

The CEO's Hidden Love Midnight Temptations and Deep Desires - Chapter 71

Just how much did Everett actually love Heather?

She couldn't even begin to imagine that a guy as serious and rigid as him, would have been willing to go to such lengths for love. Setting passwords, getting tattoos, writing love letters.

Each one of those things seemed unlike something Everett would have done, yet he did them all for Heather.

Dorothy didn't read the letter. She just silently put it back where it was, along with the book, and slowly walked out of the study. She felt like she crossed a line. That was Everett's business. She had no right to pry, to think, or to feel anything about it.

She was just a hired stand-in, and she didn't have the right.

Everett waited for Jeffrey to return, then left the hospital

He got in his car, but instead of starting the engine, he dialed his mother's number.

"Ah, Everett, have you finished with your work?"

Because of the time difference, it was already late where Everett's mother was

"Yeah." Everett leaned back in his seat, rubbing his temples, "I heard from Heather that you're coming back to the country?" "Yeah! It's her birthday and she's having surgery. See, I wanted to go see her. Amanda

angry.

But from her tone, it was clear that she considered Heather as part of her family.

Her voice was gentle as water as if she was never

Everett knew, though, that his mother wasn't what other people thought she was. She had a strong desire for control.

"It's not a major surgery. I just came from the hospital. You're not well. The doctor has advised you to rest and not to travel long distances."

"I haven't been back to the country for a long time. I plan to stay there for a while this time. I can rest there too, and I can see you and Heather more often."

“Mom, you should focus on getting better first. Then we can talk about this

Everett had originally planned to let his mother gradually get used to Dorothy.

From meeting her, getting to know her, to becoming familiar with her.

But if she suddenly went back to the country now, the news of their marriage wouldn't have stayed hidden for long.

“Do you not want me to come back?” Amanda detected something in her son's tone and asked, “Did you and Heather have a fight? You two..

“We're friends in private and superior–subordinate at work. There's no such thing as fighting. He cut off his mother, not wanting her to speculate further ‘Ill come to see you once I'm done with my work.”

His original plan was to take Dorothy with him.

Unfortunately for him, Heather messed up his plans

“You're already so busy with work. Just let me come back to the country! I've already bought the ticket. I even told Heather not to tell you about this. I wanted to surprise you, but she couldn't keep her mouth shut and told you!”

Amanda chuckled “After you two get married, she's definitely going to be wrapped around your finger.”

Everell didn't say anything in response to that

“I won't keep you any longer. It's almost midnight here. I need to take a rest. Goodnight, son.”

With that, she hung up.

Everett felt his headache getting worse!

It seemed like his mother returning to the country was a done deal. He would have had to avoid anything that might have upset her, and then find a chance to send her away again

He put his phone on the passenger seat and started the car, speeding back to Bay Residence.

As soon as he entered, he saw Dorothy lying on the living room table, seemingly asleep and not moving

Everett tiptoed over and took a blanket from the sofa to cover her.

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The action, though, woke her up.

“You’re back so early?”

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Dorothy blinked at the man in front of her, almost convinced she was dreaming.

Shouldn’t he have been at Heather’s side, keeping a sleepless vigil after her surgery?

“Another friend is there. No need for me.” Everett shrugged casually, shedding his suit jacket.

Dorothy blinked again. “A guy?”

“Huh?”

“Your other friend. Is he a guy?”

Everett nodded. “Yeah. He’s actually better at taking care of Heather.”

Well, that explained a lot!

Dorothy had been puzzling over what kind of colossal misunderstanding stood between Everett and Heather. Two people so clearly in love yet obstinately not together.

Then it all made sense. A third wheel was in the picture.

Everett, being the reticent and tight-lipped type, was probably no match for that other guy’s attentiveness and charm. That explained Heather’s indecision.

No wonder he was always trying to use Dorothy in make Heather jealous.

“Have you eaten yet?”

Everell was oblivious to Dorothy's analysis. His first concern was always whether she was hungry or not.

"No, I'm on a diet." Dorothy genuinely had no appetite.

"No can do. Eat less at night. I have my assistant send something over.

" His words always had a compelling force to them that made it hard to refuse.

It's as if he was born a leader and others were just meant to follow his command.

Dorothy got up and watched as he took some fruit out of the refrigerator, washed them, and put them in front of her. He picked out the biggest reddest strawberry and handed it to her.

This was specially brought back for you."

Dorothy took it, puzzled. "How did you know I like strawberries?"

She did, but she had not specifically bought them for a long time. Come to think of it, it had been over a year.

"That time in middle school when you ate them all during lunch break."

Middle school?

With his reminder, Dorothy suddenly remembered the first time she ate strawberries in her life was indeed in middle school!

She vaguely remembered a classmate being rather generous, giving each student a box of strawberries, and she got to taste such fruit.

"You even remember that?" She said, taking a bite.

It was very sweet.

He just smiled and didn't say anything, holding another strawberry in his slender hand, ready to hand it over at any time.

Of course, Everett didn't forget. Because that "generous" classmate was him.

They were learning the word "strawberry" in English class, and as her deskmate, he accidentally noticed Dorothy staring at the strawberry illustration in the textbook for a long time.

Everett knew that if he only bought for her, Dorothy would have definitely refused. So, he used the prize money he won from a competition, contacted a fruit farm, and sent one box to each of his classmates in the name of the class president.

“Why aren't you eating? Dorothy glanced at him and picked a strawberry to his mouth. It's really sweet”

He didn't refuse, opened his mouth to take a bite, and accidentally bit her fingertip.

Like being electrocuted, Dorothy quickly withdrew her hand, her cheeks flushing crimson.

Having been around the block, she knew well enough what to do under such circumstances.

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Everett gently led her in a princess carry and headed for the bedroom. He planted a kiss on the corner of Dorothy's mouth, lingering until she was almost breathless. Her face flushed as red as strawberry pulp.

“Hmmm, it is sweet.”

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Just in time, his assistant bought dinner.

He only messed with Dorothy once. then let her be

But he still drained most of her energy. Even eating required him to carry her to the dining room

Before sleeping. Everett propped himself up on the bedhead and read a book.

Facing his deep profile. Dorothy wanted to ask about Heather several times, but in the end, she stayed silent.

She glanced at her phone. The day after the next day would have been the 25th of August

Everett should not be returning to Bay Residence that day, which was also the deadline her mother had given her.

The next day, Dorothy got busy the moment she arrived at the office

Kevin still had a few big projects in his hands, and he couldn't focus solely on Social Networking Service, so he handed over almost everything else to Dorothy.

It was almost noon when she finally lifted her head from a pile of files and documents, found a staircase and called Karen.

"By tomorrow, at the latest, I need a guy to accompany me to see my mom."

"Huh?" Karen was obviously taken aback. "I tried to find someone for you, but he said he can only do it next week, can't you wait a bit longer?"

"My mom said I have to bring someone to see her within three days, or she will be discharged from the hospital."

If possible, Dorothy would have preferred to push the deadline back. It would have been best if it was pushed back so far that her mother forgot about it.

"Your mom really knows how to squeeze you. Karen clicked her tongue, "What to do? I try to communicate with my friend again. worry for now."

After hanging up, Dorothy returned to her office and saw a message from Everett

[The hospital said your mother wants to postpone the operation]

She quickly replied the message.

[No need to postpone! I'll handle the matter. Thanks for your concern.]

She knew her mother was giving her a veiled warning because she probably thought Dorothy wouldn't be bringing anyone.

Dorothy sighed.

The thought of Bella made her feel dispirited and frustrated but mostly helpless.

Do you need my help?

Everett's message came again.

She pulled a wry smile.

Don't

She would have loved to type, "Yes. I need to take you to the ward to see my mom, be scolded and threatened. Can you take 117"

But she sighed and replied, "No, she's just throwing a tantrum over a small matter. fil talk to her. She's just a bit scared of the surgery."

She exited the chat and sent her mother a text.

[Tomorrow, I definitely bring someone over. Don't make a fuss about postponing the surgery. Its hard to gather all the specialists]

She had said he piece but Karen didn't reply even by the end of the workday

With a heavy heart, Dorothy returned to Bay Residence. She couldn't concentrate on the documents on her computer at all. Her mind

was full of the maler

It was not like she could have conjured up

nut of thin air to accompany her the next day.

Perhaps sensing Dorothy's restlessness, Everett returned to the bedroom after finishing his work. His tall figure stood beside her exuding an overwhelming presence.

"Whats wrong?"

"Nothing. I just a little headache from reading contracts."

"You can deal with it tomorrow."

Everett forcefully shut down her computer, then lay down on the bed.

After come intimate moments, he got up to take a bath.

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Suddenly, he paused at the bathroom door, "Tomorrow, I have an important matter"

Dorothy could still feel the warmth of his lips on hers, the next second it was as if she was thrown directly into

"Oh..." She knew that it was Heather's birthday.

“Don’t come back before 10 pm tomorrow. Go to your mother first.

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“All right.”

No need to worry. Even if it meant she didn’t come home all night, it was fine.

After giving his instructions, Everett went to take a shower.

Dorothy lay on the bed and took a deep breath,

Should she have started looking for a house in advance? So that if she was kicked out, she wouldn’t have been homeless at least.

That night, Dorothy tossed and turned, only falling asleep when dawn was about to break.

When she woke up, she was alone. All that was left was the breakfast he’d prepared in the dining room and the usual note

She sat down to eat and got in touch with Karen

“My friend isn’t in the country right now What should I do?”

“Can I hire someone with some money?” That was the only solution she could think of!

“What time are you planning on visiting your mom at the hospital?”

Dorothy thought for a moment, “After work. At around five.

“Then wait for my news. I’ll try to find someone who can fool her. If I can’t, then just discuss it with your mom and wait a few days. My friend will be back!”

She felt a headache coming on, but what could she have possibly said? Karen was clearly trying her best to help. She packed her stuff and went to work

Even Kevin noticed that something was off with her. After the morning meeting, he called Dorothy into his office. “Have you been overworking? You can tell me.”

“No, I just didn’t sleep well last night

She had finally managed to get into the project, and there was no
was letting go then.

“Then don’t work overtime when you get home, itll affect your work the next day. It’s not worth it”

“Okay, I got it.”

Emerging out of the office, Dorothy checked her phone again.

There was still no news from Karen.

She was already drafting a script in her head.

Otherwise, she might have been caught out when lying to Bella.

An hour passed, several hours passed, and for the first time Dorothy was wishing that Karen, the chatterbox, would contact her sooner! But there was no sign of her even when it was time to clock out.

Reluctantly, she gathered her files, picked up her bag and trudged out of the Lopez Building

Suddenly, she spotted a familiar figure standing at the entrance, waiting for someone

It was Kenneth.

Unlike the previous time they met, he was dressed formally today, in a suit and leather shoes. Especially in front of the Lopez Building. this gave him a businesslike air

It was quitting time and many of the passing girls looked at him, then whispered to each other.

Well, it made sense.

While not as handsome as Everett, Kenneth was still very attractive, with thick eyebrows and big eyes, and a pair of intellectual gold rimmed glasses on his face.

He had a scholarly gentlemanly aura, which was a stark contrast to Everett’s cold and aloof demeanor

“Mr. Nelson, are you here for a project with the Lopez Corporation? Dorothy hesitated, but decided to go over and say hello.

“No, I’m here to pick you up.” He smiled gently, “Karen told me everything.”

Dorothy was paused momentarily.

“Don’t worry too much, we’re friends and I’m happy to help.”

Dorothy awkwardly pulled at her lip, “Did she tell you about...”

“She told me everything.” Kenneth interrupted softly, “I understand your mother’s feelings. However, this is my first time pretending to be

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someone’s newlywed husband, so I’m a bit nervous. I hope you won’t mind,”

The phrase ‘newlywed husband’ sounded odd to Dorothy no matter how she thought about it

But it seemed like she didn’t have any other choice at the moment.

“Mr. Nelson, you’re too kind!”

He smiled and raised an eyebrow, “Are you planning on calling me Mr. Nelson in front of your mother too?”

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Dorothy clearly hadn’t thought that far and she was taken aback when she heard it.

“Just call me Kenneth. That’s what everyone at home calls me

She nodded, feeling a bit awkward, but under those circumstances, what else could she have been picky about?

If she could find a guy to introduce to her mother, that would have been good enough! She just needed to appease her until the surgery

was over

After getting into Kenneth’s car, Dorothy realized he was well prepared.

Not only had he bought a basket of fruits, but also several hours of expensive supplements. How much did they even cost?

She sneakily pulled out her phone and checked her bank balance

There was only few thousand bucks. She wasn't even sure if it was enough to pay Fim back.

Kenneth followed her gaze and smiled, "Karen said you've been busy with work and probably didn't have time to prepare anything. So, I picked up some stuff along the way! I can't meet your mom empty handed. Your mom would never believe it"

He was so considerate that it made Dorothy feel even more embarrassed, Tim already taking up your time, and now I'm making you do all this thinking for me. I really appreciate it! How much do I owe you for all this stuff?

"No need, it wasn't much, Consider it as me visiting your mom on Karen's behalf! Otherwise, she would have to buy something too

"Let's be clear about this. You must take the money. Darothy knew that her words sounded a bit harsh and distant, but what she feared the most was awing others.

Whether it was money or favors, she needed to pay them back to the best of her abilities.

"How are we supposed to develop that couple vibe if you're this uptight? Won't your mom see through us in a second?" Kenneth had also noticed her character and tried to reassure her, "How about this? First get into the mindset, think of me as your boyfriend, and as for these matters, we can talk about them after we get through today."

She looked at Kenneth and managed to squeeze out a stiff smile.

She knew his suggestion was right, but the thought of pretending to be in a loving relationship with her best friend's brother made her feel uncomfortable from head to toe.

The car soon arrived at the hospital Before they could walk in, Bellas call came in.

We're downstairs. We'll be night there.

"

After saying that, Dorothy hung up the phone, and turned to Kenneth with a worried look "Mr. Nelson, you'd better brace yourself. My mom is very angry about this. She might overreac."

*Don't worry, Karen has already reminded me many times"

After saying that, Kenneth placed his large hand gently on her shoulder and curled his lips. "Once we go in, I'll start calling you Dorothy. and you call me Kenneth. Don't forget."

The sudden physical contact made Dorothy feel uncomfortable, as if all the hair on her body were standing on end.

But she only had one shot at that. If her mom found out he was a stand-in, things could have gotten even worse! So, she had to play her part well today

She nodded, closed her eyes, and tried to convince herself not to reject his closeness.

As she was thinking, the image of Everett popped into her mind!

It seemed that she could only lower her guard if she imagined Kenneth as Everett.

"Are you ready?"

There was a touch of indulgence and gentleness in his voice that would have made anyone believe he wasn't just pulled in at the last

minute.

Dorothy thought that he must have been treating her as his sister Karen, right? That's why he was able to get into character so quickly.

"I'm ready. Let's go."

There was no escaping this anyway.

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Dorothy and Kenneth walked up to the door of ward V1 together. The two bodyguards on either side looked at them, hesitating, seemingly torn about whether or not to stop them.

After all, Kenneth was a fresh face.

"This is my boyfriend" Dorothy said, knowing her mother could hear from inside, so she had to say it out loud.

Kenneth, standing to the side, couldn't help but smirk, turning his body to whisper to her, "You don't sound like you're introducing your boyfriend at all. It's more like we're about to sit down and negotiate a contract or something."

She thought about what she had just said, and then it hit her and she laughed at her own stupidity.

So, the first thing Bella saw when she looked at them was them smiling at each other.

"Mom!"

Seeing her mother lying on the hospital bed with a stern face, Dorothy quickly stopped laughing and walked over standing by the bed, trying to put as much distance as possible between Kenneth and her mother.

Because she was really afraid that Hella would start ranting, get all worked up, and actually slap him!

"Hello, I'm sorry, I've been really busy with work recently and haven't been able to come and see you. It's my fault," Kenneth said.

He was playing his boyfriend role very well. His handsome face was full of apology and fear, looking genuinely nervous and lost, like meeting his parents for the first time.

But Bella was not easily fooled.

She scanned them both from head to toe, finally locking her gaze on Kenneth's face. "You two really registered your marriage age?"

"Um. He lowered his head, sounding sincere, "Although I know it's wrong to do so, I really do love Dorothy and want to spend my life with her!"

"And what about you?" Bella suddenly turned to her daughter.

Dorothy was taken aback, still not as natural as Kenneth, "I... I'm definitely sincere too. Otherwise, I wouldn't have impulsively gotten the marriage license."

"What do your parents think of my daughter? They surely don't know about this, do they?"

"They know Kenneth," he quickly said, "And they really like her. They said I'm lucky to have married such a beautiful girl."

"Huh." Bella suddenly laughed coldly. "If that's the case, why didn't they come today?"

Dorothy, knowing her mother was about to start giving them a hard time, quickly interjected, "Mom! Wasn't it agreed that I would just bring him here myself today?"

"But if they really accept you, why would they just let him come alone? Who gets their daughter married, has the license already, and hasn't even met the in-laws yet? No one would believe it if you told them?"

Dorothy knew her mother had already thought up a series of tests waiting for her here!

It was not that easy to bluff her way through.

Just as the situation was about to enter an extraordinarily awkward stage, suddenly, Kenneth said in a surprised tone, "You mean, you're willing to meet my parents?"

Not expecting him to say that, Bella raised an eyebrow at him.

They knew I was coming today and mentioned several times that they wanted to come too. They thought it would show our family's sincerity and their approval of Dorothy as their daughter-in-law! But Dorothy told me earlier that you prefer quiet and are afraid of being disturbed, so I didn't let them come."

Dorothy silently gave Kenneth a thumbs-up in her heart thinking that as a teacher he was quick on his feet

But the next second, Bella spoke up directly. "If that's really the case, then could you please ask them to come over now? Otherwise, your parents might think I'm a difficult person to get along with!"

That was very abrupt.

"Mom! Don't you dare.

"Well, since you don't mind, I'll call them now I'm sure my parents

would be thrilled to come and meet you?"

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The plot had strayed so much from the script that it was giving Dorothy the heebie, jeebies!

Where the hell was Kenneth going to find two people to play his parents? And with the way the drama was playing out, if his mum kept playing hardball, it was about to turn into a full-blown soap opera

As he turned to make a phone call outside the hospital room, Dorothy furrowed her brows. "Mom, this is too much! His parents have jobs! They can't just drop everything and come."

"He's the one who said his parents wanted to meet me. What's wrong with me agreeing?"

Bella had thought of a thousand ways to verify whether her daughter was really married or just playing house with some rich guy!

Dorothy was stuck between a rock and a hard place. She glanced at the door, "I'm going to see how he's talking to his parents. If it's not convenient, can you stop giving him a hard time? Maybe let them come another day when they're prepared."

"No." Bella refused firmly. "If you guys are conspiring to trick me, should I give you time to find an actor?"

Around the corner outside the hospital room, Dorothy found Kenneth by following his voice,

Seeing her, he smiled, comforting her in a low voice, "Don't worry, my parents said they'll be here as soon as they're ready?"

Dorothy was taken aback. "You really called them?"

"Yup!" Kenneth knew her concerns and wanted to put her at ease, "Since I promised to help you today, I'll definitely see it through! After Karen told me about your mom's situation, I already thought about how she would test our relationship and gave my parents a heads up. They were more than happy to help and even complimented you for being filial

Dorothy felt grateful as she said, "Mr. Nelson... really don't know how to thank you."

For a moment there, she was ready to throw in the towel and tell her mom everything!

"Don't call me Mr. Nelson, call me Kenneth! Or like Karen, call me Brother Kenneth! I'm a few years older than you, so it's a fitting nickname."

to say for a

moment

Dorothy nodded, forgetting what she was supposed to say

“Brother Kenneth.”

“Good girl. For now, let’s put our principles aside for the sake of our goal

She lowered her gaze, her resilience making him ache.

“Thank you, and I’m sorry on behalf of my mom”

“Why apologize for her? it’s only natural for a mother to want to protect you. I completely understand.”

now about her daughter’s boyfriend. She’s doing it because she cares

Especially as a teacher, he had met so many parents over the years and knew their concerns.

Dorothy moved her lips, but in the end, she didn’t say anything

It was hard for her to explain her twisted family dynamics, let alone describe her mother’s extreme control issues.

When they returned to the hospital room, Hellarema stood silent, arms crossed, waiting for his parents to arrive.

Dorothy brought a chair over for him and sat next to her mother’s bed.

She absentmindedly checked her phone and was startled to see two messages from Everett!

[Remember, don’t come back to Bay Residence before 10 p.m.)

That was sent shortly after she finished work.

The most recent one was sent just five minutes prior.

[Who are you with?]

Dorothy hesitated for a moment before replying with a few nonchalant words.

[At the hospital with my mom.]

Everett quickly replied.

I’m on my way to the hospital.

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Everett was coming?

Dorothy almost dropped her phone, standing straight up from her chair.

That startled Bella, "What now?

"Nothing. I just got a message from the boss. Need to send some data: I'll make a call outside

She didn't even have time to give Kenneth a look, rushing out the door.

Everett couldn't come! It took so much effort to cover up the lie. If he showed up, who knew what would have happened?

Wasn't it Heather's birthday that day?

How did he have time to come to the hospital?

Dorothy frantically called Everett, but after several attempts, the phone rang, but he didn't pick up!

She was on pins and needles, sending him several messages.

(Don't come right now! We can talk when I get back]

My mom's not in a good mood now. Really, don't come

But those messages also got no response. It was as if Everett had suddenly disappeared!

Dorothy waited for ten more minutes at the hospital entrance, but there was still no sign of him

So, Everett must have seen the message, right? Or maybe something came up at the company, and he went back for a meeting! Otherwise, he should have arrived at the hospital by then

Confirming his car wasn't there, Dorothy finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Back in the ward, Kenneth's parents had arrived, carrying more expensive supplements than Kenneth had bought!

Bella scrutinized their faces, ensuring Kenneth was not trying to fool her with two temporary actors. Her attitude improved a bit.

"Please sit. I'm sorry that I can't stand and greet you properly. Dorothy, go get some fruits for them."

"Okay"

After all the hustle, the result was good, and Bella agreed to the scheduled surgery.

After sending Kenneth's family away, Dorothy glanced at the time.

It was nine o'clock.

One hour until Everett wanted her back at Bay Residence.

She rechecked her WhatsApp, but still no message from Everett.

Dorothy was a bit puzzled. Even if he had a meeting, it surely couldn't have lasted that long!

Then suddenly, her phone rang

She thought it was Everett, but when she checked the screen, it was Heather's number.

"Hello, Ms. Heather."

Although she didn't want to pick up, for the sake of her job, Dorothy had to.

"Where are you?)"

Dorothy glanced at the hospital gate behind her, "I just left the hospital where my mom is. I'm about to go for dinner"

"Everett had a car accident. Come to City General Hospital. I need to ask you something"

Everett had an accident?

Her heart sank, and she immediately hailed a cab to City General Hospital, not having time to worry about the awkwardness of seeing Heather, only thinking of Everett

Upon arriving at City General Hospital, Dorothy rushed into the ER.

From a distance, she spotted Heather in a hospital gown, with a tall man by her side.

As she walked over briskly, Dorothy was about to ask.

Heather gave her a harsh slap on the face! The blow left Dorothy's ears ringing.

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"If anything happens to Everett, you won't get away with it!"

"What are you doing?"

Jeffrey didn't expect the always elegant Heather to be violent, quickly stepping forward to steady her. "You just had surgery! This woman isn't worth your effort. What if you hurt yourself?"

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"It's all because of her! She's the reason Everett's in this mess!"

if it wasn't for Jeffrey holding her back. Heather would've already thrown herself at Dorothy without a care for her lady-like image.

"Everett is being treated right now. We can settle the score later!"

Seeing the onlookers, Jeffrey somehow managed to drag Heather away.

When he returned, he found Dorothy still standing in the same spot, the mark of a slap still visible on her face.

With her delicate face, she looked somewhat pitiful, which only made him even angrier!

"Why the hell are you still here?!"

Jeffrey already had a low opinion of Everett's little assistant, thinking his buddy. Everett, was just going through a phase, and once the novelty wore off, he'd have lost interest.

But after all that happened, he didn't even want to look at her

“Everett had an accident because of me?”

Dorothy had picked up on clues from their conversation, but she didn't know the whole story.

Wasn't Everett supposed to be with Heather? How was the accident related to her?

“Today's August 25th, didn't you know?”

Dorothy was silent.

Of course, she knew. So, what?

Jeffrey scoffed, “Stop playing innocent! Think about what you've done! You're already registered as Everett's wife, and you're still flirting with other men! Dorothy, you've outdone yourself! You're the only one who can cuckold Everett!”

Flirting with other men?

“Everett found out about me bringing Mr. Nelson to the hospital?”

“If you don't want anyone to know don't do it”

“I can explain” She had no idea her actions would have led to Everett's accident! She would've never connected the dots if Jeffrey hadn't pointed it out

“Just get lost already. Leave now! Or I might break my rule about not hitting women,”

Leaving those words behind, Jeffrey walked away.

Dorothy was left alone in the bustling hallway, gently touching her swollen cheek. Her gaze never left the red light of the emergency

room.

An hour passed. And then two hours passed.

Dorothy waited from dusk till dawn, but Everett never emerged, and there was no news about him.

Until Kevin called, “Why did you miss the meeting this morning?”

When she tried to speak, she found her voice had gone hoarse

“Can I take a day off today?”

"Is it something important? Perhaps noticing Dorothy's raspy voice, Kevin paused, "All right, then come early tomorrow."

As he was about to hang up, Dorothy suddenly asked, "Wait! Kevin, did Mr. Lopez...come to work today?"

"Mr. Lopez? | Feared he had an accident and didn't come to the office today. But I just received a notice that he'll be going on a business trip tonight as planned, so it must not be serious."

"Did he call you himself?"

"Yeah, why?"

Dorothy forced a smile, "Oh, nothing. Thanks."

So, Everett had already left the hospital, and she was the only fool waiting around!

She had been thinking about how to explain Kenneth to Everett all night, but it seemed unnecessary then. He didn't need it.

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Dorothy felt like her mind was a mess, as if it had been slimed into a muddy puddle, unable to think about anything. She stumbled out of the hospital, her legs swollen from standing all night, aching as if they were filled with lead.

Unable to walk any further, she saw a breakfast shop open nearby. She walked in, ordered something randomly and sat down to take a

breather

The shop owner, a woman, went over to her with fried eggs and milk and was taken aback when she saw Dorothy's condition.

"Good Lord, girl, what happened to your face? You're bleeding! You have to clean that up!"

She hurriedly went back to get some medicine and iodine for Dorothy.

Only then did Dorothy use her phone's front camera to look at the wound on her cheek,

It was quite a sight

Heather's nails had scratched the skin near her eye, and perhaps because she had been frowning, it had reopened and started bleeding again.

She thought, her left cheek must have pissed off some deity to get hit twice like that.

"Ouch. Doesn't that hurt? And you're laughing!"

The shop owner was kind-hearted and continued to help her clean and disinfect the wound.

Despite the obvious pain, Dorothy had started laughing for some reason.

The shop owner wondered if there was something wrong with that beautiful girl's brain.

"Thank you, I can handle it," Dorothy took the medicine from her hand, her gaze falling on the fried eggs and milk on the table.

Everett always liked to have them for breakfast

She must have ordered them unconsciously.

Habits are indeed a scary thing

She didn't eat, nor did she continue to medicate her wound. She just sat quietly for a while, then placed the payment for the breakfast and iodine on the table before leaving

Dorothy hailed a cab back to Bay Residence.

After all, all her clothes and luggage were there. Even if she were to terminate the contract with Everett, she would have had to pack up first

all over the

was rose petals scattered all over the floor!

As she pushed open the door with her passcode, the first thing she saw was rose a

Following the trail, Dorothy was stunned to see the number formed by countless fresh, red strawberries in the living room!

[0825]

Everett was truly romantic

So, that was why he didn't want her to return to Bay Residence before ten. He was planning a surprise for Heather!

She knew Event was meticulous and didn't like others entering his house, so he must have arranged all that himself.

Knowing that, Dorothy felt like the ugly duckling

She was the joke in the middle of the prince and princess's love story!

In fairy tales, the ugly duckling eventually turns into a beautiful swan. But what about her? From a young age, almost every step she took was forced by life, forcing her to make countless choices she didn't want to make

For money, she had to give up better schools.

For money, she had to do countless exhausting jobs.

For money, she had to sign that ridiculous contract with Everell.

Then there was Heather, who could earn figures that Dorothy couldn't even dream of just by casually taking a case!

Dorothy had to constantly remind herself of her place, not to fantasize, not to be self-centered, and not to have thoughts that she shouldn't have.

She squatted down, hugging herself as she began to sob quietly.

It turned out that there really were different classes of people. And they were all at heights she could never reach!

So, having feelings for Everett was a sin.

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Chapter Ed

The spacious living room suddenly felt cold. A sense of helplessness and loss swept over her like a tidal wave, but that time, there was no Everett to pick her up and say, "Don't be afraid. It's me."

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