

Venomous 331

Chapter 331: Murder (1The Jing family finally arrived at the capital a few days later.

When the Jing couple found out about what happened between Jing Chuchu and Shen Yuan, they first cried with tears streaming down their faces. Then, they threatened to go to the government to sue Shen Yuan. They did not even agree to Jing Chuchu being engaged to Shen Yuan. However, everyone knew that the Jing couple was just putting on a show to make it seem like it was Shen Qiu who wanted to marry their daughter.

As expected of Old Madam Shen's family, they were also unreasonable if not more so. After a few rounds of conversation, the Shen family agreed to fork out a huge amount of betrothal money and promised to hold a grand wedding.

Old Madam Shen was full of complaints but she still had to pretend to be nice to the Jing couple. Not only did the Jing couple not leave immediately after reaching the agreement, they made themselves at home at the Shen mansion and ate all they wanted. In a fit of anger, Old Madam Shen locked herself up in Rongjing Hall and did not see anyone.

In just a few days, everyone in the capital knew that Shen Yuan was going to marry Jing Chuchu. The people did not know the inside story of it. They thought that Shen Yuan was attracted to Jing Chuchu's gentle temperament and was sincere to her.

Sun Cainan looked at the letter in his hand, crumpled it into a ball, and threw it away.

"Shen Yuan, that bastard!" he said hatefully.

It was not easy for him to find a woman he liked. Over the years, he already had enough of the women in the capital, but the feeling Jing Chuchu gave him was especially different. He had never failed to win the hearts of women he liked. In addition, this time, he was serious and spent a lot of effort on Jing Chuchu. He did not expect Shen Yuan to step in and beat him to it.

The servant said carefully, "Miss Jing and Second Young Master Shen don't love each other. It was just an accident."

Sun Cainan had long heard about what happened at the Shen family's banquet from others. His face darkened. "That b*tch Jing Chuchu took my things and played me."

Sun Cainan was very displeased. He had seen many women like Jing Chuchu. As long as he gave them money and gifts, he could easily win their hearts. He speculated that the accident at the Shen family's banquet was most likely a scheme Jing Chuchu came up with. She was taking his things while planning to marry into the Shen family. To Sun Cainan, being played by a woman was the most humiliating thing. "But what do you plan to do now, Young Master?" The servant asked, "Are you going to meet Miss Jing or not?"

Sun Cainan lowered his head to look at the invitation letter in his hand. The letter had a fragrance on it, like a girl's fragrance. Even though Jing Chuchu was about to marry someone else, she still wanted to tease him one last time.

"Of course I'm going." Sun Cainan smiled. "I've given her so much money, but I haven't slept with her yet. I'm already furious that Shen Yuan beat me to it. I won't let the matter rest unless I get a taste of her body." He glared at the servant. "Go, send a letter back. Tell her I'll be there."

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Shen Yuan had not been in the mansion these days. No matter what the Jing family did, he rarely showed up. However, Chen Ruoqiu was troubled. On one hand, she had to try to appease Old Madam Shen, and on the other hand, she had to satisfy the Jing couple's demands. Looking at the deficits that were getting larger and larger, she felt a headache coming on.

"Wife, why do you look so troubled these days?" Shen Wan asked when he returned..

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Chen Ruoqiu forced a smile. She did not want to make Shen Wan worried about trivial matters, so she said, "The Jing family is causing trouble in the mansion all day long. It's inevitable that I'm annoyed by them."

Shen Wan sighed. "Mother has suffered a double loss this time. Yuan is also greatly hindered."

Everyone in the Shen family knew what was really going on between Shen Yuan and Jing Chuchu. Regarding this scandal, the third branch chose to sit back and watch. At least, compared to Shen Yuan, the first branch was more terrifying.

"You must also be exhausted these days." Chen Ruoqiu said gently, "What happened in the mansion has also caused people to point a finger at you."

The chaotic situation in the Shen mansion was naturally taken as a joke among the big families. Shen Xin was a rough person and did not care about what people thought of him, but Shen Wan was of a sensitive nature and paid attention to the gossip. It must have been difficult for him these days.

Shen Wan held Chen Ruoqiu's hand and shook his head. "That's nothing. It's just that Jing Chuchu can't help Yuan with his official career. It's a little unfortunate." He sighed. "Among the kids, Yuan is the most promising."

Hearing this, Chen Ruoqiu was flustered. Shen Wan did not have a son of his own, so in the next generation of the Shen family, only Shen Yuan could take on the heavy responsibility. The most important thing in the bureaucracy was nepotism. If Shen Yuan married an official's daughter, it would be much easier for him to climb the ladder. Marrying Jing Chuchu now was no different from a life sentence.

Chen Ruoqiu lowered her head and said, "Who knows? Shen Miao has become smarter and the entire First Branch has deliberately estranged from us. Nothing is predictable at this moment."

"Don't worry." Seeing that Chen Ruoqiu was worried, Shen Wan patted her shoulder. "Yuan is not an ordinary person. If Shen Miao schemes against him, he will definitely strike back. Eldest Brother and Sister-in-law are not almighty. There will be a time when they can't do anything."

"Husband, you mean..." Chen Ruoqiu's heart skipped a beat.

"Yuan has been acting a little strangely recently." Shen Wan said in a low voice, "I keep feeling that something is going to happen."

In the west courtyard, Shen Miao put down the book in her hand and frowned. "What exactly does Shen Yuan want to do?"

Mo Qing said in a low voice, "Miss, you have asked me to keep an eye on the Treasure Fragrance Chamber for a long time. Now..."

"Keep it up." Shen Miao interrupted him, and Mo Qing's expression immediately darkened. After thinking for a moment, he said, "Scholar Pei from Guangwen Hall has shown up. What should I do, Miss?"

All along, Mo Qing did not know why Shen Miao wanted him to go to the Treasure Fragrance Chamber to see Liu Ying. That day, when he left, he accidentally saw Pei Lang. For some reason, Mo Qing had a feeling that Shen Miao probably already knew that Pei Lang would appear at some point. Everything Shen Miao did had been well-planned. However, this time, when she heard that Pei Lang had shown up, Shen Miao did not say anything.

"Nothing." Shen Miao said, "Just do your job."

"I didn't expect a scholar like Pei Lang would patronize a place like the Treasure Fragrance Chamber." Gu Yu said with her mouth open in surprise. "He really doesn't look like that kind of person." After a pause, she added, "Guard Mo doesn't look like that either."

Mo Qing blushed.

"Mo Qing, other than going to the Treasure Fragrance Restaurant these days, keeping an eye on Shen Yuan too," Shen Miao said. For some reason, Shen Yuan always made her feel a little uneasy.

After Mo Qing left, Jingzhe asked, "Miss, is Second Young Master up to something?"

"It's very strange," Shen Miao said.

After the scandal, Shen Yuan did not try to investigate it, and nor did he try to stop the engagement from happening. Although Jing Chuchu wanted to marry Shen Yuan, if Shen Yuan tried his best, he could easily have put off the engagement. However, Shen Yuan did not even bother to do anything about it. This could only mean that he was doing something more important now. Shen Miao could not think of anything more important than dealing with Jing Chuchu.

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What was Shen Yuan up to? He was nowhere to be seen in the Shen mansion, so Shen Miao could not find out.

"Miss, don't worry. By the way." Jingzhe suddenly thought of something. "Tao Yuan said that Miss Jing sent an invitation letter to that man and has already received a reply. She'll go to meet him tomorrow."

Shen Miao's eyes lit up. "Very good." Shen Yuan made her feel uneasy, so some things had to be done as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, in Lake Immortal Pavillion, a group of people were also discussing this.

"Shen Yuan has already collected all the evidence against Shen Xin and handed it to Fu Xiuyi." Ji Yushu said, "Three days later, Fu Xiuyi will hand it to the emperor. At that time, the Shen family will probably be done for."

"He can even find evidence of Shen Xin defying the imperial edict. At the very least, Shen Xin will be forced to retire and leave the capital." Gao Yang said, "This Shen Yuan is surprisingly capable."

"Didn't I tell you already?" Ji Yushu was a little impatient. "Shen Yuan has secretly been trying to deal with Shen Xin for many years. He's been planning and waiting for a chance to make a move. If he was given two more years, the evidence he collected would be enough to wipe out the entire first branch of the Shen family."

"That's why Fu Xiuyi is indeed quite good at roping in useful people." Gao Yang thought for a moment and said, "Shen Xin is too powerful. There are too many people who want to deal with him. More importantly, the royal family is actually happy to see this. If Shen Xin falls, they will be the first ones to step on him."

"So what should we do now?" Ji Yushu felt a headache coming on. "Shen Yuan is as wily as Fu Xiuyi. Miss Shen will definitely be very sad if her fathers gets into trouble."

"You're still thinking about Shen Miao?" Gao Yang rolled his eyes at him. "If not for Shen Miao setting Shen Yuan up and forcing him to marry a useless girl, he wouldn't have taken action so early. Originally, with his personality, he would wait at least for another two years to wipe out the entire first branch of the Shen family. It's Shen Miao who cornered him and forced him to strike back." Gao Yang rubbed his chin. "Given how much Shen Yuan hates Shen Miao, he definitely won't let her off easily this time. Perhaps the rest of the Shen family can still survive, but Shen Miao will not."

Ji Yushu paced about anxiously. "Then what should we do? Don't tell me that bastard Shen Yuan will use some nasty tricks on Miss Shen. He can even set up his uncle. There is nothing this evil person won't do."

"Don't worry." Gao Yang said slowly, "Shen Miao is not to be trifled with. I'm very curious about what she will do to turn the tide this time. With her personality, I have a feeling that she won't give up so easily."

"Miss Shen is resourceful. Shen Yuan will not be her match." Ji Yushu suddenly thought of something and looked at Gao Yang. "Before Third Brother Xie left, he specifically instructed us not to interfere in the Shen family's matters, so... if she wins, you're not allowed to help Shen Yuan."

"You're quite confident in her." Gao Yang opened his fan and waved it. "But I also want to see what she will do." Seeing Ji Yushu heave a sigh of relief, Gao Yang poured cold water on him mercilessly. "But don't worry too much. Ever since Xie's plan was brought forward, the situation in the capital has changed a lot. One thing that won't change is Prince Ding's ambition. No matter how capable Shen Miao is, she's just a girl after all. Prince Ding is not stupid like Prince Yu. This time, Shen Xin will most likely

lose his power. Once Shen Xin is powerful..." He sighed. "To the first branch of the Shen family, it's a disaster. He won't be able to protect anyone he wants."

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Ji Yushu's expression slowly darkened.

"Xie once said that no matter what, the first branch of the Shen family will inevitably be destroyed." Gao Yang stopped fanning and his eyes flickered. "Just like the Xie family."

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The next day, the weather was good. In the side courtyard of Rongjing Hall, Tao Yuan was taking out a few clothes for Jing Chuchu to choose.

Ever since the Jing couple came, the courtyard that Old Madam Shen had given Jing Chuchu and her brother to live in had become a little crowded. The Jing couple occupied the largest courtyard in Rongjing Hall without asking. Other than that, they also ordered the servants of Rongjing Hall around. Those who did not know better would think that the people living in Rongjing Hall were not Old Madam Shen but the Jing couple.

Jing Chuchu sat at the table and carefully drew her eyebrows in front of the bronze mirror. Her face was layered with a faint rouge, and her hair was combed neatly. Clearly, she had spent a lot of time dressing up.

"That moon-white dress," Jing Chuchu said. The moon-white dress was simple, but it suited her innocent look very well. Today was the day she was going to meet Sun Cainan. Whether or not she could make Sun Cainan remember her forever depended on this.

Perhaps it was because of a woman's vanity, or perhaps it was because she really had some feelings for Sun Cainan. She knew that it was extremely risky to meet Sun Cainan now, but she still wanted to give it a try.

Tao Yuan put away the rest of the clothes. Someone pushed the door open and entered. It was Mrs. Jing.

Seeing Jing Chuchu dressed like this, Mrs. Jing was a little puzzled. "Chuchu, are you going out?"

"I want to go out and buy some jewelry." Jing Chuchu said, "Since I'm going to be the young madam of the second branch of the Shen family, I can't wear those jewelry from the past. People will look down on me."

"That's right," Mrs. Jing said. In any case, Jing Chuchu would spend the Shen family's money to buy jewelry. Mrs. Jing herself had been pocketing a lot of money these days too. She said, "I'll go with you."

"No!" Jing Chuchu quickly rejected.

Mrs. Jing was puzzled. "Why?"

"I-I agreed to go with Miss Yi." Jing Chuchu shook Mrs. Jing's hand. "If I'm going to stay in the capital, I must build a good relationship with these young ladies. Mother, don't come along. Miss Yi doesn't like to meet strangers. You know that these young ladies from rich families have a strange temper."

Mrs. Jing was a little displeased. "Humph! These arrogant young ladies. Forget it, since you want to build a good relationship with them, go. Bring a few more guards with you."

"No need." Jing Chuchu declined. "Miss Yi will bring her guards. Don't worry about me. I'll buy you some jewelry when I come back." After saying that, she continued to draw her eyebrows.

When she left the mansion and got into the carriage, Jing Chuchu was a little nervous and asked Tao Yuan, "Is the restaurant you chose safe?"

"Don't worry, Miss." Tao Yuan said, "That restaurant is very far and remote. Very few people go there. With a bamboo hat on, you will not be recognized by anyone."

Only then did Jing Chuchu feel relieved.

The carriage passed through the southern gate of the city and finally stopped in front of a remote alley. Jing Chuchu adjusted her bamboo hat and her veil before walking towards the restaurant with Tao Yuan's help.

Although Jing Chuchu often hung out with young masters when she was in Suzhou, her status was different now. Although Ming Qi was open-minded, if an engaged woman met another man in private, it would still be a serious crime.

The restaurant only had two floors. It was really as remote as Taoyuan said. The guests were in groups of two or three and were not crowded. Tao Yuan gave the shopkeeper a silver ingot and said with a smile, "Shopkeeper, where is the guest room that I booked yesterday?"

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The shopkeeper quickly instructed the shop assistant to bring Jing Chuchu in.

Tao Yuan thanked the shop assistant and helped Jing Chuchu into the room. As soon as they entered the room, Jing Chuchu couldn't wait to take off her bamboo hat and veil. She said, "I'm almost smothered."

"Miss, take a rest and have some tea." Tao Yuan said, "I think Young Master Sun will be here soon."

"Come and help me tidy my hair." Jing Chuchu looked at herself in the bronze mirror and said, "This bamboo hat messed up my hair."

"Miss, you're very beautiful." Tao Yuan complimented. "You're even more beautiful today."

As she spoke, the door creaked open. Jing Chuchu's heart skipped a beat when she heard a familiar voice. "Chuchu, it's really you."

Sun Cainan stood at the door and looked at Jing Chuchu passionately. Jing Chuchu immediately blushed and looked at Tao Yuan. "You can leave."

"Alright." Tao Yuan smiled and said, "Young Master Sun and Miss, you can talk. I'll guard the door and make sure no one disturbs you."

Jing Chuchu lowered her head. After Tao Yuan went out and closed the door, Sun Cainan took two steps forward and called out, "Chuchu."

Jing Chuchu hesitated for a moment before looking up. Her gaze seemed to be filled with sadness and love. If Shen Miao was present at this moment, she would probably be impressed by how good Jing Chuchu's acting was.

Sun Cainan walked up to Jing Chuchu and said gently, "Chuchu, is it true that you and Shen Yuan are engaged?"

Jing Chuchu paused for a moment before nodding.

"You..." Sun Cainan seemed to have suffered a huge blow and took two steps back. Seeing this, Jing Chuchu's eyes immediately turned red as she said sheepishly, "Are you angry?"

"No." Sun Cainan paused for a moment and suddenly reached out to touch Jing Chuchu's face. He said, "I've heard everything. It was Shen Yuan who forced you. You had no choice but to marry him. I don't blame you, and I'm not angry with you."

Hearing this, Jing Chuchu lowered her head, and no one saw the trace of smugness in her eyes. Sun Cainan must really love her. Even if she was going to marry Shen Yuan now, he still couldn't bear to blame her.

"Actually..." Jing Chuchu turned her head away. "Second Cousin didn't touch me that day. It's just that it was impossible for him to explain himself to everyone that day." She lowered her head. "Young Master Sun, actually, I... I'm still a virgin!"

Nothing actually happened between Jing Chuchu and Shen Yuan that day. It was just that people tended to believe what they saw. After going back, Jing Chuchu invited a doctor to check her body and it turned out that she was still a virgin. It was just that Shen Yuan and Old Madam Shen did not know, so she did not say anything. Otherwise, if Old Madam Shen and Shen Yuan found out about this, they would definitely make a big fuss. Men always wanted their woman to be a virgin. If something really happened between Jing Chuchu and Shen Yuan, Sun Cainan would inevitably have a knot in his heart.

As expected, when Sun Cainan heard this, he was stunned. "What?"

Jing Chuchu looked up and said with tears in her eyes, "I want to give my body to the person I like. What happened between Second Cousin and I was just a misunderstanding, but nothing can be changed now. It's a pity that destiny didn't bring us together soon enough. Young Master Sun, will you hate me?"

Sun Cainan pulled Jing Chuchu into his arms and comforted her gently, "How can I hate you? I like you, my heart aches for you, and I like you!" A trace of ecstasy flashed across Sun Cainan's eyes. He originally thought that since Jing Chuchu's virginity had been taken by Shen Yuan, it wouldn't make a difference if he slept with her. Unexpectedly, Jing Chuchu was still a virgin. This surprised him.

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In his arms, Jing Chuchu pretended to struggle a few times but stopped doing so when Sun Cainan started taking off her dress.

Downstairs, someone rode to the door of the restaurant and handed the horse to the shop assistant outside to tie it up. He walked in and walked up to the shopkeeper. He handed him a silver ingot and walked upstairs. When the shop assistant saw him, he called out, "Young Master!"

That person turned around. It was none other than Shen Yuan.

"What is it?" Shen Yuan asked.

The shop assistant quickly shook his head and ran downstairs with a towel on his shoulder. The moment he passed by, Shen Yuan clearly heard the shop assistant say in a low voice, "Everyone in the world knows that he's cuckolded. How pitiful."

Shen Yuan stopped in his tracks and looked across the restaurant. He saw that the customers sitting downstairs were all looking at him and muttering something. Shen Yuan's expression gradually darkened.

This restaurant was a place he often came to where he exchanged messages with Fu Xiuyi's people. There were a total of nine princes in the capital, and their relationships were complicated. As the one who hid the most, Prince Ding's people had to be careful. Every time Shen Yuan came, he was very careful and would dress in different clothes. No one here knew him, but why was the atmosphere a little strange now?

He shook his head and went up to the second floor, the place where he would meet Fu Xiuyi's people every time. However, when he arrived at the guest room, he saw someone familiar.

Tao Yuan was shocked to see him. Shen Yuan's heart sank. Tao Yuan was Jing Chuchu's maid. Why was she here? Could it be... He walked over and kicked the room open before Tao Yuan could react.

In the spacious guest room, two people were one on the top of the other on the soft couch with clothes all over the ground. Tao Yuan screamed, "Miss, Second Young Master is here!"

The person on the bed suddenly sat up, revealing half of her snow-white body. It was Jing Chuchu. She looked at Shen Yuan at a loss and said, "Second, Second Cousin!"

Shen Yuan looked at the other person on the couch coldly. Sun Cainan slowly turned around and sat up. Being interrupted in the middle of sexual intercourse, he was very angry and said, "Who are you?"

"Second Cousin!" Jing Chuchu suddenly came back to her senses and pointed at Sun Cainan. "Second Cousin, he forced me."

"B*tch!" Sun Cainan sneered and slapped Jing Chuchu's face. "You were the one who invited me over and now you act like you are innocent!"

"Young Master Sun!" Tao Yuan rushed over angrily. "How can you treat Miss like this? Why do you have to treat Miss like this? Do you have to make a cuckold of Second Young Master just because you want to go against him?"

In the chaos, no one had time to think about whether what Tao Yuan said was right or wrong. Sun Cainan sneered. "Second Young Master?" He sized up Shen Yuan from head to toe and smiled arrogantly. "That's right. I made a cuckold of him. What are you going to do about it? Shen Yuan, you haven't tasted your fiancée, right? The taste of a virgin is not bad."

"You, you're talking nonsense!" Tao Yuan was stunned. "Miss Jing..."

"Don't you know?" Sun Cainan looked at Shen Yuan disdainfully. "No wonder you were played by a woman. But Second Young Master Shen, no matter how capable you are in the imperial court, I still slept with your woman. Moreover, you still have to marry her. What does it feel like?"

The veins on Shen Yuan's forehead bulged. He finally took two steps forward and knocked Sun Cainan to the ground.

"You dare to hit me?" Sun Cainan was used to being the bully. Without a word, he got up and pounced on Shen Yuan. The two of them were not martial artists to begin with, so they could only use brute force to fight. Sun Cainan was taller and stronger than Shen Yuan. Shen Yuan was gradually at a disadvantage and was pinned down to the floor by Sun Cainan.

"You bastard!" Tao Yuan rushed over and helped Shen Yuan pull Sun Cainan away. Shen Yuan took advantage of the opportunity and finally freed his hand. Suddenly, he felt something cold was shoved into his hand. In a fit of anger, he pushed the cold thing into Sun Cainan without thinking.

There was a whoosh.

The sound was especially long, and the surroundings seemed to have stopped until Tao Yuan's long and terrifying scream.

Shen Yuan looked down. At this moment, he was holding the silver hilt in his hand while the blade was in Sun Cainan's stomach.

Blood splattered everywhere.

Slowly, Sun Cainan fell on his back.

Chapter 337: A Life for a Life (1)

At the stone table in the west courtyard of the Shen family, Shen Miao was playing chess with Shen Qiu.

It was rare for Shen Qiu to not have to practice swordsmanship. Knowing that Shen Miao's chess skills had improved by leaps and bounds, Shen Qiu had been looking forward to playing with her. However, the outcome was not satisfactory.

Shen Miao placed a black piece down. Across the chess board, the white piece was gradually besieged by the black piece. Shen Qiu looked at it for a long time in a daze and asked Shen Miao, "Sister, isn't this the tactic I used in the first round?"

He felt that the chess maneuvers were a little familiar. The more he looked at it, the more surprised he was. Shen Miao was using the tactic he used and was doing it much better than he did.

"I'm just giving you a taste of your own medicine." Shen Miao smiled. "Brother, can't you think of a way to deal with your own creation?"

Shen Qiu shook his head. "This is the same tactic I used to deal with the enemies. I didn't intend to leave the enemies any chance of survival so naturally there is no way out."

Shen Miao looked at the chessboard and smiled.

In her previous life, Shen Qiu killed Sun Cainan and went to prison. Now that she thought about it, Shen Yuan must have contributed a lot to the outcome. She wondered if Shen Yuan would find the same method familiar.

Just as Shen Qiu scratched his head and was about to place his piece, he suddenly saw a second-class maid rushing over from the courtyard. The maid's face was filled with fear as she said in a panic, "First Master, Fifth Miss. Second Master killed someone!"

"What?" Shen Qiu frowned. A chess piece fell to the ground.

Shen Miao bent down and picked up the chess piece. She looked at the maid and asked gently, "Who did he kill?"

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In the prison, Shen Yuan was locked up in the innermost room. His hands and clothes were dyed red with blood, and his face was a little bruised.

This was the first time Shen Yuan had fallen into such a sorry state. When he was fighting with Jing Chuchu, for some reason, he was feeling very irritable, as if blood was rushing in his brain. When he came back to senses, Sun Cainan had already been stabbed to death by him. The restaurant was built of wood, so the scream immediately alarmed the customers who rushed up and witnessed the murder scene.

Only at this moment did Shen Yuan gradually calm down and realize that he was being too impulsive today.

Shen Yuan had been conceited all his life, and what he hated the most was people trampling on his dignity. The Shen family's banquet had already made him feel humiliated enough. Now that everyone in the capital knew that he was going to marry Jing Chuchu, Jing Chuchu was still cheating on him outside. When all the anger he'd accumulated over the days exploded, he made the worse choice in this life.

Jing Chuchu, on the other hand, had been taken somewhere, but since this matter was caused by her, she would not have an easy time either.

However... Shen Yuan was still a little puzzled. Why did the people of the restaurant know him and Jing Chuchu? Why did Jing Chuchu choose that room to meet Sun Cainan? He vaguely felt that something was wrong, but he quickly shook his head. That place was where he met Fu Xiuyi's people. Other than Fu Xiuyi's people, no one else knew about it.

Shen Yuan thought to himself that Fu Xiuyi's people probably already knew about this and went back to report.

At this moment, he had completely calmed down. The panic had disappeared, and the blood on his clothes and the dark cell did not make him feel scared.

Chapter 338: A Life for a Life (2)

At this moment, a guard walked over and stopped in front of his cell. Shen Yuan looked up and said in surprise, "Dong Hao!"

Dong Hao was the person who was supposed to meet him at the restaurant. At this moment, he had changed into a jailer's outfit. He must have sneaked in to talk to him.

"Listen to me. This is a misunderstanding." Shen Yuan quickly said, "Please tell Prince Ding to help me out this time. I will definitely repay him in the future."

Shen Yuan had never expected Shen Gui to come and save him. In order to protect his official career, Shen Gui would do anything. How could he risk his life for him? Now, the only person who could help him was Fu Xiuyi, but the royal family did not value friendship and loyalty. Instead, they valued people who were useful. Shen Yuan said, "The evidence given to Prince Ding is still incomplete. Help me out. There is more evidence I can offer."

When Dong Hao heard this, his eyes darkened. What Shen Yuan said meant that he had been holding something back from Fu Xiuyi, afraid that if he lost his value, Fu Xiuyi would ditch him. He did not expect to end up in prison today, so he could only use this life-saving talisman in advance.

Seeing that Dong Hao was silent, Shen Yuan was a little anxious. "This is just a misunderstanding. It's not difficult to save me. I can pay for it myself. As long as His Highness delivers a word to the magistrate, this matter won't blow up."

A large part of the reason why Shen Yuan was so calm was because this matter did not look all that serious. It was even easier to solve than the incident that happened at Shen family's family banquet. Back then, too many madams were present who witnessed the scene of him in the same room with Jing Chuchu, so there was no way he could explain himself and shook off the responsibility. However, when he killed Sun Cainan, only Jing Chuchu and her maid saw it. As long as Jing Chuchu and her maid could testify, he could get away with it easily. As for the adulterer, as long as his family received a generous sum of compensation, they wouldn't kick up a big fuss. As long as the adulterer wasn't from a big family, this was actually an insignificant matter.

Moreover, his identity seemed to have not been discovered yet. In the eyes of others, they only knew that he had killed someone, but they did not know who he was.

Dong Hao shook his head and said, "Shen Yuan, you're in big trouble this time."

Shen Yuan's smile suddenly froze, not understanding what Dong Hao meant.

"Do you know who you killed?"

Shen Yuan had an ominous feeling. In the darkness, he saw Dong Hao speak slowly.

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

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At this moment, there was a large group of people surrounding the entrance of the Shen Mansion. These people were all holding sticks and looking fierce. Even the guards of the Shen family at the door could not stop them. In the mansion, Shen Yue hid in Chen Ruoqiu's arms and trembled in fear.

"Mother, did Second Brother really kill someone?"

As Chen Ruoqiu comforted her, she was also a little puzzled. The people outside claimed to be from the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs. They said that Shen Yuan had killed Sun Cainan, the only son of the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs, and they were clamoring to come in and tear down the mansion. But why would Shen Yuan kill Sun Cainan for no reason?

Shen Gui and Shen Wan were stopping the people from coming in outside. If not for Shen Xin's army, those people would probably have really barged in.

Concubine Wan locked the door and held Chen Dongling's hand nervously. "If Second Young Master really killed someone, would those people do anything to us?"

"Don't worry." Shen Dongling said, "They only want to deal with Second Brother. What does it have to do with us?" She sat behind the screen, the book she was holding was not open at all.

Chapter 339: A Life for a Life (3)

"Miss!" Jingzhe skipped into the house and said, "The people outside are making a big fuss. Even Old Madam is alarmed!"

Without looking up, Shen Miao asked, "Oh? How is Old Madam?"

"When she heard that Second Young Master killed someone, she immediately fainted." Jingzhe gloated.

"Miss, will we be implicated?" Gu Yu was worried. After all, they all knew why Shen Yuan killed someone. It was all because of Shen Miao.

"We're fine. Besides, it's Shen Yuan who they come after. As long as Shen Yuan pays for what he did with his life, they will stop this fuss."

"But will Second Young Master really pay with his life?" Gu Yu asked, "Second Master won't let Second Young Master die so easily."

"Second Uncle would definitely do his best to save Second Brother if he didn't have Shen Yuanbai." Shen Miao said, "But with Shen Yuanbai around, Second Uncle still has a successor. Losing a son to appease the anger of the Sun family is worth it in Second Uncle's eyes."

Among the three sons of the Shen family, Shen Gui cared the least about family. Shen Wan doted on Shen Yue a lot, but Shen Gui did not care about his children at all. To Shen Gui, his children were either his tools to help him climb up the official ladder or his successor. No wonder the children of the second branch did not have any feelings for him.

Without Shen Yuanbai, Shen Yuan would be Shen Gui's only son. Shen Gui would definitely try his best. Moreover, the Sun family was not pushover. In her previous life, it was Shen Qiu who killed Sun Cainan. Sun Tianzheng sent Shen Qiu to prison, and Shen Xin spent all his resources to save Shen Qiu's life. Sun Tiansheng only had one son. How could he let go of someone who killed his son so easily?

"But will Second Young Master be the only one punished?" Jingzhe said indignantly, "Are we going to let Miss Jing off just like that? She's still hiding in the mansion." After the accident, Jing Chuchu actually sneaked back and hid in the Shen mansion with the Jing family.

"Of course not." Shen Miao smiled. "After all, she's the culprit."

Outside the mansion, Shen Wan said in a sorry state, "Everyone, listen to me. The investigation is still ongoing. Please go back. We will definitely give you an explanation when we get to the bottom of it!"

A woman spat on Shen Wan's face and said with her hands on her hips, "One has to pay with one's life for murder! Our young master was killed by Shen Yuan, so he has to die! Otherwise, we won't leave."

Shen Gui was a little frightened and cursed Shen Yuan in his mind. At this moment, other than the servants of the Sun family, there were also some commoners who were watching the show. Someone shouted, "Didn't they say that the murderer killed someone out of jealousy? What exactly does that beauty look like? How about letting us take a look at her? How beautiful can she be to drive someone to kill for her?"

As soon as one person said that, the people around immediately echoed. The servants were eager to get Shen Yuan to pay with his life, so they forgot about Jing Chuchu. Now that they heard it, they remembered that since Sun Cainan and Shen Yuan fought because of Jing Chuchu, then Jing Chuchu was the real culprit!

People of the Sun family immediately said, "That's right! Hand over that b*tch! She seduced our young master. Shameless little whore! Hand her over!"

Chapter 340: A Life for a Life (4)

Not to mention the Sun family, even Shen Gui wanted to kill Jing Chuchu with his own hands. Ever since Jing Chuchu came to the Shen family, the second branch of the Shen family had been in trouble one after another. First, the family banquet ruined Shen Yuan's reputation, and now, Shen Yuan was involved in a murder case. Without hesitation, Shen Gui instructed the servants to bring Jing Chuchu out.

Shen Gui gave Shen Wan a look. Shen Wan said, "Everyone, don't be angry. We are reasonable people. Since this matter was caused by Chuchu, I will hand her over to you and let you deal with her!"

Jing Chuchu screamed, but the people around her did not allow her to resist. The Sun family pulled Jing Chuchu, who was tied up like a pig, over and slapped her dozens of times. Jing Chuchu fainted on the spot.

"Don't go too far!" Jing Guansheng and the Jing couple also rushed out. When they saw this scene, they were shocked and furious. The Sun family sneered. "No wonder you're from a small place like Suzhou."

Not only are you short-sighted, but you're also so immoral. You're already engaged, but you still seduce men. This matter won't be over that easily. Don't ever think you can get away without being punished!"

The Jing family was angry and afraid. They were angry that the Sun family was so arrogant, and they were afraid because they did not have anyone to back them up other than the Shen family. Now that they were in trouble, it was good enough that the Shen family did not kick them when they were down. How could they help?

After arguing at the entrance for a while, seeing that the sky was getting dark, the people from the Sun family grabbed Jing Chuchu and left. Before they left, the woman in the lead sneered and said, "Today is just the beginning. Just you wait. Master has already written a letter to the emperor. There's no way Shen Yuan can escape punishment."

Shen Gui watched as the Sun family swaggered away. Sun Tianzheng only had one son. With Sun Cainan dead, Sun Tianzheng would not let the Shen family off even if he had to fight to the death. From the looks of it, Shen Yuan's death might not be able to appease the anger of the Sun family.

When Shen Qiu returned to the west courtyard, he wiped his sweat and complained to Shen Miao, "The Sun family is a bunch of brutes. They almost smashed the door. Even my soldiers couldn't stop them."

"They naturally have to vent the pain of losing a son," Shen Miao said flatly.

"Father and Mother don't intend to interfere this time." Shen Qiu muttered to himself, "But Shen Yuan is never impulsive. Even if Jing Chuchu met Sun Cainan in private, why would he kill someone in a fit of anger?"

"Who knows?" Shen Miao said casually, "Maybe Sun Cainan is destined to die. It doesn't matter who kills him."

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In the Sun family's hall, all the concubines in the room were kneeling on the ground. In the middle of the hall, there was a corpse covered in white cloth. Even so, the white cloth was still stained with blood.

Ever since Mrs. Sun found out that Sun Cainan was dead, she fainted. When she woke up, she almost broke down. Sun Tianzheng was already in his fifties. At this moment, his eyes were bloodshot, and his cheeks were trembling slightly.

There was once a wandering Daoist who predicted that he would never have a son in his life. In his early years, Sun Tianzheng married countless concubines but none of them could give birth to a son. Finally, Mrs. Sun was pregnant with Sun Cainan. To Sun Tianzheng, this was simply a blessing. Therefore, he had pampered his son since he was young. Over the years, he made Sun Cainan a lecherous and playful person. However, Sun Tianzheng was in a high position and was afraid that his son's unrestrained behaviors would drag him down. He had long reminded Sun Cainan not to keep a high profile. If he wanted to play with women, he had to bring the women back to be his concubines. Sun Cainan didn't want to be an official and stayed at home most of the time, so not many people knew him.