

The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 51

She suddenly stooped talking, and that's when Everett met her gaze.

"What? Doubting your own skills?"

There was a brief pause before she replied, "Thanks for the trust, Mr. Lopez III do my best

Dorothy decided to stop overthinking. She chose not to look too closely even if things were unclear to her. An opportunity was right in front of her. No matter what his motives were, it was a good thing for her.

If that project went smoothly, not to mention paying back Everett within a year her mother's medical expenses wouldn't have been a problem in the future.

"Stop at Tranquil Crossroads." Everett suddenly spoke

The driver quickly nodded and found a place to stop.

Only then did Dorothy realize they were near her alma mater.

"Would like to take a walk?" Everett asked, raising an eyebrow.

She nodded and said, "Sure

Dorothy didn't have many memories of her junior high days. but Everett was definitely a vivid one.

Walking down the school road again, she nostalgically took out her phone, took a photo, and carefully stored it in her cloud album.

"Do you still play basketball?" Seeing the newly built sports field she remembered Everett from back then,

Other boys came back from basketball all sweaty, but only he didn't. Even if it meant being late for class, he would run to the dormitory's public bathroom for a shower.

She was so young back then and hadn't realized that

that he was a clean freak.

She had even accidentally dirtied his uniform a few times.

"I play occasionally Everett walked her outside, his tall figure blocking some of the macnlight, casting a shadow on her

Suddenly, Dorothy spotted the fast-food joint across the school gase

It was still open! She used to work there in junior high. The owners were a Iriendly couple.

The place used to stay open even after her evening sell study giving her a chance to enjoy the only sit-down meal of the day

"I want to go check it out

Without waiting for Everett's response, she quickly ran over

To Dorothy's surprise, the owners hadn't changed. It was still the same couple! They were cleaning the place, seemingly about to close for the day.

"Can I get a hamburger?"

She hesitated sightly but asked anyway.

If she missed that chance, she didn't know when she'd be back in Havenbrook.

"Sure, take a seal over there." The lady pointed to a spol nearby, and just as she was about to get the utensils, she had a realization and said, "Hey, you look familiar

Dorothy smiled, "I'm Dorothy, I used to help out here in junior high."

"Ah, you're that little girl! I knew you looked familiar!" The lady was warm-hearted and started chatting with her, "You must have graduated from junior high school by now!"

"It's been a few years since I graduated"

"You're even prettier now! I told my husband back then that you'd grow up to be a beauly, and now look! I was right!"

Dorothy simply similed. She liked their friendly who. Even after so many years, there was no awkwardness.

"Do you close up early now? I remember you used to wait until after junior high's night self-study sessions"

"We always close when it gets dark. The ludy thought for a moment, and then remembered something, "Oh, right! Back then, there w a tall handsome boy. He gave us some money to keep the place open until 10pm. avery night"

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“A boy?”

Seeing the surprise on Dorothy's face, the lady boss raised her eyebrows and asked, “Oh, you didn't know? I thought he specifically requested this for you”

After all, back then, it was usually only she who would go to eat hamburgers after evening self-study instead of rushing home.

“It was probably not because of me.”

She didn't think anyone would have done that for her in middle school.

After chatting with the lady boss about the changes in the school, Dorothy didn't want to delay their rest and decided to take the hamburger before leaving.

Leaving the shop, she saw Everett waiting for her across the street

He hadn't followed her into the shop. He just stood there smoking a cigarette.

“You've never been here before, have you?”

Dorothy thought. “He, a young master from a wealthy family, probably wouldn't deign to eat such ordinary food that only common folk

“I've been here.” Everett stubbed out his cigarette, took the takeaway bag from her hand, and continued to walk beside her.

Dorothy looked up slightly. “Really?”

I'm not as noble as you think

Although the Lopez family had been indeed wealthy back then, they were still far from their current status

“Do you think their food is good?”

“It's okay, I ate there for two months straight.”

That really surprised Dorothy. She laughed a few times before saying. Till let you in on a secret. I secretly worked here for two months in middle school! Luckily, I'm tall. Otherwise, they would have realized they were employing child labor, and I would have let the couple down! Back then, I was begging them to hire me."

Everett gave a slight smile, quietly listening to her talk about the past

As they walked and chatted, they arrived at the backed hotel

Dorothy tried a bite of the hamburger.

"still tastes like I remember"

wanted to have another bite, but Everett took it away from her.

"Stop eating. It's cold. It's not good for your stomach

He seemed to care a lot about her stomach issues.

Dorothy was taken aback, thinking that Heather must also have had stomach problems, hence why Everett always reminded her.

It was not that she always intentionally thinks about Heather. It was just that every time Everest showed concern for her, Dorothy's mind involuntarily drifted to his tattoo on the collarbone, the password to his place, and Heather's intimate calls of 'Everett'

*Hungry?"

Seeing her silence, Everett thought she was upset that he took her hamburger, so he gently said, "I have my assistant bring some food

"No need! I bought the hamburger on a whim." She got up and grabbed her pajamas from the side of the bed. "I'm going to take a shower."

Dorothy hastily went into the bathroom. Looking at her reflection in the mirror, she felt an indescribable imitation.

She suddenly hated her own face!

Although it was because of her face that she caught Everett's attention and gave her mother the opportunity for surgery, it also constantly reminded her of her status as a substitute.

Ever since she signed the agreement with Everett, his gentleness, his consideration, and his attentiveness, if Dorothy said she wasn't moved at all, that would be a lie! Because she had very rarely been cared for in her life.

But the cruelest thing was that she knew very clearly that all those heartwarming good deeds were given to Heather through her face.

Without that face, she probably wouldn't have even had the chance to talk to Everett alone!

14:57

That night, Dorothy was particularly proactive. Even when she was extremely exhausted and she didn't have the strength to rise her hand, she didn't call for a stop.

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The next morning, when Dorothy wake up, Everett had already left.

On the living room table outside the suite, there was breakfast he had ordered for her in advance. Next to it was a handwritten note. There's a charity event today. [I contact you when it's over]

She knew it! There must have been other reasons for Everett to go to Havenbrook City.

After washing up and having breakfast, Dorothy met up with Kevin,

Since she had thoroughly checked Edward's information yesterday, all she needed to do today was to look into the operation of Social Networking Service! Even though the person in charge sent over all the reports overnight, to be cautious, they still went to the company for a site examination.

After a busy day. Dorothy's admiration for Everett went up a notch.

That was why Everett insisted on introducing himself as the project leader to Mr. Ryan! As soon as she arrived at Social Networking Service, from the top leaders to the basic staff, they were all very cautious around her, thinking twice even before answering anything. That way, it was much easier for Kevin to investigate the actual situation. After all, not many people were paying attention to him. In the evening, she and Kevin found a restaurant. As soon as they sat down, Dorothy began to review the due diligence materials. Kevin laughed, "I was wondering why you were so shifty when you first saw me today! Turns out you were afraid I'd be upset."

“This project has a huge investment. It’s one of the core projects of the Lopez Corporation. You’ve done a lot of preparation for it, but just swooped in and took all the credit. If I were you, I’d be unhappy too.”

“That’s because you’re new to the workforce. Kevin didn’t seem to care at all. “Mr. Lopez knows exactly who did what and how much. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have made the Lopez Corporation so big! Although you are the project leader, the pay that should be given to me is not a penny less.”

This way, we can distract the other company’s attention, improve the accuracy of our investigation, and reduce investment risks. Why should I be upset?”

After such an analysis, Dorothy really felt that she was still a novice in the investment banking industry.

“Of course, this also depends on whether Mr. Lopez is willing to support you” Kevin continued, “Having such a big project on your resume is like jumping straight to the level of an investment banking director! When the time comes, if you want to leave the Lopez Corporation, other companies will definitely compete for you”

“I won’t leave the Lopez Corporation.”

“Of course! I’ve been with Mr. Lopez for so long and I’ve never seen him take such good care of anyone.” Kevin said, raising his eyebrows at her “Except for Ms. Heather, you’re the only one!”

Dorothy was silent

The topic of Ms. Heather again.

two. Ms. Heather has made a great contribution to the Lopez Corporation, so it’s normal for Mr.

“But there’s a difference between you to

Lopez to pay attention to her.”

Dorothy took a few bites of food, then casually asked, “Have you heard that Mr. Lopez and Ms. Heather seem to be childhood sweethearts?”

“I know that they got to know each other quite early. Other than that, I don’t know much.”

“Oh

“Speaking of which, you and Mr. Lopez were pretty close, too, right? Last time in Fujinon City when you came to find Mr. Lopez, he had just finished a meeting and hadn’t rested long, but he still let you in when he heard your voice.”

Normally, he wouldn’t have seen anyone at that time

Suddenly reminded of the past, Dorothy felt a bit awkward, “Well we were not only classmates, but also deskmates”

“Ah! I remember now! Were you the one staying in room 1501 during that business trip?”

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Dorothy didn’t say anything, which pretty much gave him his answer.

I knew it. The name Dorothy seemed so familiar”

Dorothy knew she had to switch the topic. If he dug any deeper, he would have uncovered the scandalous events of that night!

She definitely didn’t want anyone to know about her arrangement with Everett. It would be best if everyone thought Everett was only being nice to her because they were classmates.

“Hey, Kevin, have a look at their patent registration…”

The Lopez Corporation didn’t just pretend to be charitable,

Every batch of impoverished students they sponsored was carefully selected, and their situations were verified. They would also secretly investigate if there were any families more in need but not on the list.

If a student had parents with severe illnesses, Everett would pay extra attention to them, trying to ensure the student’s studies wouldn’t be affected.

At the end of the day he was quite exhausted.

As soon as he got in the car back to Haverbrook City, he called Dorothy.

“Hello? Mr. Lopez

He knew Kevin was with her “Hmm, I want to see the due diligence report you guys did today. Bring it to me tonight.”

“Okay”

After hanging up, Everett rubbed his forehead just as

55 Jeffrey called.

“You just dropped everything at the company and run off to Havenbrook City! So, did the girl cry her eyes out when she found out all the things you’ve done for her?”

“She won’t know”

That also included why he hadn’t followed her into the shop near the school gate. He was afraid the shopkeeper would have recognized him as the “young boy who gave them money.

Sometimes Everett found himself so be quite ridiculous. Weren’t his actions even more limited than Dorothy’s cautiousness?

“Our Mr. Lopez is so noble, huh? So, when are you planning to come back? I’m almost done here. Let’s get Heather and have a good meal, and drink till we drop

“We can eat. I don’t drink.”

“Hal! It’s not like you’re the one who got yourself drunk!”

Everett smirked and said, “I’ve never been drunk”

When he arrived at the hotel, he went back to his suite alone.

He knew that Dorothy had booked a separate room to avoid raising Kevin’s suspicion. She must have been in that room right now.

He sent her a text and soon there was a discreet knock on the door

He opened the door and glanced at the documents in her hand, “You actually brought the report.”

“I was worried Kevin might come looking for you.”

Everett smirked and started unbuttoning his shirt, revealing his muscular figure,

Caught off guard by his sudden undressing, Dorothy blushed and quickly turned around, “Um...are you going to take a shower?”

Seeing her flustered and shy expression, Everell chuckled and took out a new set of pajamas from his suitcase.

He rummaged through the suitcase and asked, 'Have you only brought one box?'

"What?"

"This."

He walked to the bedside table and shook the empty little box.

There were contraceptives in it

"Oh, yeah..."

Did we run out of home?"

Dorothy steeled herself and shook her head, "No, I just thought you'd be tired from the trip"

Who would've thought he'd use up all five in one night?

Everett crossed his arms and looked at her "So, what now?"

What could she have done anyway?

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Dorothy just stood there, dazed, with no clue what he was on about

"Whatever Everell stretched his long legs and walked towards the bathroom, cracking the door open

Just as she was about to breathe a sigh of relief, she heard the rest of his sentence. "Ill go out and buy some later."

"No!" Dorothy immediately objected. "Til go"

Her acting as a simple assistant and going to the supermarket wasn't going to raise any eyebrows. Besides, being a woman, nobody would have thought too much about it.

But if Everett were to go out, that would have been a whole different story!

If someone spotted him or took a photo of him buying that thing, then that would have been a bombshell piece of news

“Everett saw right through her worries. “You don’t need to be so cautious.”

“How can I not be? What if we get found out?”

Not only would it have tarnished Everett’s reputation, but if her mother were to find out, she would have been scared out of her wits, While Everett was showering. Dorothy quickly ran out to buy a box of something. To throw people off the scent, she also bought a bunch of snacks.

Worried about bumping into Kevin in the elevator, she decided to take the stairs.

She tiptoed into the room. He had already finished showering, but he seemed to be working since, apart from his voice, she could hear a few foreigners talking

Dorothy didn’t dare interrupt. She grabbed her phone and quietly sat on the couch by the door.

As soon as she sat down, she noticed a message.

It was from Kenneth.

Sorry, I didn’t mean to disturb you. I just finished my speech. Are you free tomorrow?

She quickly replied. [Yes, I’ll get in touch after finishing up work in the morning.]

[Great! Still awake, huh? Thought all you girls would be getting your beauty sleep 1

Seeing that he seemed eager to continue the conversation, Dorothy thought for a moment and replied.

[I’m about to turn in]

It was not that she was being aloof, but right now, she had to reject any advances, regardless of the intentions behind them.

It wasn’t just about the contract with Everett. Given her situation, how could she have even thought about a relationship?

Even if the guy’s family was loaded, she shouldn’t have gone after their wealth, let alone ask for help with her mother’s medical bills.

After sending the message, she paused for a moment, only then noticing someone behind her.

She asked, "Are you

done?

Everett was wearing a bathrobe, his eyes dim and inscrutable as they fixated on her.

He didn't see her chatting with Kenneth, did he?

Dorothy instinctively wanted to explain, but then thought, "What if he isn't thinking that at all?"

That would have made her look guilty for no reason.

"Hmm." His voice was always cold and low, betraying no emotions. "Did you buy the stuff?"

Dorothy was silent momentarily.

She still couldn't bring herself to discuss that with him openly. She simply handed him the bag.

Everett pulled out the main item from a pile of snacks.

"We still have three days left on this trip. Do you plan to buy more tomorrow?"

Dorothy blushed at his question, avoiding his gaze. "We can make do."

Seeing her like that, Everett raised an eyebrow slightly.

"Dorothy we're not in a position to have a child right now"

That came out of the blue.

She was instantly taken aback.

How did they suddenly get on the topic of children?

"Mr. Lopez, I didn't mean that?"

Did he misunderstand something? Did he think she was hinting at something?

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Who knows if he was tired, or if he just didn't feel like going out to buy stuff again the next day, unusually for him, he only asked once that night.

Even once managed to wear Dorothy out to the point where she didn't even want to lift a finger.

After Everett cleaned up, he lay down behind her, his arm gently resting on her waist. He, too, was exhausted, and soon the sound of steady breathing came from him.

She waited a while before slowly turning over and putting some distance between them.

Having lived alone for so many years, it was a bit strange having someone suddenly in her space.

Feeling thirsty, Dorothy tiptoed out of bed and poured herself a glass of water. As she was about to head back to bed, she noticed a flashing light on the phone on the table.

It was Everett's personal phone!

Pausing momentarily, curiosity got the better of her, and she went over to check it out, only to find a message from Heather.

Your mom, Amanda's depression is acting up again. I can go back next week to see her. Don't worry about it. Your work is important. I'll stay with her for the check-up.]

There was a message before that one, but she couldn't see it without unlocking the phone.

Dorothy took a sip of the water and went back to bed, but she couldn't sleep anymore.

They were the perfect couple, indeed

That was something that everyone in the company and Everett's family had come to accept.

It was clear that the Lopez family really liked Heather. She was even trusted to take care of Everett's mother.

As for her, she was becoming more and more of an awkward presence.

She wanted to terminate the contract and withdraw, but she didn't have the financial means to do so. She wanted to pretend she knew nothing, but all signs pointed to her being a substitute for Heather.

Everything she had was thanks to Heather.

After a lot of thinking, the only option she had was to make money as quickly as possible and get out of this awkward couple situation.

The next morning, Dorothy woke up and was about to stretch when she realized that Everett was still in bed!

He had already taken a shower and was then leaning against the headboard, reading some documents

"Awake? I asked the hotel to send breakfast over"

There was a husky tone in Everett's voice. It was low and gritty.

He hadn't tied his bathrobe. It was loose on his chest, revealing his firm abs.

Seeing that first thing in the morning made Dorothy swallow hard.

It was quite the thrill

Everett sensed something, so he turned his head to look at her, "Hmm?"

Caught red-handed, she quickly diverted her gaze, "Sure, let's have breakfast!"

"From the sound of it, you seem more interested in eating me?"

"No! Absolutely not!"

She was so adoriant, it was like she was back in middle school, playing by the rules, taking everything seriously. She took every joke as the real deal.

"How's the due diligence for this project?" Everett didn't tease her anymore and started dressing while asking.

Dorothy averted her eyes and quickly got out of bed to get the documents she had prepared.

"We're almost there. There are just a few things that need some more time. I suspected they might try to falsify some information, so I left my number when retrieving the documents. This way, if they want to view or switch them, the Commerce Bureau would have to notify me first."

Everett nodded approvingly, “You’ve thought this through”

“It’s all thanks to you, Mr. Lopez, for giving me this opportunity!”

“If you’re so grateful, would you do something for me?” He paused while buttoning up his shirt.

Dorothy nodded immediately. “Go ahead!”

“Accompany me back to the Lopez family’s home this weekend”

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Back to the Lopez family’s home?

Dorothy’s first thought was the message Heather sent to Everett

“Is it a good idea for me to go with you?”

Her status made it quite awkward.

“There’s nothing wrong with it. You’re just there to accompany me. If you don’t want to get out of the car you can wait for me.”

Hearing that his intention was really just to “accompany him and there was no need for her to step in, Dorothy finally breathed a sigh of relief.

“All right, give me a heads up the day before so I can arrange my work.”

Everett nodded, seeing her relax from her high–strung state, he wasn’t sure whether bringing her to the Lopez family so hastily was the right thing to do.

He simply wanted his mother to get an impression of Dorothy and then slowly find a way to accept her.

In the morning. Kevin efficiently dug up almost everything about the Social Networking Service,

That made Dorothy silently admire that those who worked with Everett were indeed extraordinary

was almost noon when she suddenly remembered her appointment with Kenneth

She sent an emoji, and he responded immediately

I was thinking of checking on you but didn't want to disturb you in case you were busy

I'm free now, let's meet up and discuss the project in detail]

She always spoke in a straightforward and direct manner, not giving the other party any room for imagination

Soon, Kenneth sent Dorothy an address.

After a few days together Dorothy felt that she got along well with Kevin, who seemed grumpy but was indeed warm-hearted. Both were focused on work, sharing a common goal.

So she asked, "Kevin, I have an interesting project. Would you like to tag along?"

"I have to make a trip to the Bureau of Industry and Commerce, and I can't go with you! You also need to be back before four since there are some confirmation documents for you to communicate with the legal department."

Dorothy gave an OK sign, tidied up a bit, and took a taxi to the appointed place.

On the way, she occasionally looked out the window, thinking Havenbrook City had really changed! The old rundown houses were almost all demolished, replaced by skyscrapers.

Though she didn't have any particular attachment to the place, it was after all the city she was born in, where she spent the most important student days of her life.

Looking at it then, the bitter days in the past didn't seem so deeply etched in memory.

The taxi stopped by the roadside, and the driver handed her the receipt.

Dorothy glanced at the fare was 10 dollars, and the date was August 20th

Then she realized something. "In five days, isn't it Heather's birthday

No wonder Evejett suddenly wanted her to go to the Lopez family's home, and she didn't even have to get out of the car She just needed to go there with him.

It seemed that she was probably going to be just a pawn that day! The purpose was to make Heather jealous.

Sometimes she really wanted to ask Everett what exactly was the misunderstanding and problem between him and Heather, why he had to torment her and drag her into it.

Walking into the restaurant in a complicated mood, Dorothy found Kenneth was already waiting for her.

Different from his usual conservative and old-fashioned dress, today he wore white sportswear, looking young and energetic, but the gold-rimmed glasses on his nose still revealed his scholarly aura.

“Order anything you want.” Kenneth pushed the menu directly to her.

Dorothy waved her hand, “No, I’ve already eaten.”

“So, shall we get straight to the point?”

She nodded, ‘Sure. Shoot!’

Kenneth coughed, paused, took a deep breath, and then started, “Do you think I’m suitable to be your boyfriend?”

“Huh?”

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His topic was too abrupt. Wasn’t he there to discuss the project?

Looking at Dorothy’s bewildered face, Kenneth couldn’t help but curve his lips,

“Did I scare you?”

She hesitated a bit before answering, “Yeah, a bit.” Her smile was stiff, totally unprepared for that situation

It was Kenneth who broke the awkward silence, “Sorry, I was too sudden! I did come for the project today, but I couldn’t help but make a little joke when I saw how beautiful the sunlight was on you”

He finished speaking and pushed the files next to him to Dorothy, “Take a look. These are the designs and a few nationally certified patents.

She took them and flipped through them. The introduction inside was comprehensive, showing signs of careful organization), There were a few patents obtained jointly by several people, and some were signed by Kenneth alone.

“As for the project collaboration, I need to take these back and discuss with the higher-ups, but personally, I think this would be a great project that the country would strongly support if mass production can be achieved.”

Technological development was always of paramount importance!

“I rushed here this time. After going back to Eldoria City, we have produced a concept car in our lab. I invite you to try it out. Kenneth always had a warm smile on his face, like a big brother, his tone was gentle. “I’m in charge of this project, so I’ll be waiting for your news. If you guys decide it’s not feasible, I’ll contact another company,”

“Then I better hurry up!” Dorothy finally smiled a bit. After all, he had shown a lot of sincerity

For high-tech projects like that, they usually look for many investment banks at the same time during the financing period, and then the highest bidder won!

Today Kenneth saying this, undoubtedly gave her the right to choose.

Although she knew in her heart that the Prosperity Consortium would have 90% approved that project. She didn’t dare to make any promises for the sake of caution.

“There should be many interested in your first round of financing announcement, right?”

Kenneth paused and nodded, a bit embarrassed, “Yes, many have contacted me, but my sister had already told me to give the first choice to the Prosperity Consortium.”

“If we end up collaborating successfully, I’ll definitely request the leader to add Karen’s name as well

“You two have a really good relationship.” He laughed, “My sister is too active. Initially, I really thought your friendship wouldn’t last long.

I didn’t expect you could tolerate her.”

Dorothy thought of Karen, and her lips curved slightly before saying. “She’s really good to me.”

In her life, the concern and warmth she could feel were pitifully few. Karen was the most constant that had been with her for many

years.

“Every time we meet, she couldn’t stop talking about you. If you were a guy, I’d suspect my sister was in love with you”

Kenneth and Dorothy chatted about some funny stories from Karen’s childhood for a while. The atmosphere between the two finally became more relaxed despite the initial restraint and awkwardness.

They ended their conversation only until Kevin called.

Dorothy immediately took a taxi to the Bureau of Industry and Commerce in Havenbrook City.

On the way, she suddenly received a call from Heather.

“Do you have the core technical blueprint of the SinoSuccess Enterprises project?”

“Yes.”

“Send it to this email. I need it”

Dorothy paused, frowning slightly, “But, this is not in accordance with the regulations. If you need it urgently, you can speak to Mr. Percy, and he can send it to you.”

After all, blueprints have confidentiality obligations, let alone core technology.

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“There is no time to lose. The contract needs to have an appendix noted, I must take a glance before the legal department can finalize the contract.

Heather seemed really in a hurry, her voice even had a commanding tone, “Stop wasting time. The Prosperity Consortium’s lawyer is

tome. “Stop wasti

waiting. Send it to this email:

With that, she hung up abruptly.

Soon, an email address was sent to Dorothy’s phone.

Thinking that Heather, as the chief lawyer of the Lopez Corporation, wouldn't do anything harmful to the company, Dorothy decided to open the SinoSuccess Enterprises project document and send what Heather needed

Arriving at the Bureau of Industry and Commerce, Dorothy got out of the car and found Everell standing next to Kevin.

Dorothy thought, "Has he finished his business?"

"Hurry up. We're just waiting for your signature" Kevin waved his hand, urging her

Dorothy quickly trotted over in her high heels, saying "Hello, Mr. Lopez" as she walked past Everett.

Following Kevin, she was secretly memorizing his communication techniques with the staff, reminding herself that she was there to

learn

Once everything was settled, the business trip mission was successfully completed. All they had to do then was wait

Stepping out of the Bureau, Everell was still standing there, a cigarette held between his slender fingers.

He was always impeccably dressed during working hours, in a crisp suit, his hair neatly combed, and even in summer, he never switched to short sleeves.

"All good?"

"Yep." Dorothy nodded.

"I'll treat you guys today." Everett put out his cigarette and tossed it into a nearby trash can

"Thanks, Mr. Lopez!" Kevin had already got in the car with him, while Dorothy was slowly following behind.

After arriving at the hotel, the waiter led them directly to the reserved private room.

Suddenly, Dorothy heard someone calling her name

She turned around instinctively and saw a guy hurrying over She recognized his face, but couldn't recall his name.

"Dorothy, it's really you!"

Seeing her looking puzzled, the guy smirked, “Forgot me? I’m your middle school classmate, David! Remember? I confessed to you, and you tamed me down!”

At the mention of middle school, Dorothy instinctively looked at Everell

Following her gaze was David.

“Everett? Am I hallucinating?!”

That was someone he could have only seen on TV screens!

“You’re not hallucinating. Compared to Dorothy’s shock, Everett seemed quite calm. He strode up to her and motioned for Kevin to go inside with the others.

“It’s been years, and you’ve only gotten more handsome. You were the tallest and most striking guy in our class” David was a chatterbox, completely oblivious to any awkwardness. “Hey, why did you guys suddenly leave the group chat?”

Dorothy wanted to say something, but he kept bringing up the past.

“It was deleted by accident” Everett Gloud in front of her and picked up the conversation.

“Let’s add each other on WhatsApp. I’ll add you guys back! They’re planning a reunion. You guys should come!”

Everett didn’t put on any airs, readily pulling out his phone.

After David humedly added him, he handed his phone to Dorothy.

Suddenly, Everett spoke up, “Just add me. I’ll add her.”

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“Uh, okay...” David finally sensed something was off. He looked at Dorothy, then at Everett, “You two..”

“I work at his company Dorothy didn’t wait for Everett to speak. She blurted out before him.

“Oh, I see!” David felt a sense of relief, blatantly eyeing Dorothy

She had always been beautiful.

Back in middle school even when she was dressed in rags, with her hair tied up with a frayed hairband, it couldn't hide her delicate features. Especially at that time when she was dressed neatly, with her long algae-like hair cascading over her shoulders, her radiant eyes still pure, her petite and delicate nose, her features could have been the standard for plastic surgery hospitals.

Seeing that he was about to say something to Dorothy, Everett subtly pulled her back a step before him

"Let's catch up another day. We're busy today."

"Oh! Then you guys carry on! We can catch up at the reunion"

Being a man, David could sense Everett's detached politeness, so he didn't insist on adding Dorothy's contact right away.

He figured once she was added to the group, he could add her too.

As Everett and Dorothy entered the private room, some of the ordered dishes were already served.

Kevin had already saved the head seat for his boss and left the seat next to it empty

So, Dorothy had no choice but to sit next to him casually.

"Mr. Lopez, regarding our subsidiary's acquisition of Joy Group's three hundred million in bad assets, we have chosen their Joy Dairy Company as our debt-to-equity target. The contract part has been handed over to Ms. Heather

Kevin was a workaholic. He seized every opportunity to report on work since Everett was usually too busy.

"Hmm, she will know how to leave a way out for the company." Everett murmured.

His confident tone and casual attitude showed his trust in Heather.

Dorothy subconsciously looked at his deep profile. It was difficult to describe her feelings when she heard those words.

It was like the understanding between him and Heather didn't require him, usually a cautious person, to remind her of anything.

Everett looked up at her

She quickly turned her face and picked up the fork on the table. She glanced at the dishes but had no appetite. She didn't want to eat any of them. In the end, she just picked a piece of green vegetable, chewing quietly.

"After signing the 'Debt Restructuring Agreement, we will hold 23% of Joy Dairy Company's shares. After I return to Eldonia City, I will confirm the specific repayment method and amount with them."

"Is the interest rate calculated at 6%?"

Kevin nodded, "They naturally want it as low as possible, but 6% is our bottom line."

"Good job"

In fact, Everett's bottom line was 5%. How much more could have been squeezed out depended on Kevin's negotiating skills.

He never let the Lopez Corporation down,

After dinner, Dorothy went back to the hotel and started refining Kenneth's project. It wasn't until Everett finished his meeting in the living room that she put down her keyboard.

"Oh, you haven't added me to the class group yet."

She suddenly remembered that and thought Everett had forgotten.

However, his hands paused unbuttoning his shirt, "Why do you want to join?"

Dorothy didn't say anything.

"You're quite the flirt, aren't you?" He casually changed into his robe and walked over to her, "You don't need another David. He's not good enough"

To be his love rival, David was far from qualified.

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