

Venomous 631

Chapter 631 Adding Fuel to the Flame (6)

"Why are you sighing?" A head suddenly popped out from behind Gao Yang, scaring him so much that he almost fell.

"Doctor Gao." Luo Tan asked, "Why are you standing here?" She followed Gao Yang's gaze and saw Shen Miao and Luo Ling sitting and talking. Then, she looked at Gao Yang. Gao Yang felt a little uneasy being stared at by Luo Tan's strange gaze. Luo Tan suddenly said, "I understand. So you like my little cousin!"

Gao Yang was so shocked that he quickly reached out to cover Luo Tan's mouth. What a joke. He wasn't the only one planted by Xie Jingxing in the new Shen mansion. There were other secret guards too. If some nosy secret guard told Xie Jingxing about this, he wouldn't have to stay in Ming Qi anymore. Looking at Luo Tan, who was struggling to break free, Gao Yang felt helpless. Luo Tan seemed to specialize in causing trouble for him.

Luo Tan finally broke free from Gao Yang's hand. She probably realized that her voice was a little loud, so she lowered her voice. However, her expression was still smug, as if she had something on Gao Yang. She said, "So you like Little Cousin and you're jealous."

"Don't speak as if you know everything." Gao Yang said, "I don't dare to have any thoughts about Fifth Miss Shen."

Luo Tan curled her lips. "At least you know your place. My little cousin is so smart and good-looking. It's hard to find a girl like her in the capital. You're just a doctor, yet you still want to dream about chasing her. Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror?"

The disdain in her tone hurt Gao Yang, making him really have the urge to find a mirror to see if he was really as unpresentable as Luo Tan said.

Thinking of His Highness, Gao Yang sneered and nodded in Luo Ling's direction. "I'm not qualified, but do you think he's qualified?"

Luo Tan glanced at Luo Ling and sighed. "Cousin Ling is very good, but unfortunately, he's the right person for my cousin."

These words surprised Gao Yang. He thought that Luo Tan would speak up for her cousin, so he asked, "Oh? Why do you say so?"

"Cousin Miao has a mind of her own, but Cousin Ling is too gentle. I don't see any spark of love happening between them. I think Cousin Miao only treats Cousin Ling as her elder brother." Luo Tan felt that it was a pity.

Gao Yang was surprised and asked, "Then tell me, who can your little cousin have a spark of love with?"

Gao Yang was just teasing Luo Tan, but he did not expect Luo Tan to really think about it seriously. In the end, she said, "Probably someone like Prince Rui."

Gao Yang was stunned.

"Prince Rui is good-looking and mysterious. He's also a person who values friendship and loyalty. He is the only one of his kind in this world. A person like my little cousin deserves such a husband..." Luo Tan's voice trailed off. She looked up and saw Gao Yang looking at her with a smile. Only then did she realize that she had said too much to Gao Yang. Her relationship with him was not that good. Luo Tan instantly changed her expression and whispered into Gao Yang's ear, "Hey, the last time I went to Prince Rui's mansion, you got something on me. Today, I know that you secretly love my little cousin. Now, we have something on each other. We're even. In the future, don't think about using Prince Rui to threaten me. Be careful that I'll tell my little cousin about this and make you unable to raise your head in front of her for the rest of your life!" Luo Tan said fiercely.

Gao Yang didn't know whether to laugh or cry. In fact, compared to Shen Miao, he was more afraid of Xie Jingxing. However, seeing how clever Luo Tan thought she was, he suddenly became interested. He leaned closer and said, "Alright, deal! We're even."

When Gao Yang leaned closer, his side profile was very handsome. Luo Tan liked beautiful things, so for some reason, she felt a little nervous. She suddenly slapped Gao Yang to the side. She was a martial artist, and her slap almost made him vomit blood.

Luo Tan turned around and left, shouting angrily, "You lecher!"

Gao Yang rubbed his chin and slowly smiled.

The trivial matters in the Shen family did not attract Shen Miao's attention. In her eyes, they were all unimportant people. It was not until the next day that something happened at the Shen mansion that caught Shen Miao's attention.

Shen Yue escaped.

Chapter 632 Divorce (1)

The Shen family was in an uproar.

It was probably because Shen Wan said that he wanted Shen Yue to marry into the Wang family as an equal wife that Shen Yue panicked. Unable to find a way out, she actually made a bold move and escaped from the Shen family. Before she left, she even packed up all the valuable items, giving Chen Ruoqiu a headache.

Shen Wan was naturally furious. He roared at Chen Ruoqiu, "I told you to keep an eye on her. Why did she escape?"

Chen Ruoqiu was naturally in panic. She felt sorry for her daughter and did not put Shen Yue under house arrest as Shen Wan instructed. However, she did not expect that her own daughter would take advantage of her softheartedness. Now that Shen Yue had escaped, Chen Ruoqiu did not know what to do. She said to Shen Wan, "I've already sent someone to look for her. Husband, Yue isn't doing it on purpose. She's just scared..."

Even at this moment, she was still making excuses for Shen Yue. Shen Wan sneered. "She's scared? She even has the guts to exchange marriages with someone else and escape from home! I don't have such a shameless daughter!"

"How can you say that about her?" Chen Ruoqiu widened her eyes. "She's your daughter!"

Chen Ruoqiu could not believe her eyes. After Shen Wan said this, he looked at Chen Ruoqiu with a trace of impatience and disgust. He turned around and strode out of the house.

Chen Ruoqiu sensed that something was wrong with Shen Wan and almost fell to the ground. She grabbed Shi Qing's arm and dug her nails into it. Shi Qing was in so much pain that her face turned pale, but she did not dare to move.

The quarrel in the Autumn Water Garden quickly spread to Rongjing Hall. Old Madam Shen sipped her tea leisurely. When she heard this, she smiled indifferently and said, "Tsk, Chen Ruoqiu, do you really think your husband still has a place for you in his heart?" After a pause, she continued, "Like mother, like daughter. All of them make me mad."

Mrs. Zhang carefully massaged her shoulders and said, "I wonder if the people sent out to look for Third Miss have found her."

"Why should I care?" Old Madam Shen was angry and said, "What can she do? She'll be back soon. What a disgrace to the family. Let Third Master discipline his daughter. I don't want to care about these trivial matters anymore." She suddenly thought of something and frowned. "Is Third Master still going to the west courtyard?"

Mrs. Zhang nodded. "These days, Third Madam and Third Master often bicker. Third Master goes to the west courtyard more often and stays for most of the day."

Old Madam Shen nodded, and a trace of light flashed across her eyes. She said, "In that case, it's time to put the two of them together. I want her to give Third Master a son as soon as possible." She sneered. "Chen Ruoqiu, that idiot, has pushed her luck too far. Lately, everything in the Shen family is going wrong. We need a joyous occasion to bring in some good luck."

Mrs. Zhang nodded in agreement.

That night, Shen Wan stayed outside until very late. Chen Ruoqiu couldn't help but complain in her heart. In the past, even if Shen Wan was out socializing, he would always send a servant back to pass a message, but today, she did not know where he went. Thinking that she had just quarreled with Shen Wan during the day, she could not help but feel a little anxious. When women reached her age, they were not as beautiful as when they were young, but when it came to men, the age was just right for them. Now that there was a conflict between Shen Wan and her, it would be terrible if he took in a concubine at this moment. Chen Ruoqiu was different from Ren Wanyun. Ren Wanyun didn't care about Shen Gui taking in concubines as long as she could secure the position of the household manager. Chen Ruoqiu, on the other hand, had Shen Wan's love all to herself for so many years. Old Madam Shen was right. Chen Ruoqiu was extremely jealous. She would not allow Shen Wan to have another woman.

Chapter 633 Divorce (2)

At the thought of this, Chen Ruoqiu felt a little uneasy.

Hua Yi walked in from outside and said, "Madam, Old Madam got a few bolts of fabric and asked you to send one to Miss Chang."

Old Madam Shen had never taken Chang Zaiqing seriously since the beginning. Usually, she would pretend that this person did not exist in the mansion. Why did she suddenly think of Chang Zaiqing today? Chen Ruoqiu frowned. "Old Madam can just get someone to send the fabric. Why does she want me to go?"

Hua Yi was also a little confused and said, "It's probably because she thinks you're very close to Miss Chang."

Chen Ruoqiu was feeling uneasy. Since Old Madam Shen asked her to do something and she could take a walk to distract herself for a while, she immediately put on her outer clothes and walked towards the west courtyard.

At this moment, the sky was already dark, but it was not time to sleep. Chen Ruoqiu guessed that Chang Zaiqing must be awake, so she did not send someone to inform her.

When she arrived at the west courtyard, to her surprise, the lights in the west courtyard were turned off early. Chen Ruoqiu was a little puzzled. When Nanny Zhao saw her, she was stunned and seemed to be a little flustered. She said, "Third Madam, why are you here?"

"Old Madam asked me to send the fabric to Sister Chang," Chen Ruoqiu said. She looked in the direction of the bedroom and asked, "Is Sister Chang already asleep?"

"Yes, that's right." Nanny Zhao said, "Miss has been feeling well these past few days, so she went to bed early."

Chen Ruoqiu found it a little strange. She felt that Nanny Zhao's expression was very unnatural. She looked at the surrounding maids, who were all lowering their heads, as if they were afraid of seeing something. Coincidentally, there was a faint sound coming out of the bedroom. They could not hear it clearly. However, when the sound came, Nanny Zhao looked even more nervous.

Although Chen Ruoqiu was curious, she did not want to interfere with Chang Zaiqing's personal life. In her opinion, Chang Zaiqing was a knife that she could use to deal with the first branch. Especially these days, bad things happened one after another. The angrier she was, the more she wanted to see the first branch suffer.

Chen Ruoqiu asked her maids to put down the fabric. Just as she was about to leave, she suddenly stopped in her tracks.

Nanny Zhao followed Chen Ruoqiu's gaze and saw a small sachet on the bedroom window that was closest to the side of the courtyard. The sachet was dark red and embroidered with egrets. It was very exquisite. Chen Ruoqiu walked over and held the sachet in her hand. When Nanny Zhao wanted to stop her, it was too late.

When Shi Qing and Hua Yi saw the sachet, they couldn't help but gape in shock.

On the day of Shen Yue's marriage, Chen Ruoqiu had once seen Chang Zaiqing carry an extremely beautiful sachet. The sachet was exquisitely made, and Chen Ruoqiu rarely liked it. Chang Zaiqing was quite generous. She gave the sachet to Chen Ruoqiu. Later, because Chen Ruoqiu wanted to make Shen Wan happy, she gave the sachet to Shen Wan. The sachet was embroidered with egrets, so it did not look feminine. Chen Ruoqiu remembered that because the sachet contained tea leaves, it emitted the

fragrant smell of tea leaves. However, she found the tea fragrance too sharp, so she added some dried osmanthus leaves into it.

There were no two identical things in the world. Even if Chang Zaiqing was skillful and made an identical sachet, not every sachet was filled with osmanthus leaves.

Chen Ruoqiu picked up the sachet. Her hand was actually trembling. In the end, she put it under her nose and sniffed it determinedly.

The sweet smell of osmanthus leaves mixed with various tea leaves slowly entered Chen Ruoqiu's nose, and she suddenly closed her eyes.

When she opened her eyes again, her gaze made Shi Qing and Hua Yi shiver.

Chapter 634 Divorce (3)

She suddenly turned to Nanny Zhao. Before Nanny Zhao could hold back her increasingly flustered expression, Chen Ruoqiu saw it clearly. She sneered and said, "Do all of you really think I'm a fool?" With that, she quickly walked towards Chang Zaiqing's room and was about to break in.

"Madam, don't!" Nanny Zhao quickly stopped her in a panic.

Chen Ruoqiu asked, "Why not?"

Nanny Zhao didn't know what to say.

Chen Ruoqiu's heart couldn't help but sink. She felt like it was about to be torn apart. However, the sadder she was, the colder her face became. She said to Shi Qing and Hua Yi, "Smash it! Smash it ruthlessly! I want to see what kind of adulterous couple is doing this shameless thing in my Shen mansion! Smash it!"

After receiving the order, Shi Qing and Hua Yi did not dare to disobey. They immediately went forward and smashed the door open. Chen Ruoqiu took a lamp from the side and walked in without waiting for Nanny Zhao to stop her.

The heater in the room was burning brightly, and there were some clothes, shoes, and jewelry scattered on the ground. On the bed, there were two overlapping figures.

The woman with rouged cheeks and lips looked shy and embarrassed while the man slowly pulled his clothes over to cover the two of them and turned around. It was Shen Wan.

The room was filled with the fragrance of wine. They were drunk and sleeping together, but it was clearly not a mistake. They did it willingly and consciously. Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan had been husband and wife for so many years. If Shen Wan did not like Chang Zaiqing, why would he let Chang Zaiqing get on the bed? Moreover, this was Chang Zaiqing's courtyard. Shen Wan was the one who took the initiative to come over.

Chen Ruoqiu closed her eyes to force back the tears. She screamed, "Shame on you!"

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A few hundred kilometers away from the capital, there was an inn. The purple-clothed young man sat at the table in the middle and looked at the letter in his hand. After a moment, he raised his hand and threw the letter into the brazier at the side. The letter instantly turned to ashes.

"Master, Daliang sent a letter." Nan Qi, the secret guard beside him, said, "His Majesty urges you to go back quickly."

"Ignore him." Xie Jingxing said indifferently, "I'll go back after I'm done."

"His Majesty is afraid that you will delay things." Nan Qi said, "The people on the other side are also paying attention to Ming Qi. Previously, His Majesty said that he would choose a consort for you. It's almost time. If you don't go back at this time, I'm afraid he will be angry."

Xie Jingxing glanced at Nan Qi, who immediately fell silent. Nan Qi sighed. Emperor Yong Le was a man of his word, and yet Prince Rui was unrestrained and rebellious. It was the most difficult task to be a subordinate between the two of them. Moreover, these secret guards who followed Xie Jingxing understood that Xie Jingxing clearly treated Miss Shen differently. Even the secret guards felt that it was extremely unlikely for anything to happen between Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing, let alone Emperor Yong Le. Shen Miao was from Ming Qi. How could the Shen family agree to their daughter being related to someone from the Daliang Dynasty?

However, Nan Qi did not dare to be blunt about it with his master

"I guess my brother is too free all day." Xie Jingxing said, "If he's really got so much time, I'll tell him what the State of Qin is up to later so that he won't have time to worry about things he shouldn't."

Nan Qi wiped the sweat off his forehead. He was stuck in between two royal members and couldn't afford to offend either of them.

As he was thinking, he saw Tie Yi walk in with a box in his hand. After entering the room, he placed the box on the table and said, "Master, the jewelry you instructed me to make is ready."

Chapter 635 Divorce (4)

Nan Qi, who was behind Tie Yi, almost choked on his saliva. What did Tie Yi just say? A jewelry? Nan Qi secretly looked at the table and saw that the box on the table was indeed extremely exquisite. It was a small box with exquisite patterns engraved on it. Looking carefully, it seemed to be... a tiger's head?

Xie Jingxing opened the box and took a look. It was filled with all kinds of jewelry. Cat's eyes, jade rings, pearls, jade hairpin... They were all items of excellent quality. This small box was worth a thousand gold. Nan Qi thought to himself, Could it be that this was something for Miss Shen? But Miss Shen didn't look like she liked jewelry. Was Master really giving this to her?

He was quite generous.

Xie Jingxing closed the box and said, "Not bad." He suddenly thought of something and asked, "Has Fu Xiuyi made any moves recently?"

Tie Yi thought for a moment and said, "No, but he's quite close to the crown prince."

The crown prince... Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and said, "Keep an eye on him. Fu Xiuyi is not simple."

Tie Yi nodded and was about to leave.

"Wait." Xie Jingxing stopped him and said, "Shen Yue, get someone to keep an eye on her too."

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For the past few days, the Shen family had been in a mess. First, there was the matter of Shen Dongling and Shen Yue swapping marriages, then there was the Wang family not accepting Shen Yue. Later, Shen Yue took all the good things and escaped from home. It was even messier now that Chen Ruoqiu caught Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan in bed.

As a guest of the Shen family and the daughter of Old General Shen's old friend, Chang Zaiqing was expected to behave herself and keep a distance from people she shouldn't get close to. Apart from Old Madam Shen, the others would greet Chang Zaiqing politely when they saw her because Third Madam, Chen Ruoqiu, seemed to like her very much. Unexpectedly, Chang Zaiqing climbed into the same bed with Shen Wan without anyone knowing. Chen Ruoqiu didn't expect to be stabbed in the back by someone she dearly called sister.

Chen Ruoqiu immediately made a fuss all the way to Rongjing Hall.

In Rongjing Hall, Old Madam Shen sat at the head. Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan stood at one side, but Shen Wan was expressionless. Shen Gui looked like he was waiting to watch a good show. Chang Zaiqing lowered her eyes and did not speak, as if she was very ashamed. Chen Ruoqiu forced herself to stop crying and put on an unyielding expression.

"Alright, stop crying." As if she was finally annoyed by Chen Ruoqiu's behavior, Old Madam Shen said impatiently, "What's the big deal about your husband fancying another woman? Why are you crying so much?"

"Mother." Chen Ruoqiu shouted, "If he takes in a concubine through proper procedures, I naturally won't say anything. I will even take the initiative to prepare for their wedding. However, the two of them did such a thing behind my back. They were obviously deliberately humiliating me. Mother, I'm also your daughter-in-law and you're a woman. If my husband wants to take in a concubine, can I stop him? Why does he have to use such a humiliating method?"

"Third Madam." Chang Zaiqing couldn't help but say, "What happened today was all a misunderstanding. I drank too much and overstepped the boundary. It has nothing to do with Third Master. Just pretend that this never happened. Tomorrow, I'll pack my things and leave. I hope you won't blame Third Master for this."

Compared to Chen Ruoqiu's aggressiveness, Chang Zaiqing did not deny her wrongdoing and even put all the blame on herself, making her look more sensible. Shen Wan's expression changed drastically as he said, "Why are you leaving? I will be responsible for what I did."

Chapter 636 Divorce (5)

Chen Ruoqiu was already a little irritated by Chang Zaiqing's words. At this moment, when she heard that Shen Wan was still trying to persuade Chang Zaiqing to stay, it infuriated her even more. She immediately said, "Responsible? How are you going to be responsible for her? Are you going to chase me away and give her the position of the first wife?" After saying that, she turned to look at Chang Zaiqing and pointed at her nose and scolded, "You ingrate. I was the one who provided you with food and clothes when you came to the Shen mansion. Who knew that you would have such evil intentions? You even slept with your brother-in-law. How shameless! You couldn't seduce Shen Xin, so you came to seduce someone else's husband. No wonder at such an old age, you are still unmarried. Who would marry such an immoral slut like you?"

Not only was Shen Wan stunned by her words, but even Old Madam Shen was stunned. Chen Ruoqiu, who prided herself in being a well-educated person, was also cursing like a shrew. This scene was a little too unseemly.

Shen Wan was so angry that he could not speak. Chang Zaiqing bit her lips, obviously enduring the humiliation. On the other hand, Shen Gui, who was watching the show from the side, commented, "Sister-in-law, you're in the wrong this time. If your husband wants to take in a concubine, as his wife, you naturally have to help him with it. Now that you finally have someone to help you share the burden of managing the household, why are you still stopping him?" Shen Gui was lecherous and naturally took a fancy to a beauty like Chang Zaiqing. However, since Chang Zaiqing was Shen Wan's woman, he would not have designs on her. However, Chen Ruoqiu's shrewish behavior made Shen Gui look down on her. When Ren Wanyun was around, she did not stop him from bringing women back.

Chen Ruoqiu was in a fit of anger to begin with. Not only did Shen Gui's words not appease her, but it also made her feel hurt. She immediately pointed at Shen Gui and scolded, "Second Brother, you actually have the time to care about the matters in the third branch. I'm afraid you can't even take care of your own matters. Now that you are infertile, what's the point of taking in so many concubines? You'll still die without descendants."

Infertility was a sore spot Shen Gui would not allow anyone to touch. Unexpectedly, Chen Ruoqiu poked at it. Shen Gui was so angry that his face turned ashen, and Old Madam Shen did not look good either.

"Chen Ruoqiu, what exactly do you want?" Old Madam Shen said angrily.

"I've been married to Shen Wan for so many years. I'm not an unreasonable person. If you kick Chang Zaiqing out, I can pretend that nothing happened," Chen Ruoqiu said.

"Impossible." Shen Wan said angrily, "Since I was on the same bed with her, I naturally have to be responsible for her."

"Anyone can be your concubine, but not her!" Chen Ruoqiu pointed at Chang Zaiqing and shouted. She couldn't stand the fact that Chang Zaiqing actually betrayed her. This made her feel like she had suffered a great humiliation. More importantly, Chen Ruoqiu knew Chang Zaiqing too well. Chang Zaiqing was more talented than her and had a good temperament. Even Chen Ruoqiu found it difficult to have a bad impression of Chang Zaiqing. From Shen Wan's words, he was obviously going to favor Chang Zaiqing and neglect Chen Ruoqiu. How could Chen Ruoqiu allow that to happen?

“Why can’t she?” The person who spoke was none other than Shen Wan. At this moment, Shen Wan was boiling with anger. In the past, Chen Ruoqiu had been gentle and graceful in front of him, but today, she was shrewish and unreasonable, making Shen Wan find her intolerable.

Chen Ruoqiu said angrily, “Then divorce me! If you want to marry her, divorce me first!”

Chapter 637 Divorce (6)

Chen Ruoqiu seemed to have suddenly gained confidence and became more and more aggressive. She continued, “After getting a divorce letter, I’ll naturally leave without a word. You can marry whoever you want. I won’t say a word about it. After all, we’ll go our separate ways!” After saying that, two streams of tears flowed down her face, making her look pitiful.

Chen Ruoqiu said these words in a fit of anger. She and Shen Wan had been married for so many years. They had quarrels now and then, but they were able to cool off and make peace with each other. Chen Ruoqiu knew Shen Wan well. Shen Wan still had some feelings for her. Now, he was just seduced by Chang Zaiqing. It was impossible for Shen Wan to divorce her for the sake of Chang Zaiqing.

Chen Ruoqiu had it right that Shen Wan still had lingering love for her. Unfortunately, she did not know about Old Madam Shen’s attitude.

Chang Zaiqing opened her mouth a few times but didn’t speak.

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Old Madam Shen looked at Chen Ruoqiu. “Ever since Shen Wan married you, he hasn’t brought any woman back home. As his first wife, you didn’t help your husband, but instead, you’re just jealous and petty! Shen Wan is devoted, and I don’t want to interfere in his own matters. However, Chen Ruoqiu, you’ve been in the Shen family for nearly twenty years, but you’ve never given birth to a boy for the third branch. Let me ask you, is there any married woman in the capital like you who can’t give birth to a son for so long and didn’t let her husband have a son with someone else? Do you want my Shen family to have no descendants?”

“You’re jealous and can’t give birth to a son. Just these two are enough to kick you out of the house!”

Old Madam Shen was from the streets. When she was arguing with others, she would not hesitate to use the meanest words, especially since she was already quite angry with Chen Ruoqiu.

That’s right. Just the fact that Chen Ruoqiu couldn’t give a son to Shen Wan was enough for the Shen family to push all the blame to her. Even if this matter was brought to the court, Chen Ruoqiu would still be the one being pointed at. A trace of helplessness flashed across Chen Ruoqiu’s face. She had always thought that she had Shen Wan under control and that she and Shen Wan could be in love for the rest of their lives. However, now, Shen Wan’s attitude of protecting Chang Zaiqing was like a ruthless slap on Chen Ruoqiu’s face!

Shen Wan was no different from other men, interested in the young and pretty. Chen Ruoqiu was no different from other women. Once they aged, they would have to make way for young girls. However, those who were old still had their sons to rely on. Chen Ruoqiu did not even have a son, so her position was in danger.

Old Madam Shen looked at Chang Zaiqing and said slowly, "My Shen family is not an unreasonable bunch. Since Third Master touched you, we naturally have to be responsible for you. Miss Chang, if you agree, Third Master will marry you. There's a lot of bad luck in this mansion lately. It's time to have a joyful occasion to wash it away."

Old Madam Shen was obviously deliberately going against Chen Ruoqiu.

Chen Ruoqiu looked at Old Madam Shen. A smile flashed across Old Madam Shen's wrinkled face, and that smile enlightened Chen Ruoqiu.

How did she find out about Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan? It was Old Madam Shen who asked her to go to the west courtyard to deliver fabric. Why was she asked to deliver it so late at night? Did Old Madam Shen do it on purpose? These days, she was worried about Shen Yue and did not care about anything else. Old Madam Shen might have noticed something fishy going on between Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan. When she realized that Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan were very close, she was probably wild with joy. Perhaps she had even done something to speed up tonight's event.

Old Madam Shen... Chen Ruoqiu suddenly felt infinite hatred. She gritted her teeth and said, "Such humiliation is unacceptable!"

Chapter 638 Return (1)

The General's Mansion in the capital was originally lively and filled with people. At the mention of the General's Mansion, everyone thought of the heroic achievements made by the mighty general.

However, ever since the first branch and the Shen family separated two years ago, the General's Mansion had been declining at a visible speed. Although Shen Gui and Shen Wan tried their best to climb the official ladder to support the former glory of the General's Mansion, it was a pity that civil servants and military officials were hugely different. Civil servants relied on their brains and eloquence. If they wanted to obtain merit, they would have to work hard for a long time. Military officials were different. All it took was for them to win a war.

After the decline of the General's Mansion, it didn't receive as much attention from the people as before. Over the past few days, it was finally under the limelight again, but good news never went beyond the gate while bad news spread far and wide. The most surprising thing was that at some point, a rumor had spread on the streets that the third master of the Shen family, Shen Wan, was planning to divorce his wife.

Among the three sons of the Shen family, other than Shen Xin, although Shen Gui was tactful, he was too much of a hedonist, so he messed up a lot of things. Shen Wan was different from his second brother. He was honest and abstained from vices. Although he would also fool around with his colleagues, he would not go overboard. He also cherished his reputation very much. Usually, in the eyes of everyone, he was a person who was knowledgeable and talented. If he waited for a few more years, his position would probably get higher and higher.

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The madams of the officials had a good impression of Shen Wan because Shen Wan doted on his wife and daughter very much and didn't have any concubines. Those madams had always been jealous and envious of Chen Ruoqiu. After all, such a husband who was only loyal to his wife was very rare.

Unexpectedly, at this juncture, Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan were suddenly going to be divorced.

The rumors in the market were all accurate. They said, "That's right. I heard that it's because Third Madam Shen doesn't have a son. Look, now that the Shen family doesn't have a third generation male descendant, they have to do something. No wonder they're anxious now."

"That's true. Third Master Shen has a good official career. It's a pity that he doesn't have anyone to inherit his title in the future."

"That Third Madam Shen is useless. She couldn't give birth to a son after so many years and didn't even let her husband take in a concubine. Ordinary families definitely won't tolerate such a woman. If I were Third Master Shen, I'd do the same thing."

The rumors circulating in the entire capital were all on Shen Wan's side. Chen Ruoqiu was originally known to be a famous talented girl in the capital and came from a scholarly family. She was extremely popular among the noble ladies. However, this time, be it the commoners or the women who used to flatter her, they all pointed a finger at her. Perhaps it was because in the past, Chen Ruoqiu had too good and comfortable a life so that people were jealous. Now that her good life was on the verge of collapsing, everyone couldn't wait to hit her when she was down.

In the Shen mansion, Chen Ruoqiu smashed the white porcelain vase in front of her with a bang. The vase shattered into pieces on the ground, and the floor was filled with dregs. Chen Ruoqiu was still angry and knocked over the teacup on the table. Shi Qing and Hua Yi were so nervous that they did not even dare to breathe loudly.

Chapter 639 Return (2)

"Shameless!" Chen Ruoqiu screamed, "That adulterous couple forced me to such a state, but at the end of the day, all the blame is pinned on me. Ridiculous! Unbelievable!"

The rumors outside were all disadvantageous to Chen Ruoqiu. Chen Ruoqiu had always prided herself on being a graceful young lady from a scholarly family. Now that she was called a shrew who was jealous, how could she be willing to accept it?

"That b*tch must have been spouting nonsense outside," Chen Ruoqiu said through gritted teeth. When she mentioned the divorce, she was just saying it out of anger to scare Shen Wan. Unexpectedly, the word leaked out and was spread by everyone in the streets and alleys, pushing her and Shen Wan to the point of no return. The most disappointing thing was that Shen Wan had never come to see her until now.

"That b*tch must have instigated my husband!" Chen Ruoqiu's nails dug into her palm. Old Madam Shen deliberately praised Chang Zaiqing in front of her to embarrass her. Now that Shen Yue was missing and Shen Wan was bewitched by Chang Zaiqing, no one in the huge Shen family was standing on her side. The entire capital probably thought that she was the one in the wrong. Chen Ruoqiu suddenly felt helpless.

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“Madam, now that Old Madam has given the order, what should we do next?” Hua Yi finally couldn’t help but ask.

Chen Ruoqiu could either let Chang Zaiqing marry Shen Wan as a concubine or let Shen Wan divorce her. However, Chen Ruoqiu couldn’t accept either of the outcomes.

At this moment, her love for Shen Wan turned into hatred bit by bit. She suddenly stood up and sneered. “I won’t allow such a thing to happen. The Shen family humiliated me. I can’t take it lying down. Pack my things. I’m going to go back to the Chen family!”

...

Chen Ruoqiu returned to her parents’ house.

Old Master Chen was in charge of sorting the documents in the Ming Qi Palace. Because he was a civil servant and was well-read, Chen Ruoqiu had always considered herself well-educated. Moreover, when Old Master Chen was young, he indeed came out top in the provincial imperial examination and was quite capable.

Chen Ruoqiu married Shen Wan because the marriage was arranged by the Chen family and the Shen family. Of course, it was Shen Wan who fell in love with Chen Ruoqiu first back then. Although Old Master Chen was not protective of his daughter, he valued his family’s reputation very much and was equally as pretentious as Chen Ruoqiu. Therefore, Old Master Chen was definitely unhappy that Chen Ruoqiu was divorced or was known for being jealous. The Chen family and the Shen family were destined to have a lawsuit.

When Shen Miao heard it from Jingzhe, she was reading under the candlelight. Jingzhe said, “Now that Third Madam has already returned to her family, she will definitely not let this matter rest. If they find out that you were the one who spread those rumors... what will happen?”

It wasn’t Chang Zaiqing, Shen Wan, or Old Madam Shen who started the rumors in the market, but Shen Miao.

Shen Miao had been with the third branch for her entire life. She knew that although Chen Ruoqiu thought highly of herself and loved Shen Wan deeply, she was not stupid. When she found out that Shen Wan and Chang Zaiqing were having an affair, she would definitely be angry and do something rash. However, on second thought, she could think it through. If she softened her attitude and tone in front of Shen Wan, Shen Wan would forgive her out of guilt. At that time, when Chang Zaiqing entered the third branch, it was still unknown who would win at the end. No matter what, Chen Ruoqiu wouldn’t lose so easily.

It was better to spread some rumors to anger Chen Ruoqiu further. Only by adding fuel to the fire would Chen Ruoqiu’s relationship with Shen Wan reach an irreparable stage. It was very terrifying when a woman became vengeful and the thing she would do to take revenge would be more interesting to watch.

Chapter 640 Return (3)

After reaching this stage, it would be very difficult for the two of them to turn back. Reunion of husband and wife after a divorce only happened in romantic stories. Shen Miao felt that in her previous life, there were many things that she could not see clearly in the harem. Now that she looked at it from a different angle, as an outsider, she could see it clearly. However, Shen Miao was not in a good mood after having her enemy wrapped around her fingers. Perhaps it was because she also thought that when Consort Mei looked at her back then, it might be the same way she looked at Chen Ruoqiu now.

“Don’t worry.” After a pause, she said, “It won’t be that easy to find out.” She handed this matter to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop. Since Ji Yushu had taken her money, he would definitely take care of this matter flawlessly. The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop had been doing business in the capital for so long, so it was impossible for them not to know about this.

Jingzhe stopped talking. Seeing that the window outside was open, she got up and was about to close it. As she walked over, she said, “Why did Gu Yu forget to close the window every time? It’s cold out there. What if Miss catches a cold?”

“Wait.” Shen Miao stopped her and glanced at the window. “Let’s get some fresh air. It’s very stuffy in the room. I’ll close it myself later.”

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Seeing Shen Miao’s firm gaze, Jingzhe found it strange. The room was clearly not stuffy at all. However, she didn’t say anything. She helped Shen Miao light a new candle and said, “Miss, rest early.”

With that, Jingzhe left.

Shen Miao looked at the flickering candle and picked it up. She was about to walk to the bed when the candle flame suddenly swayed as if it was blown by the wind.

A familiar voice sounded, carrying a teasing and lazy tone that she had not heard for a long time. “Didn’t you specially leave the door open for me? Why are you going to the bed to sleep?”

Shen Miao turned around. The young man was leaning against the window sill with one hand supporting his chin. His beautiful eyes looked over casually, lazy and charming. Seeing that Shen Miao was slightly stunned, he jumped into the room and casually snatched the candle from Shen Miao’s hand. He walked to the table and sat down.

His movements were smooth, as if he was entering his own bedroom.

“You’re back?” Shen Miao asked.

“Tsk.” Xie Jingxing stared at her and said with a faint smile, “Why, do you miss me?”

Shen Miao was used to his frivolous and ambiguous attitude, so she ignored him. She walked to the table and sat down. Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and said, “You did a good job handling Chen Ruoqiu.”

Shen Miao rolled her eyes at him. “How did you know?” Xie Jingxing had spies all over the capital. Moreover, Ji Yushu from the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop was related to Xie Jingxing. It was only natural for Ji Yushu to inform Xie Jingxing everything. At this point, Shen Miao no longer cared.

“No wonder you had that attitude towards Chang Zaiqing when she just arrived at the capital,” Xie Jingxing muttered to himself. He glanced at Shen Miao again and said with a sigh, “What a scheming woman she is.”

Shen Miao did not comment. Xie Jingxing seemed to have thought of something and took out a box from somewhere and threw it into Shen Miao’s arms.

Shen Miao was almost hit by the box and felt that the small box was heavy. She subconsciously caught it and saw that there was a big tiger carved on the surface of the box. The tiger was lifelike and looked a little cute, but it was brandishing its claws, also looking ferocious. At the thought of the white tiger called Jiaojiao that Xie Jingxing raised, Shen Miao puffed out her cheeks and opened the box.

As soon as she opened it, she was almost dazzled by the colorful things in the box. The box was filled with all kinds of well-made jewelry. Each of them was worth a thousand gold. Why did Xie Jingxing send her jewelry for no reason? Shen Miao looked at him and shook her head. “I don’t need jewelry.”