

The Enchanted Night – Chapter: 141

Got Drunk In A Bar

The wind was chilly at night, making Rufus shiver. Suddenly, it occurred to him Cassandra wasn't wearing a jacket earlier that day when he saw her. She might be feeling warm while working in the garden. But where could she be right now ?

He worried that she would catch a cold or fever since she was only wearing a flimsy blouse with a knee-length skirt.

She had just been nursed back to health and was finally getting better. The idea of her falling sick again worried Rufus.

Presently, he stood outside the gate with Amanda, waiting for Victor. Amanda could tell Rufus was distracted. She already assumed it was about Cassandra without even asking him. She couldn't believe Rufus would concern himself so much about other women. Amanda remembered when they were dating back then, he was always too cool. It was rare to see him behave like this, so on edge.

Amanda had never been able to forget Rufus since she had left him. They were, after all, each other's first love and he was such an outstanding man. The breakup had scarred her emotionally and she kept thinking of him for years thereafter.

The situation was such that she was forced to breakup with him because of the pressure from her family—her father didn't approve of Rufus. She had tried to revolt against him in the beginning but it was no use. Her father won at last, leaving her no choice but to break up with Rufus.

She still remembered the look on Rufus's face when she told him she couldn't be with him anymore. His eyes were a strange combination of intense fury and sadness. She remembered him clenching his fists, pursing his lips. He didn't utter a single word.

He didn't ask her for an explanation, didn't beg her to stay. He was still Rufus, composed as always, even in the face of such shocking news. To her surprise, he turned around, walking away with determination and leaving her alone in a void.

She told herself if Rufus turned around or even so much as halted, she would run to him. To hell with her father, her family, the world, this was the man she loved!

But as it turned out, he didn't stop, not even for a second. Eventually his figure disappearing in the mist.

Tears started to flow down her eyes and in no time, turned to howls. She fell down to her knees, crying as if there was nothing left for her in the world anymore. She knew then she could never forget what they had, and surely now, years later, she still remembered every single thing from then.

But now, Rufus was a changed man. His composure was gone. He had finally allowed himself to show his vulnerable side to someone. He had begun to show warmth, care, concern and worry.

Rufus's mind was still wandering and was only brought back to the current moment by a car that whooshed by them.

The car looked very familiar to Rufus. This was the same car Dylan and Cassandra had gotten into that night after they had dinner together. Rufus had ended up following them, feeling angry and betrayed.

And sure enough, they were together again. He could make out Cassandra's silhouette in the passenger seat. He was sure, it was her.

For a moment, Rufus forgot to breath.

'Why is Cassa

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.

side. He pulled Dylan back, grabbing him by his shoulder and lifted Cassandra up, flinging her on his own shoulder and walked straight out of the bar without uttering a single word.

Dylan was in shock. He stood up immediately and followed him, soon finding out it was Rufus.

Rufus was very angry. How could Cassandra go to a bar and get drunk with another man!

He had followed them to the bar. As soon as he walked in, he spotted Cassandra chugging a drink. She couldn't even sit properly after 2 shots of whiskey!

Rufus saw how the men around her were looking at her body.

He couldn't take it anymore and decided to get her out of this place. Now, he felt Dylan's hand on his shoulder.

'Mr. Luo, I don't think it is appropriate for you to carry your sister-in-law like this.'

Rufus flashed his angry eyes at him. Dylan could see how angry he was. But for Cassandra's reputation, he gathered his courage to stop Rufus.

'Sister-in-Law?' Rufus squinted at the thought. It seemed like Dylan didn't know Cassandra and Lionel had already gotten divorced.

He realized that at least he knew this before Dylan did! That thought relieved him, somehow as a proof of him being closer to Cassandra than Dylan.

'Go ask your father what really happened to the Tang family.'

Rufus himself had learnt about the incident on the way to the bar. He knew it had to be Ivy who had gotten Cassandra into this situation. As he thought more and more about this, he felt sorry that she had gotten kicked out of the Tang family mansion and had to take all the blame by herself. He felt frustrated at not knowing how to reduce her misery.

After saying that, he just ignored Dylan and walked out of the bar carrying Cassandra on his shoulder. He laid her down on the backseat of the car and drove directly to his mansion.

Even lying down, Cassandra felt dizzy. She couldn't tell where she was. The smell around her was familiar. For a while, she kept trying to recollect everything and then suddenly, she opened her eyes wide, sitting up.

Rufus! It smelled like Rufus. She murmured, 'Rufus! Rufus!'

Rufus slammed the car brakes all of a sudden, pulling the car to an halt.

He turned around to check on Cassandra who was sitting in the back seat. Her face was extremely red and her eyes were closed with her eyelashes moving slightly as she frowned. She seemed to be suffering from pain. She was murmuring his name and some inaudible words which Rufus couldn't tell.

Rufus held his breath and leaned closer towards the backseat, trying to discern what she was saying.

Thankfully, he recognized some of the words she was saying. She said 'homeless' and 'desperate.'

All of a sudden, Rufus remembered their conversation that time. He had also pulled over by the road, and told her that he would be standing by her side at any time.

He promised to love, protect and cherish her. He said that he would always be with her and give her a home.

Rufus was silent for a moment. Then he thought, 'Cassandra, why are you talking about this? Are you reminding me to fulfill my promises?' Rufus asked himself as he looked at Cassandra's innocent face.

Facing the steering wheel now, he smiled happily, then sped up and drove to his place directly.

As soon as they arrived, he carried Cassandra up to the bathroom. He filled the bathtub with warm water as it would help a drunk person sober, then gently placed the woman inside the warm tub.

He wanted to take her clothes off; but unexpectedly, the lady who had been quiet and dazed suddenly began to struggle heavily.

She was pushing and shoving whoever or whatever within her reach. Both her hands and her legs were desperately swinging and plunging in the air, causing the water in the tub to be spilled everywhere on the bathroom floor.

‘Go away! Don’t touch me! Go away!’

With her eyes still closed, Cassandra’s eyebrows were frowning. She exerted her utmost strength and struggled to fight despite being half conscious.

‘Be a good girl, Cassandra. Calm down! It’s me, Rufus!’

Rufus was holding her in his arms all this time so she wouldn’t hurt herself. Taking off her clothes was a struggle for Rufus, especially when he was doing it with only one hand.

‘No, Rufus! We can’t do it!’

Cassandra opened her eyes, it was obvious however that her head was still blank. She couldn’t even recognize the man in front of her.

Rufus reckoned that she hadn’t recovered from being drunk yet. Probably she even forgot that she had already been divorced, that was why she kept saying no to him.

With the warm water wrapped on her body, she started to recover and regain consciousness gradually.

Minutes later, Cassandra slowly opened her eyes, focusing on the man right in front of her. She couldn't help but be amazed at the handsome features of his face.

He was still so gorgeous, with the usual cool face, the face of her savior, her protector, and the o

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.

ghtly and cleared his throat. He extended his arm in a position that seemed like he was waiting for her to give him a hug.

'You didn't thank me at that time. But you have the chance now,'

He spoke with a gentle expression on his face. Cassandra suddenly opened her eyes wide at his revelation.

It was sunset when the boy gave her the doll. Before leaving, he said something softly to her, 'Disappointment was not a good thing.'

She recalled the boy's face on her mind. His face and Rufus's gradually resembled each other. Cassandra gasped at his words all of a sudden.

It was him! It was Rufus!

The boy, who gave her the first doll of her life and encouraged her at that very moment, was also the man who was lying beside her now!

Cassandra couldn't believe how magical it was that their threads of fate had been tied together right from the very beginning!

From that day on, she had grown from an introvert girl to a tough woman. And the gentle boy had become a capable entrepreneur. What was more, they met again without knowing they were that girl and that boy and fell deeply in love!

Cassandra would hold the doll in her arms and shared her secrets with it at night when she was sad since her father ignored her. She had wished her unicorn would bring her new hope like what happened in the fairy tales.

She was so thankful that God had heard her prayers. It granted her the chance to meet Rufus again.

If it were not for him, she probably would still be eating dirt and staying in the Tang family—enduring a husband who didn't love her, a father-in-law who cared only about benefits, a mother-in-law who always found fault with her, and later a child who was not her own.

However, everything changed because of Rufus.

'Disappointment is not a good thing. So you're bringing me the hope, aren't you?'

Cassandra looked straight into Rufus's eyes.

Arrange A Marriage For Rufus

Rufus looked at Cassandra affectionately. Her vulnerability and innocence, her complete submission to him as her only pillar support

made his heart melt. Rufus lowered his head to kiss her but was stopped by her hand.

‘From now on, you will not drink with any man without my consent. You should also tell me before going anywhere. If you break the rules, you will see the consequence.’ Rufus frowned as he warned Cassandra and pretended to be angry.

Cassandra became all the more petrified to hear Rufus speak in such a stern voice. After she pulled the blanket tightly out of natural reflex, she looked up at Rufus.

He glanced over her body as she pulled the blanket on herself and then fixed his gaze on her face. His eyes softened at her innocent look.

‘You are my only love. Don’t suspect anything else,’

Rufus said in a sultry voice. Cassandra looked into his eyes as his words echoed in her heart. There was so much of sincerity and resolve in his eyes! Cassandra suddenly felt so light that her whole body got relaxed. The tension on her face gave way to a relaxed and contented look.

That was all she needed—to be the one and only for each other for ever and ever.

Initially, she was hesitant to bring up the topic of Rufus’s relationship with Amanda. But after his confession to her, she did not need any more reassurance. It was the first time that Rufus made his promise with so much of determination. Cassandra pushed her urge to dig more about Amanda to the back of her mind and relaxed in his arms.

It had been so difficult for her to come out of the troublesome marriage. But from today onwards, she was resolved to live her own life without any unwanted interference from anyone.

And Rufus... She could trust him with her eyes closed! At every step of the way, it was Rufus who gave her a helping hand and removed obstacles from her path.

Even if not for the help he had given her, she would still be indebted to him for the unicorn he gave her when she helplessly stood in front of the machine. Needless to say, it was Rufus who helped her with loads of opportunities when she first started her career as an architectural designer.

He was the one who healed her in her past and continued to support her even now. What else could she ask for?

Cassandra closed her eyes, buried her head into the warmth of his arms and indulged in his tenderness. At this very moment, she felt absolutely complete.

However, miles away, at the same time, there was a storm raging in the Tang household.

'Father, I am planning to marry Ivy. I have made up my mind this time!'
Lionel affirmed.

He had mustered all his courage to confront his father. Horace had been a very strict father and Lionel could never speak or do anything against his wish throughout his life. Even this time, as he spoke to Horace, he could feel his knees tremble. Yet, he was resolute this time.

Lionel loved Ivy and both of them had been through a lot already. He had almost lost Ivy once when she met with a car accident at the time of his marriage with Cassandra. And now, again, he was the one to be blamed for Ivy's miscarriage. Had he not been so outrageous in forcing Cassandra into a physical relationship, which was accidentally spotted by Ivy, she would not get in conflict with her. Now, there was nothing he could do to pay her back, except for giving her the recognition and

respect her as his wife. Getting married to her was the only way to compensate for her miseries and the long years that she had spent waiting for him.

Horace had a stern look on his face. He sounded rather disgruntled to hear Lionel's appeal. 'Why are you in such a hurry? Don't forget, that you just divorced Cassandra. Aren't you bothered about what people would say about your flash marriage?'

Horace scolded his son in a displeased tone, his face turning grim and a stern frown settling on his face.

Lionel had complete freedom to do whatever he liked all the time. As a result, he fulfilled his wishes without con

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?

rship with the government. The projects on tourism that were deemed crucial by the government had been assigned to the Tang Group. If everything went well, the Tang Group would be rewarded profusely both in terms of profit as well as reputation. Once that happened, only sky would be the limit for them. And if no action was taken to restrain Rufus's power... She was afraid that it would be too late by that time.

'Well, do you really think I am just idling around at home? The Tang Group is certainly more attractive to investors than the Dawn Star Group! But why are you bothered about all this? As a woman, you should be concerned only about the family matter. And don't forget Ivy. Take care

of her. I don't want Lionel to be brainwashed by her to challenge me anymore!'

Horace stood up angrily and walked into the study, leaving Jill alone. As she watched Horace walk out of the room, Jill threw out the fork she was holding in her hand. The fork smashed onto the plate making the room reverberate with the sound of the collision.

'Both of you, father and son, put the blame on me. Have I ever complained about what I have done for the Tang family all these years? I am in no way your emotional trash bin!'

It was only after Horace shut the door that she started to complain to the empty room. By that time Horace had got busy on the phone with one of the investors.

After the call was picked up, a hoarse voice came from the other side. It was hard to deduce the age of the person, and the sound was unnatural, as though had been purposely modified using some sort of equipment.

'We are still discussing our investment to your company. You don't have to worry. But now, I need you to help me with something.'

The voice was so unnatural that anyone who heard it would feel uneasy.

'Of course. What is it that you want me to do?'

Horace didn't seem to be bothered by the bizarre voice, perhaps because he was used to it. It was apparent he regarded the person on the other side as his superior, so much so that he was eager to meet his demands without even knowing the details.

'Well, well, well. Your son, Rufus, is not married yet, is he?' the man asked, giggling.

The weird voice as he giggled sounded horrifying as it literally echoed out of the phone and broke the silence of the room.

‘That’s right, my son is not married yet,’ Horace replied with the same composure as before.

However, the question put Horace into a conundrum. ‘Why would the investor ask such a question?’

‘Then,’ the man demanded emotionlessly, ‘arrange a marriage for him. The bride’s name is Amanda Ke.’ And then there was silence on either side of the phone.

A Foolish Man

‘Amanda Ke...’

It sounded familiar to Horace as he repeated the name, but he found himself at a loss in pinpointing it to an actual face.

‘Ah, you might know her? She is a world-famous female pianist. She had a performance in a concert in G City not long ago,’

The man smiled and reminded Horace after sensing his confusion.

The name clicked into place at the man’s remark. Horace remembered a concert in G City recently. The performers and singers were all from abroad; and major real estate developers in G City, including the Tang Group, sponsored the event.

Amanda Ke’s piano performance was the grand finale. The next day, her name poured out from almost all the headlines of newspapers and social

media posts. There was an overwhelmingly unanimous verdict— her performance was praised in words as an 'unprecedented success.'

With the turn of time, living conditions had been steadily improving in the city; and more and more people were gaining new appreciation for the arts. The government of G City was planning to build a new theatre in the newly-constructed tourism industrial area in order to host more performances from different artists in the future.

As for the TY Group, they took advantage of this opportunity by holding a concert for Amanda, and was well-received by the public. The tickets almost sold out only hours after the performance had been announced.

Horace didn't pay a lot of attention to this in the beginning, so it took him some time to recall the name, and all he knew was that she was an excellent pianist.

'I barely know her. How can I let Rufus and her be together?' he hesitated.

It would be strange to set Rufus up with a woman whom he didn't know at all. The very idea was ridiculous.

The man chuckled at his response and said, 'I will connect you with Amanda. You can rest assured that she would be agreeable to a marriage with Rufus.'

He sounded confident, his laugh was loud and had an odd ring to it.

'Are they old friends? Then... what about our business agreement?'

Horace asked, his mind on the negotiations for the investment.

‘When Amanda and Rufus decide to marry, I will put the money into the Tang Group’s account. Money isn’t a problem. Name your price, and we’ll be sure to match it,’ the man answered nonchalantly.

He didn’t seem to care about the money. From the way he spoke, it was as if the marriage between Rufus and Amanda was the only thing he had in mind.

Horace weighed the situation. After some deliberation, he had arrived at a decision.

‘Alright. I agree to your terms. I look forward to the success of this cooperation,’ he declared.

The man hung up. Horace found himself still listening to the busy tone from the other end. The reality of the conversation had not yet completely sunk in, and he was caught off guard from the abruptness of what had just happened.

This investor came from a famous venture capital firm. A colleague had once mentioned to Horace that the company was known for its risk-taking strategies. The riskier an investment was, the more willing they were to invest. It seemed that they had a lot of confidence.

As a family business, the Tang Group had gone through a long line of ups and downs. Since the establishment of the company, they had had to make a lot of changes and sacrifices, climbing their way to be one of the greatest companies in G City today. They had a steady foundation with their long history in the business; but if they wanted to grow, they needed something else, especially

‘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...

very scared back then, and Lionel felt remorse creep in his chest.

He could still see Cassandra in the Tang Group for now, but she would be resigning and leaving the company as soon as she finished the project with the amusement park. What did she plan to do after that?

Horace had decided to let go of Vernon's company. Lionel didn't have any say on the matter even if he owned some shares in the Qin Group. In a short while, those shares would inevitably be sold; and after that, the last of his connection to Cassandra would also disappear. She was no longer his wife, and not even a business partner. It would be as if she never existed in his life.

Lionel felt annoyed at the thought that Cassandra had to support the Qin Group on her own in the future and there was nothing he could do to help her.

This mood lasted for the whole morning, until a woman came to visit him.

'Mr. Tang, the pianist Amanda Ke has called for you. She said that she has an invitation to deliver in person.'

Lionel was taken aback by his secretary's words. 'Amanda Ke? The pianist? Why would she want to see me?' he wondered to himself.

Despite his surprise, he asked the secretary to bring her to his office.

Amanda greeted him, invitation in her hand.

‘Hello, Mr. Tang. I apologize for the unannounced visit, but I would like to invite you to my concert on Lantern Festival. I look forward to seeing you there.’

She held out the invitation to him and smiled sweetly.

Amanda was a beautiful woman. Lionel felt calmer at the sight of her. He had always liked attractive women, and there was one standing in front of him now.

He returned her smile with one of his own and reached for the card.

‘Thank you, Miss Ke. It would be my pleasure to go and see your performance. The Tang Group had just been thinking about sponsoring the concert, but the TY Group was faster. What a pity!’ he said, seeming regretful.

Lying came easily to Lionel. The Tang Group had never talked about any sponsorship for concerts, but what he said just now was the perfect response. Not only did his words compliment Amanda, but his words gave an air of sincerity to his answer.

Still, Amanda was no fool. She knew that Lionel was lying.

‘Such a foolish man. No wonder Cassandra chose Rufus.’ Amanda mocked him in her head, but her sweet smile never faltered.

Being A Ceiba Tree Beside You

Everyone knew that the wildly successful orchestral concert held in G City a few months ago was sponsored by the Tang Group. If they were

ever interested in Amanda's concert, they sure would have made it show by talking with her agent already. Well, it's easy to be wise after the event.

'Mr. Tang, you are such a generous president. It is my greatest pleasure to host a solo concert in G City. We all know this city is rapidly expanding and its future looks bright, so it's an honor to gain recognition by the people here,'

voiced Amanda, her face masked with a smile, hiding her true feelings of disgust in her heart. Everybody knew Lionel was just a vice president, but Amanda called him 'president' to make him feel good. Lionel was easily complacent.

'No, no, no, it's our pleasure to invite such a rising star like you to host a concert in G City.'

Lionel returned with a big, fat smile on his smug face.

'By the way, I heard that your wife, Cassandra Qin, has recently been awarded the best design in an international competition. She is so amazing considering she's the first Chinese to win such a prestigious award. You indeed have a good wife.'

Amanda pretended that she didn't know about their divorce, mainly because she wanted to embarrass Lionel. 'Well, to be fair, they haven't made it public yet, ' thought Amanda.

Lionel winced slightly when he heard Cassandra's name, but quickly recovered. He recalled the strange feeling in his chest when he saw Cassandra this morning.

‘Oh! I just saw your wife having coffee with Mr. Luo at the Starbucks by the corner. They really looked serious and seemed like they were discussing business. Such a dedicated duo!’

Her words were a bombshell. She didn’t even give Lionel anytime to think about why she mentioned Cassandra and Rufus.

Upon hearing this, Lionel was speechless for a while. ‘Cassandra having coffee with Rufus?’

He remembered Rufus always had Cassandra’s back, and he even beat him up just for her. Lionel had always suspected something was up between the two, but he never had any hard evidence to show for it.

‘She went to Rufus right after our divorce. Is there something going on between them?’ Lionel mused inwardly.’

He didn’t betray his thoughts to Amanda. To keep from the awkward situation, Lionel forced a smile and said, ‘Manager Qin is very busy these days. She was probably just discussing some of her designs with Mr. Luo.’

He looked calm when he replied. However, there was turmoil deep inside his mind. He was star

It all starts on that fateful night.

When Ella, who is the dear sister of Samuel’s best buddy, sneaks into the hotel where the drunken Samuel resides and gets pregnant...

‘I don’t want a divorce!’

‘I don’t want a divorce!’

‘I did no such thing!’

Ella jumped on the bed and cried out. ‘I don’t want a scheming woman as my wife. Just sign the paper...

at up rigid. He looked gentle, a stark contrast from his tone.

‘Rufus, have you ever read ‘To the Oak Tree’? It was written by a famous poet.’

Taking a deep breath, Cassandra started, ‘If I love you—

I will never be a clinging trumpet creeper, using your high boughs to show off my height.

If I love you—

I will never be a spoony bird, repeating a monotonous song for green shade.

Or being the spring, bringing cool solace all year long.

Or be a steep peak, increasing your stature, reflecting your eminence,
Even the sunlight, Even the spring rain.

No, all these are not enough.

I must be a ceiba tree beside you;

be the image of a tree standing together with you.

Our roots, entwined underground.

Our leaves, touching in the clouds.

With each gust of wind, we greet each other.

But nobody, can understand our words.

You'll have your copper branches and iron trunk, like knives, like swords,
like halberds, too.

I'll have my crimson flowers, like heavy sighs, and valiant torches.

We'll share cold spells, storms and thunder.

We'll share mists, hazes and rainbows.

Seemingly always apart, but also forever interdependent.

Only this can be a great love.

The loyalty is here.

I love not only your strapping stature, but also your firm stand, the earth
beneath you...'

Her face was animated when she recited the poem. It was her favorite
ever since she was young.

The poem meant that love would need not only company, but also
independence to last long.

Rufus looked intently at Cassandra, and cast a faint smile as she recited
her poem.

Beyond the window in the distance, a pair of eyes were scowling at the
couple.

Lionel's eyes grew big with anger as he stood outside the coffee shop. He was watching Cassandra and Rufus who seemed to be happy, drinking coffee, talking and enjoying each other's company.

Rufus and Cassandra, on the other hand, were unaware that they were being watched. They continued chatting and laughing while taking a sip from their mugs. Lionel's blood brewed in rage at the display of affection. In his eyes, the way they talked with each other revealed that their relationship was more than that of a boss and an employee. He had always been doubtful about their relationship.

Upon hearing from Amanda that she saw Rufus and Cassandra in the coffee shop near the company, Lionel instantly left his office and headed towards the coffee shop. Judging from their interaction, his suspicions were now confirmed. He wanted to walk in and confront them right in their faces but refrained from doing so. Since he had divorced Cassandra, he discerned that he had no right to question her about her relationship with Rufus.

Just as Lionel was fumbling his mind whether to confront them or not, Rufus and Cassandra walked out. Afraid of being caught eavesdropping, he was about to hide. However, he was held frozen when he saw what Rufus was doing with Cassandra.

Rufus put his arm around Cassandra's shoulder and whispered something in her ear. Blushing instantly and bashfully pushing Rufus away, Cassandra turned around and headed toward the company building.

With the mirth evident on his face, Rufus looked at Cassandra's back until it disappeared at the corner. Then he walked to his car, got in and drove away.

He had to host a meeting for the Union of Real Estates. Before his departure, Cassandra told him to come home early and asked what he wanted to eat for dinner. 'I want you!' he whispered, which was the reason why Cassandra walked away with a blushed face.

When he arrived at the building of the Dawn Star Group where the meeting was to be held, Rufus was warmly greeted by Arthur, the leader of the Dawn Star Group.

This was the first meeting since the founding of the Union. To show the importance he had attached to the meeting, Arthur waited on the first floor to welcome all the members who were coming to attend the meeting.

'Welcome, Mr. Luo! The Dawn Star Group is greatly honored by your presence. The meeting room has already been set. Let my secretary lead the way,'

Arthur said politely as he shook hands with Rufus, who in return responded with a ceremonial smile. Although Arthur treated Rufus and the Tang Group as his biggest opponent, in such a condition he had to pretend to be nice and respectful because Rufus was the Director of the Union.

Arthur had already known that Cassandra and Lionel had recently got divorced. That was really a piece of good news for him!

He had planned to isolate Cassandra from the Tang Group. Before he could carry out his plan, however, Cassandra herself terminated her marital relations with Lionel and moved out of the Tang family house.

If Cassandra resigned from the Tang Group, they would have sure lost an excellent designer who could outwit the designers of the Dawn Star Group in project biddings.

Arthur had carefully studied the government's planning of the entire tourism industry. He got the conclusion that the architectural design in this particular field should be both practical and aesthetic, and that was just what he was good at. Without Cassandra competing with him, he confidently

'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...

s.

The agenda of the meeting of the Union was to talk about the construction of the tourism industrial area. Almost all the member companies were undertaking some projects, big or small, in this industrial area construction.

They each expressed their own opinion. The Tang Group would assimilate all the different opinions, made a conclusion and would present it to the responsible leaders in the government.

After the meeting, people left one by one. A man came to Arthur, patted him on the back and said with a tone of admiration, 'Hi, Arthur, I heard that you got an investment from TY Group. Nice work! TY Group's boss

has high requirements in choosing where to invest. Lots of people want to seek investment from them, but failed.'

The man was the boss of a small company. He had tried to seek cooperation with TY Group, yet he was rejected.

'I'm honored. TY Group chose to invest with us because of the sincerity that we show,'

Arthur replied politely. He was pleased to receive these compliments.

Rufus who was walking behind them clearly heard their conversation. A slight smile appeared at the corner of his mouth and then vanished before anyone could see it.

'Huh! Be honored?' Rufus sneered in his heart. Dawn Star Group was just a 'useful chess piece' TY Group needed in this game.

They were just a pawn that Rufus took use of to facilitate the realization of his plan. Ridiculously, Arthur was quite conceited and was elated with himself.

'Arthur, the game's still on, you'd better watch out for yourself,' Rufus thought in his brain as he shot a disdainful look at Arthur.

Meanwhile, in the Tang Group, Cassandra handed in her resignation notice and her employee ID card to the personnel department. She shook hands with everybody there and bid each one of them goodbye.

The employees of Tang Group had heard that Lionel and Cassandra got divorced. Their marital relationship was made public just lately. Little did everyone think that they would get divorced so abruptly.

Actually, there were lots of rumors around the office about Cassandra and Lionel.

Cassandra took a deep breath and braced herself ready to leave. Just as she was going to step out, the door was kicked open and a cold-faced man burst in.

‘I haven’t approved your resignation yet. Take back your ID card!’

I Want To Feast On You

Everyone panicked as they heard a sudden shout. Unaware where it was coming from, they looked around and finally found Lionel. He was standing in the doorway with a sullen face.

Cassandra, on the other hand, shared the surprise too. She couldn’t believe it was Lionel who had let out the cry.

‘Didn’t he ask me to leave the Tang Group for the divorce deal? Why is he around to embarrass me all over again?’ thought Cassandra looking agitated.

‘Mr. Tang, President Luo has approved my resignation. It is the corporation’s rule that dismissal of a managerial personnel should be approved by both the board of directors and the president. But resignation only requires the president’s approval,’ Cassandra replied.

While speaking, she tried her best to be patient. She intended to reason with Lionel. The smile she had earlier started to fade. Now it was replaced with an emotionless look.

The whole place contained pin drop silence. Following Lionel’s rebuke, nobody in the personnel department apart from Cassandra dared to speak. In a hurry, everyone turned their heads away from this conversation and made an attempt to busy themselves.

However, Cassandra was well aware that their ears were still trying to make out their conversation. Turning around was only a facade to look good in front of Lionel. But curiosity was killing everyone present there.

‘Yes, I am the one who has the permission to resign you. There is no way you can leave without my approval. My signature is required for your resignation. Without it, you are trapped!’ Lionel spat out with rage.

After that, he stormed towards the Director of the Personnel Department and grabbed Cassandra’s resignation and ID card from his desk. Swiftly he handed them to Cassandra and warned, ‘Take back your resignation. You cannot leave here unless you have my signature. Put on the card and continue observing the corporation rules!’

Lionel knitted his eyebrows as he glared at her. Cassandra kept still and didn’t bother taking the things from Lionel.

At the moment, she was speechless and thought his behavior was surprising. ‘How can Lionel be so fickle? It was he who forced me to sign the divorce agreement. And now he is acting completely different. Why is he ridiculously stopping me from leaving here?’ she wondered.

‘Mr. Tang, I have submitted my resignation to Mr.Luo and he has approved it. I will cooperate with you if you need any support in the future. It is certain that my resignation has come into effect as Mr.Luo has already signed it. From now on, I am not an employee of the Tang Group, therefore I am under no obligation to comply to the rules set by this corporation.’

As she uttered these words, there was a look of resolution on her face. She seemed firm and wouldn’t budge.

In the past few years, she had suffered a lot from this marriage. Marriage was supposed to give her a happy life but she never got to experience it. All of the

‘Do you still want to run away after what happened last night?’

Their relationship changes overnight. She tries to keep her distance from him, while he comes closer and closer.

Spoiling her, he gives her everything she desires. His only wish is to keep her around. The whole world is envious of what she has.

‘Never rush in a relationship,’ she says calmly.

er nose. It was such an intoxicating feeling.

‘The dinner is ready, let’s eat.’

Cassandra felt the pounding of her heart in the chest. She tried to suppress her thrill, but her trembling voice gave her away.

‘What dinner? Isn’t it settled that I would feast on you today?’

Rufus playfully arched his eyebrow, reached out to wrap the woman into his arms but she immediately dodged him with her lithe move.

‘Don’t touch me or the rose will be messed!’

Hugging the roses, Cassandra looked around, unsure where to place them. This was the first time that Rufus had given her flowers. There was no way she would leave them anywhere. She treasured them very much.

Rufus’s perfect lips curled into an amusing smile as he watched her fly about in the hope of finding a good place to set the bouquet.

‘Place them wherever you want. If you like it so much then I will buy it for you every day!’

Rufus offered. To please the pretty woman in front of him, he was willing to do anything.

‘Don’t, it doesn’t sound good. If you do it everyday then it won’t be a surprise!’ she dismissed his offer. She didn’t want to bother him.

Cassandra finally found a woven basket made of bamboo. Originally she planned to put sundries in it. But now it seemed to fulfill a good function loading such an amazing rose bouquet.

Cassandra carefully unwrapped the paper binding the roses and placed the nutrient soil on the bottom of the basket. Carefully, she inserted the roses one by one into the soil.

Dew was still on the petals of the roses. Cassandra loved fragrance that was permeating the air. It seemed like Rufus and these roses had completely changed the atmosphere.

She was so busy with the task that she didn’t notice when Rufus stood behind her. Shock went through her whole body when she felt his arms clasp around her body. His head was leaning on her shoulder now.

‘If you keep me waiting longer then I will really have to feast on you!’

To Know More About Her

It felt like Rufus was burning into her skin. Part of her felt so shy that she wanted to tear herself apart from his embrace, but that only made him clutch her tighter and tighter.

‘Rufus..’ Cassandra said softly. ‘The dinner is ready, I have to arrange the table...’

Rufus gently planted his soft lips on hers before she could go any further. The fusing of their mouths, the feeling of his hands moving all over her back ignited a kind of electricity in her body. She moaned and exhaled with pleasure, only wanting him more. She let herself flow for just a few seconds, before saying, ‘Rufus...Stop... Please...It’s time for dinner. It took me so long to make all those dishes. You wouldn’t want to eat them all cold, would you?’ Cassandra brought herself to say despite the fire she felt in the pit of her stomach.

After leaving the Tang Group, she had hurried back simply so she could cook dinner for Rufus, which was something she had always wanted to do. For her, cooking for her beloved and waiting for him to come back home after a day’s hard work was the real happiness in life.

With his face buried in her neck, he let out a small chuckle and finally pulled himself back. Well, he thought he could wait a bit after sensing her embarrassment. They had the whole night to themselves.

At dinner, they sat face-to-face, with dozens of appetizing dishes on the table between them.

‘I don’t think Chinese food goes very well with red wine. I have here a pot of traditional yellow wine that my granny left me. Do you want to try it?’

Before Rufus could even say yes, Cassandra already picked up a porcelain cup, filling it up fully. As the pure, amber colour liquid flowed out of the beautiful, antique crock, a lovely, intoxicating aroma greeted them.

‘It tastes great, but this kind of yellow wine really has a kick to it. Just try a little first, you might get drunk pretty easily,’ she said, putting down the crock and pouring herself a cup of tea. ‘Cheers! With the wine and the tea, let’s toast for my resignation from the Tang Group today!’

Cassandra announced gleefully, raising her cup and waiting for Rufus to clink it. Rufus was torn between smiling and weeping at her words.

‘I never knew one could be so happy losing their jobs, you know,’ he said, amused.

And then he raised his cup, clinking it with hers. They looked deep into each other’s eyes as they sipped from their cups.

The amazement escaped Rufus’s face the moment the cup touched his lips. Pleasantly surprised by its flavor, he took a good look at the liquid. Now, it looked orange-red to him, even clearer in the white porcelain cup. Although it looked fairly transparent, the taste of it was quite dense and as rich as the smell that lingered in the air. Even the aftertaste had the perfect balance of acidity, sweetness and a slight bitterness.

This was the first time he had had yellow wine. It was unlike anything he’d drank before, as if it had things to express and stories to tell.

‘This wine tastes really rich! It seems so special. Tell me more about it,’ he urged, reaching for her hand.

Judging by the antique pot and its traditional flavor, he guessed it had a deep historic background.

However, Cassandra’s face fell at the question. A look of sorrow came across her beautiful eyes.

‘It has another name—Maiden Rose,’ she said slowly after a while. ‘I was brought up by my granny, who was in fact my mother’s wet nurse. She was a southerner, and followed the tradition of burying a pot of this kind wine under the ground if a girl is born into the family. The wine is to be kept underground till the day the girl is married,’ she recalled. ‘This pot was prepared for me

Drugged one night by her ex-boyfriend, a mysterious man took advantage of her in an ecstatic night filled with sex. To take her revenge, she married the man, and used him. ‘As long as I’m alive, I’m still his legal wife, while all of you are just his mistresses.’ She remained adamant even when he was involved in scandals with other women...

ing her a long hug. Only then did she notice Rufus. She smiled at Rufus but was unsure of why he would come with her.

Nevertheless, she let them both in warmly and called out to Cloris with joy.

‘Your sister’s back, Cloris, and Rufus has come, too. Get them some water, will you?’ she asked, looking toward the living room.

Cloris had been lying on the sofa, watching TV. Her face darkened as soon as she sat up and saw Cassandra.

She was still very mad at her. The last time they’d met, she’d splattered paint at Cassandra, warning her not to go against Arthur. Arthur was moved by her petty action. Cloris remembered how he had hugged her, calling her a silly girl and saying she didn’t have to stand up for him in the future.

‘Oh, but I’ll feel terribly bad if anything happens to you!’ Cloris recalled him saying.

He had said it so heartily, and hugged her so tightly. To Cloris, it was a fruit of what she had done for him.

Since then, she had accorded herself to keep an emotional knot in her heart for Cassandra. Now, seeing her again, she felt quite uncomfortable, especially because Edith was around.

Cassandra, on the other hand, smiled at her gracefully, as if nothing had happened.

Honestly, what Cloris did to her didn't even compare to the trouble she had in her marriage with Lionel. Now that it had been resolved and she had moved on, she felt generally positive about life. She could easily let go of Cloris's childishness.

As she saw it, Cloris hadn't entered the society yet. She still had a few years to be outspoken and impulsive.

Since she was in a relationship with Arthur, and deemed her sister as a stumbling block in his career path, it was perfectly natural for her to hold things against her. Disagreements were typical between siblings.

Now that Cassandra no longer worked in the Tang Group, she posed no threat to Arthur. The coldness between them should automatically resolve.

She decided not to think of it and greeted Cloris with a bright smile.

'Hi, Cloris. I heard you are going abroad soon. Anything I can help with?'

she asked, walking toward her and trying to start a conversation. To her surprise, Cloris stood up immediately with a cold, stony face.

‘I don’t feel well, mom. I am going to rest for a while,’ she said, stiffly.

Before turning and leaving, she threw the TV remote on the tea table. The noise it made was so loud it sounded like her intention was to smash it to pieces.

A Business Woman On The Way

Cassandra was shocked by Cloris’s act. Her intent was becoming too obvious through her reckless actions.

‘Are you alright, Cloris?’

At this moment, Edith saw that Cloris was growing angry so she immediately went to her and started babbling anxiously. She was afraid that her daughter might grow angry due to not feeling well.

Cassandra stopped where she was, looking down to see the remote control. Her eyes turned and saw Rufus. A sudden awkward feeling filled her.

Later, Edith walked back to the living room with her frowning brows.

‘What happened to her? Why did her face turn pale all of a sudden? She seemed alright a minute ago.’

Not able to answer the question, Cassandra simply smiled to hide the truth she knew. She then tried to change the topic and said, ‘Mother, there is something important that I need to tell you. I’ve already divorced Lionel.’

She said trying to downplay the gravity of her statement. It didn't work as Edith still cried out loudly.

'What did you say? Why didn't you come to me earlier? When did this happen?'

Edit asked as her eyes grew wide. This revelation was just too much for her to accept. Wasn't this such a rash decision?

'We got the divorce certificates just a few days ago. We don't love each other and neither of us was happy in the marriage. With this, I can now concentrate on father's company.'

Cassandra knew that her mother wouldn't easily accept her decision, so she tried to explain it carefully.

'How could you, Cassandra! Why didn't you tell us anything before making such decision?'

A frown formed on Edith's eyebrows. She was surprised and very unhappy to hear this news.

The marriage between Lionel and Cassandra was the idea from Vernon and her. Suddenly her daughter got a divorce without even informing her. She felt like her role and identity as a mother was being challenged.

'Mother, I'm an adult now. I know what I'm doing,'

said Cassandra as she looked directly into her mother's eyes.

While trying to find words to tell Cassandra, Edith simply looked at her. Suddenly, she remembered something about Vernon.

Many years ago, when Vernon gave up a secure and well-paying job to start his own business, he had the same firm and serious expression as well.

She realized that her elder daughter was so much like her husband.

All of a sudden, Edith noticed Rufus standing beside Cassandra. With the divorce, she was no longer a member of the Tang family, so why was he with her?

Cassandra immediately recognized the confusion in her mother's eyes. But, she didn't not know how to properly explain the situation.

A sneer suddenly came from behind her.

'Don't you use that 'concentrate on father's company' excuse. You got a divorce so you can be with Rufus openly, am I right?'

It was Cloris. She walked towards her and stared at Cassandra

'Let's go and register our marriage on your birthday!'

Marrying Daniel should have been her best birthday gift, but everything was ruined the moment when she caught him sleeping with another woman on the day before her birthday.

'He's going to marry that woman! She... was my best friend!'

it came to her plan for Qin Group as if she would never stop. This finally began to cheer her up.

Rufus admired this about her. She never learned how to manage a company and it was rare for a rookie to take everything into consideration.

‘Maybe you can cooperate with some larger construction companies and subcontract agreements with them. The Qin Group now is like a freshman in some ways, after all. You don’t need to set up so many departments. Focus on the priority first,’

Rufus said, reminding Cassandra of some risks. He was afraid that the company’s situation would deteriorate should she keep the unnecessary departments from the beginning.

Cassandra was stunned. She realized what Rufus said made a lot of sense.

Qin Group had terrible management in the past due to Vernon’s stubborn pride. He rented the largest and the most expensive office in the North District. Yes, it gave them a luxurious appearance but in the end, it was too expensive for the company.

On top of that, the design department existed in name only. The people there produced little to no decent works at all. It sucked the company dry by being credited with contributing to the company’s establishment.

Of course, profits went down due to the number of expenses and Vernon was the best example. He made desperate moves for profit. Cassandra realized that she could learn from her father’s past mistakes.

‘Thank you, Rufus!’

She turned around, looked at Rufus and thanked him sincerely. She felt that he couldn’t be more handsome now.

‘My pleasure. And stop thanking me all the time. You are my woman now. We’re family.’

Rufus rejoiced in his heart yet maintained a cool face.

Cassandra bent towards him and left a gentle kiss on his face.

She smelled so wonderful. Rufus could not help getting distracted.

‘I’m afraid I wouldn’t be able to control myself when you take the initiative.’

When I Fell In Love With You

For Cassandra, it was her worst fear no matter when Rufus said these vague jokes, even when others were around. She felt all her blood rushing to her cheeks as she blushed. It seemed like the temperature in the car went up because of what Rufus had just said.

‘Rufus, why don’t we stop by the supermarket later? Spring Festival is coming so I’m going to stock up on some items in case they raise the price during the holiday.’

It suddenly occurred to her that the refrigerator at their home was empty. As a woman, Cassandra naturally wanted to take care of the household and the grocery shopping.

‘Raise the price? Don’t worry, your husband can afford the extra cost!’

It was very rare to see Rufus tell a joke as he always remained silent and cold. But it seemed he turned into a normal husband who would flirt with his wife whenever he was with Cassandra.

‘Wait, don’t you rush to call yourself my husband. I haven’t authorized you yet,’

Cassandra snorted, pretending to be annoyed but deep inside she was giddy and happy.

It seemed that Cassandra was like a warm ray of sunshine pouring into Rufus's world, melting his ice-like exterior day by day. It surprised her a lot that he turned out to be an ordinary person of flesh and blood who'd joke and tease her, care for her, and help her even before she knew she needed it. At work, Rufus was a 'get-things-done' type of boss, so it was easy to forget how considerate and caring he could be.

It seemed that... she got to know him better and better.

The self-proclaimed husband pulled up in front of the biggest supermarket in G City. Cassandra and Rufus walked inside with a shopping trolley.

This was the first time they shopped together. Rufus was in charge of the trolley and Cassandra walked beside him, looking around to spot the items they needed. She asked Rufus for advice from time to time.

It looked like they were a married couple, doing their regular shopping. Cassandra felt happy at that moment.

The two of them, both good-looking and seemingly a perfect match for each other, were eye candy to everyone else. There were people looking at them with envy all the time.

'Do you feel like having some hairtail? How about I cook fried hairtail for dinner?'

It seemed like Cassandra was asking Rufus for his advice, but the domineering wife had already tossed the pack of fish in their trolley before the husband could even answer.

‘Stewed celery and lily bulbs is good. I’ll get some.’

She picked up another packet.

It wasn’t until the trolley was almost full that the busy wife remembered to ask Rufus what he wanted to buy.

‘What do you want for dinner? Well, forget it...’

Cassandra blushed when she saw the sly smile on Rufus’s face.

Bending down, he whispered into Cassandra’s ear. He was going to say the three words when she suddenly covered her ears and ran away.

She knew very well what he was going to say—‘I want you.’

As they approach

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.

’s tough childhood turned her into a mature and shrewd girl at a very young age. But she went to a different school from Lionel. How could she get in touch with him?

Some girls came to him with their love letters, chocolates and other types of snacks. They all tried different ways and tactics but no one even got Lionel's attention.

But again, Ivy was different and she used a different approach.

She paid off some gangsters and lured along Lionel's way home every night.

One day in a dark and narrow lane, some gangsters were bullying a vulnerable girl. The girl tried to break free from them, she screamed and her clothes were torn apart.

Lionel was tall and physically strong as he exercised regularly. He would not miss his chance to play a hero.

He fought off all the gangsters and turned to the poor Ivy who was huddling in the corner like a scared animal. It made him feel like he had to protect her.

Ivy got on her feet by pulling herself up using the wall as she trembled uncontrollably. The buttons of her shirt were ripped off and the tattered top exposed her ample bosom. Lionel felt his blood roar in his ears and he looked away.

The startled girl asked carefully if Lionel could take her home. Lionel nodded in agreement at her with a reddened face and placed his coat on her.

Lionel remained downstairs for a long time after taking Ivy to her dorm.

After that, he kept asking Ivy out for different reasons. Ivy won his heart with her innocence and kindness.

That was the best memory between them. Even though she approached Lionel because of his money, Ivy really did love him. But then he got married and everything changed.

‘Lionel, let me help you get in the shower.’

Ivy softened up as she recalled the happy moments between them. It made her heart ache to see Lionel this drunk.

But, the next sentence Lionel blurted out left her dumbfounded.

‘I fell in love with you the day your parents brought you to my home!’