

The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 451 - Read The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 451

Chapter 451

Seeing Everett charge toward her like a but seeing red ather had her los
prosty pay

Luckily, her reflexes were quick. She sched
oger from the negre

and pressed it to Dorothy's Throt

"Everett, take one more step and take Dorothy don

Everett's eyes blazed with a bloodthirsty fury. At the sight of Dorothy, barely
clinging t| primal desire to flay Heather alive.

"Let her go!"

"Not a chance!" Heather tightened her grip on Dorothy's neck, and the
closer, and Dorothy meets her maker"

Everett halted his advance abruptly, and his p

posse swiftly encircled Heather

s ignited with a

Kevin rushed in, took stock of the situation, and immediately tended to Karen
and Abigail before hospital

He knew Heather wasn't escaping today.

hem whisked away to the

"Everett, even now, you're still blinded by that tramp! Can't you see what I've
done for your Heathers baugh w moved, the dagger

sliced Dorothy's skin, drawing fresh blood that stained the bl and Heather's
hand

The pain seemed to jolt Dorothy back to consciousness

In a daze, she saw Everett standing before her.

Dorothy thought she was dreaming

Everett said in a cold and clipped voice, sending shivers down everyone's
spine. Let her go, and might spare yo dies. I'll show

you a hell that makes death seem like mercy!"

Tve already tasted that hell! I've loved you so deeply. For the Lopez family, I
took your mother's place and endured unspeakable

violations! Do you know what it's like to be stripped and dragged on the floor
by those men? Do you know the agony of being

burned with cigarettes, of having bottles forced into me? You don't! But
without me, your mother would have known that fate"

“Stop! This has nothing to do with Dorothy! Let her go. If you want revenge, take it out on me!” Everett refused to engage with her trade. His gaze fixed solely on Dorothy

She lay there, motionless, covered in blood, with her clothes torn and barely providing cover. If not for the faint rise and fall of her chest, it would be hard to tell if Dorothy was alive.

This was the Dorothy that Everett couldn't bear to even scold.

“I want to hurt you too! But I can't! Everett, I can't bear it Heather screamed, tears streaming down her face. It's all because of her, Dorothy! You won't even look at me. Everett, if she's gone, we can be together”

“Don't touch her Heather, whatever issues we have, we'll settle them between us. Just let Dorothy go!” Everett was stern in his voice, hoping to calm crazy Heather.

He feared that in a moment of madness, she would plunge the dagger into Dorothy's throat

“Settle this?” Heather looked up at him, her eyes filled with anger but even more with disappointment and obsession. “Fine, then I want you to propose to me right here, right now on your knees!”

Chapter 452

Even now, after everything, she still wanted to marry Everett.

From the moment she first laid eyes on him, through all the trials and tribulations, Heather yearned to be Everett's wife, if only for a day....

Everett furrowed his brow, his eyes cold and calculating as if he were trying to figure out how to disarm her.

Seeing no immediate movement from him, Heather pressed the blade she held ever so slightly deeper into Dorothy's neck.

“Unwilling?”

“Ahh...” A sharp pain forced a cry from Dorothy, but she still managed to extend a trembling hand towards Everett, shaking her head. “Don't... Everett, please don't...”

“Don't touch her, I'll do as you say!” The sight of Dorothy's blood sent Everett into action, casting aside all other concerns.

He dropped to one knee, his gaze lifting to meet Heather's. “Are you satisfied now?”

“I told you to propose, not to beg! You haven't even spoken yet, Heather twisted her face into a perverse semblance of joy “Say it, ask me to marry you!”

Everett clenched his teeth, with a frosty glare in his eyes, “I ask you to marry

me.”

But Heather laughed even more wildly “Lauder, I didn’t hear you and neither did Dorothy!”

“I ask you!” Everett raised his voice.

“I still didn’t hear you. Come closer, Heather toyed with him.

Everett started to rise, but she cut him off, “Don’t you stand. Crawl to me on your knees and then say you want to marry me!”

Everyone present was in sheer silence.

Dorothy strained to open her eyes, only to catch a blurred vision of the man who once stood so high above them, untouchable in

his dignity, now kneeling on the dirty ground before Heather.

Their eyes met, and he seemed to plead with her to hold on, just a little longer.

Gritting his teeth, Everett inched closer to Heather.

His bodyguards shuffled nervously behind him, worried she might harm Mr. Lopez.

“Get out, all of you, get out!” Heather suddenly screamed at them. “Everett, make them leave”

“Everyone out,” Everett barked, desperate to prevent Heather from driving the knife deeper into Dorothy’s flesh. He would have agreed to anything at that point, even a life for a life

Once the warehouse was left to just the three of them, Heather turned to

Everett with a twisted smile. “Do you know how much I

love you? When I was saving your mother, it hurts like a torture. But all I could think of was that if I survived, your mother would

agree to let me marry you! Suddenly, the pain didn’t feel so bad anymore!”

Everett was speechless.

“I could have lived like royalty, you know. With that debt of gratitude, the Lopez family could have given me a life of splendor. I

knew all that! But what could I do? I just wanted to be your bride. Even if you weren’t Everett, even if you weren’t the heir to the

Lopez Corporation, I still would choose a life of hardship with you!”

Perhaps those were the truest words Heather ever spoke.

She had deceived many, but in this, she was sincere.

Yet as she poured out her love, his affectionate gaze remained fixed on Dorothy!

“Everett, come closer, and I’ll let Dorothy go.”

“Okay”

Everett moved without hesitation, but Dorothy, sensing the movement of

Heather's knife, screamed with all her might, "No, don't!" In the next instant, Heather's blade plunged straight towards Everett.

Chapter 453

Heather showed no mercy, intending to kill Everett.

With brutal force, she plunged the knife deep, gripping it with both hands to drive it further. Blood instantly soaked through his suit and stained his crisp white shirt.

Everett had chosen that outfit with care that morning, knowing he would wake up to the sight of Dorothy.

"If you want to kill me for Dorothy, fine. I'm not afraid to die. Everett, you're coming with me. We'll die together, never to be parted!"

"No, Everett!" Dorothy reached out, but her vision blurred uncontrollably. As consciousness faded, she faintly heard Heather's wild cackle and Everett's deep, hoarse voice, saying, "Forget about me, her first."

Dorothy seemed to be plummeting into an abyss

Her body was suspended, endlessly falling

She saw her mother drifting further away until she vanished. She also saw Kenneth, Karen, Langston, and Abigail all waving goodbye before they too disappeared into nothingness

Dorothy struggled to reach out to them but couldn't even control her body.

Suddenly the world began to spin, and a violent nausea swept over her. She hurriedly opened her eyes and turned her head, retching up a mess of slime and vomit.

"She's awake, she's awake! Get the doctor, quick!"

Kenneth's excited voice was in her ears, followed by a flurry of footsteps approaching.

save

Dorothy was blank in mind, save for the relentless vomiting. Eventually, nothing came up but dry heaves, as if she wished to expel her very insides.

"What's happening to her, Doctor?"

"It's normal a reaction to the anesthesia. She'll be fine shortly"

Kenneth watched the doctor administer medication and check her vitals, then tried to take her hand. But just as he was about to touch her, Dorothy pulled away.

Her face was ghostly pale, her lips cracked and bleeding.

"Where's Everett? Where's Everett?"

“You’re worried about him? Dorothy, you were so close to death! If it weren’t for Everett, none of this would’ve happened?”

Kenneth was livid, not just because Karen was involved, but because he was pained for Dorothy.

All these years, she had carefully avoided Everett, and yet he’d contrived to bring her to Eldoria City, making her Heather’s target. Kenneth didn’t dare think what would have happened if Everett hadn’t kept an eye on Heather and if he hadn’t found Dorothy in time.

In Heather’s clutches, Dorothy would have surely died.

But at that moment, Dorothy didn’t want to hear blame. She needed to know Everett’s condition!

She had watched, helplessly, as that long, sharp dagger was thrust into Everett.

“Please, Kenneth... take me to him. I need to see him.”

“You can’t see him anymore! Everett’s gone!”

Dorothy was dumbfounded, with her body turning rigid. Her eyes were unfocused as if she’d gone blind. “You’re lying, you’re lying to me!”

“I’m not lying. After everything happened, the Lopez family came and took both Everett and Heather away. I couldn’t find out anything about him!”

Dorothy blinked, her throat raw as if razors were slicing through it

“So, he’s not dead... right? He’s not dead, just taken away?”

Chapter 454

Kenneth really wanted to tell Dorothy the harsh truth that Everett was gone, so Dorothy could finally let go and stop waiting for a miracle.

He knew the pain would be temporary and she would eventually come to terms with reality.

But as he looked into her anxious eyes with worries, his resolve faltered, “He’s not dead,” Kenneth lied, his voice barely above a whisper. “The Lopez family got him to City Hospital in time. That’s all I know

“But the knife... I saw it, Kenneth! I saw Heather plunge it right into his heart!” Dorothy’s fear was palpable. What if Everett had survived the ride but not the aftermath? What about the life-saving efforts?

“Dorothy! When are you going to start worrying about yourself?”

Kenneth’s words were cut off as Dorothy struggled to rise. The sudden movement pulled at her wounds, quickly staining the

bandages with fresh blood. Yet she seemed numb to the pain, cursing her weakened body for not easy motion

“I need to get to City Hospital, Kenneth. Please take me there!”

“I won’t let you!” It was the first time Kenneth had ever raised his voice to her. The frustration had been building inside him for so long that he seemed to implode if he didn’t let it out.

When he shouted, Dorothy paused, but then persisted in searching for her shoes, determined to leave.

Helplessly she attempted to stand, only to collapse forward

Her freshly stitched wounds tore open, with the IV needle in her arm dislodging. Pain shot through her from all directions, a sheen of sweat instantly coating her forehead.

“Dorothy!” Kenneth rushed to her side.

But she pushed him away, adamant. I need to go to City Hospital

“Your legs are broken! You can’t even walk! Come on, let’s have the doctor check you first, and then I’ll take you there,” Kenneth pleaded, knowing he couldn’t fight her on this.

But Dorothy had only one thought in her mind. She needed to see Everett alive, with her own eyes.

“Please, stop making a scene, will you?” Kenneth cracked his voice, with his eyes brimming with tears. “Dorothy, Everett has the entire Lopez family behind him. They won’t let him die, but you... you have nobody!”

Dorothy looked up sharply. Her small face marred with bruises and cuts was heart-wrenching to see.

Yet her resolve did not waver as she insisted through clenched teeth. I need to see Everett... Take me to him.”

“Dorothy, they won’t let you see him, even if you go. The Lopez family will turn you away.”

“Just take me there. I’m begging you, Kenneth!” in a moment of desperation Dorothy began to bang her head against the floor, heedless of her wounds, not caring that blood was soaking through the bandages.

She had to get to City Hospital immediately. She feared that even a second’s delay might cost her the chance to see Everett.

Kenneth scrambled to her, wrapping his arms around her to stop her from hurting herself any further.

“Dorothy, listen to me. Once you heal, I promise I’ll take you. Look at yourself, you’re covered in blood. You might not even make it to the hospital before you collapse!”

Her injuries were extensive, with fractures in her legs, deep lacerations on her arms and back, and a severe concussion. She couldn't stand on her own, and leaving the hospital was incredibly risky. "I have to go... take me... Dorothy's tears mingled with the blood on her bandages, falling in a steady stream down her cheeks. Kenneth clenched his fists tightly, then let them go limp. "Okay, I'll take you, Just stop crying."

Chapter 455

Kenneth was worried sick about Dorothy on the road, so he shelled out extra cash for a couple of doctors to accompany them.

Since Dorothy was practically immobile, Kenneth had no choice but to carry her down the stairs and into the car.

As they neared City Hospital, it was clear something big was going down. The scene was different today and something had happened.

The Lopez family had even blocked off the surrounding streets, so no car could come or go freely.

"If you'd woken up a bit earlier, it might've been easier to get in, but now....

The Lopez family must have returned from abroad."

Without any way forward, Kenneth turned to Dorothy, who sat in the backseat. He hoped she would reconsider.

"You'll figure something out, Kenneth."

Kenneth sighed heavily, parked the car nearby, and made a call to a friend. In no time, he was back.

"Change your clothes. My buddy's a doctor at City Hospital, and he's coming to sneak you in."

"Okay!" Dorothy didn't hesitate, waiting obediently, eyes fixed on the road ahead.

She had to get to City Hospital because that's where Everett was!

Of course, Dorothy knew the Lopez family would give her a hard time, but being closer to him, even just a little, was worth it.

Minutes later, Kenneth's friend arrived in a hurry.

After a glance at Dorothy, he said to Kenneth, "I can only take her in pretending she's a patient from City Hospital."

"Can't you get me in too? She can't handle the Lopez family alone Kenneth couldn't bear the thought of Dorothy facing them by herself.

But his friend was helpless, "No can do, man. If I get caught, I'm toast!"

“I’ll go alone!” Dorothy immediately clutched Ken’s sleeve. “Don’t worry about me, I got this.”

Kenneth, seeing the hope in her eyes, could only nod in agreement.

Dorothy was wheeled into City Hospital by Kenneth’s friend. Once inside, she looked up. “You can leave. Don’t get into trouble.

because of me. I can find my way.”

“You sure?” Kenneth’s friend eyed the bloodstains on Dorothy, feeling she wasn’t there to visit, but rather needed treatment herself

“I’m fine.”

Dorothy didn’t want to be a burden.

“Alright then, if you need me, I’ll be on the third floor at the Internal Medicine Clinic

After he left, Dorothy immediately headed for the ICU at City Hospital.

She knew the place well, because her mother had been arranged by Everett to stay in the VIP ward here and had surgery here

100. 100.

Over four years had passed and she never imagined she’d return under these circumstances.

Dorothy wheeled into the elevator, heading for the emergency room floor. As it halted, she heard what sounded like Amanda’s sobs.

“He’s so young... my son is so young! He can’t die... I won’t let him!”

Dorothy felt as if she’d been frozen, her heartbeat seemingly stopped, unable to move an inch!

What did Amanda mean?

Everell?

Was he dead?

It was Jonathan Lopez’s voice that snapped Dorothy back to reality.

Before she could utter a word, her wheelchair was flipped over, and she was dumped onto the floor!

“You bring bad luck wherever you go! Give me back my son!” Amanda, wild-eyed, lurged at Dorothy, not caring that she too was covered in wounds.

Luckily, Jonathan, fearing his wife couldn’t take the strain, pulled her back,

“Stop it! Even if you kill her now, our son won’t come back!”

Chapter 456

“If it weren’t for her, Everett would never be in this mess! He would have

already married Heather and wouldn't be lying in a hospital bed! Dorothy, you give me back my son, you hear me?" Amanda was sobbing so hard she could barely catch her breath, her body skimped to the floor in defeat.

She had always been strong, always been proud. But facing her son's uncertain fate in her twilight years was more than she could bear.

It was simply too cruel!

Jonathan wrapped his arms around his wife, trying to offer some comfort, then frowned at Dorothy who was struggling to get up from the ground

"Get out, you're not welcome here! I've spared you for the sake of the children you bore for the Lopez family, and that's mercy enough! If you don't leave now, I swear..."

"I'm not going anywhere. Dorothy had come prepared for anything. "If Everett dies, I won't live without him,"

The conviction in her eyes was unmistakable.

Jonathan found himself believing her without a trace of doubt.

She was capable of it.

But that didn't mean the Lopez family would ever accept her as a daughter-in-law!

He knew all too well that his wife would never accept Dorothy, not to mention the matter with Dorothy's mother,

Once the truth came out, there could be no happy ending!

"Then go del Hurry up and die! Amanda was beyond reason, attempting to break free from her husband's hold to attack Dorothy again!

But Dorothy, though in a pitiful state on the floor, kept her gaze fixed on the red light above the emergency room door.

The light was still on.

That meant Everett was still alive, still fighting.

"You won't leave on your own, I'll have to have you removed. You can see how your presence affects Everett's mother!"

"Dorothy, if you

"No, I won't leave. I have to stay with Everett Dorothy shook her head as if obsessed, "When he wakes up, he'll want to see me first. I know it! I can't leave

Jonathan frowned and signaled to the bodyguards standing nearby.

Two men immediately hoisted Dorothy up from either side.

"I've tried to reason with you, but if you won't listen, don't blame me for

throwing you out!”

Dorothy struggled fiercely. “I need to be here! Don’t touch me!”

But she was already badly injured, every touch causing her immense pain.

How could she fight against two men?

Soon, her voice faded away from the emergency room floor.

Jonathan glanced at the elevator then his gaze fell on the spot where Dorothy had been lying

The blood there had dried, dark and red like ink.

It seemed she was injured quite seriously.

Amanda in his arms was crying her heart out, her eyes swollen like walnuts.

“Jonathan, it’s all that Dorothy’s fault! Heather was so gentle, and she loved our son so much that she would never have done something like this! You must send someone to take care of that menace, or our family will never have peace!”

Jonathan furrowed his brow deeply, and he let out a heavy sigh, “We do owe Honther for the past, but you’ve already made a scene for so long. It is enough!

“Our son is in the emergency room, his life hanging by a thread, and you’re at defending Dorothy?”

“But it wasn’t Dorothy who stabbed our son!

Amanda was stunned into silence by the rebuke, her sobs momentarily forgotten.

Finally, Jonathan stood up, glanced at Dorothy who had been thrown out of the hospital but refused to leave, and said firmly,

“Calm yourself. The doctors from abroad are in place and ready. We’re preparing to leave. Saving Everett is what’s most important now.”

Chapter 457

Dorothy found herself abandoned outside the hospital, her gaze locked on the relentlessly closing doors. A lock clicked into

place, sealing off her hopes as she lay powerless on the cold ground.

Her heart swelled with frustration, cursed her helplessness, and loathed her inability to do anything in that critical moment.

In her relationship with Everett, Dorothy had always been the passive one, while Everett, the gallant hero, had always been the one to shield her from the storms of life.

As dusk turned to night, the sky darkened ominously.

The evening breeze grew stronger, carrying the earthy scent of an impending downpour.

Soon, the rumble of thunder rolled through the air!
Dorothy's eyes remained fixed on those closed doors. They seemed to draw a clear line between two worlds.

No one could come out and she couldn't go in.

Giant raindrops began to fall, driven by a biting wind, washing away the dried blood on Dorothy's skin and soaking her thin clothes. Yet Dorothy stayed put, even mustering the strength to prop herself up, inching closer to the barrier that separated her from Everett

This was as close as she could get to him.

Time lost meaning, and the rain's duration blurred into oblivion. Suddenly, the rain above her ceased.

Slowly, Dorothy looked up to find Kenneth standing beside her, shielding her with a vast black umbrella,

"Dorothy, let's head back," he urged.

"No... she croaked with her hoarse voice.

Kenneth crouched, gently wiping the rain from her cheeks with the corner of his jacket. "Don't you see? Every time you and Everett come close, disaster follows! Without him, your life might be dull, but at least it's stable. Without you, he'd still be the untouchable and proud Mr. Everett Lopez!"

His words seared into Dorothy's heart.

A sudden pain clutched her chest, as if a heavy stone was crushing her, making it hard to breathe, tears streaming uncontrollably. "I never meant to hurt him..." She would rather be the one dying!

"Yes, I know, and even Everett's parents are aware! But you've seen it yourself, even after what Heather did, the Lopez family didn't choose to accept you."

What would become of Heather was not interesting to Kenneth. His sole concern was to persuade Dorothy to stop torturing herself and return.

"Kenneth, just let me wait for him here. As soon as I know he's alive, I'll leave."

Dorothy was running on fumes, both mentally and physically, clinging desperately to the hope of seeing Everett again. Kenneth positioned the umbrella over her. As he reached to lift her he recoiled at the scorching heat of her fevered skin. "You're burning up! Dorothy, you need to come back with me now!"

She had just undergone surgery and was covered in wounds, and now

drenched in the rain for so long. It was a miracle she hadn't gone into shock.

"No, I won't leave." Dorothy was weak and shaky in her voice, but the word "no" came out with undeniable clarity. "He hasn't woken up yet... I have to stay with him."

Kenneth was at his wit's end. "Dorothy! Do you want to kill yourself with this stubbornness? If not for anyone else, think about your children! Abigail and Langston are waiting for you. They're your kids with Everett!"

Chapter 458

On the mention of Abigail and Langston, Dorothy finally settled her gaze with a different light sparked in her eyes.

"Abigail... she's okay, right?"

"She's fine! Heather didn't lay a finger on her. With Karen watching over her, she didn't even lose a hair!"

"And what about Karen?"

Kenneth thinned his lips and didn't answer immediately.

Dorothy clenched her heart and grabbed his sleeve, urgent with worry, "Is Karen badly hurt? Did Heather do something to her?"

At the thought of what Heather had done to herself, Dorothy was filled with instant terror!

She feared that Karen had suffered those torments.

"She's alright, better than alright! Her parents picked her up to take care of her. Kenneth quickly reassured her. "You're the one who got the worst of it, Dorothy. Come back with me. Who knows how long you'll have to wait here?"

Kenneth had rushed to the scene earlier. By the time he arrived, Everett was already deeply unconscious, being whisked away in an ambulance along with Heather.

He had headed inside the warehouse. Upon entering, the smell of blood hit him. Following the scent, he stumbled upon a huge pool of blood on the ground.

It was a sight that shook him to his core!

Kenneth thought Everett hadn't made it.

Later on, it was only after he held back Kevin, who was dealing with the aftermath, that he learned which hospital Everett had been taken to.

Kenneth knew Dorothy would ask about him as soon as she woke up. But as for Everett's condition, he knew it wasn't good. Even if she stayed by the door all night, there might not be any news.

“Please, let me stay here to be with him,” Dorothy whispered weakly. “He’s done so much for me. Let me do this.”

Kenneth fell his gaze, realizing just how thin she had become since coming to Elcornia City, frail and gaunt.

Her collarbone was deeply recessed, and her vertebrae protruded starkly as she bowed her head.

“I never could say no to you.”

Kenneth let out a heavy sigh and called a friend from the City Hospital to bring over a coat and some fever reducers.

Even if she wasn’t going back for treatment, she needed to bring her fever down.

At this rate, she was going to faint right there.

Unable to sway her, Kenneth stayed by Dorothy, waiting through the night as it turned to day through the cessation of the torrential rain. Until he had smoked his way through an entire pack of cigarettes, they still got no news,

Finally, at seven in the morning, a person in a white lab coat emerged, opening the door,

The sight of Dorothy and Kenneth seemed to startle him.

“What are you two doing here?”

Dorothy tried to speak, but her voice was as if lost, her lips moving without sound.

Thankfully, Kenneth was there. He stood up and approached, “Hello, I wanted to ask about the patient brought in yesterday,

Everett. How is he doing?”

The doctor blinked, recollecting. “Ah! The young heir of the wealthy Lopez family?”

“That’s the one!”

“He’s transferred overseas during the night” The doctor glanced at Dorothy’s pale face and continued, “His injuries were too severe and that stab wound was fatal! Pierced right through the chest, there was nothing more we could do.”

Kenneth turned to support Dorothy, who was attempting to crawl to the doctor’s feet, her voice raspy and barely audible.

“Whic... country did he go to?”

“I have no idea!” the doctor replied.

Chapter 458

On the mention of Abigail and Langston, Dorothy finally settled her gaze with a different light sparked in her eyes.

“Abigail... she’s okay, night?”

“She’s fine! Heather didn’t lay a finger on her. With Karen watching over her, she didn’t even lose a hair!”

“And what about Karm?”

Kenneth thinned his lips and didn’t answer immediately

Dorothy clenched her heart and grabbed his sleeve, urgent with worry. “Is Karen badly hurt? Did Heather do something to her?”

At the thought of what Heather had done to herself, Dorothy was filled with instant terror!

She feared that Karen had suffered those torments.

“She’s alright, better than alright! Her parents picked her up to take care of her, Kenneth quickly reassured her, “You’re the one who got the worst of it. Dorothy. Come back with me. Who knows how long you’ll have to wait here?”

Kenneth had rushed to the scene earlier. By the time he arrived, Everett was already deeply unconscious, being whisked away in an ambulance along with Heather.

He had headed inside the warehouse. Upon entering, the smell of blood hit him. Following the scent, blood on the ground.

It was a sight that shook him to his core!

Kenneth thought Everett hadn’t made it. stumbled upon a huge pool of
Later on, it was only after he held back Kevin, who was dealing with the aftermath, that he learned which hospital Everett had been taken to.

Kenneth knew Dorothy would ask about him as soon as she woke up. But as for Everett’s condition, he knew it wasn’t good. Even if she stayed by the door all night, there might not be any news.

“Please, let me stay here to be with him,” Dorothy whispered weakly, “He’s done so much for me. Let me do this.”

Kenneth fell his gaze, realizing just how thin she had become since coming to Eldoria City frail and gaunt.

Her collarbone was deeply recessed, and her vertebrae protruded starkly as she bowed her head.

“I never could say no to you.”

Kenneth let out a heavy sigh and called a friend from the City Hospital to bring over a coat and some fever reducers

Even if she wasn’t going back for treatment, she needed to bring her fever down.

At this rate, she was going to faint right there.

Unable to sway her, Kenneth stayed by Dorothy, waiting through the night as

it turned to day through the cessation of the tomential Until he had smoked his way through an entire pack of cigarettes, they still got no news.

Finally, at seven in the morning, a person in a white lab coat emerged, opening the door

The sight of Dorothy and Kenneth seemed to startle him.

“What are you two doing here?”

Dorothy tried to speak, but her voice was as if lost, her lips moving without sound.

Thankfully, Kenneth was there. He stood up and approached, “Hello, I wanted to ask about the patient brought in yesterday,

Everett. How is he doing?”

The doctor blinked, recollecting, “All The young heir of the wealthy Lopez family?

“That’s the one!”

“He’s transferred overseas during the night!” The doctor glanced at Dorothy’s pale face and continued. “His injuries were too severe and that stab wound was fatal! Pierced right through the chest, there was nothing more we could do.”

Kenneth turned to support Dorothy, who was attempting to crawl to the doctor’s feet, her voice raspy and barely audible.

“Which country did he go to?”

“Have no idea the doctor replied.

Chapter 459

The doctor had just left the room when Kenneth scooped Dorothy up from the floor.

“You know, with Nim cut of the picture now you can finally come back with me, right?”

Dorothy’s game was hollow. It took her a long moment to respond. Kevin!

Yes, Kevin must know where he’s gone. Kenneth,

please, take me to Lopez Corporation’

“You’re going to show up like this? You should at least have skin with stains of blood here and there

It was an understatement to say she was a mess swung by the hospital to clean up and change Her clothes were soaked through

clinging to her

I can’t wait, I just can’t I need to be with Everett Kenneth please, just take me there, right now! The words were forced. Her voice

was so hoarse and i was almost inaudible, with her lips barely moving

“No way, you’re coming with me first Kenneth couldn’t let her go on like this.

They had been up at night, and even the healthiest body could take this. Dorothy clutched at his shirt desperately. Please..”
I’m the one begging you okay? Well hit the hospital, change your clothes, and then well go

“Now..

Before Dorothy could finish her plea, darkness enveloped her vision, and she lost consciousness in a second

She had pushed herself to her limit

Dorothy Dorothy

Kenneth hurriedly carried her toward City Hospital. There was no time to go back to their original hospital. They needed the closest one.

Dorothy was burning up. At this rate, she’d be gone before Everett

In Mellamo City. Swevia Country

As soon as the plane touched down, a medical team that had been waiting rushed forward

Everett was quickly transferred to the private hospital of Lopez Corporation for emergency surgery.

As her son was wheeled into the OR for the third time Amanda fainted again
The attending physician suggested she rest, but who could sleep at a time like this?

Time ticked mercilessly on Jonathan stood resolutely on the side of the DR neither eating nor drinking

Jonathan, Ms. Garcia has been detained”

His bodyguard approached bending at the waist in a show of respect as he reported.

Are we sure she’s but it?

“Yes, sir. Multiple doctors have confirmed it

Jonathan had wanted to eliminate future threats. Heather had brought nothing but trouble to the Lopez family. He had thought

Heather would be content about the payment for her saving his wife. But now everything had escalated

Heather wanted to die with her son

Jonathan could not tolerate her.

“Take care of her said, his voice devoid of hesitation, his face a mask of resolve.

To grant Heather a swift end was already more mercy than she deserved.

‘Yes. Jonathan’

As the bodyguard turned to leave, Amanda, who had just come to and was being wheeled over, grabbed him, looking to her

husband, No! Heather saved my Le

“Haven’t we repaid her enough? Jonathan erupted, his voice rarely this harsh with his wife. He turned a blind eye in the past, thinking if you two finished your schemes and my son ended up marrying her, it would be a happy ending. You’d get a daughter-in-law you genuinely liked. But look at what Heather’s doing now! He never imagined his wife would go so far as to endanger lives for Fir

Heather had not only tried to kill Dorothy but also dared to lift a hand against the Lopez family’s lineage. Regardless of how Dorothy’s children might turn out, they were of the Lopez family!

Jonathan

“What’s more important to you, your son or Heather? You better get your priorities straight.

Chapter 460

“Can’t you see how this breaks my heart? She’s out of her mind, let’s just leave her with her life! I promise you, I won’t help her anymore. If she stirs up any more trouble, it’s on her head Jonathan simply couldn’t understand his wife

He even let live Heather was the flesh and blood of Amanda!

“She tried to kill our son And you’re still making excuses for her?”

But the real culprit behind all this is Dorothy! I get where Heather’s coming from. She felt hopeless and thought she couldn’t have a future with Everett so the

“Enough!” Jonathan snapped, cutting her off sharply yet when he saw his wife’s pleading eyes, he couldn’t bring himself to say

more. “Just pray Everett’s okay. Otherwise, I’ll never forgive Heather”

Amanda nodded solemnly. “At my age, if I lose my son might as well follow him to the grave.”

“You’re just envious Heather!”

Jonathan took a deep breath his gaze shifting just in time to see a doctor emerging from the operating room

He rushed over, ‘How is my son doing?’

“He’s not in great shape. He had moments of consciousness during the surgery and kept muttering something about Dorothy

Does that mean anything to you?”

Jonathan and Amanda exchanged a knowing look.

“No! My son doesn’t know anyone named Dorothy.” Amanda insisted, still trying to distance her son from any connection with Dorothy,

The doctor unaware of the intricacies, simply nodded, I must have misheard. I thought if the person was close to the patient, bringing her in might help. especially to boost his will to live. His injuries are severe but he kept calling out Dorothy though his voice was too faint for me to catch clearly”
“Can I go in then? To beg him to live for me!” Amanda clutched the doctor’s hand desperately. Tim his mother, who could be more important to him?”

The doctor paused, gently patting her hand, ‘Not now, don’t worry I’ll call for you if we need you’
After he turned to leave, Jonathan quickly caught up and grabbed the doctor’s attention if my son calls out that name again, sell him Dorothy’s okay and she’s doing well”
Dorothy had been unconscious for nearly 30 hours. Infections had set in at almost every wound, causing a relentless high fever How could you care for someone so poorly? Does she at need her legs anymore? the doctor berated Kenneth, She just had surgery for a fracture and you let her leave the hospital, get caught in the tan, all right no less. Do you want her to die?”
Kenneth stood silently with guilt and exhaustion. His dark circles under his eyes could not be more evident.
Ever since Dorothy had been saved from the death, he hadn’t dared to close his eyes. Karen was home taking care of the kids, and Kenneth didn’t trust Anyone else
I’m sorry, doctor. You have to save her please!!
“Do you realize if the infection worsens, it could cause multiple organ failure, and there would be nothing I could do? Even the god makes no difference then.”
“How is she now?”
The doctor gave him a sharp look mistaking him for the patient’s husband.
“She’s clinging to life We’ve managed to pull her back from the brink but if this continues, those legs are done for. She won’t be able to stand again for the rest of her life!”

The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 461 - Read The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 461

Chapter 461

“Yeah, yeah, I promise I won’t let her move an inch Kenneth assured with

vigorous nods. "So, when will she wake up?"

It's hard to say. She wasn't in the best shape to begin with and with all this drama. Just keep a close eye on her."

With those parting words, the doctor left

Kenneth returned to the hospital room to find Dorothy her face void of any color, which made him feel a mixture of anger and sorrow. But then, reflecting on himself, wasn't he also cast from the same mold?

His friends had told him time and again to move on and stop wasting his time, and even Dorothy had urged him to find a girlfriend

But it's not so easy to just take his affection for Dorothy back once it's given away.

As the evening approached, Karen finally managed to slip away from home, leaving the kids with her parents

"Dorothy hasn't woken up yet?"

She approached the bedside, sighing as she looked at the fire lying there. Bro, why does she have to have such a

"The doctor said she's out of danger, just unconscious. Let her sleep it off.

When she comes to, stall probably will

Kenneth dabbed at her hands with a towel, gently avoiding her wounds with tender care

Karen heaved a long sigh. "It's pretty clear that Dorothy and Everetts are done for good this time. So what about you?"

I'm not pushing for anything. As long as she's okay that's all that matters." to go running back to Everett.

Kenneth looked up and smiled at Karen. "When I saw Dorothy all battered and bruised, chasing after Everett regardless of her

life, I wanted to make them a match! How many times in life do we get the chance to love like that?!

But their class difference is just overwhelming! After all that's happened. I've been thinking. We see Dorothy exhausted, worn thin

because of Everett, but Everett had done a lot too, maybe as much as Dorothy is not talk about them anymore. It's in fate's

hands now" Kenneth didn't want to dwell on it. He placed Dorothy's hand back under the covers and raised an eyebrow at Karen

What about you? How are you holding up

Karen's face sported a few scratches, but nothing serious. A bit of antiseptic and a bandage were enough to heal her cut

I'm fine! The whole thing wasn't even about me. It's just my parents making a

mountain out of a molehill, insisting I stay home with them” Karen pulled up a chair and crossed her legs. The only thing regret is not giving Heather a piece of my mind when I had the chance. I mean, I’m usually sharp-tongued but when I really needed it, I was at a loss for words

Kenneth chuckled at her comment. If it wasn’t for your mouth you probably wouldn’t have these scratches on your face!

“If it wasn’t for my mouth, I’d probably suffocate Karen rolled her eyes. The wanted to give Heather a verbal lashing for ages.

Look, Dorothy’s maxing! Dorothy’s moving”

Karen’s sentence was cut short as they noticed the person on the bed stirring. Kenneth quickly moved closer. Dorothy?”

Her eyes slowly fluttered open to see Kenneth and Karen anxiously peering down at her.

Dorothy instinctively tried to sit up but quickly collapsed back onto the bed. “Ugh. “Pain contorted every feature of her face.

“Don’t move!” Kenneth pressed and alarmed her. “Your leg is seriously injured. Do you really want to end up crippled?”

Karen echoed anxiously, “Yeah Dorothy, please don’t move!”

But Dorothy seemed deaf to their pleas, her first words were, “Take me to Everett.”

Even if it meant ruining her legs for good, she was determined to stand by Everett.

Chapter 462

“You can’t just leave the hospital, Dorothy! Otherwise, I tie you to the bed myself, and you’re not going anywhere?”

Kenneth had indulged her once already, letting her get drenched in the rain all night. Now that she knew Everett had gone abroad for treatment, she should be calming down!

Dorothy looked at him, his determination clear, then turned her gaze to Karen. “Abigail has been scared out of her wits because of what happened to Heather. She cries her eyes out as soon as it gets dark

Even Langston and I try to soothe her, it doesn’t work! Dorothy don’t you care about them?”

Her children..

A flicker of emotion finally crossed Dorothy’s eyes.

Just when Karen and Kenneth thought she had come to her senses, Dorothy said, “Could you hand me my phone, please?”

Kenneth exchanged a look with Karen before turning around to fetch Dorothy’s phone

Taking the phone with her bandaged hand, Dorothy powered it on. It was inundated with unread messages and missed calls, most from Lane.

But she wasn't in the mood to confront Lane. Instead, she scrolled to Kevin's number and dialed.

The phone rang over and over until it was almost cut off automatically when finally, someone on the other end picked up

"Ms. Sancher."

"Kevin, I.."

know what you're going to ask! But I can't

I tell you anything due to the chairman's orders!" Kevin felt that the couple belonged together, but he couldn't bear the consequences

Dorothy's mouth fell open, her fingers digging into the phone, "Is he awake?"

She didn't care to ask if Everett was dead, so she went straight to whether he had regained consciousness.

There was a long sigh on the other end, "I didn't go with him. They left me behind to deal with the company matters. I don't know anything specific!"

Kevin was just as aroused about Mr. Loper's condition, but with his status, he couldn't just call the chairman to ask! he wakes up

he'll look for me. Hell worry about me. I need to be by his side

"Ms Sanchez, if I get any news, I'll let you know right away! I've got to go now, I'm sorry!"

He hung up abruptly When Dorothy tried to call back, the phone was turned off.

At this point, even Kevin dared not do anything more.

Seeing her still attempting to make calls, Kenneth reached out to stop Dorothy.

Don't make things difficult for Kevin

Dorothy was in silence

Karen stood up suddenly. "Dorothy how about I bring Langston to the hospital to keep you company? Abigail is a bit frightened,

so we'll leave her be, but Langston can come

She thought that if the children were with her in the hospital, it might help distract Dorothy

Without waiting for approval, Karen dashed out to fetch the children.

Kenneth took Dorothy's phone away, his expression stern, "No one's helping you this time! Stop trying to find Evell!"

Dorothy ignored him, trying to get up with all her might

She fell back over and over again until her wounds were nearly split open

again

Kenneth, out of desperation, found some rope to tie her to the bed!

Kenneth Let me go!"

"Even if you end up bating me for this, you can't lene"

As they spoke, Küren arrived with Langston at the hospital room

At the sight of her son, Dorothy finally calmed down

Langston ran over and took his mommy's hand, Mommy, does it hurt?"

Tears weled up in Dorally's eyes, dropping one by one.

The next second, Langston leaned close to his mommy's ear and whispered,

"Mommy, his phone's GPS is currently in Melamo

City Swevia Country"

Chapter 463

Dorothy gazed at her son, Langston, in shock as he flashed a row of tiny and even teeth, winking at her.

"You've got to bring him back, Mom. I'm wasting away here without his cooking!"

I will... I promise I'll find him."

Kenneth and Karen couldn't make out what the mother and son were discussing, but the smile finally breaking across Dorothy's face was enough to let them breathe a sigh of relief.

The relentless toil of recent days had aged Kenneth by more than a decade.

"Kenneth, leave this to me. You need to get some rest!"

Karen, too, felt for her cousin. The weariness in his eyes was unmistakable, his clothes unchanged for days. He'd been

Dorothy's steadfast guardian, and nobody could keep up that pace forever.

"But she..."

"Don't worry! Before you wake, I'll be right here." Karen patted his shoulder.

You resting row means you can take better care of Dorothy later."

Kenneth glanced at Dorothy lying in the bed and radded reluctantly. Before leaving, he couldn't help but fuss. "She's emotionally fragile right now, so dont upset her! Call me immediately if anything happens, and keep an eye on her bandages for any bleeding."

"Jeez, I can lake care of her! Plus, we'w got the doctors here"

When had he turned into such a worrywart?

Helpless, Kenneth managed a half-smile, then approached Dorothy's bedside and spoke gently, Till just crash at a nearby hotel

and come back once I've rested. Have a good chat with Karen and Langston."

Dorothy nodded and murmured her thanks, which Kenneth wished he didn't have to hear. It only reminded him that he was still an outsider.

Outside the operating room, the anxious wait continued
It felt as if a single door separated two different worlds!

Jonathan was finally feeling the strain. He summoned a doctor to administer nutrient solutions to keep him going.

His wife had been sent to rest, mainly to spare him the irritation of her worry. Who would have thought that Jonathan, who'd sailed smoothly through life, would face such a trial in his golden years?

The doctors had emerged several times with grim updates: Everett's condition was critical without signs of improvement. If things continued this way, they feared the worst.

Panic was creeping up on Jonathan, though he maintained a facade of calm. After much contemplation, he decided to prepare for every outcome and made a call, 'Bring the two kids Dorothy had for the Lopez family to Swevia Country.'

In the event of a tragedy, the Lopez family would still have an heir.

But Dorothy couldn't be the one to raise them. Her status was not suited for the future head of the Lopez family.

If their origins leaked, it would tarnish the family's reputation.

"Understood, Jonathan."

"Also, prepare a check for fifty million for Dorothy. Then, by whatever means necessary, get her to sign the agreement to relinquish her parental rights."

After hanging up, Jonathan exhaled deeply, his hand drooping. For the first time in his life, he felt truly powerless.

Wealth was of no use here as he faced the prospect of losing his son.

Suddenly, the doors to the operating room swung open!

This time, the doctor burst out with excitement plastered across his face.

"It worked! His heart stopped beating several times. In my desperation, I told him Dorothy was still waiting for him. Incredibly, it actually worked!"

Chapter 464

"How about now?"

"The indicators are showing a miraculous improvement. His will to live has surged like crazy! If he pulls through today, I'd say he's got a fighting chance at life!"

For the first time since the accident, there was a glimmer of hope.

Jonathan blurted out, "Save my son, and I'll donate a fortune to your hospital immediately!"

"Well do everything we can," the doctor reassured before turning back to his duties.

Jonathan clutched his chest, finally breathing a sigh of relief after what felt like an eternity.

He rushed to share the news with his wife.

Amanda came running from the lounge, "Is it true? Are you sure this isn't just a false rally?"

"What are you talking about? Our boy has the luck of the angels!" Jonathan paused for a few seconds before adding. "The doctor said he started getting better after calling out for Dorothy. Maybe we should." Amanda cut him off, "Maybe we should what? Embrace Dorothy into the Lopez family?"

"Look, Heather is out of the picture now. I've been thinking, Dorothy might not have the right background, but we can lift her up!

We could set her up with her business and craft a suitable backstory.

Whoever the Lopez family chooses to uplift can rise high and fast.?

This way they could avoid gossip and fulfill their son's wishes. Jonathan realized just how important Dorothy was to his son.

If they continued to black her, who knew what might happen?

But Amanda flatly rejected the idea. "No way, honey! Even if we set our differences aside and accept Dorothy, there's the matter of her mother."

She didn't finish her sentence, instead carefully watching her husband's reaction.

"Haven't you destroyed all the evidence? Dorothy knows nothing. Why not just pin everything on Heather?"

Jonathan was initially in the dark about these matters. Amanda usually acted first and reported later. When things got out of hand, she'd call him to clean up the mess.

"Why must it be Dorothy who marries into our family? Every time I see her, it reminds me of the past, and we will never live in harmony."

"You! I can't believe you'd go to such lengths for Heather!"

Had he kept a closer eye on things, they might not be in this mess

Amanda pursed her lips, feeling wronged, "Even setting aside what Heather did for me, look at how loyally she's served the

Lopez Corporation. She's been by my side, keeping me company, making me

laugh while you and the boy were off working.

Before Dorothy showed up, she never asked me for anything! Just to help her deal with a romantic rival, how could I refuse?"

Jonathan wanted to continue the lecture, but he realized he hadn't been around much for her.

Her favoritism towards Heather, treating her like her own daughter, was somewhat understandable.

"I just fear that this will drive a wedge between us and our son!"

"That won't happen. Everett is our flesh and blood after all. He isn't heartless." Jonathan didn't respond, but he had a nagging feeling that this wasn't going to be easily resolved.

"I've arranged for Everett's kids to be brought here. I'm telling you now, no mistreating them. Even if Dorothy is their mother, they are still Lopez family!"

"Huh?" Amanda creased her face in a frown before she murmured a reluctant agreement, "I won't. As long as they behave and don't keep screaming for Dorothy."

Chapter 465

"I might not be fond of that Dorothy, but I be damned if I let you tum the Lopez family upside down!"

Jonathan's nerves were rattled by the recent debacle involving Heather. In the past, he had been reluctant to interfere, partly out of consideration for his wife's health and sheer laziness when it came to domestic squabbles.

Had he known that Amanda had spoiled Heather to such an extent, allowing her to become so unhinged that she even harmed their son, he would have stepped in to set things right.

Amanda, knowing she was at fault, offered a meek explanation, "Look at our friends around here. Their daughters-in-law and

sons-in-law come from matching social backgrounds. I just wanted to find someone for Everett who's well-educated, competent, and could help him in his career. Isn't that in his best interest?"

"Heather might be capable, but she's cold-hearted and ruthless. She'd stop at nothing! That's just unacceptable."

"But honey, think back to before Dorothy came into the picture. Everett and Heather were so good together! At work, Heather supported him tirelessly, and you can't deny that. And personally, they were such good friends, often seen dining out with Jeffrey.

There were no issues whatsoever! Dorothy is where it all went wrong."

"No matter what, once Everett's back on his feet, I don't want to hear another

peep about Heather from you!”

Amanda nodded quickly. “You got it, I won’t bring her up again! I won’t let her anywhere near our son. I owe her for past kindness, but that’s it. Even if you could tolerate her, I can’t. I’m scared she’ll hurt Everett again.”

“All I pray for now is that you really did destroy all the evidence from that nasty business with Dorothy’s mother. Not a trace left! I can’t bear to think what would happen if it came to light Jonathan didn’t even want to entertain the thought of Everett’s reaction.

In a room at Eldoria City Hospital.

Karen was stunned, staring at the empty hospital bed.

Just minutes ago, Langston had thrown a tantrum for some pastry, and Dorothy said she wanted to rest. So, Karen had taken Langston downstairs to the bakery, trying not to disturb her rest. But now she was gone!

Thankfully, Karen wasn’t completely clueless. She immediately turned to the little boy beside her, “Langston, you knew your mom was planning to bolt, didn’t you?”

Langston pouted, trying to feign ignorance, “How would I know?”

“You’re lying! You begged to go for pastries, and then you said you didn’t like any at the shop, so we went to another. You can’t tell me you weren’t stalling for time?”

“Heh!” Langston caved, throwing his hands up in a mock surrender, “Mom’s the adult. If she wants to go somewhere, what can a little

kid like me do?”

“You...” Karen was so exasperated she was lost for words, “She’s injured! I’m not trying to stop her for the sake of it, but her body can’t take this kind of strain!”

Everyone was acting of concern for her well-being, not to harm her.

“I know” Langston nodded, looking into Karen’s eyes. “But Mommy’s unhappy here. I saw her cry.”

Karen was speechless.

“I think if Mommy is sad, her wounds won’t heal! If she’s willing to leave despite the pain, it means she really wants to find that person, right?”

Langston’s words struck a chord with Karen.

But still...

She glanced at the empty bed and groaned, clutching her forehead, “How am I supposed to explain to Kenneth where she’s gone when he shows up?”

Chapter 466

“Alright tell him Mammy turned into a butterfly and flew away!

Karen rolled her eyes. Tim gonna lay low for a bit then. When Kenneth gets here, you tell him I’ve turned into a butterfly alongside your mom and fluttered off too!

“Why can’t you take me with you?”

Langston clutched at the hem of Karen’s sweater: “Aunt Karen, don’t leave me behind!”

“I’ve got my own storm to weather, bud.”

Karen lingered in the hospital room, mustering up the courage to call Kenneth. As soon as he answered, he blurted out, “is something up with Dorothy?”

“Uh she’s fine, really happy!”

“Great, fill freshen up and head over to the hospital to switch with you Got any cravings? I can bring something by Kenneths relief was palpable, his voice noticeably lighter.

Karen was at a loss for words. And her hesitation didn’t go unnoticed.

“What’s wrong?”

“Bra... Dorothy, she’s not at the hospital anymore.” Karen braced herself after the confession. ‘She’s gone to find Everett “What did you say?!”

“It was Langston! He must’ve told her where Everett was Karen threw the kid under the bus without a second thought!

After all, he was the one who stirred up trouble!

Langston’s eyes widened. “Aunt Karen! Are you seriously doing this?”

“Yep, stop talking!”

Kenneth had no patience for their antics. After hanging up, he rushed to the hospital.

Upon arrival, he found the two of them looking sheepishly at one another.

Taking a deep breath to avoid scaring Langston, Kenneth strode over and crouched beside him. “Langston, can you tell Uncle Kenneth where your mon headed off to?”

Langston shook his head, unwilling to spill the beans.

“I’m trying to protect her not hurt your mom. She’s all alone, injured, and abroad. Are you okay with that?”

Langston, still so young, hadn’t really thought that far ahead, but Kenneth’s words struck a chord.

“Look, tell me where she went, and I won’t stop her from going. I just want to make sure she’s taken care of. She can’t even stand on her Own. What if she’s bullied abroad with no one to help?”

Langston blinked and whispered, “Would you really let Mommy go?”

“I will! I mean... I’ve never been able to keep her anyway.” It wasn’t the first time, after all. He was used to it

“Okay, then.”

Langston sent Everetts last known location from his mom’s phone to Kenneth, then added cautiously, “Kenneth, I think I chucked your passport when I was swiping my mom’s. You might need to get a new one...

Karen had been trying not to laugh, and finally managed to say, “Langston, you sure are your mother’s son!”

With Langston’s help. Dorothy made a beeline for Everett’s location.

Unable to stand, she traveled in a wheelchair.

She knew that even upon arriving, encountering Everett wouldn’t be easy. But Dorothy was driven by a single belief- She had to go! No matter how daunting the journey, she needed to be by Everell’s side.

The plane touched down as scheduled, and Dorothy sent Langston a message to let him know she was safe before exiting t She

was about to hail a cab when her phone rang. Locking down, she saw it was a call from Lane.

locking down, she saw it was a call from Lane.

Chapter 467

Dorothy didn’t hesitate for a second before hanging up and blocking the number.

She saw no reason to keep in touch with someone who had betrayed her Whether he wanted to explain or shirk responsibility she had no interest in hearing it

She hailed a cab and rushed to the address on her phene, only to discover that it was the private hospital owned by the wealthy

Lopez family. The prospect of even getting through the front gate to see Everett was hard, let alone actually seeing him

As Dorothy saw a car rolling out of the driveway, she quickly maneuvered her wheelcha to block its path, forcing the driver to slam on the brakes just shy of hitting her.

“Who are you?” asked the man stepping out of the vehicle, a doctor by the looks of his white coat. He was visibly shocked to see

Dorothy blocking his way.

“I need to see Everett Can you get me in?” she asked desperately.

“You want to see Mr. Lopez?” He raised an eyebrow, sizing up Dorothy

skeptically before flaily denying her request. "I can't help you. This is a private hospital. Only Mr. Lopez himself can authorize your entry

As he moved to leave. Dorothy stubbornly positiered her wheelchair in front of the car, signaling she wouldn't budge.

The doctor sighed, getting out of the car again. Look, I'm bound by regulations. Theres nothing I can do"

"Then can you at least tell me how Everett is doing?s he... awake?"

"I can't disclose the! he exclaimed, clearly anxious about revealing any information to a stranger who could potentially cause trouble for the Lopez family.

Dorothy quickly explained "Tim Everetts... ewle. He was injured trying to sove me! You don't have to let me in: I just want to know how he'is'

Ex-wife? The doctor had never heard about their young master being married before. 'Miss, are you making things up? Mr.

Lopez's only got a girlfriend named Heather, Never heard of any ex-wife."

Dorothy knew that the Lopez family and the circle wouldn't be aware of her, Amanda would never have mentioned her to anyone.

For a prestigious family like the Loperes, marrying a commoner would be gossip fudde

She had always been aware of the vast gulf between herself and Everett, it was never just a simple matter of a CFO and his

assistant. "Just go, please. Dont make this harder for me" the doctor pleaded

"Can you at least tell me if he's alive? Dorothy persisted, desperate for any information.

She had chased him all the way here without thinking of the outcomes, Even if the Lopez family decided to chase her off, she wouldn't leave = not without trying.

"Of course Mr. Lopez is alive!" he blurted out before covering his mouth in shock. "I didn't say anything!"

Knowing that Everett was still alive provided Dorothy with a small sense of relief.

She didn't mean to cause trouble for the doctor "Don't worry I won't tell anyone. It's not like we know each other."

Dorothy moved her wheelchair aside, watching as his car drove all, a faint smile finally gracing her face.

He was alive. That was all that mattered.

Suddenly, Dorothy heard someone calling with unmistakable hosty.

"Dorothy? What are you doing here?"

“I came to see Everett”

her name. She spun around to find Amanda standing at the hospital entrance, glaring at her

“And what do you think you are, trying to see my son?” Amanda’s voice was sharp, dripping with scorn. “I haven’t even settled the score with you, and here you are, showing up on your own accord! Well, Dorothy, you’ve really asked for it now

Chapter 468

She gave the hospital’s security guard a knowing look, and like clockwork, two burly men began to advance towards Dorothy.

Hiding a death in this foreign land was all too easy.

Back home, Amanda might have had some reservations, but here, this was her turf.

“What are you planning to do?” Dorothy instinctively backed away.

“It’s all because of you! You’ve turned the Loanz household upside down, my son is seriously injured, and my plans are completely derailed! Tell me, don’t you deserve to pay for this?”

In her entire life, Amanda had never been chastised by her husband, but now, because of Dorothy’s appearance, their marriage was on the rocks!

How could she swallow this indignity?

Dorothy could see Amanda’s intentions clear as day but right now, she was like a lamb to the slaughter. As the bodyguards closed in on her, she looked around frantically, finding nowhere to run.

Fortunately, just when things seemed direst, Jonathan heard the commotion and stepped out, “Stop!”

His face mirrored the shock Amanda had shown just moments ago when he saw Dorothy

“Who told you about this? He had thought he’d sealed off the news completely!

“It doesn’t matter. I just just wanted to know how he was, just wanted to see him,” Dorothy stood alone against them, defenseless yet with an unwavering gaze.

She was determined to stand by Everett

“She can’t go in! She only got close to our son for money in the first place.

You can’t forget that! How do we know she doesn’t

have ulterior motives now? Anyone can pretend to be in love. In fact, I bet she hopes for Everett to die so she and her kid can inherit his fortune!”

"Enough" Jonathan was annoyed. He glanced at his wife, "Go inside. I need to talk to her"

"There's nothing to talk about. Why not just..."

"You're starting to sound just like Heather! All you think about is making people disappear, about harming others. Have you forgotten what the doctor said? Everett finds out you had something to do with Dorothy's death, prepare to be alone"

Amanda glared at Dorothy venomously and then stormed back inside.

The crisis was temporarily averted. Dorothy's gaze lingered on the hospital, even though she knew she was unlikely likely to see anything

Jonathan dismissed everyone else, leaving just him and Dorothy face to face Both were silent for a moment, but it was Jonathan who spoke first, "You and Everett can be together."

"I know" She had been aware of this truth four years ago. Otherwise, she wouldn't have chosen to divorce Everell then.

"Then why did you still...?"

"Coming back to Eldoria City wasn't my choice. Later, Heather kidnapped my child, and I had to go!"

Jonathan nodded, he was well aware of that. But the critical point of the conversation wasn't this. "I can tell you're not the kind of person who covels wealth, but I hope you understand that a family like the Lopez's can't accept you as a daughter in law" I'm aware of that too"

"Good. Since you understand, Ill be straightforward. The children you bore for Everett, the Lopez family needs to take them back.

I cannot allow the bloodline of the Lopez family to be lost."

"No way! They re my children!" Dorothy rejected the idea without hesitation.

Jonathan had anticipated her resistance and allowed a smile. "Don't rush to a decision. Let me finish. If you agree, Ill let you stay with Everett until he wakes up."

Chapter 469

Dorothy bit her lip. struggling to hold back the rising tide of emotions.

Jonathan sighed heavily his gaze fixed on her "Think about it Dorothy. If the kids stay with you what kind of life can you offer

them? They'd have to struggle for everything, and you cant provide them much of a leg up in business. And don't go dreaming

that Everett will be there to hea them out. His mother and I would never allow it."

1 never intended to rely on Everett for the kids, she retorted, her voice barely above a whisper. From the beginning, her plan had been to keep the existence of the children a secret.

But things had spiraled out of control.

“Dorothy, don’t be selfish and ruin your children’s future! With the Lopez family, they’d be living the high life, guaranteed a future filled with every possible opportunity. I promise you, even if Everett remarries and has other kids, still ensure your children get their fair share of the inheritance and company shares. We can put that in writing”

The thought of the Lopez heirs not being with them, was more than Jonathan could stomach

And unlike his wife, Amanda, who despised Dorothy to her core, blaming her for all the family’s current troubles, Jonathan’s motivations were simpler. He just couldn’t see Dorothy as fitting the Lopez pedigree.

Besides, with his wife’s past misdeeds, imagine if Dorothy actually joins the family and one day people uncover the truth about her mother’s death...

The Lopez family would become the laughingstock of the social circuit, their dirty laundry aired for all to see.

What Jonathan craved was stability, not another family scandal shaking the very foundations of their legacy

“I can deny the children are Lopez forever, if that’s what you’re warned about, Dorothy offered, desperation edging her voice.

“But even if no one else knows, how will you keep it from Everett? He’ll seek out his children. Dorothy, I don’t want to think you’re as mercenary as my wife claims, chasing Everett for his money. But if you insist on keeping the kids..

“Can I make a call? Dorothy interrupted, suddenly locking as though she’d come to some sort of resolution.

“Of course,” Jonathan was clueless about her intent, but they were in Swevia Country, he was confident she couldn’t cause any serious

Trouble here

Turning away Dorothy dialed the number Byte 7 had given her earlier. It rang for a long while before someone finally picked up his voice graggy from sleep and tinged with imitation.

“What do you want?”

“Sorry to bother you but I need to know when can you fix

that thing?

Byte 7 paused, yawning mid sentence. "In a hurry? Pay extra, and Till bump you up the queue,"

Dorothy pressed her lips together in frustration, knowing full well she didn't have the funds to expedite the process.

Sensing her predicament, Byte 7 chuckled. "No money, no rush. Give me a month, and call back then. Goodbye."

Without waiting for a response, he hung up to return to his slumber.

Clutching her phone, Dorothy turned back to Jonathan with a determined look.

"I leave the kids with the Lopez family, but I need one month by Everett's side, whether he wakes up or not."

Jonathan raised an eyebrow. "He wakes, he'll want you to stay

"No, he won't" Once the hard drive was restored, everything would change...

Chapter 470

"Why should I trust you?"

"We could put it in writing, but let's face it, the Lopez family could make me disappear without trace if they wanted to. Do you really think they'd be afraid of me breaking my word?"

At that moment, Jonathan couldn't help but admire the spunk of this young woman.

Despite her injuries, she had wheeled herself all the way to Swevia Country in search of Everett. Their love was undeniable, so much so that even Jonathan, despite his reluctance, felt moved.

"Alright, no need for paperwork. I believe you" He glanced at Dorothy, "Your leg... I can have a doctor look at it, if you want"

"I want to see Everett first. Her leg was the least of her worries. She hadn't come all this way just to seek medical treatment.

Jonathan held her gaze for a moment before slowly nodding "Okay, come with me."

The room was vast, and the smell of disinfectant hung thick in the air. Monitors beeped intermittently around the room.

At the center, Everett lay on the bed, as still as if he were asleep.

Dorothy moved her wheelchair up to his bedside, her heart aching at the sight of the tubes running in and out of his body. She wished she could take his place and bear the pain for him.

She had never seen Everett like this before. His features were still sharp and well-defined, but his lips were pale, and his usual

haughty, proud demeanor was nowhere to be seen. It was hard to associate this fragile figure with the decisive and dynamic CEO of the Lopez Corporation.

Trembling, Dorothy reached out to touch his face
The doctor intervened promptly. "You can't do that. He has open wounds, they could get infected. You can only look."
"Okay okay! I'm sorry, I didn't know" Dorothy quickly withdrew her hand, terrified of causing Everett any further harm.
A nurse entered the room, recording data on a clipboard before gently changing Everett's blood soaked bandages for fresh ones.

Dorothy thought to herself that if Everett were awake, he would never allow another woman to touch him. His obsession with cleanliness was well known
Suddenly, the nurse lifted the gauze from his chest, revealing a series of numbers: 0825!
Hadn't he had all his tattoos removed? She distinctly remembered him getting rid of them.
As the nurse continued to work, revealing not just the numbers but also a tiny "S", Dorothy's tears began to flow.
How could he be so foolish?
She had told him during their divorce that she had fallen for someone else. How could he still be waiting for her?
The nurse, mistaking Dorothy's tears as an expression of worry for Everett, came closer and spoke in a comforting tone, "Don't worry. he's out of danger now. He just hasn't woken up yet"
Dorothy looked up, realizing the nurse was with delicate features that made her look soft and gentle. Her voice was equally soft and soothing
It was she who had been attending to Everett
"When will he wake up?"
"We're not sure, but it should be soon." The nurse's gaze also fell on Dorothy, pausing momentarily before she asked curiously.
"Are you Dorothy, by any chance?"
Dorothy was taken aback, "Yes, how did you know?"
"When he was semi-conscious, he kept calling out your name! I figured that must be someone very important to him."

The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 471 - Read The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 471

Chapter 471

The nurse said with a smile, but when Dorothy heard her words, they twisted

a knot in her stomach

Everett had been injured trying to save her, yet it was her he kept asking for in his heart.

“Don’t cry, honey,” the nurse blurted out, clearly flustered as she hurried to hand Dorothy a tissue.

Dorothy managed a weak smile. Thank you”

“You’re welcome! I’m just glad you could make it. Honestly, I think the first person Mr. Lopez would want to see when he wakes

up you?” The nurse’s face brightened with a relieved smile. “During the surgery, there was a moment I thought we’d lost him, but

it was your name that brought him back. It was like a miracle!”

Dorothy paused, a bit embarrassed, and asked, “You performed the surgery?”

“Yep!

Dorothy had mistaken her for a nurse. But the young doctor didn’t seem to mind. She laughed it off, “You think I’m too young to

be in OR, huh?

“Well, you do look very young. Now that Dorothy knew she was the surgeon, she eagerly asked about Everett’s condition.

After learning that Everett was out of danger, Dorothy’s worry finally eased,

Outside the ICU, Amanda stormed in upon hearing that her husband had allowed Dorothy to visit their son without her consent

“How could you let her in to see our boy without asking me?”

“You and Heather went behind my back, too Jonathan retorted, his patience with his wife wearing thin. “I have my reasons for

doing this”

“You’re not seriously considering letting Dorothy into the Lopez family, are you?”

Jonathan frowned. “If Everett wakes up, the first person he’ll want to see is Dorothy Having her nearby will help him recover

faster

For Jonathan, his son’s health was priority and now with the custody of his grandchildren secured, why not chase a little

happiness for

his son?

our home and never leave?

“Aren’t you afraid that Dorothy will just plant herself in o

Im not worried. She’s not that kind of person.”

Amanda huffed, clearly dissatisfied with her husband’s must in Dorothy.

“How well do you think you know her? What if she-

“if she was after money, she could’ve refused to divorce Everett years ago,

and we wouldn't have been able to do a thing. Plus, I looked into it when she got pregnant and had the kids. She never intended to use them to get money from Everett. She kept them hidden."

Jonathan was shrewd in business, and his conclusions were always based on thorough investigations.

'Maybe she's playing the long game, Amanda persisted, her dislike for Dorothy unwavering.

But Jonathan cut through her objections, "It seems to me you're the one who's scared to face Dorothy

'Scared? Of what? She's not worth my time!"

Jonathan sighed. "Sometimes feel like I don't even know you anymore. How could you change so much over Heather?"

Back in Eldonia City

it would take at least five working days for Kennellis passport to replace, even with a rush order. There was no other choice,

Karen suggested she would go first.

They couldn't just leave Dorothy alone abroad.

"Winght, you go ahead, and once I get my passport, I'll bring the kids over,"

Kenneth said, concerned about Karen managing both

Dorothy and the children on her own.

Kenneth booked Karen's flight, splurging on a first class ticket to ensure her comfort

As Karen settled into her seat on the plane, her neighbor was a man

—

bandage wrapped around his head, currently dozing off.

His sharp features and handsome face caught Karen's attention, and she couldn't help but steal a few more glances his way

Chapter 472

Karen had been hoping to catch a glimpse of the handsome guy's real face once he woke up from his slumber. But throughout the entire ten-hour flight, he remained sound asleep.

Eventually, Karen even started to wonder if he had passed out.

"Well, he did have a bandage wrapped around his head

As the plane touched down at Mellamo Airport, the man finally stirred to consciousness. He rubbed his bleary eyes and began to make a phone call.

Eavesdropping on other people's conversations wasn't Karen's thing, so she bent her head down and started to gather her

belongings, readying herself to disembark.

But then, as if by chance, she thought she heard the name “Dorothy”
“Dorothy’s there too? Alright... I got it, I head straight over... Everett’s still out cold, huh? Sigh, Jonathan, we’ll talk when I get there.”

Karen couldn’t help but stare at him, her baffled look catching his attention. They locked eyes for a moment before Karen broke the silence, “You know... Dorothy?”

He scrutinized her from head to toe, squinting slightly. “You’re Dorothy’s friend? Named..” “Karen!”

“I knew I wasn’t wrong,” he said before turning to leave.

Karen reached out and grabbed his arm, “You haven’t told me who you are yet!”

He frowned and glanced at Karen’s hand on his sleeve, “Why are you making a scene?”

Karen let go, still fixated on him, “Can you tell me now?”

“Even if I told you, you wouldn’t know who I am! Jeffrey, ting any bells?”

“Ah?” Karen suddenly connected the dots, “You’re Heather’s sucker, the guy that’s madly in love with her? You even approached Dorothy about breaking up with Everen?”

Jeffrey bristled at that “Who are you calling a sucker?”

“That would be you! If not, why bother sticking your nose into it when Dorothy and Everett are already married? You can’t deny you’re Heather’s sucker!”

Karen had never met Jeffrey in person, but she had heard plenty about his antics!

Especially the time when Everett was in a car accident and Jeffrey had made things difficult for Dorothy at the hospital, Karen hadn’t forgotten that.

What did he say again? Oh, night! He said Dorothy was not worth Heather lifting a finger for!

Karen vividly remembered Dorothy coming to her with a hoarse voice and a bright red slap mark on her cheek, asking if she could crash for a few days.

Dorothy had tried to claim she had bumped into something, but who gets a bruise like that on their face? It wasn’t until after much probing that Dorothy finally spilled the beans.

Now that Karen had come face-to-face with the culprit, she was determined to get justice for her best friend!

Jeffrey, caught in an awkward moment and knowing he was in the wrong,

muttered something about Karen being crazy before quickly grabbing his luggage and leaning He had just come to after being in the hospital himself, eager to warn Everett about Heather, only to learn that Everett had been stabbed and barely escaped death! Despite his pain injuries, Jeffrey had hurriedly packed and rushed to Swevia Country And as fate would have it, he bumped into Kaman! Thinking back on his past actions, Jeffrey felt guilty, so making a quick getaway seemed like the smart choice. Following the location shared with her, Karen arrived at the private hospital where Everett was admitted. And just like that, she found herself being stopped at the entrance.

“Let me in, I’m Everett’s friend!”

Karen struggled to define her relationship with Everett and ended up settling on friend:

“I’m sorry you can’t go in.”

“Hey, wait—” Karen was left standing outside, wondering how she’d get in when she turned around to see a car approaching/Talk about a run in with bad luck.

It was none other than Jeffrey sitting in that car.

Chapter 473

He definitely sure Karen, but he turned his face with lightning speed!

“Could you

strip on it please? Thank you!”

As the taxi pulled up to the entrance of the private hospital Karen was already poised to cash inside, not even waiting for the car door to swing com

She was blocking the way, Jeffrey’s car couldn’t get through either! at the door was clearly at

“You really can’t come in here. This is private property, and trespassing is against the law!” The security guard at the door his wit’s end.

“I can’t go in, but why can he? Karen pointed at Jeffrey in the car “He’s one of Heather’s friends, and Evesen getting hurt was Heather’s fault. Maybe Jeffrey was in on it with her!”

The guard was flustered not quite catching the drift of her accusations.

But Jeffrey inside the car could hear her loud and clear

He hurriedly got out, striding over with long steps and clamped his hand over

Karen's mouth.

"Would you mind not spouting nonsense?"

This was the Lopez family's turf. If Everett's parents heard this, they might just get the wrong idea!

Mmmph! Mmm!" Karen's muffled protests rang out as she glared daggers, thrashing her arms and legs in defiance

Jeffrey didn't need to let go to know she was spitting fire with her words.

"Let me make this clear, cut the chatter or I'll have you thrown out

"Mmph! Mmm!" Karen was livid. In a flash of inspiration, she bit down hard on the flesh of Jeffrey's palm.

"Ouch!" Jeffrey yelped instinctively stepping back, "Are you a freakin' dog opsomething"

"You started it, I was about to pass cut Karen's face was flushed from the struggle, but her feisty didn't die down. "You and your pals picking on Dorothy, now you're after me? You think Dorothy's easy to push around, but I'm not letting anyone walk all over me!"

"Who's picking on you? Jeffrey was at his wit's end if only he hadn't told her who he was! "You're the one blocking my way, not the other way around!"

Karen glanced at him, then barked, raising an eyebrow

"You want me to shut up? Fine, but then you've got to jake me with you!"

Jeffrey's mouth twitched in annoyance Who knew what kind of scene she'd cause inside?

"No way."

"Fine!" Karen nodded, turned back to the gates, and cleared her throat,

"Jeffrey! He's in cahoots with Heather, pushing Everett to dump Dorothy and—mmph!"

Before she could finish, the hand that had just been bitter was covering her mouth again!

"I can't even deal with you! I take you in, okay? But you have to promise me, once we're inside, no wandering off, no nonsense!

You just want to be with Dorothy, right? Then stick by her side and behave!

You don't know the whole story so don't go spouting off about

Karen, satisfied with the deal, quickly nodded her agreement.

Jeffrey finally breathed a sigh of relief. As he let go, Karen muttered under her breath, 'Not much of a man, huh'

"What did you say?"

"I was talking about you. Too chicken to admit your feelings for Heather weren't you?"

"That was in the past! A long time ago!" Now, just the thought of Heather made Jeffrey wish had never met

Heather used to be gentle, caring, a real catch, so it was only natural for Jeffrey to have had a thing for her

"You're over her now?"

"Well, it's not to you" Jeffrey grabbed her by the arm and turned to the hospital's guard, "This is a friend of mine. We're going in together, just open the door!"

Chapter 474

The bodyguard glanced at Jeffrey, then at Karen, hesitating before daring to open the door

Fearing they might change their minds again, Karen balled inside, only to be overwhelmed by the sheer size of the place

Elevators and staircases flanked her on either side, leaving her clueless about which way to go.

Jeffrey, watching her buzzing around like a headless chicken couldn't help but curve his lips into a smirk,

"What's so funny?"

"I smile because I want to, Jeffrey spread his hands, arching an eyebrow playfully, inadvertently pulling at his wound, which immediately stiffened his grin into a grimace.

Karen pointed at the bandage on his head, "Laughing with your hand can bite you back! Did Heather give you that wound?"

If you're looking for them, go left! Jeffrey surely couldn't wait to get rid of this troublesome woman She might not be the sharpest at banter but she sure knew how to hit where it hurt

With a triumphant grin, Karen turned left, muttering under her breath, "How many sick people can the Lopez family pass by have to

need such a massive private hospital?"

Must be nice to have money to burn!

Dorothy stepped out of the ICU just in time to see Kasen ascend the stairs, her eyes lighting up with joy then quickly cast down

in guilt "I'm sorry for leaving you and Kenneth down

Karen waved it off nonchalantly, Forget that! You look a lot more lively than when you were laid up at hospital in Elcorria City

Have you

checked on Eve'll?

Dorothy nodded, "Yeah, but he hasn't woken up yet!

"So..."

"But he's cut of danger now"

Karen nodded in relief, "That's good. But how did you get in here? I got stopped by the doorman on my way in.

"It was Fyrett's father who let me in Dorothy concealed the bargain she had struck she spilled the beans, Karen, with her fiery temper, would undoubtedly argue with the Lopez family!

Karen and Kenneth adored those kids, and they would be just as disappointed in Dorothy for agreeing to such a deal...

Yet facing the power of the Lopez family Dorothy had no choice if she wanted to see Everett.

"They just let you in! Please, they're not that kind!" Karen squatted in front of Dorothy's wheelchair to meet her eye. 'How are you feeling'"

I'm fine! Now that I've seen Everett, I can rest easy."

Karen exhaled a sigh of relief, then, as if struck by a thought, whispered, "Tran into Jeffrey on my way here! Did he trek all the way here to plead Heather's case?'

Jeffrey?

Dorothy pondered for a moment before shaking her head, 'I don't know He's a friend of Heather's, but he's also a friend of Everett's. After finding out what happened, I doubt he'd take Heather's side anymore"

She was unaware of Jeffrey's car accident. The last time she saw him was because of a dispute with Lane, and even then, his tone with her was less than friendly – actually, it was always frosty

"Well, you can never be sure! The man's completely love stricken, a total lapdog. Remember how he used to pine after Heather even trying to play matchmaker with her and Everett! That goes to show there's no telling what he might do."

"Karen! Next time you decide to bad-mouth someone, could you at least check your surroundings?"

Suddenly, Karen and Dorothy's gazes snapped toward the source of the voice.

There was Jeffrey, with a bandage atop his head and a limp in his step, making his way towards them.

He too was recovering from a serious condition, having only just been awakened by a doctor summoned by Everett. Had it not been for the gravity of the situation, Jeffrey would have been bedridden in the hospital for a while longer. Karen pursed her lips, about to retort, when the doctor rushed out of the ICU. "Iverell's awake! He's awake?"

Chapter 475

As soon as Dorothy pushed open the door to the ICU, Everett's frail voice reached her ears.

"I need to see. Dorothy..."

"I'm here, Everett, I'm here," she quickly propelled her wheelchair forward, racing to the bedside.

Eventi struggled to turn his face toward her, and it was only upon seeing Dorothy that he seemed to truly relax, the tension in his brow dissolving into relief.

He tried to reach out to touch Dorothy, but the tubes tethered to his hand prevented him. Dorothy pushed herself up from the wheelchair with effort, managing to grasp his hand with a smile. "Don't you worry! We've got all the time in the world, and I'll be right here with you!" Everett's gaze lingered on the bruise marring her cheek. "My parents..."

"Your parents agreed to let me care for you. How else do you think I got in here? Though Everett was confused, the presence of Dorothy by his side was all he needed at the moment.

Soon after, Everett's parents arrived.

Amanda clutched her son's hand, weeping openly. "Everett, it's all my fault. I never imagined Heather would do something so rash! If anything had happened to you, I wouldn't be able to live on!"

"The patient needs quiet. Please keep it down," the doctor reminded her gently. Jonathan, worried his wife might faint again, arranged for someone to take her back home.

"When can he be free of all these monitors?" he asked the doctor.

In a few days, but he can be moved out of ICU and into a regular room, the female doctor replied, her eyes flicking to Dorothy with a suppressed smile. With his guardian angel by his side, Mc Lopez should recover quite quickly.

Jonathan's brows furrowed, not wanting to admit it but unable to deny Dorothy's importance to his son. "That's great news.

Everett, I'm going to check on your mother."

Karen, watching the tender dependency between Dorothy and Everett, felt her eyes well up with emotion. If only she could experience such a passionate love, it would be worth any prize!

“What are you crying for?” Jeffrey glanced at her, deliberately keeping his distance as if Karen carried some contagion.

He was truly wary of this woman.

“Is it any of your business?” Karen shot back, about to remind Dorothy not to stay in her current half-sitting position in the

wheelchair as it wasn't good for her recent leg surgery.

Jeffrey, seeing this, quickly stepped in and pulled her back, “Where do you think you're going?”

“Dorothy's just had surgery on her leg, she can't stay like that!”

“Can't you see they're in their own world right now? Don't interrupt. Come with me.”

“Hey!” Karen was dragged out of the ICU by Jeffrey, not stopping until they reached the hospital's ground floor.

“Do you have to be so handsy when you talk?” Karen glared at him fiercely.

“Just looking at you reminds me of Heather's face. You are both bad people!”

Jeffrey was at a loss for words, itching with frustration. “Can you not mention Heather when I'm around?”

The Turner family was still uncovering the truth behind his car accident, but Jeffrey already had a hunch. That's why he didn't object to Karen's careless question earlier.

“Oh, touched a nerve, have I just wanted you not to disturb them. Everett's all woven up; they need some privacy. You always ding in useless chatter!” Jeffrey's headache intensified.

In stark contrast to Karen's volatile demeanor, Dusty indeed seemed like the picture of normalcy.

Chapter 476

“Well you're still the sucker for Heather!” Karen spat the words out her voice laced with a mix of anger and jest. Despite her heated exchange with him, she made no move to go back and disturb the two of them.

She had been too hasty earlier, focused solely on Dorothy's well-being, forgetting everything else in her concern.

Jeffrey, tired of the bickering, spun on his heel to leave.

Suddenly, a distinct rumbling noise echoed at the quiet hospital entrance.

The space was so vast, it amplified every sound.

Jeffrey paused mid-step and turned to glance at her.

one eyebrow arching inquisitively. "What was that noise Karen clutched her stomach, her face a mask of embarrassment while her voice fr gred ignorance. "You heard nothing, there was no noise at all!!

"Oh, well I'm off to eat then! Jeffrey declared, a smr playing on his lips. Jonathan said he's prepared a feast, with all the wings— BBQ rbs, stuffed mushrooms... He said I need a good mea to recover Karen's stomach chumed. She hadn't eaten see the disembarked the plane, rushing here without a moment's delay, and then she'd spent ages arguing with Jeffrey. She was starved And there was Jeffrey cruelly taunting her with his tempting talk of food! "Did you hear that Jonathan brought over a chef from back home, just for Everett? From that fancy National Tripod Hotel in Eldoma City?"

At that moment. Karen felt like she could shoot daggers from her eyes, slicing off Jeffrey's taunting tunque.

"Will you just get lost? she snapped Feigning innocence Jeffrey shrugged. "Aren't you coming? I thought you might be hungry too. Besides, sitting around here waiting who knows how long it be."

"Im Not Going"

"Are you sure you're not coming?"

Her answer was another betraying grumble from her stomach.

"Let's go, I won't stoop to arguing with a lady. Wouldn't want you to stane— thard be un me for not looking after Everett's quest'

With that, Jeffrey walked off, and before long, he could hear footsteps following behind him.

His lips curled into a victorious smile. It felt like he'd finally won this round Everett had been moved to a private room. Most of the monitors had been removed, though a few remained

"Be careful with the wound, don't let it get wet, and call me when it's time to change the dressing the doctor instructed Dorothy, writing down her cell phone number for her.

"Thank you I'm so I don't know how to address you?"

Just call me Quincy" she replied with a smile. "Go take care of Mr. Lopez Call me if you need anything."

'Will do."

Dorothy matched Quincy leave before turning to push pen the door to the hospital room.

Though she'd be aware of the Lopez family's wealth and expected the private

hospital to be luxurious, the opulence of the room still made her pause in surprise.

If it weren't for the medical equipment, she might have thought she'd walked into a high end hotel suite, so lavish and spacious was the decor

"What's wrong?"

Everett, lying in the hospital bed, saw her frozen at the door and worried something was amiss

"it's nothing" Dorothy humed to his side, offering a reassuring smile. "Does your wound still hurt?"

She'd seen the deep cut while changing his dressing—along, sutured incision that was truly alarming.

"Does it hurt?" Everett's handsome face was so pale from weakness, but his eyes softened with tenderness when they met

Dorothy's. "Don't worry about me!"

"You should have been more careful" Dorothy recalled the moment she noticed Heather's knife move.

"I told you I'd protect you"

That had been Everett's sole thought at that critical moment. He needed Dorothy to be safe.

Dorothy lowered her gaze, silent for a long moment before whispering, "Did you know about the kids from the beginning?"

Chapter 477

Dorothy mulled it over carefully, her acting chops with Langston were bad, and yet, Everett had played along with barely a reaction. That in itself was a dead giveaway to his sharp mind!

The only plausible explanation was that he knew. He just pretended not to.

Everett looked up. Dorothy's silhouette reflecting in his eyes. After a long pause, he spoke in a raspy voice, "if you don't want me to know, then I don't know."

He had always been like that. Because Everett knew all too well that any abrupt move on his part would send Dorothy running away like a startled deer

Even Kevin had been asking whether it was so hard to find out if the kid was really hers. A simple paternity test would do the

trick! To everyone else, it seemed like Everett could just bulldoze his way through any issue with his clout. Why the need for schemes, for playing dumb, for such delicate handling?

But they didn't understand! Everett wanted Dorothy to stay or leave according

to her own thoughts. Her happiness and her contentment were what mattered most
Everett's words struck Dorothy hard, like a hammer to the heart.
The mighty CEO of Lopez Corporation, lowering himself to such a humble state for her sake, she didn't know how to respond!
After all, no one ever had much faith in their relationship.
"Um... how about I help you clean up? You must be uncomfortable, lying there without being able to take a bath," Dorothy deflected, opting to retreat into her shell like a turtle.
Everett was used to her ways by now, so he nodded, "Sure."
Dorothy promptly went to fetch a towel, but as she entered the bathroom, she suddenly remembered, "Oh, Karen's in Swevia Country too She was worried about me and followed along. I need to sort out her accommodation and meals."
"Don't worry about it I'll have Jeffrey handle it. You're not familiar with the place here," Everett replied, his voice still weak from his recent brush with death, the volume much lower

"Jeffrey? Is he up to it?" Dorothy didn't have a good impression on Jeffrey He was a notorious playboy from a wealthy family and had always had a poor opinion of her. She hoped he wouldn't take his spite out

"Don't worry

Everett had Dorothy grab his phone to dial Jeffrey's number
Soon the call connected. "Everett! You're able to make calls now?"

"Yeah... I'm fine, where are you?"

"Taking some ungrateful lady out to have a meal! Once we're done, I'll come over."

Dorothy and Everett exchanged glances, "is it Karen?"

"Who else! She's been ragging on me the whole trip, and I've got to play butler. Talk about karma"

Hearing Jeffrey's endless complaints, Dorothy finally breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed that despite his griping, he was still taking care of Karen!

After the call, Dorothy set down the phone, picked up the towel, and began to gently wipe Everett's skin, careful not to cause him any pain

The doctors said it wasn't necessary, but Dorothy knew his obsession with cleanliness. Even missing a single day's bath would leave him grumpy and

As she meticulously worked, her lashes casting a shadow below her concentrated gaze, Everett's lips curved into an involuntary

smile It was us if after all these years, they had never been apart. It felt like they had been together this whole time.

Chapter 478

Everett wished he could freeze this moment in time, keeping her forever by his side.

As Dorothy wiped down the surfaces, a sudden thought about Jeffrey's head bandage distracted her. "Did Jeffrey get hurt?"

"Yeah, I think he found out about Heather and was on his way to tell me when someone rear ended his car."

Dorothy glanced at him, hesitating before asking, "It was Heather?"

He nodded solemnly.

"She.. she's really lost it Dorothy sighed softly. "She'd do anything for you.

And Jeffrey, he was so good to her."

Hearing the tone in her voice, Everett raised an eyebrow with a hint of teasing

"Are you... jealous?"

"Me? Jealous? No way!" Dorothy protested, but her cheeks betrayed her with a blush

She always had rd time hiding her feelings, wishing she could just vanish on the spot whenever someone pointed them out

"Okay, you're not," Everett said, his smile deepening he couldn't bear to take his eyes off her for even a second.

Aware of his gaze, Dorothy grew even more self-conscious, her hands moving more frantically over his body until she

accidentally brushed against something—something decidedly firm

She jerked her hand back as if electrocuted, stepping back several paces. "I didn't mean to!"

Quickly, she turned and pretended to go rinse the towel. Once she left,

Everett took several deep breaths, trying to will his body

to calm down

It was just a bath, but his body had reacted so easily.

Everett felt embarrassed. He wasn't usually so easily turned on...

It had been quite a while since hed had sex of any kind, and the warm softness of her touch had made him lose control

In the bathroom, Dorothy not only nnsed the towel but splashed her face with cold water trying to cool her burning cheeks.

The thought of accidentally touching Everett's private parts made her wish for a hole to crawl into. What if he thought she was

desperate, that she touched him on purposed

"Oh no!" she groaned, covering her face, wishing she could stay in the

bathroom forever.

But then, there was a knock at the door. It was Jeffrey and Karen.

Relief washed over Dorothy as she opened the door but the next second

Karen, with a worried tone, pointed at Dorothy's flushed

face. "Dorothy, why is your face so red? Are you running a fever again?"

"No, it's not I'm not. Dorothy stammered, avoiding eye contact.

Jeffrey was smart enough to realize what might have happened, even without the details. He gently pulled Karen away, signaling

her with a look to drop the subject

What else could be happening with a man and a woman alone in a room?

"Why are you pulling me? Karen rolled her eyes and went to stand behind

Dorothy. "Dorothy, I avenged you today! I taught

Jeffrey a lesson'

Jeffrey snorted, then limped over to Everett's bedside, I can't believe Heather would do this to you. She's changed so much from the person we knew."

Everett didn't even want to mention Heather's name, his brows knitting together. "My parents say she's gone mad."

"True! She's been screaming all day where they're holding her Jonathan said she won't eat anything they give her insists on eating dirt from the ground."

Chapter 479

Heather had a knack for drama, and it might just be her way of dodging the bullet.

Everett wasn't buying it, though

To be fair, as a tycoon who could move mountains in the business world, sharp wits wem a necessity. He was on his toes around

*anyone and everyone, except Dorothy

"Man, I was such a fool back in the day Jeffrey greaned, wishing he could time travel and slap some sense into his younger sell.

"Heather had me believing you were only into Dorothy because you had a spat with her, and because she looked like Heather! I

believed her

And honestly, they indeed resemble each other!

The logic seemed sound.

Dorothy's body stiffened at the mention. The thought of her blood ties with Heather made her feel nauseous

"I need some air, she muttered, not wanting her discomfort to be noticed, especially by Everett,

Karen, finding the atmosphere stifling chimed in '11 join you!"

Everett watched Dorothy's hurried departure with a slight frown. She doesn't look too hot. Have a doc check her cut, will you?"

"Don't worry with Karen by her side, Dorothy's in good hands. Jonathan's arranging for a doc to look at her leg tomorrow. Looks like after all this mess, your folks are warming up to her."

Jeffrey was stunned to see Dorothy in the private hospital

Knowing Fweretts parents, he'd figured they'd turn up their noses at Dorothy's background. Yet here she was, caring for Everest, with them giving her space and everything

Talk about a tum for the books!

"I think she's hiding something from me, Everett mused, not nearly as optimistic.

He knew his parents all too well. Something was off, but he also knew that prying into Dorothy's secrets was a dead end

Maybe it was her upbringing her family history, but this didn't come easy to Dorothy. Even without meaning to doubt, her heart

was guarded, her inst never fully given, always with a hint of reservation

Outside the hospital Karen wheeled Dorothy down to the ground floor.

Evening had settled in, the twilight gently enveloping the surroundings. All was quiet, save for the neatly arranged forest that stretched out before them

They neither spoke until Karen couldn't hold back any longer. "Dorothy, give Kenneth a call, will you? He's really worried."

Dorothy paused, her voice a soft whisper "Could you tell him for me? I'm not sure how to face him right now"

Kenneth's love was both overwhelming and tender, a push and pull that left Dorothy at a loss.

She'd turned him down time and again, yet he took it all in stride—no anger, no storming off. Instead, he protected her like an

older brother except that he wouldn't go find himself another girl

Karen sighed. "Kenneth's head over heels, you know. I've tried talking sense into him behind the scenes, and his folks are pressuring him, too. But he just won't budge. It's like his smile only comes to life when you're around"

"Karen, I can't return Kenneth's feelings!"

"I know! And so does he! Karen regretted ever playing matchmaker.

No happy ending was one thing, but to get Kenneth deeply in love was quite another.

Chapter 480

“He promised me he’d go on the blind date.

Karen said with an eye roll. “Yeah, he did. Showed up and told the girl right off the bat that he has belonged to someone else and that he’d never love her despite the marriage. They could tie the knot only if she was cool with that. Who would marry a guy like that?”

Dorothy looked down, an uncomfortable weight settling in her heart.

“I don’t deserve what he’s doing for me.”

“Kenneth thinks you do, and no one can tell him otherwise!” Karen patted her shoulder. “Hey, don’t stress about it, Dorothy.

Kenneth’s a grown man. Whatever choices he makes, he makes them willingly. No one’s forcing his hand. And you shouldn’t feel guilty. I certainly don’t blame you for any of this.”

She was always clear about whom to love or hate! She wouldn’t reproach Dorothy just because Kenneth was Kenneth.

“Do you think it’d be better if I kept my distance from him?”

“No way. He was abroad before and never committed to anyone.”

Dorothy lifted her gaze. “That’s because he was busy taking care of Langston for me. Now, he’s free from babysitting, and I’ll just fade from his world.”

“If that were true, Kenneth probably wouldn’t have agreed to go abroad! He left to help you out with Langston, right?” Karen paused, sensing something amiss. “Wait up! You said you won’t need his help with Langston? Did the Lopez family find out...?”

“Mhm,” Dorothy nodded faintly. “They’re taking the children.”

“What the heck? They think they can just take them?” Karen exploded. “You gave your life to deliver the children, but what has the Lopez family ever done? They think they can just swoop in and claim them? Dream on!”

“It was my decision.”

Karen blinked in confusion. “What?”

Dorothy exhaled deeply. Her long lashes casting shadows that hid the turmoil in her eyes.

“Everett’s father convinced me that the kids would be better off with the Lopez family. They’d have brighter futures, whereas I could only offer them ordinary lives. He made sense.”

Besides the promise to see Everett, Dorothy was seriously considering Jonathan’s words.

She knew hardship all too well. Growing up, she was always trapped by

money. While other kids had their fill of good food and warm clothes, she was grateful just to have a full belly. Others could pick prestigious colleges or study abroad, while she had to settle for a second-tier school because of a measly scholarship. Dorothy knew the kids wouldn't suffer as she had if they stayed with her, but they would still be far, far below what the Lopez family could offer.

She couldn't be that selfish.

"Better for who? Have you even told Everett? He'd never agree!"

Dorothy grabbed Karen's sleeve urgently. "You mustn't tell Everett about this!"

"Why not?"

"Byte 7 said they could recover the surveillance disk in a month. I've got it all planned out. Once I have the video, I'll go for the public, blast it all over domestic and international media. I'll use the court of public opinion to pressure the Lopez Corporation while simultaneously filing criminal charges against his parents. The Lopez family is deeply rooted; I need to make a big scene to get a fair verdict. But..."

Karen pursed her lips, and her face troubled. "You can never be with Everett if you ever get into those. Can you... can you really give him up?"

After all, it was insane for a daughter-in-law, before even getting married, to plan for her mother-in-law's sentence to death!

Dorothy forced a smile but said nothing. She was at a loss for words.

The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 481 - Read The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 481

Chapter 481

After a prolonged silence, Karen let out a sigh, her head hung low. "Man, you say Everett's a stand-up guy, but why on earth did

he have to get stuck with parents like that? You two are so in love, and yet...

"The Lopezes look down on me, no surprise there." Dorothy said with stark self-awareness.

She knew all too well why Everett's parents despised her- simply because their prestigious family name was out of reach for her humbleness. And, in all fairness, it was true.

But that didn't give them the right to hurt her mother, to treat the lives of ordinary folks as if they were disposable!

Dorothy had no desire to social-climb by holding on to the Lopezes' coattails. But she wasn't going to let herself be slaughtered like a lamb as they coerced her to such a situation.

"And they think Heather, that illegitimate daughter, is worthy of them? If you ask me, once her real background is revealed, she'll be the one bringing shame to the Lopezes! Here you are, hard at work, honest money in your pocket, and you're still inferior to some other woman's kid?"

Karen could understand the Lopezes' fixation on their status to some extent, but Heather was hardly from some illustrious lineage!

Maxton, her father, had a bit of cash, sure, but it just was a drop in the bucket compared to the wealth of the Lopezes.

"Because Everett's mom has been grooming Heather to be the perfect daughter-in-law. All her credentials and identity have been carefully curated to make the match. Dorothy explained.

"You should've just exposed what Heather truly is from the get-go. Let everyone know she's an illegitimate child. That would've put the Lopezes in a bind," Karen said with conviction. If she had been in Dorothy's shoes, she would have let the whole world know, as nobody was going to tread on her!

"Karen, you still don't get how society works," Dorothy laughed, though there was a hint of sadness in her voice. "Money and power can change everything. In the end, I might be the one labeled as the illegitimate child."

"There's really no justice at all!"

"Exactly," Dorothy agreed, her voice heavy.

She knew all too well how difficult it was going to be to challenge the Lopezes and seek justice for her mother's death. The road

ahead was fraught with obstacles. Nothing was certain.

The only thing Dorothy was sure of was that she would do all to uncover the truth. The person responsible for her mother's demise would not get off scot-free.

After taking a breath of fresh air with Karen, they waited for Jeffrey to come down and join them before Karen reluctantly escorted Dorothy back inside.

"Everett told me to take care of her. Don't worry." Jeffrey told Dorothy.

Karen frowned instantly. "I don't need your care. I can find a hotel myself!"

"C'mon, I'm the host!"

Watching the two bickering from the moment they met, Dorothy couldn't help

but intervene.

“Enough, Karen! We’re strangers in a strange land. Just stick with Jeffrey. If Everett trusts him, it’s probably fine.”

“It’s not that I’m scared of him! I just can’t stand him!” Karen kept her distance, never forgetting how Jeffrey had bullied her best friend in the past. A few harsh words wouldn’t settle the score!

“Dorothy’s heading back to Everett now. If you don’t come with me, I’m leaving on my own.” Jeffrey said, clearly not a compromiser.

Realizing she was causing Dorothy troubles, Karen quickly changed her tune.

“Fine, I’ll go with you, but at least make sure I’m out safely!”

Dorothy couldn’t help but laugh at their constant squabbling. As she watched them leave the hospital, she finally felt at ease.

Wheeling herself around, she headed towards Everett’s room.

At the door, she bumped into Dr. Quincy cladding in his white coat.

“Ms. Sanchez, I was just looking for you. Mr. Lopez asked me to inspect on your leg Injury!”

Chapter 482

“I’m fine, really.” Dorothy knew Everett must be worried sick about her, so she walked over to Dr. Quincy’s side and whispered, “If he asks about me, just tell him I’m doing great! I don’t want him to worry.” Dr. Quincy’s lips curled into a smile, revealing two charming dimples that made her look like a college student rather than a seasoned physician.

“You two are really a pair. He told me the exact same thing.”

Dorothy paused, a flicker of concern crossing her face. “Is he okay, though? He’s not hiding anything serious from me, is he?”

Dr. Quincy patted her shoulder gently. “Don’t worry! He’s fine. I wouldn’t tarnish my reputation by letting something happen to one of my patients. But you need to take your leg seriously. Mr. Lopez is right; you need to take care of yourself.”

“It’s just a fracture. I had surgery and everything.”

“But looking at your wounds, it seems like there might be an inflammation. Did you leave the ward and come here right after your surgery?” Dr. Quincy always had an eye to detect these tricks.

Dorothy showed an embarrassed, sheepish grin. “I was worried about him...”

“I understand. But Mr. Lopez is out of danger now, so it’s time to focus on your own recovery.” Dr. Quincy moved behind her wheelchair and began to push it forward. “Let’s head over to the consulting

room. I'll take a look at you."

Dorothy knew it would be foolish to argue now.

"Thank you, Dr. Quincy."

"You're welcome." Dr. Quincy chatted as she pushed the wheelchair along.

"Honestly, seeing how you two caring for each other, it's touching. It makes me believe that love really does exist in this world."

Dorothy glanced at her sideways. "You've never been in love?"

Dr. Quincy made a face. "I'm a med student. My life revolves around the lab and the clinic. The only men around are either my professors or fellow doctors with a similar career drive. Nothing would ever happen. But during my time in the clinic, I've seen plenty of long-term couples who, when faced with life or death, seem to value money over everything else."

Dorothy blinked, deliberating her words.

"They hesitate to spend money on their partner's treatment?"

"Yes! Some could have paid a little more for a cure but chose to give up instead." Dr. Quincy sighed. "That's why I'm terrified of marriage. The dark side of human nature is just too frightening."

Dorothy wanted to express her shock, but then she thought of Maxton. He was exactly the kind of person Dr. Quincy described.

His mother was inpatient for years, yet he never paid the medical bills, let alone visiting her in the hospital.

If it hadn't been for Everett, she might neither have believed in love.

"But seeing the love between you and Mr. Lopez, how he'd risk his life for you... He seems like such a hero."

—

"Everett's actually quite silly." Dorothy thought of how he looked at her the powerful CEO of Lopez Corporation, yet always timid and humble as he saw her and she couldn't help but smile.

—

His cautious tenderness was probably something only she got to see.

"You call him silly but watch out. I might just spill the beans to Jonathan!" Dr. Quincy teased, clearly unaware of the complicated

relations. She still regarded Dorothy the recognized daughter-in-law of the Lopez family.

Chapter 483

Dorothy watched as Quincy affectionately called Everett's father by his first name, Jonathan. It suggested there might be more to the relationship between their families.

“So, you and Everett’s dad...?” she inquired with a hint of curiosity.

“Oh, my dad and Jonathan have been friends for years, Quincy explained with a smile. “I used to hang out at Jonathan’s residence all the time as a kid. I haven’t met Mr. Lopez a lot though. He was usually away at college here in the States, while I grew up abroad.”

“That’s impressive, considering how well you speak the local dialect.” Dorothy complimented.

Quincy beamed at the praise. “Thanks! I like to think I’ve got a knack for it.”

The two girls chatted and made their way to Quincy’s consultation room.

Quincy first checked Dorothy’s wound, then disinfected the surgical site, and applied a salve she had developed herself.

“Make sure you apply this every day. It’s helpful with pain relief and reducing inflammation!” Quincy instructed, then paused, her concern evident. “Actually, why don’t you come by daily? I’ll take care of it for you. That way, you won’t forget it and neglect your own health.”

Dorothy tried to protest, “I shouldn’t be bothering you. I can manage.”

“No trouble at all! I’m a doctor; it’s what I do.” Quincy stood up, and her voice as gentle as ever. “I’ll walk you back to Mr. Lopez’s ward now.”

Dorothy nodded in agreement. “Sounds good.”

By the time Dorothy returned, night had fully descended.

She was greeted by the savory aroma of a hospital meal as she stepped into the room.

Hearing her entrance, Everett immediately called out. “Dorothy?”

“It’s me.”

Everett was confined to lying on the bed. His movements were limited, so he couldn’t see who was entering. He had to guess.

Dorothy approached his bedside and felt his forehead to make sure he wasn’t feverish before speaking. “Are you hungry? I can help you eat.”

“I can’t eat that. Food’s there for you.”

Everett looked at her with helpless eyes, “You’ve been running around all day, worrying about whether Karen has eaten, but you’ve forgotten about your own stomach.”

Dorothy offered a slight smile, “I didn’t forget; I’m just not hungry right now.”

“You need to eat, especially since you have gastropathy.”

He always remembered the little things about her, no matter how minor they might seem..

Glancing at the spread of food—all her favorites—Dorothy felt a pulse to cry in her eyes.

She urged to fight it back. As tears were about to drop, she quickly turned away and wiped, hiding from Everett's gaze.

"What's the matter. Is there anything that you don't like?" Everett asked, seeing her hesitation to eat.

Shaking her head, Dorothy replied, "No, there's nothing wrong."

"Don't worry, I made sure there's no garlic in any of it."

Everett never knows the more Everett did for her, the worse Dorothy felt. His attentiveness made her own commitment seem insignificant by comparison.

"Have a bite." Everett reached out a hand, trying to touch her shoulder.

But the monitors and cables restricted him, and any further strain might aggravate his wounds,

Hearing his gasp, Dorothy quickly turned back and grasped his outstretched hand. "What's wrong? Are you in pain?"

"No." Everett said, smiling warmly at her. "Worrying about me?"

Dorothy, unaccustomed to his direct gaze, awkwardly looked away. "I worry as you to move too much and delay your recovery!"

Everett's lips curved into a teasing smile. "Dorothy, you're the hardest and most stubborn person I know."

Chapter 484

You are the hardest person!"

The words slipped out of Dorothy's mouth before she could stop them, and only after they were hanging in the air did she realize they had a certain ambiguity.

Everett, ever the troublemaker, chose to play along. "Yes, I am. I'll own that."

"Ugh, I can't even deal with you right now!"

Dorothy turned to leave, but Everett's grip was ironclad, unyielding.

She frowned in frustration, "Why do you have to be such a pain like Jeffrey, picking up his bad habits!"

During the takeover of East Star Enterprises, Dorothy had seriously doubted that the decision was unlikely Everett's conduct. His demeanor was always collected, mature, and reserved, never acting like a petulant child.

But that decision might have been fatal for both camps!

"Because I've realized that sometimes you have to play the fool to keep someone like you close."

Before Dorothy returned to his life, Everett's world had been orderly and

disciplined: waking up, attending meetings, travelling for work, domestic or international. Nothing seemed amiss. But after reuniting with her, Everett began to see that too much gentlemanship could be a losing game in a relationship.

Like now. If he let go of her hand for the sake of manner, he'd miss out on even a moment of contact.

"Is that some sort of twisted logic you learned from Jeffrey?"

"I realized it on my own."

Dorothy couldn't help but laugh despite little irritation. "Let go. I'm starving." Only then did Everett release her. "Alright! After you've eaten, I'll have someone take you to rest. You must be exhausted."

"I'm not going anywhere." Dorothy's brow furrowed slightly. With only a month to spare, she didn't want to spend a second away from Everett, "I'll stay right here with you."

Seeing Everett's troubled expression, she pressed, "Is there a problem?"

Of course, there was a problem!

Having the woman that he loved right beside him while being unable to touch or do anything was torturous.

"I... um..." Everett struggled to find the words, eventually just sighing, "Never mind. Just stay if you like."

He'd have to bottle up his desires!

"Why don't you just say what the problem is? Why hesitating? How am I supposed to know if you don't tell me?" Dorothy didn't keep up with his fantasies and was completely confused by his behavior. She assumed Everett would want to be with her, but he actually seemed hesitant.

"It's nothing."

"Out with it! I want to know!" Dorothy took a firm stance.

With an awkward turn of his face, Everett's voice dropped to a whisper. "It's just... my chest is injured, but everything else is.... functioning normally."

Dorothy looked at him innocently, raising an eyebrow. "Okay, and then?"

"And then... when you're close, when I smell your scent, I start to think..."

Her gaze shifted from Everett's flushed face to a certain area below his waist that seemed to be showing signs of life, and she finally got it.

"You're in this state and you still think about those !" She couldn't believe that this was the same reserved Everett she knew.

Everett exhaled deeply, his attitude resigning to the situation.

"Dorothy, I'm a man."

Of course, he had desires!

Without Dorothy, he'd resolved on his own. But how could he resist, with her so close after such a long abstinence?

Dorothy paused for a moment before tentatively suggesting, "So, do you want me to ask Jeffrey to find you a girl?"

"Good heavens, Dorothy!"

She flinched at his outburst. "Why are you yelling? Anyways it's not like it's your first time being with other women."

Chapter 485

"What are you talking about?"

Everett was confused, feeling as if Dorothy's words had some hidden meaning.

"It means exactly what it sounds like." Dorothy didn't want to bring this up; just thinking about the love bites on his skin made her saddened. "You don't have to explain. I understand."

Everett frowned. His gaze fixed on her delicate face. "When have I ever sought the company of another woman?"

He had always been chaste, to the point where even necessary interactions with females were unavoidable at work, he would retain a distance from them. But Dorothy assumed as though he was a playboy.

"How should I know when you did it?"

Everett's clueless expression only made Dorothy angrier, convincing her he was feigning! So she grew even more irritated.

"Anyway, that's your business, not mine. You don't have to fake your purity. I'm not yours anyone at best I'm your ex-wife. I have no say over your private life."

Strictly speaking, she had no right to question it even if Everett had been with a different woman every day for the past four years. It was just that seeing those marks made her heart ache.

"Wait a second!" Everett felt unfairly accused. "What am I faking for? I haven't been with anyone else! That's the truth."

"I said I didn't mind. Why do you keep bringing this up?"

"Yes, I have to bring it up!"

Otherwise, how wronged would he feel? How wronged!

"Fine. But remember, you asked for this."

Dorothy really wanted to divert from this topic and not dwell on such matters.

Even if he had been with other women, it didn't

change the fact that he truly loved her, that he was willing to throw himself into

harm's way for her. She'd be way too annoying if she kept fixating on it.

But now, Everett insisted on discussing it. He determined to confront her. So, let's be it.

That time you got drunk, Kevin brought you back to Bay Residence.”

Everett recalled the incident. “Right, I called you because I wanted to see you, but you said you had no sweet words for me so better not to meet. You said I looked pathetic clinging to you, that I was just looking for an excuse to talk to you.”

Dorothy didn't expect him to remember their conversation so clearly; she had forgotten the specifics herself. “Anyway, that night, after you got drunk, I went to Bay Residence to look for you.”

Everett's handsome countenance froze, stunned.

His eyes fixed on her. “You came to me?”

“Yes!” Dorothy nodded, admitting it outright. “I felt guilty for being harsh with you. Kevin said you were intoxicated, and I wanted to take care of you. But... but...”

The sight of the bite marks on his shoulder and the heart-wrenching discomfort it caused her were hard to take in even until now.

“Did I say anything to you?”

“No.”

“Then what was it?”

Dorothy took a deep breath and said slowly, “I saw bite marks on your shoulder. Many bite marks. You're not going to tell me Kevin did that, are you? You certainly couldn't have bitten yourself there either!”

Everett just stared at Dorothy, and after a long moment, he suddenly burst out laughing.

His Adam's apple bobbed up and down as he laughed so hard that his chest trembled, and the laughter made the pain in his wounds start to throb.

“Everett, what's so funny!”

Chapter 486

“So you're telling me those bite marks are from another woman?”

Dorothy frowned, fighting the urge to roll her eyes at him. “Don't even try to spin a yarn about it being a guy's doing. I'm not buying that tale.”

“No, they really were from a woman.” Everett teased, watching her cheeks

flush with anger, a smirk creeping up his face.

Her jealousy was a dead giveaway that she had feelings for him!

Seeing Dorothy like this made Everett happier than anything else.

“And you say you haven’t been dating anyone else?” Dorothy’s eyes widened like a wife interrogating her husband, almost ready

to jump out of her wheelchair. “She must have been pretty close to leave a bite on your shoulder. You obviously slept with her!”

Everett nodded, “You’re spot on. Not just once, but quite a few times. She was drunk that night, and I intended just to escort her

to her hotel room. But then she got handsy and wouldn’t let go of me!”

Dorothy covered her ears and turned away, “Spare me the sordid details! So she touched you and you just surrendered? Where have your morality gone to?”

“Gone when it came to her. I found it hard to stand my ground.” Everett saw she was genuinely upset, and knew it was time to

reveal the truth before she actually took off and he couldn’t chase after her.

“Didn’t it ever occur to you that this woman might be you?”

“How could I...”

Dorothy stopped before finishing the sentence, frozen.

“Verity Holdings Limited collapsed overnight. Did you think about who might have had a hand in that?”

She was still trying to make sense of it all.

She remembered that Lane suddenly showed up in Havenbrook City, and she had asked him about Verity Holdings Limited.

Lane claimed it was him behind the company’s collapse!

“So you were in Havenbrook City the night I got drunk?”

“How else would the bite marks be there?”

“The driver from Everglow City who came to my rescue, was he sent by you?!”

Everett thought for a moment and then nodded. “You could say that.”

“And you made Verity Holdings Limited crash?”

“Yes.”

“Everett, don’t you think that was too contemptible? You saw me alone in the hotel, and then you....”

He cut her off quickly, “Hold on! I didn’t take advantage of anyone. Like I said, you started it.”

“Impossible!” She always just lay down and slept when she was drunk. It wasn’t her first time drinking. How could she possibly end up fondling a man!

“The folks at Verity Holdings Limited roofied you that night, so you were...

quite eager...” Everett paused for effect. His eyes narrowed and lips curved into a sly smile. “I’ve never seen you so intense before. I admit. I did let you have your way with me that night.”

And he seemed to relish it, pulling her back for more even after she waved him off.

Dorothy’s brain couldn’t keep up. She couldn’t imagine what exactly had gone down that night!

Everett said that Verity Holdings Limited had roofied her; who knows what could’ve happened if it wasn’t for his staff’s protection!

“Those bite marks... were all from me?”

“Yes.” Everett nodded, “You kept asking me to be gentle, but I couldn’t. So you bit me.”

“Enough, enough!”

Dorothy felt her face blushed as if on fire.

The details of that night were just too much!

Chapter 487

“Not enough, nowhere near enough. You complimented my six-pack, saying I was good and raving about my strong back and stamina!”

All those words, she’d never utter when sober, were out in the open that day! Dorothy couldn’t bear to hear anymore of what happened next.

“Umm... Everett, I’m tired. Can someone take me to my room, please?”

Everett’s expression darkened. “Weren’t you going to stay with me?”

“No, no, I’d better head off. I’ll come back tomorrow!”

She needed time to process this whole revelation!

“No way!” Now it was Everett’s turn to panic, “You can’t just leave like that.”

“Is there something else?”

Of course, there was!

He had a very serious issue to address!

Their eyes met, and then he directed her gaze down toward his lower half—the part of him that was still defiantly making its presence known.

“Dorothy, you can’t be this cruel.”

Cruel?

She was about ready to flee the country!

“Goodnight!”

Dorothy was about to leave, but she heard Everett’s sharp inhale behind her.

“Ah... yikes!”

She rushed back, looking him over anxiously. "What's wrong? Did you pull your injury? Does it hurt a lot?"

Looking up, she met his eyes, twinkling with mischief.

"You! You're such a rogue!"

Everett's strong hands firmly caught her wrist, and his handsome face filled with sincerity. "Dorothy, I'm in pain."

"Where does it hurt?"

"There. It's aching because it's pent up."

Dorothy tried to break free but worried about hurting him. She hesitated, caught in a dilemma. "Can you stop messing around?"

Even if I stay, there's nothing I can do, right?"

He was in no condition to get up, let alone doing more!

"I can't get up, but you can come on top."

Dorothy looked as if she'd heard the most scandalous proposition.

"Weren't you the one who kept insisting on being on top when at that hotel?"

Everett, having thrown all courtesy to the wind, no

longer blushed or stammered. "You said I was too heavy, that you wanted to control the rhythm!"

"Enough, enough!" Dorothy repeated, exasperated. "I must have been out of my mind that night."

"Stay with me, please?"

As she didn't budge. Everett had to play his trump card.

"Before I met you, I could take care of it myself with hands. Now, after saving you, here I am, unable to do anything, and you won't help me..."

Dorothy looked troubled. "But, but... I was drunk last time!"

The thought of doing it sober was more unbearable than killing herself!

"Then just pretend you're drunk tonight."

"How can one pretend to be drunk?"

Turn the lights off. It'll be fine. You won't see anything."

Staring at his already excited face, Dorothy only wished to travel back in time to nip that topic in the bud. She cursed herself for bringing it up.

Look what it led to!

She was stuck in this dilemma.

"I've got injuries on my legs too."

"We'll take it slow; we've got all night."

They would find a comfortable position eventually; there was no reason to give it up.

He was like a hungry wolf tonight, not the usual abstinent CEO, and he had no

intention of letting her go.

She couldn't escape, so she nodded.

"Then I'll... go turn off the lights."

"Great!"

"Everett, doing this... it won't affect your injuries, right?"

"No, it won't! Just be gentle."

Chapter 488

Just another night in the city, Karen was tossing and turning on the plush hotel bed and was unable to find sleep.

Her mind was spinning with how she'd break the news to Kenneth, who was still waiting on his passport, all eager to come over to Swevia. What a mess it would be when he arrived to find Everett and Dorothy were doing just fine. He'd be so embarrassed.

After much deliberation, Karen forced herself to dial Kenneth's number.

He picked up a few rings later.

"I was just getting Langston ready for his bath when I heard the phone.

What's up? Everything okay with Dorothy?"

"Yeah, she's fine," Karen murmured, her lips pursing in discomfort. "Um, Kenneth, how's the passport thing going?"

Kenneth paused as he sensed something amiss. "I've submitted the application and taken a new photo. You knew it, but why asking again?"

"I just think... maybe you should hold off on coming here. Dorothy's doing well, and the Lopezes haven't given her any trouble."

There was silence on the other end. Though Kenneth said nothing, Karen could feel his disappointment.

"Kenneth, Dorothy said she'd be back in a month. Save yourself the trip, okay? I'm planning to stay until she's settled, and then I'll head back too."

Both cousins knew that no one would dare hurt Dorothy anymore ever since Everett has been brought back to consciousness.

It took an eternity before Kenneth's voice came through softly. "Alright, I won't come. Just take care of her."

"I will."

After hanging up, Karen felt something heavy in her mood, something uneasy and sad she couldn't quite pinpoint.

She flicked through her phone and looked for ordering some beer to help her sleep. But the foreign script was indecipherable, and she didn't speak a word of Swevia's language. Heck, she was even afraid of getting lost just going downstairs.

Something slipped into her mind. She put on the slippers, dashing out and banging on the door two rooms down from hers.

The door swung open to reveal a man fresh from the shower. Annoyance etched into his features..

“What is it for?”

Jeffrey had just stepped out of the bathroom, draped in the hotel’s white robe. His hair still dripping when Karen’s relentless knocking nearly gave him a heart attack.

“I need a drink. Go get me some.”

“Am I your servant?” No one have had the gall to boss him around other than Everett!

Karen batted her eyelashes to show off her innocence. “I never said that! Everett asked you to look after me, and I need a little liquid courage to help me sleep. But I can’t buy it myself, so you’re my only hope! You’re not going to let me down, are you?”

“I am.” With that, Jeffrey slammed the door shut.

Karen stood fuming by the rejection. “Hey! Where have your gentlemanliness gone to? No wonder you and Heather are two peas. in a pod – both lacking morality, pfft!”

She had barely turned to leave when Jeffrey’s door swung open again. This time he was dressed in casual wear.

His handsome face seemed helpless. “I was just changing clothes. What, you expected me to go out in a towel?”

“Next time, could you wait until you’ve got the whole story before jumping to conclusions?” Jeffrey almost lost his sanity to this.

woman. “You’re arbitrary to judge people based on your own assumptions.”

Karen stiffened her neck, huffing. “Oh, so how you’re lecturing me? And what about all those times you snapped at Dorothy without getting the full story? You were the arbitrary one who believed that Dorothy stole Heather’s man?”

Chapter 489

“Now you see! Everett’s heart has always belonged to our Dorothy, not that Heather!”

Jeffrey was left speechless by her blunt words. His arms crossed over his chest as he watched her vent. When the tirade was over, he finally murmured, “Are you still heading out for some beer?”

“Yes!”

Karen had the knack for being flexible – she had to express herself when discomfited, and so did when she was happy.

Jeffrey was still on the mend and not quite steady on his feet. Karen had to drive.

She wasn't used to drive, especially not in a luxury car. It took her a good while to figure out the controls before they were finally on their way.

Once at the supermarket, Karen pushed the cart and loaded it with a dozen bottles of beer. She wasn't sure which one tasted best, so she'd just try them all.

Jeffrey eyed her hoarding and pointed at the growing collection in the cart, "You're not going to get out of your bed tomorrow if you drink all those."

"No worries, as I don't have to fret over Dorothy anymore. Everett's got her covered." Karen picked up a can with a red label, inspecting it back and forth but not recognizing a single word. "Hey, you drinking?"

A twitch tugged at the corner of Jeffrey's mouth.

"I'm still healing, remember?" Did she not care about anyone else's well-being, other than Dorothy?

Karen paused, then gave an awkward smile, "Sorry, sorry, totally slipped my mind about your injury! Just that I thought you wouldn't feel the pain, considering it's a wound from your beloved woman, right? Shouldn't you be grinning and bearing it?"

"Can we not bring that up again? I'm seriously done."

Karen shrugged and even patted his shoulder in a mock-consoling gesture, "I'm just looking out for you, reminding you to keep your eyes peeled next time. Don't jump to conclusions without knowing the full story."

Great, that advice was coming back to haunt him.

Jeffrey simply chose to keep quiet. If he couldn't beat her, he'd just stay out of her way, right?

After shopping, Karen drove them back to the hotel. She glanced at the hotel's entrance, noting the prominent letter 'L' and pointed, "That 'L' wouldn't stand for 'Lopez', would it?"

Jeffrey carried the bags and followed her. "Don't tell me that you don't know it is part of the family business of the Lopezes. This is just a drop in the bucket for the Lopez family. They probably wouldn't even notice it."

Karen stared at the towering building and lost in thought. Jeffrey mistook her expression for admiration, but her mind was racing.

For Dorothy, confronting the Lopez family would be as hard as extracting a

tooth from a tiger's mouth!

How impossible it would be!

They were deeply rooted; without Everett's protection, Dorothy might vanish from the world before she ever got her justice.

Dorothy had never felt so exhausted.

She had thought that he would be more restrained with the injuries, but....

She couldn't have been more wrong!

His demands and whims were even more taxing than when he was in full health.

Worn out, Dorothy passed out without even making it to the shower.

The next morning, it was Dr. Quincy's knocking that jolted her awake.

"Who is it?"

"Sorry to disturb your rest." came the apology from outside, "I'm here to change Mr. Lopez's dressing."

Dorothy quickly rolled out of bed and Everett caught her wrist gently. his voice soft, "No rush, be careful."

"It's all your fault!" Dorothy glared at him before getting up and hurrying to open the window for some fresh air.

Then she went to open the door for Dr. Quincy, who stood outside in her white coat.

Seeing her in such a bleary-eyed, clearly worn out state, Dr. Quincy was stunned and asked with a hint of confusion, "What exactly... happened last night?"

Chapter 490

Dorothy's expression was slightly unnatural as she mumbled, "No, nothing."

Quincy eyed her and then let out a light chuckle. "Taking care of a patient can be exhausting, huh?"

"Mm-hmm..."

It really was exhausting.

Quincy seemed to understand completely and gave her a supportive pat on the shoulder. "Why don't you catch some more sleep? I'll come back later."

"No, you should tend to his bandages—that's more important!"

The last thing Dorothy wanted was to be alone in a room with Everett.

It was mainly because the pains on her back and legs!

Quincy, oblivious to the tension that had filled the room moments earlier, entered with the medical supplies and commented,

"Why does it feel so stuffy in here? It's like there's a... a smell..."

Dorothy's scalp tingled at her words. She felt guilty, and she couldn't bring

herself to look up.

A terrifying thought struck her!

Would Everett continue to be like this for the next, full month?

“How are you feeling, Mr. Lopez?” Quincy’s voice floated from behind her.

Everett responded, “Pretty good.”

“Let’s take a look.” Quincy moved to his side and carefully began to unwrap the bandage, then frowned slightly. “Did you move around too much in your sleep? The wound seems to have bled a bit!”

Everett’s eyes flickered toward Dorothy, who still hadn’t dared to turn around. He replied, “Maybe I did while I was asleep.”

“You should try to keep still. If the wound keeps bleeding, it’s going to take forever to heal. Quincy advised as she jotted down notes on her clipboard. She then checked the monitor readings and nodded in satisfaction. “But it does look like you’re on the mend. You’ll have to stay in bed today. But if all goes well, we can remove the monitors tomorrow, and you can start moving around a bit.”

“Alright, thank you.”

As Quincy prepared to leave, Everett stopped her and asked with his voice low, “Can I take a shower tomorrow?”

“Not yet. You’ll have to stick to the sponge. Is something bothering you?” She noticed his deep frown.

“It’s just uncomfortable after sweating.”

“Sweating?” Quincy looked puzzled, “The room has air conditioning; you could turn it on!”

Everett’s gaze returned to Dorothy and smiled, “Alright, got it.”

Quincy left the room, feeling as though both patients were acting oddly today. Once the door closed, Dorothy, frustrated, gritted her teeth. “Are you trying to make sure everyone knows what happened between us last night?”

She had been silent, yet he kept deliberately bringing it up!

“I just asked about the shower. I didn’t say anything else.” Everett replied, his handsome face regaining some color, In fact, he looked quite refreshed today.

“I can’t even deal with you! I’m going to go stay at Karen’s tonight.”

“Fine. Go ahead.”

To Dorothy’s surprise, Everett agreed without hesitation!

Just as she nodded, he casually added on.

“Leave me alone in the hospital room then. I might die and no one would know.”

“This hospital belongs to the Lopez family. You could have as many nurses you want.”

Everett raised an eyebrow, and the corners of his lips barely hid a smirk. “But they can’t help me with my problem. Only you can.”

Dorothy clenched her teeth. “I absolutely will not today!”

“Just once then.”

“Not even once!”

“Dorothy, don’t forget, I can get out of bed tomorrow.” Everett’s voice floated effortlessly with a hint of threat, “And then, it will be up to me to decide how many times we want.”

The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires #Chapter 491 - Read The CEO’s Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires Chapter 491

Chapter 491

Dorothy could hardly believe the man in front of her was the same person she knew. It was as if he’d been possessed by some mischievous spirit!

If anyone from the Lopez Corporation saw him now, lounging about like some kind of loafer, they’d rub their eyes in disbelief.

Come on, this was Mr. Lopez, the embodiment of self-restraint and icy composure, who had managed to stay scandal-free despite the turbid world of business that he thrived in!

“Is this all you think about when I’m around?”

“With you by my side, it’s impossible to think of anything else.”

Just as Dorothy was about to respond, there was another knock on the door. She opened the door and found Jonathan standing there. His lips twitched into a faint, emotionless smile upon seeing her.

“How’s Everett doing?”

“Dr. Quincy said he’s doing great. He’ll be off the monitors by tomorrow.” Of course, Dorothy didn’t mention the little incident of Everett unstitching his wound.

They were all adults, and they all knew what that’s about...

Jonathan nodded, then spoke in a hushed tone, “Could you please spare us a few minutes? I need to have a word with him alone.” “Sure.”

Without suspicion, Dorothy moved to leave.

Everett suddenly spoke up from the hospital bed, “There’s nothing that she shouldn’t hear.”

He was done with their misunderstandings. It was better to let her hear things firsthand than to leave her guessing.

Dorothy was a very insecure woman. The more he kept from her, the more unsettled she'd feel.

Jonathan was no doubt not fond of such an attitude of his son's.

Only that decisive, ruthless Everett could navigate the battlegrounds in the commercial world, not some doting lover distracted by

a woman's presence. Didn't he just put a target on his back?

Dorothy noticed the displeasure on Jonathan's face, and she didn't want to cause a rift between the father and the son. She

offered a smile and said, "Everett, I should check on Karen anyway. She did come with me, after all. I need to make sure she's settled in."

Before Everett could object, Jonathan was already agreeing, "I'll have someone escort you."

"Thank you."

Dorothy nodded and left the room..

As soon as the door closed, the smile that had graced Everett's handsome face vanished, replaced once more by his usual stoic

and noble demeanor.

"Why avoid her?"

"Because she's not part of the Lopez family!" Jonathan's response was blunt, leaving no room for Everett to harbor any delusions. of Dorothy being accepted by them.

Everett's eyes narrowed as he regarded his father. "Was there a bargain between you and Dorothy?"

"Nothing at all"

"That's impossible." Everett knew well both Dorothy and his own parents, who never showed mercy easily. "Dorothy must have given up a lot for you to let her in and see me."

Jonathan's face grew stern, "Don't forget whose son you are! You've been raised by the Lopez family, and everything you have is built on the foundation of the family's century-long legacy. And now, you're questioning your father over a woman?"

"I do belong to the Lopez family, but I also do belong to Dorothy."

"And what are you to Dorothy?" Jonathan's voice was sharp with severity.

"The fact is, you've invested more emotion and time in her than she ever has in you! She's always been holding something back from you!"

Otherwise, they wouldn't have divorced in the first place.

"I don't want to argue about this. I just want to know what was her bargain."

Everett wasn't interested in those analysis.

He understood what Jonathan said, but none of those outweighed his willingness to yield to his heart.

"I've told you. There was nothing!"

Everett looked straight into his father's eyes, piercing through the pretense.

"It's about the kids, isn't it? You want Abigail and Langston back to the Lopez family."

Chapter 492

—

He could only think of one thing the Lopez family was truly missing children.

"It's not about wanting," Jonathan argued, his voice firm with conviction,

"Since the kids are Lopez's bloodline, so it's my responsibility to bring them home, instead of letting them suffer out there with Dorothy!"

He hadn't planned on keeping this from Everett. Of course, it wouldn't have stayed a secret for long. He just hadn't felt ready to broach the subject.

"Whether it's suffering or blessing, that's up to the kids to decide, not you."

"They're too young to know what's good or bad for them. Surely they want to be with their mom. But we, the Lopez family, can't accept Dorothy, nor can we let our lineage falter outside!"

Everett tugged at his chapped lips. "They're not outside with me here."

He never saw the children being raised by Dorothy as "suffering". They were clearly well-cared for adorable, healthy, and incredibly sensible.

As their father, he felt a deep gratitude for Dorothy, and it pained him to see her struggle.

"Nonsense!" Jonathan started to scold, but then hastily softened his tone as recalling his son's condition, "Everett, you know what I care about! If you really wish for the best for the kids, you should have them back to us. Who knows how Dorothy might raise them!"

"Dorothy has never taught them to resent the Lopez family. Your fear isn't necessary."

"I feared? We, the Lopez family, didn't even know about the kids before!"

Jonathan's voice deepened with emotion, "Yes, I admit

that your mother made a mistake and that I didn't expect Heather to be so

brazen. From now on, we'll make sure you have nothing to do with Heather. But Dorothy... she can't be part of the Lopez family."

"Why?" Everett clenched his teeth, attempting to sit up despite the pain. After several failed attempts as he was restrained by the wires of the monitoring equipment, he simply unplugged the cords.

Suddenly, the machine let out a shrill, buzzing alarm.

Jonathan hurried over startled. "What are you doing? Have you lost your mind?"

But Everett seemed deaf to his father's words. His eyes fixed on Jonathan. Blood seeped frantically from his wound, yet he didn't.

even wince.

"I asked you why. Why can't Dorothy be part of the Lopez family?"

"It just can't happen! Now, lie down!" Jonathan was genuinely frightened. His composure shaken, as he rushed out to call for the doctor. "Quincy! Quincy! Come quickly, he's bleeding!"

Quincy was in her office flipping through a medical journal when she heard the commotion and dashed out.

"What happened?"

"Quick, hurry! Everett just pulled out his monitor, and he's bleeding!"

Quincy frowned and rushed to the patient's room.

"Mr. Lopez, what have you done?" She reached to remove the bandage and check his wound, but he dodged her.

"It's nothing. I'm fine."

"You're bleeding out, and how can it be nothing?" Quincy had never seen anyone so reckless with their life. "Where's Ms. Sanchez?"

Everett looked at her and asks, "What do you need her for?"

"Because you won't settle without her!" Quincy had him figured out, "Mr. Lopez, either cooperate with me right now, or I'm calling Ms. Sanchez to handle you!"

"I'm serious!" She was already pulling out her phone.

Everett's demeanor softened slightly, but his brow remained furrowed. "Don't tell her!"

Chapter 493

Quincy gestured towards his wound. "Then lay still, buddy. Let me check out where the blood came from. You don't want Ms.

Sanchez to come back and find you soaked in blood, do you?"

Out of everything Jonathan had said, he was right on that only one point – Dorothy was Everett’s Achilles’ heel.

And right now, Quincy was exploiting that weakness with pinpoint accuracy. Seeing his son finally cooperating, Jonathan’s worry settled down a bit, but it was quickly replaced by irritation. “You’re trashing your own health over a woman?”

“Dorothy probably had her fair share of troubles trying to see me. You didn’t seem to care much about her then, did you?”

“She’s not one of the Lopezes!”

Everett snorted with disdain, “Being a Lopez doesn’t put you above anyone else.”

Jonathan had never been so blatantly defied by his son before. He was so angry he could barely breathe.

Quincy, sensing the situation was getting worse, quickly interjected while tending to the wound. “Alright, Jonathan! Can we stop quarreling? The patient needs to stay calm and rest to heal properly. Any irritation isn’t going to help!”

“He started it!”

“Well, how about you and Amanda step out of the hospital for a while? That way, Mr. Lopez can’t reach you to pick a fight.”

Quincy’s hands moved with practiced ease as she disinfected and rebandaged Everett’s wound, but the monitor needed to be taken down as it was damaged by him.

Once everything was settled, Quincy sought for a private chat with Jonathan to avoid stressing out the patient in the hospital. But as she reached the door, Everett called out to her.

“Don’t tell Dorothy about the fuss earlier.”

“You’re aware she’d worry, huh?”

With a sigh, Quincy set about separating the two combustible rivals.

She ushered Jonathan into her office, poured him a glass of water and offered a comforting smile, “Jonathan, there’s no need to stay angry. What can’t a father and son talk over?”

“There’s nothing to talk about! After all this time, he still refuses to budge. He insists on marrying that Dorothy!”

Quincy paused, taken aback, “Isn’t he already...”

“The Lopezes will never welcome her in our house!” Jonathan slammed his hand down on the desk, “Even if it means disowning my own son, I won’t allow such a daughter-in-law into my family! I tried not to meddle in his personal affairs, but look at him now, so obsessed by Dorothy that he’s neglecting his own health! How can I,

as a father, not be heartbroken?”

Jonathan’s face reddened by rage. Quincy quickly tried to soothe him, worried he might pass out from anger.

“Even if you disagree, you need to talk this through calmly! Don’t act in haste! Both you and your wife are not in the best of health. I’ve seen your medical reports, and you really should avoid getting angry.”

“I wish I could do that! My terms are simple: Dorothy is not setting foot into the Lopez household.”

“Why?” Quincy was puzzled, but she was aware of some common causation of disapproving a marriage. Frictions between the in-laws, social barriers, and things like those.

“Isn’t she aware of her status? How could she ever be worthy of the Lopezes? Quincy, I’m not being cruel, but you grew up in a prestigious family just like us. If you wanted to marry an average Joe, your parents wouldn’t agree either!”

Quincy mulled it over and, finally, she could only nod. She didn’t like it but was compelled to agree with his sentiment.

Indeed, it seemed like the heirs of wealthy families, were inevitably bound to arranged marriages. They could barely escape from that fate, especially those only sons like Everett.

Chapter 494

“I feel it, you know? Mr. Lopez and Ms. Sanchez are truly in love.” Quincy was aware that affection could not vanquish the reality.

But their love was so fierce, and their willingness to sacrifice for each other was rare indeed. It moved even Quincy.

“Love’s easy to claim, but it doesn’t stand a chance against the unforeseeable life ahead!” Jonathan had more to say, but a

glance at Quincy made him hold back. His stance, however, remained firm.

“Anyway, I won’t approve.”

Dorothy returned from Karen’s and was surprised to find Everett already propped up in his hospital bed!

Her face lit up with joy. “Did Dr. Quincy take you off the monitors in advance? Does this mean you’re recovering well?”

Everett’s handsome features tightened. He wanted to nod but didn’t, and deftly changed the subject.

“I feel like I could get up and walk around.”

“You can’t do that! Not until Dr. Quincy says so.” Dorothy approached

Everett’s bed to wipe him down with a towel. That was

when she noticed something was wrong. “Your bandages they look freshly

changed. Are you bleeding again?"

"Dr. Quincy changed them. Maybe it was needed after removing the equipment." he said vaguely. Luckily Dorothy didn't dwell on the details as her thoughts preoccupied by his apparent improvement.

"Everett, just focus on healing. I can't bear feeling guilty about you anymore." She was earnest, looking straight into Everett's eyes. His love was a burden she couldn't shake, weighing on her day and night.

"I don't want your guilt." Everett said with more severity and sincerity in his eyes. "You know what I want. Dorothy, you agreed to my father's terms, didn't you?"

Stunned, Dorothy looked at him. "He told you?"

"I knew it... I knew they'd bully you!"

In his last conscious moments before succumbing to blood loss, Everett's mind was filled with the thought of what might happen to Dorothy if he died or remained comatose. The Lopezes would surely pressure her or even worse.

But ultimately, his body gave in, and he closed his eyes full of worry and unease.

"Calm down." Dorothy forced a smile on her face to spare him any self-reproach. "I agreed to their terms because, first, the Lopez family can provide a better future for the kids, and second, so that I could see you. It's a win-win, really."

"I don't believe you'd give up the kids that easily." Everett didn't believe a word she was saying.

Dorothy felt transparent and unable to hide anything in front of Everett.

"It's hard. But as parents, we should plan for the best future of our children. I'm thinking long-term."

"Abigail and Langston may still have a good life with bright future without my dad! Their dad is not dead yet."

As long as Everett was around, he wouldn't let his kids suffer.

"There you go, making a fuss over nothing." Dorothy tried to deflect, not daring to confront him further. "You rest a bit. I'll go see Dr. Quincy about getting some ointment for your leg."

She left the room without waiting for Everett's consent.

Approaching Quincy's office in her wheelchair, she overheard a voice that sounded like Jonathan.

"Quincy, if you could just be our daughter-in-law..."

Chapter 495

Inside the room, Quincy was even more surprised than Dorothy was.

“Ah? Jonathan, you must be kidding me!”

Jonathan seemed to struggle for words before finally letting out a chuckle, “Well, my wife and I are planning a trip back to Elysian Country. Got some business to take care of, so I’ll be counting on you to look after Everett! I trust your medical skills.”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Lopez is out of the woods now. You may just go and handle your business!”

“Alright.”

Knowing Jonathan was coming out, Dorothy quickly ducked into an empty room to avoid crossing paths with him.

Dorothy knocked on the door after he left.

“Ms. Sanchez, you’re here.” Quincy said, turning to fetch the ointment for her. As she searched, she suddenly paused and cautiously asked, “How long have you been here?”

Hopefully, she hadn’t heard the conversation with Jonathan.

“Just got here.” Dorothy didn’t want Quincy to feel awkward. After all, she was always so kind and warm-hearted. It was clear that Quincy held no other intentions towards Everett.

And even if she did, Dorothy wasn’t in any position to feel jealous or to push her away.

Everett had been seriously injured while saving her, and it was Quincy who had pulled him back from death.

Their families had been friends for many years and shared a deep bond. Quincy indeed came from a well-to-do family, but she was not at all spoiled and lofty. Instead, she was any random girl with a gentle and approachable vibe.

Like now, she didn’t hesitate to kneel down and apply the ointment to Dorothy’s wounds.

She was just as professional as any hospital doctor, if not more attentive.

“Your wound isn’t healing well; there’s some infection. Thankfully, your X-rays don’t show any major issues. You should try getting rid of the wheelchair and walking around a bit to get some exercise.”

“Okay.” Dorothy nodded and then softly asked, “Did Everett aggravate his injury just now?”

“Did he tell you that?”

“No.” She had seen the fresh bandages with her own eyes.

Quincy hastily waved her hands. “Then don’t ask me. I don’t know anything; he told me not to say!”

Dorothy sighed, “I won’t tell. I’m just concerned about his health.”

After all, he had just narrowly escaped death, and any mishap would worry

her.

“Mr. Lopez is in great shape, and he’s recovering quickly. Plus, you can rest easy, he’s not in any danger now.”

“That’s good to hear. I’m relieved.”

Having received the answer she sought, Dorothy was about to return to her room.

But Quincy suddenly called out to her, “Ms. Sanchez.”

“Yes?”

“I want to ask you a question.”

She nodded earnestly, “Go ahead.”

Quincy hesitated a bit before awkwardly asking, “Do you love Mr. Lopez? I don’t mean anything by it. Just curious, with a man who would risk his life for you, do you love him as deep?”

Quincy, who had never been in love, was genuinely curious.

But Dorothy just smiled, offering no answer.

She always remembered her time was limited. When the time was up, she’d have to vanish from Everett’s life. It didn’t matter whether she loved him.

“When you meet someone like that, you’ll know.”

Quincy sighed softly, wrestling with her thoughts before speaking, “Ms. Sanchez, to be honest, I feel like Mr. Lopez loves you more deeply.”

“You’re right about that.”

Chapter 496

She couldn’t deny it—Everett was trapped in this relationship deeper than she was.

So if Everett, the CEO of Lopez Corporation, with all his fearlessness and clout, still couldn’t turn the tide, what could an ordinary person like her possibly change?

Dorothy returned to the hospital room and, as she pushed the door open, she was stunned to see Everett standing by the window! He was still tall and upright, with a posture that screamed pride and privilege. There he was, lost in thought quietly in front of the floor-to-ceiling window.

Hearing her enter, he tilted his head slightly.

The once sharp edges of Everett’s face were softened by illness and implemented by a languid grace, which all made him appear almost boyish.

“You’re back.”

“Why are you out of bed without permission? Dr. Quincy said you could try walking tomorrow, not today!” Dorothy was frantic with worry, fearing for his health, especially since Everett was known for being stubborn.

“One day won’t make a difference.” Everett was tired of being confined to the bed. His skin was itching for movement.

Dorothy hurried over and locked eyes with him. “Get back into bed, now.”

“Just a little longer.” Everett’s lips curled into a smile at her concern, then he said softly, “Give me your hand.”

“What?”

Although unsure of his intentions, Dorothy extended her hand.

Everett grasped her wrist and lifted his shirt, pressing her palm against his firm abs.

“I’m going to lose these if I don’t get up and move.” he joked.

“You loved touching here when we were on bed. I have to keep them.”

Flustered, Dorothy’s cheeks turned red, and she glared at him. “Let go, I don’t love touching them!”

“But you did, many times last night!”

“That’s because I was sitting on top of you, and I... I needed something to balance myself!”

Her hasty retort came without thought, and she didn’t realize its implications until it was too late. Everett’s arms caged her between the wall and his body, leaving her no room to move.

“You...”

“Dorothy, I want you again.”

She didn’t need him to say it because she could feel the heat pressing against her.

“Are you insane? It’s broad daylight!”

Dr. Quincy could walk in at any moment!

“Close the curtains.”

“This isn’t about the curtains.” Dorothy sputtered.

Seeing her attempt to wriggle free, Everett’s grip tightened unintentionally and revealed the defined lines of his knuckles.

His eyes, usually cool and composed, now burned with unbridled desire.

“Just once, I’ll be quick.”

“I don’t believe you!”

He always took his time and left her breathless and drenched as if she’d been fished out of water by the end of it!

Everett smirked, his voice a husky whisper in her ear. He noticed a tiny, faint mole on Dorothy’s ear, so light it was nearly

invisible unless observing close—adorable enough that he wanted to taste it. And he did just that.

Dorothy was startled and instinctively recoiled, but she was still immobilized by him. Then, his lips claimed hers fiercely.

The kiss was an invasion, a relentless and voracious plundering that left no room for protest.

Dorothy's hands were free but dared not move, because unfortunately, she had to be mindful of Everett's wound on his chest.

"Mmph!"

Her protests were also swallowed whole.

Only when she was nearly breathless did Everett reluctantly let her go, his voice dark with longing. "I'll be quick. Just once, okay?"

Chapter 497

Only later did Dorothy realize that when Everett said, "I'll be quick", he wasn't talking about time but speed.

The room spun so fast she couldn't even make out the ceiling tiles of the hospital room anymore. The harsh lights blurred into triplicates, then quintuplets, before scattering like countless twinkling stars.

"Could you... maybe go a bit... faster..." she gasped out..

Her arms felt like they couldn't lift, as if she was a deep-sea fish starved of oxygen.

Yet Everett leaned in to kiss that small mole by her ear and feigned surprise.

"Not fast enough? Alright, I'll speed up a little more."

"No, no, no..." she protested weakly.

"Oh, you're afraid I'll finish too quickly? Don't worry, I've got time."

"No, no, no..."

Everett took pleasure in seeing her flushed and breathless, too worn out to say anything but shake her head.

She was utterly his in this moment.

After all, Dorothy had overcome so many obstacles and even gave up on the kids just to be by his side. She must have feelings

for him.

Right?

That was the case, wasn't it?

Back at the hotel, after seeing Dorothy off, Karen planned to pack her bags and check for a flight home.

She couldn't help much at this point and knew Dorothy would worry if she stayed. So what was the point for her to stay?

With that thought, she inadvertently glanced at the left wall. It was Jeffrey's room just beyond a few more walls. She stopped what she was doing, sighed heavily, hesitated, and headed straight for Jeffrey's door after a brief pause.

It took him a while to open the door. Jeffrey's handsome face was flushed an unusual shade of pink, and his expression sour and impatient. "What now?" he rasped. His voice was oddly hoarse. "I was hoping you could help me pack and then lend me your car. I wish to get out a bit."

It was a rare trip to be here in Swevia Country, and she couldn't spend it all cooped up in a hotel. She wanted to explore and take photos to remember the trip.

"I've got no time," Jeffrey grunted and tried to retreat to the room. Karen blocked the closing door swiftly and frowned. "What are you so busy with that you've got no time?"

"None of your business," he snapped back.

"I'm trying to help you out! You've been looking after me these last few days, and even though I can't stand you, I know how to separate personal feelings from gratitude."

"You are trying to help me?" Jeffrey raised an eyebrow.

Karen nodded. "Tell me what you're up to, and I'll help you."

With a scoff, Jeffrey stepped back and flung the door wide open. He revealed the TV screen behind him.

On the screen was an explicit scene of two people kissing and caressing.

"I'm wanking. How exactly can you 'help' with that?"

Karen has never been an innocent saint for all her life, but just for this time she missed that interpretation.

She was completely dumbfounded as she saw the screen.

She had been so insistent on helping, even when he didn't ask for it.

"Coming in?" Jeffrey teased.

Taking a deep breath, Karen's eyes went wide. "You're... you're absolutely foul and disgusting!"

It completely slipped her mind that her own computer was filled with similar content.

Jeffrey was confused by the insult. "What's so foul and disgusting about it?"

"You're in a hotel injured, and you still have the mood for those? Isn't that just sleazy?"

Jeffrey snorted with laughter. "I'll think about whatever I want, whenever I want! It's not like I'm harassing you!"

Chapter 498

"You wish! I'd rather be a nun than be with you!"

Karen's cheeks burned with rage, and she spun on her heel to leave.

Jeffrey caught her arm on impulse. "You're walking away just like this?"

Karen glanced at his hand on her, then back up to his chiseled face, and suddenly, she let out a shriek. "Aaaahhh!"

Jeffrey was startled and quickly clamped his hand over her mouth, dragging her into his room.

"Do you want to bring here everybody in the hotel?!" he hissed.

This woman was a complete nutcase!

She stared at him in disbelief, pointing at his hand. "You...you just grabbed me with your right hand, and now you're covering my mouth with it!"

"Yeah, so what?" Jeffrey was clueless.

"Which fucking hand did you use when you were wanking?!"

He got silent, and it confirmed Karen's suspicions!

Jeffrey's hand, which had touched his 'stuff', was now touching her hand and her mouth!

"Ugh-"

She bolted for the bathroom and started to throw up in the toilet.

Jeffrey was at a loss for words!

Watching her exaggerated reaction, as if she was trying to upchuck her very soul, he was half-tempted to shove her into the toilet

and be done with it.

"Are you sick or something? It's my room. I can do whatever I like in here. You're the one who came knocking and killed my vibe.

I'm the one who should be upset, not you acting all disgusted!"

Karen eyed him, and her gaze travelled downward to his hastily buttoned pants.

"Damn it, Jeff! I'm telling you – you better not breathe a word of this to anyone. Especially not to Dorothy, and definitely not to Everett! Pretend it never happened! Forget all about it!"

She ran out like a whirlwind, as if Jeffrey might chase her down and do God knows what.

Staring at the door that had slammed shut, Jeffrey could only twitch the corners of his mouth in disbelief.

The porn was still playing on the TV screen, but the eager audience was gone. He turned off the screen with the remote control and flopped back onto the bed. Even though he no longer felt like continuing, being interrupted like that left him feeling all kinds of uncomfortable.

Ever since his last date, Jeffrey had been on a bit of a dry spell. This was the longest he'd gone without a little action ever since his first time.

And now, when he finally decided to take matters into his own hands, he got interrupted!

He sat up annoyed, threw on his clothes and jacket, pocketed his car keys, and then knocked on Karen's door.

"What on earth are you packing? Why would you even need my help?"

He was an injured man, and he was not her valet!

Karen's voice came through crisp and clear from inside the room. Just two word.

"Fuck off!"

"Don't get too cocky! We agreed to forget what happened, and now you're cursing at me?"

"You fuck off!"

Jeffrey rolled his eyes. "Fine, I'm taking the car. Who knows when I'll be back."

He needed a break from all this drama. Maybe he'd check out the local girls in Swevia Country for some fair skins, good looks, and long legs.

Just as Jeffrey was about to walk away, Karen unexpectedly opened the door.

"Hold up, I'm coming with you! Drive me to somewhere busy and bustling. I want to go shopping, and you will take me back afterwards." Karen was doing her best to maintain a steady demeanor and expression.

Chapter 499

She tried to act as if the awkward encounter with Jeffrey hadn't just happened. But Jeffrey's mood soured. "Seriously, I need to drive you back? I'm out here on the prowl, not to play your personal chauffeur!"

"But didn't you just..."

"God dammit, I'm totally deflated now. I did what?"

Karen swallowed hard, clearing her throat lightly. "Alright then, I won't keep you. Go find some girl to cure your impotence."

Jeffrey felt like he could be driven to his grave by this woman's nerve.

“Okay, you’re throwing these accusations at me. I can’t argue anymore. Guess I have no choice but to prove you wrong with actions!”

With a strong push, he swung the door wide open and strode in.

Karen stumbled backward and realized it was too late to shut the door.

“What are you doing?! Let me remind you, this is illegal!”

“Don’t play coy. You think I haven’t noticed you drooling over me?” He cornered her, leaving her no escape. “Who couldn’t take her eyes off me when on the plane?”

His face, magnified and all too close, nearly made Karen feel like the air she needed was being sucked away.

But that didn’t soften her resolve.

“I did not!”

“Heh.” Jeffrey sneered, casually grabbing her butt. “You might not have the curves of a pin-up, but I guess you’ll do.”

“Bah! Get off me!” Karen tried to wriggle free, but his strength was overwhelming.

It was then that she realized the man in front of her was indeed very much a man.

Continually mocking and infuriating him was likely to provoke a reaction she couldn’t counter.

Seeing genuine fear in her eyes, Jeffrey finally relented with a scoff, “You don’t respect a tiger, and you mistake me for a sick cat!

Show some respect from now on, got it?”

He had only intended to teach her a lesson, never to actually touch her.

Besides, this was Dorothy’s best friend. If he really crossed a line, Everett would literally kill him!

Jeffrey backed off a few paces and was about to gloat, but then he noticed the tears streaming down the young woman’s face.

“Hey! Whoa, damn it, don’t cry!”

He wasn’t adept at soothing girls. All he could do was clumsily offering her a tissue.

This was the most troublesome person he ever knew. Karen, usually fearless, was genuinely crying. Had he taken the teasing

too

far?

“You, fuck off!” Karen felt a sudden rush of grievances, though she couldn’t pinpoint the exact cause.

Jeffrey quickly gestured with his hands. “Okay, okay, I fuck off! If you need to get out later, just hit me up. I’ll give you a ride there

and back, deal?”

“Out!”

“You got it!”

The door closed, and Karen, sobbing, reached for her phone to call Dorothy. Someone picked up after a few rings,. Before they could speak, Karen poured out her woes.

“Dorothy! Jeffrey, he... he forced me to wank for him... And then he harassed me! How can someone be so vile!”

There was a stunned silence on the other end, followed by a low voice. “This is Everett. Dorothy’s exhausted; she’s asleep. You said Jeffrey harassed you?”

Karen went blank, her first instinct was to hang up the phone.

Damn!

What in the world had she just told Everett?

Chapter 500

Dorothy was sound asleep in the hospital room. Her energy thoroughly sapped by Everett. It was hard to tell if she had simply succumbed to exhaustion or slipped into unconsciousness.

Sunlight streamed through the window, bathing her face in a warm glow that made her look even more delicate and beautiful.

Dorothy’s beauty wasn’t the kind that screamed for attention with bold makeup. She was the pure and bright, with a face the size of a palm and vibrant, clear almond eyes. Dressed in a simple T-shirt and jeans, she could pass for an undergrad on campus.

But when she wore something a little more well-designed, something that hugged her curves, she would have temptation adding on that purity.

Her waist was so slim that Everett could easily pin her down with one arm and indulge in her. Despite her slender frame, she had an impressively developed bust, which was not exactly voluptuous but certainly something to be proud of.

Everett had been sitting by her side, watching over her without moving. He was reluctant to look away even for a moment, until Karen’s call came through.

He couldn’t fathom why Jeffrey would do that, but Karen was Dorothy’s best friend and had been a great help to her. This was something he felt he needed to get involved with.

Fearing to disturb Dorothy, Everett picked up his phone and stepped out of the room. He winced with each step he took.

It took several rings before Jeffrey answered.

“Hey, Everett...”

The guilt was evident in his voice.

“What’s the deal with you and Karen?”

“She talked to you?!” Jeffrey’s voice spiked in pitch, causing Everett to hold the phone away from his ear to avoid the sudden outburst.

That’s not important!

“It is important!”

With a sigh, Jeffrey recounted the event, conveniently leaving out the part where he’d got impotent. The more he talked, the more he felt like the victim—how unfair it all was! She interrupted him, and he in turned had to sooth her!

Everett listened with a frown and eventually spoke in a measured tone, “I’ll get someone else to take care of her. Keep your distance.”

The last thing he wanted was another round of drama.

“I just wanted to tease her a bit. I had no idea that tomboy would actually cry!”

Jeffrey felt that he has really met a rival. “Fine, I’ll do as you said and stay away from her.”

After hanging up, Everett was about to head back to the room when he felt a presence behind him. He turned sharply to see Quincy, with her round eyes looking at him through the lenses of her glasses. She dressed in her usual white lab coat and addressed him with a mix of exasperation and concern. “Mr. Lopez, you were supposed to stay in bed until tomorrow.”

“I had something to take care of.”

“If you keep this up, I’m really going to have to tell Ms. Sanchez!” Quincy had just assured Jonathan that she wouldn’t let anything happen to Everett. Now, he was really running her credibility with Jonathan.

“Don’t say anything,” Everett said instinctively. “I’m heading back now.”

“Here, lean on my shoulder, and I’ll help you” Quincy offered, stepping closer to lend her support.

But Everett, with a frosty expression, wouldn’t even let his clothes brush against hers.

It had always been like this. His being a clean freak had reached almost mythical proportions, especially when it came to women.

Even when Quincy applied the medications, he insisted she wear disposable

medical gloves.

“No need. I can manage on my own”

“But you’re risking your recovery! It’s already bad enough that you got out of bed prematurely, and now you won’t even letting me help. What if you fall?” Quincy was focused solely on her duty as a doctor and oblivious to the rejection in his eyes.

The next moment Everett spoke with a cold and distant tone, ‘Sorry, I have a bit of a clean freak.’”