

The Enchanted Night – Chapter: 221

The Altercation

Rufus's brows knitted together as a light smile played on his lips—he found this whole thing with Horace hilarious.

‘While I respect your opinion, I’m going go with what I think is right. Facts are facts. Cassandra and I are in a relationship and you can’t change that,’

Rufus said in a firm tone—he didn’t care that Horace was fuming.

‘Rufus, you have so many women to choose from, even better women, Amanda, for example...’

Horace tried to speak in a soft tone but Rufus interrupted him.

‘Amanda doesn’t stand a chance. The only woman I love is Cassandra!’

Rufus purposely sounded final and resolute but Horace was persistent.

‘Rufus! You should know your place as she should! You’re too good for Cassandra! She’s not good enough and you know it! She’s not good enough to be part of the Tang family!’

Horace bellowed.

‘Didn’t she suffer in the first place because of the Tang family? She was forced to marry into the family for money then she was shoved aside after the divorce. How dare you tell me she’s not good enough! What do you know? I don’t care what anyone else thinks because I know who she is.’

I know her better than anyone. The Tang family may have kicked her aside but she's way better than a certain group of people who act all high and mighty on the outside but are actually the dirtiest people I know!

'No one in the entire Tang family can say that they're better than Cassandra.

Horace abandoned his wife and son—he deserved to be hated.

Jill is a bored housewife who does nothing but badmouth her so-called friends within her social circle.

Lionel is just waiting for the chance to rise to power in the Tang group so he can squander the family business.

And Ivy, well...' his thought trailed off.

Something flickered in his eyes when he thought of Ivy. 'I'll make her pay eventually for framing Cassandra. But as for now, I need her for my plan.'

The Tang family might seem perfect on the outside but in reality, it had been already rotting from the inside.

The Tang family's throne was atop a hill—just one push would make their kingdom come crashing down.

'You... Are you insulting me?'

Horace angrily pointed a finger at Rufus.

This was the last thing he expected of Rufus—he was never one to disrespect him like that.

‘I didn’t name names. You came up with that one all on your own,’ Rufus said simply.

It didn’t take long before people started hearing Rufus and Horace going at it with one another. Jill tried to intervene but she looked frightened at the sight of her husband being angry.

‘Horace, calm down. Getting angry isn’t good for you. You’re supposed to be recovering,’

she spoke as she glided towards Horace to assist him in his breathing.

Lionel and Ivy had heard the fighting as well and came out to check what was

‘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...

tely. First, Arthur was very talented so there was no surprise about that. Second, they received some large investments from the TY Group. And lastly, it was the Tang family’s own doing—they gave Arthur an opening in the market.

Arthur was not only the CEO of his company but also their best architect. His work could actually compete with Cassandra’s in bidding wars.

When Cassandra was still around, Arthur would never be able to beat her. One could say that Cassandra held Arthur back simply by being better than him.

However, part of the divorce agreement was that Cassandra quit designing. She was legally forbidden to sign her name under any design. Since then, the Tang Group hadn't churned designs as good as before. Bidding war after bidding war, they kept losing to the Dawn Star Group. With their rise came the Tang Group's subsequent fall.

A person's heart could be likened to a kite—when a kite's string broke, it flew higher. The same was true for the heart.

This was also true for Arthur's career—he'd become so successful that he didn't even bother hiding the fact that he blatantly stole clients from the Tang Group. The string that was holding Arthur's career back was none other than Cassandra.

Meanwhile, the Tang family was still disillusioned that they were still number one. Rufus thought they were all naive and foolish.

'Give the position to me. I'll be the CEO. I'll manage the company,'

Lionel piped in out of nowhere—he'd been watching the whole thing from upstairs. When he heard Rufus mention the CEO position, his eyes lit up. 'This is my chance!' he thought to himself. 'I can't believe Rufus is quitting! I've got to take this chance!'

'I'm confident that I can make things better,' he promised.

Rufus sneered at Lionel's unwarranted confidence. He raised his head to look at Lionel and his eyes were sharp as knives.

‘You want my position ? Okay, let’s call all board members together and initiate voting. The candidate with the most votes wins, I’ll happily resign if I don’t win,’ Rufus said assertively.

Rufus’s insolent smile and confidence humiliated Lionel. He didn’t take Lionel seriously and didn’t even see him as a threat.

Rufus had good reasons to be confident. He was far more qualified than Lionel in progressive thinking and far more learned overall. Lionel himself was uncertain about the vote. Those senior executives on the board were smart and foxy. When he was the CEO, Lionel needed to respect and listen to them as he used their discretion to make decisions or pass a plan. He needed their consent as well. Rufus, however, didn’t need to do that. He was so talented and experienced that they would listen to him and follow his instructions strictly instead. Rufus had no problem running the Tang Group.

What if the senior executives made things difficult and the company became unmanageable for Lionel when he went back ?

Every time he thought that there was no one to trust or rely on in the company, Lionel felt frustrated and jealous of Rufus.

Rufus had already taken away Lionel’s authority. He had no say on the board. He was part of the executive members but the members didn’t take him seriously. So his restrictive power was pretty much of no use.

‘Lionel, go back to your bedroom! You stay out of it!’ Horace commanded

He lifted his head up and glared at Lionel.

Lionel knew that he wasn't able to replace Rufus. He knew he shouldn't get involved in the conversation in the first place.

Horace, who had the final say in the company, wanted to restrict Rufus's authority and power. He would then be able to force him to break up with Cassandra. But Rufus stood assertively and showed no form of surrender.

Horace's plot failed dismally.

'You go back too. Let's talk about it another day,' Horace said arrogantly.

Feeling infuriated, he pretentiously waved at Rufus and asked Jill to help him upstairs. Disappointment showed on his face. He was at a loss for words, and this didn't happen often. He was humiliated by his own son.

Jill glared at Rufus, annoyed.

Rufus grew up as an illegitimate child. Since his return there had been no peace and serenity in the Tang family. Their lives were filled with quarrels and sadness. Jill felt irritated, blaming all drama on Rufus. She didn't like this man at all.

Rufus just smiled rebelliously. He didn't seem to care about his father's feelings as the Tang family had never truly accepted him. He had always been an outsider and could think of it never changing.

Why then should he show compassion and care about them ?

Rufus's eye showed conceit and hatred. He swore one day he would turn this luxurious mansion into a despicable hell hole.

Cassandra's cell phone had been vibrating in her bag. She knew it was Rufus calling again but still ignored him.

Cassandra and Rufus had never communicated frequently before. Since she moved out, Rufus called her continuously. She had put her phone on vibrate mode as the annoying ringtone rang countless times in a day.

She decided to be obstinate this time. There was no difference whether they got back together or broke up since she would be the one getting hurt.

Rufus was preoccupied

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e cruelly even though I have done so much for her?' he thought sadly.

The more Rufus thought about it, the more he got annoyed. He called Cassandra again, but she didn't answer him.

Cassandra slowly walked down to the street. There were vines on the wall, carrying pockets of beautiful yellow flowers, which had such a sweet happy fragrance.

Rufus and she had known each other as lovers for about a year. However, one would think they had known each other for at least ten years. All

couples fought, so did they. The conflicts between them were so intense and frequent that it had to come to a stop.

'Love hurts but ours tortures, ' Cassandra felt exhausted.

Rufus kept calling her, which made Cassandra irritated. 'Does this man not take no as an answer and since when did he become so childish?' she was getting annoyed.

Cassandra answered the phone again. He asserted angrily and fast, 'Cassandra, save your words until I arrive. I'm at the Garden Road now!'

Rufus was anxious and angry but most of all desperate.

'Rufus, I've left the villa. You don't need to come here,' Cassandra said rebelliously.

She saw a taxi driving to her direction and waved him down.

'Cassandra, do you think I'm playing a love game? I tell you what. I want you to be my woman. Do you hear me? I won't let you go!' Rufus cried out.

This woman meant everything to him. She was the one. He could never find anyone else like her. He couldn't let her go.

'Rufus, we can still be friends,' Casandra said pitifully.

She felt as if a knife was piercing her heart, but she still turned him down.

She was afraid that she would cry next, then would run into his arms again. She missed him so much already. She feared that she would never be able to leave again, once she went back to him.

‘Cassandra, don’t ever think about leaving me, unless I am dead!’ he said loudly.

His voice was mixed up with a high-pitched braking sound and then crashing.

Then Cassandra heard the busy tone from the other end of the phone.

Her eyes widened. Cassandra’s pulse started racing. Her mind became erratic. She shouted into the bleeping phone, ‘Rufus, what’s going on? Rufus, no please no! Rufus, answer me, please...’

The Sudden Accident

Cassandra stood at the side of the road, holding the phone in her hand and dumbfounded. She didn’t know what had just happened.

She heard something loud. Where could it have come from?

Suddenly, she had a good guess on what had happened so she turned around and ran back to the Garden Villa immediately.

The wind blew across her face as she breathed heavily and quickened her pace.

Her heart was beating rapidly and she could only see darkness but she held on to the one person who was keeping her going.

It was Rufus! Rufus!

Rufus could feel his body aching all over when the terrible car accident happened. But nothing could compare to the ache his heart was nursing.

‘Cassandra...’

Rufus murmured the little woman’s name. A glimpse of a familiar figure was suddenly running towards him.

Was it Cassandra? Or an illusion?

Rufus couldn’t tell who the figure was because he couldn’t even open his eyes. Before he knew it, he had already fainted.

Cassandra saw Rufus’s Range Rover crash into a wall from a distance—the front of the car looked quite damaged.

Her chest tightened at what she’d seen; her heart began to beat so fast that she felt it would jump out of her chest anytime soon.

She ran and ran until she’d closed the distance between them.

When she arrived at the car, she saw Rufus slumping over the wheel. His legs were stuck inside the car and he looked terrible. It was hard to digest the entire scene.

Cassandra felt as if someone had grabbed her heart and crushed it—she couldn’t breathe.

She tried to ram the door open but it was locked and she couldn’t break it from the outside.

She then tried to smack the window hoping that Rufus would wake up to the noise but he didn't even flinch. He wasn't moving at all. Did he just faint or was he...dead already?

Cassandra was crying and shrieking, 'Rufus, wake up! Don't leave me! Rufus!'

What Rufus had said before came true.

He said the only way he'd let Cassandra leave him was if he died.

'I won't leave you anymore, Rufus! Don't do this, Rufus! Wake up!' Cassandra shouted in her heart.

She quickly made a call then continued to look for a way to break inside the car. However, they were in a deserted area and no one was even passing by. She started to get desperate.

Suddenly, an idea came to her. She dialed Rufus's number and hoped that the ringing would wake him up.

It didn't work. Rufus just lay there, unmoving.

'Rufus, wake up! Please! You're scaring me!'

Cassandra shrieked through tears as she tried futilely open the car. She was starting to get worried as Rufus had already stayed in an oxygen-deprived space for too long and his legs had been stuck for a while now too.

She came up with anothe

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aved a big sigh of relief and was grateful that Rufus was alive.

Just in time, the ambulance arrived. All the medical staff hurried to Rufus with a stretcher in hand.

‘Excuse us, please,’

the staff said to Cassandra as they rolled Rufus onto the stretcher.

He wanted so bad to speak to Cassandra but his body was still in so much pain that he was unable to even make a sound. The only thing he could do was look at Cassandra and he did—he never removed his gaze, not even for a second.

Normally, Cassandra disliked the ambulance siren. It was sharp and it wasn't calming at all. But this time, when she heard the ambulance, it sounded like music to her. This was what was going to save Rufus. They were going to make sure he was okay.

‘How's he doing? Is he seriously hurt?’

Cassandra stayed with Rufus even inside the ambulance. He was being given oxygen through a mask and his heartbeat was being monitored by the ECG machine. During the whole time, Rufus was just staring at her, not making a single sound.

‘We’ll know when we get to the hospital but his legs are probably broken,’

a paramedic said, frowning. He was busy studying the images on his medical device.

Cassandra reached out and held one of Rufus’s hands which were normally warm. But in this instance, it was ice cold.

She gazed back into his eyes, biting her lower lip.

‘Please contact his family right away. We have to do surgery on him and they’re the only ones who can authorize that.’

Upon hearing that, she grabbed Rufus’s phone because she didn’t have any contact with the Tang family anymore—she’d deleted their numbers a long time ago.

Unlocking his phone, she went straight to the contacts list. There was a ‘family’ tag in his contacts and there were only three people on it:

Jasper, Michelle, and Cassandra.

Remaining Unconscious

Cassandra had already stopped crying after she saw Rufus open his eyes. But now that she saw her name in his contact list, her eyes started to tear up again.

Was it true that he had already seen her as his family?

None of the Tang family members' names were in this list, but hers was. Was she more important to him than his own father?

Desperately trying to hold back her tears, Cassandra dialed Michelle's number. Once she got through, she told her of the accident.

'We're in the ambulance now, but you'll have to be at the hospital as soon as possible. They won't clear him for surgery unless you sign the waiver.'

Cassandra tried to be as calm as possible. She didn't want Michelle to worry too much. If she rushed Michelle, she might panic and risk her safety on the way to the hospital, too.

'What? A car accident? I'm on my way!' Michelle exclaimed.

She immediately hung up the phone and rushed towards the hospital as quickly as she could. While she was on her way, she called Jasper to relay the same information. She asked Jasper to return to the country immediately.

She hadn't been in touch with Rufus recently because of their rather busy schedules. She was busy serving as a judge for a fashion design contest overseas. There really was no time for her to notice what was happening between Rufus and Cassandra.

Michelle's heart clenched, thinking about all the gossips that their relationship must have brought.

Rufus was always so careful and cautious. How could a car accident ever happen to him? Were they having problems that made him reckless?

Michelle shook her head violently. Now was not the time to dwell over such things. She focused on making it to the hospital as quickly as possible.

The ambulance quickly arrived at the hospital. Cassandra's grip loosened on Rufus's hand since he had to be rushed to the emergency room. She watched the emergency technicians run towards the room, leaving her in front of the doorway; her eyebrows scrunched together in worry.

Michelle ran towards the reception desk as soon as she got into the lobby, and signed the waiver that was on hold for her.

'Please do everything you can at all costs. We are willing to do anything to save him!' Michelle pleaded with the doctor.

The doctor simply nodded and entered the operating room. Michelle sighed, finally letting her mind and body relax. However, she found herself frowning when she turned around and saw Cassandra.

'Cassandra, what happened? Rufus would never be so reckless when he's driving!'

Michelle asked in a reproaching tone, sensing that the accident must have something to do with Cassandra.

Cassandra's eyebrow twitched upon hearing her. She closed her eyes and breathed, trying to react as calmly as possible.

'I'm sorry, Michelle. I had a fight with Rufus. I said I wan

'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...

refused to separate them.

She thought that Rufus had seen her as a burden. Why couldn't he just leave her?

Cassandra shook her head disappointingly. Her tears almost ran dry for Rufus, and all this was unknown to him.

She wished that he would just wake up. However, two days later, he still hasn't moved. He had been sleeping quietly with the IV drip hooked up to his hand and the food tube stuck down his nose.

Seeing Cassandra's haggard face, Michelle's heart ached.

'I hired a carer. You can take a break. You should rest, really.'

She was still upset with Cassandra, but she wasn't mad anymore.

Cassandra had been taking care of Rufus day and night. She cleaned his body with warm wash towel because he had always liked being clean and tidy.

Michelle was moved by Cassandra's devotion. However, if Rufus remained unconscious, she would still feel resentful towards Cassandra.

'I'm not tired,'

Cassandra said, not even bothering to look behind her to face Michelle. She motioned to the edge of the bed when she noticed the food tube was empty, then called for the nurse to change it.

‘I don’t care if you’re tired or not. You don’t want Rufus to see you all haggard and restless like that, do you? Go home. Take a bath and change your clothes.’

Michelle sounded distant, but truthfully, she really cared about Cassandra. Cassandra could sense Michelle’s concern.

It was obvious that telling her to go home and change her clothes was just an excuse to allow Casandra to sleep in a bed comfortably.

Looking at Rufus solemnly, Cassandra finally conceded.

‘Fine. I’ll go home and clean myself up. If anything happens, please, please call me at once.’

Cassandra quietly left the ward. Staring at the unconscious Rufus, Michelle felt worried.

‘Rufus, I know you’re deeply in love with Cassandra. But I’m not sure if that’s a blessing or a curse.’

He Woke Up But She Was Not There Part One

The nurse changed and put up a new IV bottle for Rufus. Michelle, in the meanwhile, accompanied the nurse and sat on the bed where Rufus lay unconscious. Seeing his condition, she was quite perturbed. The doctor had guaranteed that he was going to be fine, but her fear arose from the fact he was still not awake.

Just when she was fretting over Rufus, her phone rang. 'I have arrived at the airport. Now please come to fetch me,'

Jasper informed, aloud. It had only been a few seconds since he got off the plane. The cacophony in the airport compelled him to speak loudly. When he learned that Rufus had met with a car accident, he went blank for a few minutes. As soon as he composed himself, he handed over some work and flew back to G City. He remembered his last meeting with Rufus which made him aware how a person's life could change in a blink of an eye.

Once she realized she had to pick Jasper from the airport, Michelle called the nursing assistance. Calmly, she filled her in with details to which some special attention should be paid. Then unwillingly, she left Rufus and headed to the airport. A moment later, Amanda arrived at the hospital to visit Rufus.

Her eyes were watery and she took slow anxious steps. She sat beside him and entwined her fingers with Rufus's lifeless fingers. Affectionately, she stared into his face.

Rufus, who had been unconscious for two days, slowly opened his eyes.

The white ceiling of the inpatient ward came into his sight. Since his eyes were used to darkness, the sudden contact with the bright light made his eyes sore. So he closed them again. He tried to move his heavy body, but failed miserably. The second time he opened his eyes, he noticed a girl sitting next to him.

'Rufus! Finally you're awake!'

Amanda exclaimed excitedly as she tightened her grasp on his hand.

Rufus blinked his eyes several times since he wasn't able to make out who the lady was. Once he under

'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.

ssandra, Amanda felt her blood boiling with rage. The lie came out naturally from her mouth. She truly wanted him to believe Cassandra didn't love him enough.

'This is the only way I can make him forget her, ' Amanda thought with jealousy reeking from her body.

'You go back home and have some rest. Don't forget you're a patient yourself,'

Rufus said, bearing an indifferent look on his face. Amanda thought Rufus would be moved by her gesture. She expected to receive some words of affection for taking care of him. However, he was as cold as he had always been.

'I'm not tired, Rufus. I like to stay with you, and I'll always be here for you!'

Amanda responded lovingly. Without waiting for his reply, she held his hand tightly and laid her head softly on his body.

‘Hey Amanda, take my advice and go home. You look really tired and I don’t see why you should stay here. If I need something then the nursing assistant can take care of it. So don’t worry,’

Rufus thoughtfully suggested. With his knitted brows, he noticed Amanda’s pale face. He didn’t like it when she fussed over him.

‘Rufus, please let me stay with you. I can tell you feel dejected because Cassandra abandoned you in this crucial time. I feel obliged to remind you that I will always be here for you!’

He Woke Up But She Was Not There Part Two

Amanda eagerly expressed, wanting Rufus to understand her devotion. The reason behind Rufus’s accident was known to Amanda. ‘I hold Cassandra responsible for it! While he was driving the car, she called him saying she wanted to break up. If it wasn’t for that wretched woman, my Rufus wouldn’t be in this condition,’ she thought angrily.

Amanda had done everything to her best ability in order to undermine their relationship. She deliberately made Cassandra misunderstand her relationship with Rufus. It seemed that her plan was finally bearing fruit. Thinking of that, a feeling of joy rose in her heart.

Hearing Amanda’s mention of Cassandra, Rufus once again felt a sharp pain.

It evoked the recollection of what had happened right before his accident. Adamantly, Cassandra proposed to break up with him. She seemed so determined to break ties with him that she handed him the key of Garden Villa.

Her aloof attitude aggrieved him. He was struck by the knowledge that Cassandra would give up on their love so easily. However, he still didn't want Amanda to fill the void left by Cassandra. He couldn't possibly love Amanda or any other woman the way he loved Cassandra.

'Amanda, stop acting so childish. You very well know that the woman I love isn't you. I consider you as my sister. Then why are you wasting your time trying to please me? It will never happen!'

Rufus said trying to add some sense into Amanda's mind. Slowly, he tried to pull his hands free from Amanda's grip, but he was too feeble to do it.

'Rufus, I love you from the bottom of my heart. It pains me when you behave so coldly. Nothing you say or do will bring any change to my feelings. I will never give up on you, unlike Cassandra,'

Amanda said emotionally and fixated her tear-filled eyes on Rufus's face.

'Amanda, please don't hurt yourself for my sake. I don't deserve you,'

Rufus replied with a sigh. Amanda was too persistent. No matter what he said, s

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Jill and Lionel with Ivy came toward Rufus's ward all arm in arm to pay him their visit.

'Rufus, how are you feeling now?'

Horace promptly asked in a considerate tone. Suddenly, his eyes fell on Amanda.

In the past, Rufus had been cold towards Amanda. Now it seemed that their relationship was developing slowly. Horace was delighted with this knowledge.

Rufus didn't want to show his weakness in front of Tang family. He forced his aching body to sit up.

'I'm fine...this is just a minor damage,'

Rufus said feigning to have strength. The pain at his injured leg was killing him, but he gritted his teeth to stop himself from showing.

'I'm glad to hear that. Take good care of yourself. Lionel will be here to keep you up to date about our business. But Rufus, you are always so prudent. I don't understand how you could have had a car accident in such a remote place!'

Horace had no idea about Rufus's ownership of Garden Villa. He was wondering why he was there.

'I was on the phone with a client and got distracted,'

Rufus explained nonchalantly. He didn't want to push this topic further.

Suddenly, it occurred to him that he got a paper from his assistant before the accident.

‘Pay attention to Dawn Star Group. Rumors have it they are coming up with a big plan.’

I Want To See Cassandra

‘What news have you got? What happened to the Dawn Star Group?’ Horace asked.

He had a feeling that something was not right, and he frowned.

Rufus’s face turned pale, but he managed to maintain his composure and tried his best to look firm and confident.

‘Anyway, be careful. And speed up the progress of the cases that we have now,’ ordered Rufus.

He didn’t want to relay everything out but instead gave a warning.

Even though all the Tang family members came to empathize, no one really cared like a family member except for Horace. Ivy and Lionel were sitting at the sofa of the VIP patient ward. They preferred doing nothing than speaking to Rufus. Jill wore a smile throughout, but her smile was so cold and disdainful, and to some extent, she seemed to take pleasure in his suffering.

The visitors came and went; each of them pretended to care for him, but actually, none of them really did.

Amanda was sensitive enough to feel the awkward atmosphere in the room. Out of her instincts, she chatted with Horace to break the awkwardness.

Horace glanced at Rufus. Seeing the cold expression on his face, he diverted his eyes to the family members he brought with him, sighed silently, and stood up to take his leave.

Lionel together with Jill and Ivy, all felt relieved at the thought of leaving and followed Horace out.

The noisy ward soon quieted down and Rufus enjoyed the silence. He just sat on the bed, his face devoid of any emotions.

‘Rufus, what happened to you?’

With a caring look, Amanda drew closer to the man.

His eyes swept across the room and fixed at one spot. His entire body stiffened.

He gazed at the sofa where Lionel and Ivy had sat. In the corner of the sofa, there was a lady’s wind jacket with beige and purplish blue patterns.

He knew this jacket! It belonged to Cassandra!

Suddenly, he felt his blood flowing backward. Why would her jacket be in this room? She had been here!

While Rufus was still fumbling his thoughts, Jasper and Michelle pushed the door open. They were relieved to see Rufus awake and was now able to sit up.

‘Rufus, finally you are awake! We were so worried!’

Michelle walked towards Rufus with a much-relaxed face now.

‘Where’s Cassandra?’

Rufus asked, trying his best to suppress his emotions.

‘Gone! She’s gone!’

Michelle was not happy to hear about Cassandra. The mention of her name was like a weight in her chest. After all, it was Cassandra who caused the car accident. Moreover, the idea that Rufus asked about the woman the moment he woke up heightened her displeasure for Cassandra.

‘Was she here the whole time?’

Rufus asked further. At the sight of her clothes, he was able to confirm that she had indeed stayed with him in this room.

‘What if I say yes Rufus? I was supporting your relationship at the very start. But now just take a look at yourself. You have always been cautious and calm. How could the two of you even quarrel to the point that you got into a car accident? How can I convince myself that she will be a good partner for you?’

The more Michelle ranted, the more dissatisfied she became.

Jasper was sensing the start

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...

Cassandra turned around and covered her ears with her hands so that she couldn't hear nor see what was going on there. She was afraid that she couldn't resist the desire to rush towards his room.

The doctors and nurses managed to get control of the agitated man and prepared to inject some sedatives into his vein. No matter how he yelled or violently struggled, Rufus couldn't overpower the forces of three men that were pinning him down.

A needle pierced into his arm. Slowly, the sedative was injected, and after the fluid in the syringe was drained, Rufus's frantic movements ceased.

When he was finally still and quiet on the bed, the medical personnel exited one by one.

'Keep an eye on him. Don't stir his emotion again; otherwise, his legs will take forever to recover and he will limp for the rest of his life,'

the doctor instructed Michelle in a serious tone. She nodded firmly in return to acknowledge his words.

‘Rufus, stay calm. Can’t you just wait and look for her after you recover?’

Michelle walked to his bed and sat beside him. Grief-stricken, she looked at Rufus helplessly.

This young man was the flesh and blood left from her dead sister. She almost treated him as the son of her own. However, Rufus was so stubborn and hard-headed. She was so scared that he would be stirred again when he saw Cassandra.

The doctor’s instruction still echoed in Michelle’s ears. She was apprehensive about letting Rufus meet Cassandra.

‘I want to see her now,’ Rufus demanded.

Though the small dose of medicine pacified him, he still had a clear mind and was resolved to see Cassandra. He had his eyes fixed at Michelle, trying to make something out from her face.

He had the feeling that Michelle knew where Cassandra was, and she could find her!

Michelle found it difficult to make the decision. In a dilemma, she turned her head to Jasper for help, who in turn gave her a nod.

‘You must promise me, that even if you see Cassandra, you have to stay calm. Otherwise, your condition is going to worsen.’

Michelle was left with no choice but to bargain with Rufus.

Cassandra felt someone tapping her on the shoulder as she got lost in her own thoughts. She was surprised to find Michelle when she turned around.

‘Come in. He wants to see you,’ Michelle said.

Cassandra was startled—Rufus wanted to see her? Why?

Wasn’t he staying with Amanda?

Michelle had already seen her hiding by the balcony earlier but she chose to ignore her. However, Rufus insisted on seeing her and Michelle really couldn’t do anything about that so she did as he wished.

How difficult all of this was!

‘Amanda’s gone. It’s just going to be you and him. Communicate and talk everything over, okay? Fix this.’

As soon as Michelle finished speaking, she turned around and walked towards Jasper who was waiting for her in the corridor.

Both Michelle and Jasper turned around to look at Cassandra. Looking helpless, they both shook their heads and left.

Cassandra remained frozen and was unable to gather her thoughts. Was she really going to finally see him?

When Rufus was still in comatose, she took care of him all throughout hoping that she would be the first face he would see when he woke up. But now, she was afraid to see him, and even talk to him.

Cassandra took a deep breath to calm herself down. Then she pushed the door open and walked in. She didn't want to see him right away so she kept her eyes fixed on the floor and her mouth tightly shut.

'Come here,'

Rufus said in a placid tone. Cassandra slowly walked towards his bed.

Rufus felt something break inside him when he saw how hesitant Cassandra was to even look him in the eye. He reached out his hand and patted the edge of the bed.

'Come and sit,'

he softly suggested.

Cassandra sat on the edge of the bed—careful with her every move. When she finally raised her head to look at him, she found him staring at her deeply. It was difficult to read him.

'Say something.'

Rufus frowned at her silence.

Cassandra wanted to tell him so many things but she couldn't make her mouth move as if her throat had been sealed shut.

She wanted so bad to ask him about Amanda and if he'd already chosen her. She wanted to ask him why he couldn't let her go.

She wanted to tell him how bad she was hurting and she wanted to ask him how he could treat her this way.

But when she saw Rufus's ashen face and broken legs, she bit her tongue.

‘Are you feeling better?’

Cassandra asked after a long period of loaded silence. It was a simple question and anyone could have asked it. She didn’t know what else to say to him.

‘What’s on your mind exactly?’

This was the first time that Rufus and Cassandra would be talking peacefully so he wanted to go straight to the point.

Cassandra couldn’t utter a word, for she didn’t even know what was on her mind

‘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...

won’t disappoint you, Mr. Ji!’

Arthur promised to Clark Ji, the mysterious and powerful man.

Lionel? Rufus? To Arthur, they were nothing but a few stones to be turned as he made his way to the top.

He would crush them into pieces and he wouldn’t think twice about it.

Clark gazed at Arthur emotionlessly—his mind raced at the things that he knew but Arthur didn't.

It seemed like Arthur wasn't aware that Rufus was also the president of TY Group. Clark could tell that Arthur was ambitious and that he would stop at nothing to get what he wanted. He was a wolf just waiting to be released from his cage by his master.

As long as the wolf was kept well-fed, he would do anything upon his master's command. He would kill his enemies if need be as long as there was a promise of sheep for dinner after.

Clark had always stood by the same rule for years: defeat the enemy but keep your hands clean.

Now, he couldn't wait to see what Arthur was capable of and what lines he would cross for him.

'I want you to take the Tang Group for yourself as soon as possible. That means dethroning Rufus,'

Clark said blatantly.

Back when he was still training in the Dark Night Group, he and Rufus had been on the same team. Rufus was better than him at everything. Even Amanda, Charlie's daughter, liked Rufus over him.

He had been nursing this sphere of hatred for a long time.

As luck would have it, Rufus eventually left the Dark Night Group. If he hadn't, Clark wouldn't be where he was now. Rufus would have probably been voted in place as the new leader for the Dark Night Group, not him.

Clark could have happily let everything go but since finding out that Amanda had been chasing after Rufus, he started to feel all the hatred come back again.

'So, Tang Group, huh, Rufus? Your father's company? I'm going to destroy it!'

Help Me Showering

The clock that hung on the wall of the hospital room tickled 7 o' clock, and it was a cold evening. The spring rain kept falling outside while Cassandra was busy with peeling an apple for Rufus. Enticed by the look of the fresh fruits, she added some oranges and bananas, placed them on a plate and handed it to Rufus.

'Can you help me eat these fruits?'

Rufus popped out a request as he lovingly looked at her.

Hesitant at first, Cassandra opened her mouth to refuse but was held silent on second thought. After all, he was a patient and she should take care of him. Carefully, she cut the fruits into smaller pieces with her fruit knife, picked a small piece and lifted it gently to his mouth.

'No, I want you to feed me using your mouth!' Rufus blurted a silly request and refused to take the apple on the toothpick.

With an intimidating expression in his eyes, Rufus smiled a little and looked at Cassandra.

'Alright, I bet you don't want to eat any fruit for now!'

With a heavy hand, Cassandra put the fruit plate on the table and decided not to bear with him again. The more she yearned to him, the eager he was in teasing her.

'What a greedy man you are, Rufus, ' Cassandra cursed silently.

Seeing that she was pissed off, Rufus reached out for her hands to give her a hug. But Cassandra was so annoyed that she didn't want any body contact with him. She struggled with all her might to free herself from Rufus's grasp. When all of a sudden, Rufus let out an alarming gasp, 'Ouch! My leg!'

Showing a miserable expression on his face, Rufus knitted his eyebrows and puckered his lips. Cassandra relaxed her body and stopped struggling in his arms. She held her breath because she was so nervous at what might cause the pain in Rufus.

Rufus chuckled silently and heaved a sigh of content. Realizing that he was joking with her, Cassandra stared at him with eyes in a huff.

'Why are you staring at me that way, my little frog?'

Feeling silly like a child, Rufus lifted the corner of his mouth and cracked a charming smile at her. He was trying to calm her down using his charm. But for Cassandra, his efforts were futile and his words still sounded ironic.

'Hmm, to see where you can go, big fly!' Cassandra contradicted immediately.

Still annoyed by his prank, Cassandra kept fixing her stony stare at Rufus, blaming him for his unreasonableness and unusual behavior. She stayed with him almost twenty-four hours a day; because of his injuries,

Cassandra couldn't leave him alone and had to do everything he asked her to do.

These past few days, she was always late to work in the morning and left her office early in the afternoon. With her performance, she believed that her image of being an excellent boss had been ruined. Despite all these, she didn't regret a thing, because Rufus was more important than anything else.

'Well, the big fly wants meat...'

Carelessly, Rufus never minded what she said. He gazed at her bare neck and ran his eyes down her chest.

'No way!' Cassandra shouted straightaway.

Her cheeks turned crimson red as she put her hands around her neck hurriedly and glared at him as if her eyesight was burning.

It was ridiculous of him to run his eyes like that when he was still lying on the sickbed

'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...

to hold back his laughter, but the smile in his eyes betrayed him. Rufus was confident that Cassandra would finally give in and agree to do what he asked her to do. He just looked at her readily.

Actually, he was taking advantage of his injury this time. Cassandra said that she wanted a break up the other day, so now he was trying to show his sovereignty over her.

Meanwhile, Cassandra was feeling really awkward, wondering where had gone wrong.

With beads of sweats forming on her forehead, she found that her throat was dry and she could utter no word as she was taking off Rufus's clothes for him. She couldn't stand every movement of him. Especially the way he stared at her, it was as if his eyes could swallow her whole. She was so nervous that her body was tense all over.

Feeling weak in her knees, Cassandra felt that she would collapse in any second.

'Okay, let me show you how to take care of me!' Rufus said drowsily.

However, Cassandra didn't listen to him. She turned on the water, adjusted the temperature and sprayed him with warm water directly.

Having no time to respond, Rufus got his face thoroughly wet, and he had to wipe the water off his face with his hands.

'What are you doing, little woman!' he muttered.

Through the spray of warm water, Rufus was smiling at her, but the expression in his eyes was too far for Cassandra to see through.

‘Nothing! And you won’t get me wet right now just because I accidentally sprayed water onto your face, right? After all, I’ve been here with you for the past few days!’ she asked in a panic.

Gingerly, she retreated back a step from the shower, wondering what he would do to her.

‘Of course not. You’re turning my word around, honey. I think I need to appreciate what you did,’ Rufus replied.

Then he waved to her, instructing her to get closer.

‘Come here. How could you take care of me, if you stand miles away from me?’

Still tense all over, Cassandra moved inch by inch towards him. Rufus got a little impatient for her hesitation, without any warning, he reached out his arms and pulled her to him.

‘Please shower my back for me. I can’t reach!’ he said in a low voice.

The Intimate Couple

Rufus turned serious all of a sudden as Cassandra washed his back.

‘Why do you have so many scars on your back? What happened?’

Cassandra hadn’t noticed all of Rufus’s scars until today. While most of them had already faded, they still didn’t disappear completely.

She’d never seen his back this close when they were together before.

‘Why did he have so many scars?’

‘I fell from a cliff and got caught with one of the branches so those are scratches,’

Rufus said nonchalantly. He didn’t say more but it was obvious that there was definitely more to the story.

Cassandra scrutinized the scars closely. She reached out and stroked them. The scars were flat on the skin so they couldn’t be felt by the hand but the discoloration against the skin was a bit alarming. This was definitely a serious injury before.

‘Does it hurt?’

Cassandra reluctantly held the shower head in her left hand and used the other to stroke Rufus’s scars. Her fingers brushed the marks carefully, afraid that Rufus might get hurt.

What happened? Rufus wasn’t telling her anything—he was mysterious like that and Cassandra’s heart longed for him.

‘No. Do you feel bad for me?’

Rufus asked with a smile on his face. He cocked his head to the side and gazed at Cassandra.

‘Should I?’ Cassandra pouted.

Rufus thought she was adorable for caring enough to touch his scars. Did she really believe that Rufus couldn’t do anything just because he broke one leg?

‘You’re not making any sense. If you don’t stop, you’re going to have to take a shower on your own!’

Cassandra's face reddened as she tossed the shower head into Rufus's hand.

He wouldn't stop making fun of her even if all she was trying to do was help him! Well, if this was how he was going to be then she might as well just leave him to himself.

Cassandra turned around to leave but Rufus grabbed her arm to pull her towards him.

'Come on, let's finish what you started,'

Rufus said, smiling. Cassandra could tell that he was only teasing her.

'No, I'm leaving!'

He'd been teasing her a lot these past few days and she wasn't sure if she was still okay with it.

'Come on, don't get mad now. We'll be getting married soon!'

Rufus had to keep himself from laughing but hard as he tried, he still couldn't get the smile off his face.

'Wow, you've got some nerve!'

Reluctantly Cassandra had to help him finish his shower.

'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!’

an even better job than me. And I can work as a designer then.’

Cassandra was looking forward to the future. She would appoint Cloris as the president of the Qin Group while she focused on what she loved best—designing. While they waited for their father to get out of prison, Cloris and Cassandra could run the company together.

Rufus gazed at her silently.

‘What? You think that’s too long? Don’t worry, I’ll still marry you even if you’re old and gray by then. I’ll still love you, okay?’

Cassandra said, teasing him.

Rufus forced out a smile. He reached out to pull her into his arms and heaved a quiet sigh.

He couldn’t help but frown at the thought of Cloris being included in Cassandra’s future especially after what she’d done to her. Cloris hired someone to drug Cassandra so that she could get some naked photos of Cassandra. She had always despised Cassandra. Rufus thought Cassandra to be too naive to still include Cloris in her plans in the hope of getting along.

Why did she love and value her family so much?

Vernon didn’t care much for her, Edith forced her into a loveless marriage with Lionel, and Cloris wasn’t very nice to her either, obviously. Even after all of this, she still wanted to include her family in her future.

She had planned well for everyone in the Qin family and would prefer to work as a designer behind the scenes afterwards.

Rufus lowered his head to kiss Cassandra on the forehead before falling into a deep sleep, blissfully happy to have Cassandra in his arms.

They fell asleep holding each other, like the most intimate couple, ever.