A devoted queen had a loyal husband, whom she cherished deeply, and rarely strayed far from his side. One day, when urgent matters required him to depart, he visited a market where exotic creatures were traded and purchased a chameleon. This chameleon not only shifted colors masterfully but could recount every secret it witnessed. He placed it in a jeweled terrarium and entrusted it to his queen, urging her to guard it while he was gone. Then he left. Upon his return, he inquired what the chameleon had seen, and its account revealed truths that enraged him.

She suspected a rival lord had slandered her but learned it was the chameleon, and vowed to silence it.

When her husband next absconded for a night, she ordered one servant to shine lanterns into the terrarium, another to scatter spices beneath it, and a third to play discordant music beside it until dawn. The servants complied flawlessly.

The next morning, when the husband returned, he pressed the chameleon for answers. The creature replied, “My noble master, the blinding lights, overwhelming scents, and deafening sounds left me disoriented—I cannot recall the turmoil I endured.”

The husband, certain no such chaos had occurred, concluded the chameleon lied and hurled it from the terrarium, crushing it. Yet he later mourned, for he discovered the chameleon had spoken truthfully.