

## The Enchanted Night – Chapter: 101

### Forcing A Smiling Face

As she entered Rufus's office with her completed design, Cassandra found him sitting on the sofa, swirling a glass of wine. He seemed lost in thought.

'Mr. Luo, this is my design of the nursing home. Please check it before I submit to our partner,'

she said as she put her work on Rufus's desk and waited for his reply.

Rufus took a sip of wine and closed his eyes, enjoying its flavor and sensation as he swallowed it down his throat.

'How is your father doing?'

asked Rufus instead of acknowledging Cassandra's request. One of his subordinates managed to locate the IP address of the poster. It was in New York. He already sent someone to look into it.

Cassandra's thoughts on the matter interested him.

'My father... He should be punished by what he has done, but I don't think his company should go bankrupt. I am determined to do my best to save it,' she replied.

In reality, Cassandra had no idea how to help her father's company. Still, she was not about to show weakness in front of Rufus. She did not need anyone's sympathy, especially his.

Rufus stifled a sigh. He knew everything about Cassandra and her situation. The only way to save her father's company was by paying a fine. It would be impossible for her to come up with such a vast amount of money.

Rufus stood up and gave her an envelope.

'Open it,' he said.

Cassandra hesitated. A part of her did not want to take it.

'What are you thinking about? Just take it,'

urged Rufus as he pushed the envelope closer to her.

'No, Mr. Luo, I can't accept your money!'

Cassandra stepped back stubbornly.

She knew that raising the money would be difficult, but she was determined to try.

She would not let the Qin Group go bankrupt. She would sell their villa and rent an apartment for her family if she had to.

Since the villa was bought many years ago, it had already increased in value. It would sell for a good price. Cassandra also had some friends back in Rome who were willing to lend her money. Another option was to apply for a loan.

The last thing she wanted to do was to borrow or accept money from the Tang family. This included Rufus. It would be a huge blow to her ego.

A smile spread across Rufus's lips when Cassandra refused him.

He knew that she would refuse his financial help, so he made sure that the envelope did not contain money.

‘Calm down. It’s not money, but it is something that will help you. Open it,’

he assured her gently.

After thinking for a while, Cassandra took the envelope and opened it.

In a few seconds, Cassandra’s face lit up with excitement.

It was an entry notice from

Jean Wen sacrificed herself for family interests. Before her husband divorced her, she made every effort to please him.

‘You are inexperienced in bed,’ he said coldly.

‘You! Give that land to my family, or I won’t agree to divorce,’ Jean replied furiously.

‘Fine. It is exactly what I am thinking about,’ he sneered.

looks like she has been spoiled by father. She has always been given a life of privilege. It is to no surprise that she could ask for such a huge amount of money without any consideration, ’ thought Cassandra.

‘I’ve asked mother, and she said she didn’t have any money so she asked me to seek help from you. How will you help father if you don’t even have forty thousand? Do you intend to leave us with this, alone? You do know that we will lose everything if you don’t pay off the fine, right?’

Cloris shot impatiently.

'This is all mother's fault. Why did she tell Cloris to ask money from me? Do I look like an ATM machine to them?' Cassandra thought, outraged.

'Cloris, I will raise money for the fine and do my best to earn your tuition. Trust me, I will save the company. You and mother don't have to worry about that,' she promised.

Actually, Cassandra felt sad knowing that even her family did not seem to trust her. Still, she maintained a strong facade.

'I know you are in New York to join a competition. We have to meet when you come back. It's a rare chance. Father promised to pay my tuition before he was imprisoned. Students who graduated from that school all enjoy a great life. I need this chance!'

Cloris demanded, and without even waiting for Cassandra to respond she hung up. Hearing the dial tone, Cassandra lowered her arm feebly.

Despite the pain she felt, she could not abandon her sister and her mother. They were her family.

'Hope I can win the competition. I need to save my father's company and pay my sister's tuition fee,' Cassandra prayed.

She took one deep breath and managed to force a smile before she looked up at Rufus.

'Let's eat, shall we? This steak looks good,'

said Cassandra, beaming.

As the night grew late, Cassandra prepared herself for the hotel that they were going to stay in. To her surprise, Rufus drove them to Hampton.

Hampton was a village by the beach in the city. It was filled with majestic and luxurious buildings, each with its own walled gardens.

There lived the most influential people in New York city—the most powerful political families, tycoons, movie stars, socialites, etc. Tons of paparazzi lurked to get their scoop on the city elites' lives.

Cassandra stared at an approaching convertible with her eyes wide open. 'Was the woman sitting on the front seat the movie star who just won an award for Best Supporting Actress?' she thought.

Row upon row of towering villas surrounded the coast. Each house was a masterpiece by several architects, impressive in their own way. They all looked sublime coupled with the stormy sea.

Rufus pulled over at a corner beside a slope, on top of which stood a blue castle. It reminded pedestrians of fairy tales from their childhood, making them feel as if there were a prince and a princess living inside.

'Do you like it? I named it 'Dream, '

Rufus said, taking off his sunglasses. He smiled at Cassandra. His eyes were deep and attractive.

'Dream...'

Cassandra murmured, staring at the beautiful building. Her watery eyes brightened her face in the moonlight.

She walked on the castle's white cobbled path as Rufus drove to the back to park.

The iron gate was entwined with vines and a few pink flowers sprawled and adorned the exterior wall.

As a gentle breeze blew and twilight fell, Rufus walked across the yard, to the gate, and finally opened the castle doors to let Cassandra in.

‘Welcome to Dream, my princess,’

He said as he put his left hand behind him, offered his right hand, and did a gentle bow similar to a royal curtsy.

Cassandra flashed a smile. Her eyes glittered like diamonds in the night. This was every little girl’s fantasy. It was impossible to resist such a moment.

Rufus prepared a room facing the sea for her. Late at night, the sea reflected the stars as the waves rolled to the beach. This enchanting sight dazzled Cassandra.

She changed into a silk nightgown. The castle was empty but warm.

Lying on the bed she found herself still very wide awake. Cloris’s words rang in her mind, ‘Mom asked me to seek help from you.’ She could hear her say it again and again. It was like a python, snarling at her with its mouth open. Her mind was in such a turmoil that she couldn’t sleep.

What did she mean to her mother and sister?

Realizing that her attempts to quiet her mind would be futile, Cassandra got up and pushed the door open. She decided to explore the castle, ins

‘You’re my wife in name only, on paper only. My heart and love will never be yours.’

Edward made it clear to Daisy that she was nothing to him. They were both victims of family greed -- the marriage was arranged for them.

Six years passed. She remained quiet, gaining a reputation in the army as a tough-as-nails colonel. When she walked into his life again, Edward fell in love with this woman...

all me by my name,' he said

as he rested his chin on her head. He held her so tightly as if he wanted to embed her into his body.

Cassandra's heart raced and her face flushed. She felt overwhelmed and extremely uneasy.

'Look! A shooting star!'

Cassandra excitedly exclaimed at her discovery, pointing at the line where the sky met the sea.

A shooting star streaked across the sky leaving a hardly visible white ribbon trailing behind it against the dark sky.

The wind whipped her hair around her head and the pale moonlight poured over her pretty face, enhancing her fair skin. Stars glittered from Cassandra's sparkling eyes which looked like the mysterious sea.

Even with the picturesque sky and enchanting waters, none of them could compare with her smile. The wonder in her eyes gripped Rufus. He could not turn his eyes away from her.

'Shoot! I forgot to make a wish! You should have reminded me to do it!'

Cassandra complained with a frown. She looked up at him and met his intense gaze. Her face blushed for a split second, then she reprimanded herself, 'It does not seem appropriate.'

Rufus flashed a light smile when he noticed that she was trying to avoid his eyes.

'You just made a wish for your birthday. Aren't you a little greedy to have so many wishes!'

Rufus chuckled as he looked at her tenderly.

Cassandra felt a little bit nervous. She looked at him with her eyes wide open.

Seeing Rufus smile like that surprised her since he usually looked so stern.

He always had a very serious and aloof demeanor, even when he was with clients. His playfulness and tenderness were not something that he would show to a lot of people quite often. Indeed, it could melt anyone's heart.

Rufus's lips landed on hers before the blushed woman could get a hold of herself.

**A Deep Kiss**

Rufus's kiss was aggressive and eager. Cassandra found herself gasping for breath.

Unable to think, she clutched his collar like a drowning person's lifeline.



Everything stood still. The stars felt as if they shone for this sole purpose. The sea kept them company and the night sky watched over them.

Rufus and Cassandra held each other as if they had the world.

They stayed like that for a long time. Then, Rufus sighed as he pulled the woman into his arms.

He lifted his head and looked at the stars. This winter didn't seem that bad.

When the design competition finally began, to Rufus's surprise, Victor reported to him that the foreign designer who claimed that Cassandra plagiarized his work was also a contender.

Rufus asked someone to keep an eye on him. Surprisingly, that designer didn't even make it through the group stage.

This only made Rufus more suspicious of him and his capabilities. If he was really talented, why would he be eliminated so early?

As for Cassandra, she eased to the final round smoothly.

The final round was open for public to see. More people could come and watch their designs.

Judges would set a theme and the designers would be given a few hours to come up with their respective entries. Then, they would be made to present their work to the panel of judges.

As Rufus sat in the audience, his eyes locked on Cassandra. He was nervous but he still looked calm as always.

He was confident that Cassandra could win the competition. And even if she lost, he knew that it would still be a great experience for her.

At last, Cassandra's work which was embellished with traditional Chinese architecture features, won the third prize. Although it was just the third prize, it was quite substantial and enough to pay off Vernon's fines.

This was also the first time that a Chinese designer managed to reach the final stage, even bagging third prize. Cassandra's talent was there for the world to see.

The awarding ceremony was grand and exciting. People clapped their hands for the winners and Rufus couldn't help smiling.

Suddenly, he noticed a familiar figure.

He found the man was Chinese and looked relatively young. He was staring at Cassandra with greed and desire in his eyes.

A name came to Rufus's mind but he did nothing. He needed a plan.

As long as he knew that this man was in New York, he would catch him. He would make the man pay for what he had done. But now was not the time to do that.

The man was gone as soon as the ceremony ended. Smiling, Rufus greeted Cassandra when she cli

'Who does she think she is? I won't marry her even if she is the last woman on earth,' said Hiram Rong.

‘Marry into a family with tens of billions of assets? How lucky I am! I won’t be so foolish as to break off the engagement. At worst, I can receive money as part of the divorce settlement,’ said Rachel Ruan.

Their great-grandfathers made a pact about their engagement a hundred years ago...

ry eyes.

She panicked. She was afraid that Vernon would leave her forever. How could she and their daughters move on if he passed away? If their house were sold, where would they live?

She was very stressed and impulsively slapped Cassandra. She felt bad for what she did, but the idea of losing Vernon was just too much for her to handle.

She had gotten accustomed to a wealthy life. If she lost the house and were to be forced to wander around, she would not make it.

Standing next to Edith, Cloris murmured, ‘Now that father is hospitalized, I won’t be able to study abroad.’

Cassandra hugged her mother, trying to comfort her. It broke her heart to hear her mother cry.

She was always a responsible daughter. She loved her family very much. Even though she was not always around, she would turn up and be the first there to help whenever there were problems. Yet, they did not seem to appreciate her. They showed no compassion for her own struggles.

Rufus noticed that Cassandra had stopped crying and he felt sorry for her.

She was always this tough, being the backbone of her family. But could she really do that? Could she really support her family on her own?

‘Why would father try to kill himself? Mother, do you know why?’

Cassandra asked Edith. She was desperate to know the reason. She remembered telling Vernon she would get the money before she left. Why couldn’t he just wait a few more days? After all, the trial didn’t begin until next month!

Edith looked at Cloris and then Rufus. She was hesitant. Rufus walked away, deciding to give them some space.

Now, it was just her family. Edith finally said, her voice trembling, ‘Someone asked your father to be the scapegoat.’

Joel Came Back

Cassandra could not believe what she heard. She was stunned by what Edith told her. For a moment, she was unable to move as she looked at her mother with wide eyes.

‘An official who is also involved in the case wants your father to take the full responsibility for it. If your father declines, he will get a heavy sentence. This deeply distresses your father. This was why he wanted to kill himself...’ Edith sobbed.

Edith lived a very comfortable and luxurious life earlier. But after everything had been happening in her family, she seemed to have aged considerably.

‘Your father just woke up so the guard allowed me to talk to him. The first thing he told me was to be careful,’ she continued.

Cassandra frowned as she heard her mother’s words.

She wondered, ‘That official and father are under investigation together. It is certain that the official had something to do with the issue. How could he be able to maneuver himself out of the situation?’

She felt strangely uneasy. Something had always felt wrong about the situation, but she could not point her finger to what it was.

‘Mom, dad is safe now. I am happy to know that dad is all right. Let’s talk about the rest later. I will try to find someone who can help us deal with the case. Don’t worry about the fine. I have already had that taken care of. Moreover, don’t tell anyone what dad has told you,’ Cassandra emphasized.

Edith nodded and wiped her tears away.

‘Cassandra, what about my tuition fee?’ Cloris asked hurriedly.

As soon as Cloris heard that Cassandra was able to raise enough money for the fine, she immediately reminded her sister about her promise to help her with her studies abroad.

Glancing at Cloris, Cassandra’s heart was harder than before.

Cloris was clearly accustomed to spending money like water. If she ran out of money, she would clearly lose herself.

Cloris used to be very lively, gentle and considerate. But when she realized that her father could no longer give her what she wanted, she became unkind and mean.

Maybe this was really what Cloris was like. Vernon's predicament finally exposed her for who she really was.

'For the time being, I can't give you the money. I need to pay off father's fine first, and we will talk about your tuition later,' Cassandra replied coldly.

She stood firmly against her younger sister's whims.

'Cloris is spoiled terribly by our parents. She takes everyone's efforts for granted. She feels as if I should always give in to her whims. I will no longer do this,' she thought.

Upon hearing this, Cloris stamped her feet in anger, turned, and ran away.

Cloris sullenly headed downstairs, her mind filling with grievances. Suddenly, she bumped into a man.

'Cloris? What are you doing here?'

That voice was oddly familiar. When she lifted her head, she found that it was Arthur.

'I... I came to see my sick friend,' Cloris lied.

She didn't want to tell him that her father tried to commit suicide in the detention center because of commercial bribery. She wondered, 'Even if my father were saved, I still don't want others to know about this. How would I show my face if people found out about this?'

'How is your friend? Is there anything I can do to help? I know the Director of this hospital,' Arthur asked gently.

He was as mannered and proper as before

‘Do you know what you did wrong? It’s alright if you just wanted to own me. But you should not have helped Molly leave me!’

When Brian learns the truth, there is no chance for Hannah to win his heart.

Molly, who wants to run away from Brian, seems to be the only one to blame for Hannah’s misfortune...

ould drive me out of his house if he knew what I have done, ’ she thought.

‘Ah! Ivy, you worry too much. I actually came back to help you,’ Joel answered.

Then, Joel raised his hand to call the waiter so he could order something.

‘You have to be kidding me. I’d be lucky to not be in trouble because of you,’ Ivy answered sarcastically.

She did not trust her impulsive younger brother because of his failure to execute her plan previously.

‘Why did you say that? I asked my friend at home to help you before I came back,’ Joel said.

With a hint of excitement in his face, Joel got close to her ear and whispered, ‘I asked my friend to secretly meet with Cassandra’s father, Vernon. He told him that if he didn’t take full responsibility for the case, his family would get into trouble. Haha!’

Joel laughed heartily as he finished speaking. He was waiting for Ivy to compliment him. Instead, Ivy stood stunned before she managed to respond.

‘What? How dare you do such a thing without my knowledge! You’re so stupid! You do know that there is no chance for those two people to be acquitted of the crime. What you did was careless and wasteful!’

Ivy was so pissed. ‘Joel, you idiot. I know you are well-intended, but what you did made trouble for me,’ she thought.

‘Have you thought about the consequences of your actions? If Vernon were to tell the truth, you would get into trouble,’ Ivy added.

She raised her eyebrows as she scolded her disappointed younger brother.

‘But he won’t tell the truth. In fact, he is so terrified that he tried to kill himself. This is what makes me so happy,’ Joel explained as he continued to laugh once again.

His laugh was so flagrant that several diners around them began to look over.

Seeing others’ gaze, Ivy started to feel more weary. She pushed her sunglasses higher, lowered her head and dropped her voice.

‘In short, you have to be very careful recently. I have remitted a sum of money into your account, which is enough for your expenses for half a year. So you don’t have to come to me for the next six months,’ Ivy said in barely a whisper.

Then, she got up and hurried away. Little did she know, a set of eyes were watching them from afar.



‘You mean, it was Joel who sent someone to blackmail Vernon into taking the blame?’

Rufus asked with his back turned to Victor. His words did not give away any of his thoughts. Standing in front of the huge window of his personal office, he projected a very dangerous vibe.

‘Yes. Also, he is Ivy’s brother,’

Victor replied calmly. His face showed no emotion.

‘Right, then. Find a way to come up with evidence that Joel was the one who stole Cassandra’s works, and do it fast,’

Rufus ordered as he turned to face Victor. His eyes were stone cold and menacing.

Victor nodded obediently and quickly left the room. Now alone, Rufus threw a hard punch on his heavy wooden desk.

He was frustrated with himself. Why didn’t he act on this sooner? He turned a blind eye the first time Joel set Cassandra up. He did not expect it to happen again. Now, Joel was back causing them even more trouble. He should have ended it the first time, and he regretted now that he did not.

He must get rid of Joel. This man was too dangerous with his vile ideas. He almost killed Vernon with his stint.

Finding proof of his plagiarism would be a good leverage to get rid of him once and for all. Then, all this would end.

Rufus swore that he would make him pay for hurting Cassandra, and he was determined to get it done no matter what it took.

‘Mom, I need your bank account number so I can transfer Cloris’s tuition fee to you,’

Cassandra said. Even she scolded Cloris, she was still her sister, after all. Cassandra was determined to help her out in spite of anything.

‘What? Cloris told me that she already got the money. Was that not from you?’

Edith asked, surprised. When Cloris told her that her tuition fee was covered, she assumed that the money was from Cassandra. Now that Cassandra was requesting for her account number, she realized that she was wrong.

‘She already got it? How is that possible? I borrowed money from my friend just now!’

Cassandra was confused. She borrowed money from her friend, Stella. She also sold her car to come up with Cloris’s tuition fee, even if it meant that she would need to go to work using the Tang family’s car or taking a cab.

‘I got a scholarship so I don’t need her money anymore,’

Cloris, who had her face covered with a face mask, told her mother after overhearing the conversation. She looked at Edith with a trace of smugness in her eyes.

‘Oh, Cloris said that she managed to get a scholarship so she doesn’t need your money now,’

Edith relayed the message to Cassandra joyfully. She was very proud that Cloris was resourceful enough to solve her own problem. She had always been very proud of her daughters. They always had good grades and were growing up to be very responsible and independent young ladies.

Cassandra acknowledged the update and hung up the call. A proud smile spread on her face. It also made her proud to see that her sister was becoming more independent.

Meanwhile, Cloris, who just finished applying face mask, proceeded to do her make up and change her clothes. When she came out of her room, Edith looked at her with surprise.

‘Cloris, are you going out? It’s already late,’

she said, worried. Cloris was a girl, it was dangerous to go out so late at night.

‘It’s going

Jean Wen sacrificed herself for family interests. Before her husband divorced her, she made every effort to please him.

‘You are inexperienced in bed,’ he said coldly.

‘You! Give that land to my family, or I won’t agree to divorce,’ Jean replied furiously.

‘Fine. It is exactly what I am thinking about,’ he sneered.

fresh aftertaste.

He looked at Cloris affectionately, making her heart skip a beat.

‘What do you mean? You seem to know some insider info here.’

The round-faced man stared at Arthur with curiosity. He looked at him and then at Cloris, hanging on to their next words.

‘I mean, Cassandra is part of the Tang family. That said, no amount of money can persuade her to work for somebody else,’

Arthur answered. He didn’t say straight away that Cassandra was Horace’s daughter-in-law, but it did not take a genius to figure this out after Arthur’s hints.

The round-faced man thought for a few seconds and then appeared shocked at his own realization.

‘You mean, Cassandra is Horace’s daughter-in-law?’

the man asked as his eyes widened in surprise. He looked even more ridiculous that way.

‘Hey, you can ask Cloris here. Cassandra is her sister and she has been married for several years by now,’ Arthur said, looking at Cloris with an unreadable look in his eyes.

Cassandra’s marriage was a secret that both the Tang family and the Qin family tried to keep.

She was still very young when she got married and only a few close friends were informed. It was very intimate so the news did not get out.

Apart from that, Cassandra and Lionel did not seem to get along. Both of them did not want a big wedding so even after years of marriage, there were only a few people who knew about it.

Arthur's friends were all realtors. Even though they were not that influential, they all knew a lot of people.

Now that they knew of Cassandra's real identity, Arthur believed that the news would soon spread fast. It wouldn't be long before everybody in this industry knew the truth.

For big companies like the Tang Group and the Dawn Star Company, it was very beneficial to have a top designer like Cassandra. Ever since she entered the Tang Group, she had helped them get a lot of projects and was instrumental to their successful completion. This made Arthur wary. He couldn't afford losing more projects to the Tang Group.

Cassandra was a great designer and employee. He wanted to get her to help him. But if he couldn't get what he wanted, then he would destroy her.

*Mysterious Handwriting*

All eyes were on Cloris, examining her.

Everyone was surprised to learn she was Cassandra's sister.

'Are you Cassandra's sister? Is she really the daughter-in-law of the Tang family? How come none of us knew it?'

The round-faced man impatiently blurted out the questions without thinking twice.

Cloris was shocked. She had never expected that Arthur would expose her. But she could not show her anger. She just smiled.

Everyone in the field knew the news about Vernon. He got the project by bribing the government officials and did a shoddy job afterwards. A John Doe exposed this affair on the Internet. Since then, he, along with the project was shamed and derided to no end.

People knew that Vernon had a daughter. But no one was aware that Cassandra was another daughter of his. What was more, Vernon's daughter had married the son of the Tangs!

'Hey! You scared her. Cassandra and she are different. Don't say bad things to her!'

Arthur reached out and wrapped his arm around Cloris in an intimate manner as if he was protecting her.

Cloris felt warm in her heart by Arthur's act, completely forgetting that it was Arthur who had first brought up this awkward topic.

'Yes. Cassandra Qin is my sister and the daughter-in-law of the Tangs. There is nothing to hide. She just prefers to stay low-profile. That's all,'

Cloris said, trying to get away from their questioning looks.

The crowd exchanged looks and moved on to talk about other topics. However, many thoughts were surging in their minds.

Arthur realized that everyone was lost in their thoughts. So he suddenly announced that he had urgent work and suggested calling it a day. After everyone left, he went out with Cloris to his car and drove her back home.

In the car on the way back, he frowned and explained to her, 'I just wanted to introduce you to my friends. I didn't expect that they would talk about your sister.'

He sounded quite sincere to Cloris.

‘Oh...Never mind...‘

Cloris was hurt and felt bitter although she herself had no idea why.

Cassandra being highly praised made her unhappy.

She had been the apple of her parents’ eye all the time. Her parents cherished her so much that they would fulfill all her wishes. She was the most precious person in the Qin family.

Besides, she was pretty and honey-lipped. Vernon liked and treasured her far more than Cassandra.

But, it was Cassandra who married Lionel. Rufus also seemed to have special feelings for her. Now, even Arthur’s friends were s

The Mighty Soldier King is back!

With the original intention to protect his beautiful boss, he accidentally gets involved in dangerous adventures and trouble.

Will our Mighty Soldier King be defeated? Or will he sweep away all obstacles?

and find the culprit.

‘That’s not a problem. I’ll approve it. But, have you thought about other possibilities?’

Rufus blinked his eyes. He was as cool and peaceful as always.

‘What other possibilities?’

Cassandra questioned. She had no idea what Rufus was referring to.

‘The staff turnover rate was high in the last six months. Perhaps, the company still has some people’s handwritten papers even though they have already left. Try to see the whole thing from another angle.’

Rufus looked at her as he finished speaking.

Cassandra began to think carefully, frowning her eyebrows. What did he mean?

High turnover rate? Already left? The original manager of the design department and several other managers had left the company. The staff changed frequently. In her design department...

A faint smile appeared on Rufus’s mouth when he saw Cassandra reasoning.

He wanted to lead her to the truth, but he did not want to simply tell her everything.

At first, he had planned to gather evidence for her. But when she told him that she was secretly looking into it by comparing the handwritings, he suddenly changed his mind. If she found out the person by herself, she would feel much more accomplished as opposed to Rufus helping her.

Actually, waiting for her to trace the suspect was troublesome for Rufus and he could just directly tell her. Other women might like his direct style, but not Cassandra. She was different. So Rufus waited.

She had her pride, her honor and things she wanted to protect. As for him, he was willing to protect her secretly.



He wanted to do everything for her without expecting any favor in return.  
She was his dream.

I Will Not Give Her Another Chance

After Cassandra left his office, Rufus called Victor through the company phone.

‘Victor, collect handwriting samples of all our employees and send the files to Manager Qin. Remember, Joel’s handwriting is to be placed at an easily noticeable place,’

Rufus instructed.

‘Yes, Mr. Luo. I’ll do it now,’ Victor replied.

Just as he was on his way to the archives room, he came across Stella who was scuttling her way as fast as her high-heels could take her.

With a worried look, she said hurriedly, ‘Victor! Is Mr. Luo here?’

She gasped for air as she spoke. Clearly she had dashed her way here.

‘Yes... In his office...’ Victor stuttered.

He was originally excited that Stella called his name, but as it turned out, she was only looking for Rufus. Immediately, she got the answer and quickly walked away. She did not even stay to hear the last three words.

Embarrassed, Victor rubbed the back of his head. He actually planned to smile at Stella but did not manage to go through with it.

'Oh well. Next time, I have to remember to smile first, ' he told himself.

Stella instantly knocked on the door the moment she arrived at the CEO's office. Before anyone answered, she took the time to catch her breath after her exhausting travel. By the time Rufus asked her to come in, a courteous smile was plastered on her face.

'Mr. Luo, I just received an invitation from a magazine. They requested to have an interview with Manager Qin. Now she is out of the office and her role is suspended, so I have come to to ask you what we are going to do with this invitation,' Stella inquired.

She worked hard to keep her composure, and her heart trembled with excitement.

The thought that a world-renowned magazine wanted to interview Cassandra was a very thrilling prospect!

As Cassandra's closest friend, Stella was overjoyed when she received the invite on Cassandra's behalf. She almost accepted it for her, but it was not her place. So, she had to give them her prescribed spiel that she would relay their invite to management and Cassandra, and get back to them shortly. After hanging up, she immediately did her best to sprint towards Rufus's office.

'A magazine interview? Is it because she won in the architectural design competition in the US?' Rufus inquired.

As a stark contrast to Stella's exhilaration, Rufus seemed calm and still. His face gave away no emotion.

'Yes. They told me that they think Manager Qin is a designer with huge potential. That's the reason they want to interview her. In my opinion,

this is a great opportunity for Manager Qin and additional publicity for the Tang Group as well,' Stella shared.

She had no idea what Rufus was thinking at that moment, but she could not help expressing her thoughts in hopes of convincing Rufus to approve.

'Tonight, there is going to be a concert at the theater of G City. You will go there with Victor. I have ordered the tickets for you two,'

Rufus said after thinking for a few seconds, seemingly ignoring her initial concern.

'What? Concert?'

Stella was confused. What was wrong with her boss? Why would he suddenly make her and

When her sister ran away from the wedding, Autumn was forced to marry Charles.

His name had been linked to innumerable ladies.

He had different girlfriends for every day of a year.

Autumn had never thought that she would fall in love with him.

t her career at risk. Her reputation was very important.

Cassandra was persistent and hard-working. She was willing to go to all lengths to achieve her dreams. But Joel almost single-handedly ruined it. She was not going down without a fight. This time, she would not allow him to escape.

Stella immediately showed her support for her friend.

‘Yes! We must report this to the police! Let’s catch this thief! Let’s report this to Mr. Luo now!’ she exclaimed with urgency.

Her face was full of anger. Being a girl who didn’t always take her time to think things through, she pulled Cassandra’s hand and led her to Rufus’s office.

‘Manager... Manager Mu, Mr. Luo asked me to take you to Michelle Ling’s studio to pick up your dress,’ Victor stuttered.

He was about to knock when Stella suddenly opened the door. He put down his hand and looked at her bashfully.

‘What? Dress? Do I really have to wear a dress?’

Stella asked, hesitating. Now she was in a dilemma with Rufus’s order on one side and her close friend’s issue on the other. Which one should she choose?

‘Stella, it’s okay if you’re busy. I can go talk to Mr. Luo myself,’

Cassandra offered, after she realized her friend’s predicament. It was best for her to handle the issue herself. She was well aware of Rufus’s temperament.

Stella agreed then left with Victor. Unable to expel her worries away, she kept turning back to look at Cassandra. The moment that Stella disappeared in her sight, Cassandra calmed herself and started to walk to Rufus’s office.

When she was at the door of his office, she raised a fist ready to knock but was stopped by the sound of Rufus talking loudly. Intrigued, she pressed her ear against the door to listen in.

‘I have given the concert tickets to Victor. I asked him to go to the concert with someone else. I won’t go!’ the man shouted.

As usual, he allowed no room for negotiations when he expressed his desires.

‘I told you! I won’t go! The magazine interview is also her idea, right? Tell her that I will not give her another chance to hurt me!’ he exclaimed.

Divorce or a Dead Body

As per Cassandra, Rufus was a symbol of calmness. She had never seen him lose his composure.

‘Had someone hurt him? But who was able to do that?’

At the sight of Cassandra standing in front of the President’s office, Rufus’s assistant hurriedly pressed a button.

‘Mr Luo, Manager Qin is here to see you.’

Several seconds later, Rufus’s languid reply came, ‘Let her in.’

Cassandra steeled herself against all her thoughts and doubts, took one last look at herself and strode into the office.

He had recovered and was waiting for her, sitting behind his desk.

‘Mr Luo, the owner of the script is Joel, I would like to report this revelation to the police right away.’

Cassandra was resolute. However, aside from his knitting eyebrows, Rufus's terse reply was also surprising.

'I don't think it is a good solution for now. If he divulges all his actions, all your previous pains to hold them back was in vain.'

Rufus seemed to have already prepared for this.

To allow the lady to find the answer herself, he had instructed Victor to place Joel's report on top of the stack of files. Thus, making it very easy for Cassandra.

As expected, Cassandra demanded that the case be handed over to the police immediately. However, this action would not serve its purpose. It would instead create a scandal that would bring to the front the fact that she had been drugged by Joel. Her reputation would suffer.

In truth, he had made sure Joel was being watched. He was just waiting for the right time to catch him.

He planned to negotiate with Joel to ensure that he confessed to the charge of plagiarism. He was not evil enough to compromise on his reputation knowingly.

As for his sister Ivy, she was an untamed bomb in the Tang family, yet she might be used for something later.

Rufus had everything measured out; therefore, any reaction from the pretty woman wouldn't surprise him.

'All right. I will send someone to look into it, it will be better for us to get to him before the police do.'

Rufus gazed at her unemotionally. Watching his face in front of her, Cassandra could not associate his current calmness to his ferocity from earlier, which she heard from outside the room.

'Maybe I was being paranoid?', she doubted herself.

Rufus stood up, made his way to Cassandra. He reached over and gently smoothed a stray strand of hair behind her ear.

'Don't worry about that! You have me.'

Cassandra looked up, into his dark brown eyes.

'Fetus: 28 weeks; heart rate: 135 times per minute...'

Lying in bed, Ivy appeared to be listening to her doctor attentively, yet she was gripped by anxiety inside.

She knew it was getting more

Jean Wen sacrificed herself for family interests. Before her husband divorced her, she made every effort to please him.

'You are inexperienced in bed,' he said coldly.

'You! Give that land to my family, or I won't agree to divorce,' Jean replied furiously.

'Fine. It is exactly what I am thinking about,' he sneered.

the turmoil that lay beneath.

He had never expected that she would ask for the divorce voluntarily.

It hadn't taken long for him to understand that she must have retained the idea in her heart for a long time. Since she was now free of the shackles of the Qin family, she now had fewer reasons to hold back.

Lionel stared at Cassandra with an unfathomable look in his eyes, his fists clenched into balls.

Did she really hate him so deeply? That she was this desperate to escape from him?

Only a few people sitting at the table did not find the appeal to be too bad. The most delighted of all was Ivy. She had never dreamed that Cassandra would voluntarily raise the white flag. She was pleased that she had won without too much effort.

'Cassandra, we know you have won the award and now you have taken up a keen position at the company. But you cannot do this to us! Have we ever treated you shabbily? All your education expenses in Rome were paid by us!'

The first thought that sprung into Jill's mind was that Cassandra wanted to exit the marriage due to her professional ambitions. Besides that, Jill couldn't think of any other reasons that would cause her to leave.

'I promise I can still work for the Tang Group after Lionel and I separate, unless you choose to dismiss me.'

Cassandra had no doubts that Jill mistook her reason for the divorce. The latter had never understood her anyway so it did not surprise her.

While Horace, the head of the family, remained silent, his face had darkened.



‘Father, Lionel and I have no attachment to one another. Forcing us to remain together is not going to be agreeable. Please allow us a divorce!’

Cassandra looked at Horace imploringly.

‘A divorce? Over my dead body!’ His voice rang clear across the room.

*She Couldn't Decide Her Life*

Cassandra anticipated that Horace would deny her request, but she at least expected him to dilly-dally. However instead, he gave her an outright rejection.

‘You want to divorce Lionel? Over my dead body will you divorce!’ he roared.

Every muscle on Horace’s face convulsed with rage.

He went ballistic.

He thought that he treated her nicely. She was still young when she married his son. When she requested to take up higher studies in Rome, he allowed her to do so and even sent her to the best design school.

Upon finishing her study, she came home and refused to be a real couple with Lionel simply because they did not get along. Horace did not interfere with their affairs as a father, either. He believed that the young couple should solve their own problems.

He made Cassandra the manager of the Design Department, which actually made many board members unhappy. It was a very coveted position. Still, he gave it to her despite their opposition.

The way Horace saw it, Cassandra had no reason to leave the family. He had given her everything she needed. Now, she was telling him in front of everyone that she wanted a divorce? He felt so betrayed.

Jill stood up and rubbed her husband's back to calm him down. It was rare for Horace to be this agitated. He was not easily angered but right now, he was fuming. She blamed Cassandra.

'Don't be so unreasonable, Cassandra. You know his condition. He is not at his peak health, to say the least. Should news of this break out, something terrible would surely happen to him because of distress!'

Jill said. The moment she finished talking, Horace began to cough severely. He had asthma so he had to monitor his breathing often. However, what Cassandra told him today caused him to cough uncontrollably.

Cassandra had to swallow her words when she saw her father-in-law's condition. It was really not her intention to cause so much trouble.

'I'm sorry...'

Cassandra felt as if her chest was getting tighter. It suddenly became so difficult to breathe. Not knowing what to do and quite devastated with what she had done, she decided to run out of the room.

On a kneejerk reaction, Lionel stood up and was about to chase after Cassandra. He felt anxious when she left the room. Ivy, however, was hawk-eyed. She shot him a sharp glance and pulled his arm before he could go anywhere.

'Lionel!'

She called his name with an affectionate yet aggrieved voice. This immediately stopped Lionel on his tracks.

He lowered his head and looked at Ivy.

There were tears in her eyes, making her look very vulnerable.

Lionel frowned seeing her sad face. His heart ached to see her like that.

Ivy was pregnant. If he went out to chase after another Cassandra, how would she feel?

Lionel turned around and slowly sat down beside Ivy.

With sad eyes and a quivering voice, Ivy also slowly looked at everyone in the room and started to speak.

‘Auntie, Uncle,

Jean Wen sacrificed herself for family interests. Before her husband divorced her, she made every effort to please him.

‘You are inexperienced in bed,’ he said coldly.

‘You! Give that land to my family, or I won’t agree to divorce,’ Jean replied furiously.

‘Fine. It is exactly what I am thinking about,’ he sneered.

oleful expression appeared on Rufus’s face. ‘Who was that man? Why did Cassandra seem familiar with him? She did not even hesitate to go with him when he invited her. That was strange.’

He found himself feeling nervous when he remembered how she would refute him whenever they argued.

Rufus hailed a taxi and got on.

‘Follow that car, but stay hidden. Quick, don’t lose it,’ he ordered.

The driver nodded and did what he was told. Steadily and quietly, they drove behind the other vehicle.

Seeing Cassandra so preoccupied, Dylon decided to say something to cheer her up.

‘Hey, Cassandra, I found something interesting. This is the third time I’ve seen you lost in thought. Did that occur to you?’

he jested with a bright smile across his face. He wanted to make her laugh a little.

Cassandra sat on the passenger seat, looking into the distance. She had milky skin just like a doll. Despite Dylon’s remark, she remained as distant as she was. Her face was frozen and her depression had a firm hold of her.

‘Don’t be unhappy all the time, girl. Look, I have good news. I decided to be a photographer as a hobby and a doctor by profession here!’

Dylon announced. Finally, Cassandra turned and stared at her friend with huge, wide eyes. He was rather satisfied with her reaction.

‘Really? That’s amazing! Your father must be super happy!’

Cassandra’s eyes began to glimmer with excitement. This was something she always encouraged him to do. Now that he was set to pursue it, she felt very delighted for him.

‘Yeah, of course he is. But I have to start with the basics: be an outpatient doctor first, I guess,’

Dylon replied, feeling relieved to see Cassandra in a lighter mood.

Unfortunately, this cheerful Cassandra only lasted for a minute. As quickly as her face lighted up, her eyes darkened.

‘I envy you a lot, really. You can make your own decisions, not like me. I barely have control in my life,’ she confessed.

*She Is Mine Alone*

Cassandra’s eyes became glassy and the helplessness they depicted made her look like a lost child. Dylon detected her sadness and was quite worried about her.

She was able to comfort and encourage others so that they saw things in a positive way. In spite of this, she had failed to convince herself to embrace life. In a word, standers-by see more than gamesters. When one was in trouble, they found it hard to think with a clear mind.

‘You know, you don’t have to always be in control of your life. Sometimes things won’t go according to your plan, no matter how hard you try. Besides, you are still young and you have a long way to go. There are a lot of things waiting for you. For example, you haven’t experienced the beauty of motherhood yet,’ he said encouragingly. ‘You will cross the bridge when you get to it. Don’t worry, just cheer up!’ he added.

Despite his effort to straighten her out, Cassandra was frowning. Clearly, his words couldn’t encourage her to see the brighter side.

‘What do you want to eat? It’s my treat today,’

Dylon suggested with an intention of changing the topic. Few people could resist the temptation of delicious food, and he believed that Cassandra was no exception. Deep down he hoped good food might put her into a better mood.

‘The stinky tofu then...’ Cassandra replied without paying him any attention.

This answer made Dylon’s jaw drop and he looked at her in disbelief.

‘Did I hear it right?’ he asked after a few seconds. ‘Did you just say stinky tofu? Only stinky tofu?’

He was now torn between laughing and crying, but Cassandra ignored the surprised expression on his face. Still lost in her thoughts, she nodded her head vigorously.

‘Yes, you heard me. And not just any stinky tofu, I will name the place,’

she announced, pointing ahead and directing him to turn the wheel with an air of seriousness. By now Dylon had figured out she wasn’t joking.

‘Alright,’ he thought, driving in the direction provided by Cassandra, all the way to a snack street.

It was not easy to find a place to park his car around the area. And when he finally found a spot, Dylon found it difficult to swing a cat in the street.

It was really crowded with people and all kinds of food stands that kept producing swathes of smoke. Dylon was stunned by what he saw and still found it hard to believe he had agreed to come to such a place. ‘What a

sacrifice, well...what an honor it is to repay her!' he thought with a smile.

Cassandra, on the other hand, felt quite at ease over here. She seemed to know this place very well and seemed in control. Looking behind, she gestured him to follow her.

The way she waved at him was cute and it filled Dylan with relief. At least for the time being she wasn't worried or sad. He felt a victorious feeling surge in his heart for being successful in cheering her up. 'Alright, alright, I have finally done it, ' he thought secretly. As long as his friend was happy, he was willing to do anything. He realized he was willing to like this place for her.

Cassandra seemed to be in a good mood now. As she kept walking, she watched out for the crowd yet it was unavoidable to bump into others in this bustling street. After several close calls, Dylan thought it was necessary to look out for her. In order to protect her, he reached out and put his hands on her shoulders.

Feeling his hands on her shoulders, Cassandra turned back and gave him a grateful smile. It was so bright that it looked like a streak of sunshine on a cold winter morning. It twinkled like stars as she looked into Dylan's eyes.

'Well, it's not that bad since she is still able to smile like that, ' he breathed a sigh of relief.

However, this smile and the way Dylan treated Cassandra were truly eyesores for Rufus, who had been following them. His face darkened and started manifesting a murderous look.

'How could she smile so sweetly at that man? A few moments ago, she was depressed. How did he manage to change her mood so easily?' Rufus wondered wi

Falling from nobility, Zen Luo became a humble slave and served as a human punchbag for his former cousins. Inadvertently, he found a way to refine himself into a weapon and a legend started because of that. With a strong belief in never surrender, he strove for revenges and pursued big dreams. Warriors from various clans contended for hegemony and the world was stirred. Relying on the body that was comparable to a powerful weapon, Zen beat his numerous enemies on his way to the immortality. Would he succeed eventually?

ed Joel squirm on the floor in agony.

'Whoever this man is, he has great skills and succeeded in causing harm without any effort.' Seeing Rufus's nonchalant look, Dylan shuddered a little. 'How did he manage to do that?' he wondered.

Slowly, Dylan tried to get a good look of Rufus. He realized Rufus had perfectly-shaped eyebrows and a sharp nose. But this extremely handsome face was devoid of any expression. It seemed people had a tough time reading him since he was good at hiding his emotions.

'Wait a minute... Isn't he Rufus Luo, the current CEO of the Tang Group?' it suddenly dawned upon Dylan. After he figured that out, he remembered seeing his picture on the same magazine where he had discovered Cassandra. His photographic memory could guarantee that it was this same man.

'Nice to meet you, Mr. Luo. Excellent?Kunfu!'



Dylon praised sincerely, extending his hand to Rufus with admiration. However, Rufus passed a quick glance at his hand but didn't bother to shake it.

This embarrassed Dylon a lot. For a split second, he didn't know what to do. 'Should I insist or should I take my hand back?' he asked himself. In the end, he could only withdraw his hand and scratch his head. Rufus seemed least bothered about Dylon, and his focus was on Cassandra.

Fortunately, Dylon had a pleasant personality and did not take Rufus's indifferent attitude to heart.

Rufus then summoned his men to take Joel away. Before they left, he advised the men what to do with him.

'Warn him to be careful before he speaks. Don't let him say things that are better left unsaid!'

After he was done, his focus was back on Cassandra. There was still a grim look on his face.

'You are so lucky today,' he said grumpily. 'You might have only alerted the enemy if I was not here to help.'

Somehow his words annoyed Dylon instead of Cassandra. 'How can you be so cocky? I was about to grab him and would have done it even if you hadn't come! I would be the hero if it weren't for you!'

Dylon's mind screamed but he bit his tongue and decided to stay silent. There was something scary about Rufus's gaze. It contained a cold and distant look.

The man standing in front of him was incredibly calm and aloof, to the extent that it made people terrified.

Seeing Joel being taken away, Cassandra hastened to follow, but was stopped by Rufus at once.

‘There’s no need. Our company will handle it. You don’t have to get involved anymore,’ he ordered.

The fact that Joel had once made advances on Cassandra infuriated him. He couldn’t let Joel ever look at her with his dirty eyes.

This woman was his and his alone! No other man had the rights to lay a finger on her.