

## **Venomous 301**

### **Chapter 301: Adulterer (1)**

The new year in the Shen family was very lively.

Originally, because of Ren Wanyun and Shen Qing, the atmosphere in the General's Mansion was gloomy. However, with the arrival of Jing Chuchu and Jing Guansheng, Old Madam Shen was very enthusiastic about making new year preparations. She often let the two siblings walk around the General's Mansion. Shen Yue was a people person, so not long after, she became good friends with Jing Chuchu. However, no one knew if she was sincere or not.

Although Shen Yue treated Jing Chuchu and her brother well, the place the two siblings liked to go the most was the west courtyard of the Shen family, especially Jing Chuchu. She often sent some snacks and food to the soldiers who trained there. Having learned a lesson, when she came again, she brought enough soup for everyone. However, compared to the soup Shen Miao made previously, the taste was much blander. Those soldiers were straightforward people to begin with and were all thinking about the soup made by Shen Miao. They did not show much gratitude to Jing Chuchu.

It was the same today. After Jing Chuchu brought over the food, Shen Qiu was about to continue practicing his swordsmanship when he was stopped by Jing Chuchu. "Cousin..."

"Cousin, you'd better leave early." Shen Qiu smiled brightly. "My soldiers are all rough people. It won't be good if they accidentally hurt you. Besides, you come here all day long. You're a girl. It's not appropriate to hang out with us men all the time."

He was asking her to leave in an inexplicit way.

Jing Chuchu's face immediately turned red, and she looked at Shen Qiu in disbelief. Her eyes were watery, as if she would cry at the next moment. When other men saw her like that, they would probably feel sorry for her. However, Shen Qiu had never been very compassionate towards women. He just stood there and did not want to go forward to comfort her.

Given the cold shoulder by Shen Qiu, Jing Chuchu's red face immediately turned pale. She lowered her head, picked up the basket, and said, "I understand." With that, she turned to run away. Those who didn't know better would think that Shen Qiu had bullied her.

After Jing Chuchu left, a person appeared behind the pillar. Shen Miao said, "Brother, you are really cruel."

"Hehe." Shen Qiu scratched his head. "I'm just afraid that you'll be angry."

"Why should I be angry?" Shen Miao said flatly.

Shen Qiu immediately felt a cold wind blow past him. He said, "Sister, you don't like Cousin, right?"

"I have no grudge against Cousin. What makes you think I don't like her?" Shen Miao asked.

“Jiaojiao, did that girl secretly make things difficult for you?” Shen Xin, who had just finished practicing swordsmanship, walked over and happened to hear Shen Qiu and Shen Miao’s conversation. He said, “If she does, don’t even bother to speak to her. Just beat her up!”

“What nonsense are you talking about?” Seeing that they were talking, Luo Xueyan walked over. When she heard this, she glared at Shen Xin. “Jiaojiao, don’t listen to your father’s nonsense. How can a girl hit people casually? If she bullies you, tell me. I’ll beat her up for you.”

“What difference does it make?” Shen Qiu muttered, “Let me do it. I’m young and strong. I’ll beat her up.”

Shen Miao said, “She didn’t bully me.”

“Then Jiaojiao, why don’t you like her?” Luo Xueyan asked. Even the stupidest person could tell that Shen Miao didn’t like Jing Chuchu. As long as Jing Chuchu came over, Shen Miao would get Shen Qiu to demonstrate throwing darts in the courtyard. Throwing darts was actually a very cruel martial art. Generally speaking, Shen Xin and the others wouldn’t do it in the mansion, afraid of scaring the maids. They would find some small animals to be live targets. Every time Jing Chuchu came over, Shen Miao would say, “Father, Brother, I want to see darts.”

Every time, Jing Chuchu would be scared out of her wits, but she would still stand on the side to watch. After watching the live animals getting struck by the darts and the blood spilling out, she felt horribly nauseous. As time passed, everyone in the courtyard could tell that Shen Miao was deliberately messing with Jing Chuchu.

## **Chapter 302: Adulterer (2)**

Shen Xin and the others did not quite understand what happened, but seeing that Shen Miao was throwing a tantrum, they thought that it was probably because the two girls had a grudge. It was not appropriate for men like them to interfere in little girls’ matters, so they let Shen Miao do as she pleased. Today, they were probably extremely curious, so they could not help but ask.

“It’s not that I don’t like her,” Shen Miao said. As soon as she finished speaking, Jingzhe said, “Miss likes to be alone. But her cousins keep on coming over to talk to Miss, especially her cousin brother. He insists on chatting with Miss. Miss doesn’t like to talk to strangers to begin with. I think Miss is just a little annoyed.”

As Jingzhe spoke with a serious expression, Shen Miao couldn’t help but turn around to look at her. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan’s expressions suddenly changed. On the surface, Jingzhe seemed to be saying that Shen Miao was a little annoyed with the Jing siblings, but in fact, there were many meanings in her words. It really seemed inappropriate for a young man to keep pestering a young girl. Luo Xueyan said angrily, “What exactly does your nephew want?”

“Madam, calm down.” Shen Xin quickly comforted her. Then, he said to Shen Qiu, “Brat, you put so many guards in the courtyard. Didn’t you notice that your sister is pestered by them every day?”

Shen Qiu felt bad. “I really didn’t notice...”

He naturally could not notice it, because the places Jing Guansheng picked to meet Shen Miao were not in the west courtyard. They met either at the entrance of the mansion, in the garden, or in the corridor. In short, they could “coincidentally” meet anywhere at any time.

“Go and guard the courtyard door. If you see those two siblings again, tell them that the courtyard is closed because the soldiers are training. No one is allowed to open the door for them!” Shen Xin shouted.

Shen Qiu immediately went to execute it.

Luo Xueyan patted Shen Miao’s head. “Jiaojiao, if that person comes to pester you in the future, don’t be nice to him. Beat him up.”

Shen Xin was speechless.

After Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin went back to practising, Shen Miao glanced at Jingzhe. “You talk too much.”

“I know I overstepped my boundary, but Miss.” Jingzhe lowered her head. “He clearly has ill intentions towards you. You know it all along, but why didn’t you tell Master and Madam?”

“Jing Guansheng is a smart person.” Shen Miao smiled. “It’s a pity to not use a smart person like him. He is still of some use to me.” She paused for a moment. “However, after hearing what you said today, I think some things will be sped up. Let’s wait and see.”

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Ever since Shen Qiu got someone to set up a group of guards at the entrance of the west courtyard to prevent Jing Chuchu and Jing Guanfeng from coming in, the west courtyard had become much quieter. Without the disturbance of the two siblings, Shen Miao was much more at ease. However, some people were anxious.

In Rongjing Hall, Old Madam Shen stared at Jing Chuchu with a sharp gaze, as if her amiability previously was just an illusion. She said, “Chuchu, what exactly have you done? Why can’t you even enter the west courtyard now?”

Jing Chuchu lowered her head in anger and said in a low voice, “For some reason, Fifth Sister seems to be very wary of me. Eldest Brother actually treats me quite well, but Fifth Sister always tries to sow discord between us. The guards at the door of the courtyard were also put there by Fifth Sister.”

“It’s Shen Miao again!” Old Madam Shen was so angry that her face was ashen. Beside her, Mrs. Zhang quickly patted Old Madam Shen’s chest and comforted her. “Old Madam, calm down.”

“That girl is really wily. She’s first wary of your brother and now she even guards against you!” Old Madam Shen originally hoped to use Jing Guansheng and Jing Chuchu to deal with Shen Miao and Shen Qiu. However, Shen Miao was a woman after all. Once something happened between a man and a woman, the woman would always be the one at a disadvantage. With Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan’s bad temper, they might do something. If it were between Shen Qiu and Jing Chuchu, the one at a disadvantage would be Jing Chuchu, and people would naturally speak up for her. In the past, the people of the west courtyard were carefree and would never fuss over such small matters. How could

people who were used to holding knives and spears pay attention to trivial matters? Unexpectedly, the style of doing things in the west courtyard changed drastically this time and they even went so far as to lock the door.

### **Chapter 303: Adulterer (3)**

“Old Madam.” Mrs. Zhang pondered for a moment and said, “I’m afraid Fifth Miss is already suspicious of Miss Jing. I’m afraid we can’t wait anymore.”

When Jing Chuchu heard this, she was even more embarrassed. She thought that she was beautiful and smart. Back in her hometown, even the rich landlords would find her sheepish personality attractive. Unexpectedly, she was brutally rejected by Shen Qiu.

“You mean...” Old Madam Shen frowned.

“Go to the extreme. If this situation continues, it will be too late when Eldest Young Master is engaged.”

Old Madam Shen shuddered and said, “You’re right. By then, it will be too late.” She looked at Jing Chuchu and put on a loving smile again. However, in the eyes of others, that smile was fake. She said, “Chuchu, do you want to marry Shen Qiu or not?”

Jing Chuchu lowered her head and said, “Yes.”

“Are you willing to do anything to marry Shen Qiu?”

Jing Chuchu was stunned for a moment. She vaguely guessed something and her heart couldn’t help but beat wildly. She was always popular among men, and her personality had won her the hearts of many rich masters in Suzhou. However, Shen Qiu was the first-born son of the mighty general. His wealth was incomparable, so she was naturally tempted. Although she had never done this before, when she heard Old Madam Shen’s words, it was as if a lot of gold and silver had appeared in front of her. She clenched her fists and whispered, “I am... willing.”

Old Madam Shen smiled in satisfaction.

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For the next few days, the Shen family had a temporary peace. Jing Chuchu and Jing Guansheng stayed in the courtyard behind Rongjing Hall and did not go out.

On this day, when Shen Miao was on her way out through the corridor, she happened to meet Jing Chuchu. Jing Chuchu was wearing a moon-white jacket and an emerald-colored dress. In the capital, a girl like her from Suzhou was unique and was enough to make passers-by stop to glance at her for the second time.

“Fifth Sister.” Jing Chuchu bowed to her.

Shen Miao smiled faintly. “Cousin, where are you going?”

It was rare for Shen Miao to talk to Jing Chuchu. Jing Chuchu was stunned for a moment before saying, "I'm going back to my room to do some embroidery." She lowered her head shyly. "I have nothing to do anyway."

"Since you have nothing to do, why don't you go out with me?" Shen Miao said, "I'm going to the jewelry shop to pick some jewelry. If you don't mind, you can go with me."

This time, Jing Chuchu was really stunned. Shen Miao had always been indifferent to her. No matter how hard she tried to please her, Shen Miao was unmoved. Today, for the first time, Shen Miao was willing to go out with her. Jing Chuchu had seen many concubines scheming each other back at home, and her first reaction was to be wary. However, when she heard that Shen Miao was going to a jewelry shop, her eyes immediately lit up.

She carefully sized up Shen Miao. Shen Miao was wearing a snow-green dress with crane patterns and cloud brocade. She always wore dark colors, but that did not make her look old-fashioned at all. Instead, her skin was like jade, making her look noble. Jing Chuchu was secretly jealous. She thought that her appearance was not inferior to Shen Miao's, but when she stood side by side with Shen Miao, she could not help but feel a sense of inferiority. Shen Miao was born noble. However when people looked at Jing Chuchu, they knew at a glance that she was from a small family.

The more jealous people were, the more they wanted to climb up. Jing Chuchu's gaze landed on the lotus pearl hairpin on Shen Miao's head. The pearl was big and round, and the faint luster almost blinded Jing Chuchu. She quickly lowered her head to avoid being seen by Shen Miao. Jing Chuchu said, "Since Fifth Sister has no one to keep you company, I'll go with you."

#### **Chapter 304: Adulterer (4)**

Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang walked behind them, and a trace of disdain flashed across their eyes at the same time. After all, she came from a small family and was extremely short-sighted. Temped by some jewelry, she was willing to be led by the nose. No wonder Shen Miao said that Jing Chuchu was nothing to be afraid of.

After the two of them left the mansion, they rode a carriage towards the center of the capital. Shen Qiu naturally allocated a group of guards to follow them, and the escort team was especially eye-catching. When they arrived at the Treasure Pavilion, Shen Miao casually chose a few pieces of jewelry. On the other hand, Jing Chuchu touched this and touched that. The way she touched the jewelry lovingly made the shopkeeper look a little annoyed. To be honest, Jing Chuchu was born quite pretty, especially since the women of Suzhou were by nature different from the women of the capital. However, her behavior overshadowed her beauty. After all, having a pretty face was not all that mattered in the capital. Temperament and manners were equally important.

Seeing Jing Chuchu like this, Shen Miao was not stingy. She paid for the few things Jing Chuchu liked. Jing Chuchu felt that she was much closer to Shen Miao. When it was almost noon, Shen Miao said, "Let's eat outside today. I'm a little hungry after. You've probably never been to the Pleasure Restaurant in the capital. Ordinary people don't have this kind of chance to eat there."

Jing Chuchu looked at the grand restaurant in front of her, her eyes filled with jealousy. Today when Shen Miao was shopping, she didn't care about the price of the jewelry and fabric at all. Jing Chuchu had never seen someone so spendthrift. It was precisely because of this that she felt that the Shen family was rich and was more determined to marry to Shen Qiu.

When they sat down at a table by the window on the second floor, the waiter handed them the menu. Shen Miao ordered some signature dishes of the Pleasant Restaurant. After the waiter left, Shen Miao said to Jing Chuchu, "The people who come here to eat are either rich or noble. Many of them are high-ranking officials in the capital. We have to respect them."

Jing Chuchu nodded repeatedly.

Shen Miao smiled faintly and picked up the tea to drink. However, her hand accidentally trembled, and the teacup fell on her body, splashing most of the tea on her dress. Jing Chuchu was shocked. "Fifth Sister?"

"It's fine." Shen Miao waved her hand and stood up. "There's a place to change clothes here. There are still some clothes in the carriage. I'll go and get changed now. Wait for me here." With that, she called out to Bai Lu and Shuangjiang, "Let's go."

As soon as she left, the guards of the Shen family were about to leave too. Jing Chuchu quickly shouted, "Fifth Sister, these guards..." She was a little afraid to be left alone here.

"Don't worry. No one will dare to do anything to you in broad daylight." Shen Miao said, "Besides, the customers here are all people of status. They won't pester you." Her expression was gentle, but her tone was firm, leaving no room for negotiation. Jing Chuchu subconsciously did not refute. When she came back to her senses, Shen Miao had already walked away with a group of guards.

Jing Chuchu's expression darkened. Every time Shen Miao was in front of her, she would always put on a high and mighty air. This made Jing Chuchu clearly realize the difference between her and Shen Miao, which made her feel even more indignant. Moreover, she had heard from the people of the Shen family that Shen Miao used to be a stupid and ignorant idiot. What right did such a person who knew nothing about the Guqin, chess, calligraphy, and painting have to occupy the position of the first daughter of the Shen family? Shen Xin and his wife even doted on such a useless daughter. They let Shen Miao choose the things rewarded by His Majesty without hesitation. The more people compared, the more jealous they got. Now, Jing Chuchu looked at Shen Miao with jealousy to the point of madness.

'She picked up the teacup in front of her and took small sips like Shen Miao just did, as if by doing so, she could be as noble as Shen Miao.

At this moment, a group of people walked past her and sat down at the table beside her. The person in the lead was a young man. He was born gentle and elegant, and he was dressed in luxurious clothes. Even the servants behind him were dressed in exquisite fabric.

### **Chapter 305: Adulterer (5)**

At the thought of what Shen Miao said just now that customers here were either rich or noble, Jing Chuchu suddenly had a thought.

The young man seemed to have noticed her and looked over. When he saw Jing Chuchu clearly, his eyes lit up.

Jing Chuchu was wearing a jade-like white dress. She had snow-white skin and a beautiful face. Most importantly, she had a gentle and timid expression. When she glanced at the young man, she quickly lowered her head in shock. Most of the women in the capital were straightforward and open, but such a delicate and timid girl from the south was extremely rare. The young man's eyes were fixed on her, and the more fervent his gaze was, the deeper Jing Chuchu lowered her head.

Time passed slowly. The dishes were all served, but Shen Miao still did not appear. Jing Chuchu was the only one sitting at the table. She didn't want to eat alone, so she kept on sipping on the tea and looked at a loss.

Finally, the rich young man at the neighboring table couldn't resist it anymore. Under everyone's gazes, he walked up to Jing Chuchu and sat down. He asked softly, "Miss, are you waiting for someone?"

Jing Chuchu was shocked. She looked up and blushed when she saw him. She lowered her head and whispered, "I-I'm waiting for my cousin."

The young man asked with concern, "Why is your cousin not showing up? How can she leave you alone here?"

Jing Chuchu blushed and shook her head, as if she wanted to say something but didn't dare to. In the eyes of others, she looked like she was being bullied. The young man made up his mind and said, "How about this? Since I have nothing to do, why don't I wait here with you?"

"No, no need to trouble yourself." Jing Chuchu quickly said, "Young Master, why..."

"It's fine." The man smiled and said, "If anyone with ill intentions comes over while you're sitting here alone, I'm afraid it will be much more troublesome. It's better for me to stay here with you."

His voice and the smile on his face were gentle, making him look quite approachable. Jing Chuchu lowered her head and said, "Thank you then, Young Master."

"Miss, you don't look like you are from here," he said.

"I-I'm from Suzhou," Jing Chuchu said. The two of them chatted like that. The young man was very good at making conversations. With just a few words, he made Jing Chuchu smile. Although she still looked a little shy, her attitude towards that man gradually became less guarded. The young man told her some interesting stories. He seemed to have been to many places and was quite rich. As a result, Jing Chuchu smiled even more joyfully.

In another elegant private room in the Pleasant Restaurant, through the carved window, Jing Chuchu's table could be seen clearly from afar. Bai Lu said, "It seems like she's opening herself to someone she met for the first time." Her words were filled with sarcasm.

"He's not an ordinary man," Shen Miao said indifferently with her chin rested on her hand.

"Miss, do you know that young man?" Shuang Jiang asked curiously. The guards guarding the room were also a little surprised. Shen Miao left Jing Chuchu alone and went to another room, as if she deliberately wanted Jing Chuchu to talk to that man. From what Shen Miao said, she seemed to know that man.

Shen Miao smiled but did not say anything.

"I mean," On the other side, in a room in the Pleasure Restaurant, Ji Yushu's jaws were about to drop. "Don't tell me she knows Sun Cainan."

"Although Sun Cainan is Sun Tianzheng's only son, he doesn't enter officialdom. Other than squandering his father's money, he's just a wastrel who knows nothing. He doesn't even go to Guangwen Hall. How did Shen Miao know him?" Gao Yang glanced at him.

### **Chapter 306: Adulterer (6)**

"Do you believe that this is a coincidence?" Ji Yushu said excitedly, "How is this a coincidence? Even a fool can tell that Miss Shen is deliberately letting Sun Cainan meet her cousin."

"When did I say that this is a coincidence?" Gao Yang opened his fan and waved it. "But I think not only does she know Sun Cainan, but she also knows the seat Sun Cainan will take in advance. Don't you think it's strange?" Gao Yang rubbed his chin. "Shen Miao is just a young lady. Why does she look like she's more informed than All Knowing Scholar? She knows everything. I wonder if she even knows something we don't."

"Stop saying that about All Knowing Scholar," Ji Yushu retorted. "It's just that Miss Shen is too extraordinary. If Third Brother Xie finds out that you and I are here all day long to spy on Miss Shen, he will definitely scold us for being idle."

"It's much more interesting to spy on her than others." Gao Yang looked at Jing Chuchu, who was chatting happily with Sun Cainan, and asked, "Why don't you take a guess at what the goal of her doing this is?"

Ji Yushu thought about it seriously. "She wants to matchmake her cousin with Sun Cainan?"

"When have you ever seen Shen Miao so kind?" Gao Yang denied that possibility mercilessly.

"Then what do you think is happening?" Ji Yushu was discouraged.

"Has the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs... been in contact with the Shen family recently?" Gao Yang held his chin with his fan and was deep in thought.

At the Pleasant Restaurant, Jing Chuchu and Sun Cainan chatted for a long time. The more the two of them chatted, the more they got along. Those who did not know better would think that they were a couple. After a while, they saw a few guards of the Shen family walk to Jing Chuchu's side and say, "Miss Jing, Fifth Miss can't find clothes that fit her. She lost her mood to eat and has already left after paying the bill. She asked us to wait until you finish eating before sending you back."

Jing Chuchu was a little surprised. "Fifth Sister went back first?"

The guard nodded.

"How can Fifth Miss Shen leave you alone?" Sun Cainan said indignantly. He had already found out from Jing Chuchu that the cousin she was waiting for was the fifth miss of the Shen family, Shen Miao. He did



not know much about Shen Miao. He only knew that she was an idiot who liked Prince Ding. Now it seemed that not only was Shen Miao stupid, but she was also uncivilized.

Jing Chuchu lowered her head and said uneasily, "Then let's go back now."

"That won't do." Sun Cainan immediately said, "If you go back now, won't you be wasting this table of good food? No one has ever thrown away the food and wine in the Pleasant Restaurant like this." He looked at the confused Jing Chuchu and smiled. "How about this? If you don't mind, I'm willing to eat with you." He looked like a gentleman. "So many of your guards are here. After eating, let them send you back."

"This..." Jing Chuchu was a little at loss as to what to do.

"Since we met here, I believe the two of us are fated. Since we're fated, don't let this fate given by the heavens go to waste." Sun Cainan said bluntly, "When I saw you today, I felt like I had seen an old friend, so I talked to you. I wonder if you will allow me this chance to eat with you."

After hesitating for a while, Jing Chuchu finally nodded. "Then... we'll do as you say."

The two of them began to eat and talk. In the distant room, Shen Miao looked at the couple and a cold smile slowly appeared on her lips.

She was familiar with Sun Cainan. In her previous life, this person made Shen Qiu a cuckold. Shen Qiu was young and impulsive, so he murdered Sun Cainan brutally. However, in the end, she found out that Sun Cainan was actually the only son of the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs. It was because this Sun Cainan was ignorant and incompetent. Usually, he only relied on his sweet nothings and good looks to seduce women. No matter if the women were married or unmarried, they all fell for him. Sun Tianzheng was afraid that the imperial censor would report it to the emperor, so he usually did not allow Sun Cainan to go out. Therefore, very few people knew him.

But in this life, she would recognize Sun Cainan even if he turned into ashes.

Sun Cainan liked soft and weak women from the south the most. Otherwise, he would not have dared to sleep with Shen Qiu's woman in his previous life.

Shen Miao lowered her eyes and muttered in a voice that only she could hear, "Sun Cainan, Jing Chuchu, I personally brought you two together. Don't let me down."

### **Chapter 307: Doing It for Her (1)**

Jing Chuchu and Shen Miao went out together, but Shen Miao returned alone. It seemed that their going out did not attract much attention in the Shen family. However, that night, Shen Miao surprisingly went to Old Madam's courtyard, wanting to talk to Jing Chuchu.

Jing Chuchu was fiddling with the jewelry on the table. Among the jewelry, there was a jade bracelet that was especially dazzling. The color was so translucent that it was almost transparent, and the entire jade looked extremely good. This jade bracelet cost at least a hundred taels of silver. Jing Chuchu definitely could not afford it herself. When Shen Miao was in the Treasure Pavilion yesterday, she bought some jewelry for Jing Chuchu, but this jade bracelet was not among them.

As soon as Shen Miao entered the room, she stared at the jade bracelet. Jing Chuchu was shocked and quickly put it into the box. Shen Miao smiled and said, "Cousin, that jade bracelet looks very rare."

Jing Chuchu asked softly, "Fifth Sister, do you know about this bracelet?"

"I've seen a similar imported one before, but the quality is not as good as yours. Even so, it was sold for 500 taels of silver. I think this one of yours is probably worth 1,000 taels of silver," Shen Miao said casually. Although this jade bracelet was precious, it was not worth 1,000 taels of silver. There were many better jewelry that could be bought with 1,000 taels of silver. However, with Jing Chuchu's knowledge, she would definitely believe it.

"But Cousin, where did you get such a precious bracelet?" Shen Miao asked, "I've never seen you wear it before."

"It's... a gift from a friend," Jing Chuchu said in a low voice.

A trace of understanding flashed across Shen Miao's eyes. Sun Cainan didn't just rely on his good looks and sweet nothings to make women happy. He was also willing to spend money. Otherwise, Jing Chuchu, who was already the wife of a deputy general in her previous life, wouldn't have cheated. It was the first time they met, but Sun Cainan already sent her an expensive gift. It was hard for someone as ignorant as Jing Chuchu to not be tempted.

"It seems like this friend of yours must be very good to you," Shen Miao said.

Jing Chuchu blushed and looked at Shen Miao. "Fifth Sister, why are you here?"

Shen Miao slowly tidied her clothes and said, "I heard that you were sent back by someone today?"

"I-I met a kind-hearted young master." Jing Chuchu said nervously, "He did it out of kindness, so I didn't want to decline the offer, but nothing happened between us."

"Cousin, don't be nervous." Shen Miao smiled. "Cousin, do you know who that person is?"

Jing Chuchu was stunned. "Who is it?"

"He's the only son of the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs, Lord Sun Cainan," Shen Miao said.

Jing Chuchu looked at Shen Miao with surprise written across her face.

Shen Miao sneered in her heart. Sun Tianzheng was very strict with Sun Cainan. Sun Cainan hung out with women all the time, but he rarely revealed his identity unless he took that girl in as a concubine. Jing Chuchu probably did not reveal her true identity either. Jing Chuchu probably thought that Sun Cainan was just a young master of a rich family. Now that she knew Sun Cainan's true identity, Jing Chuchu naturally wanted to use him to climb up the social ladder.

"Cousin, you also know that the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs is a very important position." Shen Miao smiled and said, "Their mansion is not inferior to ours. Most importantly, Lord Sun only has Young Master Sun as his heir. For someone of his status to send you back to the mansion, could it be that..."  
Shen Miao said casually, "He likes you?"

"Fifth Sister, don't spout nonsense," Jing Chuchu quickly retorted. However, her face quickly turned red, and her eyes lit up. Clearly, Shen Miao's words still made her happy. She said in a low voice, "There is nothing between Young Master Sun and me."

### **Chapter 308: Doing It for Her (2)**

"I didn't say there is something between you two." Shen Miao smiled and said, "There is nothing wrong with a handsome man pursuing a beautiful lady. Cousin, you are born beautiful, so it's natural for you to be liked by Young Master Sun. Young Master Sun is a good person. He's good-looking and comes from a rich family. If anyone can be his wife, they will be the madam of the entire Minister's Mansion. After all, Lord Sun only has this one son."

Jing Chuchu pursed her lips and did not speak. Shen Miao stood up and said with a smile, "I just came over to chat with you to kill time. Cousin, don't take what I said to heart. Everything in this world depends on fate. If you are really fated, no one can separate you. At that time, you will be able to stay in the capital for the rest of your life." After saying that, Shen Miao turned around and walked out.

Jing Chuchu sat alone in the room. She subconsciously took out the smooth jade bracelet from the box and reached out to touch the patterns on it. She did not expect Sun Cainan to be the son of the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs. As for why he did not tell her his identity, it was probably because he did not want her to like him because of his family background. Didn't this mean that Sun Cainan sincerely liked her? Otherwise, why would he give her a bracelet worth a thousand taels the first time they met?

In all fairness, Jing Chuchu came from a small family. Although there were many landlords in Suzhou, they were nothing compared to Sun Cainan. She had seen the prosperity of the capital and was even more unwilling to return to Suzhou. Shen Miao's last sentence made her heart unable to stop racing. If she married Sun Cainan, she could stay in the capital for the rest of her life, which was exactly what she wanted.

But... What about what she promised to Old Madam Shen?

Outside, just as Shen Miao stepped out of the courtyard, she met Jing Guansheng. When Jing Guansheng saw her, his eyes lit up and he smiled. "Cousin, are you here to see Chuchu?"

Shen Miao nodded.

"You are getting closer and closer to Chuchu lately." Jing Guansheng wanted to go forward, but Jingzhe and Gu Yu stood in front of Shen Miao vigilantly. Jing Guansheng prided himself on being a refined person, so he didn't approach her.

Shen Miao smiled and walked out of the courtyard without looking at Jing Guansheng.

Gu Yu asked in a low voice, "Miss, do you want to be a matchmaker for Miss Jing and Young Master Sun?" Just now, Shen Miao was talking about how good Sun Cainan was, which sounded especially strange to the two maids. They didn't understand why Shen Miao suddenly wanted to be the matchmaker.

"When have you ever seen me being so kind?" Shen Miao said expressionlessly.

"Then why..." Gu Yu was even more puzzled.

"I want to make her anxious." Shen Miao smiled faintly. "Old Madam and Jing Chuchu used to have the same goal, so the two of them are naturally close. But if they don't have the same goal, what do you think will happen?"

Jingzhe was quick-witted. "Dogfight!" Then, she reacted and said in a panic, "I didn't mean they were dogs. I'm sorry..."

"No, you are exactly right." Shen Miao said, "Dogfight is a good choice of word. Now, for the next few days, go and build a good relationship with Fu'er from Rongjing Hall."

"Why Fu'er?" Jingzhe was stunned.

"Old Madam wants her to marry the blind son of the butler," Shen Miao said. "Fu'er is struggling."

"Oh my god." Jingzhe was stunned. "Fu'er has been by Old Madam's side since she was young. How..." How could Old Madam Shen marry a girl who was at the prime of her life to a one-eyed man? Fu'er was smart and hard-working, and most of all, she was very loyal to Old Madam Shen.

"Old Madam Shen receives a share of the profits from the butler every year, so she naturally has to express her gratitude. She doesn't want to give out a penny, so she has to give out someone. Being born pretty is both a good and a bad thing for Fu'er."

### **Chapter 309: Doing It for Her (3)**

"Miss, are you planning to help Fu'er?" Gu Yu asked carefully, but she had a strange feeling that Shen Miao did not care much about the people of Rongjing Hall. Now that Shen Miao was no longer a kind-hearted person, she felt that it was impossible for her to help Fu'er.

"Of course I'll help." Shen Miao said calmly, "Every mistake Old Madam makes is our chance."

"Miss, do you want to bribe Fu'er?" Jingzhe asked, "But will Fu'er be bribed? Fu'er was the most loyal to Old Madam in the past."

"If your loyalty is not reciprocated, you will be more encouraged to betray. When your dog gets crazy, it will bite you the hardest," Shen Miao said indifferently.

...

For a few days in a row, time in the Shen family passed peacefully. Jing Chuchu did not linger in the west courtyard anymore. Instead, she often went out to shop with a few guards, saying that she wanted to see the prosperity of the capital. No one stopped her. To the people of the west courtyard, they were more than happy that Jing Chuchu didn't bother them.

However, what Jing Chuchu was wearing was getting more exquisite day by day. Although Old Madam Shen also gave money to the two siblings, because of her stingy personality, she did not give them too much. Even Shen Yue was surprised that Jing Chuchu was dressed so beautifully. However, when she

asked, Jing Chuchu only said that she brought some money when she came to the capital. Even Jing Guansheng became generous when it came to tipping the servants.

Everyone said that it was because the Jing siblings had broadened their horizons after coming to the capital. They had become generous and more and more like people from the capital.

In Rongjing Hall, Old Madam Shen looked at Jing Chuchu in front of her, and a sharp glint flashed across her eyes. "Chuchu, how have you been recently? Are you used to being in the capital?"

"Thanks to Old Madam, I am doing very well," Jing Chuchu said.

"Since you're doing well, why haven't you used the drug I gave you until now?" Old Madam Shen stared at Jing Chuchu and said in a serious tone. If one was timid, looking at that fierce-looking face, they would probably cry from fear.

Jing Chuchu lowered her head and said without changing her voice, "Old Madam, I can't even get close to Shen Qiu now. I really can't find a chance."

Old Madam Shen gave the drug to Jing Chuchu long ago and asked her to drug Shen Qiu as soon as she found a chance. Unexpectedly, after so many days, nothing happened and Jing Chuchu did not do anything at all.

"You've been wandering outside all day and only returned home late. It'll be strange if you can find a chance." Old Madam Shen couldn't help but sneer. "Chuchu, don't you wanna do it? If you don't, then forget it."

"It's not that I don't," Jing Chuchu quickly said. These days, she would secretly meet up with Sun Cainan outside every day. She pretended not to know Sun Cainan's identity, and Sun Cainan treated her gently and gave her clothes and jewelry. It was precisely because of these things that Jing Chuchu hesitated. Compared to Shen Qiu, who had to go to the bitter cold place in the northwest for a year, marrying Sun Cainan was obviously a much better choice. However, whether Sun Cainan was willing to marry her or not was another problem. Jing Chuchu had always kept her virginity because she knew men very well. She wanted them to see but not touch, touch but not be able to taste, taste but not be full. This way, she could keep the man interested in her. She had indeed infatuated Sun Cainan over the past few days, but Sun Cainan was after all the son of the minister. On the other hand, she was just from a small family. Even if Sun Cainan liked her, Sun Tianzheng would not agree to his son marrying a girl from a lowly background, but Jing Chuchu didn't want to be just a concubine.

#### **Chapter 310: Do It for Her (4)**

Therefore, Jing Chuchu hesitated. If she was with Shen Qiu, Old Madam Shen would guarantee that she could become Shen Qiu's legitimate wife. However, Sun Cainan treated her gently and generously. People were greedy. Jing Chuchu could not make up her mind, so she did not drug Shen Qiu.

Her hesitation made Old Madam Shen anxious, which was why Old Madam Shen summoned her today.

"Since you're willing, why haven't you made a move yet?" Old Madam Shen asked.

"I... I want to make sure nothing goes wrong before making a move. After all, the security of the west courtyard is very tight, and it will be difficult for me to find a chance. If we alert them, our plan will fall flat."

"Chuchu, I think highly of you." Old Madam Shen said slowly, "But if you continue to be like this, I'll be disappointed too. If you're so timid, I'm afraid you won't be able to achieve anything in the future."

Jing Chuchu lowered her head in embarrassment.

Old Madam Shen glanced at her in disgust and said, "You can leave."

Jing Chuchu quickly left.

After Jing Chuchu left, Old Madam Shen smashed the cup in front of her and said angrily, "What a useless thing!"

As Mrs. Zhang instructed the maid to pick up the broken glasses on the ground, she comforted Old Madam Shen softly, "Old Madam, don't be anxious. Miss Jing is probably a little scared. A girl will always have some scruples when doing such a thing."

"How can I not be anxious?" Old Madam Shen said angrily, "Yuan said yesterday that Shen Xin and his wife have been considering finding a wife for Shen Qiu lately. If they really find one they think is good, it will be too late. I originally thought that Jing Chuchu was an ambitious person, so I helped her. Who knew that she would be so useless!?"

Mrs. Zhang patted Old Madam Shen's chest to calm her down. "Miss Jing is still young. Moreover, what Miss Jing said makes sense. Now the security in the west courtyard is tight, if we alert the enemy, it will be terrible."

"Then what do you think we should do?" Old Madam Shen said angrily, "We are running out of time now, and that girl is unwilling to do anything. We can't just watch Shen Qiu get married, right?"

"Old Madam." Mrs. Zhang pondered for a moment. "Miss Jing is young. It's a little risky for her to do this. Why don't we let our people do it?"

"Our people?" Old Madam Shen looked at her.

"That's right." Mrs. Zhang said, "If our people do it, they can naturally do it more skillfully than Miss Jing. When the time comes, even if something goes wrong, we can pin the blame on Miss Jing. However, I don't think there will be such a possibility. In the early years, we had done this kind of thing many times. It will be easy."

Old Madam Shen's gaze flickered. After a moment of silence, she suddenly said, "You're right. Since that girl doesn't dare to make a move, get someone to help her. Call Fu'er and Xi'er in."

...

No one knew about the scheme in the making, but it was another matter if the people who knew about it would tell anyone. However, on the surface, everything was developing in the way Old Madam Shen wanted.

On this day, when Shen Miao returned to the west courtyard from outside, she bumped into Shen Yuan.

Ever since the Jing siblings came to the Shen family, Shen Yuan had been busy with something, and people rarely saw him. Everyday, he left early and came back late. Shen Gui was naturally unhappy and thought that Shen Yuan was deliberately avoiding him because of what happened to Ren Wanyun. He quarreled with Shen Yuan a few times, but in the end, it didn't change anything. Shen Yuan was still nowhere to be seen in the mansion.

Surprisingly, Shen Miao met him today.

Seeing Shen Miao, Shen Yuan slowed down and said, "Fifth Sister."