

Destined To Be His wife by L.T. Marshall Chapter 141

It was heavy and with her small height and lack of muscle she struggled to pull it up and out of the sunken space it sat. Yanking it onto its side and managing to edge it backwards to her, before pulling it against her chest in a bid to lift it. Huffing and puffing and making strange noises with her effort to not be beaten by this heavy thing.

A strange warm sensation rippled across the back of her neck and her hair stood on edge as her heart lurched and her gut tightened. A weird sixth sense that something large had come up behind her and she faltered. Suddenly scared and frozen stiff as she tried to tune into whatever it was, turning slightly to catch a quick look before making it obvious she could feel it.

“Be a good girl and don’t struggle.” The strong husky voice of a man came at her, making her drop the wheel as a hand covered her mouth and she was grabbed from behind and held fast. Wriggling, squealing, and squirming as something sour and strong clogged her throat and made her throat burn. Coughing and wheezing and twisting her head to escape the covering he held tight on her face and her eyes began to stream. Her vision blacking out, and her body held taught by someone twice her size as he locked her ankles between his knees and clung on like a vice to hold her still. Try as she might, she couldn’t fight it. Choking on her own saliva as vomit rose, unable to breathe except through this burning chemical that was stinging her face and making everything hazy.

The hand holding a rag directly over her nose and mouth was painful and clamped on ruthlessly, and Linlin passed out within minutes. Her body slumping against the tall muscular person as she took her last conscious breath and all her fight gave out. He scooped her up like a limp rag, smug at how much easier this was than expected because of her small size and walked to his own black car behind him. He opened his side door, dumping her body on the back seat with zero care and cable tied her hands and feet behind her securely with speed. He smirked to himself, swelling with satisfaction at what he managed to do, stroked her hair back and leaned in so his face lingered over hers and he peered down on her sleeping face.

“If you’re a good girl and stay quiet, everything will be okay, Miss Choi.” He brushed her hair back before tugging up her chin and covering her mouth with duct tape before dropping her face back onto the cold leather and slamming the door shut on her. “Just sleep and stay out of my way, or else you’ll be sorry.” He sneered through the glass at her unresponsive form.

Pacing back to the waiting car, the open boot concealing his real target from view, he casually strolled up beside it. Reaching his cloth in his hand once more and knocked on the passenger window. Standing tall so his face and shoulders were above her viewing height and leaned in a little so she would only see midriff and clothing.

TangShi was playing with her phone, on a game YuZhi had downloaded for her and glanced up in surprise wondering why Linlin wouldn't open the door if she needed her. Startled to see a black clothed figure of a man beside her and she recoiled away, glancing around for Linlin. A terrible clawing feeling rising in her stomach with suspicion and nerves.

"Your friend needs some help out here. We can't change the wheel if there's only two of us. Can you come assist?" His voice was strained and odd, and sounded completely unnatural, and TangShi second guessed whether she should get out or not. Glancing back over her shoulder to look for Linlin and then realized that she was out there with this guy alone, even if TangShi was afraid. Concern ebbing in and Linlin's safety becoming priority even if she was unsure about this stranger.

She pushed the door open with slow caution, keeping her cell phone in her hand and slid out as he moved out of the way to the front of the car. He turned away so his baseball cap and dust mask concealed most of his face but there was something familiar about him that made TangShi's blood run cold. Sensing that something wasn't quite right about him.

"Excuse me. I'll go see her and help out, thank you." TangShi answered, moving out and leaving the door open to act as a barrier between them, her voice wavering as she moved to walk away. Tense all over, her fight or flight instinct kicking in and clouding her judgement with an insane need to run from this man. She kept her walk steady, tuned in completely to his presence and her eyes scanned the road for Linlin.

"She's right back there, Tang." TangShi had stepped only three feet away from him, facing away towards the rear but her body stopped short, stilling, and she swallowed hard. His voice echoed around her head and the familiar name kicked recognition into touch. She didn't have time to react, to run, scream, or do anything, before a hand covered her face and her body was gripped cruelly. TangShi gasped, lifting her face away from the palm trying to muffle her. She twisted and managed to dodge her mouth being covered at all as he caught her under the chin instead. Putting up a fight and lashing out, throwing her feet back at him so he struggled to control her. TangShi had always been a girl who appeared weaker and gentler than she actually was and had a fire inside of her and a strength that only came out when she needed it. Survival instincts kicking in.

Even though he was bigger, stronger, TangShi was functioning on pure adrenaline and found superhuman strength from somewhere as they fought. Yanking her arms away, spinning in his embrace so she met him face on and ripped his mask down as she delivered a knee to his groin. Her eyes widening in horror as she recognized the man who had already tried to ruin her life and her fury was unleashed.

Rong Cai snarled at her unexpected venom aimed his way, gritting his teeth, and putting more force into subduing her even though he didn't want to leave a mark on his angelic woman. Yanking her by the hair and thrusting her sideways so she lost her

balance and it winded her momentarily. Rong scrambled for the dropped fabric drenched in chloroform with one hand while trying to keep her quiet and detain her but it was no easy feat.

TangShi managed to rip his hand from her face again and started yelling for help so that Rong Cai had no option left. He covered her mouth and nose hard with his gloved hand, abandoning his rag, while he encircled her upper body to crushing levels and he frog marched her. Half dragging, half carrying her to his own car in haste in case anyone heard, kicking her legs out of his way as he did so. No more gentleness or consideration for the woman he adored, but instead a ruthless abductor who was bruising her skin and hurting her face.

TangShi was blinded by panic-stricken tears and yet kept resisting, wildly biting at his hand, twisting her arms and legs to try and break loose. She was searching with her eyes for help but they were in a quiet corner of a tiny alley with no nearby direct traffic thanks to Linlin's detour and she couldn't even see her friend. Terror rising in her heart and panic that Linlin was nowhere to be seen and she felt alone.

Catching sight of the black car as she was hauled past it, she noted the lifeless figure on the back seat through the window and was both relieved and yet mortified. Seeing her motionless and pale and restrained that way broke her heart in two and increased the intensity of her fear. Not knowing what he'd done to her or what he intended to do to them both.

"Shut up or it'll be worse for you. I don't want to hurt you but I will!! Be quiet, play nice, and she won't get hurt." his raspy, furious tone and the sharp shake he gave her quietened her a moment as her mind scrambled with what she should do. Believing in the fact he intended to do something to Linlin if she didn't behave and she went limp for a second while she thought it through.

The pause found a new second wave of energy for her as he popped his trunk open and started trying to push her inside, flicking her fight instinct once more. She splayed her legs, jamming her feet against the bumper and open hatch and tried to kick them both back again, but Rong was stronger.

Folding her legs with minimal effort when held this way, pushing her down into the dark space and shoving her head and face against rough carpet that made her wince in pain as her skin burned from the contact. She made to use her arms to push herself up but he was faster, slamming her back down before closing it on her and locking her inside.

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TangShi flipped over in reaction when darkness surrounded her and muffled his noises. Scrambling her hands across the surface below her to look for a weapon and searched herself for her phone, realizing she had lost it at some point while fighting him. There was nothing back here to get hold of and she lifted her feet and hands and started

kicking and pushing at the trunk lid in erratic desperation as panic took hold. Feeling the car vibrate as the engine was started and she began to scream and yell for help, hysteria setting in and fear that if he took them from here, no one would know where to look for them.

“Let me out!!! Let me out, you psycho, fucking stalker, sad prick of a man. Stop it.... fucking let me OUT!!!!” TangShi screamed hysterically, launching a kicking and punching attack on the metal over her head and only hurting herself and exhausting her wavering energy levels in the process. Tears blinding her and thrashing like a mad woman wand getting nowhere.

Tears streamed down her face and her breathing was so labored and heavy she felt like she was having a panic attack, trying so hard to think logically to stop it turning into an actual meltdown. Heaving to get oxygen and dizzy with the effort. She gave up her violent assault on the roof, drained and nauseous and choked on her own saliva and tears which were now saturating her own face.

She turned on her side towards the inner car and started looking for a way to get the seat down to where Linlin was, in desperation to not be alone in here without her. Sliding her palms all over and tracing any lines or edges even though she couldn't see all that well. Her priority was not to freak out and fall apart but try and think rationally and figure out what to do when he stopped this car and opened the trunk again. As much as she wanted to curl up and sob until someone rescued them, she knew it wasn't going to happen and Linlin wasn't even conscious.

Her whole body was shaking, her insides tied in knots of fear and terror but her mind kept pulling her back to Linlin on the other side of their barrier and the fact she saw her tied up and pale as a ghost. Worried about her state in case he had poisoned her or something worse. She didn't know if whatever he tried to put on her face was what he used on Linlin or if he had done something to injure her. She was scared for her friend and scared for what was still to come.

“Linlin, can you hear me?” TangShi whispered against the fabric of the back of the seat, feeling along the edges and sliding around as the car turned and sped up. Banging her head on the side wall before she was rolled over with a sudden lurch in force. He was obviously driving like a maniac and the car sounds overtook the small space and drowned out her voice.

“Linlin? Are you okay?” She yelled louder. She didn't know what else to do. Glad he hadn't tied her up too and aware she would only have one chance at doing something when he opened it again if she had any hope of getting free. She would need to be ready to fight him and she instinctively put her hand over her abdomen and screwed her eyes shut. Trying to find some inner strength and peace to be able to calm down and do something.

"We can do this. We can get out of this.... We are stronger than this." She chanted under her breath to self-calm, shielding her womb for a second as though subconsciously making sure her baby was okay and once again felt around for something she could use. Pulling her mind together, trying to focus on the task and not the situation.

"Think, TangShi, think." She didn't know what to do, trying to feel along the wall for any hidden or drop-down compartments in case he had tools or anything that might be helpful. Linlin wasn't responding and she didn't want to think of the why. Just focus on helping her.

She remembered YuZhi changing out a flat on his jeep a week ago, when they were out together. The carpet lifted and he had a tool set and tire hidden under the main space of his boot. She didn't know if this was the same, if it was normal in all cars, and wriggled to one corner. Pushing herself into a small a space as she could before tracing her fingers along the edge and lifting the internal carpet to see.

She managed to work it up and roll it back, shifting over it to get it out of the way, ending up on her knees and elbows and then feeling around for the hatch or flip up panel like in YuZhi's. Hoping this was a standard thing.

She found the shape of a wooden cut out square and dug her fingers in the tight gap around the egde before being tossed sideways again by another harsh corner turn and smacked her face full frontal with an awful crunch. Her nose started running and she clutched it for a second, covering her face and groaning in pain, as her eyes streamed with tears. Needing a minute for the agony to subside again and went back to find what she was doing while sniffing back her nosebleed and gagging on the metallic grossness of blood

She maneuvered herself as tight as she could against the seat wall so she could lift it open and reach around and felt for something she could use. Tracing out a tire with her fingertips, a rag, and then her hand fell on something big and clunky that felt like metal and she wondered if it was the jack. It was too big to lift easily so she bypassed it, sliding herself around the side to nudge her head and shoulder closer to the opening and felt out something long and thin.

It was large, a handle maybe, but definitely metal and she pulled it out of its holding place, feeling it had some weight to it. It was a tire iron or the jack handle and freezing cold and weighty. She pulled it out and laid it under her before going back to feel for more in case there was something better. Shaking with adrenalin and putting everything into her task instead of her fear.

Nothing else was as chunky or easy to hold as this and she quietly closed the hatch again, moving back with the carpet to get in the center, flattening it all back down, and laid on her back. Holding it tight to her chest with both hands and staring ahead as she drummed up the courage she needed while counting to ten to calm down.

With this bar in hand she felt a little less desperate and although she was being bashed around by the movement of the car, a strange sense of calm came over her and she stopped her tears. Her face was soaked, her heartrate was crazy high and making her dizzy and she was nauseous and trembling. Her body was a strange mix of cold and hot in random places and her grip on the bar was the only thing she could focus on while listening to the sound of her own blood rushing through her ears.

“YuZhi..... please know something is wrong. Please, feel it. We need help. Linlin and I...we need you.” She whispered it into the pitch blackness, lifting her hand to shield her head as they turned another harsh bend and she almost head butted the area directly above her. Managing to cushion it and she closed her eyes and tried to not bring Rong Cai’s terrifying face to mind. Wishing he would just die and stop tormenting her life like this. Afraid of a person she thought she knew and realizing she had no concept of what he was capable of. What he intended to do.

Her hands trembling as it felt like hours instead of minutes she had been locked in here and she couldn’t decide whether to keep trying to get the seat open to access Linlin or wait for Rong Cai to open the boot and hit him. She knew as long as he was driving he wasn’t doing anything to her friend but she was worried about how he had rendered her unconscious.

She couldn’t hear any noise from Linlin through the seat. No movement, no groans, no anything. Only the thrum and vrooms of a noisy car being driven at speed and her sliding around because of his reckless driving. She had no idea where they were going and no way to figure it out as she was never a driver who travelled around shanghai much. Even if she memorized directions and turns, she was disorientated and had no idea which way was which.

She didn’t know what he wanted or what he intended to do but if he was being this extreme then it couldn’t be good. She had no idea if his intention was to kill them, rape them, keep them and torture them for weeks or months. TangShi was sick to her stomach, holding in her urge to vomit, her nerves eating away as the swirling butterfly feeling returned the longer this journey went on and she closed her eyes tight and did something she had never done before in her entire life. Clenching tight, her body rigid and almost paralyzed.

She prayed.

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“Mr. Leng, Mr. Kim, the board members are all getting seated. This way.” The young secretary showed the men to the door of the long hallway of the room that was assigned for today’s meeting and yet ZhengLi held back. They had arrived at MinXo Corp to discuss a plan that had been in the works for a year and taken a half hour to get here.

“Yo, hold up a second. I have a really weird feeling that I should drop Linny a message. Something feels off.” ZhengLi pulled out his cell phone, not caring that they were seconds from their appointment because it felt urgent suddenly and he couldn’t logically explain why. Wandering off to the side while YuZhi waited for him, checking his watch and feeling for his own phone to scan his messages. TangShi had left him a good luck text for his meeting and he smiled, happy at seeing her name, as he slid it back in his inside pocket. In no rush to get inside that room just yet.

ZhengLi walked back to him seconds later, frowning and slid his own cell away. A furrowed brow of concern etching his face and he seemed distracted.

“What’s up?” YuZhi asked, his own nerves and gut tight today but he assumed it was related to his stressful job for the next two hours. He was presenting the planned project to the board that needed financing and he was sure they would turn it down if he didn’t do a good job. It was a collaboration on an international scale an important one for Leng group to finally seal the deal.

“Ringing out. She loves to torture me and get me worried about her. I just have this insane feeling I need to talk to her right this second.”

“Dude, you said you had a fight. It’s all it is. She’ll be ignoring you and letting you sweat. Send her some flowers and a sorry text then take her for dinner later. You need to romance her a little more and get used to feeling like shit when your girlfriend is angry with you.”

ZhengLi relented, shaking it off and fell back in line with YuZhi to continue. The two men walked forward along the hall at a leisurely pace, readying themselves and adjusting ties and smoothing down lapels. Keeping their voices low when talking about personal issues and ZhengLi sighed heavily. Exasperated with her not answering his call when he was this uptight and not able to shift it out of his head. That niggling of gnawing concern was only getting worse.

“I know. My family still haven’t given up on this marriage date thing. Arranging my fucking life. I can’t even refuse as my mom is hitting me with emotional blackmail.”

“If Linlin finds out you have been having dinner with the woman your family chose for you, she will cut your balls off.” YuZhi raised a brow and smirked, imagining the gruesome ways Linlin would react if she caught him on a marriage date. She would freak out and probably make it that ZhengLi would never father children.

“Why do you think I’m holding off telling her. She’s been really sensitive lately and I think she knows something. She saw me with Mia and I brushed it off, but she has been a moody nightmare since. Picking fights for the dumbest things and storming off, like this morning.” ZhengLi had been tolerant of her ups and downs all week after she brought Mia up, too guilty to tell her straight that his family was pressurizing him to

marry someone of a similar status. Not sure how to navigate this when offending the Hwang family was not an option and he was trying to get himself dumped.

Before Linlin he had no intention of ever marrying anyone and had happily played along on dates and making woman reject him indefinitely because of his playboy ways. The issue was he now wanted his family to accept Linlin and he knew her social status and family wealth wouldn't be enough to convince his parents of the match. They were small fish compared to Yutian Corp and his mother was heavily leaning on him to court Mia and give her a chance. He had no idea how to tell Linlin and was hoping Mia told her family she rejected him soon so he didn't have to.

As they got to the door it was opened by a waiting assistant standing outside and YuZhi nodded and smiled as they passed. His own gut swirling suddenly and he too got that strange sensation he should call TangShi. Glancing back at ZhengLi with a matched expression to his grim one and swallowed hard.

"What is it?" ZhengLi muttered under his breath and followed him into the room, sensing his hesitation and change in mood, but YuZhi only shook his head and tried to ignore it.

"it's nothing." He had given her a driver and guard, so she was fine and ZhengLi was passing on his stupid stress. If there was an issue they would call him directly.

Focusing on the task at hand, he swallowed it down, unsure why he felt like this. Blaming ZhengLi for stirring up his concern and pushed it aside before sliding into the seat meant for him. ZhengLi did the same, taking one last glance at his phone by pulling it discreetly up inside his jacket and seeing no returned calls or messages, he pushed it back down.

The meeting got underway; a screen presentation playing while YuZhi stood and delivered his speech. Going over financial projections and fine details and laying a solid case down for the moving forward with the plans for this collaboration. ZhengLi sat back listening, tapping his foot on the floor with impatience as all the information and data he helped compile flashed in front of him and yet he couldn't focus at all. His mind kept wandering back to this feeling of something being off and he checked his cell discreetly a dozen times. Tempted to reach out to TangShi's bodyguard or driver to pass a message on.

His instincts were telling him Linlin was in trouble, but he couldn't put a finger on why and pulling his cell under the table and leaving her text messages had gotten zero response which only made him restless. Although it wasn't unknown for Linlin to ignore him when she was sulking or mad at him, this felt different. His calls had rung out rather than being red buttoned, TangShi wasn't responding either, and he couldn't shake this intense stress and uptight sensation making his guts ache or stop his min from straying to her repeatedly. Every cell in his body and brain were telling him he needed to contact her, even though they were only an hour into this scheduled appointment.

ZhengLi relented and text the driver he personally assigned from Leng Group today, getting a response that made his blood run cold and his rage rise at Linlin for being so fucking careless. His expression tightening as his mouth ran dry and he gritted his teeth to curb the insanely aggressive reaction in his stomach at her stupidity. The driver informed them that the two women had refused both guard and driver and gone off alone this morning to have a girl's day out.

Both men were sat outside YuZhi's apartment waiting for them to come back and ZhengLi felt like he might lose his cool so never responded to scold the driver. He thrust his cell back inside his jacket with harsh force, trying to calm his anger and growing anxiousness. Linlin was an idiot to not think about the fact Rong Cai was out on bail and a very real threat to TangShi. Even being a pint-sized hellcat, ZhengLi knew she was no protector for TangShi against a deranged psycho stalker who drugged women, and if anything happened to Linlin he would fucking kill someone.

YuZhi was in full flow, walking back and forth in front of the projector screen and reciting his prepared speech perfectly. Seemingly owning the room with confidence and delivering a perfect proposal with ease. This was where YuZhi belonged in life and excelled so easily. All eyes glued to him as men and women were immersed with thoughts of the proposal and impressed by his charisma.

The reality was he was counting down the seconds to being done as he too was suffering from strange gut feelings that TangShi was trying to contact him and it was something important. He had never been one prone to crazy sixth sense urges but even ZhengLi seemed to be on the same wavelength with this and it was probably why he was paying more attention to it than he normally would.

ZhengLi wasn't the irrational, impulsive sort, who jumped to act on feelings, but he had spied him checking his cell repeatedly and looking increasingly uptight and worried and now YuZhi was that way too. Reading his best friends mood and not liking what he was seeing as suspicion rose internally and twisted him all up inside.

He knew the girls were together and yet ZhengLi wasn't having any obvious luck in getting contact. He knew he would have tried TangShi too, so it was only logical and yet his expression made it clear she wasn't replying either. TangShi always kept her cell handy, especially since what Rong did to her so this wasn't a good sign. He would have tried the guard and the driver for sure as he was the one who hand picked them and set them the task of protecting TangShi.

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ZhengLi waited for the break in the meeting, where the members were given time to sit and discuss and ask YuZhi questions as the lights were put back on, to excuse himself. Sliding out with a brief apology and waving his cell as though he had an important call and headed to the outer hall. He immediately called Linlin's cell again, pacing back and forth and starting to feel sick in the pit of his stomach. Clenching his fists and cursing

under his breath. No guard, no driver, no god damn knowledge of where they went and no way to trace them. He was starting to get beyond livid with her.

“Come on, baby. Answer your god damn phone. You’re making me crazy.” He gritted his teeth, muttering to himself, tried again and got the same result which only pushed his anxiety sky high. The same happened with TangShi’s cell number and he paced in a circle trying to think who else to call when a lightbulb moment hit him. He scrolled to Rhea’s number and hit the call icon wondering if she too had met up with them and maybe they were somewhere with their phones silenced. Like a spa or beauty salon. It would explain the lack of guard if they wanted some personal time to rebuild their relationship with Rhea. He knew the girls had a strained and complicated friendship as they tried to grow something real from the ashes of previous hurts.

“Afternoon, Zhengy, what are you calling me for?” Rhea answered brightly, immediately on the second ring, and raised ZhengLi’s hopes briefly.

“Are you with Linlin and TangShi?” he got straight to the point. Too overwrought for niceties.

“Nope. I have a lunch with them next weekend but right now I am in London again. Busy working, what’s up?” Rhea was in the process of having her hair styled for a fashion shoot, sat with her feet propped up in a studio while being tended to by various assistants.

“Shit. It’s nothing. I just can’t get hold of them and need to. Don’t worry about it.” He looked up at the ceiling and pinched his nose, trying to curb his growing angst. A headache forming right at his temples.

“You sound stressed, what is it? Why do you need them? What’s going on?” Rhea’s own concern peaked, aware that ZhengLi sounded emotional which was weird for him and knowing of the two girls, TangShi would always answer. She had never been one to monitor or ignore calls. Rhea had always found her to be a fast answer or text responder in their days of hanging out.

“It’s nothing. I’m in a meeting and they went out for the day. Probably left their cells in the car or something.” He waved it off, acting like it was unimportant, not wanting her to be worried too and tried to sound upbeat.

“Call me back when you get hold of them. I’ll try too. You have me a little bit worried.” Rhea knew him well enough to sense he was trying to brush it off, but his tone had told her right off that he was genuinely concerned.

“It’s fine, don’t. I have to go. Have fun in London and we’ll catch up when you get back again.” ZhengLi didn’t hang around waiting for her to interrogate him further and disconnected the call before she said goodbye. Pacing again and trying Linlin’s phone even though he knew it was futile. He checked the time, scrolled his calls and

messages to the first one he sent and felt stupid and obsessive when he released it had barely been an hour and twenty minutes. He felt weird for being this way and laughed at himself and shook his head. It was hardly to the stage of reporting them missing or having reason to think they had fallen off the planet.

“Love is making me crazy. This girl has me so messed up. What am I doing?” He walked to the nearest wall, backing against it and slumped as he blew out air and stared at his blank screen trying to rationalize. Maybe this was a fallout from their fight and he was being extra emotional because he felt guilty and it really was nothing. Yeah it was stupid to leave their protection behind, but in reality Cai was probably hiding in his art school. He knew he was keeping the whole marriage date thing from Linlin to stop her getting hurt and angry. Not wanting her to feel insecure or sad that his family wouldn’t see her as worthy and yet it was right there like a large black hole, consuming him and making him feel like he was cheating on her.

Her being mad and ignoring him was only adding to the weight that he was keeping a secret and he hated it. He’d always been an honest and straightforward type when it came to women, and this was the first time in his life he wanted to be with only one... for however long she let him. He shouldn’t be hiding anything from her especially as he knew in his heart, Linlin was the one. He had fallen in love with her the first time she marched into his life with that stropy, little sassy attitude, and scowling glare, in the parking lot of the family dinner and had only fallen deeper with every meeting. Somewhere along the journey he had become completely hopeless for her, even if sometimes he didn’t know how to express it or show her, and he had fucked things up with the whole Rong Cai thing.

“Any replies?” YuZhi appeared at his side, his tone tight and tense, startling him with his sudden appearance and glanced over YuZhi’s shoulder in wide eyed surprise.

“Ummm, meeting?” he raised his palm in question. Shocked YuZhi would walk out of something so important.

“It’s done. They agreed to the proposal right off. No hesitation. The contract signing is in two days once all parties read them over.” YuZhi was relieved it was so straight forward and pulled out his cell to try TangShi himself. It rang out and he narrowed his eyes at ZhengLi. “The driver, the guard?”

“They ditched them both. Do you know where they were going today?” ZhengLi questioned, watching YuZhi’s face turn grim and then fall in horror at that news. YuZhi immediately picking up his cell to try again, only this time with a furrowed brow and much more urgent manner.

ZhengLi knew there was no way TangShi would ignore his calls. These past few days they had both been glued to their phones, texting each other whenever they were apart. After breaking up they were back in that codependent and needy faze of staying together and in contact way more than necessary. Worse since they found out she was

pregnant a couple of days ago and YuZhi was like an overbearing, overprotective prison guard, who fussed over her every movement.

YuZhi shook his head, scrolled his cell and pulled up the tech department manager of Leng group. Mind set on finding her now he knew this and no longer playing around. All his fears and doubts rising in one frenzied sweep.

“Hey, It’s YuZhi. Can you pinpoint a cell for me? I need a location right away, like now. I’ll text you the number.” YuZhi waited for the agreement and assurance they could trace it as long as it was on and sent him the number right away. His pallor pale and his heart rate rising to scary levels.

“Are we overreacting like two crazy stalker type boyfriends? It’s only been an hour and half since they lost contact.” ZhengLi asked in genuine confusion because this wasn’t how either of them ever acted.

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“The fact we both feel like something is wrong is a huge neon sign for me. We’re not the types to have this kind of gut instinct without reason. I could strangle Tang for ditching the fucking guard. What the hell is she doing?” YuZhi hoped to god they were wrong but something told him they weren’t. ZhengLi could do nothing except try his cell again, nodding for YuZhi to follow him as the board room started to empty beside them and they headed for the exit at speed. Both men glued to their phones and endlessly trying their girlfriends numbers.

“If it turns out they were at something like a spa and we’re spam calling silent phones like crazy men, they will never let us live this down.” ZhengLi threw back drily, propping his phone under his chin.

“I’d rather be overprotective than ignore and regret it.” YuZhi frowned at getting her answer phone finally after ringing out and left her a brief message.

“Hey, babe, it’s me. Can you call me back pronto? I’m worried that you’re not okay and it’s making me a little crazy. Text if you can’t call, just respond... please, okay? I love you.” YuZhi hang up with reluctance and followed ZhengLi out into the main area of MinXo Corp then followed him to the elevator for the underground parking. Barely acknowledging the greetings from staff as they left as both were preoccupied in their own thoughts.

They stood quietly, texting, side by side as they made their way down to the basement floor and walked to the car in utter silence. Both engrossed in their cells, when YuZhi’s phone ringing broke the eerie quiet and he jumped.

“Hello?” He answered it without looking at the screen, in haste and desperation and then frowned at the voice of Mr. Lee the tech manager.

“We have a location pretty easily. I will text the address to you. The cellphone doesn’t seem to be moving so your person will still be there, Mr. Leng.”

“Thank you. It’s much appreciated. Send it.” YuZhi hung up quickly and scrolled his phone as the incoming text beeped, showing him a map location with an accompanying address and he glanced up at ZhengLi in confusion.

“It’s practically here.” He pointed west, through the wall of the elevator and showed ZhengLi the screen. “That’s nearby right?” Showing the marked map of streets they passed in coming here and were basically a ten-minute drive away.

ZhengLi took it and nodded. Both men rushing out of the steel box and heading for the car in haste. Neither said a word as they jumped into ZhengLi’s four by four and he got them going to find the location pronto. The sooner they saw them with their own eyes and knew they were fine, the better.

“It’s by a lot of café’s. Maybe they left them in the car and we’re being stupid.” YuZhi was scrolling the location on the internet, pulling up street views to get a feel for the place and could see it was a popular area for small food shops and trendy boutiques that seemed like Linlin’s style. His nerves calming that maybe they really did just leave their cells on silent to eat or in the car to have a break. He did tell TangShi he would be incommunicado for two hours. Maybe she figured an hour or two without her cell wouldn’t do any harm. Somehow he felt better having the location and knowing it was nearby and explainable. Even if he was angry at her for being careless.

“Either way we will find them. I’m hungry, so worst case scenario, Linlin can buy me food.” ZhengLi too was less uptight at having a real place to go check for them and make sure all was okay. His tight and tense gut not really releasing but glad to be actively doing something. Hopeful that this was a dumb and pointless trip.

“Shouldn’t you be paying, seeing as you’re in the doghouse?” YuZhi pointed out, motioning down an alley for ZhengLi to turn as he followed directions on his map.

“I guess. Although for making me this stressed over something that seems like it’s nothing, that girl owes me big time. She has no idea how dependent on her I am and she can’t go off grid like this and make me worry about her.” ZhengLi admitted, honesty shining through, his stomach churning at the thought of anything ever happening to her.

“You’ve got it bad. Maybe you should think about taking her on marriage dates instead.” YuZhi pointed out with sarcasm, scanning the streets they passed for signs of Linlin’s car.

“Trust me, I’m working on it. You don’t just propose marriage to a wild playgirl like her without first preparing her for it. Linlin isn’t like other girls and marriage might make her run away if I spring it on her.”

“Wait, what? You’re seriously considering proposing?” YuZhi blanched at him in shock. “I thought this was just a mutually exclusive fun thing until you got bored.” He really was surprised. ZhengLi had sworn to never settle down and never get married in his life so it was hard to swallow this when he just came out with it so brazenly.

“I love her. I don’t think I’m capable of ever getting bored of her. I think I’m pretty much stuck for life, and I’m not exactly complaining. I don’t know what I would do if I lost her. My life wouldn’t recover if Linlin left for any reason..... those two weeks apart really screwed me up and I missed her like crazy, trying to figure out how to fix it.”

“You’re an idiot.” YuZhi prodded him in the shoulder, shaking his head at his best friend. “Don’t ever let my love issues fuck with yours again. I don’t need that kind of loyalty and it’s no wonder she feels insecure. You have to try harder or you will lose her.”

“I know, okay. Can we just focus on finding them and you can lecture me later? I don’t think this horrible feeling will subside until that sulky little diva glares at me face to face.”

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TangShi stilled in the now motionless car. Listening intently for noise and trying to make out what Rong Cai was doing. Closing her eyes to improve her senses while still gripping the tire iron with both hands and poised to attack. Her heartrate raising and body clammy with fear but she tried to stay focused and calm although it felt like they had driven for an age and she had no idea where they were now.

He had stopped them somewhere finally, pulled Linlin out already, of that TangShi was sure as she had heard the dragging and muffled groans of her on the other side of the seat. Straining to listen and see if she was conscious while he lifted her and pulled her away from the car.

His footsteps came back towards her on a hard gritty surface, seeming like he hadn’t walked far to deposit Linlin and TangShi knew she was next. She gripped harder, her breathing getting shallow as her nerves elevated, her face damp with sweat as anticipation clawed at her, churning her stomach up. So tense her body was stiff and she retightened her clutches on her makeshift weapon. Ready herself to attack. Her heartbeat coming through her stomach and chest in an exaggerated way as though she might have a coronary at any moment.

She sensed his presence moving closer, could hear subtle noises of him at the back, knowing he was right at the trunk and blinked in an attempt to ready herself for the sudden light that might hinder her after becoming accustomed to dark. It was like time stopped for a second, her pulse and lungs stilling and the pause endlessly dragged out before a resounding click startled her into action.

Rong barely got the trunk open, smug in his successful kidnapping and not expecting TangShi to come at him like a bat out of hell. Swinging a metal rod at his face that he

dodged in a flash from fast reflexes, gasping in shock and stumbling backwards with raised arms to protect himself. TangShi didn't relent though, sitting up quickly and swinging harder and further in an attempt to get at him and yelling at the top of her voice.

"HELP... SOMEONE HELP..... HELLLLLPPPP!" She screamed as she pursued him, sliding over the back ridge of the trunk clumsily and going after him. Rong ran backwards in panic, lifting his palms and successfully ducking and weaving to get away from her bat swing. Sweating and getting irritated with her temper tantrum.

"What the hell are you doing? Calm down, Tang. I'm not going to hurt you, princess. Let me have that and we can talk it out. It's me, Rong. We love one another, don't we?" Rong was shocked at her venom and hostility and yet amused at her cuteness, riled only by the fact she was still trying to hit him even after clearly seeing who he was. He had thought it was an instinct after being locked up and she would soon settle when she saw it was him, but he was wrong.

"You're insane. What the fuck is wrong with you? How could you abduct us?" TangShi's tears drenched her face and she sniffed through them but she wasn't really crying in sadness, but of a million emotions. It was a combination of fear, anger, and desperation, and maybe a little adrenaline in the mix but Rong only saw it as hurt for being restrained.

"Why are you being like this? Because I was rough with you, or is it because your friend can hear you and you don't want it to get back to that crazy asshole? He won't hear us baby, it's okay to admit your feelings. We're safe now and we can be together. I'm sorry if I scared you by doing it this way, you know I don't mean it." Rong was delusional. So gone in his own thoughts and feelings he no longer had any kind of connection to reality. TangShi spun her head looking for Linlin and gawped when she saw her hunched against a pillar in the middle of where they were, secured to it, but still gagged and bound. Gasping at the pale and lifeless sight of her and taking in the surroundings of a dirty old, abandoned warehouse.

"What have you done to her? Where are we? What's wrong with her?" TangShi wailed at him with accusation, brandishing her bat high and keeping him out of reach. He stood with raised palms to show his submission but his temper was riling the longer she kept this up. No longer amused with her show of fierce when he had plans on getting them moving away from here by now.

"I used chloroform. A little cliché and predictable but it does the trick and it's easy to come by. She'll wake up soon..... might not thank me for it though. I hear it has nasty side effects." He laughed at that, enjoying the crumbling expression on her face as she realized she was alone and her friend wasn't helping her any time soon. He wanted her to understand they were now free and easy to get away and go on with their life without anyone stalling them. Especially not Linlin.

“What do you want from us?” TangShi’s voice wavered, croaking in agony as it broke and she knew she was showing him how terrified she was blatantly. Her legs shaking and her arms getting tired from holding the weight of metal. Physically she was fading and struggling to hold it together.

“I want you and me to live happily ever after. To be together and go off to start over somewhere new. Away from that rich prick who keeps you in his clutches. It’s okay, I understand and I saved you from him. Put down the bar so we can make up and get going.”

“I’m not the one that needed saving. You are..... from yourself. You’re crazy and you are making everything worse. What have you done?” TangShi was shivering from head to foot, afraid to loosen her hold and use one hand to wipe her blurred eyes or let down her arms and weapon that were keeping him at bay. Poised and yet she had no clue what to do. Linlin behind her and out cold, and him to the front, posing a threat to them both.

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“Shhhhh, baby. Just let me console you and wipe your face. Calm down and give me a hug. Come on.... let’s not fight. Why are you mad, huh? Because of your friend?” Rong was only hearing what he wanted to hear and couldn’t see how much TangShi hated him and wanted nothing to do with him. To him, this was all YuZhi’s doing and TangShi was a victim in his clutches who needed a little time.

“Untie her, let her go, and we’ll talk. She doesn’t need to be here.” TangShi was wracking her brains for a plan and had no idea how to get out of this. Concerned with Linlin’s safety and overwrought with how sick she looked.

Rong sighed heavily, crossing his arms across his chest and shook his head. His mood deflating and taking on the stance of a patient professor, lecturing a student..

“I can’t do that. She might go get him you see. He might come before we can leave together. She has to stay here.”

“I’m not going anywhere with you.” TangShi spat back at him, knowing she needed to curb her reactions and play along or else she wouldn’t be able to help Linlin, but it was hard when this smug psychopath was standing staring at her in such a deluded way. Her every cell of her body was screaming to defy him.

“Don’t say things you’ll regret. Come on. Just put that down and let me hug you. I missed you so much and I want to feel you against me again.” Rong stepped forward so sure in himself she was being difficult to get him to beg and then lurched back as she swung at his face with fury once more. Stepping and bending backwards as it missed his nose by an inch and almost sent TangShi spinning with how much effort she put in it.

“Stay the fuck away. I’m warning you; I will smash your face in and take your head off.” TangShi stepped backwards away from him, never breaking eye contact and began shuffling slowly towards Linlin, keeping him at a distance and not lowering her guard.

“Don’t be a bitch. I only have so much patience and I don’t want to hurt you. Can’t hurt my future wife, can I?” he chuckled to himself, raising his palms and then narrowed his gaze and scowled at her, a change in expression so instant and severe it sent shivers to TangShi’s stomach. “Well, unless I have to. I’m not against doing it for the greater good.” His tone dropped to one of blank indifference and it sent a chill through TangShi, igniting genuine worry he would.

TangShi didn’t respond, her heartbeat racing and her palms clammy which was making the bar hard to grip, but instead kept on with her steady backwards sliding. Until she came level with Linlin and pushed Linlin’s outstretched leg gently with her foot to rouse her.

“Linlin, are you awake, can you hear me? Please say something.” TangShi so desperately needed to hear her, even if it was just a groan to signal she was still alive. She looked completely lifeless and it was scaring her that he had done something awful.

“Mmmmm.” A soft mumbling moan came from behind Linlin’s duct taped mouth covering and TangShi exhaled in sagging relief. Her head swimming with dizziness at hearing her respond and thanking god that she was conscious and breathing still. It made her less alone in this predicament and gave her hope that Linlin could still recover.

“Did you think I killed her?” Rong started laughing, a cackling and manic sound, coming closer again and TangShi stiffened up, straightening her posture and brandished her weapon at him once more. Only Rong had enough of this game and he was no longer playing. He marched at her, and even though TangShi swung with all her might, he dodged it once, grabbed the bar with one hand and tugged it out of her grip with a harsh maneuver that made her stumble towards him. Rong Cai smirked and pushed her back with his other palm, hard, so she tripped over Linlin’s leg behind her and came crashing down on top of her. Banging her limbs and face in the process and giving out a yelp.

“I told you to not make me hurt you, didn’t I? Now I’m fucking mad that you made me do that.” Rong bent over grabbing TangShi by her upper arm with a biting grip and dragged her back to her feet, hauling her with him, but she managed to catch hold of Linlin’s arm and clung on. Desperately holding onto her as he tried to stretch her away from the other girl. Linlin started wriggling weakly, convulsing, a choking noise coming from her throat and her body jerking as though gagging but the tape made it impossible.

“Stop it, let me see her. Let me take her tape off at least so she doesn’t choke. She looks like she might be sick. Please if you let me help her I’ll come willingly.” TangShi cried in desperation and Rong Cai stilled for a moment.

"If I let you take the tape off her mouth you can say your goodbyes. We have another car out there and we're leaving. Don't test me, I'm not in the mood."

"Okay...I just want to make sure she's okay. I'll do as I'm told if you let me go and let me see to her." TangShi knew the only way to be able to do anything was to play along and as her mind calmed down as she recovered the shock of her situation she started to think rationally about this. Arguing with him and fighting wouldn't help. Linlin could choke on her own vomit and die if she didn't convince him.

"Only her mouth, nothing else. I'm watching." Rong snarled, letting her go so she collapsed back onto her knees and stayed close, intimidating her.

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TangShi nodded, her hands shaking violently as she lifted Linlin's face by the chin and carefully peeled off the tape as fast as she could without hurting her too much. Scanning her white face and closed eyes and feeling her skin for temperature. Linlin was feverish hot, and clammy, and her head rolled as her mouth was uncovered, letting out a slight mumble. Her eyes flickered for a second, an obvious swallow and then she jerked awake. Her eyes wide in horror, she gasped, stared at TangShi and then wretched as she began to throw up. Her body slumping forward despite the restraints and vomited at the side of her own legs. The entire contents of her stomach came up, their breakfast and drinks, and TangShi gagged too and turned her face away as she held her friend steady. Turning her own delicate stomach and making TangShi gag in reaction.

TangShi cradled her head and angled her, helped her until she was done and cuddled her in the best she could. Brushing back the fresh tears rolling down Linlin's cheeks and held her close, mothering her while torn up in agony and scared at the state of her.

"What have you done to her? Why is she being sick? Have you poisoned her?" TangShi's garbled words came out in a hysterical mess. Throwing a pointed glare at Rong.

"Chloroform is a poison, yes, but I didn't use a lot. I don't think. She might be sick for a bit, she might get worse, who knows. I heard you can die from liver failure and all sorts so I'm glad I didn't have to use it on you." Rong laughed, amused by the shocked expression on her face. Uncaring about Linlin's predicament and not lying about the danger of the chemical. It was nasty and he had doused a rag so thoroughly that there was a chance Linlin may have ingested some..

"You.... You you're sick. How could you do this to her. She's done nothing wrong! How could you?" TangShi turned back to Linlin and stroked her face, tears rolling freely down her cheeks and her heart aching for her friend. Inwardly crumbling once more with the very real possibility that Linlin wasn't going to be okay. "I need to take her to a hospital. I won't go with you unless we save her. If you love me, and want me to come,

then do as I say.” TangShi hoped that in his madness he would believe her words, bend a little to her will if she acted like she wanted him, but he shook his head.

“Love makes you blind, not stupid.” He smirked at her and kicked Linlin’s foot harshly, sending her leg scraping across the ground by a few inches and gaining a hateful glare from TangShi.

“Wake up. Shake it off. The sooner you get your shit together, the sooner I can leave.” Rong turned and walked off towards the vehicle they came here in to get water, knowing TangShi would be more manageable if they left her friend awake and seemingly alive. He cursed her out and wished she had been alone today, but this was what it was and he had to make do. He had followed her for days and had acted at the first opening he got, always having other men around her or YuZhi Leng meant Linlin was an easier thing to deal with.

TangShi saw the opportunity and quickly went for Linlin’s rope that was holding her to the pillar, trying hard to untie it and cursing under her breath when she saw the cable ties on her wrists behind her. Her legs were bound too in the same manner. He had made it near impossible to free her without time and something sharp.

“Linny, please, wake up properly. Try for me. We have to get out of here. I need you to help me. I need you to be okay.” TangShi whispered at her, fumbling over the knot he had made in the rope and glancing back over her shoulder to check if he was coming. He had his face inside the passenger side of the car and his back to them and seemed to be looking in a hold all on the seat.

“My cell..... I think.....” Linlin could barely talk, her throat burning and painful and her speech slurred but TangShi clicked right away and began searching her clothes for her phone, looking for it and finding nothing. Normally Linlin kept it on her person in a pocket but they were all empty.

“It’s not here.” TangShi whispered back. Deflated and desperate and racking her brains for where it might be. If he took it when he first put her in the car then it might be over there with him. He might have thrown it aside back at the alleyway, or he might have it still. Or maybe it fell like TangShi’s did in the struggle with Rong at the car.

“Tang, you have to run while he’s distracted. Just go.... Leave me here. I’ll be okay if you get away.” Linlin lifted her head weakly, trying to act strong for her, and stared TangShi in the eye, willing her to listen. TangShi began to cry in broken sobs knowing what she was doing.

“I can’t. He’ll catch me. I’m not a good runner. I can’t leave you. What if he takes his anger out on you if I do get out? What if you’re really sick and I leave and” TangShi clung to her and tried to hug her but Linlin pushed her away with her head.

“Run..... if only to attract someone’s attention out there. It looks like a warehouse, there has to be others around us. I can hear noise in the distance. You just need one person to see you, help you. I’m fucked up and can’t move. I feel like he’s done something to me so you staying won’t make me better.” Linlin’s stomach was like a washing machine. Her insides threatening to empty out again and she was dizzy and disorientated and burning up. Her lungs struggling to keep a good airflow and her body was numb and detached like it didn’t have any ability. She was messed up and barely awake and she knew she would hinder TangShi getting free.

“I

“He’s coming. You only have one chance. GO. Just go!” Linlin could see him over TangShi’s shoulder, pulling out of the car with water bottles and knew it was their only chance. TangShi’s blood ran cold, the way Linlin was glaring over her shoulder catapulted her into instinctive action. Fight or flight response initiating and not giving her a moment to think it through. Stroking a final hand across Linlin’s head and sobbing as she jumped up.

“I’m sorry. I’ll come back for you. I’ll get help.” She hushed her saddened words at her through jumbled tears and broke off into an instant run in the opposite direction of Rong Cai.

TangShi put her all into it, head down, legs and arms swinging fast as they could. She made a break for freedom and adrenaline gave her a speed she had never achieved before. The sheer fear of running for her life without looking back.

“TangShi, No!” Rong yelled after her, catching sight of her unexpected escape and sprinted after her. His direction was a straight line so he bypassed Linlin close in his pursuit. Linlin saw it coming and kicked out her bound legs in his path as he neared, so she tripped him and sent him crashing down and sliding across the dirty concrete floor. Rong colliding with some discarded debris which scratched up his face and head, drawing blood. Rong hollered out loud in agony and anger as he rolled on his back and regained his senses.

“I will fucking kill you, you little bitch.” He screamed at Linlin before scrambling back to his knees. Pointing at her with rage before spinning off.

TangShi was running hard, her lungs burning, her limbs aching and tired but she didn’t stop.... looking for an out and a person or people. Searching visually for an escape route and spying daylight through a broken door to her far left. Nausea rising in her stomach from exertion and she began to hope that she might actually get them out of this. All she needed was one man out there who heard or saw her and intervened to save them.

Rong was on his feet in a flash and went tearing after her, leaving Linlin alone while a second bout of nausea hit her hard and she began throwing up again. Her lungs heavy

so she was gasping now, and her mind swirling and she knew she might pass out if she kept this up. Whatever he did, she was struggling badly and could tell her body wasn't doing well at all.

Rong was faster than TangShi and in no time he was almost right behind her as she reached the door and stalled to yank it open. Only it didn't come towards her, and TangShi panicked. Yanking at it then throwing her body against it to budge it while it rattled and creaked and exposed large chains and padlocks keeping it anchored. She kicked at it in an attempt to break through but Rong was on her in seconds and he grabbed her from behind. Catching her upper arms aggressively and throwing her aside so she was tossed into a pile of rubble and scraped and banged her body up, leaving her filthy as dust kicked up around and choked her. The agony of impact bruising her all over, and she whimpered.

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"Don't you fucking EVER run away from me!" Rong roared at her, unleashing his temper, turning on her with venom because he had reached an insane level of fury at her resistance. "Don't you understand what I'm trying to do for us? Why I'm like this? You're so ungrateful and fucking selfish. I'm disappointed in you and hurt that you can't see I'm doing this for your own good. For our future. I love you and you're acting like this? What the hell is wrong with you?" he came at her, stomping towards her angrily and TangShi scrambled backwards on her hands and butt, trembling as tears cascaded down her face. No longer sure he wouldn't get violent. He looked possessed and so far gone from the man she met in the art school so many months ago.

"I'm sorry, I'm scared, and Linlin needs help. I'm sorry... I won't do it again!" TangShi couldn't conceal how afraid she was, caving, her mind casting to the life in her abdomen and a need to protect it as he towered over her and pulled out cable ties from his jacket pocket. Making it clear he was going to tie her up like Linlin.

"I don't trust you anymore. I'm giving you no more leeway. That fucker has you brainwashed into believing I'm the bad guy and I'm not playing nice anymore." He reached down and grabbed her ankle, hauling her towards him cruelly with force, so her body was scraped across debris and dirt and she winced in pain as she struggled. He flipped her while fighting and she was rolled onto her stomach, bashing her ribs on boulders that scraped her hands as she clawed them away.

"You'll hurt the baby!!" TangShi cried out in hysterical reaction and not thought, not even aware of what she said until he dropped her leg and became instantly still.

"What?" Rong paused, his mind a sudden white screen of still as he took in her words one by one and blinked at her in obvious suspicion. "What baby?" He snarled as that thought grew in his mind and swirled around to taunt him. Venom growling low in his belly and weaving up into his heart.

“My Our..... baby, from the night we I’m pregnant.” TangShi whimpered hoping that one detail might be her saving grace and he wouldn’t hurt her.

“No, you’re not. You’re lying.... why are you lying? You can’t be pregnant.” Rong roared, an irrational fury coming out of him that made TangShi recoil. Confused by his volatile reaction and she curled up as small as she could. Eyes wide and body throbbing.

“I’m not. I really am pregnant. The doctor told me I conceived on that day. I thought you would be happy.” TangShi wiped her face on her sleeve, smearing dirt with her tears and crusted blood from her earlier nosebleed and cowered as Rong leaned forward, gritting his teeth and snarled at her.

“You’re a virgin until our wedding day. What the fuck do you mean you’re pregnant.” His voice was low and grating, tainted with hatred. Rong was boiling inside, YuZhi Leng infiltrating his mind and how that bastard could have touched his woman while she was still an unwed innocent and didn’t even belong to him. How the fuck dare he take her purity away and defile her body. Who was he to plant a child in a body that didn’t belong to him?

“What? You..... we....?” TangShi was confused, racking her brain and making sense of what he said as it hit her hard. “You didn’t have sex with me, did you?” She blurted it out, unsure but hopeful and his eyes narrowed in rage.

“You’re my angel, my perfect pure, untouched Princess. Why the fuck would I defile you before we committed to one another as man and wife? Do you know how well I took care of you that night? How careful I was to preserve your purity and modesty. I had you in my bed and I was respectful. I didn’t want some whore wife who has fucked another man or touched before joined to me in the eyes of god..... tell me you’re lying and there’s no baby?” Rong was unravelling, clutching at his hair by his temples and banging his fists into his skull. Unable to take in and compute the fact his unrealistic ideal of her was a sham. TangShi was rendered mute for a second as her brain filtered this through and she looked down at her stomach with a new sense of relief and yet growing fear.

This baby was YuZhi’s if Rong wasn’t lying. And judging by his reaction, she didn’t think he was. He seemed genuinely enraged. This baby was theirs, created in love when he came home to see her that one night. This had nothing to do with Rong and she still had never been touched by any man apart from YuZhi. Her heart soared despite her predicament and yet she now knew she had also made this worse by telling him she was carrying YuZhi’s child.

“I’m lying. I thought we did it.... and you would be happy. I thought a baby would stop you being mad and realize I love you too. I was lying to you, there’s no baby.” TangShi lied through her teeth, her thoughts scrambling and breathing labored. All the more desperate to protect her body from harm now she knew this precious life was one they deliberately created. Nothing to be ashamed of or broken over and all her fears of being

raped disintegrated to dust and healed a wound she had been struggling to overcome. A wound that never existed except in her mind.

“You’re so full of tricks, why didn’t I see that before. You’re not the sweet innocent I thought you were, you’re a manipulative sinner who spews out bullshit to fool me.” Rong Cai paced forward at her once more, bending to grab her wrist and yanked her to her feet cruelly. Seething inside as he clutched her abdomen with his other hand and squeezed her flat muscles, hurting her with this deliberate assault. Wanting to rip that disgusting thing out of her body and not caring if it hurt.

“Aaaahhh, owww, stop it.” TangShi squirmed away, pushing his hand off and shielding her stomach from him, crazily protective now she knew for sure. Slapping at him and attempting to bust free and getting nowhere fast.

“If you are, we have to get rid of it. I won’t have that bastards seed in my woman. I won’t let you carry his kid a second longer. How could you do this to me?” Rong tugged her with him, tripping her with his jerky movements and pulling her along, half dragging her as she fell to her knee and scrambled to get up. Unable to keep pace with him while he pulled her back to where Linlin was. He no longer had the urge to be gentle and protect her, because she had broken his heart and let another man take what was his.

TangShi gasped in horror as she spied Linlin’s slumped posture and the fresh vomit all over the floor beside her, the way her head was rolling around and her breathing was shallow and fast. She didn’t get a second to do or say anything as she was speed marched to the nearest car and Rong gave her no time to catch her breath.

“Get in. I need to think.” He yanked open the rear door, forced TangShi to bend and pushed her into the back seat hard so she fell flat on her face and stomach and tried to turn over. Her hand falling into the ditch of the rear footwell and touched something cold and smooth that was tucked under the driver seat. Blinking down as he slammed the door behind her and spying Linlin’s cell phone on the floor. It must have slid out of her clothing when she was back here and remained out of sight because she always kept it on silent.

Rong began pacing manically back and forth beside the back door, rubbing his face and head as he tried to figure out what to do with his swirling emotions and this fucked up plan. Refusing to marry a girl carrying another man’s kid and trying to decide how to deal with it. He couldn’t stand the thought of it and needed to prioritize getting rid of it before he married her. If he could wipe it clean it would be like it never happened and he might be able to forgive her sins.

TangShi stayed low, kept the phone on the floor and swiped it to open the screen, cursing when it displayed the lock pad and asking for Linlin’s fingerprint. She kept glancing over her shoulder to see if he was coming and tried to keep the cell out of sight under the seat she found it beside. Panicking, she ran her fingers over the surface and noticed a small icon near the bottom with the words ‘emergency call’ written. Pressing it

quickly and almost whooping with joy when it connected to the emergency service number immediately.

She slid down from the seat to put her face nearer the phone, listening to the rings and bit on her lip with impatience. A voice finally connecting on the other end and asking her what service she required.

TangShi opened her mouth to respond, feeling and hearing the click of the door opening as she glanced his way and was silenced by Rong's hand over her mouth and nose as he hauled her backwards out of the car with force.

Destined To Be His wife by L.T. Marshall Chapter 150

“What are you doing?” Rong barked at her, sliding her body with him as he dragged her out of the car and dumped her at his feet in a careless manner. TangShi crumbling like an empty sack. Not able to keep a grip with the way he had to crawl backwards out of the car.

“HELP...SOMEONE HELP, I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED. HELP ME!!” TangShi screamed at the top of her voice, hurting her throat in the process, aiming at the car's open door knowing she left the call connected to emergency services and praying they would have some way to track the cellphone. That if they could hear her then they would have some procedure in place to find them.

Rong's eyes followed her line of vision, confused with her erratic behavior once more, peering inside the car and spotted the illuminated cell on the floor. Rong lost his temper in instant fury, betrayed that this bitch would try and call for help and slapped TangShi hard across the face to shut her up. Hitting her with unconcealed rage, so hard it stung his hand and sent her head reeling around and her body followed. She was stunned by the stinging, burning contact, knocked sideways so she sprawled across the dirty floor and Rong dived into the car to retrieve the phone, muttering curse words. He grabbed the cellphone, squeezing it with anger, ending the call and threw it out onto the concrete before following and stamping all over it. Smashing it into a million pieces and turning on her with gritted tooth accusation.

“What the fuck are you doing?” he snarled.

TangShi, pulled herself up, winded and in pain but refusing to fall down and give up, even if her cheek and jaw was throbbing and her eyes were watering. Cupping her face to soothe the stinging agony of how hard he hit her.

“They're coming. The police, YuZhi.... ZhengLi.... You are in so much trouble. They will be here soon enough and you're screwed.” TangShi's bitter venom spewed out through a new wave of tears caused by his assault, A biting tone and smug impression in hopes of convincing him that this was over for him even if she never got to talk to the operator. Hoping he would flee and let them go.

“You don’t even know where we are. How could they find us? You stupid, stupid girl. I tried to be patient, I tried to be understanding but you really don’t know how to appreciate someone’s adoration. You don’t deserve my love and care.” Rong marched back to her and grabbed her by the hair, sinking his fingers into her scalp to get a full handful as she squealed and twisted to get free. Dragging her with him across the debris of the floor and not caring anymore about preserving his angel’s body and soul. She had truly pushed him to the edge of his love for her and ruined everything. TangShi clung to his wrist as her hair roots were yanked taut, a new kind of agonizing pain that worked to control her.

“Stop it. Let her go. Stop hurting her. You want to fight, then untie me and see how far you get with me. She’s no match but I sure as hell will be, you fucking bully!” Linlin’s weak and pleading voice pulled TangShi out of her own despair as she fought to get unlatched and she managed to turn to see her as she was dragged away from the car. Her hands, knees and limbs scraped and filthy from the dirty surfaces.

Linlin’s head was lifted, her eyes red and puffy, but fully focused and she seemed to have some color in the high points of her cheekbones now, much more alert than before. There was an undeniable fire of fury in her expression and she was hunched forward as though trying to free her wrists behind her.

“Be quiet. Don’t rile him.” TangShi lifted her fingers to her mouth to make a ‘shhh’ motion, shaking her head to warn Linlin to be silent. Sure if he could slap TangShi, he would do worse to Linlin.

“He’s a coward and a lunatic. A man who hurts women and has to drug them to feel loved? What even is that? Major insecurity issues from a gutless prick. How pathetic are you? You’re a sad excuse of a human and probably suffer from micro penis syndrome. It’s pretty obvious from the psycho clingy issues you carry around that you weren’t hugged enough as a kid. You’re not a man, you’re a loser. No wonder YuZhi can walk all over you without trying. He’s worth a hundred of you even on a bad day.” Linlin was in full verbal roll. Tossing out hatred and venom the best she could in her sassiest tone to pull him away from hurting her friend anymore. Scared for her, scared he would take her and disappear and harm the baby in her body. She didn’t care if he hurt her as long as she gave TangShi a chance to run again.

“Shut the fuck up.” Rong snarled her way, hating this tiny nuisance who had ruined his clean plan and getaway. If it weren’t for her, then they would be on the road to a new life already.

“Make me. You’re scum of the earth and couldn’t even take me on without using drugs on me. Are you really that little of a man that even a four-foot woman is a scary match? You’re a joke. No wonder TangShi is disgusted by you.” Linlin began laughing at him loudly, manically, making a real show of it in a dramatic manner and throwing her head back. As though she really was amused with how pathetic he was and TangShi pleaded

with her eyes to stop. Afraid as she could sense his growing anger like a black cloud around him and his grip on her hair tightened.

“I will come over there and fuck you up worse. Don’t push me. Shut that stupid mouth if you know what’s good for you.” He growled, body poised and aggressive and hostility beginning to ooze.

“Do it... do you really think I’m scared of you? TangShi hates you. She despises you and loathes the very air you breath. Delude yourself all you want but if you take her you will spend a lifetime trying to keep her by your side. She’ll run at any opportunity and her hatred for you will grow with every second you force her to be with you. She loves YuZhi and will never stop wanting him no matter what you do!” Linlin was wavering, her voice trembling with the effort but she wanted his focus on her and away from TangShi.

Rong was not one for criticisms and his anger and fury pulsated through his body. Clouding his judgement and riling the irrational that was a constant dialogue in his unsettled mind. Releasing his hold on TangShi as he marched towards Linlin with deathly intent because his temper could only be held for so long.

“Shut the fuck up. Shut up. Just fucking SHUT UP, you stupid fucking little wore. You little bitch. I’ll make you regret every word you said.” He snapped, full on hostility on show and Linlin kept still and stood her ground. Lifting her chin higher and smirked at him.

TangShi saw what Linlin was doing as he left her alone, discarded on the floor to her own devices and forgotten for the time being. She shot a glance around her, looking for her weapon of before or something similar to protect Linlin. Spying it lying a few feet away and slowly and surely got up and crawled towards it without making a sound. Swallowing down nausea and shaking so badly she couldn’t use her limbs properly but she knew she couldn’t attract his attention.

“What a big man you are. Beating on women. Threatening them. You make me sick. My boyfriend has more masculinity in his discarded socks than you have in your entire genetic makeup. He could dela with you while blindfolded and both hands behind his back. He’s a real man, not a sad pretender.” Linlin sneered at him, drawing him closer and smiled as though he was comical.

Rong flipped out at her scathing and belittling remarks. Hating her poison arrow words and smug and stupid way she kept laughing at him, mocking him, twisting his mood into something dark and volatile. Rong took a running kick right at Linlin’s stomach. Delivering a brutal blow of intent to shut the bitch up that winded her, made her cough and gasp on impact and shudder backwards, while tears instantly hit her eyes as she struggled to breathe. For a girl who had never been physically assaulted before it was utter agony and a shock to the system and she reacted like she had been hit with an almighty explosion. Unable to talk for a minute as she struggled to recover.

TangShi dashed forward for the metal bar, catching what he did out of the corner of her eye and overwhelmed with a fierce sense of outrage. Her blood boiling over and her fear and nerves disintegrating as sisterly rage took its place. She clutched it up, wrapped both hands around it, jumped to her feet and ran at him from behind, brandishing it high and mighty and swung it right for the back of his skull. Using every ounce of strength she had and pulling herself as tall as she could.