

The Enchanted Night – Chapter: 81

Clear Everything Out Of Your Way

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Beads of sweat formed on Ivy's forehead. 'She must be in terrible pain,' Lionel thought. His body was with Ivy, but his mind drifted away to what had happened earlier today.

In the serious conversation he had with his father today, Lionel felt that his father was deeply disappointed with him. The way he talked showed that he had a clear preference for Rufus. His father's words kept on echoing on his mind, and he couldn't fall asleep.

When Ivy finally dozed off to sleep, Lionel felt he needed some fresh air and went to the yard for a smoke. The cold breeze comforted him and eased some of his stress. He enjoyed the tranquility of the moment and stayed a little longer.

On his way back to the mansion, he happened to run into Cassandra who just came down the stairs. The moment he caught a glimpse of Cassandra, he was astonished. Even in the dark, her face was fresh and the nightgown she was wearing showcased her delicate curves. Her black flowing hair extended through her back like a stream steadily flowing through her eloquent shoulders. There was something about her that was so alluring. Never had Lionel imagined that the same woman he looked down on could stir his desire at that instant. He wanted to feel the warmth her body, the softness of her lips, and the smoothness of her skin.

Then he stopped recalling about Cassandra and thought about Ivy's condition. He knew that the baby in her belly was the most valuable chip he had to bargain his worth. If anything happened to Ivy and the baby...

Clearing all those thoughts away, he focused himself on walking briskly to the yard with Ivy in his arms.

Jill was following closely, and she was meticulous enough to take a blanket and cover that on Ivy.

'Be careful!' Jill reminded Lionel while he carried Ivy to the car.

They went straight to the Jenks's hospital. Lionel was tense and out of his breath. He cared for Ivy and her baby as well.

Ivy was immediately registered and was then made to go through a few checkups, and check for the fetal heartbeat. Once the doctor cleared all suspicions of possible problems with regards to Ivy and her child, Lionel heaved a sigh of relief. It was only then that the series of events went back to him and he started to express his frustration.

'Why did you go downstairs in the middle of the night? The light was not even on! You were lucky that nothing serious happened. What if you got a miscarriage? How are we going to deal with that?'

Ivy had been working hard to stay calm and patient as she went from one test to another. The last thing she expected Lionel to do was to scold her. Soothing words were what she needed right now. With a pang of annoyance, she complained, 'Sure, it was me who went downstairs in the middle of the night. You were out too, weren't you?'

Lionel's eyebrows met as he tried to decipher what Ivy was conveying and it did not take him long. He suddenly realized that what happened was not an accident. Ivy staged it intentionally. She knew what would

happen if she let Lionel continue his move with Cassandra. Ivy created such havoc to cut Lionel's desires short.

The moment he had this realization, he immediately let go of Ivy's hand and his confusion turned to rage.

'You must know your place. You are part of the Tang family only because you are carrying my child. Cassandra is my wife!' he roared angrily.

Ivy was stunned. Lionel had always been gentle to her. Now, she could barely recognize her lover with his monstrous expression and harsh words.

Fury and jealousy rose in her heart. She thought, 'How could he do this? He promised to love me and no one else but me.'

'You told me to wait for you. You promise

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

ecome a powerful and outstanding young man to his wish. However, his achievements were not enough to shut the mouths of some people who disdained his shameful identity.

If she unveiled to the family about the relationship she had with him, it would surely ruin all his efforts.

Lionel would be going to make a huge mess out of it. And what would Horace think about Rufus?

Horace had appointed Rufus as the CEO of Tang Group because of his ability and talent. If such a huge barrier existed between Rufus and his dear son Lionel, would he still trust Rufus as he was trusting him now ?

For reasons known to her, Cassandra kept her tongue pulled to keep the secret and was ready to accept her fate. Luckily, tonight there was a turn of events and Lionel left. She was saved.

Cassandra tightened her embrace and tears began to well up in her eyes. She wished time would stop ticking and the moment with Rufus would last forever.

She didn't know why she ended up in such a situation. Her body and her spirits were confined in this cold castle which was surrounded by thorns. As much as she wanted to break out, she couldn't.

What she didn't know was that the near miss she had with Lionel wasn't a stroke of sheer luck at all. Rufus had kept an eye on her throughout the night. Having seen Lionel entering her room late that night, he climbed over the wall and knocked on the window of Ivy's room to wake her up. And then the story continued from there.

As for Spiderman... When he was living abroad, Rufus was an extreme sports lover. Rock climbing was one of his favorite outdoor activities. Compared to the steep cliffs he had climbed, the wall of the Tang family mansion was way too easy. It wasn't a challenge for him at all.

Lowering his head slightly to kiss Cassandra's smooth forehead, Rufus whispered in a determined voice, 'Don't be afraid. I'm here. I will clear everything out of your way.'

Cassandra's eyes widened as she lovingly gazed at Rufus's resolute face. Her soul seemed to start drifting away.

Those words were the sincerest words she had heard for her entire life. Those were lovely words—words of love, words of comfort, words of protection, and words from the man she loved. Cassandra was contented and exuberantly happy.

She couldn't feel the cold from Rufus's clothes anymore. The warmth they shared melted all her worries away.

Cassandra felt that as long as she was in Rufus's arms, nothing could bother her.

The Enigmatic Boss

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It wasn't until Rufus left her alone that Cassandra closed her eyes and drifted off into sleep. When she recalled Rufus's promise, her face lit up with happiness. It was a good thing that the Tang family's drama didn't ruin the night.

As Cassandra lapsed into deep sleep, dreams filled her head. The peaceful night was pressing up against the windows and around her, held at bay by the marvels of modern life.

In the reception room of Dawn Star Group, Arthur was waiting for someone.

The Union of Real Estate of G City was about to be established. At present, their strongest competitor for the Director of the Union was Tang Group.

Dawn Star Group developed rapidly under Arthur's leadership. Although known for his gentle and cultivated image, Arthur was a sly man and never shied away from playing tricks and resorting to every conceivable means.

Poaching employers and customers from his rivals was a cinch and second nature for him. Given the current situation, he was already working on an even bigger plan.

The door of the reception room swung open and Arthur's assistant Nana entered gracefully, followed by several men clad in suits and leather shoes.

In front was a man in his thirties—handsome, tall, and cool.

Given his demeanor, Arthur thought that he must be the Jasper Li he was supposed to meet today.

Jasper Li was the CEO of the world-renowned TY Securities, which was hailed as one of the most profitable securities companies in the world, and also established the TY Group. In recent years, the group had been even engaged in various industries aside from finance, including entertainment, catering, film and television investment, and luxury goods sales.

However, all the buzz was on its enigmatic chairman.

Being the CEO of TY Group as well, Jasper was in charge of all affairs of the group. But it was the chairman who had the final say when it came to implementation of decisions.

Nevertheless the chairman's age and gender remained a mystery to the general public. Rumors said that he came from home and worked overseas before owning the group.

TY Group was quickly able to gain an impressive reputation abroad. In the past two years, it began to develop its business in the country, having even invested in several movies allowing them to garner good box office and reputations.

Because news traveled fast, TY Group quickly went public. Everyone was aware that it was wealthy and fully reinforced as well. Its wealth, making people in business click their tongues in envy, was only the tip of an iceberg.

Dawn Star Group was now in the ascendant, but it was difficult to move up further as it needed abundant funding for its projects. This greatly restricted the company's development.

In a meeting with his clients, Arthur inadvertently learned that TY Group planned to enter the domestic real estate market, first targeting locations in G City. Finding a reliable partner was crucial for the group's success.

As a newcomer, the foreign enterprise had to work twice as hard to cooperate with a leading enterprise in G City.

When her sister ran away from the wedding, Autumn was forced to marry Charles.

His name had been linked to innumerable ladies.

He had different girlfriends for every day of a year.

Autumn had never thought that she would fall in love with him.

resolute rectification measures, undertaking several big projects, and even putting the establishment forward as a commercial alliance. All his actions put him in the spotlight for a period of time.

Cassandra, Tang Group's design manager, couldn't be underestimated either. When she won the last bidding, Arthur was beyond pissed off but had to pretend to admire her.

Given all those conditions, Arthur was well aware that he wasn't born into an ideal family status. With this, he knew that he had to eat dirt to make a real difference. In his eyes, people were either useful or useless. Admiring anyone was no option.

With a vengeful heart, he swore to defeat all the people who looked down on him.

In the current situation, however, Jasper Li was forcing him to make a choice.

Having to choose between the cooperation with TY Group and the position of the Director of the Union which he had striven for all that time, he could hardly make up his mind.

Seeing that Arthur was feeling embarrassed and indecisive, Jasper stood up, still keeping his poker-face.

'Mr. Zhuang, I know it's an agonizing decision to make. You need time to mull it over. If you make up your mind within the week, have your assistant contact us. If we don't receive any reply from you, we will find another partner.'

Although Arthur put on a polite smile, there was a hint of bitterness to it. As a courtesy, he stood up and bid Jasper Li and his men goodbye.

'I'm sorry, Mr. Li. I have to go back and discuss the matter with my father. The cooperation with you is very important to us as a milestone for our group's development. I can't make the decision alone.'

Nodding in understanding, Jasper headed out of the building. As he drove away, Arthur took out his handkerchief and wiped away the sweat trickling down his forehead.

Jasper Li was truly intimidating. Even Arthur had to admit it as he tried to hide his feeling of inferiority in front of the overbearing man.

Having met such a character, Arthur wondered what kind of boss he was working for.

A Hard working Woman

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In Cassandra's office, the Tang Group business went on as usual.

'This document is not specific enough. Please recollect the data and give it to me before you go off duty...

NIC, follow these cases. We must finish them and sign the contract before the alliance election. It's very important...

Give these materials to Mr. Luo.

And don't forget to let him sign on the contract...'

Across the sofa from Cassandra, Stella sat cupping her chin and looking at her with a sad face.

Though they were supposed to go to yoga together on their day off, Cassandra was just informed that she needed to work overtime, and their plan went up in smoke.

Almost pouting, Stella stared at the woman who immersed herself in work, wanting to be indulged even a little.

‘Alas... I’ve never seen a woman work so hard...like you.’

With a moan and shake of the head, Stella leaned back against the sofa in disappointment.

Her words amused Cassandra at once, she raised her head to find that Stella was bored to death.

‘I’ve never heard of a public relations manager urging her colleague to loaf on the job,’ she teased with a playful smile.

Upon hearing this, Stella suddenly sat up straight and pretended to look dignified.

‘Manager Qin, I apologize for what I’ve said. I hope you enjoy your work and don’t need any time to relax and find a boyfriend.’

Cassandra’s heart sank upon hearing the term, ‘boyfriend.’ She thought in her heart, ‘So Stella still doesn’t know I’ve married Lionel...

We have been very close yet I keep her in the dark. What if she knows my real identity? Could we still joke like this?’

Feeling disheartened at such thoughts, her smile gradually faded as she lowered her head and went back to work.

‘I have a sister who doesn’t believe me and a mother who treats me like a tool. My husband...we are a couple only in name. Although I have a best friend, I can’t tell her everything about me.’

Noticing that Cassandra lowered her head again, Stella was in a fret.

‘I’m so bored that I’m about to fall asleep.’

Without facing her, Cassandra beamed.

‘I’ll have someone prepare you a cup of coffee.’

At the offer, Stella stood up and refused with a wave of a hand.

‘Never mind, I can do it myself. It’s kind of like my exercise.’

Looking up at her friend, Cassandra nodded with a faint smile.

‘Make a cup for me too. I prefer extra sugar please. The coffee bean tastes so bitter.’

Replying with a gesture, Stella left the office and headed to the tea room.

Only Stella was in the room until a voice called out suddenly as she

The Mighty Soldier King is back!

With the original intention to protect his beautiful boss, he accidentally gets involved in dangerous adventures and trouble.

Will our Mighty Soldier King be defeated? Or will he sweep away all obstacles?

looked like a couple that came out of a movie.

Shaking her head furiously to stop her from getting ahead of herself, Stella pursed her lips. ‘What am I doing? They’re both single, so it’s natural if they like each other. I don’t need to overthink it.’

Taking a sip of her coffee, she realized it was so bitter that she almost cried out.

To dilute the bitterness, she intended to pour some more sugar into it when she remembered that Victor had just taken away the last packet of sugar.

With vague sadness, she recalled the moment when she first saw Victor. 'He looks like a tree when he stands next to Rufus...so why couldn't he speak even a word before me ?

An ineloquent man with a handsome face and warm hands...'

There was no stopping Stella's mind from thinking about the man.

'My God! Have I fallen in love with him ? What's wrong with me ?'

Getting overwhelmed with such emotion, Stella shocked herself with her own idea and tried to sweep it away. 'No, it's impossible. I can't fall in love with such a fool.

I have to stop thinking about him!'

Taking a final gulp of the coffee, she clenched the disposable paper cup in frustration.

'Stella! It's a good day outside. You should take a walk instead of wasting time here.

In fact, it should be a good thing if Cassandra starts dating Victor.'

After thinking firmly to herself and making a decision to get over the fact, she left Cassandra a message and headed out of the building. After the

little episode in the tea room, Stella thought she should take the Yoga class alone.

Meanwhile, Cassandra was having a taste of Rufus's coffee. A cup of freshly brewed coffee was the best gift for the woman who had been working hard all morning.

Ferris Wheel Every Little Girl s Dream

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The desk shuddered as a phone's ringtone for an incoming text message rang out. Cassandra, who was buried in her work, stared at the phone for a split-second, sighed, and then picked it up in a fluid motion. It was Stella.

She unlocked it with her fingerprint and read the message, 'Hi, honey. It's a bright and lovely day. I've got a date with yoga!'

The text drew a faint smile from Cassandra. Stella was such an optimistic and not to mention, energetic person. Cassandra felt drawn to her, like she was this huge magnet. She just couldn't control herself with Stella, and wanted to approach her and befriend her.

Having such a cheery friend was like bathing under the sun on warm winter afternoon. It was comfortable as hell.

Cassandra glanced at the desk clock and saw that it was time to get off work, but she was still double checking the design layouts meticulously. She wanted to make sure all her outputs were topnotch quality when she turned them over to the clients.

After a couple of hours, she was done. She felt relief wash over her as she yawned and stretched her tired bones.

When she was about to leave, her phone rang. Cassandra's eyes lit up. She answered the call and heard a familiar baritone from the other end of the line.

'I know you haven't eaten yet since you're probably on overtime. Meet me at the parking lot. I'll treat you to dinner.'

It was Rufus, as Cassandra had expected. He was the only senior executive who would work overtime in the Tang Group.

'It's really late. I just want to go home and get some rest.'

She was excited, but she thought it was better to politely refuse.

Rufus seemed to ignore this. He only sounded more determined.

'I will see you in a couple of minutes.'

Bossy as always, this was Rufus. He just went on ahead and hung up before Cassandra could say anything.

The continuous beep from the other end of the line startled Cassandra. She put down the phone, caught in a dilemma whether to meet Rufus or not. Then her stomach grumbled like a dog about to bite.

'Calm down, Cassandra. It's just two people eating food.' Cassandra repeated to herself, biting her lip.

A few minutes later, in the Tang Group parking complex, Cassandra saw Rufus beckoning to her. He was sitting comfortable in the driver's seat of a matte black Rolls-Royce.

‘Well, where are we going to get some food?’

She slid into the car as she asked Rufus, her cheeks flushed.

Rufus just smiled at her and started the engine. The car roared to life.

‘You’ll know when we get there,’ he replied in a mysterious tone.

If it had the approval of Rufus, the restaurant had to be grand and beautiful, and the dishes had to be world-class quality. Neither of these two elements were dispensable when it came to dining for Rufus.

It was given that these restaurants had exorbitant prices.

When they arrived, Cassandra took a gander at the place. It was grand as expected.

But the place wasn’t what surprised her the most, it was the fact that they were the only two guests at the restaurant. Rufus booked the whole joint! Mellow piano music echoed through the high ceiling. It did good to ease Cassandra’s growing anxiety.

The luxurious dinner made Cassandra feel like she was in a vivid dream. Rufus and her were having a candlelight dinner. The piano, the wine, and most importantly, the devilishly handsome man

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!’

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‘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...

Id ever shoot number 10. This man must be the luckiest son of a bitch in the world.

Realizing that she couldn’t get the bear, Cassandra got upset. She quickly lost interest, grabbed Rufus’s hand, and started to walk away.

However, Rufus had other plans. He wasn’t about to leave like that. He took out a one-hundred bill from his pocket and handed it to the vendor.

He was too determined to win the bear for Cassandra. The vendor greedily took the money and gave him even more bullets.

‘This must be your lucky night, sir. Try it one more time!’

Rufus spared him a glance and took only one bullet.

With one hand, he shot the number 10 again!

Cassandra’s mouth was agape again. She felt like an idiot compared to Rufus. To think he could do it again, with just one hand, no less! Rufus noticed Cassandra’s surprised face and burst into laughter.

‘Go get your bear.’

The vendor was dumbstruck. He handed the bear to Cassandra reluctantly, grumbling as he went. The bear was as tall as Cassandra, but both of them looked cute.

When she finally hugged the bear, Cassandra seemed to wake up. It finally sunk in. Rufus just shot the small circle, twice!

‘How... How did you do that?’

Cassandra wondered as she looked at Rufus intently. She just couldn’t close her mouth.

Rufus glanced at Cassandra, and said in a passive tone, ‘I just got lucky, I guess.’

Well...that was the only possible explanation. It had to be just luck.

The vendor sighed deeply, clearly defeated. Cassandra felt sorry for the guy. There was nothing she could do though, since he met Rufus, who was apparently a skilled marksman.

She hugged the bear tightly and buried her face in the soft fur.

Rufus couldn’t help but smirk at the sight. He was happy as long as Cassandra was. He didn’t just get lucky though. In fact, he had been trained at marksmanship for a number of years. That was why he was able to hit such a small target easily.

Rufus didn’t want to show off his skill in public, but he wanted to help Cassandra get what she wanted. He wanted to see her smile.

Anyway, Cassandra just accepted the fact that he was just extremely lucky.

Beaming, Cassandra looked to the sky, huge bear still in her embrace.

‘Look! A Ferris wheel!’

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Back in high school, Cassandra was obsessed with Ferris wheels.

For her, they were big toys that gave you a slow flight over the sky, taking you all the way to breath-taking heights before bringing you back to the ground where you could recapture the wonderful experience. It seemed to her that its shape alone symbolized endless happiness.

She had wished, more than once, that she could one day take a ride on it with her beloved one, kissing and hugging him under the stars.

It might have been beautiful, but she now knew it was all but a little girl's romantic fantasy.

Rufus took a look at the Ferris wheel before looking back at Cassandra beside him. Then, as if he had read her mind, he turned and asked, 'Do you want to take a ride?'

Cassandra, however, shook her head silently. The Ferris wheel did remind her of her long, cherished desire, but she didn't want to satisfy it since she hadn't found her love in the real life. She would rather not ruin the fairy tale. She would wait for the prince.

'The amusement park will be rebuilt soon, and this Ferris wheel will probably be torn down. Our company has talked to the head of the park, and if everything goes well, we may win the bid for the rebuilding,' said Rufus.

Cassandra jerked her head in his direction upon hearing his words, with a ?twinkle ?in her ?eyes.

So she might be able to redesign the park ? And finally bring the Ferris wheel in her dream into reality, after so many years ? She couldn't believe her luck.

Again, she stared at the glittering big toy, lost in her thoughts. The colored lights of the wheel reflected brightly in her eyes.

Not far away from them, Lionel was talking to a man with a salt-and-pepper beard while walking through the crowds.

The man was introducing the park's existing facilities and explaining ideas for future plans to Lionel, but Lionel's thoughts were far away.

He hated working overtime, but he was ordered to conduct site investigation as soon as possible since the board favored the project. He was already upset by the extra work, and the bustling scene here further annoyed him.

Not knowing what was in Lionel's mind, the man went on guiding him enthusiastically through the park. When they reached the Ferris wheel, the man stopped and pointed to this eye of the park, surrounded by neon lights.

'We plan to rebuild it into the biggest one in Asia, and move it to the centre of the park to make it a landmark,' the man declared, with a hint of pride.

Lionel looked up at the Ferris wheel, which made a blaze of color against the night sky.

Just when he tried to turn away from the dazzling lights, he saw a familiar figure.

Cassandra!

And the person by her side was none other than Rufus!

Cassandra was holding a big toy bear, standing shoulder to shoulder with Rufus. Lionel couldn't hear what they were talking about, but he saw the delighted look on her pretty face.

While Rufus, a man of composure and mildness, now was standing by her gentlemanly, looking her in the eye. He was tall and handsome, and even more so under the lights. Girls passing by all stole a second look at him.

To them, they must have looked like a happy couple on a date in this romantic park.

Furious, Lionel clenched his fists, his nails digging into his palms. His veins stood out on his temples. His eyes flashed with anger.

He

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

my affairs?' she thought.

What was more, their marriage was nothing but a sham. All they had to do was to play their own parts and put on a good show. Surely he should not wish for anything more than that!

‘Don’t you dare! You are my wife, and you are not allowed to get that close to a man, especially when it is Rufus!’ Lionel almost yelled at her.

He seemed to have lost control of his emotions and pressed himself against her to bully her more. Whether due to rage or jealousy, veins on his forehead kept bulging. He really hated it when she was indifferent, for it made him feel like this woman would leave him at any time. He wanted her under his thumb!

‘Sorry, but I’m tired. Let’s go back now,’

Cassandra softened her tone a bit after looking at his angry face. She was alarmed by how mad he had become, and gave him a quick and wary glance. But she still didn’t want to talk about this matter with him or explain herself to him.

Because she liked Rufus, which she couldn’t deny. And she didn’t think it was necessary to tell Lionel about it. But, even if she could hide it from others, she couldn’t lie to herself.

She felt truly happy only when she was with Rufus.

That man might not be good at expressing himself, and was even a bit quiet sometimes, but little by little, he gave her a sense of security and warmed her heart, in a way no one else could. Rufus. Yes, it was Rufus who had been the sunshine in her life, and brought light into her soul.

Since she had sacrificed her true love for this marriage of convenience, she would not let others deprive her of her right to decide who she liked or to whom her heart really belonged.

Cassandra knew what she did after getting drunk that night was wrong, but she regretted about it no more.

Feeling miserable, she kept telling herself all the time that she must endure it—the shame, pain and humiliation—for the sake of the Qin family.

‘Looks like you will not stop seducing other men if I don’t make you my woman and satisfy your lust!’ Lionel spat out, enraged.

Now Cassandra could no longer ignore the wickedness in his eyes. Her eyes popped out in fear as she sensed that the car filled up with danger.

‘What are you doing, Lionel? Let go of me!’

I sll Defile You Alright

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Despite Cassandra’s frightened expressions, Lionel chose to ignore her fear completely.

His hand stroked Cassandra’s cheek, making her frown. She tried to slide away under his fingers, her eyes deeper than before.

‘I don’t mind doing anything in the car..’ Lionel said while his finger lingering over her face down to her neck.

Cassandra evaded his touch, disgusted. She was growing impatient and simply wished to escape his company.

She remained silent but her body language was enough to indicate how much she hated Lionel's touch.

'Do you really hate me that much? Just a while ago when Rufus was here and you were standing so close to him, you didn't seem to mind it at all. What's the matter now?' Lionel said, grumpily.

He fumed with jealousy and her disgusted face made him even more angry.

'We were just talking about business. Rufus has been working overtime for the company's sake for weeks now. Today, he just happened to come over and ask about the progress of the project. It's just work, don't make a fuss about it,' Cassandra snapped, annoyed.

Suddenly, Lionel grabbed her jaw and made her look at him.

'Talked about business, is it?' I dare you to look me in the eye and say that. Say it! What's so great about that Rufus that you keep defending him? He's nothing but a lowly bastard trying to get his hands on our family money. That's why he came back. He's no more than a worthless bug in my eye,' he spoke through clenched teeth, letting go of her face with a jerk.

Cassandra kept looking at him, fearless.

Lionel stared back at the staunch frankness in her eyes and wondered what she had to say for herself.

'Lionel, I'm telling you once and for all today, you have no right to speculate on my relationship with Rufus with your prying eyes. Not everyone's like you. If you have the balls, show me some evidence. If you don't have any, stop slandering me!'

Cassandra's tone heightened as she scolded him, her face maintaining a constant look of disdain.

Lionel squinted, thinking, 'Rufus, Rufus! How affectionate.'

Undisturbed by Lionel's aggression, Cassandra stood calmly like a fearless martyr.

'What magical charm does Rufus possess that makes Cassandra defend him like that?' Lionel wondered.

Unwittingly, his eyes moved to her dark eyebrows, closed and lush red lips, and that stubborn expression on her adorable face, all of which tempted him to act upon his lust for her.

Lionel leaned in closer and closer to almost press his lips to hers. He wanted it so badly to crush the resistance she showed towards him, the defence she gave for Rufus and her courage to talk back to him, with his kiss.

Soon enough, Cassandra let out a grunt and tried to stop him.

'Don't defile me with your lips!' she shouted, dodging away from him.

How dare she resist his advance! Cassandra's words enraged Lionel so much he hollered, 'Defile you? Let me defile you right here in the car today!'

Lionel felt the blood rush through his veins as the atmosphere in the car intensified because of the attacking and the struggling.

Just in time for him to grab her legs, his

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r stand. Finally, he began to speak, 'Manager Qin, the design that you submitted to ZC Group recently has been rejected and they have asked us to refund ten times of the deposit they had paid.'

Cassandra couldn't believe what she had just heard. She clearly remembered how satisfied the CEO of ZC group was with her design last time when they met. He had signed the contract and paid a deposit of 3 millions on the spot. If there was a demand for the refund, there should at least be a reason! Definitely so, especially if they are asking for ten times the money!

'Is there a problem with my design? I have carried out many inspections of their underground mega mall, and my design should not affect...'

Before Cassandra could finish talking, Rufus interrupted, 'The CEO found out your design was plagiarised.'

Then, he pointed at the projector screen behind him, showing a design draft on it.

Cassandra took a deep look and saw that the draft was very similar to the one she had submitted. The outer ring designs, the layout of the

functional sections, as well as the arrangement of the passages, even the guide signs of the outer walls were very similar.

Cassandra completely blacked out for a while, standing there petrified, almost at the verge of stumbling. She tried to keep calm and looked up at Rufus fearlessly, as was her response in all difficult situations.

‘That’s impossible, I would never plagiarize!’

Since the time she started working at the Tang Group, she had been designing the draft, and had spent a lot of energy on it, staying up many nights. And now to hear that it was plagiarised? Impossible!

Rufus’s heart clenched, looking at her drained face.

Of course, he did not believe Cassandra would ever plagiarise, but the design draft on the screen had been submitted much earlier than hers. In fact, the construction for the project had already begun in H city. That was an irrefutable evidence.

What went wrong? Why was Cassandra’s design similar to that of the other design draft? Was there anyone in the company plotting to set her up?

Met Dylan Again

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This had to be the most embarrassing moment of Cassandra’s life. All the board members were staring at her. A deadly awkwardness went through

her body and she felt like everyone was analyzing her. 'This couldn't get any worse, ' she thought.

And worse of all, Rufus noticed it too. This was a big blow to her confidence.

'I have no idea as to why this design is similar to mine. But I'll look into it until I figure out what the truth is, I promise!' explained Cassandra.

Her explanation had no impact on those present. The board member who had spoken earlier screamed at her angrily, 'How can they be so similar if you didn't plagiarize? That project is ahead of yours! Look into it? What will you look into? Truth is in front of our eyes, so please don't try to fool us. Don't try to find any excuses anymore. Just admit what you've done!'

This insult came as a surprise and Cassandra tried hard to stop herself from crying. She had no clue how to respond at this moment.

Whatever she would say would be in vain. Indeed, the bottom line was that the project had already begun in H City. ZC Group discovered the mistake hence it was reasonable for them to reject and return her design. Undoubtedly, they had asked for compensation. However, she knew this wasn't a mistake from her side. She was being set up by someone. She knew she didn't steal someone's work but had no idea how to convince everyone of her innocence.

Cassandra knew that she was not a design genius, but she was diligent enough. She had achieved her reputation through her hard work. But now she was being wrongly accused. 'How can I stand this injustice?' she wondered. Normally, she was a kind and forgiving lady, but when it came to her work, she was pretty serious. Swallowing her grief, she was determined to punish the person who had set her up.

Cassandra clenched her fist and stayed without uttering a word. Never before had she experienced such a public humiliation. A lump was rising in her throat which made her feel like crying. But she did everything in her power to hold back the tears since she knew showing her weakness would do nothing but to embarrass her more.

Seeing Cassandra standing there helplessly, Rufus had the urge to help her. However, he controlled himself because helping her in front of these board members who were as sly as the foxes would make his emotions too obvious. And it would only create more problems for Cassandra.

‘Well, I have a plan now. Why don’t you take your annual leave, Manager Qin? You shall look into the matter and give us a satisfying explanation. As far as we know, ZC Group has not filed a lawsuit against us. To make things easier and quicker, I will send some men to investigate it as well. And guys, If Manager Qin is genuinely wronged, I’m sure the truth will come out eventually,’ said Rufus, trying to stop everyone from accusing Cassandra.

Cassandra immediately understood that Rufus had said those words to buy her more time. Earlier, she felt alone but his help made her feel truly thankful. She cast him a glance which indirectly meant thank you.

On the other hand, Rufus’s words indeed subdued the situation. The board members decided not to push Cassandra too hard. They sighed, stood up and left the meeting room.

When everyone went away, Rufus signaled Leo to leave him and Cassandra alone. Obliging Rufus, Leo closed the door and left along with the others.

The moment the door was shut, Cassandra’s tears started to flow. She could not hold them anymore. In front of Rufus, she had no fear of showing her vulnerability.

She squatted down, grabbed her knees, put her head into her arms and started sobbing sadly.

Watching the scene in front of him, Rufus felt a sudden pain surge in his heart. It felt as if he was being pricked by a needle. He hated seeing her look so miserable.

Now that everyone was gone, he had no intention to staying away from her. He stood up, walked to her and squatted beside her. For a moment, he watched her cry. Slowly, he stretched his hands and held her. In a forbearing tone, he said, 'It's okay. Don't cry. I don't know about the rest but I trust you! At the moment, our priority is to find out how this happened. I can tell something is definitely fishy.'

Cassandra raised her eyes and looked to Rufus throug

Jean Wen sacrificed herself for family interests. Before her husband divorced her, she made every effort to please him.

'You are inexperienced in bed,' he said coldly.

'You! Give that land to my family, or I won't agree to divorce,' Jean replied furiously.

'Fine. It is exactly what I am thinking about,' he sneered.

they serve pretty good steak. What do you think?' she asked eagerly.

The man smiled and asked, 'Are you referring to the one in CBD? It's too expensive. If yes, am I allowed to change the destination? How about we go to the beach for a barbecue?'

At first, Cassandra was a little puzzled to hear he had refused her proposal. But soon she realized that he said it only because he didn't

want her to spend too much on him. As a man, he did not want the woman to buy him an expensive dinner.

She was somewhat touched by his considerate behavior. This guy was indeed careful, sensible and sweet. Somehow, Cassandra felt very comfortable being around him.

The wind was strong by the sea. The fact that it was winter made things worse. Sitting outside for the barbecue was definitely not a good choice.

Hence they went inside. The man selected a dining table by the window which seemed like the perfect place. Now they could enjoy the dinner as they relished the beautiful campfire scene which was happening outside.

‘What would you like, Cassandra?’

He casually asked while his eyes were glued on the menu. Just when she was about to answer, she found herself shocked. ‘How did he know my name?’ she thought, looking startled.

Since he didn’t get a reply, the man raised his head and looked at her. A beautiful smile appeared on his face as he noticed her confusion. Even though she was surprised, his smiling crescent eyes made her feel warm and peaceful.

‘You gave me your name card. Don’t you remember?’

She bit her tongue and passed him an awkward smile. In truth, that incident had almost slipped out of her mind. Hesitantly, Cassandra said, ‘I... May I know your name, please?’

The man’s deep eyes looked at her with concentration. After a moment, he replied in a serious tone, ‘Name is simply a code. You can call me whatever you like. My friends call me Delight.’

‘Haha!’

Cassandra couldn’t help but let out a loud laugh as she heard his reply. But at the same time, she didn’t want to sound rude. Therefore she reached out to cover her mouth with a hand and explained in a hurry, ‘I’m sorry... I wasn’t laughing at your name!’

Seeing her acting so funny, the man did not feel offended at all. Instead he burst into a hearty laughter and replied, ‘I’m Dylan Tong. But you can call me Delight. I’m serious!’

Now Cassandra decided not to hold back her laughter. She laughed out happily. ‘Dylan Tong? Delight? Haha now that is a funny name! But yes, he is just like his name. He makes people feel delightful,’ she agreed in her mind. Slowly, she glanced at him and passed him her sweetest smile.

Outside the window, the waves were beating against the shore and the fire was burning. But inside the restaurant, the air was so warm and soothing. There was something about the atmosphere here that made people forget all about their sorrows.

So Near Yet So Far

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The salty sea breeze blew in people’s face. Cassandra and Dylon were sitting face-to-face in a restaurant near the sea.

As usual, Dylon was a humorous and optimistic character, with an easy-going personality. Their meeting by chance and deciding to have dinner together was a delightful surprise to both of them.

When they finished eating, Dylan used the shells to playfully make a smiley face on the table and told Cassandra, ‘Cassandra, you look so beautiful when you smile. You should smile more.’

Hearing his praise, Cassandra lifted up her head and met his eyes. His gaze at her was loving and gentle, putting her at ease and making her heart feel warm.

Having bumped into such a nice friend when she was extremely upset had her feeling fortunate.

After dinner, Dylan called her a taxi before bidding her goodbye and heading back to his hotel.

With Cassandra on his mind, Dylan couldn’t help smiling as he walked. The smile on his face only grew brighter when he thought of Cassandra’s beaming face. ‘What a nice day!’

Meanwhile, back in the Tang mansion, Horace sat in the living room next to Jill while they watched television, which was quite a rare sight as Horace was normally always busy with his work.

When Cassandra returned, he waved his hand in a greeting.

‘Cassandra, come here!’

His words were like pebbles being dropped into a lake, disturbing the calm, which Cassandra silently dreaded. Lowering her head, she carefully walked towards Horace and greeted him softly.

As she got closer to the couch, she noticed a pile of files beside him.

‘Cassandra, I heard about today’s meeting. It’s a serious issue and might do harm to the Tang Group. I want to hear your explanation.’

The way he spoke to her was different, much more serious than usual, making Cassandra nervous.

Before the scandal came out, Cassandra was invisible in the Tang family—Lionel took pleasure in torturing her, Jill didn't like her, and Ivy moved in. Horace was the only person in the family who would care about her and yet she betrayed his trust. The whole ordeal only made Cassandra ashamed of herself.

While she didn't plagiarize other's design, it was true that she didn't take measures to protect her own work and prevent such a huge dispute on intellectual property rights. It was indeed her fault.

In some ways, Horace was even more of a father to her than her actual dad. Never did he fail to treat her well or appreciate her work and contribution to the company. His interrogation, however, made Cassandra feel sad.

'I'm terribly sorry to have put the company in such big trouble. But the design is mine, I can assure you. I've already involved the authorities and it's currently in the process of investigation. The results should come out very soon.'

As she explained it, Cassandra kept her expression flat and her tone calm.

Trust was a luxury and she was well aware of it. It would be unreasonable to expect people to believe her right away. The upsetting feeling almost took over Cassandra then she thought about Rufus' words.

The fact that he trusted her brought her much comfort. Even though no one in the company was taking her side, as long as Rufus believed her, Cassandra would be

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

cted.

As she posed in front of one camera, a nearby reporter threw his phone at her by accident as he fell, startling her and making her freeze in place as the phone was about to hit her face.

'Look out!'

As if out of nowhere, Cassandra popped out of the crowd to push Lyndsy out of the way. Thanks to Cassandra's quick thinking, the phone didn't hit the star's face and instead, fell to the ground.

Lyndsy's face was pale as she found herself at a loss for what to do.

At this moment, a woman walked over to Lyndsy and whispered something to her.

'You can just go ahead. The sponsor will handle this.'

The woman's words snapped Lyndsy out of her daze and she turned to Cassandra gratefully.

Catching her breath, Lyndsy calmed herself down and walked down the red carpet but she didn't feel truly relieved until Michelle came to greet and comfort her.

Putting a hand to her chest, Lyndsy thought about the incident just then. If it wasn't for that woman, she would have made a fool of herself. Unfortunately, she didn't have the opportunity to ask for the woman's name as she had already left and disappeared quickly in the crowd.

When Lyndsy looked around to find Cassandra, she got nothing and felt regretful as she couldn't thank her.

Meanwhile, as Cassandra looked for her seat, she was surprised to find it on the front row.

Those seats were usually reserved for the VIPs and it seemed as though there were only ten of them. They included officials or celebrities and were definitely the focus of the crowd.

'How could I be assigned to sit in the front row?' Cassandra thought to herself, 'It must be Rufus's doing.'

As a close friend of Michelle, he must have asked her to give Cassandra a front row seat, since he could even have her customize clothes for him.

The thought of Rufus made her upset again. To help her, Rufus was busy dealing with the press and hadn't been able to go home the past several days.

While lost in her thoughts, someone called out to her.

'Cassandra, we meet again!'

When she turned around, she was met with Dylan's charming face and bright smile.

'What brings you here?'

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The surprise was evident on Cassandra's face. The Dylan in front of her seemed to be a different Dylan from their previous encounters.

Normally, she would see him dressed in casual clothes, making him look younger than he actually was. His aura was that of a boy-next-door; but now, he was dressed in a slick and chic navy pinstriped suit. Even she had to admit that he looked rather handsome and more mature than usual.

'I knew Michelle from when we were both abroad. She's my friend. We met at a film festival,'

Seeing her shocked reaction upon meeting him, Dylan kindly explained.

'Oh, I see.'

In that case, it made sense that Dylan would be here.

'I didn't expect that you and Michelle were such good friends that you're sitting in the front.'

With a wink at Cassandra, he gestured to the VIP section. Because Dylan himself was assigned to the second row, it would indeed seem like Cassandra was really good friends with Michelle to get a front seat.

'I'm just lucky to have gotten a seat here. In fact, I really don't know her well enough. She's a pretty big celebrity, after all.'

As she explained, a person walked towards her direction and sat down beside her. When she turned to see who it was, it gave her another big shock to see it was Lyndsy.

Seeing that Cassandra was there as well, Lyndsy turned to her and smiled fondly.

It couldn't be helped that Cassandra was a little mesmerized by Lyndsy's beauty. With a smile so warm, even Cassandra's heart skipped a beat seeing it directed at her.

'What a nice coincidence to meet you again here. Thank you for your help earlier.'

As she thanked Cassandra with a grateful tone, her bright smile never faltered.

'Cassandra, you know Lyndsy?'

Seeing their interaction, Dylan was rather surprised to see that the two were acquainted with each other. He never would have suspected that a humble person like Cassandra would know so many famous people.

'Um... I actually just met her earlier.'

The reply was honest, as Cassandra didn't even know how to explain to Dylan how they met. Just then, when she glanced at the entry of the assembly hall, a few men and women walked in, cladding in nice outfits that caught the crowd's eye.

The two in front walked arm in arm, sharing in conversation and laughter. They truly made an attractive couple, but it was a shock for Cassandra to see Arthur and her sister Cloris together.

It was normal, of course, for Arthur to be invited since the Dawn Star Company was very famous in G City.

'But why is Cloris here?' Cassandra thought. 'More importantly, why is she here with Arthur? Did he invite her to accompany him?' The very idea puzzled Cassandra all of a sudden.

Noticing that she was lost in her own thoughts, Dylan glanced at the direction she was staring at and found Arthur standing by the entrance.

'If I've guessed right, the man you're looking at is the Dawn Star Company's CEO, isn't he?'

Holding a thoughtful look on his face, he wondered how Cassandra knew Arthur as well. He was still curious about how she knew all these famous people.

'Do you know him?'

Hearing his words, she looked at Dylan curiously, because she didn't think that the man in front of her would know someone like Arthur.

'Well, sort of. My father knows his father.'

Though she found his answer rather vague, she didn't press the issue further.

To cut the conversation short, she turned around. As long as Arthur's seat wasn't near hers and she hid herself well, she wasn't likely to be noticed by him.

Meanwhile, on the other side, Arthur said to Cloris, 'If you see something you like, just tell me so I can buy it for you.'

Although there was a gentle smile on Cloris's face, his eyes turned rather thoughtful.

'Thank you, but there's no need for that. I'm already very happy that you even invited me to this grand event. How could I let you spend more money on me?'

With a sweet smile on her

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

he money would be donated to the foundation of rare diseases.

Finally, the auction began. Exclusive haute-couture dresses were being auctioned off at great prices, piece by piece. All the guests were very excited as they raised good charity money with all the items.

At last, they came close to the end of the auction. With only one single piece left, an extravagant and beautiful dress was brought to the stage.

It seemed as though even Michelle was terribly excited to present it as she gave a huge introduction about the magnificent dress.

The traditional-style dress was designed by Michelle herself, as she gave the traditional wear a flare with some new and bold adjustments. The dress was dotted by Swarovski crystals, making it shine so brightly under the lights on the stage as it sparkled. It was every woman's dream.

Originally, the dress belonged to a princess but she had donated it for auctioning during the charity event. It was a truly meaningful gift that had been delivered from a very distant country to the stage. Many royal women wanted to own it but weren't even given a chance to have it.

It was a pleasant surprise to see that the dress was at such an event. Everybody was yearning for it in no time.

As a designer herself, Cassandra was well aware of the value and beauty of the dress. As soon as it appeared on stage, her eyes shone with excitement and her creative senses tingled. It was an utterly beautiful piece. No words could possibly capture its magic.

Without realizing it, her mouth had gone agape upon seeing the dress. It was no wonder that it was the last item to be auctioned off today.

For such a fine dress, having a reserve price of five hundred thousand was definitely rather low. As soon as Michelle announced the price, the crowd started buzzing as people began bidding against each other.

It was not long before the price went up to three million.

Releasing a quiet sigh, Cassandra simply accepted that the price was out of reach. It seemed that she couldn't have the dress after all.

Not wanting to rely on the Qin family, she refused to use their money. At the same time, she also didn't want to use up the Tang family's money. She was simply not that kind of person.

Three million was simply too high a price for her. It would cost her a few years' worth of salary, after all. To use that kind of money on a dress was way too extravagant for her.

‘Three and a half million!’

Suddenly, a woman called out to her with a high and shaky voice, full of excitement.

When Cassandra recognized the voice, she immediately stunned. It was definitely Ivy!

A Precious Gift

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Cassandra looked around the auction hall and all she could see were a number of unfriendly, snooty and self-obsessed faces. Attending the auction with the Tang family was the last thing Cassandra wanted to do. More so when Rufus couldn’t come along, she thought she would just somehow kill the time alone by attending this activity. But having to meet Cloris and Ivy just made it more suffocating for her. It’s true when they say one can’t avoid one’s enemy.

Ivy’s voice pierced through the silence of the hall. And then it was soon followed by the price chasing game.

Four million, five million, six million...and suddenly there were numbers buzzing and paddles being raised all across the hall.

The most stylish women, the who’s who of the city, graced the hall persistently and passionately by raising their paddles for many top lots. Everyone’s eyes were sparkling with hope, expecting that they could win the precious gown.

‘Eight million!’

Lyndsy raised her paddle and uttered her price clearly. A bunch of well styled heads turned towards her following her voice.

A live broadcast of this spectacular event was going on over the giant screen. The camera panned on Lyndsy and Cassandra, who were sharing the same table. And suddenly Cassandra's face flashed on the big screen. Absolutely unprepared and unexpected, she came to be noticed by everyone in the hall which made her feel rather awkward.

Jill was the first to spot Cassandra. She opened her mouth in surprise and patted Ivy on the shoulder.

'Look, Ivy!' And she pointed at the screen.

Ivy moved her eyes to follow the direction Jill was pointing at and looked towards the screen. And her eyes stilled over the two most elegant and gorgeous faces as pretty as roses. They were so attractive and bereft of any kind of malice.

Over the screen Lyndsy and Cassandra were seen exchanging looks. Lyndsy lowered her head and whispered something to Cassandra's ear, and then both of them smiled happily. The beautiful camaraderie shared by the two of them made quite a sight for the eyes that were gazing up at the screen.

The amity shared between them, made people who did not know much about them feel that they were such close friends.

However, Ivy could not keep her eyes on the smiling face of Cassandra for a long time.

She just turned her face promptly towards Jill and said, 'Auntie Jill, I had planned to win this dress for your collection. But now it seems to be

a difficult task. Look at her, Cassandra's friend, Lyndsy. It looks like she is holding the trump card,'

Ivy clenched her paddle and gritted her teeth. No matter what the result would be, she had to at least win Jill's faith.

Jill's face became ashen as she fixed her seething gaze at Cassandra—the one woman she could not bear the sight of. She could clearly remember how the Tang family had a narrow escape from getting involved in a law suit thanks to Cassandra's act of plagiarism. That woman was the root cause. Had it not been for Horace who defended Cassandra, she would have bombarded her with every cursing word she knew.

Jill muttered under her breath, 'Her mistake was an unpardonable blunder. But shouldn't she be locking up in the room and reflecting on herself? How dare she show up so happily at this auction? What a shameless woman!'

Sitting on the chair, Lionel could not stop himself from admiring the radiant beauty of Cassandra that was a befitting match to the elegant Lyndsy who was sitting by her side. His gaze froze at her mildly smiling face as he thought, 'People who did not know her must have thought her to be a star or something like that.'

Ivy peeked at Lionel only to find that his eyes were fixed on the screen. She winced her face as the look on Lionel's face tugged at her heartstring but on the wrong note.

She kept her eyes painfully fixed on Lionel, witnessing his admiration towards Cassandra. And her mind went back to the time when she had seen the same gaze in his eyes before. It was the time when Lionel met her for the first time. She remembered how he stared at her silently with such deep eyes. Lionel seemed absolutely un

When her sister ran away from the wedding, Autumn was forced to marry Charles.

His name had been linked to innumerable ladies.

He had different girlfriends for every day of a year.

Autumn had never thought that she would fall in love with him.

e with her. Was it possible that there was someone who made her to do this on his or her behalf?

‘Why don’t you just stop asking? Someone asked me to do this today. But what happened on the red carpet earlier was absolutely unexpected. You have helped me. And I got to know you better. So, have I been a good actress today? What do you say? Huh?’

Lyndsy smiled mysteriously as she spoke. She really liked Cassandra. Not everyone would like to offer a hand to a stranger, after all. Most of the time, people would prefer to stay away from such hassles.

However, questions kept popping in Cassandra’s mind. Someone asked her to do this? Cassandra’s face became tense as she tried hard to figure out the mind behind this act.

Whoever it was must have been equally influential and wealthy to have asked the best actress to put up this act? And how much that person might have paid her for this act?

Why that ‘someone’ wanted her to do this? What was his purpose by sending her this expensive dress?

As Cassandra remained lost in her thoughts, Lyndsy left the hall guarded by her bodyguards. Finding Cassandra standing alone with a stiff frown

on her face oblivious to the surrounding, Michelle walked up to her and patted her on the shoulder to bring her back from her reverie.

‘How do you feel? I’m afraid you will really hit the headline tomorrow. Oh my god! A twenty million’s dress. He is so generous!’

‘He!’ Cassandra seemed have grabbed a clue in her words. She turned towards her hastily and asked, ‘Do you know him?’

Cassandra opened her eyes widely as she requested for the information from Michelle. She felt that the truth was about to come out.

‘Ha ha. A play on my stage. How could I not know him?’

Michelle replied with a question and smiled. She felt that Cassandra was pretty cute with her eyes staring wide.

‘Who is he? Please don’t keep me guessing. I have to return it to him,’

Cassandra pleaded Michelle for the answer. The dress worth twenty million was just like a hot potato. She could not bear to hold it for long, especially not knowing who it was from.

‘I promised him to keep it a secret. So I’m afraid I can’t tell you now. But don’t worry. I’m sure you’ll come to know about it very soon! There’s still something I need to take care of. I have to go now. Bye.’

Michelle walked away after finishing her words, leaving Cassandra alone. A possible name was wandering in her mind. The name of the mysterious man was on the tip of her tongue.

She could not believe that it could be him. But he was the only possible one.

When her dress got spoiled the other day and she ran on the street aimlessly, he had told her, 'Don't be afraid, Cassandra. I will send you a unique dress later. I promise you!'