

Crazy 1041

Chapter 1041: The Genius Detective Without a Hexagram

Zhao Yu exited the police car. He was so tired he felt as though he could collapse at any moment. The Invisible Recovery Agent was slowly losing its effectiveness because of the side effects of the Energy Booster. His ears began to ring and he was so dizzy that even walking was difficult. Miao Ying had to help him up the last few steps to the ambulance. Worried about his injuries, she accompanied him inside.

Miao Ying had recorded Cheng Lingfei's testimony with her phone, so she passed the recording on to the central criminal division. She had also reported the details of Zhao Yu's prison break to Chief Jiao. Of course, Miao Ying was concerned about Zhao Yu. She tried her best to present solid evidence to back up Zhao Yu's sob story in an attempt to convince Chief Jiao. She wanted the Chief to understand that Zhao Yu was backed into a corner and had been forced to do what he did.

Jiao Guofeng comforted Miao Ying and told her not to worry. She would explain the situation to the higherups and do her best to protect him. After all, Zhao Yu had been a top tier detective who had solved many huge cases since he began. He was also on good terms with the Chief.

Miao Ying had expected that outcome. Even though Zhao Yu helping Jiang Ke escape prison was a serious offense, Jiang Ke had ultimately been caught by the police, and Zhao Yu had managed to solve a series of huge cases because of it. Because of this, not only would the higherups decide not to pursue the matter, they would give Zhao Yu an award!

Next, Miao Ying reported on details of Cheng Lingfei's case. After listening to everything, Chief Jiao was at a loss for words. She had never seen a case this complicated – from Wu Fangfang's murder to Jiang Ke's prison break, the barn fire, the Rural Homicide case, Cheng Lingfei's revenge murders, and even her crime syndicate. This was simply case-ception! Chief Jiao immediately activated the Emergency Team and escalated the case to a national crime.

Because Zhao Yu and Miao Ying were the first people involved, Chief Jiao decided that the post mortem investigations should be conducted by Zhao Yu and his team. But seeing Zhao Yu's current condition, the responsibility was ultimately passed on to Miao Ying. After that, Chief Jiao gave orders to several other units and requested they provide sufficient manpower to Miao Ying.

Miao Ying knew how serious this case was. Arresting Cheng Lingfei and her companions was only the beginning! There were many things to do from here on out. First, she had to cordon off Cheng Lingfei's residences and collect all evidence of her crimes. They also had to thoroughly investigate the secret chamber in the study room and everyone involved in the cases. Cheng Lingfei's companies had to be searched as well. Miao Ying would need to send in people to put a stop to her businesses and the people who had close working relations with her.

The investigations didn't stop with just people in the country. Cheng Lingfei's mother, who was overseas, would have to be brought back in for questioning. All of the funds she had stashed overseas would need to be settled as well to avoid repercussions in the future. All of this had to be done as soon as possible, yet her hands were tied...

Miao Ying glanced at Zhao Yu lying on the stretcher, only to find him fast asleep. He was even snoring! The medic told Miao Ying that Zhao Yu was simply exhausted and there was nothing wrong with him. She heaved a deep sigh and looked at him fast asleep, a wave of affection and pity washing over her. Lightly caressing his forehead, she removed her uniform and covered him.

This guy...She thought, complaining to herself. Why do you always have to scare me so badly? Can't you consider my feelings? Do you know that when you jumped off the plane, my heart almost dropped? I thought I was going to lose you! You jerk! I know we need to solve cases, but do you have to play with your life to do so? We are about to get engaged, take some responsibility next time! Do you hear me? Tsk!

Looking at Zhao Yu sound asleep, she couldn't help but smile as she mentally scolded him. Wiping her tears, she left the ambulance and got to work. Just to be safe, she ordered six armed officers to stand guard for Zhao Yu.

When Zhao Yu opened his eyes again, it was late at night and he was lying on a hospital bed. "Urgh..." Zhao Yu groaned, startling someone.

"Sh*t! Boss, boss! He's awake!" Ran Tao was the one who had spoken. He clapped excitedly and switched the lights on. "This is great! Boss, boss! It's me, Ran Tao!" Ran Tao teared up uncontrollably. "It's okay, you're okay!"

"Hey Ran Tao..." Zhao Yu rubbed his eyes and attempted to stretch but was immediately met with a wave of soreness. His back was in pain.

"Boss!" Ran Tao hugged Zhao Yu, crying. "You're truly lucky! You managed to survive after jumping off of the bridge! You deserve to be in the Guinness Book of World Records! Did you know I took a boat out to sea just to find you? It's really great you're alive!"

"Uhm..." Zhao Yu was obviously embarrassed by being hugged by such a big man. He tried to push Ran Tao away but he didn't budge.

"Stupid Jiang Ke, he actually dared to push you off the bridge! When I see him, I swear I'm going to beat him to a pulp!" Ran Tao sniffled, letting out a tear. "You really scared me... I thought you..."

"Alright, enough!" Zhao Yu pushed with all his might. "I won't die that easily, now get me some water. I'm about to die of thirst!"

"Oh, oh, oh!" Ran Tao hurriedly poured a glass of water. Zhao Yu felt much better after gulping down the water. He looked at his watch out of habit. It was already half-past two in the morning.

"Ran Tao, how was the case concluded?" Zhao Yu asked in a hurry.

"Leader Miao is fully in charge!" Ran Tao answered. "Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke are also back and interrogating the criminals as we speak! This case is simply too big, I don't think two months is enough to finish all of it!"

After that, Ran Tao briefly updated Zhao Yu on the progress of the investigation. Zhao Yu nodded, agreeing with Miao Ying's actions. He was satisfied with her delegation of the work to be done. "Oh,

right! I brought you this..." As he finished his sentence, Ran Tao brought Zhao Yu's luggage over. It was filled with his personal belongings.

Phew... Zhao Yu inhaled deeply and reached for his notebook. Lightly flipping it open, he used a black marker and drew a large checkmark next to the Rural Homicide case page. Yet another case solved!

Zhao Yu was happy. Even though the system was frozen and he couldn't open a new hexagram, he was still able to crack the Rural Homicide case and this gave him an unbelievable boost in confidence!

He felt that through this case, he had personally leveled up. As long as he had his perseverance and tenacity, even without a hexagram, he could still crack cases and be a genius detective!

Chapter 1042: Who's Lying?

While becoming more confident was definitely a plus, Zhao Yu still regretted not being able to open a hexagram and earn points or tools as rewards for completing them. After breaking such a big case, his completion rate wouldn't be as low as the last time he opened the hexagram, right? He had managed to get 40 tools back then as a reward, this time he didn't get a single one. How heartbreaking!

Alright. He thought. The next time I'm about to crack a case I'll open up the hexagram. Sigh! My tools... The more Zhao Yu thought about it, the more he felt like crying.

"Hey..." Ran Tao saw the checkmark Zhao Yu drew in his notebook. "Wow, boss! You've solved another big case! Out of five, you've already done three! I think your title as Janitor will be spread far and wide!"

Ha! Janitor! The mention of this brought on a wave of sadness. If it weren't for this nickname, he wouldn't have attracted such a big case! It seemed Chief Jiao definitely had foresight. It was probably better to lie low and not attract so much attention.

"We are left with the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case!" Ran Tao said, pointing at the case name in the notebook. "I think this last case should be it, right? We'll reveal the details of the Rural Cooperatives Homicide Case soon and it'll definitely attract a lot of debate! Undoubtedly, the person behind the Mountain Massacre will kneel before you in terror once this case hits the news! Ha! At that point, we'll all be living the good life..."

"Yeah, yeah, stop daydreaming..." Zhao Yu said. "Hey, I'm hungry. Get me some nice food!"

"Y-yes! I'll get it this instant!" Ran Tao excitedly sprinted out of the room.

After Ran Tao left, the ward was finally quiet. It was a single bed hospital room. Looking through the door at the silhouettes standing there, Zhao Yu figured that there were guards on standby. Everything outside the window was pitch black and the cold gusts of wind could be heard through the window.

Zhao Yu drank some water and ran through the details of the case from the beginning. He was worried there would be loopholes in Cheng Lingfei's case due to the large number of twists they encountered. Zhao Yu couldn't help but feel restless while thinking about that vicious woman. He had solved many cases and seen many different types of criminals, but none as special as Cheng Lingfei! To be able to keep control of such a huge criminal syndicate showed her extraordinary leadership skills. She was so smart, but she, unfortunately, lacked empathy which led her down this path of no return.

Thinking back on all the old criminals – some were extremely smart, some had lost all sense of rationality, some were vicious, some were grudgeful – but Cheng Lingfei had all those traits! She was basically Satan’s reincarnate.

Zhao Yu was not as ignorant now as he had been in the past. With Cheng Lingfei, he knew that despite all the injustices she had suffered, nothing could excuse her actions. There may be a story behind every crime, but people had to take responsibility for their actions.

Zhao Yu took out his notebook and began recording what he was thinking. The first thing he would do in the morning was to get in contact with Tai Shan’s police station to check on the state of his family and arrange some professionals to check in on his friends. Cheng Lingfei had mentioned that they had installed a remote-controlled bomb at Yao Jia’s post. Although it could have been a bluff, it was better to be safe than sorry. So, he had to arrange for people to check for and dispose of these threats.

Although Cheng Lingfei had been caught, it was not guaranteed that her lackeys would refrain from doing anything. On top of requesting help from the police, Zhao Yu was planning on hiring some professional bodyguards to protect his family and friends. He had tons of money anyway, a little bit less wouldn’t hurt.

Apart from that, Zhao Yu had one more important issue to settle. This was a matter of utmost importance and had to be settled immediately. Thus, he hurriedly searched through his luggage and found his phone. This phone had been thrown onto the road when he had helped Jiang Ke escape from prison. Because the phone had GPS, the police had found the phone quickly and ran a check. Then, Ran Tao went on to investigate and managed to retrieve his phone. The battery had long since died.

After completely charging his phone, Zhao Yu turned it on and saw that his inbox was full. His WeChat was flashing and he had a bunch of missed calls. There was no time to go through them one by one. Not caring that it was late, he made a call...

...

Zhao Yu’s habit of saving up for a rainy day had come in handy. At eight in the morning, Miao Ying hurriedly rushed into Zhao Yu’s ward with Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke. Everyone was excited to see their old colleague. Seeing that Zhao Yu was fine allowed them to relax. After everyone else had left, Miao Ying turned to Zhao Yu, visibly angry. “Zhao Yu, you rat b*stard! What are you hiding from me!”

“Wait, what?” Zhao Yu knew what Miao Ying was asking but acted dumb anyway. “Are you still talking about the Tai Shi Chair issue?”

“Tai your head!” Miao Ying crossed her arms angrily. “Yesterday, when Wu Xiumin interrogated Cheng Lingfei throughout the night, Cheng Lingfei said that Jiang Ke had died in the barn fire!”

Sh*t... Hearing this, Zhao Yu began to sweat.

“She said she saw Yu Sunfeng and Tu Lekai bringing Jiang Ke to the barn and them being swallowed by the flames with her own eyes! Because of that, we got in contact with the police at Yan Bian and had them verify his identity. They proved that it was indeed Jiang Ke!” Miao Ying continued, glaring at Zhao Yu. “So, why don’t you tell me exactly what happened? Either you or Cheng Lingfei must be lying!”

Chapter 1044: Suspension

It was hard to deny the impact Cheng Lingfei's case had on everything. Such huge cases were a rarity not just in Gao Lanqi, not just in Meng Xiang, but in the whole nation. In the days that followed, the police mobilized all available manpower to arrest Cheng Lingfei's remaining lackeys, both in and out of the country. They arrested a huge number of suspects.

Cheng Lingfei controlled a massive crime syndicate with links to various industries in the commercial sector. Additionally, through illegal means like wiretapping and hidden cameras, she was able to blackmail many people and had a firm grip on them. Searching through the blackmail information led to even more cases.

Miao Ying and her team were busy beyond belief due to the increasing workload. They had to slog through complicated tasks daily, and despite the head office sending more units to assist them, they were still unable to get much rest. It had been several days since their last visit to see Zhao Yu in the hospital.

Zhao Yu made use of this rare opportunity to take a break. Although he was obsessed with solving cases, the thought of the tedious paperwork, recording, cross-examinations, and filing irked him. He would much rather solve the Huayun Mountain Massacre case with his free time. Over the past few days, his injuries had recovered substantially and his burns had already scabbed over. His abrasions no longer required bandages and his mental health was in a good state.

Zhao Yu sat in his bed writing a report. He did not have to write the investigation report, but he did still have to complete the individual report that would ultimately decide his future. If he wrote it carelessly, he could be fired from the Special Investigations Team.

As this was linked to Jiang Ke's prison break, he had to write it with as much emotion as possible. Using his patented narcissism, he boasted about his heroic acts and placed less emphasis on the prison break. He had already written over ten pages, but Zhao Yu was editing some parts he thought were not exaggerated enough. At that moment, the door slid open and in walked Chief Jiao, decked in a trench coat. She held a flower basket in her hands.

"Ah, sis!" Zhao Yu said, hurriedly sitting up and reaching for the flower basket. "You shouldn't have!"

Chief Jiao smiled and sat down on the edge of the bed, observing Zhao Yu's surroundings. A few seconds later, she noticed his report and briefly flipped through it. By the end of it, she had burst out laughing. "Zhao Yu, your report! Why does it sound like something fit for a monument?" Chief Jiao said, covering her mouth as she laughed. "This is way too shameless! How can you praise yourself this much in a report?"

"Uhm..." Zhao Yu replied. "Sis, I am only describing the facts! The real-life situation was even crazier than this! I've already toned it down, really!"

"You're still just as playful!" Chief Jiao was unable to contain her laughter. "Speaking of which, jumping off of a plane is something I thought I'd only see in movies! This time, I tip my hat to you."

"Haha! You're too kind," Zhao Yu said, quickly pouring Chief Jiao a glass of hot water from the kettle.

“Zhao Yu,” Chief Jiao said as she took the cup. Her face became serious. “I’m here to deliver some news to you. The higherups have instructions.”

“Oh? But I haven’t even submitted my report!” Zhao Yu pointed at the document and tilted his head. “I thought I was supposed to personally undergo questioning at the office? Why is there a verdict already?”

“Well, it’s not a good verdict!” Chief Jiao said solemnly. “Your performance was excellent in regards to Cheng Lingfei’s case, plus you made huge contributions to Wu Fangfang’s murder and the Rural Homicide case, so the higherups have decided to give you an award. But at the same time, you’re suspended from your duties for three months!”

“What?!” Zhao Yu froze. “So, they give me an award, but suspend me for three months? Isn’t that a little contradictory?”

“Well... Zhao Yu, the award they’re giving you is unprecedented,” she answered.

“What do you mean?” Zhao Yu asked.

“What do I mean? I mean that they really like you and are doting on you!” Chief Jiao looked around before she whispered, “To tell you the truth, you don’t even have to write the report. You can relax, we all know you were coerced into helping Jiang Ke break out of prison. Even if Jiang Ke had actually escaped, we would still think of ways to protect you!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu said, nodding softly. Although he knew Chief Jiao’s words were meaningless, he still felt the warmth.

“Zhao Yu, do you remember what I told you when you were being stubborn about cracking the Devil case? I have seen many geniuses crash and burn, me stepping in was also to protect you, you get that now, right?” Chief Jiao asked him.

“Yes, I understand completely!” Zhao Yu nodded. “A tall tree attracts the wind, Cheng Lingfei has already taught me that lesson!”

“Good. So, your three-month suspension is just to send a warning to others. Other than the enemies you have hiding in the shadows, there are your colleagues to think about! Regarding Jiang Ke’s case, the criminal office will no longer pursue it and will even be rewarded! But, this time, you have to be more careful than you were back then. We really want to protect you, you’re our trump card.” Zhao Yu nodded. He finally understood the pains behind the leaders’ decisions.

“Out of the five province cases, you’ve already cracked three in just half a year!” Chief Jiao complimented. “Nobody else in the criminal office would be capable of doing that. So, we hope you can maintain this attitude, regardless of what prize or punishment you receive, so that you can reap better rewards in the future.”

“Sis, say no more! I understand!” Zhao Yu said. He was convinced. “Actually, I also wanted to take a break. Constantly coming face-to-face with these near-death encounters is really starting to take its toll on me.”

“Oh? Although I said you were suspended, I didn’t say you could rest,” she said.

“Wait, what...?” Zhao Yu was confused.

“You don’t have to worry about Gao Lanqi!” Chief Jiao said. “Over the next few weeks, you have an even greater responsibility. We’ve already drawn up plans for you. We want you to go through training at the police stations all over again! This is so you can impart your experience to our comrades! If there can be more like you in our industry, it would be our best weapon against criminals!”

“What the h*ll!” Zhao Yu was about to curse but changed his mind. “I fell for your trick again!” Chief Jiao had already scheduled Zhao Yu for training before the new year. It seemed like no matter what he did, he was unable to escape this...

Chapter 1045: Similar Outcome

Ji Zhou Province, Chang Ming City, Martyr Cemetery

A funeral procession took place at 10:00 a.m. After numerous requests from the Criminal Department, the local government approved Wu Fangfang, leader of the department, to be buried next to Shi Hai’s tomb. The pair of heroes would finally be able to rest in peace next to the person they loved, giving everyone a sense of closure. Even though Wu Fangfang’s death was not as tragic as Shi Hai’s, her contributions through the years had been outstanding.

The Criminal Department held a grand memorial service for Wu Fangfang at the procession. The head of the department had written a eulogy and joined in the mourning. Standing in the crowd, Zhao Yu was distracted. When he saw how her children mourned and seemed to feel the weight of all of the sadness in the world, it was as if he was transported back in time to Leader Qu Ping’s funeral. Even though the two officers possessed different characters, they were dedicated to their jobs and comrades, and their premature deaths were a waste.

Sigh! Zhao Yu couldn’t help but let out a sigh while listening to the eulogy Chief Jiao gave. He suddenly thought of Wu Fangfang back in Bai Ling city when she had too much to drink at the restaurant. Back then, he had felt that she was violent and annoying—if only he knew how much pain and emptiness she had inside her heart! Whenever he thought about this, he would regret what he had done to her at Jin Ping. He shouldn’t have judged a book by its cover. He probably wouldn’t have hated her so much if only he had understood her story.

Following Chief Jiao, Zhao Yu took part in Wu Fangfang’s funeral as the sole representative of his team. Miao Ying and the remaining team members were still handling Cheng Lingfei’s case. “Uhm...” While looking at Wu Fangfang’s tomb, Zhao Yu whispered to Chief Jiao. “Although it’s an honor to be buried in the Martyr’s Cemetery... will her parents object to her not being buried with her family?”

“This was her parents’ wish!” Chief Jiao replied. “They said that when Wu Fangfang was alive, she mentioned that her biggest regret would be if she wasn’t able to be buried with her beloved Shi Hai, so...” Zhao Yu nodded. He had a newfound respect for Wu Fangfang’s dedication.

“Leader Zhao...” A few police officers came up and greeted Zhao Yu. It was Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai. They had been Wu Fangfang’s subordinates.

“Leader Zhao!” Liu Zhanbing shook hands with Zhao Yu excitedly. “We’re really thankful for you! Without you, our leader Wu... sigh...”

“What?” Zhao Yu didn’t understand what Liu Zhanbing was trying to say.

“Yes, yes!” Xu Hai said, wiping his tears and nodding. “When I saw the photographs of sister Fang and Jiang Ke, I felt like my brain was going to explode! That was the infamous thief Jiang Ke! Sister Fang’s reputation was ruined, and if the photographs hadn’t been clarified, everything would have been a mess!” Only then did Zhao Yu understand why they were thanking him.

“It’s all thanks to Leader Zhao,” Liu Zhanbing continued. “If you hadn’t found out the truth, sister Fang’s reputation would have been ruined! And not just that, she’d be suspected of being in cahoots with a thief, which would have tarnished her name further!” While they were speaking, a few of the remaining team members shook hands with Zhao Yu.

“If it weren’t for you, sister Fang wouldn’t have been able to be buried here in the Martyr’s Cemetery with Brother Shi Hai! All of this was because of your efforts!” Xu Hai said.

“Leader Zhao!” Another colleague chimed in. “Saying thank you isn’t enough. From now on, if you need us, just let us know! We’ll help you without question!” With that, they bowed to Zhao Yu as a show of gratitude.

“Ah, don’t, don’t,” Zhao Yu hurriedly waved his hands. Bowing felt inappropriate at such an occasion. “Brothers, I appreciate your good intentions. Let us be closer in the future!”

“Yeah!” Chief Jiao said, nodding. “Next time, everyone must mirror Leader Wu Fangfang’s attitude and handle cases seriously. That will be the best way to honor her!”

“Yes, yes, yes...” The small crowd nodded. If it wasn’t a funeral, they would probably have been clapping. Zhao Yu felt relieved. Although he had suspected Wu Fangfang of wrongdoing initially, finding out the truth had ultimately helped her.

“Leader Zhao!” Liu Zhanbing came forward and spoke to Zhao Yu quietly. “To tell you the truth, a long time ago, Leader Wu sent us to investigate Cheng Lingfei!”

“Oh? Really?” Zhao Yu asked, surprised.

“Yes!” Liu Zhanbing said. “It was a really long time ago and was meant to be a secret mission. Sister Fang wanted to check if Cheng Lingfei was doing anything illegal. Such a pity. Back then, we thought it was just business cases and didn’t really notice anything else, so we concluded that nothing was going on. We didn’t know there was this much going on behind the scenes! I didn’t expect it. I think back then, although sister Fang didn’t know the extent of Cheng Lingfei’s evilness, she probably already had some suspicions. If only we had known, we would have investigated further!” Liu Zhanbing shook his head helplessly.

“You guys cannot be blamed,” Zhao Yu said. “Leader Wu recognized that the guy who took the photo with her was Jiang Ke, so she suspected Cheng Lingfei and Jiang Ke were in cahoots. Hence, the investigation. But, Cheng Lingfei... this woman was always on guard and had been watching Wu Fangfang’s every movement, as well as watching all of you. She knew in advance, that’s why you weren’t able to find anything!”

“It seems like when it comes to personal gain, feelings mean nothing,” Xu Hai said sorrowfully. “They were such close friends, but, in the end, she still did this to sister Fang. How cruel!” Conversations continued among various people, and when the funeral ended, they all saluted the tombstone and left separately.

Chief Jiao took the opportunity to introduce Zhao Yu to several superiors over a meal. As they sat around the dining table, the higherups had nothing but praise for Zhao Yu—praise for solving the unsolved cases, praise for having both brains and brawn. Zhao Yu also took the opportunity to show off as much as he could.

After dinner had finished, Chief Jiao’s secretary took Zhao Yu about his planned schedule. The schedule was not too intensive because of his injuries. Providing training to officers meant plenty of time to rest. The first stop on the list was for him to return to Qin Shan to do paperwork training. He could take that opportunity to visit his family and friends.

After bidding goodbye to Chief Jiao and the others, Zhao Yu started on the journey home alone. Taking the high-speed rail was the best option for Zhao Yu, as the airport was remote. While waiting in the hall, his phone rang. The call was from Li Luoyun.

“Officer Zhao, there’s something I have to report!” Li Luoyun said. “Jiang Ke has woken up!”

“Oh? Really?” Zhao Yu’s eyes lit up. “That’s great! Quick, ask him about Cheng Lingfei and see if we missed anything!”

“Uhm... I’m afraid that might be difficult...” Li Luoyun said awkwardly.

“Huh? Why?” Zhao Yu could tell something was wrong. “What’s the problem?”

“Jiang Ke is awake, but...” Li Luoyun hesitated. “He lost his memory. He can’t remember anything—not even his own name!”

“What?!” Zhao Yu was shocked.

Li Luoyun had switched to a video call to let Zhao Yu see everything for himself. A confused Jiang Ke was in the middle of the white ward, pacing up and down, continuously touching things. He stopped in front of a white switch and kept flicking it on and off, a sickly curious expression on his face.

“D*mn it!” Zhao Yu couldn’t believe it.

“I was worried he was faking it, so I got the doctors to observe him for a while before reporting to you,” Li Luoyun said. “The doctors have already confirmed that not only did he lose his memory, but his mental state might also be compromised!”

“Will he get better?” Zhao Yu asked.

“It’s hard to say,” Li Luoyun said. “The doctors couldn’t guarantee whether he would get better, but in his current state, it probably won’t be any time soon!”

Sh*t! Is this a cruel prank being played by God? Zhao Yu wondered as he watched the now mentally slow Jiang Ke on his screen. Perhaps this was all fate. Tao Xiang from the south and Jiang Ke from the north—one was a thief, the other a bandit, yet they had suffered a similar outcome!?

Chapter 1046: The Lesson That Came Late

The sound of roaring laughter came from the conference hall in the Qin Shan Police Station. In front of hundreds of police officers, Zhao Yu pointed at Jin Zhenbang and said, "If you don't believe me, ask him!" Hearing this, Leader Jin suddenly felt embarrassed and nervous.

"Without old Jin's reminder, I wouldn't have thought of holding a press conference and getting the entire village to hunt the devil down!" Zhao Yu said, clapping his hands excitedly. "Old Jin's words definitely enlightened me. He said, 'Xiao Zhao, you cracked the case of the Headless Female Corpse and became famous in the Criminal Department. If you're not scared of being fired, then just do what you want!'" Upon hearing what Zhao Yu said, the crowd couldn't help but laugh.

"That's an exaggeration..." Leader Jin clarified hurriedly. "I didn't say anything like that..."

"After thinking about it, I realized, he's right! The demon case had already reached such a point so I just went with the flow. Even if we didn't make any great achievements, as a criminal case officer that is part of the job, so... that's what I did!" Zhao Yu said. "And hey, guess what! A miracle happened. It truly showed the strength there is in numbers. In less than 24 hours, I got a tipoff from the public that there was a survivor in the Devil case..."

Oh... There were murmurings in the crowd as they listened to Zhao Yu's description, completely engrossed. The crowd couldn't help but listen even more attentively. After the training, all the officers clapped, thoroughly impressed by Zhao Yu's speech. After dismissal, the superiors at Qin Shan Police Station threw a welcome party for Zhao Yu at a place nearby to show their appreciation for his speech. The various leaders were all old acquaintances of Zhao Yu's.

On one side sat Head Director Hong. He was not demoted after the failure of the Liu Qiao case. Instead, he was given a stern warning and continued to work under supervision. On the other side were Zhou Andong and Liao Jingxian, the two deputy directors. There was also Detective Head Feng Wei and Luan Xiaoxiao, amongst others.

Zhao Yu had returned to the police station with a new reputation. He was no longer a mere police officer. His relationship with the Central Criminal Office meant that regardless of the level of influence, the other leaders at Qin Shan Police Station respected him. Because of this, according to the usual practice, the leaders of Qin Shan not only entertained him but also personally accompanied him. As a Qin Shan resident, they even set-up a fancy banquet for him.

The minute he heard about the banquet Zhao Yu was back to his usual tricks. Before getting on the bus, he asked Director Hong if he could invite his two oldest friends, whom he had not seen for a long time.

"Oh? Sure!" Director Hong replied. "So, who are your friends?"

"Economic Investigation Leader Liu Changhu and the deputy captain of the criminal police team, Wang Shengyu!" Zhao Yu smiled. "We're really good friends, let's all enjoy this banquet together!" After hearing the names, Zhou Andong and Liao Jingxian's faces turned purple. These weren't friends, they were enemies!

“Oh... okay!” Director Hong said excitedly, not understanding the grudges they held. “That’s great! Liu Changhu and Wang Shengyu are no outsiders, so it’s more than okay!” Waving his hand, Director Hong got his secretary to inform the two immediately. Seeing what was happening, Luan Xiaoxiao sneered. In her heart, she knew that Zhao Yu had always been vengeful, and this time there would be a good show to see.

Sure enough, Liu Changhu and Wang Shengyu came to the banquet. After all, it was on Director Hong’s request, how could they not? Their faces, however, were far from happy. They knew how vengeful the ‘hooligan’ Zhao Yu could be, and after hearing that he had personally picked them, they knew he was up to no good. To that day, Liu Changhu had regretted confronting Zhao Yu. If only he had tolerated Zhao Yu’s arrogance, then he wouldn’t be in that situation!

He couldn’t understand how Zhao Yu had climbed up the ranks so quickly. From a simple police officer to a famous national detective? It was almost like a rags-to-riches fairytale! It didn’t matter what caused it, the night’s banquet was bound to lead to something bad. After meeting at the hotel, Zhao Yu had even instinctively gone to hug the two of them. This only made them even more frightened.

Director Hong continued hosting the banquet, completely unaware that anything was wrong. He naively thought they were really good friends. Just as expected, after eating a few mouthfuls, Zhao Yu started his plan in motion.

“Leader Liu, long time no see! I’ve missed you! But let’s not speak just yet, we should have a shot!” Zhao Yu said, raising his glass towards Liu Changhu. He took a full glass of white wine and swallowed it all. Liu Changhu was stumped. Although it was difficult, he put aside his feelings and downed the full glass of white wine. From the look on his face, one would think he had drunk poison. However, the fun had just begun. Zhao Yu refilled his glass and repeated it with Wang Shengyu. Wang Shengyu had no choice but to drink.

After the second glass, the atmosphere surrounding the table was tense. Liao Jingxian wanted to say something to break the ice but he realized that Zhao Yu had drunk two glasses of wine and still hadn’t bullied them. If this was the revenge, then it seemed pretty reasonable.

Liu Changhu and Wang Shengyu felt uncomfortable after the one glass and couldn’t eat any more food. Zhao Yu continued to eat and make toasts, talking and laughing merrily. After finishing one lap around the table, he was back to Liu Changhu. Zhao Yu drank an entire glass again, forcing Liu Changyu to drink first, followed by Wang Shengyu. After another cycle, he raised his glasses to them again.

Seeing how sick the two of them looked, Zhao Yu graciously allowed them to drink half the cup while he drank his full glass. After the fourth round, Liu Changyu and Wang Shengyu couldn’t take it anymore. One of them was lying on the table while the other was vomiting on the ground.

—

In the evening, a burst of laughter could be heard from the Liu Heshun Hotpot Restaurant. Zhao Yu and a group of colleagues from the Rong Yang branch were having a get-together. Zhang Jingfeng, Liang Huan, Li Beini, Lan Bo, Zhang Yaohui, Xiao Liu, and the others were all present.

“Oh!” Lan Bo said. “Next time, we finally have someone to cling to! Brother Yu, when there’s a vacancy in the Criminal Office, you have to remember us!”

“Yeah!” Zhang Jingfeng patted his chest. “I am really good at finding people, so next time when there’s an opportunity, don’t forget about me!”

“Rest assured!” Zhao Yu drank an entire glass of beer. “I, Zhao Yu, have always been aware of who’s kind to me and who’s not. Brothers, as long as I am well, I guarantee you all will live well too!”

“Hey, hey! How can you just talk about your brothers! You have a sister here too!” Li Beini said.

“Brother, you know my abilities. If there’s anything good you have to count me in!”

“Don’t worry, come, come. Let’s drink!” Zhao Yu said, standing and toasting everybody.

“Oh, right!” Lan Bo suddenly remembered. “I heard my father say you got Liu Changhu and Wang Shengyu extremely drunk?” Bo Lan’s father was the head of the city bureau and had also been a guest at the banquet.

“Yup,” Zhao Yu nodded. “But I had water inside my wine glass, so in fact, I was also quite uncomfortable after drinking so much!”

“Ah! No wonder!” Bo Lan replied.

“Hey, this was only a warning! If I really wanted to mess with them, it wouldn’t just be drinking wine till they collapsed!” Zhao Yu said.

“Well...” said Zhang Yaohui. “Brother, taking pleasure in revenge is not wrong... but you’re someone from the criminal office now, you really have to stop doing this. They didn’t deserve it either.” Everyone nodded in agreement.

“I understand!” Zhao Yu said. “But you guys don’t know that when I was competing for this special group, someone sabotaged me and caused me to be kicked out. I have figured out a long time ago that they were behind it!”

“Oh...” Only then did everyone understand.

“They bribed the criminal department with a gift, then secretly removed my pass. If it wasn’t for the judges being touched by my outstanding performance, I’m afraid they would have gotten what they wanted! There would be no Detective Zhao today!” Zhao Yu said. “So, this is a lesson I definitely had to teach them so they’ll never oppose me again!”

Chapter 1047: Big Move

After drinking with his old colleagues, Zhao Yu and the gang went to a KTV they used to frequent and sang until they were satisfied before returning home. It was already late and Zhao Yu had no intention of disturbing Jiang Dafeng’s family. The house he had rented had been left to gather dust for some time and would be uncomfortable to sleep in. In the end, he chose to stay in a nearby hotel rather than return to Shun Feng Street. After checking in, he took a shower, gave Miao Ying a call, then went to bed.

With no cases to work on, Zhao Yu thought he’d be able to get a good night’s rest. Alas, after tossing and turning, he was unable to fall asleep. Earlier that day, after teaching Liu Changhu and Wang Shengyu a lesson, Zhao Yu had intended to see their family. However, such information was confidential and he

would have had to request permission from the higherups. According to regulations, the earliest he could see them was the next afternoon.

Before this, Zhao Yu had already made plans. Following the dissolving of Cheng Lingfei's group, he would lift the protection order on his family so they could once again be free. They had been under guard for way too long. Any longer and his parents would grow sick of that lifestyle. That wasn't to say there would be no protection. Zhao Yu had already made arrangements through a reliable source for professional bodyguards to be on standby at all times.

Opening his eyes, he stared at the dark ceiling. His heart was in knots. He had punished Liu Changhu and Wang Shengyu cruelly, but when he had seen them vomiting, he felt that everything he had done was meaningless and he regretted his actions. In the past, Zhao Yu would have been thrilled. Why did he find it boring now? Could it be because of Cheng Lingfei's influence? Was his hatred being overcome with love?

After some serious thought, Zhao Yu finally understood! The reason was that he had matured. Through solving the various major cases, he was no longer the arrogant hooligan detective he used to be. The process had taught him humility and improved his character. If he had been the old him, he would have no qualms about torturing Liu Changhu and Wang Shengyu to death. Now, he didn't want to give those scum any attention. Competing with them would just mean he was lowering himself to their level! But this also made him feel like a boring man.

After thinking about how he had changed, Zhao Yu began thinking about his future plans. At that time, out of the five major country cases, only the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case remained. Naturally, solving it would be the next step for him to have proper closure. Unlike in the past, the higherups understood and supported Zhao Yu's endeavors. But because he had accepted the three-month suspension, getting permission to reopen the case would be impossible.

Miao Ying could apply for the case even though Zhao Yu couldn't. If she was successful, Zhao Yu could act as the mastermind behind-the-scenes and still take part in the investigation! But she was also very busy and judging by the current situation, it would take another two to three months to clear up Cheng Lingfei's case. By then, his suspension would be over anyway.

Was Zhao Yu supposed to wait three months? No. His engagement to Miao Ying was in three months, he would be preoccupied by then. Should he wait until his engagement was over? Or... could he investigate this secretly?

No. Thinking about past consequences, Zhao Yu scrapped the idea. He was already the center of attention and many people were watching him. He could no longer cause trouble. But even if he didn't investigate, just reading about the case shouldn't be a problem, right? Huayun Mountain was about 2,000km away in Fu Lai Province. This wasn't in his schedule, so how was he supposed to get to the crime scene? Zhao Yu thought about this for half a day and still couldn't come up with an idea. In the end, he dozed off into dreamland.

Despite sleeping late, Zhao Yu got up early the next day and drove away from the hotel. He decided that he would visit Leader Jin in the morning. Since the yellow notebook was written by Leader Jin, he figured he should discuss the final case with him.

Two of Miao Ying's vehicles had been parked at Qin Mountain. Ever since returning from there, Zhao Yu had been driving the Phaeton. While driving towards Jin Zhenbang's residences, he recalled two things. First, he realized that his current location was very close to Qin Mountain Middle School. As it was a school day, he could visit his goddaughter! Ever since Jiang Ke's prison break, Zhao Yu had been thinking about her. Since he was passing by, he figured why not stop in?

The second thing he realized was that it had been a long time since he opened the last hexagram. Since the time the system had locked itself down, he had been injured and mentally exhausted so he had not tried to open it. Since he was planning to discuss the Huayun Mountain case with Leader Jin, it was the perfect chance to turn it on and mess around with it. If he opened a good hexagram, he'd be able to receive clues about the case. That would be wonderful!

Thinking about the possibilities, Zhao Yu eagerly opened the system and then opened a hexagram without hesitation. He had felt refreshed and comfortable, but after opening the hexagram, he immediately felt odd. There were only two words in the middle of the system – Gan Li!

God d*mn it! In that moment, Zhao Yu felt like everything had shifted to black and white. He cursed in his head. Stupid system! Why are you screwing with me! After not touching you for a few days, the minute I turn you on you play games with me? Is this real? Gan Li Hexagram... what on earth is this?!

Zhao Yu realized he had never seen this combination before. The 'Li' represented friends and friendship and sometimes represented a man. It even represented criminals like Dou Zili. Did that mean the 'Li' represented Leader Jin? But 'Gan' meant getting back together. Was it predicting that something big would happen after seeing Old Jin?

The more he thought about it, the more he felt like it would never end. Just then, he saw the sign for Qin Mountain Middle School. In his heart, all he wanted was to see his goddaughter and make sure nothing would happen to her.

He turned the steering wheel and drove towards Qin Mountain.

Chapter 1048: Self-Improvement

F*ck! After contacting Jiang Xiaoqing on the phone, Zhao Yu couldn't help but sweat. It seemed the hexagram's power was not to be underestimated. Even something as simple as meeting his goddaughter could cause a huge fuss.

"God-dad! Why are you here?" Jiang Xiaoqing asked, pushing her bicycle as she exited a small alley outside of her school. Although he had called in advance, she was still surprised.

"Why am I here?!" Zhao Yu could not care less about answering and pointed straight at Xiaoqing's damaged bicycle pedal and torn trousers. "Why not tell me what exactly happened to you instead?"

"Uhm, this...?" Xiaoqing pouted and glanced at the alley unnaturally.

"Don't tell me you were knocked over by a car?" Zhao Yu held on to the girl's shoulders as he asked. "I, your god-dad, have really sharp eyes. Quick, tell me which b*stard did this to you!"

"You... you're amazing! How did you know I didn't fall on my own?" Xiaoqing asked, surprised.

“Your eyes sold you out! Quick, tell me what happened!” Zhao Yu answered.

“It’s not a big deal...” Xiaoqing said. “It was just some squabble between the students. Don’t worry, I’ll tell the teachers and let them handle it! That’ll probably be better.”

“Da*mn it, who dares to bully my goddaughter? Do they want to die?” Zhao Yu said. He stormed towards the school, seething with anger. “Let’s go, I will accompany you to find your teacher, no, the principal! If the principal doesn’t settle this then I’m escalating it to the ministry!”

There were security guards at the school entrance and the moment they saw Zhao Yu marching towards the gates they rushed forward to stop him. Zhao Yu pushed them away and the security guards hit the wall, scaring the students standing off to the side.

“Dad, god-dad! I beg you!” Xiaoqing grabbed on to Zhao Yu. “It’s really okay, it’s just a small issue between us. If you kick up a fuss now then no one will dare be my friend in the future!”

Uhm, that’s true... Zhao Yu thought. As a detective, it wasn’t his place to interfere with student affairs. “Fine, then tell me the name of the person who bullied you!” Zhao Yu said.

“I don’t know, they’re all seniors! And, they, uhm...” Xiaoqing quivered. Zhao Yu saw three tall girls pushing their bikes and staring intently at him and Xiaoqing. They had come from the alley.

“Wow, this straight-A student works fast!” The tallest girl said scornfully. “You’ve already tattled to your parents? Are you going to tell the teacher later? Well, that’s no surprise. You’re our school’s panda, after all, an endangered species who needs protection!”

“Hehehe, hey uncle! Don’t listen to what she told you. We were just cycling and she hit us, she deserved it, really!” Said another girl.

Jiang Xiaoqing shook her head helplessly. “I’m just a freshman, how could I dare to make trouble with bullies?”

“Uncle!” The tallest girl said scornfully. “You see that attitude? After offending us, not only is she not apologizing, but she still dares to be arrogant. How did you teach her growing up?” All three girls sneered.

“Alright, here’s my solution,” Zhao Yu said, almost speechless. “Let’s do this, you guys square off one more time!”

“What? Are you crazy?” The tallest girl said, giving Zhao Yu a look. “Hey, straight A’s dad, are you some gangster?”

“I like to settle things this way. Why don’t we all go back to the alley and solve this? The three of you will fight with my Xiaoqing. If she wins, you will never bully her again, okay?” Zhao Yu said. “Rest assured, I will not get involved, I’ll wait here!”

“This...” The three girls were in shock.

“God-dad, are you crazy?” Xiaoqing asked, rolling her eyes.

“Don’t worry!” Zhao Yu said. “Women should be able to fight their own battles. After you beat them once, they’ll never bully you again! You just have to remember the fighting techniques I taught you and punch them hard!”

“God-dad, when did you ever teach me?” Xiaoqing frowned.

“Pft! God-dad? What an odd pair!” The tallest girl said. All three girls laughed.

“Don’t you worry about whether or not I’m odd,” Zhao Yu said. “If you don’t fight today, then the next time you see my daughter you can call her your god-mum instead!”

“F*ck!” The tallest girl was now agitated and kicked her bicycle aside, walking up to Xiaoqing. “Alright then, come on! You asked for it, so you better be ready for the consequences!”

“Lame...” Xiaoqing was about to leave when she was stopped by Zhao Yu.

“No problem, we will take responsibility, but you guys better do so too!” Zhao Yu pushed Xiaoqing into the alley.

“Ha, idiot! You guys don’t know that I’m a Taekwondo black belt!” the girl said.

Zhao Yu had placed an Energy Booster into Xiaoqing’s body and while doing so, had told her telepathically that it didn’t matter what belt she was! A few minutes later, a scream could be heard from the alley. Then a second, and a third scream followed. After about four or five, the three girls fled, running out one by one, each with dirty clothes and a swollen face. Jiang Xiaoqing walked out of the alley, staring at her hands in awe.

“That can’t be, I didn’t even put in any effort! God... god-dad!” She grabbed onto Zhao Yu. “How is this possible? I hit them until they cried! This time the teachers will definitely call their parents...”

“Don’t worry!” Zhao Yu said, patting his chest. “With me around, they won’t just cry, they’ll wet themselves with fear! Remember this, we are honest people, but that doesn’t mean we should allow ourselves to be bullied! Do unto others what they do to you! Remember, girls must be strong...”

Chapter 1049: The Fifth Unsolved Case

Qin Shan Jing Jiang Central Park, 8:00am.

“Check!” Leader Jin Zhenbang exclaimed happily as he placed a chess piece down.

“F*ck!” Zhao Yu shouted. He was seated opposite Leader Jin and now filled with tears. “No, no, give me a chance! I won’t move my knight anymore!”

“Ha! No way!” Jin Zhenbang quickly grabbed hold of the piece. “Once a piece is moved, there’s no going back! Ha! Stupid chess piece, not so great now, eh?”

“Alright, alright...” Zhao Yu rolled up his sleeves and swept the pieces off the board. “Let’s go again. This time I won’t go easy on you! At first, I was living by the motto ‘respect your elders, love the young’. I knew that you had a favorite move so I gave you an opening, who knew you would take advantage of my kindness?! Come, get ready to lose this time!”

“Hmph! Come at me! Do you need me to give you my two cannons? Or maybe the king? Hahaha!” Jin Zhenbang took his teacup and drank happily. The sunlight was bright and gave off a sense of comfort despite it being winter.

Zhao Yu originally wanted to see Jin Zhenbang at his house, but after calling, it turned out Old Jin was at the park playing chess. So, Zhao Yu went straight there to find him. Old Jin’s usual chess buddies weren’t there so Zhao Yu ended up playing a few rounds with him.

Zhao Yu was setting up the chessboard as he secretly observed his surroundings. His Invisible Detector was turned on at the moment. He had no choice, the hexagram willed it. Based on the hexagram, Old Jin was a suspect so he had no choice but to be on high alert.

“You a**hole...” Leader Jin said as he arranged his chess pieces. “Why did you involve me in your speech? Don’t you know how shy I am? After the meeting, a bunch of people were laughing at me!”

“Ew! Don’t make me puke!” Zhao Yu said as he mimed himself vomiting. “If you’re shy, then pigs can fly!”

“F*ck you!” Old Jin scolded Zhao Yu. “You should know very well that I have no relation to the Demon case! Yet, for an upstart, you did pretty well. If it were me, I would not have had that courage!”

“Alright, enough praise! I’ll become arrogant!” After setting up the chessboard, Zhao Yu moved first with his knight.

“Starting with a defensive maneuver?” Old Jin observed. He had a well thought out plan and moved his cannon. “Don’t you see? I’m actually praising myself! Giving you the yellow notebook was my brilliant plan! A horse that can go a thousand miles is okay, but Bo Le the horse tamer is even better, right?”

“Ah, no wonder you always skipped my horse!” Zhao Yu complained. “After half a day, you’re equating me to a steed? But this steed did something incredible! Catapult forward!”

“Soldiers forward!” Leader Jin said calmly. “What’s so incredible?”

“The Rural Cooperatives Homicide Case has been solved by me and the culprit has been apprehended!” Zhao Yu said jovially, moving his horse again.

Old Jin’s chess piece fell and he stared with disbelief. “Don’t try to trick me! You’re using underhanded means to win, right?”

The police had yet to announce the news that the Rural Homicide case had been solved as the investigation involving Mian Jiguang was still underway, so all the police in Qin Shan had yet to find out. Zhao Yu decided that Old Jin was trustworthy and began to tell him a rough summary of what happened from start to finish.

Although it was a summary, it still took a full 20 minutes. As expected, Jin Zhenbang was dumbfounded after hearing what Zhao Yu had to say. He did not think Zhao Yu was capable of solving such a case, and he did not think the case would be so complicated!

“Checkmate!” Finally, after Zhao Yu finished the story, both his rooks had made their way into the enemy base, checkmating Jin Zhenbang. “Haha! I’ve finally won!” Zhao Yu said, snapping his fingers.

“Oh, Old Jin, this matter is still confidential so keep it a secret for now!”

“Uhm...” Old Jin lowered his head, still in shock, not believing the outcome of the match.

“Come, come, set up the board. Let me win another round!” Zhao Yu pushed the chess pieces off the board and reset them as he spoke.

“Ah, that’s too much man,” Old Jin said. He was no longer in the mood to play. “Back then when we were investigating, the murderer and Yang Zebiao were hiding in the bungalow behind the village cooperative society? How could it be? The local police even brought the police dogs to search, yet...”

“It was precisely because Cheng Lingfei dared to take a risk that the whole situation was so complex!” Zhao Yu said, sighing.

“You can’t look at it that way!” Leader Jin said, blaming himself. “If we had gathered more details from the start maybe the Rural Cooperatives Homicide Case wouldn’t have become a case in my notebook. Because Wang Xuejun used his position to give Cheng Lingfei’s mother an interest-free loan, if we had begun the investigation with her, perhaps the case would have been solved earlier! If so, then there wouldn’t have been so many more deaths to follow. Jiang Ke and Yu Fusheng wouldn’t have succeeded, and if they didn’t succeed then Qu Ping wouldn’t have... argh!” Jin Zhenbang shook his head and sighed.

“Alright Old Jin,” Zhao Yu said. “When a crime happens, there are many things that cause it. It’s impossible to predict. Whether it’s a coincidence or caused by humans, it’s out of our control. What we can do is to try our best, get to the bottom of the case, and seek justice for the victims!” As he said this, Zhao Yu placed down a chess piece. “Actually, I came here to find you today to ask about the last case in your notebook.”

“Ah, that...” Leader Jin had yet to regain focus. “Seems like out of the unsolved cases, the Huayun Mountain Massacre case is the last on the list, right?”

“That’s right!” Zhao Yu nodded.

“Okay...” Jin Zhenbang frowned. “I recall having told you this before, right? That when the case took place, I was back in Qin Shan as a team leader and wasn’t a part of the Special Forces?”

“No, you didn’t...” Zhao Yu said.

“Back then, I was back to square one!” Jin Zhenbang said. “The details of the case were related to me by an old colleague, so it won’t be as detailed as the other four cases! Although I had not experienced it first hand, due to the sheer severity of the case, I recorded it anyway!”

Ah, no wonder there was so little information... Zhao Yu thought to himself. It seemed like he would have to gather more information by himself in order to investigate the case. Unfortunately, he did not have the authority to carry out the investigation and would have to come up with another plan.

“Nine years ago, it was raining heavily one night. A family of four were all killed, and the murderer still roams free!” Jin Zhenbang explained. “After tracking down so many footprints and fingerprints, dispatching a massive amount of manpower, and searching for many years, the culprit is still not behind bars! It’s such an embarrassment!”

“Don’t say that!” Zhao Yu said. “Every unsolved case is that way for a special reason. Perhaps the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case has some hidden secrets!”

“Zhao Yu, I’m counting on you to find out the truth!” Old Jin said. “Solve all five of the unsolved cases and you’ll have earned your title as one of the best!”

Chapter 1050: Where is the Hexagram Pointing?

“Lil’ brat...” Leader Jin remarked, staring blankly at the chessboard. “Why do I feel like a few of my pieces are missing? There were definitely two cannons on the board, how is there only one now?”

“What kind of foggy memory do you have?” Zhao Yu asked, the corners of his lips curling up. “Take a good look, you’re finished this round! Just surrender!”

“What kind of joke is that! I move my cannon and take your wagon!” Old Jin said, moving his piece. “Little Zhao, the Rural Homicide Case can serve as a reminder to you! I think you can learn how to act by looking at the police officer who cracked the Reservoir Dismembered Body Case. Even after cracking such a big case, they chose to keep a low profile, and look! To this day we know who the killer is, but we still have no idea who apprehended him! Speaking of which, do you know anything about that case?”

“Of course! I’ve investigated it before!” Zhao Yu said. “The officer who caught the killer was from Wen Xi Police Station, but rumor has it that the person who solved the case had supernatural powers!”

“Supernatural powers? What kind?” Jin Zhenbang asked.

“Uhm... like clairvoyance? You know, if you touch something that belonged to the deceased, you’d be able to find the body, that sort of thing...” Zhao Yu said, picking up one of his pieces. “Old Jin, be careful, I’m going for checkmate!”

“What nonsense!” Jin Zhenbang looked at Zhao Yu incredulously. “Being able to find the body just by touching an item belonging to the deceased? If that’s the case, then how was the killer found? Isn’t your department a little too laid back?”

“That’s why I said it’s a rumor! I heard about it through the grapevine,” Zhao Yu said, putting his piece down. “Regarding that case’s data, it’s been locked away by the Confidentiality Bureau. Even us as police don’t have access to view it.”

“Ah, that makes sense!” Old Jin nodded his head in agreement. “Regarding the Bai Shan Reservoir Dismembered Body Case, it might be linked to some important case or individual, that’s why they came up with the supernatural theory! Xiao Zhao, if there’s an opportunity, why not investigate that too? Even though the killer has been found, there could still be some unsolved mysteries!”

“Then we’ll have to see if I’m lucky!” Zhao Yu said. “It’s not that I’ve never thought about it before, but to have that kind of authority I would need to be promoted to at least province head. But you’re right. If there’s a chance to go to Wen Xi I will ask around and see who this person with the supernatural powers is!”

“Forget about the supernatural power! That’s definitely some nonsense made up by the officials to distract people,” Leader Jin said. He picked up a chess piece and laid it down forcefully. “Ha! You never thought I’d still have a trick up my sleeve, did you? Your board is finished!”

“What?!” Zhao Yu focused and checked out the state of the board. To think that he’d been beaten when he had been close to winning! In a fit of rage, he pushed the pieces off the board and removed the stolen piece from his sleeves. “I’m not gonna play anymore! I have to go do some actual work instead of sitting here talking about nonsense with an old man...”

“F*ck you! And you said you didn’t steal?” Old Jin scolded. “What a cheater! To think you would use such underhanded methods against me...” Old Jin was about to throw the pieces at Zhao Yu, but Zhao Yu was already halfway to his car. Before he left the park, he turned back and smirked. The beautiful sunlight, clear skies, and flowers blooming in the garden radiated a sense of peace.

Zhao Yu sigh heavily. He had actually investigated the individual with the supernatural powers. At the start, he too had thought it was all a façade the police had come up with to cover up the Reservoir Dismembered Body Case. Much to his surprise, the person actually existed! They were actually able to find a body just by touching one of the items that belonged to the deceased.

Zhao Yu had speculated that the killer of the Bai Shan Reservoir Dismembered Body Case had left behind parts of the corpse, and that was why the person with the supernatural powers had been able to find them. The world truly was large and filled with wonders!

The system in Zhao Yu’s mind gave even more credibility to the possibility of this individual existing. He thought that if this person was a police officer, it’d be even more amazing. To crack such cases one by one would be like a game! If there was an opportunity to work together, it might even benefit Zhao Yu!

Speaking of the system, Zhao Yu remembered the hexagram he had just received. His conversation with Old Jin had ended but he had not met anyone special. Could it be the ‘Li’ wasn’t actually referring to Jin? Thinking back to the chess game, it seemed that not only had nothing special happened, but he had also not asked about the Hua Yun Mountain Massacre Case. Was the Gan Li hexagram trying to say a new case was about to unfold? Zhao Yu sat in his car thinking about it for over ten minutes and eventually decided it was meaningless. He started his engine and headed towards the gym.

He had yet to see his brothers, like Zhao Yang, and figured he should go say hello and maybe grab lunch. They were also male, so the hexagram could possibly be pointing to them. Once the hexagram reacted, there wouldn’t be peace. He had a feeling that something would happen at the gym.

However, nothing happened at the gym and he was able to chat with his brothers over a peaceful meal. The gym’s operations were stable and there weren’t many ups and downs. Zhao Yu’s brothers were following the rules and regulations, and even though their performance wasn’t exemplary, they were hardworking and had no complaints.

The brothers felt a sense of gratitude towards Zhao Yu. If it wasn’t for him, they would still be thugs wandering the street. Everyone appreciated the opportunity he had given them to turn over a new leaf and were glad that Zhao Yu had swung by.

Zhao Yu only had time for a simple meal without alcohol, as he still had to fetch his family in the afternoon. The family meeting also went off without a hitch. Based on the arrangement, after the handover he took his parents back to their old home. His brother had gone home earlier, as his children had to go to school.

Originally, his parents were unhappy that they had to be placed under police protection. Zhao Yu had lied to them and said that if they stayed in the safe house, they would be paid 50 yuan. This money ended up coming out of Zhao Yu's own pockets. His parents were elated to learn they could earn money from this, so for the ten days they ate and slept well. They even put on some weight! His mum was reluctant to leave.

During the handover, Zhao Yu also introduced the bodyguard he had employed. He lied and said the bodyguard was from the police and cost nothing so that his mom wouldn't worry about money. Family reunions were a joyous occasion, and his mom made dumplings for dinner. Everyone was in high spirits. At night, Zhao Yu did not detect anything happening with the hexagram. Lying in bed, he thought about his experiences with the previous hexagram, reexamining them.

If Jiang Xiaoqing's situation was considered a chance meeting, then it would at best be a 'Kan' or 'Xun'. The conversation with Leader Jin could be deemed 'Gen' if you pushed it, and the gathering with the others could maybe be a 'Li'? Also, Zhao Yu had just received a thousand-yuan bounty. This was probably from solving the By-the-book Killer Case. Any more rewards that came to him would probably be related to 'Zong'.

Then could it be the 'Gan Li' this time had no ominous meaning? Could the 'Gan' be a normal, peaceful reunion? Zhao Yu stayed awake until midnight, but the hexagram didn't seem to end. Did that mean it would continue into tomorrow?

As he thought about everything happening, his phone rang. He jumped up in shock. Who could it be at this time of night? He had already called Miao Ying, so who else would be calling him? Looking at his phone, he quickly answered the call. There came the voice of a woman sobbing.

"Li Zhu, is that you? What happened?" Zhao Yu asked, concerned that Li Zhu was crying this badly.

Cui Lizhu continued to cry. "Boss... my dad... he left!"