

## **The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 301 - Read The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 301**

### **Chapter 301**

His captivating hazel eyes would be enough to charm any woman.

Add to that his impressive lineage and work ethic, and he would have no trouble finding a girl if he weren't such a playboy.

Dorothy dismissed him as a man with too much time on his hands who was just looking to amuse himself.

For men, the more you ignore them, the more they try to get your attention.

"Over here" Lane spotted her and waved as he removed his sunglasses

After taking a deep breath, Dorothy navigated the distance in her heels. Why so early? I figured I wouldn't see you until noon"

"Isn't it customary to make an effort when pursuing someone? I was afraid you leave for work without me."

With that, he handed her a breakfast bagel that he bought from a nearby deli. His actions made it seem as if he were genuinely interested in her.

Dorothy didn't take it and kept a healthy distance between them. "You're making me uncomfortable, Lane. I liked how things were between us now. I don't want to change it"

"But you said you'd give me a chance to prove myself isn't this my chance?"

"I don't usually eat breakfast. I prefer to wait until lunch."

She preferred the breakfast made by a certain someone who would cook for her in the mornings.

"Oh, well, now I know." Lane's eyes flashed with disappointment, but he kept smiling. Let's not waste it. I'll give it to Austin. Let's get going"

Dorothy pointed to her car parked nearby. I'll drive myself. See you at the office

When

She didn't give Lane a chance to negotiate. Instead, she returned to her car and drove off

Caught off guard, Lane could only sigh.

When did closing a deal become so difficult?"

In the past, he was the one being pursued, and he couldn't care less. Now, the tables had turned.

It was about time he got a taste of his own medicine

Upon arriving at the office, Dorothy gathered her files and headed to meet Austin

She had already explained everything in detail at the last meeting, now she just had to supervise. But this was also important.

"Send more people to the construction site, preferably experienced ones.

They have the skills and experience Dorothy was worried about the project getting tainted by any accidents

Especially on such large construction sites, one or two casualties were, sadly, the norm. But Dorothy wanted to minimize any risks

as much as possible. Austin sighed and threw his hands up in resignation,

"You're not often on site, so you don't know.

Sometimes it's not the workers who want to risk their lives, but there's a timeline to respect. It's unrealistic to expect everything to be perfect."

"Is there anything more important than a human life?"

"All we can do is remind the workers to be careful and wear their hard hats.

The rest is up to them. Ms. Sanchez, even if there is

an accident, it's just a matter of compensation. It won't affect the project"

Dorothy didn't like this viewpoint

Yes, money was important, but human life was irreplaceable

"No I think we can prevent this if we take precautions in advance. Let's extend the deadline"

Austin was about to respond when Lane suddenly appeared and interjected.

"Extending the deadline means pushing everything

back. This project isn't just ours. There are investors and local government support. It's not that simple."

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Dorothyed her gaze to him as her brow furrowed slightly

She wasn't ignorant of the logic he was trying to convey, but the thought of deaths at the construction site was something she couldn't bear

And did you know that several of the workers are willing to die on site?"

Dorothy was taken aback. She found such a statement absurd

Lane shrugged with a small smile. He gestured for Austin to leave, indicating that he wanted a word with Dorothy. "If they die on

the job, the company pays out a hefty sum. It's an amount they may never earn in a lifetime of hard labor, Our construction site's

compensation rate is much higher than that of other companies. I've even insured the project, so don't feel over it"

Isn't that just your personal perspective?"

It was unimaginable that anyone would want to die.

"There are many people in the world who commit suicide. Are they all a result of my perspective?"

Dorothy struggled to find a response

Lane chuckled. "I know you're kind hearted and want every worker to come to work safely happily take their pay and return

home. But everyone's situation is different. I've done my best for them,

Dorothy "I'm a businessman"

A businessman's priority is profit.

"I understand"

"So then "

"But I don't agree." Dorothy finished speaking and turned to leave.

Lane quickly stopped her, eager to explain, "See, there have been no casualties on the site, right? I promise to assign more supervisors to the site and replace their safety helmets with new ones."

"Lane, I hope you're making these decisions out of genuine concern for your workers, not to impress me

"I swear, I don't want any negative publicity either" Lane raised his hand, as if taking an oath.

Dorothy sighed deeply and settled for this compromise

After returning to her office, she sat down and switched on her computer.

A glance at her phone revealed an unread message on WhatsApp.

Morning

was the driver.

If he had added "E" at the end, she almost would've thought it was Everett messaging her.

Morning, what's up?]

(Sorry about the car accident. I've arranged for some gifts to be sent to you. I hope you'll accept them

Dorothy raised an eyebrow

The driver seemed quite well-off, How else could he arrange for others to buy gifts on his behalf?

That's not necessary. The accident wasn't a big deal, and the car's been fully repaired. You don't need to feel bad]

No sooner had she replied to his message than an unknown number called her

After picking up, it turned out to be from a local delivery service.

Ms. Sanchez, right? Someone's sent some items for you. Where should I deliver them?"

With no other choice, Dorothy relayed her location to the delivery person.

After hanging up, she messaged the driver. [You're too kind Now I'm the one feeling awkward |

(It's my apology Thope you'll accept it]

Meanwhile, in the office of the president of Lopez Corporation.

Everett looked at the day's conversations on his phone as a subtle underplayed on his lips.

Heid asked Kevin for advice on how to keep a conversation going, and Kevin suggested finding common interests, discussing shared topics, or simply sending gifts. Out of politeness, the recipient would generally respond with more conversation

Everett had chosen the simplest and most disici approach

### Chapter 303

After all, he was just a "driver" What could he possibly have in common with Dorothy? the tiled in force a conversation, given

Dorothy's personality, he'd probably be deleted in no time.

She didn't take kindly le sudden intrusion.

Everett knew this all too wel.

He was al too aware of how quickly Dorothy could cut someone off.

"Knock, knock"

The sudden sound of kracking echoed from outside his office

Everett's gaze finally shifted from his phone 'Come in"

The door creaked open to rewai Kevin

"Mr. Lopez, I am heading to Everglow City"

Should he also book a flight for Everett? Of course. Kevin didi dare ask that outright

"Hmm." Everett simply hummed inresponse, and then his attention returned to the documents on his desk

Upon seeing his reaction, Kevin assumed that Everett was eat planning to accompany lum to Everglow City so he set down the project proposal he was holding and turned to leave.

Just as he was about to reach the door. Everett called out to him

'Book me a fight for next Monday"

To Everglow Cr?

Everen locked up at him and furrowed his brows. To Haverbrook Cry"

"Huh?"

Kevin was finding increasingly difficult to understand Mr. Lopez.

After exiting the office he took the elevator up to the fifteenth foor, where he ran into Heather Heather was dressed in a sleek dress, and her high heels added to her glamorous burs

Upon seeing Kevin, she offered him a small smile.  
"Hello."

"Hmm." Heather didn't seem interested in making conversation and merely stood in front of him.

Just as Kevin was about to breathe a sigh of relief, the elevator emptied until only the two of them were left.

He didn't particularly want to be alone with Heather in a confined space, mainly because he feared she would ask him about Mr.

Lopez. So, Kevin stepped forward, intending to get off at the next floor and take the stairs.

Before his hand could reach the elevator button, Heather's voice cut through the silence.

"Are you nervous, Kevin?"

"Nervous? Why would I be nervous?"

"You're afraid I ask who Everett's bride is, right? Heather turned her face towards him as her red lips curled into a smirk. Don't worry, that's not what I want to know!"

Kevin shrugged, indicating he did not understand her meaning.

"I want to know if Everett has been in touch with Dorothy again." Heather's eyes bore into Kevin's face. She couldn't miss any small change in his expression.

"I wouldn't know anything about Mr. Lopez's personal affairs." Kevin, a seasoned worker, wasn't about to get caught in her trap.

A simple "I don't know" could dismiss any question.

If Mr. Lopez wanted to tell Heather, she wouldn't need to ask him.

If Mr. Lopez didn't want to tell Heather, and he did, would there be a place for him at the Lopez Corporation anymore?

"You've been with Everett the longest, and you're his most trusted assistant. So, you should know how deeply Dorothy hurt him."

"He can marry someone else. I won't stop him, but not Dorothy."

Heather's repeated insistence that she was acting in Everett's best interest could easily fool the uninformed.

But not Kevin.

He was a witness to Heather's scheme against Dorothy.

"Mr. Lopez has been very busy with work lately. He probably doesn't have time to think about these things. Heather, you came to the Lopez Corporation because we have too many projects and needed your help, right?"

Seeing that she was getting anywhere, Heather grew frustrated. "Kevin, I know you're on Dorothy's side."

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Kevin chuckled. His demeanor was cool and collected. "Heather I work for Mr. Lopez."

As for whether he was on Dorothy's side, that depended on Mr. Leper, if Doenthy was Mr. Lopez's confidante, then by default, he was also on Dorothy's team.

But as for Heather, she sure as hell wasn't going to be part of Mr Lopez's chicle

Heather's brows frowned Her return had been a whirlwind of uncomfortable experiences, and lacing Kevin was the icing on the cake.

"You're so certain that Everett will never marry me?" She challenged him

"Amanda already sees me as her daughter-in-law,

Kevin. You should start thinking about your future Don't be shortsighted, you might regret

Kevin pretended to carefully consider her suggestion. He even nodded in agreement. "Thank you for the advice, Heather"

Heather didn't know how to reply to that

"Do you need anything else? I have to rush back to the office to deliver documents to Mr Lopez"

Once work was on the table. Heather couldn't keep him any longer. After all, causing a delay in his professional duties would be a major issue

Heather's lips twitched. Fine, Kevin, you've got guts.

"Thank you for the compliment."

The elevator stopped, the doors slid open, and Kevin early stepped out without even a backward glance

For now, the company was still Mr. Lopez's, not Heather's;

If the day ever came that Heather took over, he could always resign and move on

He had years of experience as a CFO's assistant, and he'd worked at the Lopez Corporation. Many companies would be eager to pay top dollar for his expertise. He wouldn't be jobless.

There was no chance of him ever working with Heather.

In Everglow City

Dorothy had just about wrapped up her work before heading to Haverbrook City

She wasn't sure how long it would take to complete the project there, so she'd been pulling all-nighters making thorough

preparations and plans the entire time Especially since Lane had warned her about how cunning the other party could be ready to exploit any oversight that could potentially jeopardize the company

The night before her inp, she video called Abigail, then transferred some money to Karen

Karen was already doing her a huge favor by looking after her child; the least she could do was cover the expenses.

"Do we really need to keep such a clear distinction between us? Karen questioned

"You know I've always been like this. Don't make it difficult for me

With a sigh, Karen accepted the money "Just be careful in Havenbrook City: don't run into trouble again. Remember, always have a backup plan before charging ahead. Your job is important, but so is your life and health

Dorothy laughed at her concern. She knew Karen was being overly cautious. She was afraid of Dorothy being another mishap that could land her in the hospital

"Read The person who hurt me has paid the price."

"When my brother heard about it, he almost flew back from overseas to help you"

"No" Dorothy quickly interjected. "Don't tell him about my problems. He has enough to deal with."

Karen huffed. "You're always worried about causing trouble. Sometimes I wonder if you actually consider us family. Isn't family supposed to help each other?"

"Of course, you guys are my family now" She didn't want to be an orphan

"That's good to hear. Now you should get some rest. Your fight's tomorrow at noon, right?"

"Yup, at 12 pm, goodnight. You guys should go to sleep loo!

## Chapter 305

After ending the video call, Dorothy lay on her bed and stared at the ceiling She was suddenly devoid of a mountain of work, so it felt surprisingly strange to have the luxury of lying down at this hour

She took out her phone with the intention of checking the latest on Wall Street, only to find unread messages

Most likely, they were messages that had come in while she was video chatting with Abigail She hadn't checked her phone after they hung up.

Hey, are you still up

Recalling the abundant gifts he had sent her way, which were all sorts of food, drinks, and dietary supplements, Dorothy assumed that his late message indicated that he wanted to ask for a favor. She felt obliged to respond.

She had the sense that he was a decent man. He seemed straightforward and not one for scheming. His manner of speaking was always respectful, and he never crossed any lines [Still up, what's up?]

I heard you're heading to Havenbrook City. I was wondering how well you know the place, as I'm planning to visit. I'd like to know what's unique about it

Havenbrook City

That was a

she knew like the back of her hand

I'm actually from Haverbrook City Would it be okay if we switched to a voice call? I can give you a rundown]

She didn't have any ulterior motives After a full day at work, she didn't feel like typing on her phone:

After sending the message Dorothy began to wonder if she was being a bit presumptuous was late at night, after all, and although there was a significant age gap between them, they were still of the opposite sex. What if his wife was around and got the wrong idea?

Dorothy started to type it it's inconvenient, never mind. |

But before she could finish, an incoming voice call notification appeared.

She hesitated for a moment before accepting the call

Soon enough, his voice came through "Hello" \_

Truth be told, Dorothy could only vaguely recognize his voice. The last time they had met, she was in a rush to get to the night market, so she hadn't paid much attention to the driver's voice. Their communication since then had been in texting, so hearing his somewhat mature voice out of the blue felt a bit

"Hello, Mr. Driver Dorothy greeted him cheerfully. Are you taking your family to Haverbrook, City for a vacation?

"Just me."

Traveling alone?

Dorothy pulled a face. She was puzzled.

Whenever she was alone, all she wanted to do was space out, sleep, or just lie down



Perhaps sensing her surprise due to her momentary silence, he spoke again. "A friend of mine is in Haverbrook City. He's interested in developing a ride hailing app, so I'm going over to check it out."

"Oh?" Now this piqued Dorothy's interest. Perhaps it was just her professional side coming out. "Doesn't Haverbrook City have a ride-hailing app?"

"They have the Swiftsude app, but it's not comprehensive, and the coverage isn't wide. Haverbrook City isn't on their priority list for business expansion, so they don't promote there heavily."

"True. Haverbrook City has a lot of winding mountain roads, and it's not easy to navigate in the city center. To get more people to use the app, you need more drivers willing to join and then step up the promotion." Dorothy temporarily forgot that he was asking for travel advice and seriously considered the feasibility of the project. If she weren't about to move abroad, she would definitely w

"You seem to have a good understanding of app development"

Dorothy chuckled. "Not really. They were just my thoughts"

He asked, "Are you interested?"

to get involved.

"I am, but I'm moving abroad soon and won't be living here anymore, so I'm afraid I can't participate in this project."

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The moment Dorothy spoke, she clearly heard the sound of a glass falling on the other side of the line.

It must have shattered. The sound was sharp and crisp.

"You're going abroad? The driver sounded genuinely surprised."

"Yes, I want to see the world. I want to get out and explore. She had indeed been too consumed with work over the years. She was solely focused on making money and forgot to take a moment to appreciate life."

She even neglected her cherished children. This thought alone made Dorothy feel guilty.

So, after resigning, she decided to spend some quality time abroad with her children to give them a taste of motherly love.

She didn't want her kids to lack the same things she longed for in her childhood.

"Oh, that's great!"

"Then let me recommend some great places to eat in Haverbrook City. You can check them out during your visit."

'Sure

Dorothy chatted away, sharing everything she knew

The driver listened attentively without interrupting. There was a moment when Dorothy thought he might have fallen asleep.

Finally, when she couldn't keep her eyes open any longer, she said. "That's about it. If you forget anything, you can ask me on

WhatsApp" "Okay, get some sleep. Goodnight"

"Goodnight."

After ending the call, Dorothy realized that she had inadvertently revealed her tiredness.

Could it be that he was suggesting she should sleep?

The tone of his voice did not sound like that of a newly acquainted driver, but rather an old friend"

However, chatting with him was quite fun for Dorothy

Having someone to listen to her felt great. It was a stress reliever, and she was also able to help him. She hit two birds with one stone.

After placing her phone down, Dorothy brushed her teeth and went to bed

She had a dreamless night and was woken up by a call from Lane the following day.

"Good morning! You're still asleep?"

"I'm awake. What's up?" Dorothy sat up quickly and reached for her glasses on the nightstand.

She couldn't wear contacts while sleeping, and since she didn't have to go to work the next day, she dug out her glasses.

"Judging by your groggy voice, I can tell you just woke up. I'm sorry for calling this early, but I couldn't contain my excitement." He

had waited until almost eight o'clock to call her

"What happened? Is there a problem at the construction site?"

"No! Get dressed and come downstairs. I'm outside the Creamscape Hotel. You'll know once you come down

After stretching her back, Dorothy mumbled a response and hung up to freshen up and change.

Initially, she thought Lane was seeking her out because she hadn't given clear instructions about something. But when she came

downstairs, she saw his tall figure standing in front of her car, holding a white polo.

It looked quite exquisite

Dorothy approached. She was curious about what he was up to "Lane, what's going on?"

As soon as Lane saw her, he quickly handed her the pot and spoke with a voice filled with pride. "Here, this is the breakfast I made for you after learning how to cook all right!"

Huh?

He showed Dorothy the cuts and blisters on his hand Tealy, I'm not kidding! I made it myself. You said you couldn't stand the taste of takeout, so I decided to cook for you"

Dorothy was taken aback. She hadn't expected this.

"Jeffrey told me that Everett used to make breakfast for you early in the morning" Lane smiled as his eyes twinkled. If Everett can do it, so can

### Chapter 307

Lane actually cooked breakfast himself, which was a surprise for Dorothy.

But she wouldn't exactly say she was touched.

"You don't have to compare yourself to Everett"

No one could compete with Everett in her heart.

"Of course, I can't compare with him in terms of family background and social status, I am far behind. But the only difference between me and him is

that my parents won't stop me from marrying anyone" Lane shrugged and looked at her. "For them, they'd be happy as long as I bring home a bride, even

room would be

Dorothy didn't believe this.

Their wealthy families were very exclusive.

Cinderella stories only existed in fairy tales. In reality, who didn't want their children to have an equal match?

Lane I'm definitely not your best choice. Don't waste your time on me"

Lane suddenly became assertive, and his gaze fell on the breakfast in her hand

"I know whether I'm wasting my time or not I understand your situation. You just need to see what I can do for you"

Dorothy fell silent.

"Be careful on your trip. If someone bullies you, call me I won't let anyone of them in peace." Lane smiled and then got in his car

and drove away Dorothy was stunned for a moment as she looked down at the breakfast in her hand, which was still warm She couldn't help but sigh lightly.

Lane had no chance of winning against Everett But the problem wasn't that

she was comparing him with Everett it was that she didn't want to accept anyone at all.

Around ten o'clock Dorothy packed up her belongings and drove to the airport. She had slept well last night, so she was in good spirits today. Once on the plane, she could even catch up on some reading. At the airport, Dorothy went to get her boarding pass, only to find that she was in first class.

She looked down at her phone and discovered that Lane had sent her a message (Don't work too hard. First class is on the company

He even added a smiley face.

Dorothy was at a loss

If Lane was pursuing a young girl who just started working and didn't understand anything she would have been deeply in love with him by now, right?

After all, he was quite wealthy, handsome, considerate, and had a good eye for things. His status, looks, and temperament were beyond reproach. Although, compared to Everett, he was a bit lacking.

Dorothy chuckled and replied. (Okay I'm grateful for the company's consideration]

[You should thank me instead | Lane sent her a pouting face. [Did you enjoy your breakfast? It's the first time I've cooked in my

life. Before I gave it to you I tasted it. It's edible. I don't think it's poisonous. It was good, but don't do it again. Dorothy didn't want to take Lane's sincerity for granted, it wouldn't be nice to throw away the meal he had painstakingly made so she really ate it.

As for the taste, it was far from Everett's cooking.

[You're clearly telling me it's not good. No problem; during your trip. I'll work on my cooking skills. I'll definitely impress you

Dorothy was helpless, but she also found it a bit funny.

Lane, being a businessman, must be complex-minded, otherwise, how could he do business and oversee such a large company? But his calculations didn't make people feel uncomfortable

if he were a friend, it would be great. She learned a lot from him about how to deal with people. But when it came to taking things a step further, she really didn't want to.

It wasn't that Lane was not a good man; she was just afraid

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Over the years, she'd thought about providing her son and daughter with a

fledged family.

However, Evercit had stolen her heart so completely that no other man could make her feel the same way. As time passed, she completely gave up on

The idea.

Perhaps if she didn't have two children she might have given Lane, who was trying so hard to win her over a chance. But with children in the picture, ch couldn't.

Whether Lane could be a good stepfather or not didn't matter. Dorothy didnt want him to replace Everett in their lives.

Everett was innocent in their divorce. He hadn't done anything wrong.

Dorothy knew that.

This time, Doicchy had chosen to stay near Tranquil Read during her business trip to Haverbrook Ce

The only place that made her nostalgic was the school

There she had the chance to learn and see a world beyond her job. The world where people her age should be

There she met Evereit.

After checking into her hotel, Dorothy went straight to the fast-food joint where she used to work

Many years had passed, and it looked like they had renovated the place. The storefront looked new, and the sign was new too.

After walking in, Dorothy was

You're Derally night?"

mediately recognized by the owner.

"Yes, that's me Donethy pulled out a chair and took a seat as the looked around the relyefur shed place. "When did you guys renovate?"

it was during school hours so the place wasnt crowded. The owner pulled up a chair and sat next to her.

We renovated over a year ago. The place was getting old, and the money we were making wasn't enough to cover the costs. We

thought about selling the place, but a young man contacted us. He wanted in to keep it open and even offered to pay for the renovations."

Really? We figured he must be a student from the school. He must have some sentimental attachment to this place."

The owner thought for a moment. Is the same young man mentioned to you last time you were here. He was the one who

suggested we stay open ten at night I thought he was doing it for you?

Because after ten, Dorothy was the only one who would somet  
it's probably just a coincidence"

"He's a handsome one, he's tall too. The owner succently slapped her thigh.  
Tremember! The last time he was here, I snapped a  
picture of him. Let me show you. See if you recognize him."

As she got up to get her phone, Dorothy didn't think much of it. She didn't  
realize what was going on

Then she saw the picture on the owner's phone.  
was Everett

Even though the picture was a bit blurry, it seemed like it was taken secretly  
this face wasn't completely in the frame, but Dorothy  
could recognize him with just a glance  
It was him.

"He asked you to stay open late when he was in middle school?"

"Yes! Otherwise, we wouldn't have stayed open till ton. We would have gone  
bankrupt. You were the only one who came in for a  
med. It wasnt even enough to cover the electricity bilE"

Dorothy was speechless.

Dorothy realized her eyes were welling up with tears She couldnt control i

He had done so much for her, but he never mentioned H.

"Oh dear, why are you crying? The owner quickly landed her a tissue. "Did the  
handsome guy steal your heart? Are you two  
together?"

We we dicht..we're not

## Chapter 309

Dorothy was all choked un Her tears fell uncontrollably, one after another.  
She didn't expect. She really didn't expect

It turned out that someone had been silently protecting her since her junior  
high years. In those days, she always thought she  
was unloved.

"Huh? You didn't end up together? the owner looked purred. "But he was here  
a year ago. He helped us stay in business, left a  
phone number, and said to call him if we ever needed financial support  
She had assumed that they were already a couple.

"Ma'am, can have this photo?"

"Of course! You better hurry back to the young man. He loves you so much,  
so don't let him down. There aren't many men out  
there who are as thoughtful and caring as he is. Dant let him slip away"  
Dorothy raised her head. Her lips were quivering before she managed to say,

Malam, if he comes back, could you not tell him I was here?"

"Why?"

"There are some reasons we can't be together I want him to forget about me and move on"

The owner frowned. She was utterly puzzled. "What reasons could possibly keep you two apart? As long as there's mutual affection, there's nothing you can't overcome. Look at me and my husband, we argue every day, complain about the mundane things in life, and even threaten each other with divorce, but we're still together after all these years."

Dorothy lowered her gaze and shook her head.

"Our issues can't be resolved. And he's already married."

She wished there were just petty quarrels. She'd be thrilled if they were just trivial matters of life

"What a shame: You two seemed perfect for each other, sighed the owner as she got up to serve Dorothy her meal.

This was probably the most emotionally complicated meal Dorothy had ever had

She didn't know if the bowl contained soup of her tears, either way, her face never dried of tear stains.

While looking at Everett's side profile on her phone, Dorothy touched the screen over and over again.

He had lost weight.

He must not have been eating well.

The spark in his eyes had dimmed. Was it all because of her?

When she got up to pay after finishing her meal, the owner and her staff.

"There's no need for that! Consider it on us. It's only because of you that this young man was willing to help us. In a way, you're our benefactor, Come back to see us when you can."

"Ma'am, take this money come back often"

Realizing that the owner didn't seem like she would give up, Dorothy accepted.

"Remember to come back"

Dorothy had already stepped out when she turned back hesitantly. "Ma'am, please don't tell him."

As she walked away, she could still hear the owner's sigh.

She was probably the only person genuinely wishing for Dorothy and Everett to be together

After leaving the diner Dorothy didn't want to go back to the hotel, so she wandered down the street.

She was familiar with the roads of Havenbrook City. She had walked this small path countless times when she was in school.

Dorothy realized that, back then, Everett must have been observing her. He must have secretly watched her from the shadows.

But at that time, she was solely focused on earning money and studying. She never thought about anything else.

The thought of Everett, an excellent student with outstanding character, having a crush on her since junior high and persisting for so many years was both absurd and touching.

### Chapter 310

He was truly a man who knew how to hold on to love

But the more a prison held onto it, the harder it was to let go.

Thankfully, he had moved on. He was married now, no matter it was arranged or not, he had a family now.

Dorothy spotted a bench ahead. Feeling weary, she ambled over and sat down.

She pulled out her phone and checked her messages. There was a message from Lane and another from the diver she had met

back in Everglow City. You made it to Havenbrook City yet?]

Yeah, I'm here. Did you make it to Havenbrook City too? I brought the receipt with me. If you're available, we can meet in

Havenbrook City, and hand it over.]

It took a while for him to reply.

I didn't make it to Havenbrook City.]

Dorothy wanted to text him back but her eyes were bothering her from all the crying that she did earlier, a

G, and her contacts felt uncomfortable. She took

them out and her vision blurred, so she decided to send a nice note instead.

"Let me know when you're available to pick it up. Or I can mail it to you."

He responded quickly this time.

[Have you been crying?

Dorothy paused, realizing her voice must have given away

"Yeah, I'm just dealing with some heartache.

Did someone upset you?]

"No. I just got a little sentimental. Thanks for your concern."

Dorothy sent the message and waited for a bit, but there was no response.

She pocketed her phone and continued walking.

Meanwhile, in the offices of the Lopez Corporation

Everett rose from his desk and strode towards the exit

Startled, his assistant looked up. Mr. Lopez, is it time for the meeting already?



it doesn't start for another hour!

Then schedule it. I'm heading to Havenbrook City for a few days."

The assistant quickly checked his schedule. Mr. Lopez, Kevin mentioned that your flight to Hawbuck City is tonight."

Kevin had booked Everett on a late flight due to several Monday morning meetings and project reports.

"Change it to the earliest flight. I need to leave now"

"Yes, Mr. Lopez.

Dorothy didn't respond to Lane until she got back to her hotel

Just as she was typing out a response, his call came through.

"Why didn't you tell me you'd landed? I've been worried about you. I almost booked a flight to come find you."

he had some things to take care of when I landed, then I went to grab something to eat." Dorothy glanced at the time. The assistant

from the company should be arriving soon. We'll meet and start working on the due diligence tomorrow."

"I didn't call to check on your work" Lane then realized something. "Wait, you've been crying?"

Dorothy frowned slightly. "No. I think I might be coming down with a cold?

She didn't want to explain her tears to Lane or to have him press the issue

'Go see a doctor. Work can wait. A few days' delay won't break the project!

Bose didn't you say that is not just our company's project? A lot of investors involved too? We can't delay"

Lane bit his tongue. What else could he say?" just wanted to check on you"

Tim not a child anymore. I'm fine. Thank you, boss."

There was a pause on Lane's end beforehand, 'Once I clear my schedule, I'll see how soon I can fly over if possible, I'll join you

in Havenbrook City"

Dorothy immediately asked, "What are you coming for?"

"Work! Just don't overthink it."

## **The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 311 - Read The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 311**

### **Chapter 311**

There was no way that Dorothy was buying that

"Don't be so guarded around me, will you? I'm not a venomous creature. What harm could I possibly do""Lane sounded very hurt.

He was genuinely trying to pursue a romantic relationship with this lady.

"I know you won't hurt me."

But he sure could make things difficult for her.

"Didn't we make a deal? I chase, and you just give me a chance. That means I should at least be able to show myself off a bit right?" Lane was also feeling a bit frustrated with her attitude.

Even if he was not the best, he didn't think he was appalling enough to be despised by a lady to this extent

"just don't want to hold you back"

"No worries, you won't."

Lane hung up immediately after saying that. He was afraid she might say something else to infuriate him.

Dorothy stared at her phone screen and let out a sigh.

By dusk, Dorothy's two assistants had arrived in Havenbrook City.

Being a leader herself, she didn't dive straight into business discussions with her assistants but instead took them to a local diner.

"This is so delicious! I've been to Havenbrook City before but never knew they had such amazing food!" Her assistant, Natalia,

praised the food enthusiastically after taking a bite.

"If it's good, eat up!" Dorothy chuckled and pushed the dish closer to her.

Her other assistant, Emmett, appeared to be more reserved. As the only male at the table and being new to Dorothy, he didn't dare speak or act too much.

"Miss Sanchez, I've organized the documents you

su gave me. Would you like to

"Let's eat first. I find you guys back at the hotel. Traveling for work is hard so let's fill up our bellies first!" Dorothy smiled at Emmett.

A friendly gesture

might put him at ease.

Emmett nodded and finally picked up his fork.

Dorothy's assistants were both highly educated, but they were fairly new to the workforce.

Sometimes when she looked at them, she saw herself when she first started at the Prosperity Consortium.

"Miss Sanchez, are you a local of Havenbrook City?"

"Yes, I grew up here," Dorothy admitted readily. She had grown to accept this place now.

Because no matter what kind of awful memories lingered here, it was still her hometown.

"So how did you end up at East Star Enterprises? Most people here usually go to Eldora City to make a living. Didn't you

consider applying to the Lopez Corporation Natalia, who was naive and quiet, didn't realize that Dorothy froze for a moment when she mentioned the Lopez Corporation  
I never had the opportunity"

"With your work capability not going to the Lopez Corporation is their loss! You have no idea but while you were away on business in Everglow City several headhunters were asking for your contact info. Some even called me."

Dorothy chuckled. "That's their job. It's not because I'm exceptional" If you were not exceptional, why would they headhunt you? Why aren't they headhunting me?! As soon as Natalia said this, Emmett discreetly pulled at her sleeve  
Dorothy noticed their little interaction and waved her hand. It's okay. Don't be nervous, Emmett. It's your first time traveling with me, so it's normal to not feel accustomed You don't have to be so formal in the future"

"Exactly! Miss Sanchez is the best boss in the world Natalia gave her a thumbs up while still munching her food.

"Let's eat. We'll talk about work later when we get back. Don't shortchange yourself on this business trip. The company will cover all expenses Dorothy continued trying to help Emmett relax.

## Chapter 312

In any case, Lane had already set the stage, so Dorothy's words were as good as law.

"Really? Yay" Natalia threw her hands in the air in a victory sign, then tucked into her food with renewed vigor

Dorothy glanced at Emmett, who seemed a bit less guarded than before, yet his cautious demeanor was evident.

In the corporate world, people like Emmett were more likely to make great strides than the carefree Natalia

But there was nothing wrong with being like Natalia Living life easy and free of worries was noble in itself.

After they finished their meal, Dorothy showed them around the neighborhood before heading back to the hotel.

She initially thought of taking a breather before resuming work, but Emmett's paperwork had already arrived, making her feel like a less than enthusiastic lender

With no other choice, she picked up her laptop and headed to the small conference room in the hotel that she had previously

booked.

It was more convenient for the two to work there rather than hold meetings in any one of their rooms.

As she passed the hotel lobby, she was about to call Natalia when a familiar figure caught

But as soon as she blinked, the figure disappeared.

She wasn't even sure if it was real or not.

Because the figure looked so much like Everett.

But he shouldn't be in Haverbrook City. Such coincidences didn't happen in the real world.

"Ms. Sanchez" Emmett was the first to arrive. He headed straight towards Dorothy as soon as he spotted her

Dorothy gave him a small nod. "Where's Natalia? Did you get in touch with her?"

"She overdid it with the spicy food, and now her stomach's upset. I told her to come down as soon as possible.

Is it serious? Should we take her to the hospital?"

"We'll ask her when she gets here. I'm not sure." Emmett said, trying hard to keep his eyes from straying towards Dorothy's face

She was truly beautiful

The kind of beauty that would attract anyone, regardless of their gender.

Dorothy wasn't overtly glamorous, but there was a pure, wholesome quality about her that was undeniably attractive

Even though she was significantly older and his boss, he couldn't help but be drawn to her.

In the middle of their conversation, Natalia appeared. She was clutching her stomach and looking quite uncomfortable.

Dorothy hurried over to her. "Are you okay?"

"Yeah I think I overdid it with the spicy food. I might have indigestion"

"We need to get you to the hospital" Dorothy turned to Emmett "Let's call off work for today. You go rest while I take her to the hospital"

Emmett paused for a moment, then swept Natalia up in his arms.

"It won't be convenient for you two. I'll come with you"

"Alright" Dorothy nodded. She appreciated his concern

After they left, a figure emerged from behind a pillar in the hotel lobby, looking in the direction that they had left

Everett pursed his lips. He felt a sudden urge to follow them, but he held himself back.

He needed to remember his place. He couldn't overstep.

Showing up at her hotel just because he heard Dorothy's distressed voice was already crossing the line. He couldn't follow her anymore.

Everett took out his room key, intending to return to his room  
Suddenly!

He drew a sharp breath, as if he were making an important decision. Then, with a swill stride, he followed in the direction that Dorothy and the others had gone.

### Chapter 313

Everett decided that he would just be an observer. He would stay o  
clea  
of any

Involvement

At the hospital, the outpatient department was already closed for the day. Emmett carried Natalia straight into the emergency room to find a doctor.

Dorothy trailed behind, handling the registration and payment

Thank goodness he was here. Dorothy couldn't manage all of this on her own. After the doctor examined Natalia it was confemed that she was suffering from acute gastroententis. Thankfully it wasn't severe, but she still needed hydration therapy

After all the commotion, it was close to midnight when Natalia finally got her IV drip started

As she dozed off on the hospital bed. Emmett sat by her side, closely watching the IV drip.

"Ms. Sanchez, why don't you head back? I've got everything under control here. Once she's done with the drip, we'll head back."

"No worries. It's not convenient for you to be here, either. After all, she's a girl. If she needs to use the restroom you can't accompany her." Dorothy was a bit tired but insisted on staying until her assistant was finished with her

The doctor suggested Natalia be monnored overnight, and if all went well, she could leave the next day

Tight " Emmett dared not look at Dorothy too much. He forced himself to look away.

He had only recently joined East Star Enterprises, so he had only seen Dorothy a few times in meeting rooms or similar settings.

After seeing her up close now, it felt like something inside his chest was

running wild. It was threatening to burst out at any moment.

“You’ve had a long flight today. Why don’t you go back to the hotel and rest?”  
“101 leave, won’t Ms. Sanchez be alone? It’s late at night. It’s not safe for a girl!”  
The doctor had said Natalia wouldn’t need any supervision and could leave on her own if she felt better tomorrow, so they hadn’t arranged a room with extra bed for Dorothy.  
“I’m familiar with Hawnsbrook City. It’ll be fine.”

“That’s not the point. During the day, you’re my boss, and I follow your orders. But this is off-hours, and I’m a man. How could I just leave you alone?”

He sounded like a righteous man, which made Dorothy smile.

She wasn’t often protected

Wright then. Thank you.

this when she was young, but as she grew older, more and more people said these kind words to her.

Natalia was fast asleep on the bed, probably due to the sedative in her medication.

With nothing to do, Dorothy and Emmett started chatting about various topics. When the conversation turned to family, Emmett was surprised. “You’re married, Ms. Sanchez! I would never have guessed:

“I’ve been married for quite some time.” Dorothy didn’t mention her child this time.

She didn’t want any more people to know about her child for now.

“Your husband must love you very much.” Emmett’s voice held a hint of disappointment.

He didn’t delve into Dorothy’s personal life, so he didn’t know she was

“Yes, he loves me very much.”

Just as Dorothy finished speaking, her phone rang with a message.

She thought it might be Lane, but when she looked at the screen, it was the driver from Everglow City.

What could be the ward at this hour?

[Sorry to disturb you. I just arrived in Hawnsbrook City and got lost. Could you give me directions?

Dorothy was taken aback and quickly called him back. She then got up and walked outside the ward.

The hospital corridor seemed endless in the deep of the night. It was deserted and smelled strongly of disinfectant.

## Chapter 314

Dorothy felt a chill of apprehension, so she didn't wander far. Instead, she chose a nearby bench to sit on

The call connected, and the driver's voice sounded on the other end.

"Sorry to bother you so late"

"No problem. Where are you now?" Dorothy lowered her voice, not wanting to disturb the other hospital patients.

"I'm near Tranquil Road. I can't seem to hail a cab, and I'm trying to get back to my hotel," Dorothy searched for the hotel on her

map app, then carefully explained how to get there. The man on the other end listened in silence until she asked, "Did you get all

that?" "Mmm, I'm listening

Me up on WhatsApp or try to make it to the main street. There should be cabs there."

"That's about it. If you still can't find your way hit r

"Alright"

Dorothy glanced at the time on her wristwatch and murmured. Since you're in Haverbrook City should I deliver the receipt to you

tomorrow

"No need." The driver responded without hesitation. I ask you if I need it

Dorothy was a bit puzzled

Previously, she had deleted his contact, but he added her back just to get this receipt.

But now, when she repeatedly offered to give him the receipt, he seemed to be avoiding it. He didn't show ap

pressing need for the receipt.

"Thank you"

"No need."

Without any further fuss, the call

Dorothy's mind was still in a whirl, so she didn't continue to dwell on it.

She got up from the bench, intending to head back to the ward, when

suddenly, Dorothy heard something being kicked behind her.

was very close

What could it be at this time of night?

Feeling a bit frightened, she quickened her pace

But she had only taken a few steps when she bumped into a solid chest.

Startled, Dorothy looked up.

It was Emmett.

"Ma. Sanchez, what's wrong?"

“Nothing “Seeing Emmett brought a sense of relief to her. “It’s a bit spooky in the hospital at night. What about you? Did something happen? Is Natalia

“No. She’s sleeping soundly and the doctor removed her IV. I noticed you hadn’t come back, and I was worried something had happened.” Emmett stood next to Dorothy as his tall figure cast a large shadow over her.

“Just chatting with a friend.” Dorothy smiled. “Since she’s had her IV removed, can we go now?”

Emmett nodded. “Sure! I’ll come back to check on her in the morning. You can go on with your work, Ms. Sanchez.”

Dorothy agreed.

After all, she wasn’t here on vacation. She couldn’t keep putting her job on hold. If Lane became upset, it wouldn’t be good for their careers.

As their figures receded into the distance, a man emerged from the corner of the corridor.

Everett squinted. The displeasure in his eyes was clear.

Why were there so many pecky men around Dorothy?

He took out his phone and dialed Kevin’s number.

“Find out what projects East Star Enterprises has in Havenbrook City”

“Yes, Mr. Lopez. Are you in Havenbrook City now?”

“Yeah”

“Would you like me to arrange anything for you? The presidential suite at the Crimson Hotel is always available for you.”

“No need.” Everett’s lips moved slightly, and his deep voice echoed. “Just investigate what I asked. Investigate this man as well”

With a flick of his slender finger, he sent over a picture of Emmett he had snapped earlier

“Alright, Mr. Lopez get right on it?”

Chapter 315

All of this

was an unexpected snap, causing a delay in their plans. So, the next day, Dorothy had a private meeting with Emmett before

Natalia returned from the hospital. Only then did the three of them head to the conference room

After they had mapped out the due diligence process and delegation of tasks, Natalia stood up and made a point of apologizing

to Dorothy. Tim sorry Ms. Sanchez. I indulged in my love for food too much,



and it's affected our work. It won't happen again.

"No problem, I get it. The food in Havenbrook City is too good to resist. Domly reassured her while patting her on the shoulder.

"Let's make sure this due diligence. Once we're back in the office, I'll advocate for some additional benefits for you both with Lane."

sure we nail

Ms. Sanchez, you're too kind. Thank you! Natalia's face was filled with so much gratitude that she looked like she might burst into tears. People have been talking badly behind your back, but they just don't understand you"

At that, Emmett shot Natalia a warning look reminding her to watch what she was saying

Dorothy laughed it off. I'm used to it. Some people can't handle their jobs but excel at spreading rumors. The company will weed them out eventually. I'm not bothered"

Sometimes, when she looked at Natalia, she could see a younger version of Karen. She was candid, naive, and was clearly spoiled with a lifetime of love and affection from her parents.

Dorothy sent Emmett to the Bureau of Industry and Commerce without telling anyone, hoping to catch them off guard and get some real insights.

Natalia, not being the best at communication and because she was still recovering from her stomach problem, was asked to wait in the hotel. If they needed her, they could easily reach out.

Dorothy, on the other hand, went alone to Verity Holdings Limited in Havenbrook City. This was the company they were due to examine

She was greeted by a young man in a smart suit. He was older than Dorothy, but not by much, and he had a constant smile that gave him the air of a seasoned professional.

"Our leadership is taking this collaboration with East Star Enterprises very seriously. We're hoping for a prosperous partnership."

Dorothy smiled back. "That's a mutual hope. Venty Holdings Limited has been in business for many years and is a respected enterprise in Havenbrook City. It's an honor for East Star Enterprises to collaborate with you"

The man handed over his business card. "My name is Gabriel. I'm the project manager at Verity Holdings Limited"

Tim Dorothy Nice to meet you."

After some small talk, they moved on to the main topic. Gabriel suggested they could go to a restaurant to discuss things further while having lunch, but considering the incident at the Prosperity Consortium, Dorothy was hesitant to go to a restaurant alone with a man.

She didn't want to risk encountering a similar situation without Everett around to help this time.

"I find restaurants can be a bit noisy. Let's continue our work, and once we're done, I can invite you for dinner," Dorothy suggested.

She thought that if she brought Emmett and Natalia along, it would be safer. Gabriel didn't object. He simply nodded in agreement.

In the conference room, Dorothy laid out the terms from East Star Enterprises. Naturally, stiffened.

It came to matters of profit, Gabriel's expression.

However, as a representative of East Star Enterprises, maximizing the company's profit was part of Dorothy's job.

"I need to discuss these terms with our leadership, Ms. Sanchez. How long are you planning to stay in Haverbrook City?"

"Head back as soon as we've reached an agreement. There's a lot of work waiting for me at the office," Dorothy replied, implying that she was serious about the collaboration. If it didn't work out, it would be their loss, not East Star Enterprises.

## Chapter 316

Gabriel chuckled. "I'll discuss it with the higher ups ASAP."

Afterwards, he passed another brown paper bag he'd been holding. "By the way, you might want to take a look at this. It's the track record of other companies in agro-industrial processing. You'll see that there's a promising future in this business. Right now, supporting agriculture is a priority for the government. They're more than willing to give the green light to various projects, if you catch my drift."

She caught his drift.

How could she not?

If the higher-ups would be willing to nod in approval, everything would become easier.

But weather changes are unpredictable. One moment it's sunny and everyone is overjoyed, the next, overcast.

Who would bear the responsibility when that happened?

"I'll take a good look at it. East Star Enterprises sees potential in this sector, hence our interest in joining the project," Dorothy said.

As the first meeting came to a close, Dorothy prepared to leave. Gabriel suddenly spoke up. "Didn't you mention something about treating me to dinner?"

"Well," Dorothy was at a loss for words, then quickly recovered. "Oh my, look at me! I was so eager to review the documents that I completely forgot. What do you feel like eating Gabriel? It's on me. I can't let you pay in Haverbrook City. I was just hoping to strengthen our working relationship, considering we'll be working together in the future."

"It's settled then I'm paying. You can treat me next time? After saying this, Dorothy dialed Natalia and Emmett, directing them to meet at "I introduce you to my two assistants as well."

"Sounds great! Gabriel didn't object. "My boss might join us later. He's currently in a meeting but asked me to keep you here to meet him when he's free."

Dorothy didn't mind the crowd. In fact, she preferred it.

A chance to meet the head of Verity Holdings Limited was also a chance to gauge their intentions.

"That would be a honor."

In the hotel only the lights in the living room of the presidential suite were on. The computer screen displayed a video conference with the Lopez Corporation, but its CEO, Exerell, seemed unable to focus. His eyes were frequently darting towards the phone by his side.

"Mr. Lopez, the growth rate for the new quarter is very promising" & shareholder said Luoparty.

Everett nodded slightly, not showing much joy.

The shareholders couldn't gauge his mood and grew more reserved. "So, are you currently untapped?"

you p

are planning to expand into Nordica next, Mr. Lopez? The market there is

"I'll send someone to survey the area first. We won't make any rash decisions without at least a 70% certainty."

The shareholders nodded in agreement.

Just as Everett was about to speak, his phone screen lit up.

The next second, Everett cleared his throat, saying, "Well, I'm up here for today. Meeting adjourned."

The shareholders exchanged surprised looks, but they couldn't object to the CEO.

After exiting the company meeting, Everett immediately picked up his phone and dialed back.

“Mr. Lopez, we checked Last Star Enterprises’ ongoing projects Besides the maort development in Everglow City, they also have several real estate

Are there any projects in Haverbrook City?”

Everett cut am off.

Kevin paused for a second. Let me check. Yes, they have an agro–industrial processing project in partnership with Verity

Holdings Limited. But they haven’t signed a contract yet, and the investment isnt that age it’s as than 50 milion. Are you interested in this project?”

Chapter 317

“No, don’t touch that project. I don’t want anyone else on it either.”

Kevin was finding Mr. Loper’s instructions increasingly baffling. But if he insisted, there had to be a reason.

“Alright, rest assured. I’ll keep a close eye on iL’ Kevin continued to report his research findings. “Also, the person you referred to

me, a certain Emmett, is

a project assistant at Fast Starr Enterprises. He’s a recent recruit. He’s a bright graduate from an elite university

“Is he single?”

Kevin hadn’t anticipated Mr. Lopez wanting him to investigate

At first, when he saw Emmett’s profile, he assumed Mr. Lopez was considering poaching him for the Lopez Corporation.

1 believe so” After all, the guy was still quite young. He was only a few years out of college. It was unlikely he’d already be mantied.

1 don’t want you to beleve: I want you to confirm ”

Everett hung up and began rubbing his temples.

He thought back to the prenous night, when he saw them together. Seeing them together alone stirred up an inexplicable sense of displeasure in him...

Wasn’t Dorothy supposed to be with Kenneth?

Why was Emmett now in the picture?

Everett had clearly heard the pair discussing returning to the hotel together.

The more he thought about it, the more irked he felt. He sent Dorothy a message.

Ms. Sanchez, I’m sorry but I’ve gotten lost agan, Can you take a call?]

She responded in no time

I'm sorry, I can't night now. I'm at a restaurant discussing business over dinner Can it wait?

Everett replied instantly [With a man?]

He realized too late that he shouldn't have asked that. Just as he was about to delete the message, it was clear that Dorothy had already seen it

[Yes, why?

Why?

She actually asked why?!

Everett felt a throbbing in his temples.

Had she not learned her lesson from before? She was during to dine with a man for business matters again?

This time, Everett didn't beat around the bush with Kevin and called him directly. Find out which restaurant Dorothy is at

"Ms. Sancher is in Havenbrook City?"

Kevin suddenly understood it all.

His boss had been acting secretive these past few days, leaving Kevin puzzled. It seemed it was all because of Ms. Sanchez.

His recent instructions had been rather strange.

Tim on it

In the restaurant, Dorothy checked her phone for the third time

The driver had disappeared after asking his question.

Why was he curious about the gender of her business partner? Could it

With that thought in mind, she scanned the room

"Ms Sanchez?" Gabriel poured her a glass of wine and interrupted her trance.

Dorothy quickly smiled. Tim sorry, I'm a lightweight. I'm feeling a

Tipsy after just one glass.

Upon hearing this, Emmett immediately reached for her wine glass. I drink for you for the rest of the evening"

It was clouded over with displeasure.

1 was bonding with Me Sanchez Who are you?" Gabriels face instantly

Dorothy didn't want to upset anyone from Verity Holdings

Limed on her first day

So, she picked up her glass and proposed a toast. "Don't be upset. He's just worried that have a headach of me at the office.

Please don't take it personally. Here, this one's to you"

chy if I drink too much. They're very protective

Chapter 318

Gabriel finally broke his stem facade. He downed his glass of whiskey before

turning to Emmett and saying, "Don't worry.both of you are here, right? If Ms. Sanchez has a bit too much to drink, you can eat her home"

Having been in the corporate world for many years, Gabriel knew what these two were worried about...

Yes, he found Dorothy charming. She was undeniably attractive, but the company's collaborations were of the utmost importance.

There was no way he would risk tarnishing the company's reputation, or his own career, by doing anything untoward

Still, being doubted was always uncomfortable

"I'm sorry, Gabriel" Emmett immediately apologized, showing his ability to be humble when necessary

Dorothy was not lying about her low alcohol tolerance. Despite her years in the corporate world, she had not developed the ability to drink without getting drunk

She had hoped to endure for a while before leaving, but then the head of Verny Holdings Limited arrived.

The moment she saw his beer belly Dorothy knew she was doomed to get drunk

Taking advantage of her still somewhat sober state, she excused herself to the restroom and called the driver from Everglow City

Soon, the driver picked up.

"Did you find your way? Dorothy washed her face with cold water hoping to sober up a bit more

She thought she sounded normal, but was immediately called out.

"You've been drinking"

"Yeah, I've had a bit. I'm still clear headed, though, so tell me where you are. I'll guide you

was determined to see this good deed through

with me

"You're a young woman. You shouldn't be out drinking with men.

Dorothy chuckled. "Thanks for the concern, but I'm fine. My coworker is with me

and he'll see

me home"

Male coworker?

That was Emmett, right?

As if he be any safer

Have a friend in Haverbrook City, I have him pick you up

"That's not necessary! Just tell me where you are, so I can guide you I snuck

out and need to get back soon”

As she spoke. Natalia had already begun looking for her.

Dorothy knew that the head of Verity Holdings Limited must have asked about her, so she quickly tried to end the call “Um. ask

someone else for now. I’ve got something going on here, I gotta go”

Without waiting for a response, she ended the call

Natalia came over, sighing. “They seem so hard to shake off.”

“Yes, but it’s all in a day’s work.”

“Ms. Sanchez, were you just on the phone with your husband?”

Dorothy was taken aback, then waved her hand. “No, it was a friend of mine.

He got lost in Haverbrook City and asked me to help him out.”

Natalia raised an eyebrow. “Doesn’t he have a smartphone? He could use GPS”

Dorothy fell silent.

She was right.

Everyone had a smartphone nowadays, so who needed to ask for directions?

He should have been using a smartphone since he was able to voice-call her she spoke her mind. ‘Ms. Sanchez, you’re so beautiful. Men fall for you left and

You better be careful, he might be trying to woo you

” Natalia smirked. right. Gabriel’s and his boss’ eyes practically lit up when they saw you I could

Dorothy washed her hands and laughed. “That’s likely He’s much older than me. I guess has just not very good at using GPS apps?”

In her eyes, she still had a favorable impression of the driver.

He was sincere where compensated her for the accident, showed concern for her safety, and didn’t say anything inappropriate.

He even kindly offered to have someone take her home

And besides, the driver should be married. If he married while his kids would probably be in their teens

## Chapter 319

Dorothy returned to the table and found Gabriel ingratiatingly filling his boss’ glass with wine. After seeing her, he immediately moved aside to give her a seat next to the boss

She was no stranger to such workplace flirting and decided to ignore it, taking her original seat instead.

Gabriel glanced at his boss. He was glad to see he was not upset, then he

turned to Dorothy Ms. Sanchez, our boss, Hayden, has been singing your praises. He's impressed by your charisma and is certain of your professional capabilities. It's quite an achievement for someone your age to be a project director."

"Hayden is too generous. I'm honored Dorothy laughed and raised her glass.

"A toast to you, Hayden"

Hayden was only too happy to accept, and she nodded enthusiastically

"Cheers"

Emmett, watching the scene, was sure that Dorothy would not be sober by the end of the night He quietly texted Natalia, asking her to arrange a car to wait outside the restaurant, ready to take Dorothy back to the hotel.

"We had a brief discussion about the collaboration details with Ms. Sanchez earlier today, and we seen East Star Enterprises' sincerity Gabriel. steered the conversation back to work.

Dorothy understood his subtle dissatisfaction with the terms offered by East Star Enterprises, but she had to pretend otherwise as the negotiation was still ongoing Indeed, you've seen it. My original barras this was in Everglow City but our boss specifically sent me to Hanbrook City. He wanted to Avoid any miscommunication that could potentially upset everyone".

Hayden needed emphatically and refilled Dorothy's empty wine glass.

After seeing this, Gabriel laughed Ms. Sanchez, you should try this wine.

Hayden brought it especially for you. He wouldn't share

this with just anyone" "Oh? Well, I must give it a try then"

Truthfully, Dorothy couldn't tell the difference between good and bad wine She simply closed her eyes and took a sip.

"You two shouldn't just sit there have some too Let's all enjoy it together

Gabriel suddenly included Emmett and Natalia in the conversation

if the two assistants declined, things would become quite awkward

Dorothy was about to intervene, but Hayden beat her to it. "I can see that Ms. Sanchez values you both highly. The fact that she brought you to this occasion suggests that you're both competent employees. Who knows? In the future, you might become successful and prominent figures in the future. Let's done to our friendship Have drinking good wine and enjoy the company of those who do as well"

Natalia's tolerance for alcohol was even weaker than Dorothy's. She was about to decline, but Emmett stopped her with a tug of



her sleeve. He knew that if Natalia ruined the atmosphere all the drinks Dorothy had would be in vain.

"Thank you maiden, but I'm afraid they might spoil your wine" Dorothy frowned. She was still trying to protect them

But Hayden was not going to let them off the hook. Tense Just drink?

The glasses were already in front of them, and they were already filled with wine, so there was no room for them to refuse

Emmett closed his eyes, picked up his glass, and downed it in one gulp

## Chapter 320

Since Emmett went along with it, Natalia had no choice but to follow

"Alright! That's the spirit! Gabriel, pour them another round! Hayden gave Gabriella knowing look, and he instantly picked up on it

Dorothy was already feeling the effects of the alcohol, and she didn't want Natalia, a young woman, to get drunk too. "Emmett,

Lane just called me and said he needs a file. Go with Natalia to the hotel and send it to him:

"Ms. Sanchez, I...

"Just go!" Dorothy gave him a look, signaling for him to take Natalia away first. Emmett had no choice but to comply. "Alright."

Dorothy wasn't completely disregarding her own safety. She was planning to have Emmett come back for her later, but for now, she needed to get Natalia out of there.

She had just been discharged from the hospital so she couldn't afford to end up there again just because of alcohol.

Once the two of them left, the frequency at which Gabriel and Hayden poured Dorothy more drinks increased. It seemed as if the moment she finished one glass, the next was already filled to the brim.

Dorothy knew she couldn't drink any more. She waved her hand and was somewhat unsteady as she stood up. need to use the restroom."

"Let me help you" Hayden said, already standing up

"No need; I can manage At this point, even if it took all her remaining sobriety Dorothy had to pretend she wasn't drunk

She planned to call Emmett from the restroom, but the moment she stepped inside, her vision started to blur

Her phone rang at that exact moment. Dorothy took it out to answer, but she couldn't even make out the words on the screen.

"Hello.."

"Where are you. Dorothy?

“Hel hello. I’m drunk...”

After she said those three words, her knees buckled, and she collapsed in the restroom.

When Everett found her in the ladies’ room, she was completely unconscious

Without any hesitation, he strode in and lifted Dorothy from the floor as his handsome face dawned a cold and grim expression

Everett didn’t even want to think about what could have happened if he hadn’t arrived.

She was completely wasted Wasn’t she easy prey?

Four years, and you haven’t changed at all”

Outside, Gabriel and Hayden were still waiting. The spiked drinks were finally serving their purpose,

Hayden cut a piece of steak as he laughed. “Gabriel, this is business as usual, huh! Women are so easy to deal with, and she’s

the project director too. If she’s willing to let things slide, negotiations will be much smoother.”

Indeed, Hayden, you are a genius. You’re willing to sacrifice a lot for the company

“Haha! I’m not losing anything. She’s quite attractive, but too bad she’s a married woman” After saying this, he glanced at the

bottle of wine as his eyes darkened. However, he was still unable to hide the smile on his lips. “Tell me, how much did you put in

this drink? I hope I can handle it; I’m forty after all

“Don’t worry! I’ve read the message you sent me. I’ve added just enough.

You’re in your prime, so there’s no doubt you can handle it”

Hayden put the cut steak on his plate, then patted Gabriel on the shoulder,

“Gabriel, no wonder you’re doing so well in the

company! You’re a smart one!” Even though Gabriel had managed to restrain his ulterior motives, it didn’t mean he didn’t want to use Dorothy to curry favor with his boss.

After all, if anything happened, he had Hayden, a senior executive, to take the fall. If not, he could please his boss. It was a win

win situation.

## **The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 321 - Read The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 321**

## Chapter 321

After pouring a glass of wine for Dorothy, he surreptitiously sent a message to Hayden back then. Hayden replied promptly, instructing him to “take care of Dorothy first because he wasn’t a fan of women who struggle

As time ticked by, even after the steak had been consumed. Dorothy still hadn’t returned.

Things felt off to Hayden.

He shot Gabriel a look. Go see what’s up. Check if she’s drunk

“Sure”

With that, Gabriel rose and headed towards the restroom

However, when he entered the bathroom, he realized there wasn’t a soul in sight

He instantly felt a sense of dread, but he reasoned that Dorothy, if she were to leave, would at least say goodbye. She wouldn’t just vanish

Unless she was so drunk that someone had taken her.

Quickly Gabriel took out his phone to call Dorothy. But no one picked up.

After a moment, he dialed Lane’s number. “Hello, Mr. Lane.”

“Yes, what’s up?”

He, then excused herself to

“I’m the manager of Venty Holdings Limited. We were having dinner with Ms. Sanchez. She was quite merry and had some wine,

the restroom. But she hasn’t returned, and she’s not answering her phone.”

“What?” Lane’s tone spiked instantly. “She’s drunk? You got her drunk?!”

Gabriel hurriedly tried to clarify “No, we were having a good time, and Hayden happened to have a bottle of wine for tasting Ms.

Sanchez wanted some, and so...

“Find her immediately! Call the police if you must! If anything happens to her, I will not let. Venty Holdings Limited off the hook

The call ended abruptly Gabriel stood dumbfounded for a moment before bolting out of the door.

After seeing him, Hayden looked past Gabriel “Where is she?”

“She’s gone! I tried calling her, but she didn’t pick up, so I contacted the boss of East Star Enterprises. He seemed to care a lot

about Ms. Sanchez Gabriel licked his lips nervously before continuing.

“Hayden, I think... we shouldn’t mess with this woman.

We can’t afford to upset East Star Enterprises over this. Let’s deny any involvement with the wine and say that she drank too much on her own.”

Hayden was naturally displeased. He was anticipating a romantic evening.

“What a mess you’ve made!”

Im sorry, I didn’t expect this. East Star Enterprises boss, Lane, seemed very concerned about Ms. Sanchez. Maybe he’s had his eye on her for a while now. We better not compete with him.”

What else could Hayden do at this point?

He rose from his seat, wiped his mouth, and tossed his napkin onto the table.

“You handle the rest. Follow your own plan”

“Okay, don’t worry I’ll take care of it.”

Gabriel watched as Hayden left, then quickly turned to the restaurant staff.

“Pull up the surveillance footage for me. I need to see

where the woman who

came with me went.”

“Sure, follow me. When did you last see the lady?”

“She said she was going to the restroom.”

The waiter paused and adopted an apologetic tone in his voice. There’s no surveillance camera around the restroom area, and

the one at the entrance isn’t working. We might only have footage of her heading to the restroom

Gabriel was instantly filled with a sense of regret.

He should have thought twice before scheming against Ms. Sanchez. A

woman as beautiful as her would definitely catch the eye

of the boss of East Stat Enterprises. How could he have been so blind to not see that?

## Chapter 322

“Sic do we need to call the police?”

“No. Il look around a bit more” Gabriel didn’t want to escalate the situation. He guessed that Dorothy, being a mature woman,

must have been taken away by a co-worker.

It would be better if she were taken away.

This way, there would be no evidence to prove that he and Hayden did

anything to her.

Gabriel turned around, picked up the glass of wine on the table, left the restaurant, drove to a secluded place, poured the wine

into a trash can, and smashed the wine bottle into it.

After everything was done, he sent a message to Dorothy

[Ms. Sanchez, are you drunk? I couldn’t find you when I went out, and I

thought I’d find a female co-worker to send you back to

the hotel. Did you already go back? If so, I won’t disturb your rest. Well speak

tomorrow]

Dorothy felt incredibly dizzy

She realized that she seemed to have gotten into a car.

The discomfort in her stomach became more and more apparent, and she couldn't control herself anymore.

With a jolt of her body, Dorothy vomited a lot.

Everett was now covered in vomit. He looked very uncomfortable

But one of his hands was still patting Dorothy's back.

Finally, they arrived at the hotel, and Everett carried her in

There was no time for Everett to think about anything else. He couldn't just entrust her to someone else in this state, could he?

He wouldn't feel at ease if anyone else took care of her

Everett ordered a set of women's clothes for her to be delivered and then helped her change out of her dirty clothes

As he was thinking of getting a towel to wipe her down, Dorothy suddenly grabbed the corner of his shirt

I'm hot. I'm so hot...

Hot?

Everett touched her forehead. She didn't have a fever, but her hands and body were indeed flushed

"111 go find a doctor for you" As he reached out for his phone, Dorothy pulled at his shirt, and with a stumble, he fell onto her

How long had it been since he was this close to Dorothy?

Even a glance at her was a luxury.

Her features were still delicate and flawless. She was basically unchanged from when they parted.

For a moment, Everett forgot about leaving, and he forgot that she was already a married woman.

"You." Dorothy suddenly opened her eyes.

Everett instinctively wanted to get up, but she was holding on too tightly

Their eyes met, and neither of them spoke.

Until she broke the silence after a long time. "You.. why do you look so much like Everett?"

"You're drunk."

I'm really drunk. I see Everett when I'm. I'm looking at you"

Everett really wanted to ask who the "you" she was talking about was.

"You sleep first. I find a doctor to check you out.

Before he could finish his sentence, Dorothy kissed him on the lips.

She actually kissed!

Everett froze even his heartbeat stopped.

Dorothy didn't give him. chance. She had been drugged, and she was in a state of irrationality. She was kissing him, and her small hands were puling

Finally, she found the buckle on his suit, and then she reached down.

In that moment, Everett Trembled like he had been electrocuted.

She was actually holding.. his...

"Dorothy He looked down to see her seductive gaze.

"I want. I want you give it to me, please."

## Chapter 323

Everell's voice darkened instantly as he gripped her wrist.

"Dorothy, don't do something you'll regret

But how could Dorothy listen at this moment? The concoction of drugs and alcohol blurred her vision, causing her hands to feverishly fumble over him.

Everett felt as if she were dancing on his sanity

"Dorothy, snap out of it

"Don't you want me.. Im not feeling well I'm hot..."

Everett's temples throbbed as he tried to pull Dorothy's hands away

Yet the more he did so, the tighter she clung his little friend!

Pain forced a hiss from him, but he gritted his teeth

He didn't want to take advantage of Dorothy in this state. She was drunk, but he wasn't.

"Dorothy, let go." Everett squeered these words out through gritted teeth

"No! Dorothy giggled "You're hotter than me.

"Tim warning you, Dorothy"

"It's so hard."

Everett could almost hear his sanity shattering

"Don't regret this when you wake up.

"I wont. Mmm.

Suddenly, he was the one in control. He captured her lips as he plundered her body and tangled himself up in her essence.

Everett bildelt as if he were dreaming. It was so sunteal

It wasn't until she bit into his shoulder that he felt somewhat grounded in reality.

All the emotions and pan she was feeling made her bite down harder.

"It hurts Everett, it hurts..."

"Bite harder, Dorothy Harder!"

Only then could he feel more real

d to know that this was real

He needed to know that this wasn't the same dream he'd been having for the past four years. He needed to

Lane took the earliest flight to Hawnbrook City.

He was lucky that there was a flight that day, and he managed to get a ticket

The bad news was that the flight was delayed, so he didn't take off until the next morning.

He had been calling Dorothy so much that her phone probably ran out of battery.

When the plane landed at Havenbrook City Airport Austin gave him Emmett and Natalia's phone numbers.

He didn't even wait to disembark before calling Emmell

What happened last night? Where's Ms. Sanchez?"

I don't know. I took Natalia back to the hotel, and when I went back to pick up

Ms. Sanchez, she was gone! No one answered

her phone, and no one was

the restaurant!

When Emmett went back, even Gabriel and his boss y  
were gone

"You haven't been able to contact her since? thd she go back to the hotel?"

'No, I just knocked on her door, and no one answered."

'She might be drunk and didn't hear you! Get the hotel stall to open the door and check"

Emmett hesitated. "Isn't that a bit inappropriate?

He was a man, after all. What if he saw something he wasnt supposed to

see? It would be an awkward for them to work together

in the future.

Lane seemed to realize this too.

"Then get Natalia to do it

"Alright, I'll wake her up. Natalia got drunk too. The alcohol they brought was

strong, and she got drunk after a few sips Emmett

had a low tolerance for alcohol but he usually could handle a few drinks. After

drinking their alcohol last night, he felt dizzy, so he

knew the two women must have been seeing

Lane became incredibly furious

"I won't let this go! Verity Holdings Limited clearly doesn't respect me! They dare bully my people?!

He left all his work behind to come here, and he intended to make Verity Holdings Limited pay!

Heaven knew how much Lane regretted sending Dorothy over here. He knew all too well what kind of men lurked in the business world, and after adding Dorothy's attractive features to them, their eyes must have nearly popped out of their sockets.

If they dare lay a finger on Ms. Sanchez I swear I'll make Verity Holdings Limited pay big time! After hanging up the phone, Lane immediately got in his car and headed for Verity Holdings Limited. He didn't even bother to give them a heads-up. He wanted to catch them off guard. At this point, Lane wished he could shut down Verity Holdings Limited completely. If only he had the power Lane furrowed his thick eyebrows.

In this moment, he realized how much he fell short compared to Everett. If Everett were here, with his capabilities, shutting down Verity Holdings Limited would be a piece of cake,

The search for Dorothy was in full: swing

However she was in a hotel room, sleeping in until almost noon

The moment her consciousness returned, the splitting headache from the hangover and the soreness throughout her body hit her all at once. The pain was so intense that it felt like her temples were about to explode.

"Hiss" She tried to push herself up with her hands, but her arms were trembling.

Dorothy felt puzzled

She could understand why she had a hangover. Because she had a lot of drinks last night. But why was her body aching? It felt as if she had been in a physical fight

When she finally regained some strength, Dorothy took a look at her unfamiliar surroundings

This wasn't her hotel

Dorothy's heart sank, in that moment, she thought of all possible scenarios, especially when she noticed that she was dressed in different clothes

They were completely different from the ones she wore last night

KNOCK, KNOCK

Suddenly there was a knock on the door

Dorothy quickly adjusted her clothes and with wobbly legs, got off the bed to open the door

"Hello, would you like your breakfast now?"

It was a hotel staff member.



Where is this? How did I get in here?"

The staff member smiled. "You were brought here by someone who claimed to be your friend"

"A male?"

'Yes.'

Dorothy clenched her fists. She dared not think further.

"Oh yes, he asked us to send you breakfast and said that if you asked, he told us to tell you that he was the driver from Everglow

Chy

Tverglow City Driver?"

Dorothy blinked. She vaguely remembered that she had received a call from him. He also and he was coming to pick her up.

So, he was the one who brought her here?

She quickly turned around to grab her phone to confirm this, only to find that it was dead.

"Excuse me, could I borrow a charger?"

"Sure. Please wait"

The staff member went to get a charger.

Dorothy finally breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed that she was not harmed by anyone else.

Wait

But who changed her clothes?

When the staff member came back, Dorothy asked. "The person who claimed to be my friend, was he alone? Were there any other women with him?"

"I didn't see. Your friend is quite handsome, though."

"Oh, thank you" Dorothy thought back to the driver's appearance, Handsome?

17:07

She could only say he was not ugly.

After her phone was charged and turned on, countless missed calls and text messages flooded in.

She didn't want to deal with that now; she just wanted to know what had happened last night! So, Dorothy opened WhatsApp, found the driver's chat, and made a voice call

Chapter 325

The call was picked up after a few moments.

"Hey? You awake?"

"Yeah. It was you who picked me up from the restaurant last night, right?"

Thanks a lot.” Dorothy didn’t directly question who had changed her clothes. She was just grateful that someone had taken care of her

‘No problem”

“Was it just you who came to get me last night? Dorothy ventured. I mean, I was pretty smashed. You sure you handled that all by yourself?”

She was still trying to justify why she was asking this

The driver cut night to the chase. “It was my girlfriend who changed your clothes”

“Oh! That’s..uh, I mea

“It’s fine, you don’t need to thank me. You’ve helped me a lot too

After a wild night, Everett was filled with regret. Not because of anything else, but she was a married woman now, and he’d

always prided himself on his cleanliness Now, he ended up being the other man

Morally, he couldn’t bear this kind of self–condemnation

So, he made sure Dorothy was settled in and then left the hotel.

Having found her answer, Dorothy said a few more words and then ended the call. There were still other people she had to reply

to, lest they continue worrying about her.

As she considered getting up and taking a shower, she dialed Natalias number, but there was no answer.

After hanging up, Dorothy headed to the bathroom, only then noticing a dull ache in her lower abdomen

And a certain discomfort in a secret place.

Could it be that her period was coming?

She checked her phone again. Yes, she was due in a few days.

Dorothy turned on the shower and stood under the stream of water as she let it wash over her

She closed her eyes, hoping this would help alleviate the discomfort.

Suddenly!

A fragment of last night’s events and a sound flashed in her mind.

“Dorothy, sober up!”

She snapped her eyes open

That was Everett’s voice.

heart seemingly stopped for a moment.

But after a moment of shock, she dismissed it as a hallucination. Her mind must have been playing tricks on her again,

Recently, she didn’t know what was up with her. Was it because she was

about to leave home and couldn't bear to let go? Was this why she kept thinking about Everett? Lane stormed into Verity Holdings Limited, scaring the life out of Hayden. He really hadn't expected that Dorothy would mean so much to Lane.

'Hayden, I sent my people here to discuss business, not to get drunk!'

"Yes, yes, it's all my fault." Sensing Lane's great anger, Hayden quickly apologized. "I was just so excited that I was thinking. And

Ma, Sanchez was so accommodating, she kept drinking what I poured, so I thought she could hold her liquor, who knew she.."

Lane shot him a glare. "So you're saying it's my people who can't handle their booze?"

"No, no, not at all Hayden waved his hands, trying to look sincere. understand how you feel, and I'm worried too! When she didn't come back yesterday, I thought she had gone to rest. That's quite a few drinks myself, or else this wouldn't have happened.

In the end, this is my responsibility, and since it happened on my turf, I must be accountable."

With that, he called a few security guards over. "Go find her, and don't come back until you do  
19:07

"Yes, Hayden"

## Chapter 326

Lane narrowed his eyes as he watched Hayden's actions. He sensed that there was more to the story than Hayden was letting on.

Normally, if Dorothy had really left in the middle of their meeting, she would have at least said something. Wouldn't Hayden have gone looking for her when she didn't return? Why did he leave instead?

He must have left because he had something to hide.

As Hayden turned around, he met Lane's probing game. He quickly averted his eyes, looking somewhat guilty.

"When Ms. Sanchez gets back, I need to take her to the hospital for a blood test, I need to see what kind of liquor you've really been serving her"

A blood test?

Hayden panicked.

"Isn't that a bit extreme? What's the point of a blood test?"

"I just served her some fine wine, nothing more"

"Who knows what else was in that wine? I bet there was something that shouldn't have been there" Lane scoffed. "We're both veterans in the business world. We know the tricks of the trade, I sent Ms. Sanchez to you because I trusted you. I thought there wouldn't be any incidents, but you went ahead and got my employer drunk. I have to investigate this."

With that, Lane made to leave

Hayden quickly blocked his way with a forced smile on his face "Look, I did my best to find her! I didn't do anything to her I just served her some wine!"

"I know for sure once I check

"Come on Lane. We're both businessmen. We'll need to cooperate in the future. Don't take this too far" Hayden's expression changed, and his eyes darkened "I said I didn't do anything. You've got to save me some dignity"

"You messed with my employee, and you want me to save you some dignity?"

"She's just a project director.. AM"

Before Hayden could finish speaking, Lane landed a punch on him.

Hayden staggered back and hit

the wall. "Lane, you're throwing punches over a woman?!"

"I told you already that she's my employer. It seems you still don't understand" Hayden fell silent.

"You think we will cooperate in the future? You're overthinking. Not only will we not cooperate with Verity Holdings Limited, but also we will make you pay the price"

As soon as Lane's words left his mouth, Hayden's secretary rushed in.

"Bad news, Hayden! Our stock market is plummeting rapidly. Several partners have called to terminate their contracts!"

Hayden immediately turned to Lane

But the latter seemed just as surprised as him

Lane hadn't taken any action yet, and even if he had, he wouldn't have the resources to completely crush Verity Holdings Limited.

After all Verity Holdings Limited was an established company. It had a decent reputation locally, and its annual projects were always worth at least tens of millions. Its stock market had always been stable. Now, someone was choking Verity Holdings Limited, leaving it no chance to fight back or ask for help.

"Lane did...did you do this?"

"No, but it seems like you're getting your just desserts"

So, it wasn't just him who wanted to take down Verity Holdings Limited Inside Black Bentley, Everett coldly delegated tasks to his employees.

He was only in Havenbrook City temporary, so all of his instructions had to be given online

Kewen called at this moment. "Lopez, everything's been taken care of."

"Good. I want Verity Holdings Limited to disappear completely

When Everett picked up Dorothy yesterday, he truly thought she was just simple

The wine definitely had something in it.

There was no need to guess what else happened. Who else would serve Dorothy spiked wine?

1/1

when she started acting crazy later, he realized that it wasn't that

13:

## Chapter 327

Everett couldn't directly lay a finger on Verity Holdings Limited; that company was truly formidable, so he had to bring them down through connections. "Roger that" Kevin was at his best when it came to such tasks.

Sabotaging Verity Holdings Limited was no sweat off his brow. A few contract terminations, and it would crumble. But since the big boss had ordered its immediate downfall, it was clear that his patience was wearing thin

He ventured a guess that it probably had something to do with Ms. Sanchez again

Aside from her, no one could send Mr. Lopez into a frenzy.

"You're in Everglow City, Kevin?"

"Indeed."

"Bring the driver you hired last time in Everglow City to Havenbrook City"

Everett was preparing for the worst-case scenario. If

Dorothy insisted on thanking him in person, he needed that driver to be around.

"Understood!"

After hanging up the phone, Everett took off his suit jacket and unbuttoned his shirt, revealing his muscular shoulders.

From smallpox to deep bites, his body was covered in teeth marks, each tinged with remnants of dried blood

The fabric brushing against them brought forth a dull throb, but Everett didn't want them to disappear, he wished they could stay

there forever. Because these marks were from Dorothy  
She was the woman he had longed for for countless sleepless nights, the  
woman he couldn't stop thinking about  
So, Everett didn't apply any medicine, nor did he see a doctor. He wanted the  
wounds to scab over and leave scars. He wanted  
them as a constant reminder of their night.  
Before he could finish dressing, his phone suddenly rang  
A glance at the screen revealed Jeffrey's name  
Why was he calling at this hour?

Everett frowned as he pressed the answer button.  
"You sound so serious Who pissed you off? Jeffrey's tone was always upbeat.  
It was like nothing could bother him.  
"Just spit it out." Everett slowly buttoned up his shirt as his expression  
returned to its usual stoic demeanor.  
I was just wondering why you're suddenly in Havenbrook City We don't have  
any Lopez Corporation projects there" Jeffrey was  
playing dumb,  
He knew exactly why Everett was in Havenbrook City.  
"Just taking a stroll?  
"Oh, you're strolling in Dorothy's hometown, huh? Don't hide it! Do you think I  
don't know you? You've snuck off to Havenbrook  
City a few times before to reminisce, I assume. Everett, you should let go, but  
she's already..."  
Jeffrey always choked up at this point.  
Everett waited for him to continue, but he suddenly changed the subject. "The  
Lopez Corporation is swamped with work at the  
moment. You really shouldn't be wasting time pining for Dorothy Plus,  
everyone is gossiping about your upcoming wedding.  
Several shareholders have called me to inquire about it. What should I tell  
them?  
"That's my personal business."  
"Sure, it's your business, but you're the CEO of the Lopez Corporation. If you  
were an ordinary man, you could marry whoever  
you want, but that's not the case now, is it?"  
"Next time someone asks, tell them to ask me"  
Jeffrey sighed. "I really don't get it. What's so special about that Dorothy other  
than her looks? Lane's the same as you  
Havenbrook City, and Lane followed suit. I'm starting to think you guys are in  
cahoots.

right now. You suddenly left for  
“Who? Lane?”

“Yeah! My good friend, who also had a thing for Dorothy. I just called him, and he said he’s in Havenbrook City too.” Jeffrey suddenly realized something. “Ah! Dorothy’s in Haverbrook City now, right?” Everett didn’t respond.

## Chapter 328

But Jeffrey already had his answer. I knew it! You two are just too much! Everett, listen to me just give up on Dorothy already”

Everett was silent for nearly a minute. Just as Jeffrey thought he was seriously considering his advice, he suddenly spoke. “Give me Lane’s information.”

“Everett, you’re beyond help”

Everett had accepted that fact a long time ago. He truly was beyond help. All that talk about giving up on Dorothy never thinking about her again, and starting a new life was just self–deception

The truth was that as soon as she snapped her fingers, he would immediately rush to his death, like a moth to a flame, without a second thought.

When Dorothy called Lane, she was on her way back to her hotel soon as he picked up his voice nearly shattered her eardrums.

“Where are you?! Are you okay?! Who are you wither

She sighed. “One question at a time. Don’t be so nervous. I’m fine, I just had a little too much to drink last night. A friend of mine happened to be around, so they took me to a hotel room to get some rest.”

“Friend? Manor woman?

Lane sounded like he was questioning his girlfriend

Dorothy massaged her temples. “A guy but don’t worry, nothing happened. I was completely blacked out last night. I cant

remember if I said goodbye to the bosses at Verity Holdings Limited, either.

They won’t be mad, right? I should probably go to Verity Holdings Limited later,”

Her mind was still filled with work.

Lane scoffed. “No need. Since they lost you punched their CEO

“What?” Dorothy snapped to attention What are you doing? How are we supposed to cooperate now? Lane, how could you be so impulsive?”

For the sake of this partnership, she reluctantly drank drink after drink. She was so drunk that last night was now just a blur to

her

Now she had a splitting headache, because Lane had just ruined everything. “We’ll talk about the partnership later. They got you drunk, so I won’t let them off so easily

“Wait. You’re in Havenbrook City?”

“Of course! You disappeared. You think I could just sit around? I rushed over immediately”

Dorothy felt her headache intensity

“OK. Let’s talk about it when I get to the hotel,”

After hanging up. Dorothy was left to figure out how to salvage this situation.

The partnership was profitable, and it seemed like

Verity Holdings Limited had genuine intentions. As long as there were no accidents, they should be able to sign a contract

But now, all because she got drunk, an accident had occurred.

When she arrived at the hotel, she hurried upstairs to find Lane, Emmett, and Natalia waiting outside her room.

The latter two looked apologetic. Tim sorry, Ms. Sanchez I shouldn’t have left

Dorothy quickly waved them off. “Don’t apologize. You didn’t do anything

wrong. Emmett. I told you to take Natalia home, so why

would I blame you?”

Tears welled up in Natalia’s eyes. “But if I could hold my liquor better, you wouldn’t have had to...

I’ve been working for so many years, and I still can’t hold my liquor. Isn’t that perfectly normal?” After saying this, Dorothy

glanced at Lane and sighed “Emmett, Natalia, why don’t you go back to your rooms for now I need to talk to Lane,”

“Alright.”

## Chapter 329

As they departed, Dorothy took out her room key and unlocked the door.

Lane followed her inside. His gaze scanned her from head to toe, as if he were trying to see right through her.

you just got drunk and stayed the night at another hotel?”

Dorothy frowned as she poured herself a glass of warm water to soothe her upset stomach. What else?”

“Did anything else happen with the people from Verity Holdings Limited?” |

1 don’t think so. We just had drinks: Dorothy was clueless about the entire situation since she was completely blacked out.

So, from her perspective, she simply couldn’t hold her liquor. She even

worried that she might have offended the executives from

Verity Holdings Limited, thereby jeopardizing the collaboration.



Dorothy, I think they spiked your drink Lane finally voiced his suspicion He wanted to know how the effects of the drug Dorothy was given had worn off

“Spiked my drink?”

“Yes! If you don’t believe me, we can go for a blood test now. They should still be able to detect it.”

Dorothy felt her mind go blank. No matter how hard she thought, she couldn’t remember anything else from last night.

But one thing she was certain of was that the people from Verity Holdings Limited hadn’t taken advantage of her.

“Let’s not blow this out of proportion. I’m standing here perfectly fine, aren’t Dorothy finished her glass of water, then had a thought. “Did the people from Verity Holdings Limited admit to it?”

It wouldn’t matter if they did or didn’t!

Then we can use this to our advantage. They’d have to sign the contract on our terms, wouldn’t they?”

Dorothy wasn’t oblivious to her own dignity But since they hadn’t succeeded, she had nothing to be afraid of. Having such leverage in business was deadly Hayden would never risk his reputation or company

“Dorothy Can you stop thinking about work for once? Lane was on the verge of losing his patience. “These people had malicious

intentions towards you! You should be thinking about making them pay

“Isn’t making them accede to our terms for the collaboration their payment?”

Noticing that Lane was getting agitated. Dorothy

tried to reassure him. “I’m certain I was taken away by a friend, and my friend is reliable”

“So how did the effects of the drug wear off? Lane decided to cut to the chase.

Now it was Dorothy’s turn to be stunned. She hadn’t thought about that.

But surely it couldn’t be that the driver had somehow neutralized the drug?

Could it?

After seeing the changing expressions on Dorothy’s face, Lane stepped forward and gripped her wrist. “Let’s go to the hospital.

We can get a blood test and make sure no one touched you last night.”

Dorothy followed him mechanically for a few steps before suddenly pulling her hand free.

I’m not going You’re overthinking things. No one touched me I drank so much last night that I bet the alcohol overpowered the drug

She didn’t even want to think that there was a chance that the driver had done

it

"Do you trust your friend that much?"

"Yes! I do!"

Lane clenched his teeth. "Fine, then there's nothing more for me to say. But you can forget about the deal with Verity Holdings Limited." "Why?"

"There's no Verity Holdings Limited anymore."

Then what was there left to negotiate?

Dorothy thought he was joking. "Stop messing around. We're discussing serious matters

I'm serious Verity Holdings Limited declared bankruptcy this morning. Their stocks have plummeted, shareholders are selling off their shares, and banks have filed lawsuits against them, demanding early repayment. Hayden has disappeared."

Chapter 330

Dorothy felt as if she were still in a daze

Verity Holdings Limited, such a massive corporation, had gone bankrupt Just like that?

That seemed preposterous.

"Did you do that, Lane?"

Lane stiffened momentarily before nodding. "Yes, I did. They dared to mess with you. How could I possibly stand for it?"

"There's no need for such extreme measures! A warning would have sufficed!

The secondary processing of agricultural goods isn't just beneficial to our company, it would also help farmers. It's such a noble undertaking. Do you have any idea how many farmers were waiting for us to sign that contract?" Nowadays, there were fewer farmers, primarily because they couldn't earn much.

If secondary processing could be implemented, it could trigger a new wave and provide higher income for farmers.

Lane pursed his lips as he stood in front of her, looking like a child who had done something wrong. "I was only thinking about how they had bullied you. I wasn't thinking about anything else"

He wasn't the one who annihilated Verity Holdings Limited

However, he couldn't admit that in front of Dorothy He had to make Dorothy think it was his doing After all, no woman disliked a man with power and influence. Regardless of who ruined Verity Holdings Limited, he had to claim the credit.

"So, what now? is there any way to get Verity Holdings Limited back?"

"Dorothy, you should worry more about your health night nas! Leave the business matters to me. I promise you continue the secondary processing project. I'll find another company to partner with, okay?"  
"Really?"

"Really" Lane wished he could swear to the heavens. I won't let your hard work go to waste. Your efforts must bear fruit!"  
Dorothy took a deep breath

Things were as they were, and she had no other means to salvage the situation,

"Alright then. Lane. Don't be so impulsive in the future. I'm just an employee at East Star Enterprises I don't want any special treatment. My position as project director has already caused enough rumors in the company. You might be dealt to them in your high seat, but I can't ignore them."

"Who's gossiping about you? I'll take care of them!"

"Don't interfere. I can handle it myself just wanted to say that you need to respect our boundaries. Don't let it become a burden for me.

Lane was about to retort, but Dorothy raised her hand to interrupt him. I'm a bit tired now and need some rest. You should go back to your work Now that this partnership has fallen through, I'll return to East Star Enterprises with Emmett and Natalia as soon as possible."

She had more pressing matters to attend to after sending Lane off She had to meet with the driver from Everglow City to probe if he had...

Dorothy ran her fingers through her hair in agitation  
It couldn't be!

That driver seemed like an honest man. If he had any intentions towards her, he could have approached her in Everglow City, not in Havenbrook City

She couldn't falsely accuse a good person.

Dorothy took out her phone and found her chat with the driver on WhatsApp.  
[Really appreciate your help last night I was wondering if you're free: I'd like to invite you for a meal to express my gratitude]

It took a while before she received a response.

[Sure, but you'll have to wait. I'm tied up at the moment]

[That's fine. Let me know when you're free]

## **The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 331 - Read The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 331**

### **Chapter 331**

Everett knew Dorothy would insist on meeting the driver. If he refused at this point, she would definitely become suspicious.

Honestly, this was the first time in his life that he lacked the courage to face the consequences

He was truly at a loss for how to tell Dorothy about this. She was drunk and was under the influence of drugs, while he was not.

He was fully sober.

Everett pressed his temples hard as he thought about this

The quit in his heart was unbearable, causing his headache to throb incessantly. He wanted to talk to Dorothy and tell her everything, but he was afraid Dorothy would hate him

He didn't have the courage to face Dorothy

When Kevin brought the driver to the Hawenbrook City Airport and saw Mr. Lopez's car parked at the entrance, he was really startled.

He was just a secretary but his boss personally came to pick him up?

After getting in the car, Kevin quickly spoke to Everett in the driver's seat. "Mr. Lopez let me drive,"

Everett glanced at the driver in the back seat through the rear view mirror and nodded. "Sure"

He needed to hurry and tell this driver what to say. He couldn't mess up in front of Dorothy.

When the driver saw Everett and then looked at the luxury car he was sitting in, he was surprised but then thought it made sense.

"So, you're the big boss! No wonder you had me bump into that lady's car, you must be loaded!"

Kevin, who had no idea what had happened in Everglow City couldn't help but hold his breath to listen to this gossip

Everett's lips twitched. Let me tell you what you should say to the lady you're about to meet

"No problem, no problem! The driver had already seen how wealthy he was several times, suddenly, he was very obedient now.

"Whatever you want me to do, I'll do it for Mr. Lopez. I have a favor to ask, even though you've given me a lot already. My

daughter is sick

"How much do you need? Everett didn't have time to listen to his request. It was probably just about money anyway

"They said the surgery would cost a hundred thousand, and the subsequent treatment is uncertain, so we've been driving day and night to earn money.

Everett glanced at Kevin, who was driving. Give him a million later"

The driver hurriedly waved his hand. No, no, no I don't need that much I'm already embarrassed. It's like I'm asking for too much

from you & a hundred thousand is enough I do whatever you tell me to!

"This half a million is for renting your time, I don't know how long I need you?

Everett didn't know how long this connection between him and Dorothy needed to last. He didn't know how long it would be until

he could give up, so he would always need the driver to be on standby.

"I'm yours for life, Mr. Lopez. Call me anytime?

Everett roughly told him about what had happened. Of course, he left out the part about their passionate encounter, so the driver

fully believed that nothing had happened between them. This way, there was no possibility of him slipping up.

In the end, the driver tentatively asked, "Mr. Lopez, at the same lady as last time?"

"You're really good to her. Are you pursuing her, but she's not interested?"

Gossip was human nature, and the diner was no different.

Kevin, who was driving, didn't dare speak. He was just waiting for his boss to speak,

After a long while, Everett finally answered in a deep voice, "Yes, she doesn't love me"

## Chapter 332

Lane stepped out of Dorothy's room but didn't truly leave Havenbrook City.

Instead, he booked himself another room in the same hotel

Thoughts about Verity Holdings Limited plagued him. His unease grew the more he mulled over it. After much contemplation, he

dialed Jeffrey's number. Jeffrey didn't pick up the first time he called. It was some time later when Jeffrey called back,

"You called?"

"Yeah, have you heard about Verity Holdings Limited going under?

Jeffrey was momentarily stunned "Wait, the Verity Holdings Limited in Havenbrook City

“Exactly! They went bust overnight!

“Weren’t they a rather big deal? I briefly looked into them before Their projects seemed to be doing well, so how did they suddenly collapse?”

That was exactly Lane’s query. “So, who do you think could have the power to topple such a large corporation—evernight?”

7

Jeffrey wasn’t fool. He instantly caught Lane’s drill

Did Verity Holdings Limited cross paths with Dorothy?”

Indeed, their boss Hayden, spiked Dorothy’s drink. He landed to take advantage of her.”

Jeffrey understood instantly “Of all the people he could have messed with, he had to go after Dorothy. Initially thought that the downfall of Verity Holdings Limited could be due to their own internal issues that had suddenly erupted, but if Dorothy is involved, everything makes sense”

Jeffrey knew all too well that Dorothy was Everett’s Achilles heel. Who could tolerate their most precious treasure being tampered with?

“But how did he find out about Dorothy? Lane frowned. A sense of foreboding doom began to wash over him.

Given the circumstances, it was clear that Everett hadn’t given up on Dorothy yet.

His opponent seemed to be nowhere near the towering Everest himself.

“I’m not quite certain Everett is constantly occupied with work at the company, and he has assigned me countless tasks, so I wouldn’t be aware if he had any dealings with Dorothy currently”

“Does Everett have someone around Dorothy?”

“I’m not sure” Jeffrey was genuinely clueless; he wasn’t just playing dumb.

When Dorothy rested on divorcing Everest, I ran into

her at the hospital. She mentioned that the doctors had told her that she might not be able to conceive, I suspected that was why

she was so adamant about the divorce, but now it looks like things aren’t that simple since she got pregnant and had already given birth. Are you sure that child is really Dorothy’s

Jeffrey distinctly remembered that Dorothy had made a special trip to the hospital due to this issue, and the doctor had even suggested that she discuss it with her husband

Lane replied, “The child is hers”

And Everett’s 100

However, Lane was definitely not going to share the rest with him  
“Then she must have found a cure later on Jeffrey was being naive by not choosing to delve any deeper into the matter. “Oh, Lane, there’s something else I need to tell you”  
“Shoot”

“Everett is as in Havenbrook City. I think he’s there for Dorothy but he denies it.”

Lane shot up from his chair and asked, “He’s in Havenbrook City?”

“Yes! He has been frequenting Havenbrook City quite a bit ever since his divorce from Dorothy. I’ve gotten used to it, but this time it doesn’t seem as simple. Lane, as a friend I must advise you not to waste your time on Dorothy. She’s a mystery, and she’s kept Everett hooked for all these years, so please don’t get yourself entangled too.”  
Lane wanted to tell him that it was already too late. He was already entangled

### Chapter 333

“Uh—huh, I got it. Could you maybe check in with Everett for me? I’m curious about what brought him to Havenbrook City. Was it really Dorothy?”

Isn’t it obvious?

The Lopez Corporation didn’t have any projects in Havenbrook City currently. Even if they did, domestic projects that weren’t worth a few billion dollars weren’t worth the CEO’s time.

So what else could it be?

But they’re divorced. Didn’t Everett remarry?” News of him getting married was all over the business world.

Lane thought he had moved on.

After all, divorce usually meant there were issues between them. Now that Dorothy was flaunting her married life with a child and Everett had announced his remarriage, Lane couldn’t imagine there being any connections left between them

He was surprised to find out that Everett came to Havenbrook City for Dorothy. Most importantly, Everett knew about Dorothy being drugged. This meant that he was either still in contact with Dorothy or that he had someone close to her.

If it was the latter, then it was only a matter of time before Everett found out about Dorothy’s daughter.

Lane didn’t even want to think about it..

Now that Dorothy claimed to be married and Everett was still protecting her, if he found out that the child was his, what chance would Lane have left?

"But he just made an announcement. None of us have seen the bride." Jeffrey said cautiously. He avoided talking too much about Everett's personal matters for fear of repercussions.

"Jeffrey do you think he might not have gotten married after all?"

"I wouldn't know that. He's not one to discuss everything with me." Especially not when it came to Dorothy

Everett believed that Jeffrey was on Heather's side, so naturally, he wouldn't share much

"Then did you mention anything to him when you left Everglow City? Like about Dorothy having a child?"

"No, didn't you tell me not to? You said it would only hurt him, and I agree. It's not his child, so knowing would only cause him pain. But if he keeps this up.

I'm thinking of telling him I should let him see how happy Dorothy has been without him: Jeffrey said angrily

His good friend was still stuck, while Dorothy had moved on quite quickly. She not only remarried but also had a child!

Poor Everett

He was still waiting in place, but he didn't know what exactly he was waiting for. A miracle?

"Don't" Lane immediately stopped him. "Don't tell him."

"Why are you so nervous?" Jeffrey jumped at his sudden increase in volume

"As a man, I understand what he's feeling. I'm also stuck in unrequited love, remember? If I were Everett, I wouldn't want to hear this news. It would be too painful

Jeffrey sighed. "Alright, I won't say anything. You're going to Havenbrook City this time for Dorothy too, right?"

"won't deny it. I am going for Dorothy. But my reasons are not the same as Everett's. Dorothy, as my employee, is on a business trip to Havenbrook City. and now she's in trouble, so I have to step in.

However, the collaboration with Verity Holdings Limited fell through, and with Verity Holdings Limited gone. we're planning to leave."

"Her Dorothy goes on a business trip, gets drugged, and you, the boss, personally go to handle it. You say you don't have any ulterior motives? Who are you trying to fool?"

## Chapter 334

"I've got no chance with her. She wouldn't give Everett the time of day so what hope do I have?"

"I see your point"



After a short conversation with Jeffrey Lane hung up the phone Heimmediately reached out to Austin. He ordered him to tell Dorothy that there was an urgent matter back in Everglow City that required her attention

Everett was also in Haverbrook City and he couldnt afford to give him any opportunities to approach Dorothy.

As he was about to leck his phone, his eyes inadvertently caught a glimpse of a number saved onhsphone.

It was Heather's number, which he stole from Jeffrey's phone. But he didn't dial it.

It wasnt time to play his last card yes. He didn't want to escalate things.

When Austin called, Dorothy was still worried about the driver She wanted to meet with him as soon as possible to figure out

what had happened and how her drug had been neutralized,

"Dorothy, Everglow City needs you. When can you return?"

Tve almost finished up here. so probably in a day or two Lane is also in Havenbrook City now, let me check with him."

"Wright!"

After hanging up the phone, Dorothy once again found that the driver had not yet responded to her.

The longer she kept waiting, the more restless she became.

Finally, she received his missäge

[How about we meet at Harvest Restaurant at 7 pm tonight?)

Sounds good ill bring your receipt]

She quickly got herself ready, making sure to put the receipt in her purse.

As she stepped out of her hotel room, she saw Lane standing around the corner smoking a cigarette

Upon seeing Dorothy, Lane extinguished his cigarette and naked towards her. Did you have a good rest?"

"Yeah"

"What are you up to? Lane examined her from head to toe, noticing that she was clearly dressed for an outing.

Tm meeting a friend who helped me out last night Im treating him to dinner as a thank you"

Lane laughed Her Trend must be one of Everell's men

Otherwise, how could he have known about these things and moved against Verity Holdings Limited even before he did?

Mind if I tag along? Id like to thank your friend too

Dorothy paused and frowned slightly I dont think that's a good idea. He doesn't even know you'

We can get to know each other then! After all, he did me a huge favor too. The people from Venty Holdings Limited might have tried to harm you. Your friend stopped them in time, so I must express my gratitude.”

Dorothy didn’t want to bring Lane along.

Mainly because this was only her second meeting the driver. What would he think if she brought Lane along?

“He’s from Cverglow City. You can meet him there if you get a chance. It’s not convenient for me to bring you along tonight”

“Then let me give you a lift Lane didn’t push any further He was mainly interested in finding out who this person was. He needed to know his enemy.

“I can just order a cal

“I’ve got nothing to do. Why take a cab? Are you worried that I might do something to you?”

“Ainght then “Dorothy didn’t want to argue with Lane Tight now, all she wanted was to meet the dryer and find out what happened the night before

Lane drove her to the restaurant. Since was not yet the agreed–upon me, Dorothy didnt get out of the car Instead, she discussed some work matters

with Lane

## Chapter 335

Lane, once the project in Everglow City wraps up. Ill hard in my resignation.”

“No need, I’ve got a company abroad too!”

Before, Lane was hesitant about Dorothy leaving the country, but now he was all for it.

The further she was from Everett, the better

That way, he wouldn’t stick his long nose into everything.

“After going abroad, I don’t have a concrete plan yer Whether or not continue in this professors still up in the air.”

Lane glanced at her. “You can’t not work forever!

“Well that’s true.” But she wanted to spend some time with her kids first.

She still had the opportunity to be with her children. They were young and still hadn’t been traumatized by her absence. But once they were older, it would be too late for any remedy.

“If you want to work, just come to me, Dorothy, you didn’t have any unpleasant experiences at East Star Enterprises, did you?”

“Not at all.”

This was the truth, During her time at East Star Enterprises, although she had to work overtime to achieve the success she had today, her superiors were very considerate. She had no status or identity, and it East Star Enterprises had been biased. I

wouldn't have been easy for her to become a project director. They could have come up with any excuse to keep her from climbing up the ladder

\*So, consider East Star Enterprises like your own home who knows, maybe well."

"Lane." Dorothy cuckly interrupted him. "I really dont want to think about relationships right now. I dont want to deceive you because I think you're a good person"

Lane looked into her eyes. It took him a long time to ask, "Are you not over Everett?"

He didn't want to ask.

If he got the answer he dreaded most, what would he do? Let go?

Dorothy didn't directly respond. She just pulled at the corner of her lips as she said, "We're over"

She didn't want to tell others about the actions of the Lopez family because she didn't have sold evidence yet. If the truth was

made public, everyone would understand why she couldn't be with Everett.

Lane wasnt a loot He knew Dorothy's non answer was an answer in itself.

But since she said it was over, why did he need to know the definite answer?

"I wait for you I can give you some more time"

Dorothy was at a loss for words.

She didn't want to waste any more time arguing with Lane.

Once she left the country over time, he would naturally have new

new interests. She was just a temporary distraction when he was lonely. Pls,

she didn't believe that Lane, a man known for his

many romantic escapades, could stay serious about her.

Lane wanted to say something, but the driver's voice call came through

She saw a car stop up ahead, so she picked up the call and got out of the car.

"Hello im here. I'm right at the entrance"

Dorothy barely walked a few steps from the car when she saw the driver also get out from the opposite side.

Upon seeing her, he waved and smiled genuinely

Seeing him put many of Dorothy's thoughts at ease.

With one look at the driver, anyone could tell he was an honest man. His pure, smiling eyes seemed too genuine to be fake.

"Shall we go in and talk?"

“Sure” The driver’s innocent look wasn’t feigned. The version Exerell had told him was simply one of a friend helping another. He just did a good deed.

## Chapter 336

The driver followed her into the booked private room. Dorothy had specifically ordered high end seafood dishes to make sure he had a good time. She said she wanted to thank him, so she couldn’t be stingy

nom  
“Wow, this is quite a feast. I’ve never had anything like this before” The driver’s eyes widened at the sight of the array of dishes.

“You should eat up then” Dorothy pushed some dishes towards him and laughed. “We met in such a rush last time, so I never asked your name. I didn’t expect you to be so kind. You really went out of your way to help me.”

The driver was surprised and waved his hand dismissively. It was no imuble, I happened to be in Haverbrook City with a female friend of mine. She was able to find your location, and we just went. I figured if you needed my help, I’d lend a hand. I did crash into your cat

feel bad about that” “Oh, I didn’t think you’d come I was really drunk that day” After seeing the driver speak to and cly. Jurothy fell there was no need to ask her remaining questions.

“You should be careful when you’re out at night, lest your pa. The driver stopped mid sentence, then said, Parents would worry! The world is a complicated place.”

Dorothy nodded, not giving it much thought. “Yes, I was so determined to get that contract. I was too eager

Actually, ther methods weren’t that sophisticated Dorothy was prepared, otherwise, she wouldnt have brought Emmett and Natala. But later, when they started bullying her subordinates, she as a leader, had to say something. She couldn’t offend them for the sake of the contract, so sheet the two of them leave first

“You don’t have to thank me that much. I have a daughter too. Although she’s younger than you, but as a father, if she encountered such a scuation, id hope someone would help her too.

“If your daughter ever needs my help. I’ll do everything I can She owed him a big favor

“No need! Just..” The crner really wanted to bring up Mr. Loper, but the hold back “Pay me back for the hated hill from yesterday”

He didn't really want the money, he just didn't know how to handle the situation

Dorothy was taken aback, and she immediately asked "Of course, of course, how much?"

The hundred?" in his new, a hotel stay for five hundred was already a lot. But Dorothy thought he was just too shy to ask, so she transferred five thousand to him directly

I know that hotel is unscale. A night's stay would be at least three to one thousand. You helped me, and I'm already extremely grateful. I can't let you lose

The driver didn't dare say much now. He was afraid he wouldn't be able to handle it. So, he could only nod

Anyway, he could give the money back to Mr. Lopez later. He wouldn't pocket the money.

Downstairs, outside the restaurant.

Lane hadn't left.

He was leaning against his car, lighting a cigarette for himself, and occasionally glancing up at the restaurant

He wondered what they were talking about..

Just as Lane was about to make a call to his company, he noticed, out of the corner of his eye that there was another car parked not far away,

It was a Bentley. There were only a handful of people in Havenbrook City who would drive a Bentley.

Adding to what Jeffrey had told him earlier about Everett being in Havenbrook City, he had a hunch that Everett was in that car.

## Chapter 337

This must have been Everett's scheme

Lane took the last drag of his cigarette, then ground it out under his boot before striding towards the car.

TAP TAP

He knocked on the window

The glass rated down, revealing a face that clearly belonged to a secretary, who was dressed in a sharp suit.

"Can I help you sir?"

Lane took the opportunity to glance at the backseat, but a divider blocked his view. He was certain that there was someone there.

"Mind if I borrow a light? I need a drag." Lane pulled out his pack of smokes and

gave it a little shake.

“Sorry, I don’t smoke.” Kevin gave him a polite smile and started to roll up the window,

But Lane beat him to the punch and started a new topic. Is there a big shot in this car? May I ask who it is? I’m also in the business world. I’m the owner of East Star Enterprises. Would it be possible to get acquainted?”

East Star Enterprises?

Wasn’t that Dorothy’s company?

Ken reflexively glanced in the rear-view mirror, but he saw no reaction “My boss is resting. Sorry for the inconvenience.”

“Alright.”

“He was clearly rejected. Lane knew his attempt at smalltalk had failed. Just as he was about to turn away, he heard the sound of the car door opening from behind him.

Turning his head, he saw a face that he usually only saw in magazines, now brightly it in his line of sight.

Everett was extraordinarily dazzling

Even though he was dressed casually now, his tall figure alone standing there was enough to create an invisible pressure. The aura of nobility and aloofness that permeated his whole being was innate.

“You’re Lane.” Everett’s statement was not a question

Lane was still a bit surprised that he could say his name so accurately

He readily admitted as he stepped forward and extended his hand.

But Everett didn’t seem to have any mention of shaking it.

“What do you want?”

“Nothing in particular, I just saw your car parked here. It’s quite

If it were anyone else, Everett might have believed them conspicuous, so I thought I’d introduce myself”

But for a man who pursuing Dorothy he would be a fool to believe such empty words

“You brought Dorothy here.” His appearance here left no room for doubt.

Lane nodded as a sly smile played on his lips. “Yes. She wanted to thank the person who helped her it was late, so I offered to drive her here. She wanted

to take me up with her, but I thought it wouldn’t be appropriate for me to meet her friends, especially since she hasn’t announced our status yet.”

His statement was loaded with information. It was not just a hint to Everett, but a clear message that Dorothy was now his

But Lane made a mistake. There was no one in the world who knew Dorothy better than Everett

"Younted oncoming, didn't you?"

Lane fell silent

Dorothy wouldn't ask for company"

"Mr. Lopez, you've been apart from her for so many years, so how can you be sure she hasn't changed?" Lane chuckled. People always change"

Everett's than lips latched slightly. 'She won't."

"Loper, if you know her so well, why did you divorce Dorily in the first place?"

Lane shrugged as he spread his hands. Because you didn't understand her! You didn't know what she really wanted!"

Chapter 338

Do you understand her?

I do! Everett tell me, what woman doesn't crave to be cherished? Even when she goes out with her friends, I'm willing to wait for her downstairs bet you can't do that, right?"

In Lane's eyes, Everett was a man who was always swamped with work. How could he possibly spare time to accompany Dorothy?

So, part of their breakup must have been because Everett could it be with Dorothy at all times.

What he didn't know was that Everett could dmp everything even cancel company meetings, just to make Dorothy a homemade breakfast Including right now. He had moved all his meetings online just to be in Haverbrook City

"She won't accept you" Everett saw night through Lane. He was just another suitor.

Just like him.

The only difference was that he could openly pursue her, while Everett had to do so in secret.

"Let's wait and see" There was confidence in Lane's voice as the waved to Everett won't disturb you anymore. Until next time"

As he turned to leave, Kevin got out of the car.

"Mr. Lopez, should we do something about East Star Enterprises?"

"No need."Everett's gaze shifted from Lane's retreating figure to the restaurant door. His eyes were deep and unreadable as he said, "Dorothy won't choose him."

"Of course! You're better than him in every aspect, whether it's social status or

personal traits

It was the absolute truth

There wasn't a hint of flattery in his sone  
self-mocking smile. Everett chimed in. Yet, she wont choose me either

Kevin didn't know what to say.

"Verity Holdings Limited is bankrupt. They should be leaving Hasenbrook City soon. I should retum sa Eldaria C

Everett knew he had responsibilities. He couldn't afford to act on a whim all the time.

He got back into the car, where the conversation between the driver and Dorothy was playing

The driver had gone in with a recording device. It wasn't that Everett wanted to cavedrop he was just afraid the driver might say something wrong.

"Thank you so much. You're really a good person"

Dorothy's voice was as warm and pleasant as ever. She was genuinely grateful to the driver.

Everett couldn't imagine what would happen if she found out the truth about that night.

Suddenly Dorothy's phone rang

Everett frowned as his eyes widened

"What?! He... he ran away? Did you go look for him?? Did you call the police? You have to find him

He wasnt sure who Dorothy was referring to, but it was clear she cared deeply for this person.

I'm sorry, but I have an emergency I need to leave. I'll call you again another time"

"Okay." The driver could only nod in surprise.

Dorothy hurriedly left the restaurant.

Once she left, the driver called Everett. Ms. Sanchez has left."

"Who was the person on the phone?"

I don't know. He sounded really worried, and Ms. Sanchez looked anxious too. She left immediately"

Aman?

Could it be Kenneth?

"You're done here, you can go back."

After hanging up. Everett had Kevin follow Dorothy and L

Chapter 339

He wanted to find out who this "runaway" was that had Dorothy so worried



and desperate. He found himself wanting to help her, even if she probably didn't need him

The call that Dorothy had received was indeed from Kenneth

He said that Langston had run away from home, leaving only a note stating that he was going back to their homeland to look for his mother.

Lane didn't know what happened to her, and when he asked, she said nothing. Dorothy naturally wouldn't reveal more of her secrets to others. Lane already knew about her daughter's relationship with

Everett, so she couldn't possibly tell him about her son too

The only ones who knew about her other child were Karen and Kenneth

Upon reaching the hotel Dorothy immediately started packing her belongings, preparing to head to the airport

She needed to go back and discuss plans with Karen. If all else failed, she would immediately fly overseas to find her son,

What are you doing?" Lane asked.

As soon as she stepped out she saw Lane still standing at the corner of the entrance

"Lane, I need to a moment"

Is your daughter in trouble? Lane was stupid. After seeing her so anxious, he could guess what had happened

Dorothy paused, then nodded. "Yes, she needs to go back. I might need to take a few days off!"

She didn't know how long it would take to find her son

"Sure you can take as long as you need. On one condition: I come with you

He wanted to be more involved in Dorothy's life and interact with her daughter.

But to his surprise, Dorothy melted. Na, she's very shy"

Lane felt a bit awkward. He hurriedly said, "Really? I mean well. I have no ulterior motives. I'm worried about your daughter too"

"I can find her on my own. Thank you though. Dorothy dragged her suitcase and was about to leave.

Lane followed her and tried helping her with the luggage. "At least let me take you to the airport."

"Lane.."

"You'll waste time having a taxi. My car is faster!"

"Alright"

She was in such a mess right now. She didn't have the energy to draw a line with him. All she wanted was to find Langston as soon as

He was so young: it would be easy for him to run into trouble  
Dorothy couldn't bear to think about the what-ifs  
possible.

Upon arriving at the airport, Lane didn't say much. He simply helped her with  
her luggage and watched as Dorothy went through  
security before he left

Dorothy sat in the waiting room and quickly called Kenneth,  
"Did you find Langston?"

"Not He took his passport. It seems like he's really planning to go back."

Dorothy frowned. "He's too young. The airport wouldn't let him board?"

"I hope so. I'm at the airport right now. There are only a few flights back, so  
I'll wait a bit longer

"Were there any signs before he ran away? Did he say anything to you?"

Dorothy's voice was hoarse. She wished she could fly  
overseas immediately. Kenneth paused, then said "Not really I had just bought  
him new clothes, and he seemed happy the even  
said how nice it would be if I were his dad, and then he went to do his  
homework. I thought he had fallen asleep after finishing

his homework, but when I opened the door, there was nobody there. He had  
jumped out of the window, leaving only a note for  
me."

"Could it be that he didn't finish his homework and ran away to avoid the  
teacher's check?"

Kids usually run away for such reasons.

## Chapter 340

"It's impossible. He always finishes his homework swiftly, and the school  
teachers never force them to complete their  
assignments. Langston is a bright and quick-witted kid. The stuff they learn at  
school is a piece of cake for him.

Dorothy suddenly felt a pulsating ache in her temples.

If it weren't for the fact that Langston was missing, she would've fallen apart  
when she received Kenneth's note. It wouldn't have been  
able to stand.

Kenneth, everything is up to you now. You must help me find him"

"I will do whatever it takes! In my eyes, Langston is no different from my own  
son"

Dorothy had lost all her strength and

Dorothy knew he must be trying hard, but Langston always had a mind of his  
own. He did things that were beyond his age. He

possibly inherited too much from a certain someone  
Just as she hung up with Kenneth, Karen's call came in  
Did you find him? My Brother's line was busy. It's driving me nuts!"  
"He was on the phone with the just now." Dorothy anxiously glanced at the  
departure time Langston is still missing. I'm about to  
fly back to meet you. and then we'll go there together"  
voice carried a sense of urgency that was unusual for her Hearing that  
"Alright, I've already packed up Abigail's stuff. We can leave at any time  
Karen's voice Langston was missing was like losing her  
own child

"Karen, take care of Abigail"

"Don't say such things! Look at the time"

After hanging up. Dorothy couldn't sit still. She started pacing around the  
airport.

All she hoped for now was a call from Kenneth telling that Langston had  
been found. She didn't want to hear anything else.

Dorothy was so absorbed in her worried that she didn't notice two pairs of eyes  
watching her from not far away.

Upon seeing her like this, Kevin softly said Mr. Lopes, should I call Ms.  
Sanchez? Our relationship wasn't bad before. She  
wouldn't ignore my call"

"No What's the difference between you calling and me calling?"

Dorothy must know about Kevin and Everett's close relationship. Once the call  
went through, they would know that Everett had  
been around.

Then should ask someone from East Star Enterprises?

"Lane's people would tell us about

That was his rival in love.

Well, he supposed that was the right term

Mainly, Everett didn't want to disturb Dorothy, nor did he want  
that he was watching her

She was so scared of him that she wanted to avoid him at all costs If she  
found out, she would only go further away.

"But Ms. Sanchez's really worried; she can't even sit still I wonder who has run  
away from home"

"It must be about her child "Everett thought calmly as he recalled Kevin  
mentioning that Karen had a daughter.

Given Dorothy and Karen's relationship, if her daughter was missing Dorothy  
would be extremely anxious.

"Mr. Lopes, should I send someone to help find her?"

“Let’s not rush. We’ll follow her and see what happens.”

If the child had just run out to play and they started a big search, it would be too conspicuous, and they’d be quickly noticed.

If they genuinely couldn’t find her anywhere, it wouldn’t be too late to step in. A kid couldn’t have gone far.

Kevn nodded. “Wright.”

## **The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 341 - Read The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 341**

### **Chapter 341**

Lopez Corporation, Legal Department

It had been two days since Heather last saw Everett. For a workaholic like him, if he wasn’t at the office and had no business trips

scheduled, what could he possibly be up to

assess the fat. She feared that Everett might be with another woman.

The more she thought about it, the more uneasy

But after calling Everett multiple times, he never picked up the end, she had no choice but to find Jeffrey again.

Right now, the quickest way to find out Everett’s whereabouts was through Inm.

After calling twice, Jeffrey finally picked up.

Ms. Garpa: Can you give it a rest? Does the Legal Department have nothing to do? I’ve got a ton of work on my plate.

Nowadays, Jeffrey’s attitude towards her was increasingly impatient.

Just want to know where Everett is. Why isn’t he at the company?”

11 You’re looking for him for work, reach out through the company’s channels.

Why

Why are you calling

The Lopez Corporation had a company software, where communication and information reporting could be done.

Everett was hardly ever offline, and Heather, as the head of the Legal Department, had the privilege to message him directly. It’s

not about work!

“Then know even less.”

How could he know? Who knew which word could stir up trouble? If he wasn’t careful, he would no longer be friends with Everett.

In the past, he didn’t know what Heather was capable of and thought that if he

could help the two of them out, it would work out.  
But now he had decided to never meddle again.

Although he didn't like Dorothy either laying a hand on someone's family was indeed going too far. Even he couldn't stand it anymore.

"Jeffrey you should know what Everett's parents want. Wouldn't they want the best for their son I'm the only one who's truly devoted to Everett and the Lopez Corporation Heather tried to brainwash Jeffrey. Without his help, things were indeed tricky.

"If you two were meant to be, there wouldn't be any Dorothy in the first place I can see it clearly now. There's no way Everett will ever like you Stop

Dorothy only got his attention because she looks like me! Otherwise, why do you think Everett would look at her?' Heather could only twist the truth as much as possible to persuade him  
But how could Jeffrey be so easily brainwashed now?

I doubt that. Maybe he was taking care of you back then because you reminded him of Dorothy"

"Absurd You know that I was living with the Lopez family at the time. I was with Everett day and night, what's Dorothy compared to that?"

"That's still not a reason for you to frame her, is it? Jeffrey hadn't forgotten that part yet

Heather sneered. 'I framed her? Think about it. If Everett hadn't been so protective of Dorothy, who would believe her? The fact that this matter has come this far is all because of Everett. There's nothing I can do"

Jeffrey laughed "Then tell me the truth. Did you frame Dorothy?"

"No I don't even consider her a threat!

Jeffrey was silent for a long while, then he sighed. "Honestly, I used to believe you. With your position, you really didn't need to consider Dorothy a threat. But now I do, and that's the truth"

"Why?"

"Because I can see how important Dorothy is to Everett. You can't replace her, which gives you a motive to frame Dorothy"

## Chapter 342

Everyone subconsciously assumed that Heather, as the Chief Legal Officer of the Lopez Corporation, couldn't possibly have any designs

on a mere assistant.

But what they didn't know was that Dorothy was more than just an assistant. She was the apple of Everett's eye.

Heather would even prefer to be an assistant, just to be that special someone to Everett

"Jeffrey, don't talk nonsense. I didn't."

"Well, say what you will, but it's all set in stone now. Everett and Dorothy are not getting back together." Jeffrey felt a certain discomfort

in his chest whenever he thought about his buddy failing to win back the woman he loved.

Before, he didn't know how much Everett loved Dorothy. He thought it was just a fling.

When he courted women, he'd sweet talk them and be gentle and considerate, but he never thought about the long run.

But Everett's love for Dorothy could only be described as undying.

"They're definitely not getting back together?"

"Of

course! Dorothy got married and even had a kid after leaving Everett. How could they possibly reconcile?" in Jeffrey's eyes,

Dorothy was diagnosed as infertile, yet she tried to have a child for her husband. That must be true love.

Heather's voice suddenly rose. "Dorothy had a child?!"

"Yeah, the kid is two years old now. Counting the time, it means she never stopped after leaving Everett and became pregnant not long after remarriage."

In contrast to Jeffrey's belief, Heather was skeptical

"Are you sure Dorothy has a child?"

"Why would I lie about that? You're not planning to make a move on her again, are you?"

"Not at all, if she's really done with Everett, then I have no issues with her. But Heather paused, then whispered, "This kid...

You're sure it's not Everett's?

Given the way they were in love, Heather had to harbor this suspicion

"It's not. I'm sure Everett hasn't seen her at all these past few years, let alone had any relationship with her. For a long time,

Everett tried every channel to find Dorothy, but to no avail"

So as long as Dorothy's child was two years old, it definitely wasn't Everett's.

All this information came from his good friend, Lane, who surely wouldn't lie to him, right?

\*I see, then I can rest easy” Heather wasn’t as easygoing as Jeffrey. She had to be absolutely sure that this child had nothing to do with

Everett

“You should stop focusing so much on Everett and think about yourself.

Jeffrey said and hung up.

A smirk pulled at Heather’s lips as she dialed Maxton’s number. She asked him to subtly inquire about Dorothy’s child.

At the airport.

It was finally time for Dorothy to board the plane. She quickly boarded and sat down to call Kenneth.

“I’m about to take off. I be out of touch for a few hours, but if you find Langston, please text me right away so I can see it as soon as i

land.”

“Alright, I’ve already contacted the local police. They’re conducting a large-scale search”

“Thanks, Kenneth.”

Kennethic voice was filled with guilt. “I can’t even keep an eye on a kid. I feel terrible.”

“Don’t say that, it’s not your fault that Langston ran away. I know how good you are to him” Dorothy never doubted this for a second.

## Chapter 343

Kenneth and Karen might as well be Abigail’s and Langston’s true parents. They are more dedicated than even their own mother.

If there’s anyone to blame, it’s her

She hadn’t paid enough attention to them and hadn’t spent enough time with them. That was what led to Langston’s sudden

departure. “Dorothy, don’t worry I am determined to find Langston”

Dorothy had no doubt that Kenneth would do so, but she was filled with self reproach

After hanging up the call, Dorothy didn’t switch off her phone. She kept it on until the plane took off, leaving her with no signal.

Just before she lost signal, she checked one last time for any news of Langston,

She could only hope for good news once she landed

“Ms. Sanchez, congratulations. You’ve been selected for our airline’s upgrade service. You can now move to the first class

cabin.”

Suddenly, a flight attendant dressed in uniform bent over to inform Dorothy of some good news.

“I didn’t enter any raffles.”

“We randomly select from our ticket holders.”

Dorothy glanced at the front; she initially didn’t want to move, but...

“Does the first-class cabin have Wi-Fi?”

“Yes.”

“Okay, thank you”

She quickly followed the flight attendant to the first-class cabin, which only had four seats due to the small size of the plane.

Dorothy casually looked around. Other than herself, there was only one other person in the back seat.

However, the person was completely covered in a blanket, making it impossible for her to discern whether the person was male or female. However, judging by the physique, it seemed to be a man, and a tall one at that.

Finally, her phone connected to the Wi-Fi, and Dorothy hurriedly checked for updates.

Sadly, there was still no news of Langston.

Dorothy even began to wonder if Langston had actually taken a flight back. This

was her worst fear.

Langston and Abigail were different. Abigail had the typical child’s mindset. She wanted sweets, wanted to play, and wanted to stick to her mother, but Langston was a child who could seriously make his own decisions.

With Dorothy not around, Langston needed to be more independent so she had reasons to suspect that Langston might have really boarded a flight back home.

In fact, Langston was currently on a flight back to his home country.

“Thank you, ma’am. You’re so kind” Langston’s praise made the lady sitting next to him blush. His handsome face made him even more adorable.

“exclaim. Weren’t they afraid of losing such a

“Your parents must trust you a lot to let you travel alone.” The woman couldn’t help but exclaim at the good-looking child?

Langston nodded and pouted slightly. “They’re both very busy, so they don’t have time for me. If it weren’t for your kindness to



take me on this flight, I wouldn't know what to do."

Yes, Langston had arrived at the airport on his own and then asked this lady to take him on the plane.

On his own, he would definitely have raised suspicions, and the airline wouldn't have allowed him to board. But since he found himself a Temporary mother there were no issues at all.

Such a small thing was not a problem for Langston.

"What will you do after you land? Do your parents know?"

'Til call them"

The lady nodded. "Then I'll lend you my phone when we land."

Langston took out a brand new phone from his bag. "No need, ma'am. I have my own. contact them once I land."

"Gold!" The lady glanced at him, then said, "Shall we take a selfie? You're so handsome! I've never seen such a good looking child like you!"

## Chapter 344

Langston pondered for a moment before nodding

Despite his mom's numerous warnings not to reveal his face in public, he felt indebted to the lady who had helped him so much.

He didn't know how he could decline her at this moment

After taking a picture together, the lady glanced at Langston and furrowed her brows slightly

"Hmm. You look familiar. What are your parents' names? I might know them."

Langston blinked and made up a pair of names on the spot. He knew how to protect himself when he was away from home.

It was not until dusk that the plane touched down securely at Eldoria City International Airport.

Yes, Langston was headed to Eldoria City. He was on a mission to find his deadbeat dad.

As the passengers disembarked from the plane, Langston grabbed his backpack. He was ready to leave when the lady behind him suddenly exclaimed. "Ah! I know who you resemble! You look just like Everett!"

The resemblance was uncanny.

Langston paused as he tilted his head innocently. "Ma'am, who's this Everett you're talking about?"

"The CEO of the Lopez Corporation, He has quite an influence in Eldoria City. If I didn't bump into you here, I'd really think you were his

son.”

The lady didn’t think much further. After all, how could the son of the Lopez Corporation’s CEO show up alone at an airport?

Once they had all left, Langston took out his phone and searched for the address of the Lopez Corporation

If his mom was so worried about him returning to the country, it must be because he and his deadbeat dad looked alike.

So, Langston’s first step was to locate the CEO of the Lopez Corporation. If it wasn’t him, he would go from there.

Dorothy also disembarked from the plane. Still, there were no updates about Langston

With a heavy heart, she shared her suspicions with Kenneth. “I think Langston might have returned to the country. Could you check his passenger info?”

“He’s so young. He couldn’t have boarded a plane.”

“If we can’t find him, we have to consider all possibilities.”

“Alright, Ill go check at the airport. Wait for my update”

Dorothy anxiously got into the car to meet Karen without even taking a glance at her surroundings.

Everett and Kevin, who had been sitting in the economy class, were standing not far away.

Kevin reported, “She said a child named Langston is missing. Maybe it is the girl’s name.”

Everett agreed, which further confirmed his belief that it was Karen’s daughter.

“Let’s help them look, but be discreet, if we find the child, let’s take her to the police station so they can contact the parents.”

Kevin nodded. “Understood”

After their conversation, they glanced at each other without saying a word.

Everett had followed Dorothy here, so now that she had left and they knew who the missing child was, what were they supposed to do?

Finally, Kevin broke the silence. “Mr. Lopez, it’s getting late. Shall we find a hotel?”

“Sounds good”

Everett nodded. He was about to leave the airport with Kevin when his phone rang.

It was a call from Jeffrey

That man was always up to no good. Everett didn’t pick up and even silenced his phone.

It was only after he had found a hotel with Kevin, checked in, and taken a shower that he picked up his phone again.

## Chapter 345

It was then that Everett noticed the barrage of missed calls and messages from Jeffrey on his phone.

Where are you? Pick up your phone, man!)

[Dude, you have a surprise visitor at the office. He claims to be your son!

Well, well, well. Look who's been playing hide and seek. You better call me back with an explanation!]

A son?

Everett furrowed his brows in annoyance.

He didn't like Jeffrey's taste for mindless jokes. He had only ever been with Dorothy in his life. There was no chance of him having a child out of wedlock

Just as he was about to dismiss the messages and check on his work, Jeffrey called again.

Everett pressed the answer button, his tone heavy as he said, "I'm trying to work here, Jeffrey. Cut the crap"

"I'm not kidding! Jeffrey was almost shouting. Your son is actually here at the office!"

"I don't have a son."

"That's impossible! This kid is definitely yours. Everett. If you saw his face, you'd never say that."

Jeffrey sounded extremely convinced

But to Everett, it seemed like Jeffrey was bored and found some random kid who looked like him to ruffle his feathers

"Jeffrey, did you finish dealing with the office projects? If you're not busy, I can send you abroad

"Hey! Why won't you believe me?! I am going to send you a picture right now!"

"I'm not interested"

Jeffery was dumbfounded. Why was this guy so difficult?

Everett massaged his temples in frustration. Being in this unfamiliar city outside his scheduled plans, was already making him irritable. Im serious! Im not lying! Come back to Eldora City and see for yourself!"

Is there anything else? Everett's voice was cold. He had clearly run out of patience.

ly am...

"I really

Before Jeffrey could finish, Everett hung up.

What he didn't expect was Jeffrey's persistence. Despite being hung up on, Jeffrey sent him a picture via WhatsApp.

Everett didn't bother to open it. Instead, he logged onto his computer and opened the company's system.

Since he left the office abruptly, there were loads of pending tasks waiting for him.

Everett started attending to the company's matters and noticed a project contract from Heather. Besides work-related communication, he wouldn't spare her a word.

KNOCK, KNOCK

There was a knock at the door

Everett got up to answer.

It was Kevin, carrying some food and drink.

"Mr. Lopez, you haven't eaten yet. Have some nourishment. I will look at the system's emails in a bit, so you don't need to bother with them. If there's anything important, I'll let you know."

Everett knew how much Kevin had taken on for him over the years. He wasn't a harsh boss ton,

"We got nothing else to do tonight. You should get some rest"

Kevin chuckled. "I'm not tired"

Everett stepped aside to let Kevin in.

He arranged the food on the table and then made to leave.

"Join me." Everett offered.

"No, thanks. I'll grab a bite when I get home"

Kevin knew that Mr. Lopez had a serious case of mysophobia and was extremely particular about his food. Kevin didn't need to indulge in such luxuries.

"I can't finish all of this myself. It's a good opportunity to discuss work."

Chapter 346

Mr. Lopez had brought his work along, leaving Kevin with no choice but to oblige

"Alright then, Mr. Lopez. Thank you"

Though they were supposed to be discussing work, once they sat down, neither of them seemed in the mood for business.

There was only one thing on Kevin's mind. Was Mr. Lopez going to continue pursuing Dorothy, or was he heading back to

Eldoria City tomorrow? Kevin could book his flight in advance if he knew

But at this moment, Kevin didn't ask directly, figuring that Mr. Lopez might not

even have made a firm decision himself yet. It was best to let him think it over first.

“Ahem... Mr. Lopez, about the Everglow City project

“Kevin, do you think I’m being foolish?”

Kevin had intended to break the silence, but Everett beat him to it.

Kevin pondered a bit before finally sighing

“Mr. Lopez, those who are heartbroken have usually invested their emotions deeply.”

“So, she didn’t invest in me.”

Kevin didn’t want to say the wrong thing, so he neither agreed nor disagreed.

Everett pursed his lips, poured himself a glass of whiskey and then drained it in one gulp. “I feel like I’m drinking poison to

quench my thirst, I want to see her one more time, but logically, I know I

shouldn’t. However, my subconscious always wants to

chase after her. It never gives me a chance to think rationally”

From childhood to adulthood, only Darathy could make him lose his senses completely.

He understood what the right thing to do was. He knew everything.

But he couldn’t help it.

“Mr. Lopez, Ms. Sanchez has already started a new life. You should too.”

“Yes, yes. I should move on.”

When hadn’t he wanted to move on?  
on?

Kevin poured himself a glass of whiskey, then chuckled

“Mr. L

Lopez come to think of it, this is our first time drinking together privately.”

“Yes, the company has relied a lot on you over the years.”

Kevin smiled and shook his head. “No, it’s your guidance that has brought me where I am today. So, over the years, I’ve never

thought of leaving the Lopez Corporation or you”

Everett didn’t know why he suddenly brought this up, so he just kept quiet and continued drinking.

“Mr. Lopez, you’re a great man, both professionally and personally. So, I think you should let yourself move on, find a love that

brings you happiness, and find a partner who will progress alongside you. I used to think Ms. Sanchez was that person because,

when you were with her you smiled the most. But now I don’t think she is.”

Even though he didn’t know the reasons, he could clearly see Mr. Lopez’s distress and repeated disappointments.

Everett remained silent and continued drinking.

Kevin knew his words were futile at this point. He could only wait for Mr. Lopez to come to terms with it. So, he just kept his head down and joined him, glass after glass. In the end, they hardly touched the food, but the whiskey was all gone. "Mr. Lopez, you should get some rest Shall we head back to Eldonia City tomorrow?" After a moment, Everett nodded. "Okay"

He watched Kevin leave, then, feeling a little tipy, he made his way to the bathroom to freshen up before lying back down on the bed.

But he tossed and turned the entire time, unable to fall asleep. He wondered if Dorothy had found the child she was concerned about. In his distress, he picked up his phone to check for any messages. The first thing he saw was a photo sent by Jeffrey through WhatsApp.

His long fingers tapped the image, and a young child's face appeared on the screen.

Everett's handsome face changed instantly, and his pupils involuntarily constricted.

This child looked a lot like him.

Those eyebrows, that mouth, and those eyes. They were the spitting image of his.

But how could he have an illegitimate child? He had only ever been with Dorothy.

## Chapter 347

Only a few seconds passed before Everett began dialing Jeffrey's number. After many rings, the call was finally answered.

The noise on Jeffrey's end was chaotic. It sounded like he was out drinking with friends; the clinking of glasses was evident in the background.

"Where are you?"

"Having a drink, man. A buddy from abroad just got back, so we're catching up."

Everett frowned. "The picture you sent me of that kid, did you photoshop it?" Jeffrey was taken aback and raised his voice. "I don't have time for that kind of nonsense Today, while I was working late at the office, this kid showed up at the Lopez Corporation. The security guards probably saw the resemblance between him and you and decided to bring him to me."

"Where's the kid then?"

"Right next to me! The kid doesn't know his mom's name. All he knows is that his dad looks a lot like him. I couldn't just leave him out on the street, could I?"

But Jeffrey had already made plans for the night, and, left with no choice, he had to bring the kid along

"You brought a kid to a bar?!"

"What else was supposed to do? Jeffrey seemed to step out of the bar. The surrounding noise was significantly quieter. "He really does look a lot like you. I'm almost certain that you two are father and son. Otherwise, why would I go through all this trouble?"

He was a free spirit, so he wasn't particularly fond of children,

"Don't drink anymore, and take the kid to a hotel for the night. I'll be back tomorrow?"

Although Everett was still unclear about the whole situation, he had to figure out why a child resembling him had appeared.

"Deal! I make sure to deliver him to you in one piece! After all, this might be your son!" Jeffrey chuckled "Hm, you're something else. You had a son this big and didn't even know about it. I have to interrogate you when you get back

Everett could only sigh in frustration. He tried hard to recall his past, but couldn't come up with anything.

After a moment, Everett picked up his phone and called Kevin.

It was late, and Kevin sounded groggy

"Mr. Lopez, what can I do for you?"

"Sorry to disturb you. I wanted to ask something. You mentioned earlier that Dorothy's friend Karen might have gotten married and had a daughter, right?"

Kevin paused. "Yes! I saw the surveillance footage, Karen was rushing to the hospital with a child when she was admitted, you sure it was a girl?"

"Yes, the child even had pigtails. It was easy to tell that she was a girl."

Everett felt a headache coming on.

"Does the girl look like me?"

Kevin was taken aback by the question; after all, he had only seen surveillance footage, which wasn't very clear. "I think... not really,"

But he wasn't completely sure.

"So it should be... Everett wasn't sure how he felt

He had suddenly thought that maybe the child Karen had brought with her that day was the same child Jeffrey had mentioned. If that was the case, then it was possible that he and Dorothy had a child together.

They had a son.

But Kevin shattered his theory.

The two children were of different genders, and Kevin said the child didn't look like him.

## Chapter 348

"What was that? Kevin didn't catch what Everett said.

"Nothing. Just get some rest."

After hanging up the phone, Everett felt like his mind had flung itself into turmoil. He definitely couldn't sleep now.

He thought about returning to Eldoria City as soon as possible the next day to see if this was all a coincidence or something else.

Jeffrey was quite obedient. When Everett asked him to bring the kid to a hotel, he did so.

He glanced at the small figure walking beside him and patted the kid's forehead. "So Everett really is your dad, huh?"

Langston looked up at him as his eyes blinked. "I don't know. All I know is that I look a lot like him."

"And what about your mom? What's her name?"

Langston thought for a moment, then shook his head. "I don't know."

"And her surname?"

"I don't know that either."

Jeffrey had hoped to get some information out of the child, but it seemed like the kid knew very little.

"You must know what your mom looks like, right? He asked curiously, eager to know who else besides Dorothy could have shared a bed with Everett. He realized he didn't know Everett as well as he thought he did.

But it was understandable. After being single for so many years, he thought Everett having some physical needs was normal. As a man, he understood.

"My mom is really beautiful."

"I don't doubt that. Any woman that Everett was interested in would definitely be attractive.

After all, with his social status, could he not have picked any woman, with



any figure or face? Even Jeffrey was picky so  
Everett

must have been worse.

“Do you know my mom? Langston looked up at him.

Jeffrey shook his head. “How could I? If I did, wouldn’t you be the little prince of the Lopez Corporation by now?”

“I don’t want to be a prince, I just want to know who my dearest dad is!”

“Deadbeat Dad?” That was a new way to describe Everett. “Did he abandon your mom?”

“Yes!” Langston nodded hard as his face filled with anger. “Otherwise, why wouldn’t he come to see me and Mom? I haven’t even met him yet!

Jeffrey thought for a moment, then nodded, “Indeed, from your perspective, he would be a Deadbeat dad. But, kid, when I called him earlier, he clearly had no idea you existed. Could it be that your mom never told him about you? That’s why he didn’t come to see you As a good friend, Jeffrey felt obliged to defend Everett, His own son shouldn’t harbor resentment towards him.

“Why wouldn’t my mom tell him? Isn’t it because he wasn’t good to her?”

“Hey!” Jeffrey was left speechless. “You make a good point, kid. I like it?”  
Jeffrey could guess the story behind this

—

It was probably a fleeting romance; the woman realized she was pregnant but was afraid Everett wouldn’t want the child, so she secretly gave birth.

It must have all been about money,

—If the word knew her place, she would understand she was not qualified to step into the Lopez family. And if she thought she could

rise in status because of her child, the consequences could be ugly.

“Sir, are you going to take me to meet him?”

“You’ll meet him tomorrow. He’s not in Eldoma City today. He’s gone to chase his first love”

After hearing this, Langston’s little eyebrows immediately furrowed.

## Chapter 349

Jeffrey couldn’t help but marvel at their uncanny resemblance. Langston looked identical to Everett, especially when he furrowed his brow in that same serious way that could easily get under one’s skin  
“I knew it! He’s a deadbeat dad”

"You're right! He certainly is Jeffrey bent down to lift Langston and planted a peck on his cheek. "Come on, I will take you out for some good grub. Let's forget about that jerk. If we see him tomorrow, I'll kick him for you!"

Langston nodded vigorously "Okay!"

Jeffrey took him to a local diner. He had no idea what kids typically ate, so he just ordered what seemed fancy. He filled the table with a variety of dishes.

Before they could even finish eating, a call from Heather came through. After seeing her name flash on the screen, Jeffrey realized he was not in the mood to answer but he knew she would not let it slide easily. With a sigh, he answered the call.

"Hello?"

"Where are you. Jeffrey? Heather's voice was laced with urgency

"I'm out having a dinner

"I heard there was a kid who looks exactly like Everett looking for him at the office today."

Jeffrey rubbed his temple. He knew this news would eventually reach her.

"I think there might have been something like that."

"Don't play dumb with me. The security guard said they couldn't find Everett, so they sent the kid to your office. Don't tell me you didn't know!" As soon as Heather heard the news, she immediately called Jeffrey. She didn't waste a single second

Jeffrey sighed. "Why are you interrogating me? The kid isn't mine, and I didn't invite him here."

"Then where is he now?"

Jeffrey glanced at Langston, deciding to follow his lead

"I don't know."

"Where did he go?"

"I don't know."

"Who picked him up?"

"I don't know"

"Jeffrey!" Heather's voice was tinged with anger. "You know this is important to me! If that child is really Everett's, have you considered what I should do?"

Even Heather couldn't bear to think about the possibility that it was true. Was she expected to accept that he had a child with another woman?

"What's wrong with you? If that child is Everett's, what's it to you?" Jeffrey

couldn't understand her possessive lone. "At most, you two are friends now. You're probably even just colleagues in Everett's eyes. And that too is only because his father forced him to work with you. His having a child has nothing to do with you."

"I can't accept being a stepmother!"

"Don't worry, Everett doesn't plan on making you one"

Heather fell silent.

Jeffrey felt his face harden, and he murmured, 'It's been years; you should understand by now. Don't pretend to be the heiress of the Lopez Corporation. Until he agrees, you're not'

"Amanda."

"Do you plan on marrying his mother?" Jeffrey didn't know why he was saying these things, but he couldn't stop himself. He was fed up with Heather living in her fantasy world, where she always tried to interfere in Everett's life.

Jeffrey had come to realize that Heather wasn't as innocent as she seemed. She would do anything to get Everett, which was far more terrifying than mere jealousy.

Love can be fought for but there was no need to harm someone's mother.

That was downright scary

"Jeffrey, I can't believe you're not on my side either. What? Has Dorothy charmed you too? I thought we were old friends!!"

## Chapter 350

"Yes, you've been my friend for many years, and... and I've used to have feelings for you, but now you terrify me."

Heather froze. "What did you say?"

"Nothing. I gotta go. I'm busy"

With that, he hung up, ignoring Heather's subsequent calls.

Langston was leisurely enjoying a dinner while glancing up at him from time to time.

Finally he asked, "Your girlfriend?"

"No, just a delusional woman who wants to be your stepmother."

Dorothy and Karen were already looking at flights overseas when Kenneth called.

"I found out that Langston really got on a flight back home"

Dorothy felt as if her heart was about to stop. "Where did he land?"

"Eldoria City" Kenneth's voice was heavy as he said this, for he too had an inkling of what was happening.

Dorothy instantly understood. "I'm going to Eldoria City to find him right now!"

I've also bought a ticket: I'll be boarding soon. Kenneth said, hesitating before adding, 'But until we hear something from Everett, maybe you should let Karen go to Eldoma City to find Langston. If she can intercept him before Everett finds out, everything will be okay. Karen and I can bring him back' If Dorothy went to Eldoma City, she'd be in Everett's turf. So many people knew Dorothy. If Langston was spotted there and Dorothy happened to appear, everything would be exposed. "Kenneth, I'm worried

"I understand your concerns, but do you want to escalate this situation? Stay at home with Abigail, Karen and I will find Langston. Langston has been with me for very long, he has deep feelings for me, so I try to talk him around " Dorothy hesitated for a long time before finally agreeing. She didn't want Everett to find out about his son. She couldn't even bear to think about the direction things would take then. But sometimes the thing you feared the most was the thing that happened. Upon seeing Dorothy in a panicked state, Karen walked over and patted her hand. "Don't worry, my brother and I will definitely bring the kid back. Once your project here is completed, we'll all leave together. We won't ever return to this godforsaken place!" "Yes." Dorothy nodded as her gaze fell. "It's my fault. I didn't provide a complete family for the kids; that's why this happened. Langston must be envious of the kids in kindergarten who have dads." "Isn't that easy to solve? My brother has wanted to play the dad role for a while now" Karen said with a smile. "You just need to promote him"

Dorothy fell silent.

Honestly, if it weren't for Everett and the feud with the Lopez family, she might really consider Kenneth for the sake of the children.

But she couldn't go against her heart now, it wouldn't be fair to anyone.

The next morning, before Langston had even woken up, Jeffrey was already awake.

Since he had a kid around, he couldn't even get a good night's sleep. His decision to stay single and childless was definitely the right

He didn't wake the little one next to him. Instead, he got himself ready and sat

on the living room couch. After ordering breakfast from room service, he dialed Lane's number. Lane sounded very sleepy.  
"Hmm? Jeffrey, do you realize what time it is?"