Looked like he had caught wind of the rumors too.

Dorothy waited a bit, but no message came from him.

She didn't have many belongings in this rental place. She just had personal clothes and financial industry books. After packing everything up, she called the landlord to discuss the remaining rent relund.

After all the back and forth, he only agreed to refund her a hundred bucks, with the condition that she move out today. She had no choice; after all, she was the one who broke the contract.

After lugging two suitcases into the taxi, Dorothy finally had a moment to check her phone and found a message from Everett.

"Ill be home by 6p.m"

Everett was coming back today?

Boy, she was really worn out.

When she got to Bay Residence, she didn't dare touch any of Everett's stuff. She just put her suitcases in an inconspicuous comer. After settling in, she took her laptop to the dining table to work.

Just as she logged into the Prosperity Consortium's internal software, Karen sent over a screenshot.

"It's official Mr. Lopez is definitely married!"

After seeing the words "Mr. Lopez is married, Dorothy jumped in surprise, thinking Karen knew something. But when she opened the picture, she found it was a screenshot from Heathers Twitter.

It read, "Everett and I value our private lives, so we hope people will stop sneaking pictures. If I were having a wedding, wouldn't I let you all know?"

At the end, she added a smiley face.

She was very clever.

She neither confirmed nor denied the rumors.

With Karen's knack for gossip, it really sounded like they could have got the marriage license in secret. They just didn't hold a

ceremony.

But her marriage license with Everett hadn't turned into a divorce license yet.

"Why are you not responding after reading? if Mr. Lopez is getting married, could he become happy enough to give us all raises?!"

Just as Dorothy was about to reply, the male lead of the event walked in

She looked up at the entrance and saw this newly "announced" groom, unsure of what to say.

It was not like she could directly ask him for the gossip.

"Had dinner?" Everett took off his suit jacket and walked over with his briefcase

Dorothy shook her head. "No, but I'm not hungry. Whatever you want to eat, Mr. Lopez, I can make for you."

Although her cooking wouldn't match up to a five—star hotels, she had learned quite a bit from various part—time jobs over the years.

She had to show off her skills to Everett at this crucial time, so he wouldn't think she was only good in bed. It was a good chance to earn some brownie points.

Apparently not expecting her to say that, Everett paused before nodding. "Whatever."

"How about pork chop and pasta?" Dorothy quickly shut off her laptop and headed to the kitchen. "There are no pork chop in the fridge. so I'll go buy some

Just as she was about to rush out, Everett caught her wrist with a stride.

"Ill change my clothes, then we'll go together"

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The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 32

When Everct; emerged from his room again, he'd changed into a casual white cutfit. The change took years off him, and he now looked like a college kid, ready to hit the court with his basketball.

Dorothy was still trying to figure out how to ditch him. To be seen in public with Exerell was too conspicuous. What if they were snapped by paparazzi

"Let's go."

"Mr. Lopez, do you think there might be media arcund or people from our company? Don't you think it might not look so good if they see us?" She hinted delicatel

However, Everett didn't seem to care. What's the big deal?

Dorothy fell silent

Well if he said so, all Dorothy could do was go with it

The supermarket wasn't crowded and had good security. Everyone was busy shopping, and hardly anyone was rubbernecking.

Even so, Dority deliberately kept some distance from Everett and headed straight to the pork chop section, urging the butcher to hurry up with the weighing.

Finally, with the pork chops in hand, she turned around, ready to tell Everett they could leave, only to find a new face by his side. Heather

This was the second time she'd seen her.

Even off work, Heather was dressed in a Chanel cardigan over a couture dress, looking graceful and charming as the chatted with Everett

The two of them did look like quite a pair

Dorothy glanced at herself. She was holding a bag of pork chops and dressed in a white see and jeans, feeling utterly shabby in companson,

Suddenly she noticed Everett's gaze sweeping acund. He was probably looking for her.

Instinctively she quickly ducked behind a nearby shelf

Why was she hiding?

just didn't want Heather to see her

But as if the universe were playing a joke on her, the moment she looked up, Heather was right in front of her.

"I remember you You're Dorothy, right?"

"Uh, yeah She managed to force a smile on her face, trying to hide her discomfort.

Heather pointed behind her and smiled.

"Everett was looking for you just now. He's ever by the household goods now Better go catch up with him"

Busted. Dorothy could only nod and mumble an okay

Just as she was about to leave, Heather suddenly called her back. "Please take care of him for me, will you? I know about your arrangement with him, and I know he's doing this to get at me. But I can't help it in a low more years, hell understand why I did what I did." Heather stepped closer, eamestly grasping he hand Please, for now, love him for me."

Dorothy had no idea what was going on between Heather and Everett, but it sounded lise Heather had her reasons.

And from what Heather was saying, she seemed sure that Dorothy's relationship with Everett wouldn't last

"Ms. Heather about me and Mr. Lopez, it's a contract between us. I'm just fulfilling my obligation. The contract doesn't include loving him for you

Perhaps she didn't expect the girl whoid been avoiding her to fee back so directly Heather frowned slightly. "Are you saying you've fallen for Everett?"

"No. Don't get the wrong idea, Ms. Heather Dorothy replied promptly I am me, and you are you. There's no replacing anyone" "Have you ever looked in the mirror?"

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The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 33

"What?!"

"You should know why Everett picked you." Heather instantly regained her noble and haughty expression. She had a slight smirk on her red lips and began looking at her

condescendingly. "I'm just giving you a friendly reminder. If you don't want to hear it just pretendi didn't say anything'

Heather's demeanor was like a wife's when she wamed her husband's mistress.

But in reality, the name on Everett's manage License was Dorothy.

She really wanted to refert, but the words got stuck in her throat out of fear.

Thank goodness she didn't blurt it out.

That would cause such a big misunderstanding. Why arque with Heather about these things? She didn't even like Everell, right?

On the way back, Dorothy was particularly quiet. She was just staring out the car window

She used to be awkward when alone with Everett, but today was different. Today, she was lant and distant

"Where did you go after shopping just now? Everett's long hand rested on the steering wheel casually taking to her while waiting for the traffic light.

"Just strolled around"

"See anything you liked?"

Dorothy shock her head. "No.

Even a tube of toothpaste at that store cost thousands. She didn't have the courage to like anything there at all

Everett took a deep breath, took a black card out of the driver's side anmrest, and handed it to her. "Take it"

1 don't need this! Mr. Lopez, I'm already very grateful that you could help pay for my mather's medical bills."

"Dorothy, this for you to keep for emergencies "Everett had quessed early on that she wouldn't want it, so he prepared an excuse in advance. 'There's not much money in it, so you can use it to buy groceries after work. I don't like eating out. It can also be used in case of an emergency with your mother when you can't reach me."

His excuse made it hard for Dorothy to refuse.

Now that she had accepted it. Everett knew he couldn't dwell on this topic anymore sa head office, youll be working on an EMC project of Social Netanking Service with Kevin"

As soon as she heard this, Dorothy perked up.

This is a big project."

brought up work. "During your training at the

"Yeah. Social Networking Service is planning a new found of financing to expand its operations and then it will contact secunties firms for reform and prepare to go public.

Dorothy was a little stunned after being hit by this sudden big opportunity. "But I dont know much about this."

"That's why youll be doing market research with Kevin. Comparing the performance of Sucial Networking Service to other listed and non–listed companies in the industry will be a bit tough"

"I'm not afraid of hard work?" She instantly shock off her inexplicably low mood from earlier and began to seriously analyze this with Everett. "Actualy, energy conservation is a big piece of the pie. Many provinces and cities are heavily polluted, and environmental protection is ther top priority. There aren't many companies doing this now, and the market won't be saturated in the near future."

Everett nodded with a hint of approval in his eyes.

He always knew that Dorothy was smart. He wanted her qualities to shine

If it weren't for the many pressures of reality limiting her, she would've been in the position of investment director long ago.

She might have sowed to even greater heights.

"Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Mr. Lopez. Dorothy was genuinely grateful.

This project wasn't about bonuses. It was about being directly promoted to the core investment team at the head office. This is what many peers dream of.

"You're calling me Mr. Lopez again."

She was so happy that she let loose. 'How about I just call you Evereti in private? Like when we were in school"

Everett nodded, then turned his face to look at her. "Done pretending a stranger?"

Dorothy squinted her eyes and smiled. "I'm just afraid you'll get the wrong idea you know. Mentioning our old school connection right off the bat might make it look like I'm trying to pull strings"

"I don't pull strings for anyone. His tone was calm but farm, carrying an air of authority. "So, I can only offer you an opportunity, not clean up your mess."

Dorothy had learned this during her business trip to Fujinon City

If the final amount needed to bail out Harmony Ventures was too high, she was absolutely sure that Everett would ruthlessly cut off this rotten piece, along with the whole third beam.

"By the way, the headquarters of the Social Networking Service is in Havenbrook. The project should require a trip there early next month. You'll come along."

Dorothy sneakily flashed the OK hand sign, unable to hide the wide grin on her face

The next morning, as soon as Dorothy arrived at the Prosperity Consortium, she received an internal email from Mr. Percy

SinoSuccess Enterprises had suddenly agreed to the involvement of a third–party loan and was even willing to re–sign a quarantee letter

based on the actual funds.

"Did you go and talk to them again? Mr. Percy hadn't expected Dorothy to pull this off, so he made a special trip to her office.

She shook her head. "I guess SinoSuccess Enterprises finally got their heads on straight."

She couldn't exactly tell Mr. Percy that it was probably because Everett had some leverage over the head of SinoSuccess Enterprises. making them more cooperative.

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"That was close" Although Mr. Percy's face remained stem, his attitude towards her softened considerably. "You should learn mare when you go to the head office this time. Don't embarrass out team. Make sure you don't make any more tash promises.

"

After he left, Karen snuck in and rolled her eyes at his back.

"If it weren't for you spotting the financial issues with SinoSuccess Enterprises, who knows what would have happened? This project might have ended up like Harmony Ventures. He's such a hypocrite! If it's a success, he takes the credit, but if there's a problem, he blames you"

"What can you do? He's the boss Dorothy was very open—minded. "As long as our bonuses are safe, it's all good"

Karen scoffed. "Enough about him. How's your mom?"

"She's doing well. The hospital agreed to perform the surgery fast: I can pay them back slowly."

"That's great! You don't have to worry so much" She spun her eyes around and pointed at the office area across with her chin. "So, when are you planning to find a boyfriend?

The mention of a boyfriend made Dorothy react like she was allergic.

It used to be a taboo word in front of her mother, and now it was also a no-no in front of Everett

*No plans."

"How can that be? As your number one gal pat, I have to remind you that if all the good men get picked, the leftovers won't be any good." Karen pulled a chair over, sat down, and crossed her legs. 1 think Mr. Steven is pretty good. He's honest and not bad—looking either. He pursued you once, and you didn't respond, but he didn't turn around and pursue someone else. That's a plus!"

Dorothy was focused on her computer screen. After listening to Karen's chatter for a while, she responded. "I'm not good enough for

"With your goddess—like face, you're actually off the charts, and you're saying you're not good enough for him?" Karen was instantly fired up. "Even Mr. Lopez himself, fell for a face similar to yours. What does that tell you?"

Dorothy tensed up

"If it weren't for Heather, maybe Mr. Lopez would have fallen for you!"

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The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 35

Everett falling for her?

She wouldn't dare entertain such a thought unless Mars crashed into Earth

"Right now, all I want is to make money. Nothing else."

"Ugh!" Karen sighed deeply. "If only I had your good looks."

Karen made Dornihy chuckle. As they were chatting, a message popped up on her screen from someone named Mr.K.

"Hello, Ms. Sanchez, Mr. Lopez asked me to get in touch with you. This is my phone number. If it's convenient, we could swap contact

Info"

Dorothy quickly responded with her own number as excitement bubbled up inside her.

After seeing her like this, Karen decided not to push her about the boyfriend matter Given Dorothy's mother's situation, it was rare to find a man who could accept it. It wasn't that they were heartless, it just felt like a bottomless pit of unknowns. When would she get better? How much would it cost? So on and so forth.

Maybe it was all just up to fate.

After exchanging contact details with Kevin, Dorothy took the initiative to add him or WhatsApp.

She knew this was all thanks to her connection with Everett Otherwise, how could she have the opportunity to interact with the secretary

to the president of the Lopez Corporation?

Till guide you through the tial research for the Social Networking Service when you arrive in Havenbrook. Feel free to ask me any questions." Kevin wroic.

Even though she hadn't met him in person, his style of conversation sounded familiar. It was very methodical

Clearly people around Everett were influenced by him.

"Great Thank you so much in advance for your help "She replied

The SincSuccess Enterprises project was just one contract away from being finalized. Dorothy's main task was to keep an eye on the legal department until the contract was finished. So, she spent her day researching information on energy—saving and environmental protection.

Air pollution and smog had become major issues. The government was supportive of companies addressing these problems. The Lopez Corporations involvement in these high profit projects was impressive.

Dorothy took diligent notes on all the information she found, collated it into a document, and even printed out a hand copy. She looked at the performance of not only domestic companies but also similar companies abroad and other developed countries.

She was so engrossed in her work that she forgot about lunch. When her phone ung, she finally looked away from her compute

"Hello? Ms Sanchez, your mother has suddenly fainted!"

The doctor sounded senous, so Dorothy knew it was serious. She swiftly saved her work and lets the office, only managing to text Karen to ask for leave on her behall

Upon reaching the hospital, she saw several doctors in her mother's room conducting vanous checks.

Her heart was pounding so much that she could hear it in her ear as she rushed in. The first thing she saw was the heart rate monitor. which was thankfully stable.

"What happened? Why did my mom faint all of a sudden?" Dorothy asked the nurse, her brows fumowed.

The nurse looser flustered as she tried to recall. I...I don't know! This morning, I took her for a walk around the hospital. At noon, she said she wanted sure pondge, so I went to buy it. When came back, she was unusually quiet, and then she suddenly fainted"

"So, she was acting strange when you got back from shopping?"

"Yes! She didn't want to talk, and she didn't respond when I asked if she wanted her pondga heated. Olt, and I noticed she was clutching something in her hand"

"I really have no clue. It didn't look like any sharp object that could hurt her, so I didn't bother asking further"

Dorothy rushed to the doctor. "Dee, how's my mom?"

"There's nothing serious for now. She must have been upset about something, which led to a heart attack. Did you guys upset her again?" The doctor frowned unhappily, sounding a bit reproachful. Tve told you before that her emotional state is unstable. Don't upset her. It could put her in danger at any moment."

"I didn't even talk to her today" Dorothy paused, quickly walked to the bedside and pried open her mother's clenched list.

Sure enough, there was a note in her palm.

Dorothy unfolded it and found a note with strange handwriting, which looked pretty sloppy.

"Still alive after all these years, huh? How much longer are you going to be a cuckoo in the nest?"

Her heart sank as she held the note and called for the nurse. "Did you see who gave her this note?"

"No! We've been careful to walk her around the neighborhood without stopping to chat."

So, someone must have sneaked in and left the note while the nurse was out getting porridge.

Dorothy clenched her fists and headed straight for the hospital's surveillance room.

"Hey, I need to check the surveillance at the entrance of V1 ward.

As the VIP ward patients were either rich or powerful, the surveillance room staff didn't dare slack off and immediately started looking up the footage.

dressed as a hospital cleaner entered her mother's mom.

"

Finally, the footage showed that ten minutes after the nurse left, someone dresser

"Do you know who this is?

*I need to check. I'll let you know once I find out

"Alright, thanks"

Dorothy took a picture of the person's face before returning to her mother's room.

Bella had woken up, but she was still pale

"Did you take that note? After seeing her daughter, she was the first to speak."

Dorothy was a bit angry and walked to her bedside. "Mom, are you seriously still upset about this kind of stuff? Upset enough to faint?"

She couldn't think about it. What if one of these times she didn't wake up?

"It must be that woman! I recognize her handwrting! As soon as Bella mentioned this, she started to gasp heavily

Dorothy hurriedly helped her soothe her chest. I don't care about that, Mom. I just want you to be safe! Can we stop being affected by her? Just pretend my dad died a long time ago! All the affairs and illegitimate daughters have nothing to do with you!"

*Dorothy how could I forget those things? I hate them! I hate them!"

If it weren't for them, how could she have fallen so low? Her daughter wouldn't have had to start working since middle school, which

affected her studies.

What about his mistress? She was always well protected, occasionally coming out to provoke her. Even her illegitimate daughter was sent abroad to study and lead a privileged life

"Mom, have you ever thought that they're doing thes to see you die? Are you going to give them what they want?"

Bella sneered 'She wishes! Dorothy, as long as in alive, that woman will always be a mistress. I will never agree to a divorce."

Even if he filed for divorce, it would be useless. Bella was besidden for years, and he was the one at fault, so the court would never grant a divorce

Dorothy knew

well the grudge her mom had been holding onto for years

Did she harbor resentment herself? Hell yeah, she did Her dad had sneakily shifted assets and used emotional abuse to drive her mom to suicide. Their world came crashing down overnight. She was young then. She cried and begged her dad not to leave, but he didn't even spare her a glance.

While other kids were in school studying she had to work for money. She washed dishes and scrubbed toilets every day. She had no idea what a vacation felt like. While other kids were sleeping, she was studying. That was the only time she could squeeze in some study time in her cramped mom.

She was pissed too

But more than anything, she wished her mom was alive. At least in this cold, uncaring world, she would have a relative by her side.

11 look into this, Mom. If you don't want to see the mistress success, don't let it get to you" Dorothy tucked her mom in, gently patting her hand. "Mom, you're all I have."

"Alright, Dorothy. For you, I want to live too."

After calming her mom down and waiting for her to fall asleep, Dorothy finally took a breather in the hospital corridor.

She suddenly felt like having a smoke, wondering if it really could help relieve stress.

As Dorothy was about to ask about the investigation results, her phone rang. It was Everett

She checked the time. It was already 7p.m.

"Where are you?

"At the hospital Dorothy's voice was hoarse

There was a pause on the other end. Wait for me."

"Hey, there's no need. EveretF

Before she could finish, he hung up.

Dorothy didn't want to keep being a nuisance to Everett.

He had already given her so much support in her career. supposed to repay him for all this?

was

How was she

Everett arrived quickly. Just as as informed that the cleaner was not a hospital employee but someone who had stolen a uniform, he was already standing behind her

The moment she saw him, she felt a sudden burst of confidence

After briefly understanding the situation, Everett immediately called the hospital director, demanding a thorough investigation. Upon seeing Everett, the director was all nods and bows, promising that such managerial oversights would never happen again. Since this involved patient safety, the hospital reported it to the police immediately.

Dorothy was about to follow when Everett stopped her.

"Lat first."

Im not hungry" She was womed that the mother—daughter duo would come to harass her mom again. If this plan failed, there would surely be another one.

"You have a stomach problem." Everett frowned. He was adamant. "If you

Dorothy was taken aback. "How did you know?"

what's going to happen to your mom?"

"I saw stomach medicine in your luggage.

"He paused. "How did your ex-boyfriend take care of you?"

Dorothy fell silent.

Eventually, Everett bought her a bowl of porridge nearby and stayed with her throughout the police investigation.

She heard Everett's phone ring over and over again. She guessed there must be an emergency on his end. He stepped out several times, but each time she thought he was going to leave, he returned.

1 can handle this on my own"

"Dorothy, we're already registered."

He stated it calmly, as if stating a fact.

"You're not fine. You're just putting up a brave front."

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The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 38

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"Stop being se nice to me! I might get the wrong ides and start to want more! Dorothy really wanted to say this. She was like a person who received a sp of water after being on the verge of dying from thirst. She wanted more, and she wanted it consistently.

But she couldn't She didn't have the courage to say this, let alone show any interest in Everell

After following him back to Bay Residence, Dorothy was so timed that she collapsed on the bed after taking a bath. She didn't know how much time had passed when she vaguely heard some naise from outside.

She opened her eyes and subconsciously checked her phone. It was three in the morning and the man beside her was still not back in

the room.

She put on her robe

d

robe and went out, only to see Everett sitting in the living room chair, frowning slightly while having a video conference with the head of the overseas company

He must have been delayed because of het so the meeting had to be postponed until this late hour

Feeling guilty, Dorothy saw him wearing only a white shirt, which seemed too thir, so she took a blanket from her suitcase.

Upon hearing he footsteps, Everett locked up at her and then muted the video conference. "Did I wake you up?"

Dorothy shook her head. "No, just woke up to get som water. Here, wrap this around you. Don't catch a cold."

She saw Everett hesitate. She instantly thought that he must have found the blanket dirty due to his severe obsession with cleanliness. Just as she was about to explain that it was new Everett reached out his hand 'Okay, Thanks

After seeing him take it and wrap it around himself, Dorothy headed to the dining room to get some water

Behind her, she heard Everett say sorry to the person on the other end of the cell, and then, in a low voice, he added, "My wife woke up."

Wife? His wile?

Was he referring to her?

He actually introduced her like that to the other person?

Alter drinking water and returning to the bedroom, Dorothy no longer felt sleepy, so she decided to continue working on her documents.

I was almost dawn when Everett finally entered the master bedroom.

His handsome lace showed clear signs of exhaustion.

Dorothy quickly put down her laptop and stood a "You should get some rest. If you are worried about not waking up later, I will wake you up."

"Okay" He nodded and headed to the bathroom with his robe.

There she stood by the door, waiting like a dutiful with

When Everett came out of the bath, Dorothy cuickly plugged in the hair dryer, offering to help "Shall I dry your hair for you"

"Sure"

He sat on the edge of the bed, occasionally gazing at her bustling around as a smirk played on his lips.

Dorothy was a bit nervous. She was worried that he might catch a cold if his hair was not died properly and that she might delay his sleep by being too slow

Everett suddenly held her slender waist and looked up slightly. "I need to be at the company in two hours."

wake you up."

"What I mean is, I don't want to sleep."

Before Dorothy Could react, he had already taken the initiative, pinning her beneath him.

"Lverell..."

"Just once, okay?"

Alter being asked so bluntly, Dorothy naturally wouldn't answer, but she quietly wrapped her arms around his waist

Everell was always gentle on this matter. He was very considerate of her feelings in the passionate encounter Dorothy almost completely forget about everything, but thankfully, the tattoo on his collarbone minded her

This man was just using her as a substitute.

His care and his protection might be withcawn suddenly one day.

Dorothy frowned slightly and raised the blanket to cover the string of numbers on his collarbone.

At least now, at this moment, her dream could last a little longer,

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The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 39

When Dorothy wake up. Everett had already left

Since it was the weekend, she got up and cleaned the house after freshening up before heading to the hospital with the food she had prepared.

Upon reaching Ward V1, she saw two men standing at the door. They were the typical bodyguard types you see in TV shows, dressed in black and stone–faced.

As she approached, they blocked her.

"Access to this ward requires the consent of the person inside!

"Im Bella's daughter"

At first, Dorally thought this was something the hospital had arranged, but after inquiring, she found out that they were actually Everett's personal bodyguards.

After verifying her identity, she was allowed into the ward.

Bella, seeing her daughter, hurriedly asked, "Who are these two men standing outs de? They're so intimidating Even the doctors had to show their IDs today

Dorothy put down the lunch box and explained. The hospital has upped their security since strangers have been coming into your werd."

"But isn't that a b1 over the top? I don't see this in alte words "Bella took a few bites of her food, then remembered something 'Right! You haven't told me about your boyfriend What does he do for a living? He sure seems loaded. I asked around about the price for a VIP room, and its 1,000 dollars just for the bed per day! You better spill the beans. Don't try to keep me in the dark

"M's 1,000 dollars a day for this place

This was the first time Dorothy heard the price for a VIP room. She knew it would be expensive. She thought it would be around a hundred or two, but she hadn't expected it to be this much

Bella became even more worried after seeing her daughter's surprised expression.

"What's this guy's game? Why is he spending money on you but not telling you why?" She thought hard, then panicked "This guy... he's not after your organs, is he?!"

Dorothy was gute mpressed with her mother's ability to jump to conclusions. She was probably the first person to think that Everen was involved in organ trafficking

"Are you watching loo much TV? As she busily made her mother's bed and cleaned the wheelchair she said, "Mom, starting next Monday, Ill be working at the head office. Il a

so need to go to Havenbrook on a business trip, so I won't be able to visit for a few days. Please take care of yourself and don't worry me."

"You're going back to Havenbrook?"

Just the mention of the place made Bella look ke she'd heard a trigger word. Her face suddenly clouded over

"It's for work.

It's not a vacation. I have to do as the company says."

Besides, she didn't have any qualms about Haverbrock. She didn't have any family or friends there, nor any fond memories to reminisce about

*Just be careful, and bring your boyfriend over when you return from your trip."

Why was she banging up the boyfriend issue again?

"He's very busy. He doesn't have the time. Hell come when he's free

"You silly girl. Your mom just wants to vet him for you Just because we're using his money now doesn't mean I accept any son—in—law II it comes to it, we can just not do the operation, and fil leave the hospital."

-Dorothy was gelling a headache and didn't want to continue the conversation.

She pulled up a chair and sat down. Just as she was about to check her phone, she noticed a missed call from an unknown number. Worried it might be work–related, she quickly got up and stepped outside the ward in return the call.

After a few rings, it was picked up.

"Is this Dorothy? Can you come to the head off co right now? I need to discuss the contract for the SineSuccess Enterprises project with you in detail,

The voice sounded familiar. She recognized it night away as Heather's.

14:57

"Winght. Tim heading over now."

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When it came to work, Dorothy couldn't afford to slack off,

After a quick word with her mom, she hailed a cab to the head office of the Lopez Corporation.

hadn't been here often. She only ever came during the annual meetings of the Prosperity Consortium.

She was dumbstruck the moment she stepped into the lobby

This place was just stunning. The hanging chandeliers alone, made of natural crystal must cost a fortune. The surroundings resembled a museum. It was filled with antique pieces and original masterpieces.

Following Heather's instructions, Dorothy took elevator number 12 straight to the ninth floor.

As soon as she stepped out, she spotted Heather's office. The words "Chief Legal Officer on the door signified the importance of Heather to the whole Lopez Corporation.

"You got here quick." Heather was decked in a Chanel dress. Her makeup was subtle yet exuded an air of sophistication

"is the contract from SinoSuccess Enterprises already ready?" Dorothy didn't want to make small talk, given her awkward position, and cut straight to the chase.

"Mm-hmm. Mr. Percy from Team 3 was in a hurry, so the legal department sped up the process." Heather stood up from her chair to pour Dorothy a glass of water "Normally, projects of this scale wouldn't land on my desk. But Everett asked me to help you out so i specifically requested this contract

Every time she mentioned Everett, there was an intimacy in her tone that suggested their relationship was rock solid and impenetrable.

Upon seeing Dorothy silent, she smiled. Sit down! There are some details in the contract that need to be ironed out with you so you can't just up and leave.

Hearing this, Dorothy pulled out a chair and sat down, her manner impeccable. "Thanks for the trouble"

"No need to thank me. All projects of the Lopez Corporation ultimately belong to Everett My return to the country is simply to assist him." Heather Laid out the contract from SingSuccess Enterprises on the table 'Back to business, the breach of contract part in this agreement has major flaws in your proposal. Of course, I understand your lack of experience, but you need to know there are limits to legal compensation for breaches. If you exceed them, not only will the court not support you, but the other company won't care either

Dorothy nodded and started making notes on the contract.

"I get that you're trying to intimidate them, but you need to know your place. Crossing the line is not a good look."

Although Heather said it casually Dorothy felt there might be some hidden meaning in her words.

"I have no intentions of overstepping my boundaries. I'm simply an employee of the Lopez Corporation, and I'm doing my best within

the confines of the contract"

Heather paused, then laughed. "We're discussing work here."

Tm also talking about work

"Oh, that's good. I was worried you might misunderstand something"

After that, they continued discussing the details of the contract

There was no denying that Heather was exceptional in her field.

After hearing about her from Karen, Dorothy looked up Heather's profile out of curiosity

She had been involved in several major cases for the Lopez Corporation overseas and made significant contributions to the company.

It was no wonder she was Everell's in love.

"Were you and Everett classmates?"

Heather's question snapped Dorothy out of her thoughts.

"Mm bom."

"Middle school classmates, right? Everett once told me about a deskmate his who ofton skipped school to work"