. His eyes were still blurry from his hangover, and it was accompanied by a trild headache.

Lane watched him shuffle into the bathroom to freshen up; all the while, his gaze flickered to Jelfmy's cell phone lying on the table.

There were several missed calls from Heather

Speaking of Heather. Lane knew her well. She had made quite a name for herself in the business world. She also fought teeth and nal for the Lopez Corporation.

He also knew about Heather's fondness for Everett,

Lane hesitated for a moment, then went over to Jeffrey's contact list, found Heather's number, and made a note of it

"I'm planning on leaving tomorrow. I've already booked my fight "Jeffrey suddenly emerged from the bathroom while toweling off his face Lane was taken aback, but luckily Jeffrey didn't notice him fiddling with his phone.

"You're not staying a bit longer?"

"Nah, there's a lot o

t going on at the company Everett, that workaholic freak, took on a few big projects, and there are some overseas inspections. I need to get back to help

Lane raised an eyebrow. He's going abroad too?

'I don't know, but Kevin and him went off to some place" Jeffrey paused and looked at Lane What about you? Aren't you leaving?" Jeffrey assumed that since Dorothy had rejected him and Lane

knew about Dorothy and Everett, he would give up.

“Well I’m not leaving for now “Lane’s lips curved upwards. Im very invested in the Everglon City project I plan to stay until its completed”

“It’s just a resort project. Why are you so keen on it?” Jeffrey frowned as he looked suspiciously at him. “You still haven’t given up on Dorothy, have you? She’s not worth it Even Everett, who treated her like a queen, couldn’t win her over In front of Dorothy, Everett even comprom sed his principles You stand no chancel”

Lane shrugged nonchalantly. “We’ll see. Maybe ill outdo Everett.”

“You can’t! Everett almost broke ties with the Lopez family for her, and he’s been infatuated with her for years. Do you have that kind of persistence?”

“I do” Lane was more interested in a woman that even Everett couldn’t get. Everyone in the business world knew about Everett’s power. It was unparalleled. Yet he couldn’t win over Dorothy.

What if he Lane, married Dorothy and became the stepfather to her daughter? Wouldn’t that be a victory?

This was his one chance to triumph over Everett.

Jeffrey waved a dismissive hand. “Whatever I don’t see what’s so great about Dorcity. She has you and Everett wrapped around her tile finger. Is it because she’s beautiful? Aren’t there plenty of beautiful women around you twe?”

“There are, but they’re not Dorothy.”

“You’re hopeless.” Jeffrey rolled his eyes. “Good luck then! But if you do end up with Dorothy. I’m afraid I won’t be able to attend your wedding.”

He didn’t want to witness Dorothy marrying someone else, and if Everett found out, it would be hard to explain.

“Thanks for your well wishes.”

“Ha! You’re actually serious?!” Jeffrey snorted and tossed his towel at Lane.

“Aren’t you afraid of crossing Everett? You’re both in the business world, and he’s the investor in your project”

Chapter 290

To put it bluntly, the Lopez Corporation wielded such a significant influence in the business world that blacklisting a company like Lane’s would be a piece of cake.

“Surely Mr. Lopez isn’t the type of man who can’t handle losing, right?”

“Actually, he really can’t stand losing Dorothy”

On the fourth attempt to reach Jeffrey over the phone, he still didn't pick up. Heather finally had to accept the bitter truth that she was short of a right-hand man

Without Jeffrey as her inside man around Everett, things would indeed be more troublesome.

While sitting on the sofa in her hotel room, Heather meticulously contemplated where to start investigating Everett's sudden marriage announcement. Even his parents didn't know who the bride-to-be was. If she couldn't squeeze any useful information

out of Jeffrey, then she would have to rely on her own efforts.

Suddenly the cellphone, placed aside, started ringing.

Barefoot, Heather walked over, and, upon seeing that it was Maxton calling, she furrowed her brows in annoyance but had to answer it nonetheless.

'Dad'

heard from your mom that you're back. Where are you? I'd like to see you. I'm swamped with work, Dad. I don't have much time. I reach out when I'm free. With that, Heather was about to hang up, but Maxton beat her to it. "Aht I was just thinking of setting up a meeting between you and Dorothy. You two are sisters, after all. You're bound by blood. Her mom is dead, and in this world, all she has left is me, her father, and you her sister. My health hasn't been the best of late. I'm getting old, so who knows when I might be gone? I want you two to settle your past grievances. Don't let the issues of our generation affect you."

"Dad, do you two keep in touch?" –

"She wants nothing to do with me. But I've been to her mom's grave and managed to get her current phone number."

Heather's eyes lit up. "Quick! Tell me her number!"

Afraid that Maxton might suspect something, she quickly added in a soft tone.

"Dad, you're right. We sisters should get along well. Although she took Everett from me and made me furious, we're still sisters. I'm thinking we should mend our relationship."

"Hmm. Dorothy is as stubborn as her mom, and I didn't like her for that. But I've been doing some thinking. She is my flesh and blood. She bears the Sanchez family name, so I have to acknowledge her as my daughter."

"Dad, don't worry. I can forgive her for her past actions."

Maxton suddenly added, "By the way, your mom and I have already gotten our marriage license. When you have time, change

your last name to Sanchez It's your moms wish"

Heather's lips twitched, and she hesitantly forced a smile. "I do it when I have time"

In her memory, Heather hated it when her classmates and friends asked her why she and her mother shared the same last name

while her father didn't. She didn't have an answer,

How she wished as a child that she could share her father's last name, just like other kids. But Maxton couldn't give her that.

He'd just tell her mother to put up with it a while longer, saying that Bella would soon be gone.

And that while turned into decades

Now he wanted her to change it, but she no longer cared.

Did Maxton think that Heather knew nothing of his little scheme? He just thought that she could marry into the Lopez family, and once she had power, he could use it to his advantage.

Humph

All of them were just self-serving.

After hanging up, Maxton sent Dorothy's phone number.

Heather chuckled

it seemed that Lady Luck was on her side after all. She provided her with a lead so swiftly.

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Chapter 291

Although Heather was unsure whether Everett had reconnected with Dorothy, she knew all too well the sway Dorothy had over him.

She hoped that whoever was by Everett's side was anyone but Dorothy

Any other woman would be easier to deal with than Dorothy. It wasn't that Dorothy was particularly talented or powerful, but

rather that Everett was deeply invested in and in love with her.

Heather was certain that Everett would never pour as much time and effort into another woman in his lifetime. So, as long as it was not Dorothy she was not concerned.

After glancing at her wristwatch, she realized it was about time for her to leave.

Heather changed into a sharply tailored business suit that accentuated her

aura of competence and authority. She was ready to return to Florria City and the Lopez Corporation. She had to assert her power and make it clear who the real winner was

Inside the Lopez Corporation's boardroom, Everett was engrossed in a project update from the investment department manager.

His brow would furrow from me to time, signaling his dissatisfaction, which his assistant would promptly note.

Dressed in a custom tailored black suit, he sat silently in the chair of honor listening to the report. His silence caused a wave of fear among the team. They were scared of making any mistakes that might upset the CEO.

"Knock, knock,"

The sudden sound of knocking disrupted the stence in the boardroom.

"Come in Everet: uttered his first words of the day.

The door swung open, revealing Kevin

He walked straight over to Everett, leaned down, and whispered. Your father has appointed Heather as the chief legal counsel of the Lopez Corporation. The HR department just received the notice, and Heather will be here to take up her post in half an hour."

Everest's handsome face turned grim

He knew his parents wouldn't sit idle. They were bound to make a move. Tell HR to ignore it. Business as usual.

"What about, Heathers office?"

The office of the chief legal counsel was independent. Since Heather's resignation, their legal affairs had been handed over to other lawyers, and the office had been handed over as well. in an awkward position.

Now that Heather was parachuting back in as the chief legal counsel, the existing head of the legal department would be in a

"Without HR's signature, she is not an employer of the Lopez Corporation Everett didn't hesitate for a moment when he said this.

He was simply stating fact

Kevin immediately nodded understand."

After he left, the meeting resumed

It wasnt until the report was over that Everett coldly said, 'Is this the best due diligence you can do for the project? You can't even give me a precise revenue rate. Do you expect me to do the due diligence for your project?"

"Mr. Lopez, give us some time. We will surely."

“This project is suspended indefinitely.” Everett didn’t listen to his explanation. He stood up and said. “Meeting adjourned.”

The manager in charge of the project was stunned. He tried to catch up with Everett

“Mr. Lopez, Mr. Lopez, hear me out! The meeting was too sudden this time. I have already sent people to do the due diligence.

The precise data will be available soon it will be accurate.”

Normally, Everett would ignore such pleas.

But this time, he paused, looked the project manager up and down, and said in a low voice, “There are countless projects vying for investment from the Lopez Corporation every day. I don’t have time to give this project a second chance.”

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“Mr. Lopez..

“Same to you.”

Incompetent people have no place at the Lopez Corporation.

Everett made his way to the elevator. As soon as he reached his office floor, he saw his assistant trying to stop someone.

From the figure’s back, he knew exactly who it was.

“Mr. Lopez.” Upon seeing Everett, the assistant quickly bowed his head in respect

Upon hearing this, Heather quickly turned around. Her heels clicked loudly against the floor as she approached Everett. “What is this about? Your father asked me to come back and help the Lopez Corporation and yet I don’t even have an office?”

“Joining the Lopez Corporation requires approval from the HR department. If they approve, you’ll naturally have a place.” Everett didn’t stop walking and headed straight towards his office.

“Everett really was your father Jonathan who asked me to come back and help you. You can call and confirm it “Heather quickly chimed in.

I don’t have time.”

Heather didn’t expect to face such rejection upon her return Jeffrey wasn’t answering his phone, and Everett simply refused to acknowledge her. As he was about to enter his office, Heather quickly used her hand to block the door.

“Hold on! Everett, we’ve been friends since childhood. Are you really going to be this cold hearted to me?” She hadn’t seen

Everett in a while

In fact, the last time they saw each other was when Dorothy was still around.

To avoid any misunderstandings, she had been staying overseas with Everett's parents and had no private contact with him. However, as soon as they met, he was still as cold as ever.

Everett finally looked at her, but he still couldn't care less about her "Move"

Heather was getting anxious. She never imagined that their reunion would put her in such an awkward position. It was Dorothy who fell out of love and asked for a divorce; you can't blame this on me! Clearly, upon mentioning the name Dorothy Everett's eyebrows twitched slightly

But it was just a moment before he resumed his aloof demeanor.

"Move" He coldly demanded again.

"Everett, aren't you already married? Look, I didn't stop anything. I just want to come back and help the Lopez Corporation. I have no other intentions Jonathan said that the legal department made two major mistakes last year that led to us breaching our project contracts. We lost a lot, right? Don't want to see the legal department of the Lopez Corporation, which I built from scratch, ruined by those idiots!"

In terms of pure professional capability, indeed, very few people could compare to Heather

She had always managed the legal department of the Lopez Corporation, and there had never been any issues.

Everett at least had to admit that.

But that didn't mean he was willing to accept Heather's sudden return

Suddenly, Everett's phone rang

He frowned and glanced at it. It was a call from his father

"Are you giving Heather a hard time again? Everett, there's a limit to your antics. Do you want me to investigate where Dorothy is now?"

"Don't touch her." Everett's voice instantly turned cold.

"I don't want to either."

Everett clenched his fist, and, after a long pause, he said, "Tell Kevin to arrange an office for Heather."

Heather, who was standing by heard this, and her lips twitched. She wasn't happy.

Although she had temporarily gained Everett's compromise, she knew that it was due to Dorothy.

As she watched Everett leave, Heather blurted out, “Everett, have you reconciled with Dorothy? Is she the one you married?”

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“It’s none of your business” Again, he spoke to her coldly.

Heather could never understand Everett What did she lack? When it came to her feelings for him and her contributions to the

Lopez Corporation, how was she any less than Dorothy?!

He was supposed to be hers!

In his office, Everett had just sat down when Kevin messaged him that everything was arranged.

He opened his laptop and quickly scanned the documents on the screen. His gaze uncontrollably fell on the report from the

branch office about the Everglow City’s Resort project.

Had the project entered its second phase already?

How was her injury healing?

Had Kenneth been visiting her in the hospital?

As he thought about this, a self-mocking smirk appeared on Everett’s thin lips. He felt unbearably pathetic, more so than he had

when he was trying to win Dorothy over.

What was even more humiliating was that he was simultaneously taking out his phone and dialing Jeffrey’s number.

After a few rings, Jeffery picked up What’s up? Can’t handle the company on your own?

Everett rubbed his forehead in frustration. It seemed like the words he wanted to say got stuck in his throat

From the other end of the line, the sounds of an airport announcement could be heard.

“You’re leaving Everglow City?”

“Yeah, there’s not much left to do here I need to get back to help you out at the company

Everett drummed his fingertips on his desk. He remained silent until Jeffrey thought he had hung up. Then he finally spoke in a

low voices Dorothy... Is she healed?”

“Oh, so that’s what you wanted to ask!” Jeffrey exclaimed, “She’s doing great! She’s swimming through the company like a fish in

water. Many male superiors are relentlessly chasing her, just like you. It seems more than a few are pouring their hearts out for

her. Anyone wanting to care for her would have to get in line.”

“Jeffrey, I’m being serious.”

“And I’m answering seriously Dorothy’s injury is healed, and she’s back on the project. She’s thriving in her career and swimming happily in love. Not only has she married, but in the second year after your divorce, she..”

Jeffrey’s statement hang in the air

He suddenly remembered what Lane had said to him, which made a lot of sense

Since he knew how much his good friend, Everett, cared about Dorothy, he realized that if he found out that she had not only married in a hurry but also had a daughter, his mental state would definitely take a hit.

So why bother telling him?

“And then what?”

“And then she forgot about you? Jeffrey sighed as he gave him advice.

“Everett, you’re so outstanding that the line of women wanting to chase you could reach all the way to France. Let go of Dorothy. You heard it yourself, she openly declared her love for her husband. You can’t possibly want to be the homewrecker, right?”

Everett was silent. He didn’t utter a single word. He hung up after nearly a minute.

Jeffrey didn’t need to tell him this. He had already repeated it to himself countless times. But it seemed not to work.

Suddenly, the ringing of a phone broke the silence in the office.

Everett glanced at his phone instinctively, realizing it wasn’t his that was ringing, but another one.

He lit up the screen, revealing an unread message on WhatsApp.

It was a message from Dorothy.

[Hello, sir, I’m the owner of the car that you bumped into in Everglow City. My car has been repaired, and I’ve refunded the remaining money to you. Here’s a photo of the receipt)

Along with it, a picture of her holding the receipt was attached.

This must be her personal WhatsApp. Everett could see the wound on Dorothy’s finger when he zoomed into the picture.

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At this moment, Everett felt as if someone had abruptly squeezed his heart.

He felt a mix of nervousness, excitement, and, more than anything, a sense of overwhelming confusion.

Yes, the president of the all–powerful Lopez Corporation, at this moment, felt as helpless as a schoolboy who had unexpectedly

received a message from his crush.

in four years, this was the first time he had received a message from Dorothy. He had totally forgotten that he had purchased the chauffeur's WhatsApp.

[Hello?

After not receiving a reply, Dorothy sent another message.

Snapping back to reality, Everett's slender fingers promptly began to type I'm here

Perhaps realizing that his response was a bit too characteristic of his usual style and fearing that Dorothy might recognize him,

he added a smiley emoji. When he saw the typing notification, Everett decided to wait. He gave was intensely focused on the

screen

Soon, a transfer notification came through

This is the remaining money. Could you check if it's night?)

Everett didn't care about the money. Without ever checking, he responded,

[right]

[Alright then. (Smiley face)]

[Okay]

Everett had never needed to learn how to continue a conversation because others always made an effort to chat with him. He

didn't need to acquire that skill.

So he just waited for her to say something else. But after a while, Dorothy didn't reply.

Frowning, he tried sending another emoji, but this time he found that Dorothy had deleted him from her WhatsApp.

She deleted him?! Just like that?

Everett's handsome face stiffened as he stared at the screen.

It was the same scenario from years ago when he woke up the morning after their first night together and tried to message her,

only to be greeted by her deleting him. Now, years later, the same thing happened.

Dorothy hadn't changed a bit..

Everett hesitated for a moment before, as if possessed, he sent a friend request.

Dorothy accepted almost instantly and then sent a message.

Hello, is there anything else?

He stared at the screen for a while before coming up with a lame excuse. I need the original copy of this receipt; is that okay?

[Of course! Where in Everglow City are you? I'll bring it to you]

Despite the inconvenience caused by their car accident, Dorothy felt that the

driver had been very sincere in his apology and compensation. She didn't hold a grudge. As for deleting his contact, she didn't think they would need to keep in touch.

She didn't like keeping strangers on her phone

Everett thought for a while before replying. [I'm not in Everglow City at the moment, is it okay if I contact you when I return!]

After nearly a minute, Dorothy hadn't replied.

Fearing he might be deleted again, he quickly sent another message.

Don't delete me yet.]

Ms. Sanchez?)

Dorothy still didn't reply, so Everett casually opened her Twitter.

It was filled with promotional posts about her company's projects. She was clearly passionate about her career. He had to scroll way down to find a non-work-related picture.

He saw a child's hand.

It looked soft and chubby, so it was probably a girl's, judging by the star stickers on the nails as well.

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Everett remembered Kevin mentioning that Karen had a baby girl. He guessed that the tiny hand in the photo belonged to her.

It made sense, especially considering Karen and Dorothy were closer than blood sisters. It was only natural for Dorothy to share photos of Karen's daughter

Like a man possessed, Everett scrolled down and clicked on every picture to understand more about her life in the past four years.

He even

clicked on those related to her work, as it, by doing so, he could

It was clear that Dorothy was busy with work. Her Twitter feed was minimal,

and personal updates were even scarcer

He exited the app, only to see that Dorothy had replied to his message.

Okay, I'll cooperate as much as I can]

Everett stared at the message for a moment before he quickly dialed Kevin's number.

"The driver helped me in Everglow City, are you able to get in touch with him?"

"I can try. Let me find his number, and I'll get back to you" Kevin didn't fully understand what he meant, but he would do as asked.

A minute after hanging up, Kevin called back. "Mr. Lopez, I managed to contact the driver, but he's not in Everglow City anymore. He's out of town. If you need a driver, I can find you another one! Kevin assumed Mr. Lopez was planning another trip to Everglow City. Everett frowned. Tell him to return to Everglow City in three days and stay put" "Alright. Would you like me to book a flight for you to Everglow City in three days?"

"I'm not going"

Kevin was a bit confused.

"Give me the driver's number. I talk to him"

Kevin hesitated before agreeing. "Alright"

He had no idea why a random driver in Everglow City would be given the opportunity to speak directly to Mr. Loper. What could they possibly have to discuss?

Kevin sent the number on and Everett dialed it immediately.

The driver picked up quickly. "Hello?"

There was a hint of an Everglow City accent in his voice.

"This is Everett."

The driver was taken aback but quickly responded, "Mr. Lopez, I remember. Is there a problem?"

"I'll have someone contact you to record a voice changer system" Everett paused. Five million dollars. I'll have it sent to you immediately

Five million dollars?

That was more money than most people would ever see in their lifetime.

The driver was taken aback by his generous offer. With so many scams these days, he couldn't help but be suspicious.

"Do you need it for something specific?"

"You don't need to know"

Everett frowned "What do you have that you're afraid of being scammed?"

"Well, nothing really I just wanted to know what the purpose of the recording would be"

"Do you remember the car I asked you to hit? I want to talk to the owner myself."

The driver caught on quickly. "You don't want to use your own voice?"

'Confect

I understand! I'll cooperate fully

After hanging up, Everett instructed Kevin to get started immediately right away

Everything was set. He glanced at the phone of his desk, which still displayed the conversation with Dorothy
His lips lightened. Everett felt like he was betraying himself.
Was this what it meant to give up?
His steadfast nature, which had never wavered over the years, was crumbling in a situation that had something to do with Dorothy

Chapter 296

Everett rubbed his temples, trying to convince himself that it was merely curiosity that had him worried.

Or maybe he was just concerned about her injuries. After all, she was hurt while working on the project, and as the CEO, it was only natural for him to check up on her.

Yes, that was it

Dorothy glanced at her phone to make sure the driver hadn't messaged her back before putting it away and focusing on the meeting

She had casually deleted his contact earlier, thinking that they would probably never cross paths again after she left Everglow

City. But then he sent her another friend request.

This made Dorothy quite uncomfortable.

It was as if she were caught red handed doing something wrong

She hadn't thought much about it. She just didn't like having strangers on her WhatsApp contact list and she assumed that the driver wouldn't need to contact her again.

"Ms. Sanchez, is there anything else you'd like to add?" Austin suddenly changed the topic.

Dorothy quickly gave him a small smile, then presented the PowerPoint she had stayed up late to prepare "At our current construction site. I think there are some potential safety issues that we need to pay more attention to. I have already discussed this with the person in charge of the amusement facilities, and now we need to focus on the main building. I hope we can increase the frequency of facility inspections and strictly enforce the use of hard hats."

'Absolutely! You're absolutely right! I was at the construction site yesterday and saw two people not wearing hard hats, if something were to happen. Who would be held responsible? Who would take the blame for the negative impact on the project?"

Austin immediately agreed. "I meant to bring this up earlier but I forgot. Good thing Ms. Sanchez reminded us."

Everything he said was dripping with flattery
And everyone could hear it.

But when the boss spoke like that, the employees couldn't help but nod along.
"Understood! Ms. Sanchez is looking out for us.

We should be grateful"

Dorothy furrowed her eyebrows. She wanted to say something, but she didn't know what to say.

After the meeting she didn't leave right away, instead, she asked Austin to stay. "Austin, can I speak with you for a moment?"

"What's up? Did we miss something earlier?"

"No." Dorothy waited until everyone else had left. "For this project, you're the project manager, and I'm just here to assist. I hope you won't be too concerned about me in the future. I'm worried it might cause some unnecessary misunderstandings"

Austin laughed while waving his hand dismissively. "You're overthinking things. We're all here to work for the company. Yes, I'm in charge, but Lane handpicked you! We're supposed to help each other, so naturally, I care about your opinions."

"That's not what I meant!"

understand! I try to be more mindful in front of others. Don't worry Austin was called away before he could finish his sentence.

Dorothy could only sigh and massage her temples. She felt a headache coming on

She didn't have to think hard to know that Austin wasn't respecting her. He was respecting his boss, Lane.

But there was no chance of anything happening between her and Dorothy, dressed in her high heels, returned to her makeshift office on the construction site. The office was rather simple and was mainly used for handling minor tasks.

On normal days, it was manageable. But on windy days, the dust from the construction site would blow over and cover the glass windows, so she couldn't see the outside. That's why she usually worked from her hotel room.

It had been a while since she had been in this office.

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Dorothy was startled when she opened the door to her office. She found an extra desk that wasn't there before.

An office desk?

Was someone supposed to share this space with her? No one had mentioned

it

Just as Dorothy was about to turn around and ask Austin, she saw Lane striding towards her with a spring in his step.

“Meeting’s over?”

“Mmm–hmm Dorothy couldn’t avoid him now, so she just nodded with a smile Lane dangled a takeout box in front of her. Hey, I drove for an hour to get this for you Have you eater yet? This food is a specialty in Everglow City” I’m okay. I grab something back at the hotel once I frish up here. I’m not hungry right now.”

“You’re still on quard even when it comes to food? Lane wirked as he feigned burt on his handsome face “Are you afraid I’ve added something to it? Here, take the first bite”

Dorallye a cornered duck and had no choice but to wave her hand in embarrassment. “No, I’m really not hungry. I take it and eat it later at the hotel”

She knew if she didnt accept it, Lane would keep talking and talking.

To save time, Dorothy accepted it with a smile

That’s better “With that, Lane walked straight into Deralty’s office and sat behind the new desk. From now on be working here too. Austin mentioned that there are some contracts that need signing. It’s not convenient to take them back to the hotel, so I just sign them here! Dorothy was speechless.

Lane was sharing an office with her?!

Wait, why would someone of Lane’s standing need anctice in a subsidiary project like this?

His intentions were as clear as day

“By the way, you’re heading to Haverbrook City next week for a project Without waiting for her protest, Lane dropped another bombshell Dorothy was stunned 1 plan to leave the country after this project. I’m not taking on the next project

“Even if you’re going abroad, money still needs to be made, right? Lane raised an eyebrow and spread his hands. 1 really cant help it. I can’t find anyone in the company who I believe can satisfy me with their due diligence. You’re the only person who can do it. So, for this project, you just need to head over to Havelock Cty, do some due diligence, write a report for me, and that’s it add your name to the project”

if this were before, Dorothy would definitely agree

Having her name on another project would bring many benefits

But...

"I don't want to go to Havenbrook City"

"Do you have some bad memories there?" Lane knew she was from Havenbrook City, which was why he sent her there. But her response made him guess the reason. In that case, you can."

"Never mind, I go. I'll bring my two assistants. Dorothy suddenly changed her mind. "Tim familiar with Havenbrook City, and it's just due diligence anyway Send me the details of the project"

She felt suffocated by the recent events in Everglow Ct, Maybe a change of scenery would help. Also, the conditions Lane offered were too good to refuse. Who didn't like money?

Another reason was that she thought she should return to Havenbrook City before leaving the country.

To see the places where she had lived, worked, and studied

She had no idea when she would return next.

Lane flashed her an OK sign. His narrow and bright almond-shaped eyes were showering Dorothy with affection. "I have to meet with some elders in the family for the next few days, so I can't accompany you to Havenbrook City Be careful and call me right away if anything happens, okay?"

Chapter 298

There it was. That tone.

He talked as if he were looking out for his girlfriend

A smirk crossed Dorothy's lips as a chuckle escaped her. "Thanks for the concern, boss.

His silence was deafening.

If he could blur the lines between work and their personal lives, she could certainly remind him of their relationship status

Night fell

Dorothy came back to the hotel, took a shower, video-called her daughter, and then finally opened her laptop to work

Lane had already sent over the new project's details, and she glanced over the information. The due diligence on this project shouldn't be too challenging. but they'd need to focus on the partner company's certification

Usually, in this agro-industrial processing sector, some corners were cut when it came to product certification and dealings with the Bureau of Industry and Commerce. But unless it was something too ludicrous, it shouldn't cause major problems. Her team had to thoroughly investigate all potential risks when conducting their due

diligence to avoid any unpleasant surprises after the contract was signed

Before opening the detailed information, she picked up her phone to order a cup of coffee

Suddenly, something came to mind, and she quickly opened WhatsApp to search for a conversation

Hello, be leaving Everglow City next week. Would you have time to pick up the original receipt before I leave? Or I could leave it somewhere for you.] She'd already deleted him once, so it was the least she could do to help him with the invoice. She felt that it was her duty

By the time Dorothy had placed her coffee order, he had replied.

Where are you going?

Dorothy paused. Her fingertips hesitantly hovered over the screen before replying.

I'm going to Haverbrook City I'm not sure when I'll be back]

So, you're coming back to Everglow City, night?)

Yes, I still have work here. But it might be a while. Do you need the receipt urgently?]

No rush. I'll wait for you

were curt, as if he

As she looked at the messages, she couldn't reconcile this person with the middle-aged taxi driver who'd bumped into her. His

replies were not a man of many words, yet he responded relatively quickly

If she didn't know he was a taxi driver, she might have mistaken him for someone else. His responses were always full stops, as

if he were issuing

commands.

He texted like every extra word cost him money

Dorothy pulled a face and tapped her forehead

Why was she thinking of him while texting a driver? She must be going crazy

She didn't know if Jeffrey had said something he shouldn't have to Everett or how Everett would react

A trace of melancholy flickered in Dorothy's eyes

But she quickly hid her emotions. She opened the document and began to pore over it, noting down every important point.

Right now, she didn't have time to dwell on these things. She had to focus on her work. She had made her decision four years

ago, so these matters didn't warrant further time or thought.

She quickly booked a flight to Haverbrook City and informed her two assistants

to directly fly there instead of wasting time coming to Everglow City.

Chapter 299

to tie up all loose ends at work

Before she left, she had to tie up

She always finished what she started.

Dorothy had been hunched over her desk for hours. When she finally lifted her head, it was already two in the morning.

Her neck felt stiff from the strain, and she decided it was time for a break.

Absentmindedly, she picked up her phone and saw a message from the driver in case she lost his contact information, she left a note for him in WhatsApp

[Headed to Havenbrook City for work?]

Although Dorothy was puzzled by the question, she still replied (Yes, I'm going to Havenbrook City for a business trip]

Only after she sent her reply did she realize the late hour. It was well past midnight, and the driver, given his age, was likely fast asleep.

After stretching her stiff limbs, Dorothy returned to her computer and was surprised to see a WhatsApp message from the driver.

She checked the time. It was half past two in the morning.

Oh, safe travels |

A rueful smile appeared on her face. His message warmed her heart

The way she and the driver had met might not have been ideal, but he seemed like a good person. The unexpected kindness

from a stranger was a refreshing experience

Thank you! I update you when I'm back]

She set down her phone and took a deep breath

Given the late hour, it seemed impossible to finish her work tonight.

Tomorrow, she had a meeting and contracts to renew Plus,

Lane had mentioned that the investors would be sending over lawyers. She needed to be alert and on her toes. She didn't want

to look like she had just woken up. That wouldn't leave a good impression.

On the other end, Everett stood by the floor-to-ceiling window in his dark robe, rereading the message on his phone

Had their conversation ended just like that?

Why did it always feel like he was the one ending their exchanges?

He was about to type a message but stopped himself,

It was late. He was certain that Dorothy was probably going to sleep

Everett set down his phone and took out a bottle of wine from the cabinet. His sleep quality had been deteriorating, and he needed the slight buzz to help him fall asleep. Just as he was pouring the wine, his phone began to ring. At this hour, the call could only be from his parents.

He picked up his phone after filling his glass. Mom”

“Did I hear that you’re giving Heather a hard time at the company?”

Everett frowned. “If the Lopez Corporation starts to accept people without due process, it will set a bad precedent”

“Others are others, Heather is Heather. She has done so much for the Lopez Corporation, everyone knows that it would only be normal if she were parachuted into the legal department or even the board!”

Amanda’s tone was dripping with indignation. It was

as if she were more of a mother to Heather than to him. “I don’t think it’s about setting a precedent, is it? If it were Dorothy parachuting in, I bet you would be applauding!”

The mention of Dorothy made Everett’s heart skip a beat.

Her name held such power over him that merely hearing it made him react

“What does Dorothy have to do with this?”

“Then tell me who you are marrying in the announcement you made. You didn’t even discuss it with your parents! You just went ahead and announced your marriage like it was nothing! Did you think about the company?! I’m asking Heather to go back and take charge, so she can help your

Chapter 300

Everett massaged his temples as his eyes revealed a deep sense of emotion.

The announcement of my engagement hasn’t affected the company”

Amanda’s voice rose in pitch. “Hasn’t affected? Shareholders have been calling to inquire about the future Mrs. CED. Do you

think they’re just curious?” For a corporation as large as Lopez Corp., any addition had to be scrutinized if there was any scandal

or any hint of dirt that could be dug up, it could impact the stock market.

She said it hasn’t had an impact.”

Then tell me who she is and let me investigate. I won’t rest easy otherwise

I’m the acting CEO of the company. If I say it’s fine then it’s fine. If you and

Dad are worried, you can strip me of my title.”

Amanda was seething. “You.”

“So, I’m a CEO who can’t even decide on competing personnel? Maybe I shouldn’t be in this position”

“You would sacrifice your CEO position for a woman?” Amanda paused and called. I bet it's Corally. No one else could make you lose your sense like

Everett didn't rebuke her. Instead, his lips curled into a mocking smile.

“So, you knew.”

She knew that Dorothy could make him lose his senses.

Amanda felt silent

“She's remarried and living happily. Don't disturb her.” Everett's voice was calm, but then there was an absolute threat in his tone. I

don't want to argue with you”

It was best not to cross his line.

“You're really losing & for Dorothy?”

I've lived my life by the book in both school and work, I never strayed from the path save for Dorothy

She was his only exception

Dorothy slept soundly that night, only to be woken by her alarm clock in the early morning.

After lounging in bed for a while, she got up to freshen up.

Just as she was about to leave her phone rang.

It was Lane.

I'm downstairs at the entrance of the Dreamscape Hotel. I give you a lift to work.”

“There's no need. I can manage by myself. Her car was food so she could die herself to work

She had been planning to keep her distance from Lane. There was no way she was getting into his car

“Look at you overthinking again. I wanted to discuss a few things about your trip to Havenbrook City. Our partners there can be a bit difficult. Our previous dealings weren't very pleasant. I thought I should prepare you, since you're a lady and all.”

“Let's discuss it at the office. There's no rush

I'm already downstairs at your hotel. Are you going to reject me like this? That would really hurt my feelings”

This was Lane's usual tactic. He'd always justify his actions with work, and if that didn't work, he'd quit her into it.

After all, Dorothy was working under him. She had to respect her superior's face

Tim coming down.

Even though Dorothy was coming downstairs, she had no intention of getting into his car.

She knew better than to give people something to gossip about. Employees were already spreading rumors about them when they barely had any personal interactions, so imagine what they would say if they saw her and Lane together. She didn't want to waste her precious time explaining things.

Dorothy descended the stairs with her bag, spotting Lane's car from a distance. He was leaning against his car, dressed in white casual attire. A pair of sunglasses adorned his handsome face, attracting quite a few onlookers. There was no doubt that Lane was strikingly handsome.