

## The Enchanted Night – Chapter: 181

### Amanda s Visit

Lionel trailed Cassandra inconspicuously. He quietly followed her in as he saw her enter the hotel.

It had been an hour since Cassandra entered the room; and yet, she had not been out. Lionel started to grow impatient.

What was taking her so long? Was there something wrong?

Lionel decided to knock. Before he could, he saw a familiar figure walking towards the room from another direction.

It was a woman in a pink dress. She stood at an average height and was wearing a huge pair of sunglasses that hid most parts of her face. Still, it was evident that she was pretty with her tiny nose and plump lips.

That was Cloris! Now, Lionel was confused. 'What's she doing here?' he wondered.

Cloris walked towards the room that Cassandra went into. She knocked and David opened it to let her in.

'How's everything going?'

Cloris asked, taking her sunglasses off. There was cold arrogance in her eyes.

'She fainted. Everything went well,'

David replied confidently at the job well-done.

Cloris walked to the bedroom and saw Cassandra lying on the bed. She looked fast asleep. A sneer appeared on her face.

‘I’ll do it myself. You can leave now!’

Cloris said, tilting her head. David signaled to remind her of his payment and she took the hint immediately.

Cloris took out an envelope from her bag and handed it to him.

‘Here’s the money we’ve agreed on. Take it. If anyone asks you about it, you know nothing!’ she instructed.

Cloris worked hard to make sure this plan would be realized. She managed to contact Mr. Wang using David’s connections and had him earn Cassandra’s trust. Later, she lured Cassandra here using the name of Mr. Wang. The thought that she would finally have revenge on Cassandra made Cloris very happy.

She closed the door after David left the room and stared at her sister with hatred.

‘You asked for it, bitch!’ she cursed in her heart.

Cloris went abroad to study after the Spring Festival and called Arthur as soon as she managed to settle down. Unfortunately, the man who had been so considerate to her suddenly became so distant.

‘Arthur, why didn’t you answer my call?’

Cloris asked when she finally managed to reach him.

‘I’ve been busy in the business these days,’

he answered absent-mindedly.

‘Everything is new to me here. I miss you so much and I’ve texted you a lot. But you never text me back,’

Cloris complained, frowning. She felt like something was wrong with Arthur but she did not have the heart to ask why.

‘Told you, I’m busy,’

he replied, a little irritated.

‘Are you hiding something from me?’

Cloris asked, unable to stand it anymore. She went straight to the point.

‘You are thinking too much,’

Arthur replied dismissively. It was clear that he was not in the mood to talk and he didn’t care to

‘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!’

sisters. She had lived a better life than Cassandra before their father went to jail. She had been the apple of her parents’ eye. But now, she was unable to go back to her own home and her boyfriend broke up with her. She lost her backbone and there was no one she could rely on anymore!

‘Cassandra! Cassandra! It’s all your fault!’ roared Cloris in her mind.

She gritted her teeth and glared at Cassandra lying on the bed. Then, she reached out and started to remove her clothes.

In the villa of the Tang family, Rufus was surprised to find a guest in the living room when he came home.

She smiled brightly with big eyes and a pretty face. It was Amanda. She chatted with Jill and Ivy happily.

Rufus frowned a bit upon seeing her. Why was Amanda here ?

He planned to go to his room discretely but Jill greeted him unexpectedly, which was something very unusual.

‘Rufus, we have a guest. Come and greet!’

Jill beckoned to Rufus. He paused for a while but finally walked to the ladies.

Amanda fixed her eyes on Rufus the moment he entered the house.

He was always handsome and masculine. Even though he looked to be quite impatient now, Amanda felt her heart still beat fast for him.

‘Nice to see you again, Mr. Luo,’ she remarked.

Amanda was always elegant in public. People could hardly imagine the sadness she kept inside.

Rufus extended his hand and shook hers politely. Then, he excused himself saying, ‘Forgive me, I’m afraid I have to go to the study to deal with some business.’

Noticing that Horace was not in the living room, Rufus inferred that he must be in the study and decided that it was a good excuse to leave.

‘Were you going to talk to me? We can talk later. No business tonight. It’s my honor to receive Miss Ke home,’

said Horace who suddenly walked to the living room from the study with a smile on his handsome face.

You Are Behind All Of This

A slight smirk of triumph hung on Horace’s mouth. Rufus knew he must have a trick up his sleeve.

He had intended to leave Rufus and Amanda alone in the living room so that sparks might start to fly between them.

But he was mistaken. While Lionel was faultlessly obedient to him, Rufus would never allow himself to be ordered about.

Rufus stood quietly, his eyes never leaving Horace, watching for his next move.

‘Miss Ke, I’m so sorry to have missed your last concert. I was feeling quite under the weather. I heard it was a great success, congratulations,’

Ivy exclaimed. She hoped her enthusiasm would hide her dismay that she had in fact, not been invited to the concert.

‘Oh, that’s fine. Thank you, Mrs. Tang.’ Amanda said. ‘I have decided to settle down in G City. Holding concerts is only minor; but it’s imperative when it comes to running a piano school. Actually, I want to discuss the

construction project with you, Mr. Luo, in the coming days. When do you have time ?‘

Amanda tilted her head in Rufus’s direction, waiting for his answer.

‘Lionel is in charge of this, not me,‘

Rufus answered indifferently, his face expressionless.

And he wasn’t lying. It was Lionel who had signed his name on the contract and was responsible for this project. Rufus did not want to get involved at all.

Amanda was stunned. She knew very well that Rufus was deliberately trying to keep her at a distance.

‘From what I’ve been told, Lionel is busy. He is already responsible for several projects in the tourism industrial area,‘

Amanda continued, keeping up the pressure. She felt bad as Rufus rejected her in front of others, but she didn’t want him to feel any animosity from her. Clearly, winning his heart back would take more patience.

‘Well, speaking of Lionel. Why hasn’t he come back yet ? Ivy, have you called him and let him know we have a distinguished guest waiting and he should hurry back ?‘

Jill who had been watching the group obsequiously suddenly realized that Lionel had yet to return although it was already dark.

‘Maybe he is still busy with his work,‘

Ivy made an excuse. She had called Lionel several times, but he hadn't answered. She grew anxious, not knowing what he was doing.

'Miss Ke, my wife is a fan of yours. She has enjoyed all the music you play,'

Horace tried to change the subject, buttering Amanda up with his sweet talk.

Jill gladly joined in, eager to discuss her 'newfound hobby' with Amanda after cramming for piano music recently.

Horace had told Jill that Amanda had a good relationship with the government officials in G City, but stayed quiet about the investor's expectations. He was hoping that she could put in a good word for them. Jill and Ivy complimented Amanda desperately; while Amanda just smiled, throwing shy glances over to Rufus from time to time.

To the untrained eye, you wouldn't be able to catch the tension that hung above the room. But looking around, everyone in the room had their own axe

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t agony to be betrayed by your own family. Rufus knew it for himself, and he desperately wanted to keep Cassandra away from such pain.

As Cloris rushed out of the room, Lionel finally found his words.

‘I sent the security guards outside away. Now tell me what happened.’

Lionel stared at Rufus, his eyebrows raised expectantly.

‘You don’t need to know.’

Rufus’s heart was breaking more as he thought about the sadness tinged with Cassandra’s childhood, and continued to do so now.

‘Fine. If you don’t tell me, I will ask Cassandra myself.’

Lionel said defiantly, hoping he might see Rufus waver, but he was disappointed.

‘Lionel, mind your own business and behave yourself. Don’t poke your nose into things that do not concern you.’

Rufus always treated Lionel like a child. A flash of disdain came through him.

‘Rufus, Cassandra is my ex-wife. You cannot do this. This is incest!’

Lionel pushed, with unexpected violence in his tone. He couldn’t stand Rufus’s continued arrogance.

‘As you said, she’s your ex-wife. Since you have divorced each other, it’s not an incest anymore.’

Rufus retorted with *laissez-faire*. The veil of charm on his handsome face hid a deep sense of contempt for this sad man.

‘Fine. I’ll go dig into it. I will figure out what you’re up to.’



Lionel's finger pointed right at Rufus's nose, his glare fuelled by his anger.

Rufus carefully pushed Lionel's finger away from his face, a look of sympathy in his eyes.

'Since you've got so much time on your hands, why don't you think about how you're going to tackle the projects in the industrial area? The marketing department has been a mess since coming under your leadership.'

Rufus's cruel words touched a nerve in Lionel.

He knew as well as Rufus that his recent projects had been taken off him, either by the Dawn Star Group or by the Qin Group. Filled to the brim with frustration, Lionel stamped his foot and roared, 'Shut up, Rufus! I know you are behind all of this!'

I Couldn't Remember

'You'd better keep your mouth shut if you have no proof at all,'

Rufus said as he casually settled himself on the couch. With his legs crossed, he looked calmly at Lionel who was desperately furious.

Thankfully, Cassandra was now awake. The sharp quarrel just outside her room baffled her and began to hurt her ears.

Looking around, she realized that she was lying in a bed of a completely unknown room. She didn't know what was going on and why she was here.

Managing to sit herself up, Cassandra massaged her temples to help herself recall what had happened.

She remembered that she was talking about her design with David. Her memory, however, was quite limited that she failed to recollect what happened next.

Where was she ? Why was she sleeping here ? She had no idea about that.

Cassandra forced herself to stand up and walked unsteadily toward the door.

As she opened the door, she saw Rufus sitting on the couch as calm as he had always been, and beside him was the already red-faced Lionel who was staring at Rufus with eyes full of rage. Apparently, the argument that she had heard when she woke up was from them. Cassandra was wondering when the two unfriendly brothers had got together.

Seeing Cassandra approaching, the two men unanimously turned their eyes towards her.

‘You’re awake ?’

Rufus asked as he stood up quickly and walked toward Cassandra to support her. He held Cassandra by the arm and walked her to the couch.

Cassandra sat by Rufus’s side on the couch and gently rested her head on Rufus’s shoulder. Lionel disdained the scene and looked at them with a feeling of discomfort rising in his heart.

Cassandra was his former wife. Despite the fact that it was he who divorced her on his own initiative by signing the divorce agreement with her, it still felt awkward seeing her acting that way with Rufus.

Their relationship was clearly evident and they were showing it openly in front of Lionel. His temper rose at the thought that she was having an affair with Rufus, his half-brother!

‘It seems that I fainted. What happened? And where is David? I remember I was talking with him,’

Cassandra inquired, noticing the papers on the table.

‘You fainted from having a low blood sugar. David is quite satisfied with your design, but he was so careless that he left the papers here. I’ll arrange for someone to send it to him,’

Rufus answered her questions calmly without taking his eyes off from her.

‘Then why are you here? And why is Lionel here too?’

Cassandra continued asking because her doubts were not completely cleared yet. Rufus and Lionel were both here, which gave her an assumption that there could be something wrong and it could not be that simple.

‘I happened to call you at that time. David answered the phone and told me what happened,’

Rufus replied. He had expected that Cassandra would ask so, therefore he made a call to her phone before she could gain consciousness again. He believed that the call log would support his story.

Lionel knew that Rufus made up such a story trying to hide the truth from Cassandra. Judging from the expressions on her face, Lionel’s heart softened when he saw Cassandra in such a confused state.

Lionel himself didn't know what exactly happened, but he was sure that Rufus was not telling the truth. He could easily tell that David was not a good guy, and Cloris had something to do with what had happened. Rufus rebuked her seriously. What on earth did Cloris do to Cassandra that made Rufus so angry? Why didn't he tell her the truth? What was he trying to hide from her?

Accepting Rufus's answer, Cassandra asked no further. With an awkward tone, she then turned her eyes to Lionel and asked coldly,

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He had different girlfriends for every day of a year.

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nkfully, Ivy started to play her role as a social butterfly. 'Miss Ke, I heard that you have been selected by the government as the spokesperson of the tourism industrial area of G City. The government also wants to choose another spokesperson from the outstanding native enterprise representatives. Did they ask you for some recommendations?'

Ivy started a conversation that she knew would boost Amanda's pride. She knew that Amanda couldn't resist such flattery.

With such a topic fitting in exactly with her wishes, Amanda replied at once with a cheerful tone, 'Yes, the government plans to select a young entrepreneur from those leading companies in G City. They hope that the spokesperson could show the city's tolerance for new things as well as its adherence to the tradition. So I guess they want to choose a young man from an experienced company.'

While speaking, Amanda was secretly glancing at Rufus to see his reaction.

‘The Tang Group and the Dawn Star Group are the two leading companies in G City. Both companies participated in the construction of the tourism industrial area. Lionel is the vice president of the Tang Group and is also a representative of young entrepreneurs. He is a qualified candidate. Don’t you think so?’

Ivy responded smilingly, with a selfish motive of recommending Lionel.

Actually, Amanda didn’t agree with Ivy, but she still wore a proper smile and answered flatteringly, ‘Of course, Mr. Tang would make an excellent spokesperson. I would recommend him to the government. But, eventually, it’s up to the government to make the final decision.’

Amanda rebutted Ivy skillfully. Deep inside her, she thought that she would definitely not say a word for Lionel to the government, because she had her own favorite, Rufus.

However, Rufus was quite unresponsive with their conversation. In the whole course, he just sat there eating silently, not giving even a glance at Amanda.

‘Mr. Luo, I am a believer of a saying that great wits have short memories. It seemed that you fail to remember me, right?’

Amanda asked directly. Since Rufus refused to talk with her and pretended not to know her, she decided to take the initiative.

Rufus slowly raised his head, shot a short look at Amanda, and then said dryly, ‘I couldn’t remember.’

Hearing his reply, Amanda’s smile froze on her face.

What did he mean by those three simple words? What did he forget? Did he forget everything about her or the fact that they had been lovers?

*Passionate Kisses*

Rufus might have been physically close to Amanda, but now to her, he felt so distant—he was there but he wasn't really there.

She gazed at Rufus's handsome face, feeling something break inside her.

It was clear to everyone now, not just Horace, that Rufus was avoiding Amanda.

Since he was a member of the Tang family, the very least he could do was be polite to Amanda who was a guest of Horace's.

However, Rufus could care less. He knew very well that Amanda was only here to make herself look good to his family. It was quite obvious that almost everyone else too knew.

In fact, Rufus had changed over the years and he'd stopped loving her a long time ago.

Suddenly, Rufus's phone buzzed—it was a message from Cassandra.

'I'm already at the Garden Villa. I'm okay. Don't worry about me,' the message read.

Rufus's face broke into a smile of relief, something Amanda didn't miss.

It needed not be mentioned that Rufus lit up at the sight of Cassandra's message. And as for Amanda? She had bent over backwards trying to get a smile out of Rufus but to no avail.

Amanda scanned the table carefully looking at each person on the table as she racked her mind for ideas. Horace was growing old so he was obviously just interested in the benefits that came with her. Jill obviously knew nothing about music but she insisted on getting involved. Horace probably set her to this so Amanda could grow to like the family. And as for Lionel and Ivy...

Amanda had been secretly watching them and she realized that there was no love at all between the two.

She heard that Ivy had been having an affair with Lionel for years. Ivy tried to set Cassandra up by falling down the stairs on purpose and hurting her baby. She set this up so that Cassandra would get kicked out, making an opening for her to take Cassandra's place. But her plan failed miserably—even though Cassandra ended up divorcing Lionel, Lionel still didn't ask her to marry him. While she was living in the Tang house, she and Lionel weren't together legally. She must have been massively bitter.

Amanda watched them all closely before coming to a decision in her mind. She put on the fakest smile she could and said to Ivy, 'Miss Luo, I heard that you majored in administration management in college. My office is short of hands now. May I have the honor to invite you to work in my company?'

Amanda made the offer to Ivy.

That was just too shocked for Ivy to comprehend what Amanda had said to her in a short time. She had been depending on Lionel since she graduated and never worked before. She had lived an extravagant life thanks to Lionel and probably she'd already forgotten all the skills she

learned in college. Why did Amanda offer her a job? That was just too amazi

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past. He would never treat her like how he did today.

The light cast a shadow over Rufus's sharp and angled face. His eyes were dark and emotionless.

Amanda remained where she stood—under the pear tree. From afar, she gazed at Rufus as she swore under her breath, 'I'll prove it to you, Rufus. You'll be mine again someday. We'll be together again.

I'll make you fall in love with me again!'

By the time Cassandra arrived home, she still felt a bit light-headed. She took a very quick shower and went straight to bed.

That night, she had a dream.

She had a dream about Rufus.

Suddenly, she woke up.

When she woke up, Cassandra thought she was still dreaming because a pair of arms had been enveloped around her and a heavy breathing filled her ears.



Rufus sensed she'd woken up so he whispered in her ear, 'What woke you up? Do you need some loving?'

His face broke into a huge smile before he kissed Cassandra on the lips fervently.

He arrived later than Cassandra did. She'd already been sleeping by the time he got in the room so he slid next to her in the bed and wrapped her in his arms.

But when she woke again around dawn, he was nowhere to be seen.

Cassandra felt a bit disappointed. She just wanted to be with him day in and day out without any interruption.

She held a difficult position with the Tang family so if she and Rufus were married, it would take a while before they could adjust.

Cassandra lifted her head to peek through the window and glimpse the two Chinese parasol trees brought by Rufus. A light smile played on her lips as she murmured quietly to herself, 'These trees grow together, share the sunlight with one another, and stand through the storm together until the end.'

Rufus, I hope we'll share our lives the same way they do. I don't ever want to be apart from you.'

*Be My Dancing Partner*

As promised, Amanda gave Ivy a job in her company. She only needed to work short hours but her salary was much higher than she could imagine.

Ivy knew very well why Amanda was giving her the job, and it was because Amanda wanted to learn more about what Rufus was up to. Consequently, Ivy was always happy to share everything she heard and saw in the Tang House, whether deliberately or unintentionally.

However, the only pieces of information Ivy had at the moment were the recent developments of Tang Group and unimportant conversations between Rufus and the Tang family, which Amanda could find out on her own too.

To her surprise, Amanda treated her even better. Aside from chatting with Ivy, she had never asked Ivy to do other things in the studio. It seemed that Amanda believed everything she said without suspicion. Ivy felt lucky and was very pleased to work with Amanda.

‘Ivy, there will be a dance party in three days. All the government officials will be attending. Please do come as well with Mr. Tang,’ Amanda invited Ivy with a pleasant smile on her face.

Amanda seemed to be on her way out of the studio already as she was wearing her coat when she knocked on the door and invited Ivy.

On the other hand, Ivy had learned about the dance party and heard that the spokesperson for enterprises in G City would be selected during that event. This person would also be representing the tourism area of G City with Amanda.

Because she had not formally married into the Tang Family, Ivy assumed that she wasn’t invited to parties like that. But, Amanda did come to ask her in person to attend so she was overwhelmed.

‘I don’t know whether Lionel will take me to the party. It’s embarrassing but we hadn’t gotten married yet...’ Ivy responded technically.

She looked at Amanda for a response even before she could finish her sentence.

With an assuring smile, Amanda told her to be patient.

‘I’ll talk to your future father-in-law and he will talk to Mr. Tang. I think that my opinion carries an important weight to him now,’ Amanda promised.

She was too smart to not know what was in Ivy’s mind and knew how to make Ivy satisfied.

This was a very good opportunity for Amanda. She was making sure that everyone she needed was there. The more, the better.

And Ivy was an important part of her master plan, she needed to make sure that she showed up to the party.

At the same time, Cassandra was very busy working in her office when suddenly her assistant came in carrying an invitation.

‘Manager Qin, the government office sent an invitation here asking you to take part in a dance party in three days,’ the assistance reported eagerly.

She placed the invitation on Cassandra’s desk but her eyes were fixed on it curiously.

She wondered who sent this invitation and why they invited Cassandra. The company was not big enough or well-known for such occasions.

Cassandra was obviously confused thinking who had sent this invitation to her too.

She grabbed the white envelope containing the invitation and hurriedly opened it. The dance party, as mentioned, was scheduled in three days. The letter was from the mayor's wife.

Cassandra remembered that she played mahjong for the first time in her life with the mayor's wife, but couldn't figure out why she would ask her to the party.

She didn't suspect anything with the invitation and decided to go out of politeness.

Cassandra thought for a while before she took her phone to call Michelle with the intention of asking her

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said that their dresses didn't fit properly and wanted you to alter them immediately,' the assistant explained hurriedly in a low voice that only Michelle and Cassandra could hear.

Cassandra was aware that they needed to pay more attention when dealing with officials. It was difficult to keep a good relationship with them.

'Please go and see what happened, Michelle! Thank you for telling me so many things about him, and I owe you a lot. Just let your assistant wrap the dress for me and I'll be out of your hair. I also got other plans,' she urged Michelle.

Cassandra gave a sincere smile and her eyes glimmered with gratitude.

Michelle also smiled at her, knowing that she had to leave now. She planned to tell Cassandra about Amanda the next time they met. With that, she bid goodbye and left hurriedly.

Cassandra returned to her office with the dress and to her surprise, Lionel was waiting for her there.

‘Why go through the trouble of visiting my office, Mr. Tang? What can I do for you,’ she asked directly.

She put the bag on her desk and looked at the unexpected and unwelcomed visitor, wondering whether he was there to argue with her and if it was, why.

‘Cassandra, are you stupid or are you pretending to be stupid? Did you already forget about what happened at the hotel the other day?’ Lionel asked ironically.

He sat on the guest sofa comfortably as if he was in his own living room, with his legs and arms spread in the most comfortable position he managed. Noticing Cassandra’s face slowly changed, he couldn’t help but flash a piece of triumph in his eyes.

‘My dear ex-wife, I don’t believe that you trust that bastard completely,’ he thought.

The fact of the matter was, Cassandra didn’t really believe what Rufus told her the other day. She had lost consciousness and couldn’t remember a thing. She had no other choice.

Besides, David's design was taken away by Rufus too, and the residual payment was made. The case was completed, but she still couldn't figure out what really happened and she was curious about it.

'If you want to know, I can tell you, but I have one condition. You need to come to the dance party in three days, as my partner,' Lionel proposed.

There was a wicked and self-satisfied smile on the corner of his lips, as he believed that Cassandra would agree to his demands.

*Men Are Strange Animals Part One*

'No way! I'm not interested in hearing your side of the story,' Cassandra said defiantly.

Immediately and with such determination, she laid down her case. Cassandra felt herself gaining strength and boldness, each day of her separation from this man she detested.

She hated to admit that this man had caused a lot of damage. Cassandra was so innocent when she met Lionel. During their arranged marriage, they just could not seem to get along with each other. His hatred and her resistance drifted the two further and further away. She had never been afraid of Lionel's threats before, and would never allow them to affect her in the future.

'You don't want to know what's happened, do you?' Lionel said, with a smirk on his arrogant face.

He was quite surprised, as he looked for that familiar curiosity in her eyes. Cassandra no longer fell for his mind games. Sitting like a blueprint

in front of her. He had become so obvious. The years of reading his every action had made her extremely perceptive. The repulsiveness sat in her throat when she looked at him.

‘I do, but I trust Rufus more and will believe what he has told me. Your information is normally fragmented in lies and concealment,’ Cassandra said coldly.

Cassandra took a deep breath and looked at Lionel calmly. She no longer felt anxiety and had no pit in her stomach. How wonderful it was to be free of his bondage.

She wondered why Rufus hasn’t told her everything. As she pondered, she realized, he was protecting her. He was a caring man, always putting her well being first. These two brothers couldn’t have been any more different, even if they tried. Lionel was just a critically hard man. He could not commit, and had no loyalty.

Lionel had his teeth clenched, seething with annoyance. Cassandra had been pushing him lately. He was going to make them regret their relationship. If he couldn’t have her, neither could his brother. He always believed he was better. Thinking he had to prove his point, in everything he did. ‘We will see about that.’ Anger rose up within him.

His thoughts flickered back to their marri

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.

wanted the best for him. She never wanted to separate him or bring anymore pain into his relationships. Cassandra was well aware of what it meant without love, support, and care from family.

‘Not the filthy way as I think? How do you know what I am thinking?’  
‘How do you know in what way I see you?’ said Lionel with a darker face, clenching his teeth.

He changed from his relaxed posture into sitting up right, and his neck stiffened.

‘Lionel, I don’t want to argue with you anymore. I’m tired of your nonsense. Please get over it and get out. Stop meddling in my business! I trust Rufus, and it’s never your place to judge.’

‘I will never accept you and my brother together.’ said Lionel. Cassandra didn’t bother to waste her breath, knowing that he just wanted to get on her nerves.

Lionel was quite frustrated that he never got the response he wanted.

He knew he was the reason for Cassandra leaving him. She was such a stunner, how did he miss that? He had all those mistresses, and not one could compare with her. This woman used to be his legal wife, but now she was in his brothers arms. With this thought, a sudden pangs of rage flooded through him.

‘If Rufus does marry you, then you will no longer be my ex, but my sister-in-law!’ Lionel laughed out loud. ‘But...I’m not sure whether that will go down too well with daddy dearest. Rufus would just do it to spite him anyway.’



‘If Rufus does marry you, then you will no longer be my ex, but my sister-in-law!’ Lionel laughed out loud. ‘But...I’m not sure whether that will go down too well with daddy dearest. Rufus would just do it to spite him anyway.’

Lionel had a sinister smile on his face. He gazed at Cassandra meaningfully, satisfied to see her stiffen instantly.

She felt a stab to her heart. ‘Would Horace accept her? What about the Tangs?’

Rufus and she were in the awkward status now. She once hoped to get the blessings from the two families, but would that be possible?

Her father Vermon, had no idea of her love life, being stuck in prison. Edith, her mother, would never approve of anything she did. And Cloris, her sister, kept being hostile towards her.

Besides, just imagine how the Tangs would react! Jill never liked her, seeing her as a gold digger. She knew for the fact that Cassandra married into the Tang family for commercial benefit of the Qins. The Lady of the Tangs was always looking down her nose at her. She was such a pompous, pretentious woman, believing that only certain people had the right to breath in her oxygen.

Horace, never accepted her as part of the family. The day Cassandra’s father was imprisoned, he showed his intense indifference towards her. Then it dawned on her, she would never truly be accepted by the Tangs.

And Lionel... In the wrong place at the wrong time, with the wrong man, she had started a tragic life. He had ruined all her fantasy of marriage for her. Her thoughts about marriage and relationships, had become practical. Not that she didn't want the fantasy, it just felt as though it was unattainable.

If it weren't for Rufus, what would have happened to her? Her knight in shining armor, came to her rescue. The thoughts of his strong beefy physique, warm smile, strong heartbeats and stunning eyes made her legs all wobbly.

'I won't regret my relationship with him. Rufus has never minced his words about marriage. But it didn't worry me; even if we never get married, I am conten

'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...

in no time, with a smug smile on her face.

'Stella, you know I didn't mean to ignore you, okay? The Qin Group has just started over. Everything needs to be done at the same time, you know how it goes. And I have no one to really help me to see to the whole company. You know what? I haven't taken a break in such a long time.'

Cassandra also felt dead beat, but she had to persist since it was her father's company...

'That doesn't make me mad! I am mad because you have been keeping your secret love life from me! Do you really take me as your BFF, friend?'

Stella pouted angrily.

Cassandra was mystified, wondering how the knowledge of their falling in love had reached Stella, as Rufus and she hadn't mentioned a thing.

'How... 'How did you know that?'

Cassandra asked Stella in a daze. Cassandra was utterly perplexed, wondering when Rufus decided to publicly declared their relationship.

Stella narrowed her eyes and pretended to glower at Cassandra, before pulling out her mobile. She tapped open the News app and handed it to Cassandra.

'Take a look for yourself! You have made the headlines!'

The confusion was written all over Cassandra's face. She took the phone from Stella dubiously and froze as her eyes glanced upon the news.

It was the photo in which Dylan was wrapping her in his arms and addressing the journalist.

Cassandra was still shocked. It took a while before it wore off and she was able to pull herself together. At the side, Stella crossed her hands and raised them to her chest.

‘Why didn’t you tell me about this, Cassandra? I’m your best friend and I can’t believe you keep secrets from me! But please accept my best wishes. It’s lucky of you to find a sweet and handsome boyfriend in such a short time! I hope he can heal your wound. It was romantic of him to announce you as his girlfriend to the whole world! How I envy you!’ Stella chatted non-stop.

Her face showed an expression of admiration, especially that she didn’t have a boyfriend at the moment.

Cassandra curled her lips. She looked at the photo again before she averted her eyes to Stella, not knowing whether to laugh or cry about the situation.

She thought hard how to explain everything to Stella. If she chose to say that Dylon and her pretended to be lovers to get Lyndsy out of trouble, then she would have to explain why and open up about what happened to Lyndsy. And it was impossible to elaborate the entire story in just a few words.

While Cassandra was thinking hard on how to explain the entire situation to her friend, Stella just talked and talked.

‘When will that silly goose spontaneously do something like that? Will I ever experience something like that in my life? If he can act like your boyfriend, I’ll sure be jumping at it!’ Stella muttered.

The serious and depressed expression on her face made Cassandra part her lips with an abortive attempt at a laugh.

Cassandra knew exactly who she was talking to. It was Victor, who always followed Rufus like his shadow wherever he went.

Victor had left a good impression on Cassandra. He might not talk much and always showed a cold

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is an elegant pianist. Hmm, what a perfect pair they make!

Stella's eyes gleamed and danced, happy like a lark. Her cheeks became red from excitement. On the other hand, Cassandra's heart was sinking down as if a rock was tied to it and her entire body was suddenly frozen. 'The pianist...Amanda Ke!' A name flashed across Cassandra's mind.

That same woman had held Rufus's arms intimately and she had made Rufus leave her without any hesitation with just a phone call.

Cassandra could see the billboards of that woman every day on her way to work, and she was smiling gracefully like an angel along the skyline of G City's busy streets.

That same woman was just like a shadow that existed between Rufus and her, half visible and half hidden; it was impossible for Cassandra to get rid of the shadow because she kept reminding them of her existence every now and then.

Cassandra had deliberately ignored the woman and was reluctant to think about her. She made an effort to avoid her own suspicion breaking her relationship with Rufus.

Until now, what Stella told her had forced her to reconsider this woman and thought that she was not as simple as she used to think.

*It s Easier For A Woman To Pursue A Man Part Two*

This woman had managed to see Rufus every day, but Cassandra could only see him once or twice a week at the most.

She brought lunch to his office every day, but it was rare for him to eat any food that Cassandra cooked.

Cassandra remembered the promise Rufus made to her the other day when he said that she was the only woman he loved, which sounded like a joke to her now or a dark joke, dangling in front of her face and smiling at her weirdly. Cassandra felt dizzy and started to rub her forehead.

‘What’s wrong with you, Cassandra? Are you okay?’ Stella asked as she worried about her friend’s sudden change of demeanor.

She noticed something strange about Cassandra. Her face turned pale and beads of sweat formed on her forehead.

‘Nothing, I’m fine. Do you, do you know the name of that woman?’ Cassandra struggled through to ask.

She was almost certain who the woman was, but was unwilling to accept it. She asked anyway as she hoped that Stella could give her a different name.

When she decided to be together with Rufus, she prepared herself mentally for that. She knew that a lot of women were after him due to his standing and good looks. Cassandra understood all that.

She had made up her mind to trust Rufus and believe everything he said to her. She took his promises seriously and was confident that she would laugh at all the gossips about him.

‘Oh, I almost forgot to tell you! Her name is Amanda Ke, a very popular pianist who is living in G City now!’ Stella snapped out.

The name pushed Cassandra over the edge again. She stared at Stella’s mouth as she spoke but couldn’t hear any other words she said.

Her

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to Cassandra and examined her as a concerned friend.

Cassandra felt a tingle in her eyes and tried hard to hold back her tears from flowing down.

‘Right, I’m just completely exhausted. It’s nothing and I just need to sleep more,’ she explained and patted Stella on her shoulder.

She cracked a smile to try and hide her sadness from her friend.

‘Okay, don’t stay here with me now. Go home and get some sleep. It’s very rare for you to take an afternoon off. Let’s eat seafood another time when you’re better. Let me send you back’ Stella urged her.

She then stood up to get changed, but Cassandra suddenly stopped her.

‘No, I can go back by myself. I can take a taxi and I’ll be okay after a good night’s sleep,’ she said with a smile on her face.

She didn’t want Stella to worry about her anymore and refused her offer to drive her.

Cassandra felt that she was lucky to have someone to care for her and love her, but the last thing she wanted was to trap them in her own despair.

If someone needed to be trapped, she preferred to be that person and take all the misery alone.

Amanda s Resolve Part One

Cassandra blanked out. It was the late evening, off-work peak hour, and the taxi was stuck in the middle of all the cars heading from the CBD towards the residential areas. The traffic moved so slowly; the taxi moved like a snail.

Cassandra leaned against the window and looked out at the buildings all around her. And her eyes happened to fall upon a huge billboard, with Amanda’s smiling face on it.

It was that typical smile of her, pure and elegant, confident and amicable.

Part of her suspected Amanda had come to G city for Rufus.



What was the relationship between the two? Her head was filled up with doubts and speculations.

Endless questions clawed at her heart, because of which she felt compelled to confront Rufus directly. But she was afraid of seeing him, afraid that she would collapse at the mere sight of his face, that she would fall to her knees and wail endlessly, that she would expose her most vulnerable, fragile self. Most of all, she was afraid Rufus would despise that weak side of her.

'How do you forget to be obstinate, Cassandra? Where's your perseverance? Where does all your strength vanish to when you see Rufus?' she castigated herself.

While she was lost in her own musings, Rufus was still at work. Amanda, who was determined to get back her true love again, sat on the couch, watching him work since noon.

She hadn't left the room since she had come to have lunch with him, who kept ignoring her. However, she seemed to be mentally prepared for this cold treatment and hence wasn't really bothered by it.

As long as Rufus didn't kick her out, she felt hopeful.

Moreover, maybe it was for Charlie's sake that he wasn't saying anything harsh enough t

'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.

you don’t resume a relationship with her, let her down gently. Don’t hurt her, please.’

Rufus knew his revered mentor, Charlie, had doted on Amanda, hence he agreed to this. It was a token of gratitude for his valuable guidance.

And indeed, he was keeping his promise. Even though he didn’t want to be in a relationship with Amanda, he never intended to hurt her. He had decided to allow Amanda to do whatever she wished. The best he could do was to turn a blind eye to all her actions.

But it seemed like Amanda wasn’t discouraged by his indifference—from sending him flowers, to staying in his office, to blocking his way and now inviting him for a movie—she was so persistent. Finally, Rufus’s patience started to fade.

‘What’s so good about Cassandra? She is divorced! What tricks has she played to trap you?’

I have heard the clients that signed contracts with her company are none other than the regular clients of Tang Group. Did you make that happen? Rufus, you weren’t a person like this. Why do you treat her so generously and kindly, and me so coldly?’ Amanda was now shouting at him, having lost all her patience.