

Destined To Be His wife by L.T. Marshall Chapter 101

They bid farewells to the doorman and walked out into the unusually warm dark evening. It seemed peaceful in this area of Shanghai, and they were far enough from traffic to enjoy some subtle sounds of nature and domestic life of nearby buildings. It was somehow serene and added to the glow of happiness emanating from both of them. Walking with their entangled fingers, arms swinging between them merrily, like children, TangShi couldn't help but admiring YuZhi dressed like this.

"I like this look on you. Casual and sexy." She smiled shyly, eyeing him up.

"It's not often I get to ditch the suit. I miss my days of dressing normally and being comfortable."

"You're the future CEO so I can see why you always have to look sharp and domineering." TangShi allowed him to lead her to the parked familiar jeep, suddenly happy at seeing it after it had sat in the parking garage unloved for days. It meant YuZhi must have gone home first from the airport before coming to the gallery.

"Looking good is a life skill." YuZhi joked, helping her into the jeep and jumping in himself. Wasting no time in getting them on the road and into traffic. Heading home with a smile on his face for his forward planning and knowing TangShi well enough to predict the food she would want at this hour.

"So where are we going to eat?" She perked up, looking around at familiar scenery and wondering if it was a usual restaurant he had taken her to before.

"The five star hotel de Leng where food awaits you." He winked, seemingly smug with himself.

"Huh?" TangShi furrowed her brow. "I didn't know Leng Group had hotels." She queried innocently having no clue what he was hinting at.

YuZhi laughed at her, leaning out to pat her on the head with a besotted gleam in his eye. Too sweet and naïve for her own good sometimes and he gestured ahead with a nod as their apartment complex came into view.

"I went home first, knowing your go to late night food of choice is Xiaolongbao. I am not wasting the few hours we have together while in the company of other people. You're all mine until I leave at one for the airport."

TangShi beamed at him, her adoration for him growing crazily at knowing he forward planned alone time and didn't forget her food.

“YuZhi?” She slid nearer, running her fingers up his wrist and jacket, coyly side eyeing him as he focused on traffic. Knowing they were now heading for intimate time meant hunger was no longer her priority.

“Mmmm?” He answered absentmindedly as he navigated to the under-ground parking of home.

“I think food could be the dessert.” She blushed profusely being bold and startling him with a hint that she normally was too shy to make. YuZhi choked on his own saliva, surprised by how forward his sweet angel was getting, and glanced her way with a slight furrow to his brow, before breaking into a smile.

“So, am I the main course?” He asked brazenly, picking up on her subtle sexual innuendo, the way she was curling towards him, and her eyes strayed to his mouth making her crazily irresistible to him. YuZhi almost swerved the car as his stomach tightened in response unable to think straight whenever it got to sexy time with her.

“Hmmm.” She nodded fluttering her lashes, stroking up to his shoulder and then lightly feathering her fingertips across his neck and sending his senses haywire. His skin goosebumping all over and his heart thumping into overdrive. YuZhi’s testosterone shot up a dozen levels and kicked his hormones into overdrive.

It had been a week of not being able to touch her, nightly lucid dreams about her, and he wasn’t all that disappointed at making food a secondary thing. Keeping his mind on driving was the challenge he now faced.

He swerved them into a parking space with haste. Not wasting time to straighten his abandoned car and jumped out of his side with momentum. Moving around to collect her as she slid out and he hooked her hand in his and almost dragged her to the elevator. His mind fast forwarding to how much he wanted her naked and under him now she had made it clear he didn’t have to romance her with food first. It wasn’t that he wasn’t fully prepared and looking forward to spending quality time with her, it’s just TangShi drove him wild in terms of attraction and once she flicked the OKAY switch his sexual prowess took over.

TangShi bit on her lip, anticipating getting alone as they marched into the elevator and sighed with disappointment at seeing another man in there. An older gentleman who smiled sweetly while taking up the center space of the opening, so they had to part to get in. It meant curbing their intimacy and they held hands again, sliding together behind him while both watched the floor count on the light above the doors with impatience.

At their floor they nodded to the other resident, slid out fast and YuZhi pulled her with him to their own apartment at a speed that had her stumbling. Eager to get her inside as his desires and urges for her soared. He could barely contain it, stopping to hook his arm around her waist so she didn’t fall.

"I missed you." He turned after opening their door with the keypad and yanked her in after him by the hips as he walked backwards. Pulling her into an embrace before she was fully inside and fastening his mouth to hers with aggression. Lust consuming him and sense dissipating.

TangShi inhaled in surprise, melting into his kiss and slid her hands up his jacket searching out the zipper as he kicked the door closed behind her. Pulling her up against him so their bodies met at every point, before backing her up while still kissing her passionately until she bumped into the counter of the kitchen island. Without breaking away, YuZhi slid his hands under her ass and picked her up, sliding her onto the counter, pushing her knees apart so he could nestle between them and paid full attention to devouring every inch of her lips, jawline, and neck as he started to undo her clothes.

"I missed you more!" TangShi breathed through a moan as he nibbled her ear and traced her lobe with his tongue, before sucking it in. Teasing her so that her body goosebumped and tingled and the heat between her thighs began throbbing with need.

TangShi obliged him as he peeled her layers away, lifting her arms to have her silk camisole slid off after he pushed her cardigan down her arms. Her own fingers fumbling to get his jacket off while being pulled and cradled facially to him as he tasted her mouth again and explored her tongue with his. His kisses were ravenous and passionate, pressing his mouth to hers, his hands roaming her body and coming back to cup her face. Little bites on her bottom lip to savor her softness before he would swoop back in and mold their mouths back together and repeat.

The heat notched up between them to volcanic levels with her pelvis crushed to his groin, making it clear he was aroused and desperate to get her naked. Hauling off each other's clothes in haste and desperation to cure them of this insane longing. YuZhi wasn't his normal gentle and tender self but more like his reckless and drunk version that she liked to see from time to time. It added spice to an already great sex life when he was this way. Commanding, dominating and fueled with primal urges.

Pulling her with him, he backed up, restraining her against the surface so he could have his way with her and taste every part of her body. From throat to breasts, abdomen, and then down between her thighs as he angled her back to lay flat on the surface, stopping to slide her underwear off and left her utterly naked. TangShi's face reddened in shock that he would do this here, no obvious intention of moving them to the bedroom which had been the only place they ever had sex before, and then groaned, her eyes closing involuntarily as his tongue found its way to the pleasure point and she writhed under him in ecstasy.

"YuZhi." She gasped, surrendering to his mouth at the apex of her most private parts. Panting at his expert attention and arching her back when he slid two fingers inside of her. YuZhi had been a careful lover and gentleman when it came to making love to her

these past weeks. Gently introducing her to the pleasure and intimacy with utmost respect and a level of modesty so as not to scare her or make her feel pressured.

Tonight however, he wanted to notch it up and show her that sex could also be adventurous and wild. She wasn't as innocent as the first time, and he was going to show her that position and foreplay could add another level of connection to their bond. She was about to have a night of unleashed naughtiness with a teacher who was skilled. Starting with making her orgasm with oral sex on the kitchen counter and he was planning on christening every room in this house before he had to leave. Starved for the feel of her this last week had given him crazy fantasies about what he would do to her when he got home, and he was not for holding back.

"When you like something, make noise. That way I can figure out what makes you get off."

YuZhi's only intention from now until he had to leave was making his girl scream his name and pass out from exhaustion. Fully focused on giving her multiple orgasms and exploring her in ways he held back from before.

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"Good job, everyone. The show was a success and many of the pieces you guys were willing to sell, have sold." Rong Cai stood in the middle of his group of students, raising a glass to them now the venue was cleared of all visitors and the doors were locked. Puffed up with pride that their annual event was another roaring success and had pulled in applicants for next term too. Sponsors were knocking down the doors at the school to get involved.

TangShi quietly clapped her hands and looked around at her family of students, patting the nearest on the shoulders and giving them words of congratulations. Excited to see how happy they all were and sharing joy in their success. She had not put any of her work up for sale as most pieces had been personal favorites from her own collection, or from YuZhi's study and she preferred to supply the print shop with the art instead. She didn't need the money and was pleased to have just heard the praise for her work as she wandered around the show incognito.

"As a reward for the outstanding job you guys did, I've hired a crew to take down and pack up the art and clean this place up while we go to dinner and to celebrate. All on the school. So go get your things." He nodded towards them, smiling widely and was met with applause and 'whoops' of joy. Excitable students who were more than happy to bypass work and go get fed. The mood was infectious, and all were in high spirits. TangShi was proud and glad she joined in and yet also relieved it was over too.

"What kind of food?" One of the small shy girls perked up, waving her hand over her head as she was nestled behind. Stretching up on tiptoes to catch Rong's attention.

"I've booked us a private room in Jin Xuan restaurant in Pudong, a Chinese buffet. So, who's ready to eat and have a few drinks? School is on a holiday tomorrow for the start of Autumn festival so don't worry about being hungover." Rong glanced TangShi's way hoping she was going to let her hair down and forget about that schmuck for one night. He had flown back to Hong Kong, and she had shown up this morning looking tired and rosy cheeked as though she hadn't slept enough. It had snapped his last nerve seeing how little care her boyfriend took of her and hadn't even driven her to the show for it's last day. She showed up in an Uber carrying a bagged breakfast and take out coffee making it obvious she had been left to fend for herself while he jetsetted god knows where for whatever reason. He really despised him.

"In the Ritz Carlton hotel? That's so expensive!" Another student squeaked, shocked that the school would splash out on them like this. The gasps as they all realized what that meant.

"You're our featured artists who have brought in some media interest and commissions, so why not. We only get a few astounding talents a year so it's good to reward you at least once." Rong smiled, waving his hands to quiet them down. "For transport we have a luxury blacked out seven-seater so we can all go together in style, and you can feel like celebs for one night." He grinned, knowing that tonight he didn't want to drive his car back so had opted for a chauffer service instead. His plan was to get drunk and be merry while he had this chance of spending time with TangShi.

TangShi chewed on her lower lip, uneasy about the arrangements and her mind set on other things. She slid out her cell while they were all still gushing over the details, typing a text to YuZhi.

School has arranged a dinner and drink to celebrate this evening. What time is your flight home so I can make sure I don't stay out late? I can miss it if you're coming back soon.

She didn't know why but somehow this arrangement hyped up her anxiety levels and she worried that YuZhi might not like it, even though she wasn't alone with Rong Cai. Her gut gurgling and making her uptight and hoping it didn't make YuZhi mad.

My flight isn't getting into Pudong airport until six am, so don't worry about that. Don't drink much and don't stay up too late. Make sure you get a ride home with someone you trust and stay alert. Xx

YuZhi was sitting in an office in Hong Kong in the middle of a meeting, but he always stopped to check his cell when it vibrated. His stomach tightening at her message and a weird feeling making him apprehensive. He didn't want her hanging out with Rong Cai but if she was with her group of classmates he at least felt assured she would be fine.

TangShi looked up realizing Rong was staring at her openly and blinked around wondering what she missed while engrossed in her message. Her palms getting clammy with the expectant raised brows aimed her way.

“Huh?” She queried. Her face flaming at being caught out.

“I said do you need a ride home first to get changed or collect anything?” Rong smiled her way, sweetly and unusually calm and patient. Edging closer to her and talking in a soft low way.

“No. I can go like this; I have everything I need.” TangShi blushed under his scrutiny aware others were giving her odd side glances and she felt a little awkward at his attention, sure he hadn’t offered anyone else a special trip home. She was dressed in a formal dress and heels for the show anyway, her hair loose and natural make up so it wasn’t like she required a change of clothes. She didn’t like this special attention he seemed to give her from time to time.

“You’re right, you look pretty enough.” He smiled, eyeing her up openly and TangShi caught the sneering look between two male students beside her as they glanced at one another and pulled a mocking face at TangShi’s expense. She glanced down at the floor pretending to have not noticed but her insides fluttered, and her heart sank, and it made her feel unusually emotional. She wasn’t extremely close to other students, but she was civil enough to think they were all on friendly terms, so this hurt. Aware they were making assumptions that weren’t even true.

“Let’s go. The booking is for thirty minutes time, so by the time we get through traffic and settled in it should be time.” He clapped his hands to set them all in motion.

They didn’t waste time hanging around, and TangShi put it out of her head, walking out to the waiting car and sending YuZhi one last text.

I will. I miss you and can’t wait to see you at home. I’ll go home early and not drink much. I love you xx

“Texting the boyfriend?” Rong cut in beside her as they got to the waiting minivan, peering over her shoulder, so she flattened her phone against her chest and nodded, irritated at his invasive behavior. Frowning his way and giving him a distant and cool nod and wishing he would move away and stop crowding her.

“Yeah. Letting him know I’m going to celebrate and asking what time he’ll be home, so I don’t miss him.” She nodded, ducking past him into the cab to escape and sliding across the seats to the window to get some privacy. Rong only followed her and pushed up right against her, so his thigh was nestled against hers and she again felt hemmed in and dissatisfied with his closeness.

“Oh right. He went back to Hong Kong, didn’t he? So is he gone long and leaving you lonesome? Neglecting his new fiancée for work?” He enquired, seemingly nonchalant, smiley as though joking with her, and TangShi scolded herself for being too irritable and suspicious. She knew her problem around Rong was because of YuZhi not liking him and scolded herself for being unfriendly when he hadn’t done anything today except be helpful. Now he was buying them an expensive dinner somewhere nice and the least she could be was grateful.

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“Tomorrow morning, at six am. He gets in early.” She smiled softly, feeling her phone vibrate and pulled it back quickly to check her message from YuZhi.

Have fun. I’ll wake you up in bed. Love you, baby xx

Rong caught sight of it over her shoulder, gritted his teeth and snapped his face forward so he looked straight ahead, to curb his jealousy. Pasting a bright and smiley expression on while clenching his fists and cursing Leng for being a perverted asshole that probably had a woman at every hotel he stayed at.

TangShi was too busy smiling to herself and fluttering with internal butterflies from YuZhi’s text to notice the simmering dark cloud growing beside her. Getting lost in thought as they all boarded one by one and headed on their way.

Rong chatted to the other passengers, being overly sociable and upbeat, while TangShi seemed glued to her phone. Updating her art blog and uploading the pictures she had taken of the gallery viewing. It irritated him that sat right next to her, she was blankly ignoring him and didn’t seem to understand she was the sole reason he booked such an opulent restaurant in the hotel tonight.

To wine and dine her and show her he too had enough money to splurge when the mood took him, and she didn’t need to rely on rich jerks to support her in life. That Rong had class and ability if she took her face out of her god damn cell for a minute and paid attention to his good qualities. He knew he could be a better match than some fifth-generation brat who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and no real ability to cherish anything he was given.

TangShi was immersed in her post. Writing up her joyful experience of the last few days and sharing her new artwork with her fans. All her images of her new pieces went up along with the diary entry and she knew her print shop would ask for the main ones as an addition to her existing line of available works. She was proud of them and was going to surprise YuZhi by gifting him his favorites for his office at Leng group HQ.

She was also too tired after last night and today to do much in the way of small talk and socializing and using this travel time to clear her head and give her brain a rest. YuZhi had been an absolute demon last night and hadn’t let her sleep until he left for the

airport. Not that she was complaining, because it was a memory she was storing in her happiness file for all time. Having him make love to her in every space of their apartment, in multiple positions, including the shower, and yet it hadn't felt dirty or weird, but helped her confidence grow in being that way with him. Her body was still tingling today at the memories of how many times she had orgasmed and yet he had been superhuman in his ability to stay hard for hours. Shocking her with a side to him she never imagined he could have.

"We're here." Rong Cai announced with a slightly stilted tone, aiming it at TangShi even though it was an announcement to them all. Quieting their chatter as they all disembarked and slid out of the taxi. It was midafternoon although the sun was still high in the sky, the show ending a lot later than the noon cut off due to the gallery being lenient and a last-minute surge of new visitors.

The restaurant was opulent and stunning. They were ushered into a private dining room on a high floor, with huge windows overlooking the river Huangpu, the center of the space filled with a large round table covered in a crisp white cloth and dotted with purple velvet plush seats. The surface expertly dressed with linens and silverware that wreaked of expense and class. It was elegant yet modern and had low music playing around them adding a relaxed ambience as side dishes were set in the center on a rotating inner section of the huge table.

"It's a set menu, all Chinese favorites so I hope you're hungry. Eat as much as you want, it's already paid for." Rong waved his hands out, encouraging them all to sit and TangShi headed for the far side to get a good view from the window while walking about four seats away from Rong Cai in hopes he would sit where he stood. She wanted space to sit alone and relax now the busyness was over and she was tired.

Rong eyeballed her moving off, unamused that she always seemed to put distance between them. He watched the way the students spread out around the oversized table that could sit sixteen and yet their party was only seven today with the extra students who came to help. The view out at this height gave an unobstructed view of the Oriental pearl tower, which seemed incredibly close and would be gorgeous when lit up as it got darker.

Rong walked around after they were all seated and slid in next to TangShi, pulling some smirks from a couple of the students who could see the blatant obviousness that he had a thing for her, and passed raised brow glances to one another. TangShi was oblivious and too busy setting her napkin on her lap and surveying the huge amount of food before them. A nice array of dishes and sides and began helping herself eagerly as the center table slowly turned to give them constant access.

The meal soon became relaxed, and chatter and time began to freely flow between them, pulling TangShi in, and with wine as the accompanying drink it mellowed everyone out. TangShi forgot her uptightness and began to enjoy the company, stuffing herself full and stopped minding Rong being right next to her for the duration. Becoming

engrossed in the small talk and finding her fellow students easy enough to talk and laugh with when school wasn't the focus. As a class they didn't really do this much together as it was a nice change and great bonding time.

The hours passed quickly and when the food was no longer a mountain of dishes, but instead cleared platters, Rong bought them all some extra drinks and moved them all to the seating area in their private room. Low couches by the far wall which were nestled together cozily and had access to a small mini bar as well as the bell to bring their waitress back and forth. TangShi was alternating her alcohol consumption with water and fruit juice hoping the others didn't notice that she was still on the sober side of merry, while most of them were getting very drunk. She only trusted herself to get intoxicated when with YuZhi and was heeding his request to be careful.

She checked her phone and was surprised to see it as almost ten pm already and the afternoon had flown by in such good company. Feeling a little guilty she was still out this late.

"I think I need to go home." One of the girls slurred, swaying around and then got up on unsteady legs. "Bathroom first though or I may have an accident." She giggled and almost tripped over the legs of her nearest friend. TangShi reached out lifting up out of her seat and caught her, steadying her by the arm to help her.

"I'll come with you and help you call an uber." She latched onto the girl gently around the waist, guiding her by the low coffee table and Rong Cai moved his legs to let them pass, touching TangShi on the leg.

"If she's that drunk I can book some rooms and have everyone stay here. It's all coming out of school expenses anyway." He smiled, seemingly sober too and TangShi nodded thinking maybe that would be for the best for this particular girl. She knew she lived alone at the other side of the city and not many cab drivers would be happy with a girl this drunk in their car.

"I'll take her to the loo. I need to pee." One of the other girls shot up, seeming less intoxicated but still slurring her words and took her out of TangShi's arm, pushing TangShi down a little roughly next to Rong with a mischievous smile and wicked gleam in her eye. "Keep your boyfriend company instead." She laughed and pushed off with her classmate as they both laughed at the joke she made. TangShi blushed from chin to roots and sat down quickly. Rong had moved nearer her own space on the couch, and she became ultra-aware of others smiling their way.

"I have a fiancée. Rong is just our friend and school proprietor." She blurted out, not wanting any of them to misunderstand, losing the merry feeling and Rong slid his around her shoulder patting her with a paternal gesture. Beaming widely at the snarky jibe as his heart filled with optimism.

“Ignore them. They mistake my fondness for a talented artist as something else. We both know what it’s not and some should watch themselves or they may lose points.” He warned mockingly, no real sternness to his tone and winked at the students across from him as TangShi stiffened up and tried to extract herself from his grip. Her merry glow was fast fading and now she longed to get out of here. “How about we switch to something a bit more special for the next drink?” Rong offered, eyeing them all, and TangShi shook her head.

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“I really think I should go. It’s late and I’m not staying here tonight so would be better going now. I can book an Uber myself.” She bowed a little as a show of respect, attempting to put space between them and moved to get up, but Rong caught her in a tighter hold and yanked her back down.

“One more drink. Come on. Have you ever tried Baijiu? It’s our celebratory toast after all. Don’t be the party pooper Miss. Lei.” He crooned at her, putting on fake pleading puppy eyes and then nuzzled against her and began with the pleading. “Please, please, pretty please. Once you have one I will walk you down to get you a cab. I promise!” He added, raising a hand salute, smiling brightly and TangShi felt pressured by the audience around them all staring her way. Glancing around her classmates and seeing them all nodding eagerly and egging her on for another round.

“Oka, but just one. I don’t want to get home much later.” She faltered, her stomach twisting up and really wanting to go home and wait for YuZhi at home. A strange feeling swirling up inside of her and making her stressed.

Rong jumped up and walked off to the bar behind them, pulling out small cups for the Baijiu and began to get to work at setting up seven of them on a tray. His back to the group, obscuring his preparation.

TangShi smiled towards her friends, seemingly all way drunker than her as none of them had split up their consumption and seemed like they were hell bent on being reckless tonight. Rong was the only one who had stayed relatively sober compared to them and she guessed it was to make sure he could watch over them all. He was older than most of them and saw himself as the father figure here tonight.

“Here, drink up everyone. One shot down the hatch. Will put some hairs on your chest and make men of you all!” He jested, placed a cup in front of TangShi, eyeing her up with a smile. “You’ve never drank it right?” He nudged her, before sliding down beside her, pushing his arm along the back of her chair to cage her in and nodding for her to lift her cup.

“No, I know it’s strong though like vodka, so maybe I shouldn’t.” She knew her limits and had avoided this clear potent drink even when with YuZhi. It was known for being the strongest alcohol in China.

“One won’t do all that much. Just warm your belly and send you to sleep when you get home. It smells a bit strange and has a weird taste if you’re not used to it, but that’s normal.” He lifted her elbow, trying to angle her to take it and she watched as her classmates all lifted cups from the tray he placed in the center and downed theirs with minimal effort. TangShi hesitated holding it up as if to sip and yet the smell was strangely awful. The clear liquid had a swirly cloudiness to it in the center and a sweet scent seemed to hover around the rim. Having never tasted it, she found it odd. It didn’t smell like alcohol she was used to, but Rong wasn’t for letting her off lightly.

“Come on, don’t be a scaredy cat. Down the hatch. One... two..... three.” he lifted her elbow forcing it against her mouth so she could only obey and swallowed the shot in one choking gulp that burned her throat and made her instantly cough. She covered her mouth, screwing up her face at the astringent flavor and bitter aftertaste, shaking her head. Disliking it immensely and hating the way it seemed to warm her throat and send her belly into gurgling swishyness.

“I don’t like it.” She picked up a glass of water and downed that to clear it out of her mouth, gulping to remove the taste and hoped it would dilute it enough not to make her drunk. After a few mouthfuls she stood up to leave before the addition of this shot made her go from tipsy to worse.

“Woah there missy. At least wait for your friends to come back from the ladies room and say goodbye. What’s the rush?” Rong pulled her back down, sliding his arm around her shoulders again, a little possessively that she didn’t like and pinned her to the seat. TangShi was instantly uncomfortable and struggled to shrug him off and get her space back. “Relax, drink some more. Trust me, you’ll have fun and still get home in time for pretty lover boy.” Rong smirked, keeping his grip tight and TangShi stiffened all over at his odd tone of his last words. Sensing the venom in the undercurrent and blinking at what seemed like a scowl in his expression.

“I honestly want to go. Can you let me up?” She pulled away, fighting him subtly, not liking the subtle changes in his mood and then he relented and stood up with her.

“Okay, okay. Come on, Miss. Lei, I can take a hint. I’ll walk you down to the ground floor and get you a cab. This way.” Rong caught hold of her wrist, aiming for her hand but she turned it away, and pulled her with him towards the main door into their dining room. Walking her like she needed his guidance and even though she tried to slide her arm away he wouldn’t let go. His grip tightening and his posture seeming to grow taller.

“I’m fine to walk without support. I’m not drunk.” TangShi stuttered but her words slurred a little and her vision seemed to blur a smidge. Shaking her head as she yanked herself free and headed towards the door head of him herself. Cursing out the damned drink for having an instant effect and hoping this was as bad as it was going to get. It made her lightheaded and woozy and she was struggling to formulate thoughts.

“Sure about that? You don’t seem so stable.” He laughed heartily, enjoying how vulnerable she now seemed and feeling like a macho protector she needed. Catching up with her as she slid into the carpeted quiet foyer and looked left and right to try and remember which way the elevators were. Disorientated because both directions had the same dull lighting and dark décor with endless closed doors and long walks. Her eyes beginning to water and her breathing becoming labored as though someone was sitting on her chest. She took a few steps, and her legs began to turn to jelly. Reaching out to steady herself on a wall and missing but Rong pulled her back to him.

“I guess one drink really was the tipping scale for you, lightweight. Glad I am here to take care of you now.” Rong laughed as she stumbled away from him carelessly in a bid to escape and caught her around the waist. Pulling her butt in against his groin and spooning her from behind as they walked left down a darkened hallway and she became progressively worse. Her mind spinning so she couldn’t fathom reality anymore. Aware of a warm body holding her but no longer conscious of real touch.

Not knowing why she was suddenly slipping into extreme drunkenness but scared, and her anxiety began to build in the depths of her stomach because she didn’t feel right at all. She knew this wasn’t how she normally felt when she was slipping into severe drunken stupor. It was happening so fast, and she cursed that damned drink for being so potent, and herself for being dumb enough to drink it.

She pulled out her cell to try and get Linlin to come for her, knowing that was the wise thing to do, but dropped it from useless uncoordinated fingers so it bounced across the floor and ended up at Rong’s right foot. Rong stopped and scooped down to pick it up, then waved it in front of her as everything started to sway and swim and her body became fluid. Slumping down so he had to be the one to hold her steady, unable to push him away as her limbs started to go numb and her head and eyelids got heavier. Clutching at midair to get her phone and not really doing all that much.

“My.... letme. I must.... call.” She slurred so badly it made no sense.

“I’ll take care of this. You don’t seem fit to make calls anymore.” He pulled her with him, sliding her cell into his jacket pocket, whistling to himself merrily as her steps slowed to dragged scuffs and her coordination became like that of a newborn fawn walking for the first time. Her body becoming dead weight. “Look at the mess of you. Lucky I’m here to take care of you, pretty girl. Don’t worry, TangShi, I’m the kind of man who’ll take real good care of you all night. You can trust me to be what you need.” He bent down and scooped her up in his arms princess style, laughing at her dazed expression, adoring how cute she was this way as reality slipped away and she could only murmur a few words before darkness took over and knocked her into oblivion.

“I want... home..”

“Sure, you do.” Rong smirked, leaning in to kiss her on the temple and carried her onwards down the silent and empty hotel lobby.

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The bang, bang, bang, of a severe thumping noise infiltrated into TangShi's sleepy brain, pulling her out of a dreamless darkness as light hit her eyes and made her recoil in pain. Screwing up her face as her head pounded crazily and she couldn't distinguish if the noise was her own headache or something else. Invading her senses and making her reach out to pull her cover over her face. Blinking to adjust to searing brightness and aware her throat and mouth were as dry as arid desert and she felt so nauseous and dizzy she didn't want to get up.

Rolling over in bed, squeezing them shut again and feeling around the sheets. She tried to find her bedmate, knowing he should have come home by now if the sun was dazzling through their bedroom curtains this strongly.

"YuZhi? What time is it?" She mumbled, her voice hoarse due to a raspy throat that felt burned, as though she had swallowed fire or ground glass, and she lifted her heavy head to try and look around. Blurry eyed and struggling to adapt.

"It's show time. Guess we're about to get found out, princess." A husky male voice pulled her head to the right, the unfamiliar sound startling her fully awake, and she gawped at Rong Cai as he walked past the bed wearing only a towel around his waist. Her heart jumping into her throat and eyes widening in horror as she gasped and sat bolt upright as though she had been zapped with electricity. Her pulse hammering in fright.

He was sauntering casually towards the door with a smile thrown back at her, unfazed by her presence here. His hair and body damp from a shower, his naked torso making her turn away to cover her eyes at the inappropriateness, and she recoiled at speed, pulling the bed clothes around her as reality slapped her in the face. Mentally freaking out.

TangShi looked down, seeing her black lace bra and nothing else before yanking the sheet up to her neck and checking she still had panties on. Besides her underwear there was nothing else on her body at all and looking around showed her the disarray of the bed where a second person had slept and wanted to cry when she noted his clothes were in the mix on the floor.

Taking in her surroundings as she tried to process and find some sense to this. She tried to calm the inner mounting panic of how she got here and what was going on. Confusion sending her into an emotional spiral of doubts and questions as anxiety soared and tightened her insides.

Why she was with him of all people, and he felt comfortable walking around like that. Aware this wasn't home or anywhere she had been before and looked a lot like an upmarket hotel room. She swallowed hard at things coming into focus and held her breath as she took it all in piece by piece.

Her clothes strewn all over the floor in a haphazard manner as though they had been tossed around without care, and her shoes were four feet apart in the entranceway, discarded clumsily, as Rong headed to answer the door. Her bag was laid against the wall with the contents scattered on the floor as though she had tipped them out to find something, but her cell phone was neatly laid on the side table above it. Too far for her to grab while over here. None of this jarred any kind of memory of the night before and she tried hard to recall something.

The noise that had ripped her awake seemed to be from someone trying to hammer the door down and she blinked up as Rong reached it and rubbed her head, trying desperately to wake up from this hellish dream. He didn't seem to be in a hurry or even to care about the predicament she woke up to. Her utter shock was not a concern to him.

TangShi felt sick to her stomach, her eyes blurring with tears as realization sunk in and her chest tightened in fear and anxiety, making her gag. The inner terror that she had done something that she couldn't take back, gripping tight and YuZhi flooded her mind, causing extreme pain in her chest. Jumping out of the bed to run for the bathroom before she vomited, a voice stopped her dead in her tracks as though smacking her to a standstill.

"What did you do, Tang? Why are you here with him?" YuZhi's pained and torn familiar voice drifted her way from behind and she spun to see him standing in the open door, staring at her like she had just ripped his heart out through his chest. His eyes scanning her, the room and then Rong Cai and back to her as he searched her face for answers. TangShi's mouth fell open and her air expelled as guilt consumed her. "Where are your clothes?"

YuZhi was stood motionless, his shoulders sagging, pain etched on his beautiful face so obviously that it clawed at her soul and brought the tears fully on. Shaking her head as she had no memory of anything after sitting for dinner yesterday after the second course. Desperate to explain but not knowing how when she couldn't think straight. It was all darkness and no clear view of how she got from eating to here.

"I...I... I don't know. I woke up here." She stammered, her voice breaking as she moved towards him, stretching out her hand, wanting to wipe away the agony that was like a thick smog around him. His visible pain breaking her to pieces. YuZhi stepped back to put the distance between them again, his eyes scanning her underwear clad body and he wanted to vomit with the depth of betrayal he was feeling. Unable to believe she would do something like this. Not his Tang.

"Don't!" He raised his palms unable to allow her to come anywhere near him because he was barely holding onto his sanity. "Tell me nothing happened, and this is explainable. That you wouldn't do something like this to us." It was a desperate plea.

He had never known pain like this in his entire life and felt like she had reached down into the depths of his body and ripped his essence out. Unable to compute what he was seeing and scanned the room at the obviousness of what happened here. It painted a vivid picture of two people consumed by passion, tearing off clothes in a rush to get naked. The bed was a strewn mess with some cushions tossed on the floor, making it obvious there had been a lot of movement and rolling around.

"I don't know what happened. Or how I got here. I don't remember." She blurted out honestly, amid sniffs and sobs, clutching her arms around her body to self soothe. She clawed her memory banks not knowing what else to tell him. Desperate to hug him and feel safe while everything collapsed around her.

"You don't know? You can't remember? How the fuck do you get here like this and not know how, Tang? I've drunk with you, and you always remember everything, no matter how far gone you are. Don't lie to me!" YuZhi tried to hold his voice steady, but it shook and rasped and betrayed his inner angst and building anger at what this shit was. His composure crumbling into a raw mess.

"I'm not, I swear. I don't know...I can't think..... I don't remember." She began to cry, tears rolling down her cheeks and dripping onto her exposed cleavage which pulled her attention to the fact she was practically naked. Realizing Rong Cai was standing there watching them, his face blank, that she was not decent and shouldn't be exposed to anyone but YuZhi. She made a grab for the sheet from the bed and pulled it over herself to cover up. Aware of how bad this looked with how YuZhi walked in and caught her standing here like this. She couldn't explain it other than to think the worst, ashamed of herself for what she must have done.

"How convenient." YuZhi clenched his teeth, screwing up his face to control his spiraling emotion, fighting his internal battle of agony. Not believing for one second that she couldn't recall anything especially as she was standing in her underwear in the middle of the room while this asshole was in nothing but a towel. It hardly screamed of innocence.

"Bit late for that isn't it." Rong laughed softly from his position, nodding at her sheet, leaning against the wall behind YuZhi. "It's not like I haven't seen it all now." He boasted, making it clear this was exactly what YuZhi thought it was. So self-assured that this scene would be the start of being TangShi's future and loving the dramatics.

"You fucking asshole." YuZhi exploded, his already frayed emotions had only held by a thread, and it snapped with vigor at that one remark. Turning on Rong and in the blink of an eye, ripping him from the wall he was languishing against and pounded a hard punch straight in his face that made his nose and lip explode across his features. YuZhi didn't let him drop to the floor, catching him as he slumped down, Rong clutching his face and YuZhi delivered two knee blows to his abdomen with deathly precision. Pulling out ooof grunts as he bent double.

YuZhi's fury and inner jealousy and hatred unleashed and aiming all of his aggression at Rong Cai. TangShi screamed at this display of violence, running at them as YuZhi began to pulverize him half to death, her hysteria coursing through her veins. Her desperation to stop them pushing all else aside.

"Stop it, YuZhi, stop it!" She pulled at his arm, trying to force them apart. Knowing this was the absolute worst thing he could do given his status, and desperate to protect him from the fall out that this could cause. Grabbing YuZhi from around the waist behind him in an attempt to stop him punching and pounding Rong Cai against the wall. Rong was trying hard to shield himself from the blows but was disadvantaged due to YuZhi's training and unleashed rage and was almost unable to protect himself at all.

"YuZhi, STOP IT!" TangShi jumped on his back, losing her modest covering and wrapped her arms around his neck hugging him tight and pushing her cheek against his ear, begging him. "Please stop. Please." She wept, clawing at his clothes, hanging on tight.

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YuZhi couldn't stand her touch, his body on fire, his mind racing at what they had done here last night. Unable to formulate sense or reason and acting on utter pain. He caught TangShi's wrist, hauling her off to the side so she slid away from him and tugged her hard. Spinning her against the wall before pinning her there with aggression. Catching her other free wrist and slamming both by her head as he leaned in and almost touched her nose with his. Screwing up his forehead, furrowing his brows and sniffing back the tears that were threatening to start pouring.

"Tell me you didn't... tell me that this isn't how it looks. Tell me, Tang. That we can fix this because nothing happened here." His voice broke, pleading with her for the sake of his sanity, his eyes welling up and his face crumpled. He was aching from head to foot with a unique kind of hurt that was unbearable. Every ounce of pain he had ever known in his life, his losses, his sorrows, didn't even have a scratch on the torment he felt in this moment or the way looking into her eyes shredded the last ounces of hope as her sadness ate him alive.

"I can't... I don't know. I can't tell you something that might be a lie. I honestly don't know what I did. I'm sorry... I'm really sorry, I never wanted anything like this to happen." TangShi began to cry too, wracking her brain, praying she could figure this out and hoping she only slept here and nothing else. "Rong please, what happened? Tell me nothing happened between us." She turned her head to him, begging with pleading eyes to save her from this nightmare but YuZhi snapped, letting go of one wrist and caught her chin, yanking her face back to his so she wouldn't look at that fucking prick. Seething with possessiveness and unable to stand her looking his way or making eye contact with him.

“What do you think happened? We got drunk, you were all over me and we somehow ended up here together. I can barely remember the how, but it was a memorable night if flashbacks are accurate.” He snorted an attempt at a laugh through his blood and saliva, his nose broken his eyes swelling. Slumped down on the floor cradling his ribs and coughing on phlegm but he felt it was all worth it. Able to ignore the pain as he swelled with satisfaction that YuZhi would never forgive this.

YuZhi erupted once more, his fury surging out like a volcano exploding and punched the wall right by her head, hurting his knuckles in the process and leaving a dent in the drywall. Scaring the crap out of her so she flinched away, and he dropped his hold on her, rubbing his hands across his face to control the wave of exothermic fury. If he let loose he knew he would possibly commit murder here right now. Unable to function at all or think straight when all he could see in his mind’s eye was her and him together. Everything was ruined, and his happy existence of an hour ago was replaced with devastation at finding her here like this.

“How could you?” It was a broken whisper, his voice trembling noticeably even if it was almost inaudible. His body shaking with adrenalin. Aimed into her ear as he slumped into the wall resting his forehead over her shoulder without touching her, unable to keep his body up as he sagged. Closing her in and caging her even though being near to her was a unique type of torture for him.

YuZhi felt like he was dying, and as much as he wanted to drag her out of here and somehow wipe this away, he couldn’t bear himself to touch her anymore. He couldn’t ignore or deny this. She was tainted, she had ruined what they had, and not who he thought she was. His heart was shredding with every beat it took and his lungs deflating making it hard to breathe. Suffocating him slowly and yet her scent swirled around him to the point he wanted to rip out his own ability to smell anymore.

“I’m sorry...YuZhi...I don’t..” TangShi wept, trying to grab onto him to cling on with fumbling fingers but he slapped her hands away and pulled back, putting distance between them. Locking a glare on her face and furrowing his brow as a deathly look crossed his brow and made her shudder at the change in him. Reverting to that cold and aloof him she had met so long ago when they first married, seeing him recoil behind that wall he had spent years building.

“You can’t fix this..... you can’t undo what you’ve fucking done.” He bit on his lower lip to stop a new slew of tears and turned to Rong Cai and his pathetic form on the floor. “If I ever see you again, I’ll fucking kill you.” He shoved him with his foot, pushing him over and eliciting a groan from the bag of bruised bones, and then turned back to TangShi with renewed venom and a stronger biting tone.

“As for you go home, pack your shit and get out. I won’t be back until you’re out of my life. This, us... we’re done.” It was a snarl, pushed through his inner agony, his eyes red with the pain of what she’d done to them and his mind in turmoil. He only knew how to help himself by pushing away all sources of pain and anguish and she was now the

biggest part of it. He would cut her out, even if it meant cutting his own heart out and tossing it away. Screw the contract, screw the PR plans and their marriage, he couldn't go back from this.

"YuZhi, don't. I love you. I don't know why I this doesn't make sense. I wouldn't..." TangShi begged him, through sobbing weeps. Unable to stop reaching for him like a broken child needing their security.

"You fucking did!" he yelled at her, leaning into her face and expressing a surge of hatred he never knew he could possess. At the one person he loved most in the world as venom began to grow to shield him from her being able to cause any more harm.

TangShi trembled cowering down, afraid of him like this and wiped the tears from her face with the back of her hand even if it was pointless. Unable to look him in the eye with the way he was glaring at her and shuddered as her own heart clenched in pain. She knew he didn't mean it, but she didn't know how to fix this. She could understand his anger, his doubt, his agony. She was disgusted with herself if she did what it seemed like she did.

"I love you." She whispered in sorrow, clutching her own body tight and wishing she could undo all of this. Wishing she could go back to yesterday and could change all of it.

"You love me? Really? Or maybe you just loved what I could give you and it wasn't about me at all. Look around, seems he can take care of you equally well." YuZhi spat it at her, throwing his hands up and spanning them around the room making a snort laugh sound as though he was in disbelief. "Doesn't really leave much room for doubt though does it, Tang? You can fucking have him. I won't ever touch you again."

YuZhi pulled off his ring from the engagement party and tossed it onto the bed, watching it bounce and get lost in the folds and creases, somehow symbolizing his feelings for her. Simmering over all those doubts and gut feelings back from day one that Rong Cai was someone he should worry about and getting the wrong conclusion. Staring at the bed which was in the same disarray as the room and a reminder of what a cheating bitch he was throwing away. He could never forgive this.

"Thank your new boyfriend for texting me at the airport to come pick you up, from your own fucking cell. I thought it was Linlin, but I see now this is what he wanted. Good luck to you, hope you're happy with him and Karma doesn't bite your ass the way it just did mine for hurting Rhea. This somehow feels like poetic justice. I should thank him for saving me years of blind love for a girl that wasn't worth it." He ground it out through gritted teeth, taking one last sweeping look around the room and at her, to commit this sin to memory so he would never weaken.

He turned and stormed towards the door, heaving in breath in an attempt to keep moving. His body felt like it was shutting down as every step got heavier and more

painful. Regret and doubt cloying at him, but he knew he had to be strong. He never really knew her if this was who she could be.

TangShi squealed, running after him and made a grab for his arm, tears choking her and hysteria twisting her organs into a chaotic mess, and she couldn't think straight. Desperate to hold onto him.

"Don't.... Don't.... YuZhi, please, don't." She begged and then fell when YuZhi ripped her hand off and tossed it back, the force of his rejection making her stumble backwards and she landed on the floor with a thump that bruised her ass and thigh. Gazing up at him in helplessness as her world crumbled around her. Her face soaked with streaming tears, her heart broken and her mind fragmented. She crawled to him as he stopped in the open doorway which had been like that this whole time. Passing his beaten opponent who was still huddled on the floor, unable to look up, and spitting out blood. YuZhi took one look back at her committing that drenched face and doe eyes to memory.

"Don't be this pathetic. You make me sick." He snarled at her limp form on the floor, blotting out his need to pick her up. Pushing away the pain seeing her broken like this caused him and hated that even after this his heart still wanted to love and protect her. YuZhi swallowed hard, pulled all the stubborn and will power he possessed from deep down, mustering a strength he barely had and walked out, slamming the door shut behind him without a single look back.

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"Calm down, Tang. Please, just breathe, and calm down. Stop and look at me." Linlin caught hold of TangShi who was racing from one room to another in the apartment, searching for YuZhi and despairing over the lack of him. She had called Linlin to come get her when she dressed and raced out of the hotel after him and couldn't find him anywhere around. Freaking out and in a neighborhood she wasn't familiar with and no idea what she should do. She had abandoned Rong in his beaten state without a second thought and ran after YuZhi.

Linlin clung to her upper arm to restrain her, hugging her in with a struggle, and smoothed away her hair that was sticking to her clammy face in a bid to soother her. Her heart breaking for seeing her this way.

"Take a second to be still and take a deep breath. This isn't going to help you."

"He won't answer my calls. He's not at Leng group or home, he's not with ZhengLi either. I don't know where he is." TangShi wailed in desperation, her words rushed and through labored breaths, as close to hysteria as possible without an all-out mental breakdown. Her mind a mess, her face saturated with a waterfall of nonstop tears and shame and running make up, and she was sniffing loudly as her nose ran freely. Clogged up from the downpour she couldn't control so her voice was a croaky mumble.

Her heart was torn up and shredded as though her insides were bleeding shards of glass.

“He might be with ZhengLi. You called him right after you lost him. He would have been driving and ZhengLi’s cell is off now, so I can’t check. He won’t be randomly driving around. He’s a big boy who’s capable of taking care of himself.”

“Let’s go there. Let’s go find him.” TangShi begged with wide eyes and furrowed brows, catching her friend’s arm wistfully to plead with Linlin to help her make this better. She seemed like a broken child searching for their parent in this moment and Linlin had to swallow a lump in her throat that was choking her up. Knowing this was futile.

“No, he needs space and time. Let him go sort his head out and then you can talk it out. Once he cools down and he’s not so crazy messed up, then we can sit down and try and explain this.” Linlin was trying to be supportive and optimistic but on the brief details TangShi gave her she had no idea how to fix this. YuZhi believed she slept with another man after a drunken night out, whether TangShi remembered or not. To him, she had betrayed their love and it was over. He was a stubborn guy with high self-esteem who would never take back a cheating girlfriend.

“I want to take it back. Undo it and go back to yesterday. I want to never do that stupid show or go for dinner.” TangShi wailed, raking her fingers through her hair, rubbing her scalp in agitation, as a new wave of sobs hit and churned up her gut.

“Come on. Let’s get you showered and changed, and I’ll make you something to eat. Focus on small tasks right now and pulling yourself together. Give him time, it’s going to be okay once everyone calms down. We all need time.” Linlin was aching for her best friend, hating seeing her this distraught and irrational. At a loss with how to care for her or make this better. She had never seen her like this, ever.

“What did I do? How could I do that to him? To us?” TangShi couldn’t shake the heavy cloak of despair and guilt and no matter how many times she tried to recall the day before, it was always lost at the same point of dinner. It’s like her memory ended mid desert and then there was nothing until she woke up in the hotel. That scene was etched on her soul like a black scar, and she couldn’t get around what she must have done.

“I know you, baby girl; I can’t imagine you doing anything like this. Not if you waited twenty odd years to have sex at all. It’s suss as hell and that Rong Cai, jerk, there’s something about him.” Linlin wasn’t fully convinced that TangShi had a drunken one-night stand, but she had no proof while her best friend seemed confused and resigned to the fact she had done wrong.

“He’ll never forgive me. I wouldn’t forgive me.” TangShi was lost in her own head and Linlin drew her in to cuddle her and pat her back.

“No one knows what really happened...” Linlin started to smooth her hair down her back, but TangShi shook her head.

“Why would Rong lie? He made it clear what we did and the room, you didn’t see the room. It was evident what went down in that room. He couldn’t have made the whole thing up.... I was there. I willingly went to a hotel room with him.” TangShi was so caught up in remorse she couldn’t see through it at all.

Linlin bit her tongue and curbed her response because she had a few home truths about Rong Cai that her innocent friend didn’t need to hear right now. Linlin wasn’t naïve to things that went on in the world. Men who used drugs to control women and the lack of memory predating what happened was a big neon sign for her. She didn’t want to traumatize TangShi further, but she did have her suspicions and was trying to figure out how to have her take a blood test today without her freaking out over it.

“Let’s just get you washed up. You’re a mess, and then we can eat and figure out what to do about YuZhi. ZhengLi will take care of him. Just like I’m taking care of you.” Linlin pulled TangShi by the arm, guiding her like a frail patient who was sick. Worried about TangShi’s pale complexion and dark circles or her fragile emotional state as she couldn’t seem to stop the tears flowing.

When she picked her up on the street outside the Carlton hotel TangShi had looked like she had just been through a majorly traumatic event, and was disheveled, disorientated, sobbing, and hyperventilating while she crisscrossed the street searching for YuZhi’s jeep. She was like a possessed madwoman, questioning early morning citizens if they had seen him and it was obvious she wasn’t just hungover. It was heartbreaking to find her like that.

They slowly walked into the main bedroom for the bathroom with the tub, thinking a bubble bath might help unwind her and give her breathing space to calm down. Focused on taking steps, treating her gently, when the entryway keypad beeped loudly and alerted them to someone coming in.

“YuZhi?” TangShi flinched, spinning and pulling herself out of Linlin’s arm at speed to race towards the door, but came to a dead halt and gasp as she was met with ZhengLi sliding in alone.

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He looked her up and down with a blank expression, dressed casually in jeans and a sweater, his hair ruffled and a shadow of stubble he never normally had. His manner serious and flat and then brushed past her with zero verbals as though she was nothing important. Not giving her the time of day as she gawped after him.

“Where’s YuZhi? Is he in your car downstairs? Out there in the hall?” TangShi followed him desperately, pleading like a child and ZhengLi threw a side eye look at Linlin with a frown. Waving TangShi’s way airily.

“Tell her he’s not here and I’m collecting clothes and his files for work. She should pack up and go back to the Leng house by tomorrow, so it doesn’t disrupt YuZhi’s work schedule this week. We have a lot of important meetings this week that we can’t afford to fuck up.” ZhengLi’s tone was tight, his manner grim and he walked off towards the bedroom to start looking for YuZhi’s suitcase. Seemingly dismissive of them both and in a bad mood.

“What the hell is your problem?” Linlin snapped at his back as he disappeared into the next room. “Tell her yourself, she’s standing right here, you ignorant bastard!” Linlin was angered by how he just treated her best friend and stalked after him, leaving TangShi looking bewildered in the center of the living room, her heart sinking because she knew she deserved his coldness. Linlin enraged at the utter disrespect for someone so important to her.

“I’m not here to talk to her. I’m here to make sure my best friend has everything he needs. He’s my priority.” ZhengLi shrugged, ignoring Linlin’s temper flaring and carried on pulling out two cases and flipping them open on the bed. He was used to his hellcat’s fire and her being mad at him didn’t bother him at all over this. He had more important matters to attend to.

“You’re mad at TangShi, without even knowing the truth?” Linlin grabbed his arm and yanked him, so he was forced to look at her and he sighed. Tired after their early morning flight home and now he was dealing with this hellish drama.

“I don’t know, a hotel room that looked like the aftermath of a porn session. His girlfriend in sexy underwear standing in a room with a mostly naked dude who had been pursuing her for weeks after a drunken night of shenanigans. Yeah, seems like there’s not much to misinterpret there. Do you mind? I’m in a hurry.” ZhengLi shook Linlin off, his own mood simmering, and he was trying to keep his need to go off at TangShi under wraps. Disappointed in someone he rooted for. Emotionally invested in YuZhi’s wellbeing and hating on anyone who hurt him.

Of all the people in the world, YuZhi was the one that mattered the most to him, even amongst family. So dealing with the broken mess who rolled into his apartment after they got home and knowing TangShi caused this, she wasn’t high on his favorite person list right now. In his head she had betrayed his buddy, and she didn’t deserve his time or consideration. Nor his conversation.

“You really think she’s capable of that? You’ve hung around her for months and got to know her better than that! Look at the mess of her. Why would she be like this if she truly wanted to destroy her relationship?” Linlin was in awe at how thickheaded and

near sighted ZhengLi could be given his vast experience in the world of partying, sex and drugs.

“Its called regret. And yeah, you never really know anyone and what they’re capable of until they do something like this to you. Even you could do this to me... people suck. That’s not a groundbreaking new discovery.” ZhengLi shrugged, going back to pacing back and forth from the walk-in closet as he collected YuZhi’s suits and clothes, packing them neatly as he did so. Undeterred by her hovering around him. Linlin following him like a bear with a sore head and snarling his way as each step angered her further.

“Stop it. She wouldn’t do this and that Rong Cai motherfucker is a skeezy leech who has done something to make this look this way. I thought you would be on her side in this, with an ability to think beyond what he saw.” Linlin snapped, full on anger as she stomped after him once more to a third trip to the cupboard, then walked into his back with a thud as he stopped dead and snorted. The ZhengLi she knew and adored was wise and levelheaded and could often see things other’s couldn’t. It seemed not this time.

“Why did she get so drunk with him if he was someone so untrustworthy? Why go out for dinner in the first place? Why did she still appear to be walking around in her underwear when YuZhi showed up, and not hightailing it out the door if she was so innocently set up? She seemed pretty happy half naked around with him while he showered.” ZhengLi just couldn’t believe anyone would go to those lengths and hope the other party would conveniently forget. He had figured the memory issue was a lie because TangShi was ashamed to admit the truth, knowing it ended everything.

“So you’re tarring her as guilty even if I tell you she’s not. That I don’t believe it.” Linlin spat at him, outraged and deadly serious. Losing her adoration for ZhengLi by the minute and disappointed in him for thinking this way.

“That’s your prerogative as her friend and your biased opinion.” ZhengLi slammed the first full case closed and met a thunderous glare as she focused her eyes.

“You should trust me to know her well enough and listen to what I’m saying. I know her better than anyone.” She fumed, angered that somehow this was also putting a wedge between them because her loyalty would never allow ZhengLi to slander TangShi. This was a hill she was willing to die on. Even against him.

“If I need to pick a side between you and YuZhi on this, it’s always him. He’s my best friend, been there my whole life, and he’s the one who’s hurt. It’s that simple. Don’t make this about us, Linlin. I’m not in the mood and it won’t go how you think it would, no matter how I feel about you.” He warned with an edge to his tone.

“Well, I choose her. Because she’s hurt in this too, and I believe she’s innocent. And I can’t believe you of all people would be this way towards her or make this kind of

statement. No matter how I feel about you, I won't forgive you being a Schmuck over this!"

"Stop it, both of you." TangShi interjected, having made her way to the bedroom door and heard them arguing. Unable to bear it any longer and not wanting this to affect Linlin's first real relationship. She liked ZhengLi and could understand his loyalty and anger in this. Even TangShi was ashamed and hated herself for doing this to YuZhi so she could imagine how he felt and didn't blame him. "I need to talk to him, ZhengLi. Please, I just want to see him." TangShi begged, brushing aside their bickering.

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"Forget it. Last thing he needs today is seeing you. Leave him alone. I don't want you anywhere near him. I have to go so Linlin, move." ZhengLi was pissed at his girlfriend now too, moving her aside with a hand on her shoulder and getting a prod in the abdomen in angry reaction.

"Go to hell." Linlin snorted then strutted off flicking her hair at him as she joined TangShi at the door and ZhengLi exhaled heavily. No energy for either of them when he had slept the bare minimal this past week. Simmering his own rage and already exhausted and desperate to go back home to check on YuZhi.

"Is he staying with you? Is he okay? What has he said?" TangShi couldn't let go of needing to know about him.

"He's fine. He's with me and soon as you get out of here he's coming home to get on with his life. I suggest you make it easy for him. Accept reality and deal with it."

"What about their marriage? Isn't he going to honor that or stick to the PR story? He still has an heir to get out of this, and a fucking contract. He can't avoid her forever." Linlin bit, shaking her head at how mean ZhengLi was being and seeing him in a whole new light. Hating on him for being the loyal best friend that mirrored her and yet not seeing the similarity between them. Both were blinded by their friends.

"That depends on grandpaw. Once he knows about this, he might dissolve the contract seeing as sex with other people was a clause. Guess you two get a secret divorce and forget you ever met. Put it down to a bad memory or some shit." ZhengLi pushed passed them with two cases on wheels, glad to be done here so he could leave and no remorse in spitting out some home truths. He wasn't bothered about hurting her feelings in comparison to destroying his mate's heart.

TangShi crumbled where she stood as though all the air was sapped out of her body, folding onto the floor in a heap at the realization of his words. A new wave of desperate tears hit home. Slumping and covering her face so that Linlin moved to her side immediately and hugged her from a bent over position.

“Just go. You’re not helping anything, and you can forget our date tonight.” Linlin snapped at ZhengLi as he sauntered past them, enraged and hating on him. He paused and smirked at Linlin, irritated by her snarky remark. A coldness to his manner that concealed his complicated emotions concerning the two of them in this.

“That’s a given. YuZhi needs me, so for however long he does, you and I should cool things off. I don’t think I can stomach hearing you stick up for her while he’s sat in my apartment cut up over this. Maybe for the best.” He didn’t wait for her response and ignored the aching wrench in his chest and stomach that was telling him not to be so dumb. Pulling the cases and heading out and leaving Linlin to tend to the heartbroken TangShi.

“Fine by me. I don’t like you all that much anymore anyway. Asshole.” Linlin yelled after him impulsively, her feral on show when hurt by someone, tears welling up, but she swallowed them down and bit back the choking lump in her throat. Her chest heavy with pain.

“Don’t fight because of me. Go after him. Don’t do this. You two shouldn’t break up because of me.” TangShi gripped Linlin’s hand, shaking it to try and knock some sense into her but got a head shake in return. Knowing this was all kinds of wrong and adding to her guilt.

“Screw him. Best friends come first. If he can’t trust my judgment and love you as an extended part of me, then he’s not the one. He hasn’t given you the benefit of the doubt or let me try and tell him why I believe you. He should listen to me at least.” Linlin sniffed back her raw emotions and pushed it all down tight with an air of ‘I don’t care,’

“He’s upset and he cares about YuZhi. Don’t be mad at him for that. It’s no different to what you’re doing for me. Don’t believe in me. I did this. I can’t deny it and it shouldn’t come between you.” TangShi was distraught that this was leeching into everyone else’s relationships too and she had no idea what she was meant to do about school after this. Rong Cai and school were a mess she couldn’t face, and she had been blocking his calls since she left the hotel.

“Do you trust me? That my faith in you isn’t just blind loyalty?” Linlin caught her hands and pulled her with a tug, so they faced one another, a seriousness etched on her brow as they sat on the floor together.

“Linlin I know you love me, but in this, you’re wrong.”

“Please just go with me. I want to have you checked over and a little blood test for my own peace of mind. If I’m wrong then I’ll never mention it again, okay. I’ll accept this is what it is, and we will get through this together. It might change everything.” Linlin couldn’t let this go. Her gut was rarely wrong and in this she bet her life on how well she knew TangShi.

“Why would I need a test or to be checked over? What do you think happened to me? I was drunk and stupid and messed my life up..... that’s all there is to it.”

Linlin loved TangShi’s trusting and angelic nature sometimes. Her willingness to see good in people even when they treated her poorly. She even loved her childlike innocence, but not today. Right now she needed to wise up and realize the world was full of bad people like Rong Cai, who hid behind smiles and charming exteriors but had twisted mines and all sorts of tricks.

“I just want to be sure you weren’t roofied. Please, trust me. We can go to the clinic where that doctor you see is. Ask him to give you a physical and some routine checks, okay?”

“No. I don’t understand. Rong wouldn’t do something weird to me. He likes me and he’s kind to me. He’s a little intense but he’s not some criminal. He’s the proprietor of a well known and respect school, for god’s sake. I don’t think he would try and harm me like that when I’m literally one of their prized students. It would ruin his reputation and his school.” TangShi was in denial and Linlin began to lose patience with her.

“Right, he is.. he does, but I’m a sceptic and it’s for my piece of mind. Its just with you not remembering and knowing you, I don’t want to let this bypass without being sure. If all you get is a blood test then I’ll be happy. Who knows, maybe someone spiked your drink and his too... there’s always that possibility it wasn’t him and you both were victims in this.” Linlin could only resort to bluffing, sighing at TangShi who was clearly not thinking straight. Knowing the girl was still in shock about what went down and not being her normal sensible self. If she was drugged there was a good chance it was still heavily in her system and causing her behavior to be more extreme.

“Oh.” She opened her mouth in surprise realizing this might be plausible. “We should tell him to get tested too, right?” She opened her moistened eyes wider as though seeing some possibility in this. Stopping her tears as a light of hope shone through that maybe she could explain it to YuZhi if it was true and he might be able to forgive her if she did something while under the influence of drugs. It wasn’t her if she did anything while high.

“Yeah sure, just let us deal with you first and when we know, I can talk to him myself.” There was no way in hell Linlin was letting TangShi anywhere near that snake again but for now she wanted to have her tested, and then they could deal with the results when they knew them.

“Okay. I’ll get a blood test. The doctors number is in my cell.” TangShi nodded, her hands shaking, and her mind drifting to try and recall if there was anyone last night who would be so ruthless towards them. Suspicious of the ones who mocked them and insinuated Rong was her boyfriend now she thought of it.

“Good girl, now go run a bath while I make an appointment. We can concentrate on that for now and think about YuZhi when we know.”

Destined To Be His wife by L.T. Marshall Chapter 110

YuZhi stumbled against the wall, tripping over nothing, putting his hands out to stop the fall he knew was coming and staggered onwards with intent. The world swaying back and forth, and his sense of realism was greatly skewed. It was late, past midnight and he had slipped out of Cheng’s bar while ZhengLi was in the bathroom. Needing air, to be alone and to clear his head now his drunkenness levels were extreme. He could barely see straight and had that surreal dopey mind of a badly intoxicated person.

Booze hadn’t stopped the internal agony and splicing pain of discovering TangShi with that scumbag Rong Cai this morning, in the Ritz Carlton looking very much like the aftermath of a one-night stand. Instead it felt like it had taken away his ability to put it out of his head and focus on other things. Now it was torturing him alive and he gone looking for solace. The memory of it turned his stomach again, his head a blurry mess of chaos and confused thoughts as he hammered on the door of the location he was aiming for.

He could barely hold himself upright, but a deep ingrained habit had brought him traipsing across the city at this hour to find some sense of relief to his heartbreak. He banged again with a closed fist, hauling himself against the wooden surface and knocking his head against it in frustration as he turned and used it as a resting post for his uncoordinated body.

“Come on, open up.... You have a guest!! Don’t be rude!” He slurred, practically incoherent and used the back of his foot to heel tap too. Incessant and louder than he realized.

“What the hell are you doing?” the door was ripped open at speed, the angry voice falling over the top of him as he caved in backwards and flopped into an ungraceful heap on the floor with a thud. Dazed and blinking up at the familiar face that was towering over him angrily, not feeling any pain because his body was numb.

“Hi, Rhea..... hi buddy. Did you miss me?” YuZhi waved in a childish manner, pleased to see his friend who always knew how to make things less painful and then rolled on his side in an attempt to get up.

“You’re drunk as hell. What are you doing here, it’s almost one and you’ll wake my neighbors?” Rhea, leaned down, almost gagging on the stench of whisky and helped haul him up to his feet again. Annoyed that after everything lately, he would show up here unannounced and wasted like this.

“I came to see you, my bestie.... Because....” YuZhi wandered past her, tugging out of the loose grip she had on his jacket and zigzagged into the lounge. “You redecorated,

it's nice. I like the pink." He waved his arms around at the modern apartment, not even finishing his sentence, doing a half turn before flopping over against a nearby wall and sliding down to his ass. Laughing at his own inability to stand anymore.

"Come in why don't you?" Rhea snapped in sarcasm, not too sure why his intoxicated ass was grazing her doorstep and slammed her door shut. When they dated he was under strict orders to never come here like this. She couldn't deal with drunk men, and she didn't want to do it now he wasn't her problem anymore. Not that she had seen him like this in many years.

"You know.... We're friends You would have never done anything to really mess me up. I liked that about you." YuZhi let the words roll out unfiltered as his thoughts rambled. "I'm sorry I was such a jerk...I mean, karma though. You'll be the last one laughing. Rhea, you really are a gem of a girl, I never said that before." YuZhi pulled himself to his side and crawled towards the walnut unit that used to house Rhea's home bar in the search for another drink. Afraid of losing his foggy head and having to face the reality of his fucked up life.

"What are you talking about? Shouldn't you be going home about now? Won't TangShi be worried?" Rhea followed him knowing he wasn't going to find anything much over there as she had poured most of it down the sink when she came home from London. She was taking a long break from booze for her own sanity and didn't have a drop left in here.

"Tang, Tang, Tang..... she won't be home anymore. I threw her out. We broke up." YuZhi sighed, hating the feel of her name on his tongue, rubbing his eyes to extract her picture from his mind and screwing up his face in distaste. A surge of agony coursing through his chest and stomach. He pulled out his cell in an attempt to focus on other things and forget the one name he couldn't handle. "I'll call for takeout. Go find me a drink, please, my dearest compadre. I'll buy you Da Zha Xie." He commanded pointing at her cabinet with an air prodding finger.

"I have nothing here except coffee, fruit juice, or water. That's your choice. I don't want steamed crab. I want you to tell me what's going on. What do you mean you broke up?" Rhea's heart started thumping hard, so that it felt like her chest might explode with the pounding, confused with his behavior and yet shocked at this revelation. She had seen them together and knew they loved each other, more than he ever did her so she couldn't understand a breakup. She was kind of annoyed that after ruining her relationship with him, he would go and toss his new one aside.

"TangShi cheated on me... with the fucker from school. That's what I get for us, right? What comes around..... and all that." His words were slow and drawn out and Rhea frowned at him, trying to grasp the situation before walking to perch on the edge of the couch and sitting down to look at him. Saddened and filled with genuine hurt and care for him as he looked so lost, even through his alcohol haze. Genuinely torn about how to comfort him.

“Are you serious? TangShi? There’s no way, she’s not like that. Isn’t it just a fight and some kind of misunderstanding?” Rhea maybe wasn’t all that enamored with their relationship, but she had gotten to know the girl enough these past months and this didn’t seem true at all.

Despite her behavior towards TangShi, and all the lies and backstabbing she had done to make Aunt hate her, she had always resented how sweet and pure TangShi was. Her innocence and naivety and that honest heart. She couldn’t imagine her being a girl to sleep with some other man.

“Shhhhh... I need to make a call. Look, I have like twenty missed calls and a dozen texts from that cheating faker.” YuZhi held up a finger to his mouth, a mischievous yet bitter expression on his face that made Rhea groan that he was about to be an idiot. His phone had been silent all day and he had been ignoring it for fear he would cave if he saw TangShi’s name.

“Who you calling?” She probed, getting up to walk to him as he finger punched the screen in a bid to pull up a name and then stuck his phone to his ear. Hushing her with a childlike gesture and missing his mouth when he shooshed her again.

“My ex-girlfriend. She’s not a nice girl... I should probably return a call or two and see what she so desperately wants.”

“Hang up. You’re drunk and mad and you’ll regret it.” Rhea reached for the phone, her gut swirling with anxiety at being caught in this and yet YuZhi only batted her away.

“Answer phone, beeeep..... Guess she doesn’t want to talk to me anymore, huh?..... shhhh.” He smiled, waving his hand around to thwart all her attempts to get his phone from him, even when she stood up and made a grab for it, placing one hand on his head to hold him still.