

Crazy 1051

Chapter 1051: Three Wills

Two days later, Bailing City, Nanjiang Province.

It was drizzling south of the Yangtze River. Despite people holding umbrellas, the mist still managed to wet their clothes. At a cemetery on the northern outskirts of the city, a funeral was taking place. It was especially sad due to how simple the ceremony was. There were no instruments playing, people singing, firecrackers, or even guests.

Technically speaking there was someone there, because Zhao Yu was standing in front of the grave in a black dress. However, his relationship with the deceased was difficult to define. The one laying underground was a prisoner who had been caught by Zhao Yu. It was Tao Xiang, the king of thieves!

Before Zhao Yu had gone to investigate Wu Fangfang's murder, the doctor had let them know that Tao Xiang was dangerously ill. It was because Cui Lizhu had been off taking care of Tao Xiang that she did not participate in the subsequent work. Tao Xiang's condition had been deteriorating. During the Spring Festival, Tao Xiang underwent two operations. Although the doctors had done their best, Tao Xiang died the night before last. This was the final curtain call for the king of thieves!

When Cui Lizhu told Zhao Yu the other night that Tao Xiang had gone, Zhao Yu was shocked. He initially thought that 'gone' meant that Tao Xiang had fled. Later, when he heard Cui Lizhu cry so dejectedly, he realized that what she meant when she said, "Tao Xiang has gone," was that he was never coming back.

Coincidentally, when Zhao Yu received the news, his Qian Li hexagram had ended. He was awarded for 230% completion and given several devices. Because of this, Zhao Yu had turned his attention to Tao Xiang. Just after Tao Xiang died, the hexagram ended immediately. Was he what 'Li' referred to? A policeman and a thief were never friends. This translation confused Zhao Yu.

Zhao Yu wondered, because of the 'Li', if Tao Xiang's death would have any other implications. Of course, for Cui Lizhu's sake, he had to go to Bailing in person to see off the king of thieves. At that moment, watching the simple funeral ceremony, Zhao Yu felt sad for Tao Xiang. Tao Xiang had no family, no children, and no friends. He had no idea how he came to be in this world, and despite having stolen numerous treasures, he had ended up with an illness.

The only good thing he had was Cui Lizhu, a daughter who he had by mistake. Although they had no blood relationship, Cui Lizhu was the only one who was closely related to Tao Xiang. If Cui Lizhu hadn't taken good care of him after he was stricken with his illness, he would not have survived for so long.

And also, thanks to this daughter, Tao Xiang's last worry was taken care of. Cui Lizhu gave Tao Xiang the ability to be buried next to her mother Du Manting and her father Cui Fangyu's graves. In some way, this allowed Tao Xiang to rest with the students of his tutor. Tao Xiang couldn't see them a lot when he was alive because he was a thief. Staying together in the underworld was at least a small consolation for him.

The people who helped bury Tao Xiang's coffin were hired by Cui Lizhu. As the rain poured down, they quickened their pace to finish. Seeing her father buried in the earth, Cui Lizhu cried, shaking. She was

the only one in mourning. "Dad... I have no one who cares about me now in this world..." Cui Lizhu was so sad that she knelt helplessly on the muddy ground.

Zhao Yu saw this and hurried to hold her. He comforted her, saying, "Don't cry, Lizhu, you still have us!" Hearing what Zhao Yu said, Cui Lizhu cried harder. The sky seemed to share her feelings, and the rain was getting heavier.

Later that night, after Zhao Yu helped Cui Lizhu wrap up the funeral, they came to a quiet western food restaurant for dinner. Cui Lizhu was wearing a black dress, and she was in a better mood. Maybe it was because she had not yet recovered from her grief, or because it began raining heavier outside, that she held a cup of hot water in her hands and her body was still shaking slightly. Zhao Yu pointed to the steak on the table, saying to her, "Um... Have some. That will make you warm."

Cui Lizhu sighed. She picked up the knife and fork, but she still had no appetite. Zhao Yu really did not know how to comfort people. It took him a long time before he thought of a few words to say. "Lizhu, it's all over. You must move on."

"I'm so grateful for you. What would I do without you?" Cui Lizhu's eyes turned red again as she spoke.

"Don't say that," Zhao Yu said. "We are families! I think your father would be very happy to see you as a special investigator!"

Cui Lizhu took a sip of hot water and said slowly, "Yes, when he found out what I did, he was really very happy. He wanted to thank you face to face. It's a pity that..."

"What do you mean, Tao Xiang...? He..." Zhao Yu asked, realizing something.

Cui Lizhu nodded and said, "Ten minutes before my father died, he had suddenly woken up and remembered everything. I was very happy at that time, but I didn't realize that it was related to what people often said about having a clear head before death."

Zhao Yu was a little surprised. After thinking about it he asked, "Oh... Unexpectedly... So... Did he mention Li Fei, the gemstone case, and the headless women case?" Zhao Yu asked to make sure Li Fei's confession was true.

Cui Lizhu shook her head and said, "Yes, but only a little... he didn't mention the headless women, but he mentioned Li Fei and the gemstones. He said Li Fei had the gemstones. But it was so hard for him to speak at that moment that I gave up asking for details... I'm sorry..."

"I'm just asking. It's not your fault!" Zhao Yu said as he handed the steak to Cui Lizhu.

"Um..." Cui Lizhu suddenly raised her head as if she wanted to say something. She hesitated.

"Oh? What's wrong?" Zhao Yu asked, immediately realizing something was wrong.

Cui Lizhu bowed her head again and thought for several seconds. Then, as if making up her mind, she said, "My father talked about three wills before he was gone! Um..."

What? Three wills? Zhao Yu frowned, but his eyes showed a tinge of excitement.

“His first will, obviously, is no longer important!” Cui Lizhu said. “He told me the location of his stolen treasures. He said that he had buried all of them under Du Manting’s grave and asked me to get them out. He then told me that Du Manting was my biological mother and Cui Fangyu was my biological father!” Zhao Yu nodded. He had already known this.

Cui Lizhu hesitated for a moment, then said, “The second will is not an actual will, but something he wanted to tell me. More like a confession! He said that he had killed a man!”

Zhao Yu was shocked. “Who did he kill?” he asked.

“His tutor,” Cui Lizhu said, sounding relieved to tell someone. “In his early years, Li Fei and my mother Du Manting killed their tutor’s wife by mistake. After that, their tutor was trying to kill Li Fei out of a need for revenge. Du Manting told their tutor that she was the only one responsible for his wife’s death.”

Then, Cui Lizhu said, “Tao Xiang strangled his tutor on the spot in order to save Du Manting from punishment! Later, because Li Fei was not there, Tao Xiang handled everything for Du Manting. Tao Xiang lied to the public, saying that the couple died of a sudden illness and he buried them in a hurry!”

Zhao Yu nodded, saying, “I didn’t expect there to be so many secrets behind this case. It’s really...” Just then, Zhao Yu asked, “Well...What about the third will? The last will – what is it?”

Chapter 1052: Heritage of the King of Thieves

Two days later, in Sanlitai Longyu International Villa community, Beijing Xinglong District.

It started lightly raining again. The Sanlitai Longyu International Villa community was known for its beautiful villas, purchased mainly by foreign bosses that had come to Beijing to do business. Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu took a taxi to the community around 3:00pm. Zhao Yu had no luggage with him, and Cui Lizhu was carrying a red suitcase. Cui Lizhu grabbed her luggage, jokingly saying to Zhao Yu, “Boss, why does it rain wherever we go?”

Zhao Yu looked at the cloudy sky and said, “Yeah, it should snow, right? It’s still the lunar Jan.” Although it was raining, he did not feel too cold. They ran through the rain for a bit, finally coming to the guards’ pavilion. After Zhao Yu explained their intentions to the security guards, they asked Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu to wait at the door.

Cui Lizhu looked at the beautiful villas and the lush landscaping and sighed. “Oh, my dad has a good taste...” she said. “I had complained to him before that he was called the king of thieves and he hadn’t bought any property. But it turns out that...” She sighed and pushed Zhao Yu. “Boss, have you informed Leader Miao?” Zhao Yu nodded.

“Hum, you are fast! Right, she is your girl after all!” Cui Lizhu pouted her lips unhappily. She took Zhao Yu’s arm and asked, “Boss, in that case, can you beg leader Miao for something for me? You see, I’ve been honest about the property. Tell her not to report me, please? I was told that a villa in this community is now worth a hundred million. I really want to be a billionaire! How about I give you half.”

Zhao Yu pushed Cui Lizhu aside. "Stop that! Lizhu, what did I tell you before? If you earn it, then it's yours. We are honest people, so we follow the rules!" he scolded her.

Cui Lizhu pouted her lips again, saying, "You've become the son-in-law of someone who is rich. Can't I enjoy one day of being a billionaire? Just one day will do!"

Zhao Yu frowned, then turned to her. "This time, you did things the right way. If you don't tell me about big things like this, you'll be in trouble later on!" he told her.

Cui Lizhu crossed her arms. "Nonsense!" she said. "You are like Sherlock Holmes. How can I hide anything from you?"

Zhao Yu nodded, satisfied. "That's right, a good attitude will win you a bright future! Rest assured, it's not hopeless yet. I will help you as much as possible! Maybe...There's still a chance!"

Cui Lizhu's eyes lit up. "Oh? Is there?" she asked him.

"Yes. If you up my share of the villa by 80%, then maybe I'll think about it!" Zhao Yu told her in a serious tone.

"That is so you," Cui Lizhu replied, irritated. Just then, an electric car drove towards them from the community, and a man in a suit got out of the car. When the man saw Zhao Yu, he immediately came forward to shake his hand. "Nice to meet you. I'm Xiao Li from the Longyu International Project Development Department. We've talked on the phone before!" the man said, politely introducing himself to Zhao Yu.

Cui Lizhu greeted the man in a friendly manner. "Nice to meet you, manager."

"I'm so glad to meet you!" Xiao Li said. "The community was finished seven years ago, but villa number 36 hasn't had someone staying there. Now, it finally welcomes its owner." With that, he looked at Cui Lizhu carefully and asked, "Is this Miss Cui Lizhu?"

Cui Lizhu nodded. "This house... Is this really my house?" she asked excitedly. "Other than the password, I don't have any credentials!"

He pointed to the car and said, "Haha! You are the credential! You'll see. Come on... Please, both of you, come with me!" Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu did not hesitate. They immediately took their luggage to the electric car and went with the man.

It turned out that this villa 36 was Tao Xiang's last will. Tao Xiang told Cui Lizhu that he had planned for their future before his head was seriously injured, and that he had bought them a luxury villa in the suburbs of Beijing. Since Longyu International ran businesses overseas and Tao Xiang did his money-laundering overseas, he commissioned a consortium from the same area to purchase the villa under Cui Lizhu's name. This made Cui Lizhu the legal owner of villa 36!

After Zhao Yu contacted the person in charge, he confirmed this. So, after arranging Tao Xiang's funeral, he came to meet Cui Lizhu in Beijing so they could visit the villa. It was a three-story villa, 400 square meters in total, including a garage, a garden, and a swimming pool. According to today's market price, it was estimated that it would go for hundreds of millions. Seven years ago, Tao Xiang bought the villa at a price of just over 10 million yuan.

Manager Li spoke to Cui Lizhu at the desk in the Project Department. “Miss Cui Lizhu,” he said, “your password, fingerprint, and certificate have all been confirmed. We also have checked in with the overseas consortium entrusted by you. You only need to fill in a few more documents and pay the management fee for the last few years, then you’ll get your villa. On behalf of our company, I would like to give you a warm welcome.”

After listening to what Manager Li had said, Cui Lizhu did not show any excitement. Instead, she lowered her head. Obviously, she had regretted it. She was wondering if she hadn’t told Zhao Yu about Tao Xiang’s third will, would she be a billionaire now? She knew very well that although she was the legal owner, the money Tao Xiang had used to buy the luxury villa was not clean. So, the villa wouldn’t become hers in the end.

Cui Lizhu thought for a moment then asked, “Manager Li... Can we go in and have a look around today?”

“Of course you can!” Manager Li quickly answered. “I’ll take you there! Even though no one has been living in the villa for seven years, our company has been sending people in to take care of it. The villa is clean and ready for you. It’s okay for you two to stay there tonight! Come on...”

“Well...” Zhao Yu wanted to say something, but in the end, he decided against it.

“Wow,” Cui Lizhu said. “There must have been a ton of management fees that have added up over the years, right?”

As he led the way, Manager Li smiled and answered her. “Not much, not much,” he assured her. “If you add it all up, it’s only 250,000! Of course, in addition to the management fee, there are other charges, such as heating and maintenance. Those add up to no more than 500,000 yuan. Not a big number.”

Cui Lizhu gave Zhao Yu an undecipherable look. A few minutes later, Manager Li took Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu to villa number 36. The villa was surrounded by the green shade of plants, which was especially enjoyable considering the light rain. The courtyard of the villa was beautiful as well. The villa was a typical European architectural style. Flowers were in full bloom in the garden.

Manager Li opened the door for them. He took them inside and gave them a detailed introduction. The interior of the villa was well decorated luxuriously. After the introduction, Manager Li politely said to them, “I have applied for a three-day temporary access pass for Miss Cui Lizhu. In these three days, you can use your fingerprints to unlock everything. After you have followed the proper procedures, the villa will completely be yours.”

Cui Lizhu looked at the villa and nodded. “Thank you!” she said.

Before Manager Li left, he said, “Because there are always people maintaining this villa, the facilities are good. If you want to eat here, you just need to pick up some necessities. If you want to eat out, there are high-end restaurants in this community that you can eat at or order take-out from. I have to say, the French food in this community is really good, but you need early reservations.”

After Manager Li left, Cui Lizhu was almost crying. She took Zhao Yu’s arm in a coquettish way and whispered to him, “Boss, I love it so much. I’m ok with you taking 80%.”

Chapter 1053: Zhao Yu’s Bad Idea

Zhao Yu was lying on a large bed in one of the bedrooms of the villa. "This bed is so soft, much better than the top hotel's!" he told Miao Ying over the phone.

"Good for you, a beautiful villa and a beautiful lady," Miao Ying teased him. "You are really enjoying yourself. Tonight, you might as well have a good time with her, so that I can get rid of you!"

"Hey," Zhao Yu said quickly. "I'm just joking. If I wanted to sleep with her, I wouldn't have called you and told you about the villa. You've agreed that I should stay in the villa. I've got your approval. And, I could have slept with Cui Lizhu when you left me. But I didn't. You should trust me!"

Miao Ying yawned wearily and said, "Okay, save your little speech. I trust you! But you know where Tao Xiang's money came from. You can't promise Cui Lizhu anything about the villa."

Zhao Yu yawned. "Rest assured! I know how to handle this!" he replied.

"You know bullsh*t!" Miao Ying scolded him. "I have consulted a lawyer. If Cui Lizhu wants to bring a lawsuit, it's hard to say what would happen. So, you'd better talk to her and help her see that this villa is not what Tao Xiang left for her, but illegal gains purchased with the money Tao Xiang stole from his victims!"

Zhao Yu scratched his head. After a few seconds he said, "Darling, I've got an idea. I promise you that I can solve this problem! It will satisfy both Cui Lizhu and the police."

"Really?" Miao Ying asked, curious about Zhao Yu's idea.

"It's easy!" Zhao Yu said, laughing. "Tao Xiang bought this villa with ten million yuan. So, if the police want to recover the stolen money, they only need to recover ten million yuan. If I pay the victims with my own money, Cui Lizhu can keep the villa."

"Then, I convince Cui Lizhu to sell the villa for 90 million yuan. This way we still earn 80 million yuan. I'll make 30 million yuan when we divide it. Don't you think this is a great deal?" Zhao Yu asked, proud of his plan.

"I really don't know what to say about your great idea! You can't think of a better way? After you give the victims the ten million yuan, she'll become the legal owner. Don't expect her to sell the villa." Miao Ying warned him.

"I'm going to threaten her," Zhao Yu said. "If she doesn't sell the villa, I will tell her that the government will confiscate it if she doesn't pay me the ten million yuan."

Miao Ying laughed and said, "She isn't a silly girl. If what you said is feasible, she could just sell the villa and keep the 80 million yuan for herself. Why would she share it with you?" Zhao Yu hadn't thought of this. He had counted his chickens before they had hatched. "I don't understand, how did you cheat ten million yuan from my dad before?" she asked him.

"Um...Um..." Zhao Yu thought for a while before answering earnestly. "I think this is what they mean when they say that great wisdom often looks like folly."

Miao Ying yawned again. "Don't be so naïve," she told him. "You know the recovery law. All illegal gains of criminals should be recovered or ordered to be payback! Any gains from an investment made with stolen money are also illegal gains, which should be confiscated and turned over to the state treasury. Even the property purchased with the stolen money shall be ordered to be returned."

"So, it's illegal," Zhao Yu said. "I don't think we need to talk about this any further. It's better if I waste my time on the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case."

"Keep this between us," Miao Ying said suddenly. "First of all, Tao Xiang has passed away. It will be hard to find out whether the money he used to buy the villa is illegal. Secondly, purchasing the villa through an overseas company is legal. And third, although Tao Xiang is a criminal, the legal owner of the property is Cui Lizhu. Cui Lizhu has no blood relationship with Tao Xiang. So, who really owns this villa is not such a clear matter!"

"In that case, don't bother. Just report it as it is. Let's see what your boss will say!" Zhao Yu replied.

"That's what I'm thinking!" Miao Ying said. "I don't have anything against Cui Lizhu, but I personally think that the villa should be returned! But you're right. It's not my place to say anything about it. Let's follow the proper procedure."

"Good, then you get to bed early! When you're done resting, let's apply for the last pending case. If we can break the Huayun Mountain case before our engagement, it'll be the best engagement gift," Zhao Yu told Miao Ying.

"Good!" she said. "Rest well. Remember to lock the door. Don't give Cui Lizhu a chance to take advantage of you!"

"Did you forget that Cui Lizhu is a thief? A lock can't stop her!" Zhao Yu joked.

"A**hole." Miao Ying swore at him, then hung up the phone.

Zhao Yu heard the sound of an adventure ending play from the system. The Kan Li hexagram ended with a 170% completion and he gained two devices as a reward. He felt like his hexagrams had stabilized recently. Although he had a Qian hexagram last time, nothing dangerous happened. He looked at his watch and saw it was almost midnight. He could start another hexagram already. So, he laid in bed, waiting patiently for the time to pass.

Zhao Yu looked at his door and felt strange thinking about Cui Lizhu sleeping in the bedroom next door. He thought that there was a high chance that he was going to get a Kan hexagram, as a Kan referred to a beauty. And once the Kan hexagram appeared, what would happen tonight?

It was midnight now. Zhao Yu couldn't wait even one more second to start a new hexagram. However, when he saw the hexagram, Zhao Yu got really upset. I haven't even had a few good days. What's this for?

Zhao Yu saw that the new hexagram showing on the interface of the system was Kun Dui. What was more surprising was that the door was suddenly pushed open!

Cui Lizhu ran in quickly from outside, shouting at him, "Boss, Boss, I need help!"

Chapter 1054: Treasure of the King of Thieves

Zhao Yu jumped out of his bed and covered his body with a blanket. His heart pounded as he looked at Cui Lizhu. "You...What do you want?" he asked her. "Don't try anything ridiculous. I'm loyal to Miao Ying."

Cui Lizhu turned on the light. "Stop that," she said in a helpless tone. "You're the ridiculous one. Boss, hurry up. Come and help me!"

Zhao Yu was curious. "What do you want me to do for you? Are you seducing me?" he asked. "I'd rather die..."

Cui Lizhu rolled her eyes at Zhao Yu, saying, "Come on, stop playing with me. Hurry up! I have something to show you!"

Zhao Yu took a deep breath. He couldn't help but peek at Cui Lizhu's chest. Cui Lizhu noticed and Zhao Yu looked away. "Well, to tell you the truth, my dad left some of his treasure in this villa," she said. "I've found most of it! If you don't come and help me, it's all going to be mine!"

Zhao Yu didn't understand. "What do you mean? Your dad left his treasure to you?" he asked. Suddenly, he remembered the Kun Dui hexagram. Kun meant a big event, and Dui meant treasure. Cui Lizhu mentioned there was treasure left by Tao Xiang, what could that be?

Zhao Yu jumped out of his bed, put his clothes on in a hurry, and followed Cui Lizhu out of the room. Only then did he notice that Cui Lizhu had changed into black sportswear and that she was sweating. Obviously, she had just done some sort of strenuous activity. "You're still hiding something from me!" Zhao Yu scolded her. "Now I know why you asked me to go through all of this trouble to come to see your villa thousands of miles away. I need to know what you are hiding. What the h*ll is going on?"

Cui Lizhu laughed, then said, "Before my father left, he told me that he had left something for me in the wine cellar in this villa. He asked me to take it out after he died. I didn't tell you, because I wanted to leave you a surprise! You know what I am capable of. Otherwise, I can totally do this without you."

Zhao Yu looked away and thought. She seems like she is not lying to me. If she wanted to hide it, she would not have asked me to come with her. Breaking and entering into this villa would have been an easy job for her even without my permission. But Zhao Yu still felt like there was something wrong. "Didn't your father hide his treasure in your mother's grave? What's all this about the wine cellar?" he asked her.

Cui Lizhu opened the door to the wine cellar using her fingerprint, then pointed inside and said, "Oh, my father was a careful man. He always had a plan B! Come on, I think we can find more treasure here than in the grave!"

Zhao Yu frowned slightly. "What you are doing isn't normal. You know, as long as you hadn't told me, you could have kept it all to yourself. But since now you've told me, I'm afraid I'll have to confiscate it all. I can't understand why you are doing this," he said doubtfully.

"Boss, I think all of your lectures finally got through to me. The five pending cases have almost all been finished. Now I don't want to hide anything from you. You know, I saw what my dad had gone through.

Gold can't buy me a normal and safe life, which now is the most important thing to me. I don't want to live my father's life anymore," Cui Lizhu said sadly.

Zhao Yu patted Cui Lizhu on the shoulder and praised her, excited. "Good! I will definitely help you with this. After we collect the treasure, I will report to my boss that you contributed greatly to my work. Then you will become official, and your past will no longer be something for you to worry about. I might also give you a big bonus for this," Zhao Yu added. "Just like what I found in Gold Buddha Temple, if your dad's treasure is worth a lot of money, you might not even have to give the villa back!"

Cui Lizhu gave him a thumbs up, but avoided looking at Zhao Yu. She pointed down into the depths of the cellar. "Come on, it's inside," she said. After they turned the light on, they saw that the cellar was practically empty. "Here... Here it is!" Cui Lizhu said, pointing to a stone pier in the corner of the southern wall. "According to my father, the treasure is buried under this stone pillar!"

Zhao Yu saw that the pillar sat symmetrically with a decorative stone pillar beside it, which would be used to hold wine barrels when completed. It looked extremely heavy. "Did you just call for help because you couldn't lift it? If you could lift it..." Zhao Yu asked, looking up at Cui Lizhu.

"I admit that I thought about putting you into a coma," Cui Lizhu said as she clasped her hands together, begging Zhao Yu to help.

"You..." Zhao Yu rolled up his sleeves. It took a great effort for him to move the heavy stone pillar even slightly.

"Wow, that's great!" Cui Lizhu applauded. She then helped Zhao Yu push the pillar, finally moving it out of the corner together. "Come on, Boss, it's all up to you now!" Cui Lizhu said as she handed Zhao Yu a huge hammer, asking him to hit the floor!

"Wait...Wait a minute..." Zhao Yu said. Right before he began hammering, Zhao Yu suddenly remembered what happened the last time he dug up some of Tao Xiang's treasure. He used a Metal Detector to scan the ground. It instantly set off an alarm. Zhao Yu stared, eyes wide, and felt his heart beating fast.

Brilliant! Tao Xiang. I thought that the treasure found under Du Manting's grave was all you had! Surprisingly, you still had other good stuff hidden away. Zhao Yu thought as he gripped the hammer tightly. Now I want to see what you left here. Zhao Yu hit the ground with the hammer, smashing it into the floor. A big hole appeared. He quickly put the hammer down and looked inside the hole. It was hollowed out inside. He and Cui Lizhu moved away the other broken floor tiles and a rectangular hole appeared.

Cui Lizhu turned on the flashlight with her cell phone. "It's a box!" she shouted, excited.

"Leave some space for me," Zhao Yu told her. He was more excited than Cui Lizhu. Zhao Yu quickly laid down, reaching his arm into the hole. Quickly, he picked up an old-fashioned box from below. However, while picking up the box, Zhao Yu felt that something was wrong. The box was not as heavy as he imagined, and he lifted it out with little effort. If it had contained gold, it would have been heavy.

Thinking about this, Zhao Yu was even more curious about what was in the box.

Chapter 1055: Tao Xiang's Secret

Although Zhao Yu was excited, he hesitated as he was about to open the box. He suddenly remembered the nightmare that had unfolded when he opened the metal box buried beneath the grave. Every time he thought about it, he was scared stiff. It took him a long time to get over what had happened. Would that happen again? The time he had found the head in the box, it was a Kun hexagram. This time it was also the Kun hexagram.

Unlike Zhao Yu, Cui Lizhu didn't hesitate. Even though she had also seen the head in the box before, she immediately reached out to open this box. Zhao Yu wanted to stop her, but she acted quickly. She had already opened it. Now they were able to see what was inside.

"No way!" Zhao Yu couldn't help but exclaim. "What are these?" There was nothing scary or dazzling in the box, just some old books and other normal things.

Cui Lizhu seemed to be familiar with the contents. She reached out and grabbed a broken doll while muttering, "This... it's my old toy doll. I remember this. This..." She picked up a pencil-box and said, "This is what I used in school. I hated throwing away my old things. My dad could fix anything up like new, he... He kept these for me!" As she spoke, she took out a photo album and opened it.

Zhao Yu looked at the stone pillar and hammer lying beside him as he thought about Cui Lizhu's reaction earlier. He finally realized something. "You were playing with me. You already know what was in this box, didn't you?" Cui Lizhu didn't deny it. Zhao Yu smacked his hand against his head and scolded her. "You were using me as your free labor!"

Cui Lizhu grinned at Zhao Yu then returned her focus to the photos in the album. Zhao Yu looked at the album and saw that the photos were very old, some of them were black and white. They were taken a long time ago.

"I guess..." Cui Lizhu pointed to a group photo as she said, "these might be my father's friends. Look, this one... Isn't this Li Fei?"

This aroused Zhao Yu's interest. He sat down with Cui Lizhu and looked at it attentively. The person that Cui Lizhu had pointed to was, in fact, Li Fei; the murderer of Headless Female Corpses Case. Li Fei and Tao Xiang looked very young in the photo. There were a younger man and a younger woman beside them. Zhao Yu quickly recognized them as being Cui Lizhu's biological parents, Cui Fangyu and Du Manting.

"They are thieves. Why would they take pictures of themselves?" Cui Lizhu stroked the photo. "Are they not afraid of others remembering their faces?" she asked, her voice full of emotion.

"Look at the background. It's in a studio!" Zhao Yu pointed to the photo, analyzing it. "Look at their smiles. They are so happy! I think they secretly took the photo without their teacher knowing about it."

Cui Lizhu nodded and turned a page. It was Du Manting's image. "My mother was truly a beauty," she exclaimed. "No wonder my father missed her so much. He couldn't forget her until the day he died!"

"But you don't look like your mother at all! Just a little bit like your father..." Zhao Yu said.

“Are you calling me ugly?” Cui Lizhu pouted and turned the page. Finally, the picture of a little girl appeared in the album. That little girl was no doubt Cui Lizhu in her childhood. “These photos... I’ve only seen a few of them!” Cui Lizhu recalled. “I didn’t know my dad kept all of them...” The old photos reminded Cui Lizhu of earlier times. She started crying again.

Zhao Yu wanted to comfort her, but suddenly he felt like something was wrong. He frowned as he asked her, “Lizhu, your father... What on earth did he tell you back then?”

“Huh?” Cui Lizhu asked, snapping back to reality. “What do you mean? Why do you ask?”

Zhao Yu pointed to the box and said, “Tao Xiang went through so much effort to bury the box in this hidden place. It doesn’t make sense if it’s only because of these photos.”

Cui Lizhu bit her lip. “Detective, do you become stupid when you are not busy working on cases? Why do you think anything is suspicious?” she asked in a strange voice. “My dad buried things here just to keep a precious memory safe for me! Look at these.” She put down the album and began to search for other things in the box. “Well, these things are from my childhood. Think about it. My father even told me about his guilt. Why would he hide anything from me?”

Zhao Yu stretched out as he looked through the books. “I feel like there is something here we still don’t know! Lizhu, think about it again. Did your father really say nothing more about this box? Um... And... What kind of books are these?” Zhao Yu said, sounding doubtful. The books all looked normal to him. Some had notes, some had handwritten scripts inside of them, and some were old vertically printed books. He turned several pages, on which besides the traditional characters, there were many delicate images, like industrial instructions.

Cui Lizhu had a look and said, “These are probably the thieves’ ancestor’s secrets.”

“They hand these down through every generation?” Zhao Yu asked. “Incredible.”

Cui Lizhu looked through the books as she spoke. “I actually don’t know much about the books. When I was young, my father mentioned them, but I wasn’t very interested. You know, science and technology are progressing so fast that you have to keep pace with the times if you want to be a qualified thief. What’s the point of learning these old skills? Ancient locks are different from modern ones.”

“Yes, but...” Zhao Yu took out another notebook and said, “Look at this one. It’s all useful stuff!”

Cui Lizhu took it over and saw that the notebook was densely filled with hand-written symbols including mathematics, physics, chemistry, and even biology. There were summaries as to how they could improve a thief’s skills. Cui Lizhu was amazed. “These were my dad’s notes. He was really hardworking!” she said.

“See, no matter what do you do, you have to make great efforts to reach the top!” Zhao Yu sighed and said, “I think your father kept these things to pass his legacy on to you.”

“No kidding. I told my dad what I’m now doing when he was still conscious.” Cui Lizhu shook her head and said, “He also wanted to thank you for helping me in person. But...”

“But what?” Zhao Yu asked Cui Lizhu hastily as he noticed Cui Lizhu’s strange look.

“You made me think of something!” Cui Lizhu said in surprise. “Didn’t you just ask me what my father had said about this box? I remember he did have something to tell me, but unfortunately, he didn’t finish. He had kept his mouth open, as if he really wanted to tell me something, but he couldn’t remember.” Cui Lizhu looked at everything again. She wondered what could be so important about this box.

Chapter 1056: What’s the Big Deal?

The dim light in the cellar made it hard to read, so they took the box upstairs and started to study the contents carefully under the lamp. Zhao Yu insisted on this mainly because of the Kun Dui hexagram, in which Dui represented treasure and was bound to mean something important when it appeared with Kun.

Influenced by Zhao Yu’s suspicion, Cui Lizhu felt that there should be something important with this box. As she looked through the items in it, she spoke to Zhao Yu. “At that time, when my father told me that he had left me this villa, he was very weak. After all, his head was badly injured. He didn’t just speak slowly; it also took a long time for him to think. He first told me that I could open the villa with my fingerprint, then he told me about the location. When he told me about the box in the cellar, he already looked terrible.”

“He explained to me bit by bit what was in the box,” she continued. “About how it contained all of these old things. He had something to say, but at that time, he was in a really bad state. He pointed around as if he had something important to tell me, but he could not say anything at all. I was worried about him, so I convinced him to rest. He took my hand and muttered something, but I couldn’t understand him.”

“Before long, the alarm on the monitor rang and the doctor came in. After that dad soon passed out...” Cui Lizhu said sadly. “When my father left, my mind was empty. I was in no mood to think about anything. But now I think he didn’t finish telling me what he wanted to!”

Zhao Yu nodded. “What he wanted to say must have had something to do with this box!”

“You’re right.” Cui Lizhu nodded. “If it’s all just worthless old things, my dad didn’t have to hide it in such a hard to find area.” Cui Lizhu took a close look at the outside of the box to confirm there were no hidden compartments.

“Think carefully, have you ever seen this box before?” Zhao Yu prodded.

“Well...” Cui Lizhu stroked her forehead, then shook her head and said, “I don’t think I have. But... I’m not sure. Maybe I saw it when I was very young, but I can’t remember it!”

“Well...Let’s calm down first...” Zhao Yu pointed to the items in the box, saying, “Some of these things are yours. Your toys, your pencil box, your photos, and so on.”

Cui Lizhu nodded. “And the others are my father’s! His items are mainly the books and the notes!”

“Well, let’s forget about your stuff for the time being! What can you think of regarding your father’s things? Have you seen these before?” Zhao Yu asked.

Cui Lizhu looked at them. "Some books look familiar to me!" she said. "When I was a child, I often saw him hunched over his desk reading, writing, and painting something at night, sometimes until very late. Sometimes even the whole night!"

Zhao Yu shook his head. "No wonder he was able to become the king of thieves!"

"My dad didn't like to use force, but he's not any worse than you when it comes to brains!" Cui Lizhu pointed to one of the notebooks and said, "Take this as an example. I had a brief look at it. It's about the Toshiba E3 safe! Can you believe it? My dad has worked out 27 ways to open this safe! You may not know anything about it, but more than a decade ago, this kind of safe was widely regarded as the safest one in the world, and many famous thieves failed to open it! My dad has 27 ways to open it. Do you see the difference?"

"Wow!" Zhao Yu nodded. "The king of thieves is indeed the king of thieves! I even believe he could rob a neighborhood with half a bag of instant noodles!"

Cui Lizhu frowned and said, "Boss, what am I doing? I feel so bad. I feel like something big is going to happen."

Zhao Yu took a look at the word 'Kun Dui' on the system interface and wondered how this girl's intuition could be so accurate. "You know what, I feel the same way!" Zhao Yu said frankly, then pointed to the box again as he continued. "In fact, if we carefully analyze it, we may have a chance to solve this riddle, right?"

"How?" Cui Lizhu pointed to the things in the box and said, "You at least have to read through these things, right?"

"No," Zhao Yu said confidently. "A great man taught me that we must see the problem clearly! Lizhu, the answer may be in you!"

"What? In me?" Cui Lizhu immediately felt motivated. "You are really extraordinary!"

Zhao Yu opened his hands, saying, "If we want to see the real problem clearly, the first question we have to ask is if there is actually something important in this box. What do you think?"

Cui Lizhu thought carefully.

"As you said yourself, Tao Xiang talked about his murder with you, and he also told you the location of his legacy. What other secrets can he have?" Zhao Yu asked her.

"Well..." Cui Lizhu thought carefully, following Zhao Yu's instructions, and answered, "It seems that the answer is no?"

"But... Have you ever heard about this before?" Zhao Yu reminded her again. "The most important thing is always left in the end! Don't you think that maybe the third thing is more important than the first two?"

"Murder... Is there anything more important than confessing his crimes?" Cui Lizhu shook her head. "Is it that my dad has unfulfilled wishes? He wants me to help him finish it?" she guessed.

Zhao Yu nodded as he thought it over. "Maybe that's a good idea! But what would he need as the king of thieves? Are there any safes that he couldn't open? Or is there a rare treasure that he couldn't get?"

Cui Lizhu suddenly jumped up, excited. "Do you think my father would have left a huge sum of money in the Swiss Bank and the withdrawal password is in these books?" she asked.

Zhao Yu hated her at that moment. "That's your wish. Your father was not stupid. If he really had done that, he could have told you directly. Why leave a puzzle for his daughter?"

Cui Lizhu frowned. "You are right. Besides, even if there is really a big sum of money, it wouldn't possibly be clean."

"What else can you think of?" he asked. "What matters more than the confession and the treasure?"

Cui Lizhu suddenly remembered something. She clapped her hands and said, "I just said that my father might have some unfinished wishes, didn't I? Yes, I remembered."

"Come on, what did you think of?" Zhao Yu asked hastily.

"When I was young, not too young in fact, at that time... Golden City! Yes, in Golden City..." Cui Lizhu tried to remember. "At that time, my dad really seemed to be studying something. He also repeatedly mentioned something about nationality, regrets, and so on! I remember that in such a cold winter, he still insisted on going to the mountains. And he left for a long time. Later, when we left Golden City, I also heard him often speak about it! I had a strong feeling long ago that besides stealing, he had been planning something big, but he never succeeded!"

"Whenever I ask, he never told me what he was planning! He just said that when I grew up, he would tell me," she said. "Boss, you think this is what my father wanted to talk about before he died?"

Chapter 1057: Notes of a Traitor

At midnight, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu were still busy working away at the desk. They were both excited and nervous. They didn't know what they would find in the box left by Tao Xiang. Cui Lizhu carefully cut the outer skin of the box with a knife and checked the inside boards, trying to find any hidden clues. Zhao Yu checked the contents of the box one by one, and looked through the old books as well as Tao Xiang's notes.

"Boss..." Cui Lizhu looked at the surface of the box using the magnifying glass function of her mobile phone as she asked curiously, "Does my father's plan have anything to do with gold? I've heard him mention it many times."

Zhao Yu looked carefully at the books. Without raising his head he said, "Really? In my opinion, it seems normal for a thief to talk about gold a lot."

Cui Lizhu began to let her imagination run wild. "Boss, maybe my dad discovered some amazing secrets? For example, Golden City is not just a name but it refers to the fact that there is really gold buried under the city," she said.

Zhao Yu put down an old book and picked up another notebook. "I heard Miao Ying say that the name of Golden City comes from the golden chrysanthemum outside the city."

"No, when I was at school, I heard people say that the city was built by the Yellow Towel Army after they retreated northward," Cui Lizhu said hastily. "The army was very famous at that time. Do you think they might have possibly left their treasure in the city? Did my dad get a clue about where it was located?"

"Although I am the discoverer of the Golden Buddha Treasure, I can tell you sincerely there are few treasures in this world," Zhao Yu responded. "Besides, the Yellow Towel Army was of the Eastern Han Dynasty. That's the Three Kingdoms time. It was so many years ago."

"It was only 1800 years away from ago," Cui Lizhu said. "I know that the history of Golden City isn't longer than the Ming Dynasty, but history is not absolute. Maybe there was an ancient city 1800 years ago, and it disappeared later. Maybe my dad got inspiration from the city name."

Before Cui Lizhu finished, Zhao Yu interrupted her, pointing to the black notebook in his hand as he asked, "Wait. Here... What is this?"

"Huh?" Cui Lizhu quickly put down her work and went over to Zhao Yu. Zhao Yu was reading a notebook. Cui Lizhu glanced at it, then became lost in thought for a moment. "Boss, this notebook, I remember it. When I was in Golden City, I saw it on my dad's desk. He had drawn something on it with a ruler."

Zhao Yu opened the notebook and saw that the first dozen pages in it were copies. He looked it over carefully and discovered that the copies were glued to the notebook. Zhao Yu asked, "What is this?"

Cui Lizhu looked it over as well and said, "I guess this is someone's memoir or letters. This looks old, and this kind of paper seems to be from a long time ago. Is it rice paper made for drawing?"

"Not likely..." Zhao Yu stroked the paper and found that the paper was very soft and thin. He wanted to identify its material with an Invisible Analyzer but was distracted by the words on the paper. The characters were all traditional style, and there were notes as well as some symbols in red under them. Obviously, the notes most likely had been written by Tao Xiang.

Cui Lizhu pointed to a spot on the page and said, "See that? Gold... Here." She pointed to another place and said, "Gold again." Zhao Yu also noticed the word gold. He turned several pages and found that the occurrence of the word was very high, almost on every page. "My God. Is it really gold? My father, he... What on earth was he looking for?" Cui Lizhu asked, both surprised and excited.

Zhao Yu recognized several words. "Look here, these two characters mean 'treasure'," he said.

Cui Lizhu grabbed Zhao Yu's shoulder excitedly. "Gold and treasure... Boss, had my dad been looking for gold treasure?" she wondered.

Zhao Yu felt that this was an important discovery, although he didn't agree with Cui Lizhu. He turned another few pages and saw that they were not made of the same sticky, old paper. He found Tao Xiang's notes. Tao Xiang's handwriting was beautiful and clear. There were drawings and maps on the last few pages, which confirmed what Cui Lizhu had just said about the ruler. Zhao Yu returned to the rarer paper and found a name at the end, Liu Dianchen.

“Liu Dianchen...” Cui Lizhu pointed to a small line behind the name and said, “It says ‘interrogation notes’? What is this?”

Zhao Yu snapped his finger as he said to her, “I don’t know everything. Google it, ok?”

Cui Lizhu did as she was told and in less than ten seconds, she found the answer. “Oh, this guy was a massive traitor,” she said.

“Ah? Traitor? What do you mean?” Zhao Yu wondered.

Cui Lizhu pointed to her cell phone as she said, “During the War of Resistance against Japan, this man was the director of the Ministry of Construction in the Puppet Manchukuo Government, as well as the chairman of the People’s Associations, and several chambers of commerce. After Japan’s surrender, he was captured by the military command and secretly executed.” Cui Lizhu frowned, asking, “Is this guy the traitor, or a person with the same name?”

Zhao Yu carefully read Tao Xiang’s remarks. “Look, here it says ‘interrogation’. I think it’s probably the same person. The interrogation records of a traitor? What are these notes about?”

“I guess this is what the prisoner wrote when he confessed to his crimes,” Cui Lizhu answered.

“Big traitor and gold treasure?” Zhao Yu asked. “The Puppet Manchukuo Government should have been in the northeast of China, where the Golden City is, so...”

“Is that the last thing my dad wanted to tell me? What did he find exactly?” she asked excitedly.

Zhao Yu was very excited as well. “Maybe the treasure has something to do with the Japanese,” he said.

Cui Lizhu pointed to the notebook, saying, “Although it’s traditional Chinese, we should be able to figure out what it says using my dad’s comments.”

Chapter 1058: The Ultimate Treasures

After reading the traitor’s notes and Tao Xiang’s remarks, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu were stunned. “Oh my god!” they both exclaimed.

Cui Lizhu pressed her chest to ease her rapid heartbeat. “I knew it was going to be something big. Why are my feelings always so accurate? Boss, now I understand what my dad was doing. He was indeed planning something big other than a robbery.”

Zhao Yu sighed. “Yes, he’s really the king of thieves,” he said. “No one ever matched his ambition. This is the ultimate treasure. But I doubt that he intended to take it even if he found it.”

“I think if my dad did find it, he would probably hand it over to the government. Maybe he thought it could make up for his mistakes and he would be able to be enlisted and offered amnesty,” Cui Lizhu said.

Zhao Yu reviewed the Kun Dui hexagram. Now he finally understood what this hexagram meant. It turned out that Tao Xiang’s notebook was about a collection of amazing treasures. It could be traced to

a theft thirty years ago. In that year, he snuck into a wealthy businessman's house and stole a lot of valuable goods, many of which were precious historical manuscripts.

Tao Xiang was an expert in his business. In order to determine the value of these manuscripts and find out how much they could sell for, he studied them carefully. Then, he was drawn in by the notes of a traitor from the Republic of China. After more research, Tao Xiang confirmed that the notes were, in fact, a document belonging to the top-secret documents of the military command. It recorded the military command's interrogation of a traitor named Liu Dianchen.

After the victory of the War of Resistance against Japan, the military command executed a large number of traitors. Liu Dianchen was the most notorious of those they executed. Because of this, the value of the notes was obvious. However, to Tao Xiang's surprise, the record of the interrogation of Liu Dianchen didn't say much about how he became a traitor but instead mainly talked about a mysterious batch of gold and treasure.

The notes said that Liu Dianchen had participated in the Japanese movements and knew their secrets. The military command wanted to investigate what he told them. Liu Dianchen had been actively cooperating with the investigation and had drawn many sketches to help them. Despite this, the interrogation was not successful, so Liu Dianchen was executed in secret.

Tao Xiang was so clever that he instinctively realized the value of the notes might be far beyond his imagination. Therefore, he spent a lot of time to study them. Later, he read many related materials and was shocked to find the ultimate treasures. These could be traced to the distant period during which the Anti-Japanese War occurred. At that time, the Japanese occupied the Northeast and established the puppet government. They subdued the Soviet Union and attempted to annex the whole of China.

Because the Japanese were too far away from the mainland, they formulated an evil policy of maintaining war through war, using China's resources to serve their war. Therefore, in the more than ten years that they occupied Northeast China, they gradually amassed a large amount of wealth through oppression and exploitation. They searched through what they obtained from civilian wealth and used it to make weapons and form an army.

Their ambition eventually failed due to the bombing in Hiroshima. In 1945, Japan was defeated. They declared unconditional surrender, and the army withdrew in a hurry. Because of the sudden defeat and the involvement of the Soviets, the Japanese had no time to carry away the huge treasures they had left in the Northeast. Although some of the treasure was found after the Republic of China took over the regime, it was far from enough. A considerable part of it had disappeared.

Some people said that the remaining treasures had been smuggled to Japan by the Japanese. Another view was that the Japanese high-ranking officials had hidden the remaining treasures in a secret base so they could come back for them in the future. For a long time, no one found any information on the remaining treasures. However, Tao Xiang's notes showed that the remaining treasures indeed existed. And the man who could prove it was the traitor Liu Dianchen.

Back during the war, Liu Dianchen was the director of the Ministry of Construction of the Puppet Manchukuo Government. Because of many military construction projects, he had contact with senior officers in the Japanese Guandong Army. During the interrogation, Liu Dianchen confirmed that at a

meeting with the senior Japanese officers at the end of the war, he had heard from outside the conference room that they were discussing the treasure.

Later, through various inquiries, he also learned that the Japanese army had no time to rebuild a base to hide the treasures, so they hid those they couldn't take with them in a place similar to the fortress of Holmozin. Holmozin Fortress, also known as Shengshan Fortress, was a huge military base established by the Japanese Frontier Guard in the northeast of China after the September 18th Incident. They hollowed out the mountains and built a large military fortress that contained powerful weapons and war resources, as well as battle rooms, forts, and so on.

In order not to let others find out about the secret fortress, they brought in a large number of Chinese people from other areas to build the fortress since they were not familiar with the local landscape. After the completion of the construction, they brutally murdered the Chinese people they brought in. This was where the "Thousand People's Pit" came from.

Of course, there was more than one Japanese fortress in Guandong. Others, such as Dongning Fortress and Hutou Fortress, were much larger in size than Shengshan Fortress. According to Liu Dianchen's notes, the Japanese had buried the treasures in one of the secret fortresses. It might not be the largest, but it was the hardest to find.

He had said that in order to keep this secret, the Japanese must have killed many people. They most likely killed all the people involved in the secret transportation of the treasures. As for the location of the fortress, only the senior officers would have known it.

The notes listed the names of the senior Japanese officers who might know the secret location. However, according to Tao Xiang's remarks later, the names of these senior Japanese officers were either fake or they had died during the evacuation. Tao Xiang also, through many inquiries, discovered some bad news. It was said that the Japanese senior officers who had participated in the treasure-hiding operation were assassinated on their way home.

Maybe it was a coincidence, or maybe it was a directive from Japan's highest authority. They would rather kill their own people than let others find out the secret of the treasures.

Chapter 1059: Gold! Gold!

"In order to keep the secret, they even killed their own people," Cui Lizhu exclaimed.

Zhao Yu frowned, saying, "I'm curious. Your father had never been abroad. How could he find out these things about Japan? Was he doing this on his own? Or was all of this just hearsay?"

"My father had always worked on his own," Cui Lizhu explained. "The only person he might call a friend were the people that helped him unload his stolen goods. And I don't think what he wrote is hearsay. It's possible to kill in order to keep a secret. After all, it's about the fate of the country. It's worthwhile to them kill a few officers and even a few generals. A secret is a secret. The fewer people that know it, the better. And, what they buried was not only those treasures, but also gold."

Zhao Yu looked at the notes and said, "Speaking of gold, I still don't understand how Russian gold ended up in the possession of the Japanese. And, it's 600 tons of gold? How much is it worth now? If it really exists, there must be a million people looking for it."

"Boss, it does sound unbelievable, but the 600 tons of gold did exist. This is recorded in historical documents," she said. "See? There are a lot of records on the Internet as well." Cui Lizhu said as she searched for the story about the 600 tons of gold.

The origin of the 600 tons of gold was traced back to an earlier period when World War I had just broken out. At that time, Russia was not called Russia or the Soviet Union, but Tsarist Russia. At that time, as the German army approached the capital of Russia, the Czar ordered the transfer of the national gold reserves to be sent to the eastern Kazan region.

A few years later, the founding of the Soviet Union caused a large-scale domestic division. During that time, a bandit gang saw the opportunity and stole the gold. What happened next was more like something from a drama. When the Red Army learned that the gold was stolen by the bandits, they attacked the bandits' base. The bandits couldn't fight back and instead they retreated into China.

Later, because of internal strife within the gang, gold was divided and taken by two groups that split from the bandits. One bandit group couldn't resist the Red Army's attacks and turned to the Japanese stationed in Manchuria for help. The Japanese took the gold and attacked the other bandit group, taking the other half of the gold as well. As a result, the Japanese gained possession of the full 600 tons of gold. It was said that the total value of the gold was twice the national revenue of Japan at that time.

The place where the gold was hidden became a mystery. Some people said that the Japanese army in Manchuria was selfish and did not report it to the Japanese government. Instead, they wrote a false report and took the gold for themselves. Commanding officers divided up a part of the gold, and then they hid the rest of it.

Some people believed that the Japanese troops in Manchuria handed over the gold to the government, all of which was transported back to Japan. Others even thought that gold was divided into several batches by the Japanese. Some of this was deposited in Northeast China, some was transported back to Japan, and the rest was transported to the battlefield in Southeast Asia.

There were many different legends about the gold. Eventually, the hiding place of the gold became a mystery to everyone. The Soviets were looking for it, and so were the Japanese. But, no one ever found out where the gold was. It was said that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, they brought Japan to the International Court of Justice for compensation for the lost gold. Because of the lack of vital evidence and witnesses, the Japanese government just denied the accusations.

According to experts' estimates, the total value of the gold in today's market was close to 100 billion US dollars, which was a tremendous amount of wealth. It was this treasure that appeared in Liu Dianchen's notes, which shocked Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu. No wonder the word gold appeared repeatedly in Liu Dianchen's interrogation record.

According to Liu Dianchen's statement, when he was the director of the construction department, he had heard rumors about the gold many times. In fact, among the Japanese, there existed many different opinions. Almost no one knew where the gold really was. They spread even more striking rumors. Some

said that the Japanese Prime Minister won the election because of the gold, and some important people were assassinated because of it as well.

Originally, Liu Dianchen didn't know much about the gold. But at a meeting on the eve of Japan's defeat, he overheard something unexpectedly. He overheard senior Japanese officers repeatedly mentioned the words 'Russia' and 'gold', and even mentioned Apollo, which sank in the South China Sea. So, he suspected that the gold might have something to do with the Japanese Army's final plan for treasure.

Liu Dianchen said that he believed that Russia's gold remained in Northeast China. At that time, the Japanese probably wanted to smuggle the remaining gold back home, but the war ended too quickly and the sea, land, and air were blocked. They feared that the gold would come to the same end as Apollo. So, they decided to include the gold in their treasure plan and hide it in the secret fortress.

Later, through various inquiries, Liu Dianchen received more reliable information. Some people noticed that the guards of the Japanese Guandong Army Command appeared at a railway station and were secretly transporting 18 boxes. Liu Dianchen suspected that these 18 boxes contained the gold. The gold had been transported many times, and less than a third of it was left. Therefore, he thought that these boxes of gold were possibly hidden in the secret fortress by the Japanese together with other treasures.

Later, when the Japanese army declared its surrender, Liu Dianchen wanted to follow the Japanese back for his protection like the other traitors. However, the Japanese barely had time to escape themselves. Why would they care about him?

When the government of the Republic of China took over the regime, Liu Dianchen was captured by the military command. Knowing that he was bound to be executed, Liu Dianchen told the command about the treasure plan in exchange for his life. When the government of the Republic of China learned about this, it attached great importance to the information. Liu Dianchen was held in solitary confinement, then several experts were sent to search for the gold.

However, even though they spent a great deal of manpower and resources, they failed to find anything after three years of searching. Finally, when war broke out in Liaoning, they couldn't continue to stay in Shengyang Province, so they had to give up their search and secretly execute Liu Dianchen. As soon as Liu Dianchen died, the gold became a real mystery.

Chapter 1060: Shameless

The sun was rising. Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu were still carefully analyzing the traitor's notes and Tao Xiang's remarks. Cui Lizhu clenched her fists as she became more excited. "Eighteen boxes of gold would be worth tens of billions of dollars. That isn't including the treasures. No wonder my father had been working on it for so many years. He didn't mention a word of it to me. He kept his secret until he died," she said.

Although Zhao Yu was excited, he didn't make it as obvious. "Lizhu," he said, "We still don't know if the gold really exists. First of all, Liu Dianchen could have been lying in order to save his life. The whole thing was only his defense. If he was making up what he had heard, searching for the gold is just a waste of time."

“Secondly, it has been more than 70 years since Japan’s surrender,” he continued. “If there were such caches of treasure, the government should have found them by now. Technology has become so advanced. It’s not hard to find these kinds of treasures and gold. Thirdly, I don’t really believe the story of the gold. Let’s say that Japan did get the gold. The war lasted so long that they could have easily used up the entire 600 tons of it.”

“What’s more, this is all based on a conversation that was overheard. Liu Dianchen might be wrong, or the Japanese were deliberately setting up a trap. How could the senior officers let someone overhear their top-secret plan so easily?” Zhao Yu asked. “And the contents of those 18 boxes of gold is nothing but a guess of his. It could have just been weapons in those boxes.”

Cui Lizhu pouted and said, “The notes say that the guards of the Guandong Command couldn’t finish loading everything. The 18 boxes must be very important. Besides, the military command are no fools. They must have had other information on the gold. Otherwise, they would not have believed Liu Dianchen if he was their only source.”

Zhao Yu smacked his lips. “I still feel that it’s a bit unrealistic. It’s totally different from the Buddha treasure I found before,” he said.

Cui Lizhu nodded. “Yes, I feel the same way. But I am very confident about my father, he never fought without absolute confidence. Since he had been working on it for so many years, he must have had good reasons. If he didn’t, he would have given up.”

Zhao Yu shook his head, saying, “That’s what I also wanted to point out. But we don’t know if your dad had given up or not. What if what your dad wanted to tell you before he died was not about the gold? We have no way to prove it either way.”

“You’ve said his last words should be about something more important than his crimes and the box he left for me. Obviously, he wanted to tell me about the gold,” Cui Lizhu retorted. “Boss, I know my dad the best. The reason why he became the king of thieves was that he was better than everyone. I have a feeling that this is what he wanted to tell me before he died.”

Although Zhao Yu aired his doubts, thoughts of the Kun Dui hexagram lingered in his mind. Such a hexagram clearly showed that the gold was a real thing. So, were Tao Xiang’s notes about the gold real as well?

Cui Lizhu’s eyes shined with anticipation. She took Zhao Yu’s arm and said, “You are the most famous detective. Hunting for treasure and solving a case have many things in common. I think we must complete my dad’s last unfulfilled wish.”

Zhao Yu hesitated before saying, “Well, there are also great differences between treasure hunting and solving cases. We are not history buffs.”

Cui Lizhu put her hand on Zhao Yu’s shoulder. “You’ve found the Buddha treasure. Don’t be so modest,” she replied.

“I was just lucky in that case,” he told her. “Didn’t I tell you? I found the treasure because three experts were helping me. And...”

Cui Lizhu began to rub Zhao Yu's shoulder softly. "We don't have any cases now. Let's give it a try. We have nothing to lose, after all. What if we could find it? Oh dear. I can't imagine," she said in a sweet tone.

"Ouch, be gentle." Zhao Yu felt a pain in his shoulder.

"Boss, you can rest assured, I have no bad intentions with the gold," Cui Lizhu said excitedly. "Think about it. What a great contribution we would be making if we found the treasure and gave it to the government. Last time when you found the Gold Buddha, you are awarded more than ten million yuan. If I find the gold this time, will I be awarded even more? Would I also be allowed to keep the villa? Boss..." Cui Lizhu leaned on Zhao Yu as she said, "I beg you. The rest of my life depends on you. Boss, please."

Zhao Yu pushed her away quickly, saying seriously, "I am a decent man. You're getting too close to me. This is not good."

Cui Lizhu frowned, and immediately came up with an idea. She struck a super charming pose, then reached for the zipper of her top. She said to Zhao Yu, "Boss, you forced me to do this. If you don't help me find the treasure, I am going to unzip my jacket. For your information, I am not wearing anything beneath it."

Zhao Yu looked at her and suddenly flushed. He looked up and sighed. "You really are a good student. Now you are more shameless than me."

Cui Lizhu raised her eyebrows and said, "Wait, I am going to give Miss Miao a video call."

She threatened Zhao Yu in a way that made it impossible for him to say no. After a while he finally compromised, saying, "Well, anyway, I don't have any cases at the moment. I can give it a shot." Cui Lizhu suddenly unzipped her jacket as Zhao Yu finished speaking. "Ah." Zhao Yu was shocked and quickly covered his face with hands, but he opened his fingers, which he was able to peek between.

He saw through the space between his fingers that Cui was wearing a sweater beneath her jacket. Zhao Yu swore with embarrassment, but Cui Lizhu laughed out loud.

Zhao Yu glared at her angrily. "What are you laughing about? I have seen all of it in Jingping," he spat sarcastically at her. After that, Zhao Yu didn't say a word and went back to studying the notes.

Cui Lizhu saw Zhao Yu had gotten started and brought over a pen and paper for him.

In fact, Zhao Yu did not know where to start.

The army had made enormous efforts to find the gold, and Tao Xiang failed to find it as well. Now, after 70 years, how would they be able to find the gold?