

The Enchanted Night – Chapter: 191

Amanda s Resolve Part Two

At this point, she could no longer pretend she wasn't bothered by Rufus's indifference. The anger that had accumulated over the past few weeks broke out. She felt like she was better than Cassandra in every possible way and made a more suitable match for Rufus. Yet, Rufus kept ignoring her!

'Amanda, consider this a warning. Do not speak badly about Cassandra in front of me. This is the last time I'm telling you this.'

At last, the remaining bits of patience for the daughter of his respected mentor got drained. His face was grim. Darkness arose from his eagle-like eyes, piercing through her.

Rufus firmly believed he knew Cassandra better than anyone else. Her marriage with Lionel was widely misunderstood. The clients she had were also not due to his reference. Whatever she had reaped was the result of her own efforts. How could Amanda disregard all her hard work without knowing anything about her?

'I will speak! Cassandra is nothing but a slut abandoned by her husband. Only you would treasure such a filthy woman!'

Amanda lost all her manners in front of someone like Rufus whom she knew from head to toe. She acted like no less than a kid, shouting out those careless words.

Rufus's jaw clenched; his eyes widened as a dark look came on his face.

‘Enough! Don’t ever show me your face again!’ Rufus roared.

His eyes seemed to be made of cold metal. Amanda quivered, taken aback by his sudden uproar.

He had now turned violently angry toward her. Using some strength, he shoved her away from the door. She couldn’t even balance herself and almost fell to the ground but Rufus didn’t even look at her. Without waiting another second, he strode out.

The empty space around

‘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...

a bar and get drunk. He indulged himself in the dazzling and foggy environment of the bar. That seemed like the only way for him to get Cassandra out of his head.

How ridiculous he felt! When Cassandra was legally with him, he never cherished her, instead, always pushed her away. It was only after she left him that he saw her true value in his life.

Recently, he had instructed someone to ask the doctor who handled Ivy’s pregnancy about the night Cassandra pushed her down the staircase. The doctor, to his surprise, said that the baby had already died because of oxygen deficiency way before Ivy reached the hospital.

That meant it was highly possible the baby already died before the accident!

He had employed so many methods to get close to Cassandra after the divorce, but she continued to arrogantly avoid him. Yet, he stooped low for her like a begging dog.

Lionel, soaked in the smell of alcohol, still struggled to stand still. In a daze, he saw a woman on his bed. He closed his eyes, shaking his head before opening the eyes again to get a clearer picture. To his eyes, it looked like no one else but Cassandra!

Why Did You Choose Him Part One

With anger etched on Ivy's face, she passed Lionel a look that could only be described as distaste.

Ever since she got discharged from the hospital, she started sensing a strain in their relationship. As the days passed, Lionel was getting further and further away from her. At the beginning, she assumed Cassandra's departure would make her path clear. But things weren't as easy as she had hoped. Even after Cassandra left, Cassandra's memory haunted him.

Lionel would often come home in a drunken state. And while he was wasted, he would chant Cassandra's name. This made Ivy's blood boil in rage. By now, she had lost all her confidence and hope in this man. Yet she hadn't given up on her aspiration to become a part of the Tang family. In fact her greedy mind was trying to figure out a way to turn this dream into a reality. As she knew she wouldn't get much support from Lionel, she realized Jill was her last resort.

However, she couldn't stop fretting about it. She knew that Jill was Horace's wife and, as a consequence, had a prominent position in the house. In spite of this, her dubious mind reasoned that Jill wouldn't have much say in Lionel's marriage related matter. Moreover, things weren't so lucid. She realized she had a long way to go.

While she was lost in her thoughts, Ivy felt Lionel's tender touch on her neck. It gently moved up and stopped on her soft face. On a closer inspection, Ivy noticed a hazy look in his eyes.

'Why did you have to choose him? How could you do this to me?'

Lionel murmured to himself. His face depicted the rawest form of sadness.

As soon as these words were uttered, Ivy understood it wasn't intended for her. 'Here comes his Cassandra melodrama, 'h

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.

ere is no way he is going to possess you. Never! That can't happen,' he yelled as he exerted his pressure on Ivy.

His mind was still in chaos and as far as he was concerned, he was still married to Cassandra.

Under his control, Ivy could barely move. She wasn't a frail woman but she couldn't compete with a man, especially a fierce and strong man like Lionel.

She let out a sob and wondered what had happened to Lionel. The man who passionately expressed his sincere love for her was dead. And Cassandra had killed him. This man who was lying on top of her wasn't her Lionel. He was someone who chose to indulge in alcohol and illusions.

Already Ivy had a bad impression of Cassandra, but Lionel's condition intensified her hatred.

Because of Cassandra, her world had turned upside down. She had done everything to the best of her ability. She even sacrificed her innocent baby to ensure that they would divorce. Yet the plight she was enduring didn't come to an end. While she was living with toil and tears, the culprit behind her downfall was relishing her sweet life. 'Life can be so unfair!' she bitterly muttered to herself.

Why Did You Choose Him Part Two

After a few minutes, Lionel's grasp loosened and she realized he had dozed off. She stood up and went to the bathroom to let the warm water flow over her bruises. When she was done, she leafed through her wardrobe and selected an appropriate dress which would veil the marks left by Lionel's torturous touch.

Sleep wouldn't come to her, so Ivy stayed up till dawn with her poisonous thoughts. 'Cassandra, are you satisfied with your triumph? You

may have divorced Lionel, but you are still teasing him. You haven't left us because you are still a hurdle on my path.

You have disrupted my life and taken everything that was mine. Do you think I will give up so easily? You are wrong! I will make you pay for it, ' she decided.

At the corner of the street which was opposite to Cassandra's company, Ivy lingered eagerly for Cassandra's arrival.

Tucked inside her pocket, she had a pair of small scissors. It was tiny but razor-sharp.

It was the sort of scissors people used for paper cutting and package opening. But today, Ivy wouldn't employ it for any of the aforementioned functions. 'I will be cutting Cassandra's face with it, ' she thought with a vile smirk.

Just when she was having this internal conversation, she observed that her target had appeared. At this moment, she was hardly a dozen meters away.

Cassandra got off the taxi, and was waiting for the traffic light to turn green so that she could cross the street to the company located at the other side.

'On the outside she looks like a perfect and elegant woman. It must be hard for people to guess what a dirty and despicable person she actually is!' Ivy declared inside her mind.

Her heart was engulfed with pure hostility. Her freezing coldness was palpable to anyone who glanced at her.

'Cassandra, I am going to slash in your deceptive face. I will unravel and show the world your hidden ugliness. It's tim

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

she felt for Cassandra would only be subsided with revenge. Her heart craved to see Cassandra in a grief-stricken state.

'Ivy, I get what are you going through, I really do. But with the scissors, the most harm you could have inflicted on her would be a few surface wounds. Sooner or later, someone would have stopped you. And then what? You would be sent behind the bars. It's not worth it!'

Amanda sighed as she swayed her head in dissatisfaction.

'What else can I do? When I was pregnant, I meant something to their family. I could have easily spoken for myself. But now I have become worthless to the Tang family,' Ivy groaned in a dispirited tone.

Once again, Ivy relived all the struggle she had gone through to fulfill her desire of being the member of Tang family. 'I did everything possible,' she thought sullenly.

'Right now Cassandra is only concerned about Qin Group. I don't think she gives a damn about Lionel. If you wish to inflict pain on her then your target should be her beloved company,' Amanda goaded her.

Upon hearing Amanda's point of view, Ivy fell into a long silence. Amanda gave out a satisfied smile since she understood Ivy was absorbing her words. 'Yes, I think this woman will take the bait,' she happily thought.

Perfect Match

Ivy might have a tricky mind but that didn't mean she was a woman of wisdom. She was a bit dense that she would even go as far as sacrificing her own son just for driving Cassandra away.

To Amanda, Ivy was a naive woman ready to be used at her disposal.

When Amanda saw that Ivy was deep in meditation, she started the car.

'Ivy, aren't you going to attend the ball? Do you already have something to wear? I can help you. I'll take you to my friend's shop and we can choose a dress for you. Put all your worries aside. What's important is you wear something nice so you can go with Lionel to the ball. You know we women gotta work!'

Amanda played her words with two meanings, which not only stopped Ivy's awful ideas coming out this morning but also drew her over her side.

Not to mention Amanda hated Cassandra too—these were the types of people she wanted to keep in her life!

'Manager Qin, here's the Business Newspaper for today,'

the assistant said as she placed today's newspaper in front of Cassandra—and on the front page was Cassandra's interview from the other day.

‘I think they made a mistake...’

the assistant said hesitantly, sneaking a shy glance at Cassandra.

Cassandra grabbed the paper and quickly skimmed through the article and there it was—a quick blurb about Cassandra’s personal affairs.

Business Newspaper: Manager Qin, as a business woman, what can you say about love?

Cassandra: Don’t look for it. It’ll come.

Business Newspaper: Is there someone special in your life right now? Maybe, someone you love?

Cassandra: Yes, I do have a partner right now and I love him very much.

Business Newspaper: Do you have plans to get married?

Cassandra: We haven’t talked about that yet.

Business Newspaper: Hoping for the best, Manager Qin.

Cassandra: Thank you so much.

‘I don’t think there’s anything wrong here. What are you talking about?’

Cassandra said in a puzzled tone as she raised her head to look at the assistant. All the questions were pretty standard—nothing impressive or offensive.

The assistant bit her lip and flipped to the next page to show Cassandra another article.

It was the entertainment section and the article was about Lyndsy.

The article was accompanied by a huge photo of Lyndsy's face. The title of the piece was 'Best Actress's Boyfriend Was Snaked By A Former Flame! Rumored Woman in Man's Heart said to be 'Two-Faced and Artificial.'

The article basically said that Lyndsy had a business colleague who stole her boyfriend. For her own sake, she kept mum about it.

The other woman meanwhile was described as a powerful woman. Although the woman wasn't named, the description matched Cassandra's precisely: a divorcee whose father was in jail. This article could not have been more blatant.

Cassandra merely shrugged it off, a light

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ouldn't miss this opportunity to force Rufus towards the center of the dance floor.

Rufus danced with Amanda robotically, his eyes still sweeping the room.

Amanda felt her insides drop when she realized Rufus wasn't even looking at her.

Amanda orchestrated this entire thing so that she and Rufus would end up showing up at the ball together.

She did this purposely because she knew Cassandra was going to be here. She wanted to show Cassandra that she was the woman for Rufus and not her. Cassandra was nothing but a commoner to her and she couldn't believe she even had to compete with someone like her.

Amanda never left Rufus's side just to make sure he wouldn't talk to Cassandra. This sight of Amanda and Rufus side by side the whole night broke Cassandra's heart.

No woman could care less about her image and status in a relationship. Amanda knew that with everything Cassandra was going through, Rufus was in no place to be committing to anything much less a relationship. And Cassandra wouldn't be wrong to doubt him at this point too.

Distrust can break a relationship. In this case, all she needed was to sit back and watch from afar.

'Rufus, I'll be announcing that you and I are going to be the spokespeople for the tourism area of G City. Get ready, okay?'

Amanda whispered to Rufus, purposely brushing her head against his chest so she could close in the little space between them.

'I don't need you to tell me what to do,'

Rufus said coldly, stepping back so that he would create a space between him and Amanda.

'I didn't mean to boss you around. I'm just reminding you how valuable I am to your business and I'm a bit sad that I have to remind you of that,'

she paused and looked at Rufus in the eyes, ‘she can’t do anything for you, Rufus, she’ll only hold you back.’

Amanda’s tone was knowing and suggestive and on her face was a casual smile.

A Woman of Easy Virtue Part One

Rufus seemed indifferent and danced gracefully with Amanda, matching her every step. However, the subtle tension evident on his face and cold eyes betrayed his true feelings.

The moment the last note ended, he withdrew his body contact with Amanda in a swift motion and started for the exit.

‘Where are you going, Rufus?’ Amanda asked quickly in a low voice.

She grabbed his arm in a futile attempt to stop him, surprised by his sudden retreat.

‘Let go of me, you hear me?’ Rufus replied passively.

He cast a soul-piercing glare at her and Amanda felt her hairs stand up under his icy gaze. Rufus had been tolerating her meddling the moment she appeared unexpectedly. He restrained himself like a proper gentleman would, but if she continued to make a scene, he couldn’t predict what he would do next.

Amanda’s heart skipped a beat as if an invisible hand squeezed it painfully. Powerless to do anything, she loosened her grip and just watched him fade away from her sight.

When he was dancing with Amanda moments ago, Rufus noticed from the corner of his eyes, a figure who went out the side exit that led to the small garden outside. He had an idea of who it was.

Flowers bloomed beautiful in small patches, and their fragrance blanketed the small slice of Eden. Even the full moon in the sky couldn't compare to the spring-feel of the garden.

Under the nearby flower tree, a petite figure stood alone. The silk flowers embroidered on her pink dress amplified the flowers blooming on the tree. One could easily say she was the Goddess of Flowers.

Rufus breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Cassandra. The hard lines of his face softened as his anxiety slowly drifted away. Wonder filled his eyes as he smiled without noticing.

At that moment, Cassandra was lost in

When her boyfriend betrayed her, all light and joy was gone from Cherry's life. Deserted, bereft of hope, she married a man that she had barely met, but she had never expected him to be her ex-boyfriend's uncle.

Cherry thought that she had finally found her happiness, but she had no idea about the dark secrets that were bound to unfold and haunt her forever...

of 'Kiss the Rain' wordlessly, slowly moving to its tempo and gentle beat, bathing in the fragrance of the flowers and mellow moonlight.

Soon after, Cassandra felt she was flying. The warmth that emanated from Rufus's strong hug would always put her in a good mood and easily get over annoying things that happened to her.

She never wanted him to be around all the time, but she did need him to be with her during her vulnerable moments just like now. One simple hug would solve everything.

Carried away by the romance in the air, both of them didn't even notice a pair of diabolical eyes fixated on them from a small crack on the door. Amanda glared at them with unadulterated hate in her eyes. She look straight at them and cracked a sinister smile.

'Well done, Cassandra! Well done, indeed. Such a clever move to seduce Rufus outside in order to dance with you. You think I wouldn't find out? You are so naive!' she snarled as she thought of this.

Averting her gaze, Amanda turned around and found Ivy gossiping and laughing with a group of rich women. Despite the distance between them, Amanda could see the mischievous smile on her face as Ivy whispered into the women's ears.

A Woman of Easy Virtue Part Two

Amanda couldn't quite make out what they were taking about, but she was pretty sure it was about Rufus's dance partner right outside. Knowing Ivy, it was probably something bad.

Since Ivy had become so desperate that she even almost resorted to hurt Cassandra with a pair of scissors in broad daylight, Amanda knew how her hatred ran deep for Cassandra.

She could relate all too well, as she herself had the urge to tear Cassandra apart at times. She was too smart to use her own hands, though. The best way would be to use other people to destroy her.

‘No wonder I haven’t seen you around lately! I was so curious where our resident party queen had been all this time. I thought you had your child already! I am so sorry for what happened, Ivy!’ a young woman said.

Her eyebrows were furrowed and her lips pouted to show how she pitied Ivy. She also patted her back for good measure.

Ivy never focused on work ever since she graduated. She did, however, work on her social skills. Hence, she was involved with the clique of every wife of the enterprise executives. Most of them had nothing to do everyday but sit pretty and show off their extravagant lifestyles.

But because Lionel was quite generous to Ivy and she herself was good at taking cues at other people’s words, she was exceedingly popular among the wives.

‘I was so incredibly devastated from losing my poor baby, and I had to stay at home to recover. That’s why I turned down a lot of you invitations. Please don’t take it the wrong way,’ she said with a voice full of emotion.

She looked so convincing that all the other women she was with felt pity and empathy for her loss.

‘Please be more careful in the fut

‘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...

vent because they were all competing to win the princess's dress that night. Lyndsy had no idea how many women fumed when she gifted it to Cassandra.

They all looked down on Cassandra when they knew how shamelessly she stole her friend's boyfriend.

'My husband's company is working with her for a project! Oh, God! I have to talk to my husband after the party. He needs to stay away from such a woman. I'm scared of what would happen since she's so easy!' one of them proclaimed.

At that moment, all the wives thought of the same thing—keeping their husbands away from Cassandra as far as possible.

'That is such a good point! Open your eyes, ladies! Pay attention to every detail and move she does, since I believe she will do anything to achieve her goals!' another woman added fuel to the fire.

Ivy wore the satisfied smirk of someone who had just succeeded. Everything was falling into place. She didn't even break a sweat.

The wives of the executives were simpletons, only entertained by the stories they themselves made up.

'Now Cassandra, let's see what you can do!' Ivy thought as she clenched her jaw.

Name In The Envelope

Rufus held Cassandra in his arms as they slowly danced to the music that had long stopped in the garden.

Cassandra didn't want anyone to see them so she tried to wriggle herself free but Rufus wouldn't budge.

'Why? Don't you want me to hold you?'

Rufus raised his eyebrows. He didn't want to let her go because having her in his arms was the best feeling in the world.

'No, I just don't want anyone to see us like this,'

Cassandra said in a low voice with a hint of shyness—something Rufus immediately picked up on as the look on his face softened.

This wasn't news to Rufus—he knew exactly what Cassandra was worried about. She was worried about what people might think of her if they found out that she was seeing Rufus, Lionel's big brother, just days after divorcing Lionel. And Rufus knew all about this from the very start.

Nothing could stand in the way of their love because for Rufus, all that mattered was that he was with her.

Cassandra loved him dearly but she was careful for fear that she might lose him.

How Cassandra wished she could spend every waking moment with Rufus but she had to hold herself back. Even when she'd miss him, she would just send a sly text message to him because she didn't want to disturb him.

She did love him but she was treading on thin ice; she was so careful to not say too much or do too much. This only made Rufus's heart ache.

He took the diamond ring with him everywhere he went. That night, the moon looked especially beautiful. Rufus, as he took in this fine weather

and fine music, ran a palm over his pocket as he tried to take the ring out to surprise her.

He wanted to tell her that nothing else mattered—not the people that talked about them or what not—as long as they were together. If they were together, they could surpass anything.

‘Cassandra, I want to tell you something,’

Rufus said, clearing his throat and looking at Cassandra softly.

‘Yes? What is it?’

Cassandra avoided his gaze.

The repulsive odor of the nearby made people feel dizzy. The sound of those insects buzzing from the hall filled the air.

It was like they were the only two people in the world. To Rufus and Cassandra, no one else was around and it was just the two of them. Cassandra could feel her heart beat quickening in her chest.

But...

‘Rufus, hurry up and come in, it’s starting!’

Suddenly, the sound of Amanda’s high-pitched voice filled their ears. She was calling for Rufus.

‘Are you done smoking yet? Hurry up! They’re about to announce the spokesman!’

Amanda feigned confusion like she didn't see them so she just turned around and went back in. Meanwhile, Rufus and Cassandra both froze due to the sudden molestation.

After a few moments of silence, Cassandra finally spoke.

'Go ahead, that's business. This is a commercial ball after all,'

Cassandra said, twisting her face into almost a grimace. If she had her way, things wouldn't end up this way

'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!'

Ivy was once trying to replace her in the Tang family.

Cassandra could not, for the life of her, understand how a woman could just spend her life leeching onto a man. 'I could never do that,' Cassandra thought to herself.

Cassandra always had faith in herself and she knew that to get the life she wanted, she had to be strong and independent.

That was why she never accepted any of Rufus's offers to help. Instead, she spent her energy working to help herself.

'Thanks for your concern. Yes, Qin Group is quite busy nowadays,'

Cassandra replied politely then turned around to leave. She never had enough patience to deal with Ivy for very long because she could see how

fake Ivy was being to her. And she didn't want to start a fight or anything.

Whenever she recalled how Ivy threw herself down the stairs, Cassandra still felt disgusted. She didn't know what stupid and insane idea this woman had up her sleeve this time. Either way, she didn't want to get involved anymore.

Rufus and Amanda made their way towards the mayor. Amanda wore a beautiful smile on her face.

'Excuse me, mayor. I need to talk to you.'

Since Charlie was in excellent terms with the mayor, all of the other government officials respected Amanda.

'What can I do for you, Miss Ke?'

The mayor asked, looking at Amanda intently.

'So here's the thing. Rufus thinks he hasn't stayed in G City long enough to qualify as a spokesman so... he was hoping you could give the title to someone else,'

Amanda said light-heartedly but she made sure her tone was final and conclusive.

The mayor seemed shocked. He looked at Amanda then at Rufus, then stifled a chuckle.

'Miss Ke, although you recommended Mr. Luo and we took that in consideration. Ultimately, the spokesman was still decided by the votes. To be honest, even I don't know whose name is in this envelope,'

the mayor lifted his hand to wave the envelope in front of them, on his face was a kind smile.

You Are Even Dirtier Than The Mud

Amanda was astonished at the manner in which the mayor spoke; he seemed a completely different man. She knew the mayor as a family friend. They had discussed about the candidate for the spokesman, and it was sort of agreed on that Rufus would be the one representing the Industrial Tourism District with Amanda. But, why was the mayor acting so strangely today?

‘Excuse me a moment, Miss Ke, I am going to announce the results!’ Mayor said.

With a formal and polite smile, the mayor stepped onto the stage.

Being the most important part of the ball, all the people hushed, waiting intently for the announcement to be read out.

It would be a great honour for whoever became the spokesperson of G City. Being an integral part of the government, G City could advertise abroad, making it appealing to the tourists trade. In addition, it was to promote and advance one’s career, and a great mission to be working with Miss Amanda Ke.

Rumour had it that the favourite to win by a mile would be Rufus.

As the Director of the Union of Real Estate, the Tang Group was naturally a powerful candidate. Amanda having a close relationship with the Tang Group was by no means a surprise if the government chose Rufus.

All eyes were on the centre podium. The mayor, facing the microphone, pulled out the page with a name. Nervously clearing his throat, he began.

‘Spokesperson of the G City Industrial Tourism District, is conferred to our local entrepreneur...‘

He paused, sort of teasing the audience playfully, and his eyes swept a glance at the audience.

Waiting in silence, Rufus still wore a expressionless mask on his face.

Amanda became a little anxious, stealing a quick glance at Rufus. Fearing Rufus would say a tactless remark as he did last time at her concert. This could embarrass the mayor on today’s important occasion.

A very confident man stood beaming in the audience, pushing his already protruding chest out further than before.

‘The president of Dawn Star Group, Mr. Arthur Zhuang!
Congratulations!’

The mayor resumed in his loud and clear voice, followed by an uncomfortable silence.

‘Arthur Zhuang? How could this be? Wasn’t it supposed to be Rufus?’

Amanda was astonished. She had been given a reassuring promise from the local government. Rufus would be the spokesperson. How come it turned out to be Arthur instead?

Rufus never changed his detached look, disguising his true emotions which grew more intensive and showed in his eyes.

Finally faint applause broke the silence, which drew the remaining audience out of shock, before they applauded loudly.

Arthur smoothed his tie, wearing his confident smile, and strolled onto the stage to deliver his speech. The mayor stood by, smiling decadently, yet stealing a glance at the winner with a glint of resignation in his eyes.

'Arthur, you dirty little scoundrel! If you hadn't blackmailed me, you would never have had a chance, ' the mayor cursed within him. Resentfully the mayor watched Arthur having his moment of glory. 'The wheel turns my friend, I'll be watching you. When you slip up one way or another I will be there, ' the mayor thought revengefully.

Arthur had found evidence that the mayor had been abusing the public funds. If found guilty, the mayor would have to pay back the funds, be publicly humiliated and even lose his position. His family and friends would abandon him. After a lot of deliberation, he had no choice.

To the ma

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

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be Arthur.

He couldn't think of a worse candidate. Lionel remembered when Arthur was still one of his errand boys, he had no spine and was obsequious.

How could he bear to face that one of his own errand boy now had turned out to outclass him ?

In some strange turn of events, Arthur became president of the Dawn Star Group. At the same time, Lionel also became the president of the Tang Group. Fortunately, the Tang Group ranked higher in terms of their comprehensive strength. Lionel had been proud and giving himself airs all the time.

Then both corporations had made rapid development, but the Tang Group under Rufus's leadership was always one step ahead.

However, apparently, the Dawn Star Group had got a remarkable victory in this round.

The industrial tourism programme, formulated by the government was very important. The two spokespeople were even more so. However not one question was raised on the qualification of Amanda Ke, who was a world renowned pianist. 'Why did the local representatives choose Arthur? This is completely beyond me, ' Lionel gave out a long sigh.

'Rufus always beats the opposition and has this superiority towards others. How come he is whitewashed by Arthur this time ??' Lionel thought to himself despairingly.

This commotion of Ivy being tripped by Cassandra with people gossiping and inquisitively gazing made him inflame with anger.

After helping Ivy on her feet, Lionel vented all his frustrations and anger out on Cassandra.

'Cassandra, you have now gone too far! How could you do this to Ivy? What do you think you are doing?'

In a fit of rage, Lionel shouted at Cassandra.

‘Lionel, listen, she did this to herself. I have nothing to do with it! Don’t sling mud at me!’

Cassandra found Lionel was so unreasonable after their divorce. He still sought every chance to set himself against her and would create a disturbance in her company absurdly. Now with so many people around, how could she remain silent?

‘Sling mud at you?’ Lionel sniggered. ‘I am afraid the mud seems clear in comparison to you. Well, it seems you came here alone, right? So seeing Rufus with Miss Ke, made you bitter huh?’

Cassandra frowned upon his last remark, feeling her chest tightened and a few drops of perspiration gathered at the base of her neck.

Take You Home

Lionel was livid over the decision to make Arthur the next spokesperson. He was severely upset, which was why he snapped at Cassandra that way. However, when he saw Cassandra’s face fell, Lionel held his tongue back.

Cassandra didn’t deserve to be yelled at that way. She wasn’t even at fault. Lionel glanced around him and immediately regretted saying those words. There were plenty of people, including some government officials, who were looking at them. It was such a humiliating situation.

Ivy immediately echoed before Lionel spoke something to defuse the tense situation, ‘You broke Lionel and me. And now, you’re ruining Miss Ke. It makes me wonder where you found the audacity to keep

ruining people's lives. Why don't you just stay away and leave us and the Tang family alone? Your father's already rotting in jail and he deserved it. That alone should be reason enough for the Tang family to refuse you. Don't even try to blame the Tang family on your family's misery!

Ivy knew Cassandra's weaknesses well. She cursed her with everything she could come up with. Cassandra was incredibly upset that her knees started to buckle, composure and strength seemingly vaporizing out of her.

From the eyes of the people who didn't know or barely knew Cassandra, it seemed to them that she was a gold-digging succubus that would use her men to get ahead.

After she divorced Lionel, she immediately clung herself to Rufus. It looked like she played tricks behind everyone's back.

All the people looked at Cassandra disdainfully. They absolutely despised her. Cassandra was so upset at Ivy's words that her body started to tremble with anger.

'It's been a particularly long time since I was a member of the Tang family. Why are you looking at me like I had something to do with your failures? I haven't done anything to you. Don't you dare accuse me!'

Cassandra bit back. Her retort, however, easily fell on deaf ears because everybody was already having the bad impression of her.

The onlookers started to whisper and belittle her. They didn't care about the severity and the consequences of what their gossiping would lead to. The spectators were hungry for drama and they were just about to eat a handful of it.

‘Don’t you dare try to spin this on me, you harlot. You’re not as innocent as you think you are, don’t play the fucking victim. Jesus Christ, I know everything you’ve done behind our backs. It’s a good thing that I’m kind to you. I wouldn’t tell other people about the atrocious things that you’ve done. Let’s focus back on today’s topic, shall we? You tripped me, and I demand an apology from you.’

Ivy was being aggressive. When Lionel was there supporting her, she became bolder. She would never let Cassandra go that easily.

‘Tell me, Ivy,’ Cassandra started. ‘Why the hell would I apologize for something I haven’t done? You wronged yourself and went out of your way to frame me. I will not apologize to someone as despicable as you!’

Cassandra spat. There was absolutely no way that she would ever apologize to such a snake! Witnesses be damned, Cassandra knew she was innocent.

‘Everybody, look! Look at

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...

n against his calloused fingers.

Slowly raising his hand, Rufus placed the little woman's hand over on his chest. Cassandra could feel the steady, but loud heartbeat against his sternum. She suddenly grew warm.

'No matter what they would say about you, I trust you. My heart beats fast only for you,'

Rufus rarely spoke such loving words to her. He always proved his love and passion for her through actions alone, not with words. He felt so shy when he said those words and his heart began beating faster immediately.

Looking at Rufus's handsome face, Cassandra felt all the negativity expel out of her. She closed her eyes to breathe, eyelashes quivering underneath his gaze. When she opened her eyes, tears immediately started to flow out.

Rufus realized that nothing in this world hurt more than seeing her cry. He reached out his hands towards her face once again, and wiped her tears away.

'No, no. Don't cry. You'll look like an albino rabbit with those red eyes if you do!'

His joke relieved Cassandra. She let herself laugh. Rufus was right. It didn't matter what everyone else thought. They were nobody to her.

As long as she had Rufus by her side, she was a fearless woman.

'I want to go home,'

Cassandra sniffed and looked at Rufus pleadingly.

This was not a place for her to stand in. All the people were talking about the drama she was involved in and mocked her in this very place. All she wanted to do now was go back home to Garden Villa. Staying here a bit longer would make her go crazy.

‘Let’s go home, then.’

Without thinking twice, Rufus bent over and scooped Cassandra up in his arms. He walked towards the gate with Cassandra clinging onto his shoulders for support.

Everyone was shocked at the sight of them together, wide-eyed.

All the gossip and rumors about Cassandra and Rufus were proven to be true from that gesture alone. Cassandra, Lionel’s ex-wife, former manager of the Design Department of Tang Group, and the current head of Qin group, was whisked away by Rufus, Lionel’s brother. The onlookers started to chatter once more.

Amanda Is Sent Into The Hospital

Intimacy radiated across the hall as Rufus held Cassandra passionately, and everyone present gaped at the sight of them. When Amanda saw this, anger brewed inside of her that she held the glass in her hand tightly. Her strength was so great that her fingers were beginning to turn pale and it seemed that the glass she was holding would shatter any moment. She was trembling in anger, and her lips twitched in rage.

Amanda glared at Rufus as he walked out with Cassandra in his arms, and her face was filled with jealousy and annoyance. She was so angry that there seemed to be a burning fire in her eyes.

'Cassandra, you are so stupid! How can you let Rufus do this for you in front of so many people! How dare you ignore the bad reputation it would bring to Rufus for being so reckless to leave with you!

You're just a woman who should be criticized by everyone. Why is Rufus so gentle to you? Why?' Amanda thought irritably.

Just as Amanda was lost in her own thoughts, a man's voice was suddenly heard from behind her.

'Hello, Miss Ke. Hope to get along well with you!'

The man's voice sounded very gentle. He was staring at Amanda with a beaming smile. At this point, Amanda had braced herself and was beginning to feel awkward.

She turned around and found that the man standing next to her was Arthur. He had a look on his face as he tried to start a conversation with Amanda.

Amanda thought Arthur's smile was somewhat weird, but she couldn't tell exactly why she felt that way. 'Was this the man who had replaced Rufus to be the spokesperson? Why did the government make a sudden change in the decision? What was with him that changed the decision? What is his real identity?' she wondered.

Rufus didn't want to be the spokesman in the first place, so the fact that Arthur was elected as the spokesperson was not so unusual. However, the sudden change of plans was so strange and it made Amanda probe as to what the truth was.

'You have such a great influence and high morale in G City, Mr. Zhuang. I also hope that we can get to know each other well!'

Amanda answered with a sweet smile, hiding away her doubts for Arthur.

‘Thank you, Miss Ke. It’s their decision. They valued me enough to make me the spokesman! To be honest, it was completely out of my expectation and I was quite surprised!’

Arthur had seen the angry expression on Amanda’s face when Rufus and Cassandra left. He looked at her with an understanding smile, but he did not bother to ask her the real reason for being so angry.

‘That’s great, Mr. Zhuang. In fact, I admire you for achieving so much at such a young age!’

Amanda always knew how to deal with businessmen—complimenting them without making them feel it was on purpose. So she praised Arthur liberally.

Arthur was a superficial man who enjoyed being flattered by others. Naturally, his face lit up after hearing Amanda’s words.

Still, Arthur did not forget what the man had told him to do. After a short chat, he smiled at Amanda and changed the topic.

‘By the way, Miss Ke, Mr. Ji asked me to tell you that he missed you very much.’

After saying that, Arthur lifted his glass slightly, nodded to Amanda, then turned and left.

Upon hearing the man’s name, the smile on Amanda’s face sudde

When her boyfriend betrayed her, all light and joy was gone from Cherry’s life. Deserted, bereft of hope, she married a man that she had

barely met, but she had never expected him to be her ex-boyfriend's uncle.

Cherry thought that she had finally found her happiness, but she had no idea about the dark secrets that were bound to unfold and haunt her forever...

her now!

Charlie's voice over the phone was full of concern as he was so worried about his daughter.

'I told you to take good care of Amanda when I left several days ago. Have you forgotten that?'

Charlie blamed Rufus in an angry voice, but Rufus did not refute at all.

Cassandra changed into her pajamas and then got out of the bed slowly in silence. However, she was shaking her head in disbelief with her lips pale as she turned her back on Rufus.

'Amanda! Why is it always Amanda?' Cassandra thought.

Like a devil's name, it was cursed and unspeakable. It seemed that it was chasing Cassandra and cornering her with nowhere to go.

'I'll go to the hospital to see Amanda right now. Don't worry too much, Charlie.' Rufus responded over the phone.

Charlie was a mentor to Rufus so he couldn't refuse his demands. He was left with no other choice but to say yes.

Rufus hung up and turned to find Cassandra. When he saw that she was stepping out of the bedroom, he felt a sharp pain in his heart.

He hurriedly walked up to her and grabbed her arms. Then, he turned her around and let her face him.

‘Cassandra, I’m sorry. I have to go see Amanda. She’s in the hospital right now. I hope you understand.’

His voice was full of apologies and he was very sorry.

‘Never mind. Go and see her at once. I’m tired, and I’m going to bed soon.’

Cassandra gave out a reluctant smile and tried to pretend that she wasn’t bothered at all.

‘I’ll be back soon...’

Rufus touched Cassandra’s face and kissed her gently on the forehead.

Cassandra pushed him with a smile.

‘Go ahead! I’ll be waiting for you.’

Rufus took a firm look at Cassandra and then hurried out of the villa.

Moments later, Cassandra heard the sound of his car driving away and the sound of the gate slowly closing in the courtyard.

She had been used to these sounds, but now they just sounded so cruel.

‘Rufus, why do you hurt me like this? I’ve been so patient and I’ve given up a lot of things for you!’ Cassandra thought bitterly.

It seemed that the originally beautiful night suddenly turned into a black hole, which had taken away all Cassandra’s good wishes.

