

Venomous 661

Chapter 661 Holding Hands (6)

The night is really beautiful, Shen Miao thought to herself.

However, she did not see that a smile flashed across the handsome young man's eyes. It was more charming than fireworks.

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In a house in the east of the city, at this moment, there was a loud snore coming from a room. The strong smell of wine filled the entire room. There were several wine jars lying on the ground, and the man on the bed was sleeping soundly.

In the room next door, there was an eight or nine-year-old child lying on the bed. This room was obviously much narrower than the one next door. He lay there for a while before sitting up. As if he could not fall asleep because of the snoring next door, he stood up and walked to the small courtyard surrounded by bamboo bars.

The child was going to the toilet. Just as he was about to return to his room, he saw two people standing in the courtyard. He was so shocked that he was about to shout when he saw the tall man flicking a stone at him. In an instant, the child was rooted to the ground and could not speak.

Only then did the two of them walk towards him.

Under the dim light of the lantern outside, the faces of the two people gradually became clearer. One of them was petite and was wearing a servant's outfit, but one could still tell that it was a woman. She was wearing a cloak that obviously didn't fit her, and her face was covered by a scarf. However, it made her eyes look extremely clear, making people think that if she took off the scarf, she would be a stunning beauty.

As for the other person... The boy was stunned. This person was extremely tall and straight. He was wearing a purple embroidered robe with golden clouds. This robe was wide, and it would flutter as wind blew past. His face was handsome. When his eyes looked over in the night, the boy felt like the winter snow was replaced by spring rain. Could he be an immortal descending on the mortal world? Otherwise, why was his every move so elegant and beautiful that people could not take their eyes off him?

The petite woman rolled her eyes at the purple-robed man and asked the boy softly, "What's your name?"

The boy felt the tension on his throat gone. Suddenly, he realized that he could speak again. The woman's voice was very gentle, somehow putting the boy at ease. He said nervously, "My, my name is Huai Sheng."

"Huai Sheng." The woman asked, "Is your mother's name Chang Zaiqing?"

Huai Sheng was in a daze for a moment before his eyes turned red. He looked at the woman carefully and asked, "Do you know my mother? Do you know where my mother is... I haven't seen her for a long time. They said that she won't come back. Someone brought us here and said that we can see her, but she's not here."

Shen Miao sighed in her heart. This boy was about the same age as Su Minglang two years ago, but this child was clearly much more pitiful than Su Minglang. Chang Zaiqing abandoned her husband and son because her husband was addicted to alcohol and gambling. However, before she left, she did not think about what her young son would be if he was left with an alcoholic and irresponsible father. Therefore, Chang Zaiqing was not worthy of sympathy or forgiveness, because a mother who was so heartless was no longer worthy of being called a “mother”.

“Don’t be afraid.” Shen Miao took out a handkerchief and wiped the boy’s tears. Huai Sheng was comforted. The woman’s eyes were very beautiful, and she was probably not bad-looking either. Although she was in a servant’s outfit, her hands were fair and tender. Huai Sheng knew that these hands were different from his, which were filled with calluses. It was obvious that she came from a rich family. This woman must be very rich and able. Such a noble lady actually wiped the tears of a lowly person like him... Even his mother had never treated him so gently. Huai Sheng was a little stunned.

The purple-robed man standing beside Shen Miao coughed lightly. He glanced at Huai Sheng and said coldly, “Go in.”

Huai Sheng felt a chill run down his spine. For some reason, just a faint glance from this man was enough to make people feel afraid. He came back to his senses and saw the woman in front of him retract her handkerchief with a gentle gaze.

Huai Sheng reminded Shen Miao of Fu Ming and Wanyu. Fu Ming and Wanyu had an irresponsible father like Fu Xiuyi, so it was not easy for them either. Although she did not abandon her children, she was too powerless to save them. Compared to Chang Zaiqing, she was no better.

Suppressing the complicated emotions in her heart, she said, “Huai Sheng, take us to see your father.”

Chapter 662 Incident (1)

Huai Sheng opened the door. As soon as they entered, an extremely strong smell of alcohol hit them. Shen Miao couldn’t help but frown. Seeing Shen Miao frown, Huai Sheng seemed to be a little embarrassed. He ran to the other side and took out a candle to light it.

The light was lit up, illuminating everything in the room. A middle-aged man was lying on the bed. This man was very thin and weak. Even his skin was sallow. At this moment, he was snoring.

Huai Sheng looked at the two people in front of him uneasily. The woman said, “Wake him up.”

Huai Sheng nodded and walked to the man’s side. He shook the man gently and whispered, “Father, Father, someone is here.”

The man did not react at first. Then, as if he was a little annoyed by Huai Sheng’s shaking, he subconsciously slapped him and cursed, “Why are you shouting in the middle of the night?”

Huai Sheng instinctively closed his eyes, but the slap did not land on him. He slowly opened his eyes and saw his father’s terrified gaze. The beautiful young man, who had arrived at the bed at some point, was holding the man’s throat with his slender hand.

Huai Sheng was anxious, afraid, and worried. In the end, he suppressed his fear and said, “My father didn’t mean to offend you! Please spare his life!”

Shen Miao glanced at the man who was so frightened that he instantly lost his sleepiness and said calmly, "Let go of him."

Only then did Xie Jingxing let go.

Huai Sheng was scared.

His father knelt on the ground and looked at the two people in front of him, his body trembling uncontrollably. He probably sensed the danger emanating from the two of them, especially the man.

Shen Miao asked, "Are you Tian Li?"

Tian Li nodded and said, "That's right."

Shen Miao glanced at Tian Li. It was said that when he was young, Tian Li was also a handsome and charming scholar. He was talented, which was why he won Chang Zaiqing's heart and the two of them became husband and wife. However, later on, after failing the imperial examinations several times, he gradually developed a sense of self-loathing. He stayed in gambling dens and taverns, getting drunk and gambling. Chang Zaiqing hated such a life, so she left home. Looking at Tian Li now, she could vaguely understand why Chang Zaiqing would leave him. There was no longer any trace of the elegance of a scholar in him. The person in front of her was clearly a drunkard.

"Is Chang Zaiqing your wife?" Shen Miao asked.

Hearing this, Tian Li suddenly trembled and looked up at Shen Miao. Even though he had tried his best to hide it, Shen Miao could still see the anger and humiliation in his eyes.

"Don't worry. I'm not Chang Zaiqing's friend. If you have any thoughts, feel free to tell me," Shen Miao said.

Tian Li looked at Shen Miao seriously, as if he was confirming if what Shen Miao said was true. Shen Miao looked straight into his eyes without avoiding. After a while, Tian Li spat on the ground and said, "That b*tch ran away with my money! Shameless!"

Huai Sheng shuddered, his eyes filled with sadness and confusion.

Shen Miao's gaze landed on Huai Sheng and she said, "Huai Sheng, go to the courtyard. Your father and I have something to talk about."

Huai Sheng glanced at Shen Miao and then at Tian Li. In the end, he did not say anything and quietly took a blanket and left.

After Huai Sheng left, Shen Miao asked Tian Li to explain the situation.

Just like what the people Shen Miao sent had found out, Chang Zaiqing's husband was Tian Li. Chang Zaiqing was a talented girl, and Tian Li was also a talented scholar. Tian Li's family also had a few shops. Although they were by no means affluent, they were able to afford a comfortable life.

Chapter 663 Incident (2)

However, later on, the Tian family made a wrong business decision and went bankrupt almost overnight. The Tian couple couldn't take this blow and passed away one after another. Tian Li was also affected

because of this. Back then, he failed in the imperial examination, and later on, his place in the imperial examination became lower and lower. At that time, Chang Zaiqing just gave birth to Huai Sheng. There were many places where she needed money. The poor couple had a lot of quarrels and arguing. Tian Li found solace in alcohol and gambling. Chang Zaiqing felt that this life was not what she wanted, so one day, she sold the last title deed they had and escaped.

Tian Li had also asked people to look for Chang Zaiqing, but to no avail. Tian Li probably did not know about the friendship between Chang Hu and Old General Shen back then, so he did not know that Chang Zaiqing had fled to the capital.

When he thought of Chang Zaiqing, Tian Li was filled with resentment. He said, "This vicious woman! That title deed is for Huai Sheng to marry when he grows up. She actually sold it and took the money away. She doesn't love Huai Sheng at all. She's a b*tch!"

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. Xie Jingxing was standing on the other side with his arms crossed. He looked out of the window, as if he was not interested in what Tian Li was saying. However, even if he was just standing there casually, his terrifying aura couldn't be ignored.

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After saying that, Tian Li asked, "Someone said that if we came here, we would be able to see that woman. Miss, is the person who brought us to the capital... you?" Tian Li could tell at a glance that the two people in front of him were probably of extraordinary status, especially that man. How could an ordinary person have such a bearing? Moreover, they barged into a private house in the middle of the night. Ordinary people did not have the guts to do this.

"It's me." Shen Miao said, "I know where Chang Zaiqing is."

Tian Li was stunned. When he spoke again, his voice was trembling. He asked, "Where... is she?"

Shen Miao frowned slightly. In addition to anger, there was still a trace of yearning for Chang Zaiqing in Tian Li's voice. Perhaps it was because Chang Zaiqing had been his wife for many years, or perhaps it was because Chang Zaiqing was Huai Sheng's mother after all, Tian Li probably didn't hate Chang Zaiqing as much as he thought.

This was not something Shen Miao wanted to see.

She said, "Chang Zaiqing has now become the concubine of the third master of the Shen family, Shen Wan. Now that she's pregnant, Shen Wan treats her extremely well and dotes on her. I think it won't be long before she gives birth to Shen Wan's only son. There are no other children in the Shen family. Once the child is born, Chang Zaiqing might be given the title of first wife. Even if she's not, that child will still live a luxurious life."

Tian Li was humiliated and angry at being made a cuckold. The last trace of wanting to forgive Chang Zaiqing and fixing the marriage was gone after Shen Miao said that.

The son Chang Zaiqing had with Shen Wan could live a luxurious life, while the son she had with him lived in poverty. People often grew resentful when they compared to others. Tian Li would never take this lying down.

Shen Miao smiled. "Not only that, but Third Master Shen even divorced his wife in order to marry Chang Zaiqing. I think he really loves Chang Zaiqing. Now, Third Madam Shen is miserable and despised by everyone."

Tian Li sneered. "Third Master Shen is brainless and stupid!" Tian Li did not have a good impression of Shen Wan. The hatred towards Shen Wan for snatching his wife away was irreconcilable. Moreover, as a poor person, he was hostile to people who were rich, especially when he knew that living a rich life was what Chang Zaiqing always looked forward to.

Chapter 664 Incident (3)

"To be honest, I was entrusted by Third Madam Shen to find you." Shen Miao said, "Third Madam Shen was forced to a dead end by Third Master Shen and Chang Zaiqing. There's nothing she can do now. Third Madam Shen is planning to fight to the death. She wants Third Master Shen and Chang Zaiqing to suffer, so she found you."

"Me?" Tian Li looked at Shen Miao and gradually realized something. "You mean..."

"At the right time, tell Third Master Shen that Chang Zaiqing is your wife and get him to end his relationship with her as soon as possible."

Tian Li said, "I..."

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Shen Miao did not give Tian Li any time to hesitate. She continued, "Are you willing to watch your wife sleep on the same bed with someone else? You want to forgive her, but has she ever thought about you? If she still has a conscience in her heart, she won't abandon Huai Sheng. Chang Zaiqing only cares about herself. She has never taken you and your son seriously. Tian Li, you are not a kind-hearted buddha. There is no need for you to be merciful to people who are not merciful."

Shen Miao was pushy, giving Tian Li no time to retort. As Xie Jingxing listened, he couldn't help but look at Shen Miao with a meaningful smile.

"Most importantly, why should Huai Sheng live such a difficult life, while Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan's son can live a carefree life? Tian Li, think about it carefully. What if the two half-brothers meet one day and Huai Sheng is only qualified to serve his half-brother. Are you really willing to see that happen?"

Shen Miao's words hit the nail on the head. What she said was obviously what Tian Li cared about the most. No matter how bad Tian Li was and how rude he was to Huai Sheng, he still had a little more conscience than Chang Zaiqing. Otherwise, he wouldn't have kept the last land deed for Huai Sheng.

Tian Li said, "Miss, I know. I'm indignant, but she's Huai Sheng's mother after all. I just want to get her back. If she's beaten to death, Huai Sheng will be sad."

"Just don't let Huai Sheng know about it." Shen Miao said, "After this matter is over and done with, Third Madam Shen will pay you and your son a large sum of money. With this money, you can go as far as you want and start a new life in a place where no one knows you. Without Chang Zaiqing, Huai Sheng still has you. If you treat Huai Sheng well, his life will not be so miserable. You just can't keep someone

who is bent on leaving. Chang Zaiqing took the initiative to walk out of your life. Now, she's living a luxurious life. How can you take her back? Do you think that's possible?"

Tian Li closed his eyes in pain.

Shen Miao was right. Chang Zaiqing was living such a good life now. There was really no reason for her to return to her old life. If she really cared about him and her son, she would not have sold the title deed and escaped.

The woman wearing a mask in front of her was still talking calmly. "She was heartless first, so there's no need for you to show kindness. There's a chance to change your life again. If you miss it once, there won't be a second time. Whether you take the chance or not, you won't be the one in the wrong, because this is what Chang Zaiqing owes you and your son. Do you want to do it?"

Chapter 665 Incident (4)

As Tian Li listened to Shen Miao's words, many things flashed across his mind. The disdainful and disgusted look on Chang Zaiqing's face when she looked at him, and the endless gossip surrounding him after she ran away. He would sometimes see Huai Sheng sitting in a corner, weeping... If one day, he could change his life and give Huai Sheng a good life like those rich people... Tian Li suddenly looked up and made up his mind. He said, "I'll do it! I promise you that I'll listen to you. However, you have to give me enough money to live a good life!"

Shen Miao raised an eyebrow. She did not expect it to be so easy. Tian Li was not difficult to convince. Perhaps it was because of Huai Sheng, although this man was not capable and had an awful temperament, he still cared about his son.

"I'll give you the money." It was Xie Jingxing who spoke. He stood in the shadows and leaned against the door, saying lazily, "Don't have any other thoughts. Otherwise..."

Tian Li suddenly trembled and quickly lowered his head. He said in fear, "I don't dare!" For some reason, facing this man made him feel an indescribable fear. Even though the person who spoke all this while was the woman in a mask, the purple-clothed man's aura was pervasive in the tiny room.

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Shen Miao glanced at Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing was quite useful. If she wanted to intimidate someone, she just had to bring Xie Jingxing along, and most people would be scared out of their wits.

When Xie Jingxing and Shen Miao left the room, Huai Sheng came over and looked at Shen Miao. He asked timidly, "Can you find my mother?"

Shen Miao looked at Huai Sheng and said with her eyes cast down, "Sleep early." Then, she walked out.

Xie Jingxing followed her out of the alley in the east of the city and into the street outside. Xie Jingxing saw Shen Miao's expression and said, "Do you feel sorry for that child?"

"Even so, I still have to do it." Shen Miao said, "I'm a selfish person."

"You did the right thing." Xie Jingxing said casually, "You're not a kind-hearted buddha."

He used what Shen Miao said to Tian Li to comfort her. Shen Miao glanced at him and said, "You are."

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. "What do you mean?"

"You escorted me all the way here in the middle of the night and helped me threaten Tian Li into agreeing. You're a buddha. Otherwise, why would you be so kind?"

Xie Jingxing chuckled and said, "You don't seem to appreciate it at all."

The corners of Shen Miao's lips slowly curled up. Her relationship with Xie Jingxing was gradually changing without her knowing. She did not have to hide anything from him because nothing got past him. She felt that there were many things she didn't have to do alone anymore.

"Do you need my help with Chang Zaiqing?" Xie Jingxing said lazily, "If you beg me for help, I might."

"Don't bother, Prince Rui." Shen Miao smiled. "Save yourself the trouble."

"You have a good idea again?" Xie Jingxing glanced at her and said with a faint smile, "Sometimes, I wonder when there will be a problem in the world that you can't solve. Probably at that time, you'll beg me for help."

"Probably not," Shen Miao replied.

Chapter 666 The Incident (5)

"What a pity." Xie Jingxing said regretfully.

Shen Miao was amused.

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New things happened every day in the capital, but the new things that happened every day would quickly drown out the new things that happened a few days ago. For example, the lawsuit between the Shen family and the Chen family. Everyone treated it as a joke and forgot about it. In the Shen family, it was the same. The servants still had to do what they should do. The only difference was that the Autumn Water Garden had a new mistress. The new mistress was quite liked by Shen Wan, almost comparable to Chen Ruoqiu when she had just married to Shen Wan.

Compared to Chen Ruoqiu, Chang Zaiqing was more good at building relationships with the people around her, probably because she did not have Chen Ruoqiu's arrogant aura. She was outgoing and likable, and she made the servants feel very comfortable being around her. Not only did Shen Wan like her, but even Shen Gui and Old Madam Shen felt that she was really not bad, and they felt that it was a wise decision to let Shen Wan divorce Chen Ruoqiu.

Old Madam Shen specially found an eminent monk to read Chang Zaiqing's face. The monk said that the child in Chang Zaiqing's stomach was definitely a boy. Hearing that, Old Madam Shen was overjoyed. She no longer cared about the fact that Chang Zaiqing came from a humble background. The most important thing in the Shen family was to quickly add a boy. Otherwise, outsiders would think that the Shen family was going to die without sons.

Shen Wan had a smile on his face everyday ever since he married Chang Zaiqing. Chang Zaiqing was able to give Shen Wan good ideas, and she was also good at managing the household. There was probably no man who did not like such a wife.

On this day, Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan were talking in the courtyard again. Chang Zaiqing was wearing a thick fur coat, with a brazier by her feet and a heater in her hand.

Chang Zaiqing said, "Master, you are free today."

Shen Wan held her hand and smiled. "It's not just today. There's nothing to do in the imperial court these days. I can spend more time with you and the child."

"That's great." Chang Zaiqing smiled and said, "I think our child also wants your company."

Shen Wan enjoyed hearing this. He hugged Chang Zaiqing in his arms and sighed. "Now, all I want is for you to give birth to the child so that my efforts will not be in vain."

Chang Zaiqing seemed to have understood something. Seeing that Shen Wan's eyebrows were still furrowed, she asked, "Master, are you still worried about the matter relating to Fifth Miss Shen a few days ago?"

Getting Shen Miao to marry Prince Zhou or getting Shen Miao to have a relationship with Prince Zhou didn't seem to go smoothly because Shen Wan hadn't brought it up for the past few days. Chang Zaiqing did not know why Shen Wan wanted to do this, but she knew that this matter would have a great impact on Shen Wan's official career.

Shen Wan forced a smile and shook his head. "Shen Xin has been watching his daughter very closely these days. Shen Miao didn't even step outside the mansion, so I really can't find an opportunity. It's difficult to make a move." As he spoke, he became a little dejected. "This is not good."

Chang Zaiqing rolled her eyes and said with a smile, "Why is that difficult? If Fifth Miss Shen doesn't go out, we can think of a way to make Fifth Miss Shen take the initiative to go out. To be honest, if General Shen finds out that Fifth Miss Shen is going out, he will inevitably let her bring a group of guards. After all, General Shen is from the army and everyone around him is well-trained. It's better to get Fifth Miss Shen to sneak out without General Shen knowing."

Shen Wan narrowed his eyes. After thinking for a moment, he shook his head. "I can't think of a way to get her to sneak out. She used to be close to someone called Feng Anning, but ever since the last incident, Feng Anning has been grounded at home. If we use Feng Anning's name to lure her out, Shen Miao will definitely be wary."

Chapter 667 The Incident (6)

"She's a little girl after. No matter how calm she pretends to be, she's by nature timid and will get flustered easily." Chang Zaiqing smiled gently. "Master, why don't you use the unconventional method? For example, tell Fifth Miss Shen that her parents or brother are in danger or something. No matter how calm Fifth Miss Shen is, she'll panic when her family is involved."

When Shen Wan heard that, he first thought about it carefully. Then, he held Chang Zaiqing's hand tightly and said, "Although there are some flaws in this idea, it's worth a try. If I plan it out well, it might

really work.” He looked at Chang Zaiqing excitedly, his eyes filled with admiration. “You can always surprise me.”

Chang Zaiqing lowered her head slightly and said with a smile, “Master, now that I’m married to you, I’ll naturally do my best to help you. Although doing this to Fifth Miss Shen is not right, in my heart, nothing is more important than my family.”

Scheming against Shen Miao like this was vicious. Although Shen Wan admired Chang Zaiqing’s brilliance for him now, when he looked back in the future, he would inevitably feel that Chang Zaiqing was ruthless. However, it would be different if Chang Zaiqing took the initiative to say that she placed her family above everything else. Not only did it not make Shen Wan think badly of her, but it made Shen Wan admire Chang Zaiqing even more, thinking that she was broad-minded and considerate.

Therefore, Shen Wan looked at Chang Zaiqing affectionately and said, “With such a wife, what else can I ask for?”

Chang Zaiqing also said docilely, “I’m lucky to have met Master too. I won’t forget how well Master treats me.” The more docile she was, the more Shen Wan liked her, but he did not see the smugness that flashed across Chang Zaiqing’s eyes.

In Chang Zaiqing’s eyes, men and love were not trustworthy. Only those who had truly experienced poverty would know the value of wealth. She wanted to hold on to Shen Wan tightly, not because of Shen Wan, but because of the life that Shen Wan could provide her. Chang Zaiqing was different from Chen Ruoqiu. Chen Ruoqiu still loved Shen Wan in her heart, so Chen Ruoqiu would lose her rationality because of Shen Wan’s actions and words. What Chang Zaiqing loved was the wealth of the Shen family and her status as the wife of an official.

Chang Zaiqing knew in her heart that in order to capture this man’s heart, she had to show her talent and make Shen Wan feel that she was useful to him.

Chang Zaiqing did a good job.

Shen Wan sat with Chang Zaiqing for a while before getting up to leave. He still had some official matters to attend to, so he seriously instructed the servants beside Chang Zaiqing to take care of her before leaving with his servants.

When he returned to his study, his personal servant slowly walked over with a letter and said, “Master, the guard at the door said that someone sent a letter to you, but he doesn’t know who sent it.”

Shen Wan took it and saw that nothing was written on the envelope. It was obvious that the sender was afraid of being found out. As officials in the court, they would occasionally receive some confidential letters, so Shen Wan did not dare to delay and quickly opened the letter.

The first line of the letter that came into sight made Shen Wan freeze on the spot. “Third Master Shen, do you know that the woman you dote on is actually someone else’s wife?”

Shen Wan almost lost his balance. He held the table with one hand and composed himself before quickly scanning the rest of the letter.

The letter was written extremely simply, but the content of the letter was not simple at all. The letter said that Chang Zaiqing had already married someone in Liuzhou and had a son. Most importantly, at this time, Chang Zaiqing had yet to divorce her original husband. Strictly speaking, Shen Wan could even be considered to have snatched someone else's wife and could be sued in court!

Shen Wan did not believe it at first and looked at the letter with disdain. He even wondered if this letter was sent by Chen Ruoqiu to provoke him. However, when he saw the last line, his body trembled and he froze. "There is a small red mole in her private parts."

This was a hard truth.

Chapter 668 Going to Prison (1)

Ordinary people would not be able to see the small red mole that was on Chang Zaiqing's private parts. However, what kind of person was Shen Wan? If he was easily gullible, he would not be a court official for so many years. He glanced at the letter. It said that the father and son had already entered the capital and lived in a house in the east of the city. There was even a specific address on it. Shen Wan quickly tore the letter into pieces and said to the servant beside him, "Prepare the carriage!"

Shen Wan did not believe in a letter that came out of nowhere, but he could not trust Chang Zaiqing's words either. It was better to see it for himself.

When the carriage arrived at the house in the east of the city, Shen Wan did not get out of the carriage. Instead, he hid in the dark and asked his servant to knock on the door.

The person who opened the door was an eight or nine-year-old boy. When Shen Wan saw the boy's face clearly, he gasped.

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At that moment, Shen Wan knew that what the letter said was true. The reason was that this boy looked too similar to Chang Zaiqing.

The Chang family did not have any other children, so it was impossible for him to be Chang Zaiqing's brother. Shen Wan's personal servant was also shocked by the boy's appearance, but he still asked according to Shen Wan's instructions, "Do you know where Chang Zaiqing is?"

The boy looked at him warily and asked, "Why are you looking for my mother?"

Shen Wan closed his eyes.

Without a doubt, what the letter said was the truth. Chang Zaiqing indeed had a husband and son in Liuzhou. She hid it so well that no one found out. The servant said a few words to the boy and returned to Shen Wan's side to report. He carefully looked at Shen Wan and asked, "Master..."

"Investigate!" Shen Wan panted and said, "Send someone to Liuzhou to investigate! I want to know everything about Chang Zaiqing!"

The reason why Shen Wan admired Chang Zaiqing was because Chang Zaiqing was gentle, straightforward, and extremely talented. Moreover, she was pregnant with his child. However, if Chang Zaiqing had a husband and son in Liuzhou, all of this would become a joke! He would be laughed at for

helping someone else take care of his wife. Since Chang Zaiqing was so cruel as to abandon her husband and son, she was definitely not as gentle and considerate as she looked on the surface. What happened today utterly changed Shen Wan's impression of Chang Zaiqing, making Shen Wan feel extremely disgusted.

In the next few days, Shen Wan suddenly became busy. Every day, he would be out and about. Even when he returned home, he would go straight to the study. Chang Zaiqing did not get to see him. Occasionally, she would come over to deliver pastries to Shen Wan, but Shen Wan did not interact as intimately with her as before. At first, Shen Wan's attitude made Chang Zaiqing a little uneasy. Shen Wan's personal servant told Chang Zaiqing that Shen Wan had taken on an important task and was very busy. Only then did Chang Zaiqing feel relieved.

Shen Wan finally received a letter from Liuzhou.

The letter sent back by his people was the same as the letter sent by the stranger. After reading the letter, Shen Wan was so angry that he almost flipped the table. He actually married a married woman. Now that her husband and son had come to the capital, if they found Chang Zaiqing living with Shen Wan, he would probably become the biggest laughing stock of the entire capital.

Chapter 669 Going to Prison (2)

If that was all, it would be fine. What was worse was that he divorced Chen Ruoqiu and even became enemies with the Chen family because of Chang Zaiqing. If word got out now, people would look down on him. Shen Wan already felt a little regretful. Although his child was in Chang Zaiqing's stomach, he was afraid that his career would be ruined because of Chang Zaiqing. Between power and love, he would choose power without batting an eye. Moreover, at the thought that the woman sleeping beside him was someone else's wife, Shen Wan could not get over it.

He thought for a while and was about to give the order when he saw his assistant rush in and shout, "Master, emergency!"

Shen Wan frowned and said angrily, "Why are you so flustered?!"

The man handed a letter to Shen Wan with a trembling hand. For some reason, his gaze was evasive.

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Shen Wan looked at his assistant suspiciously. This assistant was his long-time subordinate who usually helped him deliver words to other colleagues..

After reading two lines, Shen Wan's face immediately turned ashen. If one looked carefully at his face, they would be able to see fear.

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In the imperial study, Emperor Wen Hui was in a fit of rage.

Emperor Wen Hui threw the memorial in his hand to the ground and sneered. The eunuchs beside him did not even dare to breathe loudly.

The memorial listed all the things that Shen Wan had done since a few years ago. The things he did actually weren't a big deal. However, Emperor Wen Hui was someone who had survived the bloodbath of brothers fighting for the throne. The memorial was extremely well-written with every line describing in detail the unusual relationship between Shen Wan and Fu Xiuyi.

Among Emperor Wen Hui's nine sons, the ones he was most at ease with were the crown prince and Prince Ding. After all, the crown prince was the rightful heir to the throne and was weak, so Emperor Wen Hui was not so on guard against him. On the other hand, although Prince Ding was outstanding, he did not participate in the affairs of the imperial court. In addition, Consort Dong was a person who did not compete with others, which pleased Emperor Wen Hui. Emperor Wen Hui saw the open and secret strife between the princes, but he turned a blind eye to it. As long as they did not go too far, he would be happy to see such a balanced situation. Once people had power, they would not be willing to let go. Seeing his sons grow up one by one, Emperor Wen Hui would also be wary.

What he hated the most was that the princes and officials got too close, although this was an unavoidable outcome, for example, his nine sons each had a group of supporters. However, when he learned that the son who was most indifferent was also involved in the power struggle, Emperor Wen Hui couldn't accept it. On the contrary, he was even angrier than usual.

Emperor Wen Hui slowly realized Fu Xiuyi had been pretending to be neutral and unconcerned about the throne.

"Make an example of Shen Gui," Emperor Wen Hui said with a dark expression, "All of them think I'm easy to fool. In that case, I'll show them who the emperor is."

...

The situation in the imperial court was always unstable. If one committed a crime, they would fall to the bottom rock from the top in the blink of an eye. It would be considered lucky if they could get away without losing their heads. However, in most cases, not only would they lose their heads, but even their families would be implicated.

Shen Wan was among the unlucky ones.

After the lawsuit between the Shen and Chen families a few days ago, people of the Shen family thought that life would return to normal. Unexpectedly, a group of officials suddenly came to the Shen family to arrest them. Some curious commoners asked around and learned that Shen Wan failed to do his job well in the court and implicated the entire Shen family. They did not know what the crime was, but the commoners were easy to fool. However, some smart people could tell that this matter was unusual. What crime was so serious as to anger the emperor to the point of wiping out the entire Shen family?

Chapter 670 Going to Prison (3)

The commoners passing by the Shen mansion would point at it and gossip. As they spoke, they talked about the mighty general, Shen Xin. Two years ago, Shen Xin insisted on splitting up with the Shen family. Later, they removed Shen Xin's name from the family genealogy. Unexpectedly, it was a blessing in disguise for Shen Xin and his family.

When Shen Miao heard this, she only smiled indifferently. Luo Tan clenched her fists and said angrily, "They deserve it. Back then, they humiliated First Uncle and Aunt. If they knew that the first branch was unscathed, they would probably be boiling with anger."

Luo Ling thought for a moment and shook his head. "What crime did Third Master Shen commit to deserve such a severe punishment?"

Shen Miao said, "It's rare to see His Majesty so angry. I guess he must have done something atrocious. Anyway, it has nothing to do with us."

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Luo Tan nodded. "That's right. Then let's wait and see."

Shen Qiu looked at Shen Miao with a worried expression and wanted to say something but hesitated. After Luo Ling and Luo Tan left, Shen Qiu did not leave. He pulled Shen Miao into the room. After locking the door, he asked Shen Miao, "Sister, did you do it?"

Shen Miao didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Brother, why are you blaming me for everything? I don't have the ability to tell His Majesty what to do."

Shen Qiu rubbed his forehead in frustration and said, "Sister, I know that there are some things you don't want to tell me. However, things in the imperial court are not as simple as you think. Sometimes, it looks like you'll win, but a sudden turn of events will pull into the abyss..."

After he rambled on, Shen Miao said helplessly, "Brother, to be honest, this has nothing to do with me. Shen Wan was imprisoned because Chen Ruoqiu stabbed him in the back. Back then, Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan had an ugly fallout. Do you think Chen Ruoqiu will let it go?"

This time, it was Shen Qiu's turn to be surprised. He asked, "Chen Ruoqiu?"

"Chen Ruoqiu has lived with Shen Wan for so many years and knows everything about Shen Wan. It's easier for her to stab Shen Wan in the back than for others." Shen Miao said, "Shen Wan was harmed by his wife and got the entire Shen family in trouble. What does it have to do with me?"

When Shen Qiu heard that, he thought for a moment before looking at Shen Miao suspiciously. "How do you know so much about this?"

"I can't wait to see them suffer, so I planted some people in the Shen mansion to monitor their every move."

"It's too much of a coincidence..." Shen Qiu widened his eyes and looked a little comical. "Sister, are you the one fanning the flames?"

Shen Miao smiled. "Brother, think whatever you want. All I can say is that I'm not in the slightest bit involved in any of these."

Shen Qiu looked like he was blown away. "Why are you so bold? If you..."

Shen Miao interrupted him. "Brother, when did you become so wishy-washy? It's just a small matter. The Shen family deserves it for falling into such a state. If Shen Wan didn't divorce Chen Ruoqiu, why would Chen Ruoqiu stab him in the back?"

Shen Qiu was dumbfounded by Shen Miao's words and attitude. It was not until he was sent out of the courtyard by Shen Miao's maid that Shen Qiu came back to his senses. He suddenly slapped his forehead. Shen Miao was clearly dodging his question. He did not know where she learned this trick. She was bold enough to use the officials of the imperial court as her chess piece, but she made it sound like she was extremely innocent. Shen Qiu was surprised. When did Shen Miao learn to lie without changing expressions?