

Attribution of Character "Jian Xiaocong's" Infidelity in Junils' Narrative

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Abstract: "The Boy Who Sings Love Songs, Please Don't Be Sad," published on July 1, 2010, by Chunfeng Literature and Art Publishing House, is a work of author Junils. This book narrates the obsessive love story of Jian Xiaocong. "Infidelity" traditionally refers to words or actions deviating from principles or exceeding established boundaries. In modern context, it typically denotes the act of one or both parties in a committed relationship or marriage engaging in intimate relationships outside their vows to fulfill emotional or sexual needs. The emergence of infidelity is linked to the concept of marital contracts. Jian Xiaocong had been in a three-year romantic relationship with He Wangchuan, whom she met in college. He Wangchuan was known for his strong personal abilities, academic excellence, and a stable, well-paying job post-graduation. His heart was solely devoted to Jian Xiaocong, making him an ideal marital partner. Yet, Jian Xiaocong chose to engage in an affair with Shen Zixiong, ending her three-year love story with He Wangchuan. Her situation was not one of enduring the tribulations of being cheated on. Nor was it a case of psychological warping caused by monetary influence or the pressures of a male-dominated society on women. The emotional bond she shared with Shen Zixiong was more about the undercurrents of desire hidden beneath personal secrecy.

Keywords: The Boy Who Sings Love Songs, Please Don't Be Sad, Junils, Love Triangle, Infidelity, Romantic Fiction.

1. Introduction

Jian Xiaocong is a first-year graduate student at University C. By a twist of fate, she meets the mysterious art teacher Shen Zixiong. Initially, they hold mutual disdain for each other. Post-winter break, Jian accompanies Shen Zixiong's class on a routine sketching trip to an ancient village, where they thaw their chilly relations. However, Shen soon receives heartrending news – his estranged yet deeply loved mother has died abroad, leaving behind nothing for him, not even her ashes. Feeling forsaken by the world, Shen returns home only to discover that Jian has moved out of her dorm and is soon to marry her first love, He Wangchuan. In a whirlwind of anguish and confusion, he comes to the painful realization that he is deeply in love with Jian – a lively and vivacious girl. [4] Unknown to him, Jian has also fallen deeply in love with him. Whereas her relationship with He Wangchuan can be depicted as an ordinary couple, merely suitable for each other, her bond with Shen Zixiong is akin to a scorching inferno meeting a deep freeze – intense and consuming. This exploration aims to unravel how Jian developed feelings for Shen Zixiong, flouting societal norms and ethical standards, leading to her infidelity. We will delve into the reasons by examining the narrative in its entirety. The analysis starts with Jian's physical rejection and acceptance. She is physically repulsed by He Wangchuan, showing aversion even to touching his belongings, let alone any physical contact. In contrast, she subconsciously accepts Shen Zixiong. On an emotional level, Jian's connection with He Wangchuan transformed into dependency, not affection, as she grew accustomed to his meticulous care after he became familiar with her lifestyle habits. Her relationship with Shen Zixiong, starting with initial aversion and evolving into mutual affection, blossomed into love, unbeknownst to both.

2. Complete Rejection of Carnal Desires

1. Repulsion

When He Wangchuan finished tidying up the medicines, he stepped into Jian Xiaocong's room, asking if she needed help organizing her clothes. Startled, Jian Xiaocong rushed towards him, her face already flushed with embarrassment. She stood guard at the door frame, hesitantly saying, "It's... not really convenient." He would inevitably have to touch her undergarments while organizing, a thought she found highly awkward.

This shows that although Jian Xiaocong and He Wangchuan are a couple, Jian is exceedingly reserved about sensitive matters between the sexes, even avoiding physical contact related to clothing.

He Wangchuan's expression darkens as he remarks, "You still repel me like this." This statement confirms his perception of rejection.

Jian Xiaocong's evasive behavior is perceived as rejection by He Wangchuan, leading to his profound disappointment.

Jian Xiaocong looks up quickly, confronted with He Wangchuan's evident displeasure. Burdened with guilt, she stammers an explanation: "It's not that I repel you. It's just that... helping with this kind of thing... I should not trouble you for..."

Her reluctant justification does little to dispel He Wangchuan's sense of rejection. He simply states, "Xiaocong, it's just organizing clothes." He, as a man in love, doesn't mind organizing her clothes; what concerns him is her discomfort with such an act.

In this incident, Jian Xiaocong cannot accept his help as a proof of not repelling him, despite it being a sign of his affection.

2. Jian Xiaocong's physical aversion to He Wangchuan subtly prepares the ground for their eventual breakup, setting

the stage for her infidelity. When Jian Xiaocong seeks to express her feelings and desires independently, her actions gain legitimacy in an era valuing romantic freedom, making her eventual affair more plausible.

3. When confronting Shen Zixiong, she recounted her experiences in Liang Village as examples:

This marks a pivotal shift in her relationship with Shen Zixiong. “Then tell me, Teacher Jian, how should I take care of them? Like you do with Li Chong? Do you realize your so-called ‘care’ is more like torture to him? Do you know that your lengthy lectures about responsibility and duty are merely your self-righteousness and unwarranted emotion? Don’t you see that you’re just an irrational, intrusive, and utterly exasperating woman?”

Jian Xiaocong was indeed hurt by these words. Raised in a nurturing environment with loving and protective parents, she developed a willful, self-centered, and spoiled personality. Accustomed to having her way, she rarely considered the feelings of others – a fatal flaw in her character.

After impulsively uttering these words, Shen Zixiong feels regretful, seeing Jian Xiaocong alone in the rain by the field, unable to bear the sight. He half-heartedly takes an umbrella from a farmer and hands it to Jian Xiaocong, then drapes his windbreaker over her. They later eat sour and spicy potato noodles, changing their views about each other and gradually accepting each other in their hearts.

Jian Xiaocong’s acceptance of and non-resistance to Shen Zixiong are evident when, after a party where she gets drunk, she unconsciously shows her tender side to Shen Zixiong.

As follows: Subsequently, with Xie Chenfeng’s help, Shen Zixiong finally manages to carry Jian Xiaocong on his back. Carrying her, he steps out of the farmhouse. Although Jian Xiaocong is drunk at this moment, the author does not describe her resisting Shen Zixiong’s act of carrying her. This unconscious acceptance, at the very least, is non-resistance.

It’s his first time carrying someone, and it’s a woman. When he realizes this “first time”, he also notices that he has given away many of his “firsts” recently – many, many of them.

Walking along the dim, narrow stone-paved path, Shen Zixiong pauses for a moment, hoping for a breeze to calm his mind. But the weather is not favorable, and there’s no wind tonight.

Actually, there is a breeze – Jian Xiaocong’s warm breath. Although it’s far from him, just hearing her faint breathing makes him feel as if he can physically feel it, as if her breath is tangible.

“Ah!” he sighs softly, then heads deeper into the alley, occasionally accompanied by the barking of dogs, making his quiet journey less lonely.

Jian Xiaocong’s hand, initially clinging to his shoulder and tightly gripping the edges of his knitted coat, suddenly lets go with one hand, reaching out to touch Shen Zixiong’s face. Startled and thinking she has awakened, he asks, “What are you doing?” No response comes, only her shallow breathing continues.

Her “paw” keeps caressing his face, not gently, but it freezes Shen Zixiong in place, unable to move.

Shen Zixiong also does not resist Jian Xiaocong, accepting her physically. Two people, mutually attracted and accepting of each other.

Moments later, her hand retracts and clings back to the coat corner, remaining still.

Shen Zixiong breathes a sigh of relief, deeply relieved. Internally, he laments that even in her drunken state, the

woman on his back can’t stay calm, and unconsciously, a smile slowly forms on his lips.

Just as he is about to continue walking, Jian Xiaocong suddenly moves on his back, making a crawling motion, then her warm face presses against his. Now, he doesn’t need to rely on the transformed sense of touch from her breathing. Her breath directly falls on his face, filling his nostrils, a slight turn of his head revealing her hair, nose, and pouting lips...

Shen Zixiong is stunned again.

His heartbeat at this moment is beyond overwhelming, feeling as if it might burst out of his chest.

After a while, he regains his senses and realizes he should move his face away.

But how can he? As he moves, Jian Xiaocong pushes his face back with her palm, mumbling, “Apply, apply.”

Then, her warm face presses against his again.

This time, Shen Zixiong doesn’t pull away.

That night, Shen Zixiong carries Jian Xiaocong on his back, walking back and forth on the stone paths of Liang Village, turning a fifteen-minute journey into over an hour.

That night, Shen Zixiong tragically realizes something – love can be such an unexpected affair, so sudden that you don’t know when or where you’ll fall for someone.

3. Diverse Emotional Fulfillment

1. Attitude Towards He Wangchuan in Emotions

He Wangchuan shows an incredibly meticulous level of care for Jian Xiaocong, attending to each detail of her life. For example, upon her arrival at C University:

“Heads up, temperatures in C City will drop on the 20th, make sure to dress warmly,” He Wangchuan’s gentle voice emanates from the phone.

“Avoid constantly eating instant noodles and sausages; they’re not nutritious. I’ve researched and found that the best meals are at the second cafeteria of C University,” says He Wangchuan, focused on his computer screen while thoughtfully managing Jian Xiaocong’s daily routines.

Despite He Wangchuan’s affectionate gestures, Jian Xiaocong doesn’t seem to reciprocate emotionally. This one-sided dedication eventually leads to misdirected efforts. However, it is precisely this level of care that fosters Jian Xiaocong’s dependence on him. Similar to how her parents resolved many of her challenges, she instinctively turns to others, like Bao Huan, or habitually to He Wangchuan for support. For instance, after being reprimanded by the university administration:

Immediately after the meeting, she calls him. He Wangchuan answers promptly, “Meeting’s over?”

Hearing her favorite piano album in the background, Jian Xiaocong feels a mix of warmth and melancholy: “Yes, just ended. Got a harsh scolding.”

Upon exiting the building, the chilly night air hits her hard, prompting her to wrap up in her coat.

“Get back to the dorm quickly. There’s a notable temperature drop at night in C City recently. I just checked the weather; it’s generally below 18 degrees Celsius. Remember to wear a thicker coat in the evenings,” advises He Wangchuan, his voice blending with the static of the poor connection, bringing comfort to her heart. Jian Xiaocong’s eyes start to well up with tears, overwhelmed by a sense of vulnerability and helplessness.

“I suddenly don’t want to be a counselor, don’t want to stay in C City, don’t want to...” she pauses, leaving unsaid, “don’t want to be away from you.” Jian Xiaocong holds back these

words, feeling guilty and selfish towards He Wangchuan. She perceives herself as bad for carelessly accepting his affection and stingy for her reluctance to reciprocate with even a simple, sweet phrase.

The author portrays Jian's discomfort with He as stemming from her difficulty in expressing her true feelings. A comprehensive analysis of the novel reveals that their relationship during university was predominantly driven by He Wangchuan's unreciprocated pursuit. While He Wangchuan's heart belonged solely to Jian Xiaocong, Jian's feelings for him were less clear. The relationship, initially unbalanced, likely continued due to a sense of compatibility rather than profound love. This minimal affection is starkly evident when, following their wedding photoshoot, Jian Xiaocong's devastation and anger lead to He Wangchuan's proposal of a breakup. Jian Xiaocong's subsequent heartache and feeling of loss poignantly reflect her true emotions.

2. Emotional Trajectory Between Jian Xiaocong and Shen Ziheng

Initially, when Jian Xiaocong first arrived at C University, her first encounter with Shen Ziheng was characterized by his indifference and aloofness, creating a sense of distance. As a counselor, Jian was infuriated by the disrespectful behavior of her female students in front of Shen, leading her to develop a terrible impression of him, believing him to be irredeemably flawed. However, the turning point in their relationship came during their time in Liang Village, highlighted by a photo Jian Xiaocong secretly took. The text describes:

"Yeah," Shen Ziheng nods in response.

At this moment, Jian Xiaocong feels a strange sense of tenderness towards him, akin to rescuing someone who has been drowning. Seizing her camera, she decides to capture this "obedient" side of him. The decision to snap the photo, from thought to action, takes mere seconds, and her camera gains a perfect profile shot in black and white. The white light casts small, adorable spots on Shen Ziheng's forehead.

"You actually seem quite approachable like this," Jian Xiaocong observes him through the camera lens, analytically adding, "You're not much older than me, why carry such a brooding demeanor all the time? Life is beautiful, the sun is warm. Constant gloominess makes you seem like you're whining without a cause."

Jian Xiaocong had long wanted to say this, anticipating his reaction to be either an indifferent glance accompanied by a "mind your own business," or no reaction at all. She wasn't hopeful about the impact of her words, but not saying them would leave her feeling uneasy.

Shen Ziheng's response, however, is unexpectedly different.

He gazes at her with a puzzled look for a while before finally saying, "Your words make sense."

Jian Xiaocong is sure she must have looked utterly astonished at his reply.

His simple acknowledgment of her insight causes Jian Xiaocong to fall for him completely.

Upon discovering this photo, He Wangchuan sparks a conflict between the two men. The following scene unfolds at C University, witnessed by Shen Ziheng:

"Head back to your dorm first," He Wangchuan says, picking up her luggage and offering his arm, which Jian Xiaocong gracefully accepts as they walk towards the dormitory.

White Lu, watching this scene from the sidewalk, starts the car with a mix of sarcasm and ridicule, "Enjoying the view?"

Shen Ziheng, ignoring him, reclines back in his seat and closes his eyes again. The sunlight seeps through the car window, casting a fluctuating light over his half-closed eyes.

Jian Xiaocong looks happy, and the man seems decent.

The flicker of otherness in his heart, therefore, can be reined in.

Fortunately, it's not too hard.

It's just a slight sourness at the heart's tip, a slight hollowness in the chamber.

4. Conclusion: The Affair of Jian Xiaocong

Jian Xiaocong's initial interaction with Shen Ziheng, characterized by his criticism of her presumptuousness, transformed into affection following a shared experience involving spicy potato noodles and an umbrella incident. A covertly taken photograph altered Jian's perception of Shen. Their relationship deepened during a movie night at the dormitory and a subsequent trip to Liang Village, leading to an affair that disregarded moral condemnation and ethical norms.

Confronted with the dual challenges of traditional morality and romantic love, as well as the conflict between duty and emotion, Jian, emotionally immature and pampered since childhood, ultimately yielded to her feelings, making an irrational decision. The fallout from her actions was severe. Her betrayal of moral principles led to significant suffering. She lost He Wangchuan, who cherished her deeply, while Shen Ziheng departed to France for advanced art studies. Even her friend Bao Huan distanced herself from Jian, leaving her alone and desolate at C University for years.

The catalysts for the affair include:

1. Complete physical repulsion: Jian Xiaocong was averse to physical intimacy with He Wangchuan, feeling discomfort even with his handling of her clothes. In contrast, she subconsciously welcomed Shen Ziheng's presence.

2. Emotional dissatisfaction: He Wangchuan was well-versed in Jian Xiaocong's preferences and habits, such as her penchant for instant noodles and vanilla ice cream. His thorough care fostered a dependency in Jian, resembling more a reliance than a romantic bond. Jian's initial aversion to Shen Ziheng gradually evolved into mutual affection and deep love, developing quietly and without their conscious realization.

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