

Crazy 1081

Chapter 1081: A Wild Dragon Rising Through Bloodshed

“No!” Li Jing said as she glanced coldly at Cui Lizhu. “I had already reported the situation and had requested that Secret Services take the case from the Special Investigation Group. But for reasons unknown to me, my application was rejected, and the higher authorities insisted on letting Zhao Yu continue with the investigation. They didn’t even bother to provide any justification! As a result, I am now in an awkward situation. My only option is to remain in this unprofessional Special Investigation Group, unable to reveal who I truly am!”

“I was furious, and complained to Xiao Hang out of frustration,” Li Jing explained. “I didn’t expect him to be so reckless and get someone to kidnap Cui Lizhu! He had intended to take advantage of the discretion and priority that Secret Services possessed, to get ahead of the investigation make Cui Lizhu talk! As long as Cui Lizhu spoke the truth, there would no longer be any need for the Special Investigation Group...”

“But he was too reckless and hasty!” she continued. “I was still trying to get a handle on the situation! Besides, if we were unable to get anything out of Cui Lizhu, we would have been placed into a disadvantageous position! Therefore, I quickly called Xiao Hang, reprimanded him, and demanded that he release her!”

Oh... Zhao Yu thought. As if in response, Xiao Hang regained consciousness for the second time. “Then...” Zhao Yu gestured to the agents. “Their provocation was your idea, right?”

“Of course!” Li Jing nodded without any hesitation. “Xiao Hang messed up my plans when he kidnapped Cui Lizhu! As a result, you guys were distracted from the task at hand, instead devoting your effort and resources toward searching for the supposed kidnappers. I knew that Xiao Hang was responsible for meticulously planning the kidnapping of Cui Lizhu, and that Zhao Yu was a master sleuth. At that rate, it was only a matter of time before my plans would have unraveled! That’s why I decided to just play along with it, so that all my problems could be resolved once and for all!”

“Huh! You’re indeed vicious!” Zhao Yu said. He understood what Li Jing was getting at. “What you referred to as ‘all your problems’– you clearly meant me!”

“Yes!” Li Jing nodded. “You’re smart! You’re right, getting you out of the way was the only way I could continue with my plans!”

“That means what I’ve guessed so far is all correct!” Zhao Yu said. “You intended for Xiao Hang to use Cui Lizhu as an excuse to provoke me. Your main purpose was to anger me, and to make me confront the Secret Service team! This way, I would make a mistake and be transferred out of the Special Investigation Group, making things easier for you!”

“And you acting so righteous was done solely to gain the trust of the other team members so that after I had been transferred away, you could easily take over the entire Special Investigation Group. Then you could slowly work your magic on Cui Lizhu, right?” Zhao Yu smiled and nodded as he spoke. “What a way to kill three birds with one stone.”

“Team Leader Li is indeed a good actress! You pretend to be meek & feeble, haha... when in fact you are a wolf in a sheep’s clothing! I, Zhao Yu, have underestimated you!” he said.

“No! As a matter of fact, I was over-confident and too complacent!” Li Jing said seriously. “I made some errors while examining the intelligence I had collected and failed to fully analyze the data. This is where I messed up! Had I been more cautious, I wouldn’t have let Xiao Hang engage with you physically!”

“Hmm... why is that?” Zhao Yu asked, scratching his head.

“The database says you’re merely an ordinary police academy graduate and that you haven’t been on the front line for long!” Li Jing explained. “Members of the Secret Service are all professional special agents who underwent rigorous training, so theoretically speaking, there is no way you would have been able to defeat them!”

“Although the data indicates that you are a skilled fighter, you would still pale in comparison to Xiao Hang!” Li Jing told Zhao Yu. “So, if you really were to engage physically with Xiao Hang, not only would you have been badly beaten, you would also have been transferred out of the Special Investigation Group! In which case, my plans would have been realized!”

“Hmm!” Zhao Yu snickered. “Well, too bad...”

“Too bad I underestimated you, I never would have guessed that you were this formidable! So many agents, and none of them could actually deter you!” Li Jing said.

“What are you talking about?!” Xiao Hang exclaimed indignantly, still lying on the ground. “Did you not see? They obviously employed some kind of trap or trickery! Otherwise, how would I have possibly lost to him?! And... and have fallen right into his trap!?” Xiao Hang pointed at the cracked ceiling as he rubbed his head in pain.

“Erm... Team Leader...” said the special agent beside Xiao Hang. Recalling Zhao Yu’s violent and aggressive behavior, the agents tried to stop Xiao Hang from saying anything else. “You better not say anything more at the moment, whatever it was that happened, it had nothing to do with traps!” they advised him. They were right, as even Xiao Hang was no match for the burst of strength displayed by Zhao Yu.

“Humph!” Zhao Yu snorted. “Your so-called professional training just made you all robotic! You wouldn’t have known that, I, Zhao Yu, am a seasoned veteran! A wild dragon like me rises through bloodshed!”

“Hahaha...” Li Jing chuckled upon hearing this. She gave Zhao Yu a thumbs up, complimenting him. “A wild dragon soaring from bloodshed indeed! No wonder they call you the Crazy Detective! What an eye-opener!”

“It’s just that...” Li Jing stopped smiling and said coldly, “I don’t care whether you are a wild dragon or a crazy detective, it doesn’t change the fact that you’ve lost!”

“Huh? What?” Zhao Yu scratched his head. “What are you talking about? Who lost?”

“You, of course!” Li Jing said as she smiled smugly. “Since you’re so smart, you should have figured out that I don’t really care who wins the fight, right?”

“Hmm...” Zhao Yu frowned, seemingly beginning to understand what she meant.

“Haha...” Li Jing laughed again. “Zhao Yu, I was indeed surprised that you managed to defeat my agents! But it’s precisely because you have won the fight, and have beaten them up so badly, that it is more certain than ever that you have lost!”

This... he thought. All the agents present at the scene could sense something was up. They were so nervous that a thin layer of sweat had formed on their foreheads.

“Don’t forget that we are the Secret Service, not your miserable little Special Investigation Group! Acting out of line is considered insubordination! You were destined to lose!” Li Jing explained.

“You... you...” Zhao Yu thought the situation through carefully. Indeed, he seemed to have fallen into Li Jing’s trap. But Zhao Yu was no fool, he knew that there would be consequences for fighting with the Secret Service.

It’s just that... I, Zhao Yu, am not any other person! Hehe... don’t forget, I have a powerful father-in-law! I am Miao Kun’s son-in-law, who dares touch me? Zhao Yu thought to himself.

Zhao Yu smacked his chest as he laughed heartily. “Wahaha! Wahahahaha!!!” His laughter was as loud as thunder, startling Li Jing. He then stared at her wide-eyed while shouting, “Ah, Li Jing! You think you’ve got it all planned out, but have you never realized why you didn’t succeed in impeaching me? And why your superiors insisted on using me, a mere team leader of the Special Investigation Group? Have you not wondered why?”

“Oh, is that so?” Li Jing raised her eyebrow and said, “Hey, Zhao Yu, you can’t seriously be thinking of relying on your father-in-law to help you out? Haha, I suggest that you forget it! You can’t possibly believe that Miao Kun would still vouch for you after you’ve made such a serious mistake?”

That... Zhao Yu’s heart skipped a beat. He felt somewhat deflated. It had never occurred to him that his attempt to benefit from his association with his father-in-law would be met with such disregard.

Chapter 1082: Tsundere Woman

“You actually know my father-in-law?” Zhao Yu asked. He frowned in bewilderment. Before this, although he had wondered about the relationship between the Secret Service Agency and the Secret Service, he had assumed that his father-in-law, Miao Kun, was of a much higher rank than Li Jing. However, it was apparent from Li Jing’s tone that her rank was not much lower than that of Miao Kun. She did not seem to pay his father-in-law any heed.

This woman... he thought. Zhao Yu took a good look at her. Although she seemed to give off a murderous aura, she could still pass as a quiet and delicate lady. It appeared that there was more to this female Secret Service leader than meets the eye.

“Zhao Yu, the Secret Service is different from a regular department. We keep business and personal matters separate,” Li Jing said while glaring at Zhao Yu. “Dream on. Your father-in-law won’t be able to help you! Prepare to remain suspended!”

“You... you’re a vicious woman!” Cui Lizhu scolded Li Jing. “This won’t end well for you!”

“That’s right...” Liu Zhanbing said. “At the end of the day, we’re all serving our nation. Why do you have to be so ruthless? Is it simply because we don’t see eye to eye? Isn’t that rather controlling of you?”

“Wrong...” Li Jing said firmly. “You guys don’t fully understand what’s happening. I already informed the higher authorities of the situation. The matters relating to the treasure concern national prestige, not everyone is privy to the information! Despite the fact that there has been a murder, it was a mistake to involve the Criminal Division! It has now become impossible to keep the matter under wraps! Do you guys have any idea how serious the implications are? It is something that mere special investigation officers would never understand! The importance of the treasure lies in its own existence, and not simply whether it can or cannot be found!”

“This...” Zhao Yu attempted to understand what Li Jing meant, but had some difficulty grasping the subtleties of what she had just said.

“Alright, there isn’t a point in talking about this any longer,” Li Jing said as she picked up her cell phone. “I am going to report to my superiors now, you guys better just wait for disciplinary action and not create any more trouble for me!”

“You...” Liu Zhanbing and the rest were indignant, but could only look at Zhao Yu helplessly. No one expected Zhao Yu to start laughing hysterically. “Wahaha...” He pointed at Li Jing. “Sure, report this! Go ahead!” he told her. “Let’s see whether the higher authorities will believe that a mere special investigation officer like me was able to give your special agents a good beating!”

“Ha!” Li Jing put down her cell phone, saying coldly, “You think we’re good for nothing? We had the foresight to install two hidden cameras and they recorded the whole thing, including you breaking the code of conduct!”

“That’s not true!” shouted Zhang Jingfeng. “They started it first!”

“Oh, is that so?” Zhao Yu chuckled. “Then you better have a look at what your cameras recorded!” he told Li Jing.

“What?!” exclaimed Li Jing. She pulled out her cellphone upon hearing this, her face turning white. She was stunned when she reviewed the images captured by the cameras. “No... it can’t be...” Li Jing stared at Zhao Yu incredulously. “Even if you had known, there wouldn’t have been enough time. How could this have been possible?”

Zhao Yu’s Invisible Detector had been turned on the whole time, he had discovered the two hidden cameras long ago. Their presence was precisely what had convinced him that Li Jing was the mole. But Li Jing was right. Even though he had discovered the cameras, Zhao Yu had no time to deal with them. Because of this, he had no choice but to deploy the Hacker’s Command and connect his cell phone with the cameras. This allowed him to remotely control the angles at which the cameras were pointing and to ensure that nothing was captured.

“So what?” Li Jing shouted furiously despite being taken aback. “There are so many witnesses present that your denial won’t matter!”

“One, two, three...” Li Beini started counting the number of people present. “Both parties have around the same number of people! We’ve all witnessed these agents smashing things and injuring themselves! The current state of affairs has nothing to do with our Leader Zhao!”

“Yes! Yes! Yes!” Zhang Jingfeng nodded furiously. Pointing toward the roof, he said, “It wasn’t enough for them to destroy the office! They even had to put a hole in the ceiling!”

“Yeah man!” Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai nodded. “All of us saw it! That’s exactly what happened! If we hadn’t known any better, we would have thought that a bunch of patients had just escaped from the asylum!”

“You... you guys!” Li Jing flew into a rage. “How can you act like this? What is the point of debating this? Fine... fine... I guess you guys won’t be convinced until the reality of the situation slaps you in the face!” Li Jing picked up her phone once again. “I’m going to report everything to the higher authorities right now! Let’s see how all of you are going to try to argue your way out of this.”

“Okay!” Zhao Yu said in response. He had wanted to continue to taunt her with the lack of video footage, but he knew that there was no point crying over spilled milk. “Call them! Go ahead and call them! If you want this situation to blow up, then let’s do it!” Zhao Yu picked up his cell phone as well, stating, “I’m gonna make a call as well! Let’s blow this up so that everyone knows! How about we hold a press conference while we’re at it? Let’s see how this reflects on these ‘professional’ special agents!”

“F*cking h*ll!” Zhao Yu held his nose and continued. “You said I’m obstinate, but I think you’re the one who’s obstinate! You’re just being unreasonable! Did menopause come early for you? Who do you think you are! You’re full of sh*t, and a disgrace to the Secret Service Agency!”

“You! What did you say?” Li Jing asked, shaking in anger. “Look at the way you speak to others, are you sure your behavior is befitting of the leader of the Special Investigation Group?”

“Who gives a d*mn about that? What matters is my ability to crack cases!” Zhao Yu shouted as he stared at her with wide eyes. “I’m not like you, scheming against your own colleagues and teammates! And you guys? It’s been more than 80 years and you guys couldn’t even find the treasure! Isn’t that a disgrace? You think you’re a big deal?!”

“You! You dare criticize me? You...” Li Jing’s lips trembled in anger.

“So what if I criticize you? This is mild!” Zhao Yu motioned toward his own colleagues. “What’s wrong with my team members? Did they get in your way? What did Xiao Cui do to offend you? Her father may be the King of Thieves, but she has already turned over a new leaf. Couldn’t you cut her some slack? She made huge contributions in the Devil Case!”

“Ah, Team Leader Li, I may not understand your grandiose words or what you’re preaching, but the law is not inflexible!” Zhao Yu said. “Yes, I admit that the way I handle cases and my leadership skills may leave much to be desired, but people do improve! I’m willing to humbly accept your advice and suggestions, and try my best to improve myself! But let us at least start off on the same footing! By doing this, you are simply being unreasonable!”

“Are you satisfied now?” Zhao Yu gestured toward the agents he had beaten up. “This farce should never have happened. It is evident who’s responsible for it. Why are you still unrepentant?”

“You! You...” Li Jing’s chest heaved in fury. Pointing at Zhao Yu, she said, “Who are you to lecture me? Zhao Yu! Just you wait! I’ll make you see who’s right and who’s wrong! Just you wait...”

Ah, hero, please accompany me while I pursue this beautiful dream... Zhao Yu’s cell phone rang just as Li Jing stopped speaking. Li Jing’s cell phone started ringing as well. They both answered the calls while maintaining eye contact.

“Hello! Zhao Yu... is this you?” A deep voice resonated from Zhao Yu’s cell phone.

D*mn! Zhao Yu thought, his heart skipping a beat. The person on the other end of the line was actually his father-in-law, Miao Kun. This... “Uh... yes, it’s me... uh...” Zhao Yu refrained from shouting father-in-law. It felt somewhat inappropriate.

“Okay, don’t say anything, just listen to me!” Miao Kun said urgently. “I’m sorry, my good son-in-law, but I’ve dragged you into my personal affairs! I hear that Li Jing has transferred to the Special Investigation Group? Let me tell you, this tsundere woman is not to be trifled with! She is the officer-in-charge of the Secret Service team! Mm...” Miao Kun warned. “You have to keep your guard up against her, I fear she transferred to your team for nefarious reasons!”

“Hmm... about that...” Zhao Yu said awkwardly. “It’s a bit too late to talk about this, isn’t it...?”

“Ah! Really? It can’t be! That was fast!” Miao Kun said, taken aback. “You... you haven’t done anything to her, have you?”

Chapter 1083: Whoever Looks for the Treasure is a Fool

“You’re still in the mood for jokes?” Miao Kun asked. After Zhao Yu explained the situation to his father-in-law, Miao Kun was angry. “You! You took on a whole team of special agents by yourself!? You must be kidding! Did you drug them or something? Don’t you know? Any agent could take on Thorngrove and beat him to a pulp. Don’t you remember what you had to resort to in order to defeat Thorngrove?”

“I’m telling the truth! Really! Why would I lie to you?” Zhao Yu said, trying to convince his father-in-law while he hid in a corner of the office. “I was raging just now, so I leveled up in a fit of fury!”

“Don’t bullsh*t me! The only reason I slipped up at the hotpot shop the other time is because of my age! Stop boasting!” Miao Kun said seriously. “I can’t have my daughter engaged to a liar...”

“Alright, alright! Believe it or don’t!” Zhao Yu had no time for this. “Well, that’s that then! That woman wants to report what happened to the higher-ups right now! She wants me out of the Special Investigation Group and subjected to disciplinary action! What do you think I should do?”

“Hmm...” Miao Kun said awkwardly. “Don’t worry, don’t worry! You’re my son-in-law, of course I’d have your back! I’ll go find someone to intercede on your behalf right now!”

“I say,” Zhao Yu said, frowning. “Why does it sound like there’s a hidden meaning behind your words? What do you mean by tsundere woman? Is there something between you and this woman? Is she taking it out on me because you guys have fallen out? You and I are both honest and upstanding people, you can’t implicate me like this!”

“Tsk tsk tsk...” Miao Kun scolded. “Am I that kind of person? It’s just that... ermm...” he coughed. “Don’t you worry about this! Just remember not to make things any worse! I’ll go intercede for you right now, just wait...” With that, Miao Kun ended the call.

“Wait, what! What did you say!?” Zhao Yu exclaimed. As the call with Miao Kun ended, Zhao Yu heard Li Jing say into her phone, “What? Why? I don’t understand how you could side with him like this? All he’s done is crack a couple of cases. Did you seriously think he could find something that we’ve failed to find over the past 80 years? You, you all...”

Hm? Zhao Yu moved closer to eavesdrop on Li Jing. Li Jing glared at Zhao Yu, her eyes revealing complicated emotions; fury, surprise, doubt, bewilderment, and even a tinge of fear! The person at the other end of the call must have said something upsetting, because Li Jing was getting increasingly disheartened. After the call finally ended, it was apparent that she was not in a good state.

Just then, Xiao Hang, who had fully awakened from his coma, stood up and shouted at Zhao Yu with clenched fists. “Zhao! We have yet to determine the winner! If you have the gall, let’s start over again!”

“Don’t... please don’t...” the agents beside Xiao Hang rushed over to stop him.

“Xiao Hang! Stop!” Li Jing finally let out. She turned around and glared at Zhao Yu, staring at him for a good five minutes. Grinding her teeth, Li Jing stamped her feet and flung her arms up. “Pass the USB drive containing the data to them! We... we’ll leave!” she said begrudgingly to Xiao Hang.

“What!?” Xiao Hang was dumbfounded. “Ah Jing, what do you mean by this?”

“Yeah, that’s right; leaving is fine but the drive... it contains classified information...” an agent next to Xiao Hang said. The agent trailed off as he made eye contact with Li Jing. Another agent took out the metal USB drive uncertainly.

“Why?” Xiao Hang asked as he stared in bewilderment. “Ah Jing, who called you on your cellphone? What did they say? Why is this happening?”

“Yeah! Why is this happening?” Zhao Yu mimicked Xiao Hang. “Ah Jing! Ah Jing Jing? Quick, tell me, what is this?”

“Grrr...” Despite the distance, Zhao Yu could hear Li Jing gnashing her teeth. “I’m going to repeat this just once! Pass the USB drive to them!” Li Jing strode toward the agent, snatched the USB drive, and threw it angrily on the ground. She then turned toward Zhao Yu and said, “Zhao Yu! Don’t think this is over! I’ve passed you the data, let’s see whether you’re capable of finding the treasure! Humph!”

“Erm... regarding this...” Zhao Yu stroked his chin. He had yet to recover from the sudden turn of events. He didn’t understand. What kind of call had Li Jing received? Judging by her demeanor, it was obvious that the caller was someone who could give orders to Li Jing, probably her superior. But... why would Li Jing’s superior side with Zhao Yu? Zhao Yu could not figure it out. Who else in the Secret Service Agency could it be, other than his father-in-law? He was not acquainted with anyone else.

This is... Although Zhao Yu was baffled, he refused to let Li Jing realize it. He answered her right away, saying, “Alright, Team Leader Li! Since you don’t think much of the Special Investigation Group, let me show you how it’s done! I’ll show you how I crack cases! Humph!”

“Sure! Let’s place a wager then!” Li Jing said through clenched teeth. “If you manage to find the treasure, we’ll write off all our differences! I won’t pursue them anymore! But... what if you’re unable to find it?”

“Wahaha... stop kidding! There is no enmity between us, what’s there to write off?” Zhao Yu smirked, acting like a hooligan. He gestured toward Li Jing’s chest and said, “How about this? I touched it just now and it felt pretty good. If we were to recover the treasure, how about letting me touch it ten times? If I fail to find it, then I’ll let you grope me ten times instead. Or even a hundred times, if you like! Wahaha...”

“You!? Hooligan!” Li Jing spat at Zhao Yu, leaving the office in a fit.

“You... you’re good! You’ve got guts!” Xiao Hang said as he stood up. He threatened Zhao Yu while backing away. “Zhao, just you wait! This isn’t over!” Xiao Hang hastened his footsteps and chased after Li Jing. The other agents, seeing that their superiors had left, helped each other up. They cut a sorry figure as they too disappeared from sight.

“Ha!” Zhao Yu rolled his eyes at them, mumbling under his breath, “Do they think I’m a fool? They couldn’t find the treasure after 80 years, and they expect me to find it? And they even want to place a wager on that? F*ck off! Don’t they realize that whoever searches for the treasure is a dumba**?”

“What... what’s going on?” Li Beini was puzzled. She carefully retrieved the USB drive from the ground, and asked, “Didn’t they say that they would be preparing a report about what happened? Why did they suddenly sneak away? And... the USB drive? What data are they talking about?”

“It goes without saying...” Zhang Jingfeng said, “that it must have something to do with the treasure, right?”

“That’s right...” Cui Lizhu was also a little confused. “Team leader, what was it that did this? Was it your call or hers?” she asked Zhao Yu.

“I suppose... I suppose it was hers?” Zhao Yu responded.

“That means...” Cui Lizhu continued, “the chief of the Secret Service Agency not only rebuffed Li Jing’s complaints about us, but also forced her to share the information regarding the treasure so that we could work on it? Oh my god!” She stared at Zhao Yu in wide-eyed astonishment, saying, “Wow, boss. You must have a really powerful backer, huh? Even the Secret Service Agency has your back!”

“Sh*t!” Upon hearing what Cui Lizhu said, Zhao Yu took a deep breath. He suddenly realized that things might not be as simple as they seemed. The fact that they had both answered their calls at the same time meant that it could not have been Miao Kun that helped Zhao Yu out. Zhao Yu knew that he had no one else to back him in the Secret Service Agency, so if it wasn’t his father-in-law... then there might be more than meets the eye.

The phone rang again while Zhao Yu was lost in thought. This time it was the phone in the Criminal Division office. “Hello?” Zhao Yu answered the phone quickly.

“Ah, Zhao Yu! You didn’t do anything stupid, did you? I’m about to go nuts!” Division Chief Jiao’s voice came from the other end of the phone. “Do you have any idea how many calls I’ve received from the higher-ups? What exactly did you do?”

“Er... ermm...” Zhao Yu sighed, a scowl on his face. “It’s complicated!”

“Aiyo!” Division Chief Jiao sighed deeply. “I was just informed that the Secret Service Agency wants the Special Investigation Group to take over the Golden Treasure case! Listen carefully! This time around, it’s not as simple as investigating the victims or finding the killer! You’re managing the entire case! The higher-ups have given you all a deadline, you have to find the lost treasure – the national treasure – within two months!!!”

Chapter 1084: The Curse Of Inauspicious Mouth

“Haven’t I always said there’s no free lunch in this world? Nobody will give you something for nothing!” Zhao Yu said broodingly, relaying Chief Jiao’s message after putting down the phone.

“That’s great, that’s great!” Cui Lizhu said, unexpectedly jumping up and down in surprise upon hearing what was said. “We can finally find the treasure!”

“Hey! This doesn’t seem like a good thing.” Zhang Jingfeng frowned. “The deadline is in two months! How are we supposed to find a treasure that hasn’t be found in 80 years in such a short time span? They’re obviously giving us a hard time on purpose. How can you still say this is great? I really don’t get you...”

“Heh heh...” Li Beini laughed, looking at Zhao Yu seriously. “Leader, earlier you said that finding the treasure was a fool’s game, why did it come true so quickly?”

“I totally just jinxed us!! How I have been d*mned?” Zhao Yu said, burying his face in his hands as he collapsed onto the chair. He pitied his own fate and cried without tears. “Is this the curse of my inauspicious mouth?”

The Feng Ping Police Station staff saw the office door open and rushed in. After seeing the mess in the room, they were in shock. “How... did this happen...?” One of the police officers asked in bewilderment. “Was there an earthquake just now? Officers, are you guys okay?”

“We’re fine, we’re fine...” Zhang Jingfeng said hurriedly, waving at them. “Don’t add on to this mess, alright? Carry on with your own tasks...” With that, he slammed the door shut again.

“Ugh!” Zhao Yu sighed again. He had wanted to say something but the display in his brain changed and he quickly stood up.

“Eh, what’s wrong boss?” Cui Lizhu asked.

Zhao Yu regained his bearings and walked towards Cui Lizhu. “You, uhm, shh...” He had wanted to say something but made a sudden shushing motion, then gestured to the pockets of her pants.

“Hmm...” Cui Lizhu didn’t quite understand what was happening but when she saw Zhao Yu’s gesture, she reached into her pockets and pulled out the phone. After seeing the phone, Zhao Yu understood clearly. This was Xiao Hang’s phone. They had left in such a hurry that Xiao Hang had forgotten to get his phone back from Cui Lizhu.

“Yikes? Why did he...” Cui Lizhu wanted to say something but Zhao Yu raised his hands to stop her. It turned out that through the Invisible Detector, Zhao Yu had discovered there was a listening device somewhere on Cui Lizhu’s body, and the bug had just been switched on from a distance. Locating the position of the listening bug with the Invisible Detector, it seemed that the bug was definitely coming from the phone. There was no doubt that the listening bug had been activated by Xiao Hang and his crew. They had deliberately left the phone behind to eavesdrop on Zhao Yu’s conversations with the others.

F*ck! They dared to use such an underhanded move? Zhao Yu thought to himself. He initially wanted to scold them and tick them off by reading 18 generations worth of his ancestors’ classic sayings into the microphone but just as he was about to start, he lost interest. Things had already escalated, he realized he shouldn’t waste any more energy. So, he opened the phone cover and located the listening bug with the Invisible Detector.

“Whoa!” Cui Lizhu and the others were shocked as they didn’t expect the Secret Services people to be cunning and leave something like this behind.

Ugh! Zhao Yu sighed and threw the bug straight into a glass of water. The water began to bubble.

“These people are too spiteful! To think they’d try to eavesdrop on us!” Li Beini said angrily.

“Exactly!” Zhang Jingfeng said to Zhao Yu. “Leader, why didn’t you take the opportunity to scold them? At least vent your anger!”

“Uhm, wait a minute!” Cui Lizhu said, unexpectedly cutting Zhang Jingfeng off. She looked as though she had made a mistake and gave Zhao Yu an apologetic look. “Boss, I’m sorry, I was so preoccupied with taking revenge just now, so, uhm...” While saying this, she reached into her pockets and produced several wallets. These wallets obviously belonged to the agents!

“You?!” Zhao Yu said angrily, his eyes widened. “Cui Lizhu, how could you possibly do this?!”

“Don’t be mad, please don’t be mad!” Cui Lizhu clapped her hands together to ask for forgiveness. “I didn’t do it on purpose, I really didn’t mean it! I was just really irritated and wanted to play with them a little, don’t get mad boss...”

“Hey!” Zhao Yu gestured to Li Beini and the rest. “What are you guys waiting for? Hurry up and flip through this and see if there’s anything important!”

“Ah...” After receiving the order, Li Beini and the rest began to look through the wallets.

“Xiao Cui, what can I say?” Zhao Yu said, turning his head around and patting Cui Lizhu on the shoulders. With a calm face, he said, “You did a really good job this time!”

“What?” Cui Lizhu was confused. “You’re not going to scold me anymore?”

“Nonsense!” Zhao Yu snapped. “If people don’t start trouble with me, I won’t start trouble with them! This is their just desserts!”

“Hoo...” Cui Lizhu quickly patted her chest, relieved. “Scary, so scary... I get frightened when you stare at me like that...”

Li Beini and the others had already checked through the agents' wallets. Other than some cash and a few cards, there was nothing of value. "Leader, these things..." Liu Zhanbing began. "What are we going to do with them? Should we return them?"

"Over my dead body!" Zhao Yu took Xiao Hang's phone. "First, get all the information out of this phone, then see if there's any more juicy gossip! Remember, since they left their wallets and phone behind, we're just making sure they stay safe for now. See if they dare to come and ask for them back!"

"Okay!" After receiving their orders, Li Beini proceeded to unlock Xiao Hang's phone and began transferring the data, while Liu Zhanbing made sure the wallets were secure.

"Boss, what should we do next?" Cui Lizhu asked excitedly. "Are we really going to look for the treasure? Are we going to do it the right way this time?"

"Uhm, well, I actually haven't thought about it yet!" Zhao Yu said cautiously. "This is obviously a rabbit hole and we need to be more careful if we want to jump in!"

"Yeah!" Zhang Jingfeng chimed in. "Finding the national treasure in two months is like finding a needle in a haystack! Leader, why don't you negotiate with the relevant superiors? The deadline from the Special Services office is not a joke, who knows, you might even be kicked out of the police force!"

"We'll see how it goes!" Zhao Yu said. "The confidentiality agreement between Secret Services and the Criminal Investigation Office will be sent down soon, once it's signed there's no turning back!"

"D*mn it!" Li Beini shouted just as Zhao Yu had finished his sentence. She smashed her fists into her keyboard. "Leader, this is bad, this is bad! Xiao Hang's phone had a self-destruct program built in; the information is all deleted now! I couldn't stop it..."

"What?" Zhao Yu went to the computer to check. The monitor displayed a series of uncontrollable deletion protocols. In the blink of an eye, all the information on Xiao Hang's phone had been wiped clean.

"Tsch!" Zhao Yu shook his head. "The Special Services really live up to their name! Looks like..." he reached for the USB drive Li Jing left behind and murmured. "If we want to understand the whole situation, we have no choice but to rely on this now!"

Chapter 1085: Confidentiality Agreement

Worried that the USB would have some sort of defensive mechanism, Zhao Yu kept the tools in his brain active and the hacking instructions on standby in real-time. If the USB had any sort of self-destruct protocol, he could stop it in time.

However, his concern was unfounded. The USB was password encrypted, but there was no self-destruct protocol. In fact, Zhao Yu had expected this to be the case. He knew that Li Jing was ordered by her superiors at Special Services, so no matter how much Li Jing was disgusted by him, she wouldn't do anything that went against her orders, and thus would not have tampered with the USB.

Initially, Zhao Yu wanted to use his own tools to crack the password, but Li Beini wasn't there just for show. She used professional software to quickly crack the password. Surprisingly, there was over 10GB

worth of information on the USB. There was a large number of documents as well as many photographs and videos. Zhao Yu and the others browsed through these briefly and found that the information was all about the treasures, including investigation records on the five victims.

“Tsk!” Cui Lizhu was the first to comment after looking through the information. She had a complicated, worried look on her face. “Boss, this doesn’t seem right! I feel like we’ve jumped straight into the eye of the storm...” she said cowardly.

“Exactly, she’s right!” Li Beini said, nodding in agreement. “Leader, this actually means our country knew about the secret treasures a long time ago and that they have always been looking for it. But this seems like something out of the Criminal Investigation Department’s pay grade, isn’t it? Are we even able to investigate something like this?”

“There’s Russian KGBs, Japanese spies, and this even involves other international terrorist organizations...” Li Beini frowned. “This involves too many state secrets and foreign affairs, this...”

“It’s over, it’s all over!” Zhang Jingfeng cried in agreement. “I’ve always said curiosity killed the cat! This phrase is so true! When you don’t know something but have always been curious about it, you’re only left with regret after you discover the answer! Xiao Zhao, I feel like this time we’ve bitten off more than we can chew with regards to this treasure...”

“Hey, old Zhang! How can you say that? That’s inauspicious!” Li Beini said.

Ugh! At that moment, Zhao Yu was dealing with a slew of complicated emotions. He was not as high spirited as he had been before. According to the data, since the country’s founding, they had never stopped searching for the treasure. But, in the past 80 years, no matter how many professionals were involved, no matter what great inventions and technology they used, no one caught even a glimpse of the treasure.

The Secret Service agents had even begun negotiating with international terrorists and other illegal organizations, thus causing conflict and diplomatic turmoil. Zhao Yu finally understood now what Li Jing was saying regarding the importance of the treasure. It wasn’t so much about finding it as it was about controlling it, so the role of the Special Services team was to prevent and handle the underlying battles to avoid unnecessary conflict. After understanding this, Zhao Yu held a deeper appreciation of Li Jing’s role.

Special Services was there to control, while the Criminal Investigations Department was there to seek out the truth. The two parties had some internal conflicts, so Li Jing wanted to criticize and obstruct the actions of the Criminal Division and Zhao Yu’s team. However, even though her motives were understandable, Zhao Yu was still unable to figure out the reason behind Special Services’ final decision. The truth was right in front of him. The search for the treasure had reached new heights. This was something the Criminal Investigation Department couldn’t handle! Now that the Special Services team had asked his special team to take full responsibility and even given them a deadline, they were no longer just forcing them, they were straight-up throwing them into the eye of the storm!

Son of a b*tch! Zhao Yu thought to himself. Was the head of the Special Services team a moron? Even though he had conflicts with Li Jing, wasn’t this punishment completely irrational? The Criminal Department’s special team tasks were just to investigate cases, they didn’t have experience dealing with

spies or secret agent disputes. If things weren't handled properly, it would be all too easy for them to mess up!

This... no! That can't be... Zhao Yu suddenly realized something. He quickly closed his eyes and tried to seriously recall what had happened. Li Jing's affair, Xiao Hang's irrationality, and now the deadlines... all this didn't seem reasonable, it was extremely childish! However, amongst the lack of reason and childishness, there seemed to be something else. There was one reasonable possibility gradually forming! Could it be? Was this the truth?

Thinking about this, Zhao Yu quickly whipped out his phone and opened a hidden app. After opening it, a button for music playback was displayed on the screen. He pressed the button and placed the phone close to his ears to listen.

It turned out that when he had forcefully touched Li Jing's chest, in addition to punishing her, he had quietly placed a bug in her jacket pocket. Since the system no longer had tools such as Invisible Listening Bugs and Trackers, Zhao Yu had to resort to the normal method and would always carry small things like a bug or locator. He had smelled a conspiracy and took the opportunity to plant a bug on her.

After the program was turned on, Li Jing's voice was immediately audible, like a roar in his ear. These clips were recorded earlier from when Li Jing had just left the office. However, Li Jing's anger was not directed at Zhao Yu, but at Xiao Hang. She sounded livid and was shouting until her voice had gone hoarse. Although Xiao Hang was trying to explain, it didn't help.

Zhao Yu didn't feel like listening to the couple quarreling and fast-forwarded, but after speeding up the bug became silent. Bzzz... Zhao Yu tried a few more times and confirmed that Li Jing had found the bug and had it disposed of. Both parties attempt at eavesdropping had failed! Even without the eavesdropping, Zhao Yu had another thought formulating. He felt like everything had been deliberately arranged by someone. He thought that Li Jing, who was in a high position, might not be the actual mastermind behind everything!

At that point, Zhao Yu's phone buzzed twice. The Criminal Department had sent him an electronic confidentiality agreement. All he had to do was press his fingerprint on the agreement through his phone and it would take effect immediately. Reading it over, it seemed that this agreement was different from others in the past. Not only did words like 'Special Services Department' appear, but the consequences of defaulting and failure were much more serious than past confidentiality agreements.

A confidentiality agreement in the Criminal Department was generally pursued after the breach of contract, such as a dismissal of office or legal liability. However, the confidentiality agreement of the Special Services was on a national level and right from the first line, it stated that once the secret was disclosed, it would be dealt with as treason. Everyone knew what it meant to be charged with treason!

Seeing such a scary clause, the members of the group were all shocked and confused. They were all ordinary detectives who had come from local stations. They had never seen such a high-level agreement! They felt that this confidentiality agreement was worse than selling out. Who would dare sign it?

However, to everyone's surprise, Zhao Yu did not hesitate and pressed his finger straight down.

Chapter 1086: Someone's Self-Defeat

“You... you’re crazy!” The astonished voice of Zhao Yu’s father-in-law, Miao Kun, could be heard coming from the phone. “What the h*ll were you thinking? I was trying to pull some strings for you, why the h*ll did you sign it already? Didn’t I tell you to wait for me?? Why didn’t you wait?!”

“That’s enough!” Zhao Yu said coldly. “Father-in-law, even though there are some things about this case that I still don’t understand, I feel as though even you would be unable to help me with this case!”

“Wait, what?” Miao Kun asked, stunned. “What do you mean? Oh, I get it. Since you brought this up, I’ll tell you. It’s true that Li Jing and I have a certain level of understanding. When I was young, her mother even set her up with me, but it wasn’t successful, so...”

“Don’t say it, don’t say it!” Zhao Yu interrupted Miao Kun impatiently. “I don’t understand why you feel so good about lying to me? Don’t tell me you think the Female Headless Corpse Case and the Demon Case were solved by sheer dumb luck? Father-in-law, I know you have good intentions, but no one can act smart in front of me, the godly detective Zhao Yu!”

“Hmph, you... this...” Miao Kun began, trying to defend himself. He obviously had a guilty conscience.

“You guys thought I was too simple! Hehe!” Zhao Yu laughed coldly. “Even though I might not always understand what’s happening behind the scenes, I know two things for certain. One is that Special Services is a highly confidential unit and such units have always been beholden to the law, thus they are definitely a tier above other units. The second is, while I don’t know how high your actual position is, I believe Li Jing, as a very young female captain, is definitely not the same rank as you! No matter what personal grievances she has against you, she wouldn’t be fearless enough to offend you!”

“Uhm, how are these two things even related?” Miao Kun asked, puzzled.

“How? You still want me to continue?” Zhao Yu said coldly. “Do you know how odd the phone I got from you earlier was?”

“You...” Miao Kun began.

“Father-in-law!” Zhao Yu said seriously. “This is clear as day! Li Jing was trying all sorts of methods to push me out of my position, that was definitely not her own idea! Furthermore, I don’t want to say this but... who do you think her superior would be?”

“Ha! No, it’s not...” Miao Kun clarified quickly. “That arrogant woman is born with such a personality! She has been questioning the methods of the Special Services department and even has disagreements with me, so...”

“That’s enough! I don’t want to dig any deeper into this matter!” Zhao Yu said. “I have a more urgent task at hand, and that is to go out and look for the treasure!”

“Uhm, okay, my son-in-law, would you listen to me just this once? Just one sentence!” Miao Kun suddenly pleaded. “I don’t know if you have seen the information concerning the treasure, but if you have any semblance of rationality left you will know that it’s not easy to find the treasure or crack this case! You can’t do this with just your abilities alone! Listen to me, withdraw now! Didn’t you want to

crack the Hua Yun Mountain Massacre Case? I can help you apply for permission and you can immediately start reinvestigating that!”

“Father-in-law!” Zhao Yu said indifferently. “Say, why is the deadline given by Special Services two months from now? In two months, it will be the exact date of the engagement ceremony between me and Miaomiao! Tell me, isn’t this all too coincidental?”

“Well, you...” Miao Kun was speechless.

“Hehe! Looks like someone thought he was doing something good only for it to backfire completely and ruin everything!” Zhao Yu laughed. “But no matter who it is, they don’t understand me, Zhao Yu! I, Zhao Yu, have no fear! A simple treasure or some confidentiality agreement isn’t going to scare me! Father-in-law, you look down on me too much!” Zhao Yu said, his face flushed with arrogance. “I am a master of my own destiny! Sometimes, a person’s true capabilities are only shown in desperate times. I will take on this case, and I will f*cking crack it wide open! If not for anything more than to prove those who look down on me wrong!”

“I know I may be obstinate and in way over my head, and this case may end up going unsolved, but...” Zhao Yu continued, heavily emphasizing his words. “I will not regret this! You only know if you try!” After saying this, Zhao Yu hung up the phone without waiting for Miao Kun’s reaction.

“Ah? Boss...” Cui Lizhu heard what Zhao Yu said and hurriedly rushed over to talk to him. “Don’t tell me... you suspect this was all planned by your father-in-law? How could that be? Is he still against you marrying his daughter?”

“No!” Zhao Yu gestured. “On the contrary, he’s doing this for his own good!”

“Ah? Why?” Cui Lizhu wondered.

“Li Jing tried to push me out of this case so I would no longer have to participate in this treasure case... of course, this was for my own good!” Zhao Yu said. “It’s also for his daughter. Miao Ying is almost done with her case, he is afraid that once she finishes her case, she will join me and we will investigate the treasure together. That way, both of us would be put in danger, and as a father, he wouldn’t want to see that! He planned the beginning but not the ending! He didn’t expect a professional Special Services agent would not only be unable to deal with me but even be defeated by me instead! His plan was all ruined!”

“Oh...” Cui Lizhu nodded. “But what’s with the deadline? I don’t understand that!”

“I don’t really get the deadline either,” Zhao Yu admitted as he shook his head. “Perhaps they are trying to scare me, coercing me into retreating. Or perhaps father-in-law hopes that I give up the danger for Miao Ying, or he could be giving me an opportunity to train myself to be in the Special Service. Of course, there’s also the bigger possibility that...” Zhao Yu paused and patted his chest proudly. “Because too many miraculous things have happened to me, they want that same luck to rub off on the treasure hunt!”

“Pft...” Cui Lizhu was speechless.

“But there’s one thing all of you don’t need to worry about!” Zhao Yu said. “With my father-in-law around, the deadline isn’t going to be a problem for us! Of course, seeing as how unusual this case is, if any of you want to quit, I won’t force you to stay!” He turned to face the rest.

“Leader!” Li Beini said, suddenly taking a calculator to Zhao Yu just as she finished her sentence. “I’ve calculated a bit and, besides the treasure, there’s also the 19 boxes of gold! If we can find that, each of us will receive at least 115 million in rewards! So, quick! Give me the confidentiality agreement! I don’t want to miss the opportunity to earn some good money!”

“What the f*ck? Are you for real?” Zhang Jingfeng’s eyes turned red upon hearing this and he raised his hands in front of Li Beini. “Count me in!”

“Me too, I’ll sign up too!” Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai said, scrambling forward.

“Get out of the way! I will sign first!” Cui Lizhu hurriedly pushed past everyone and grabbed Zhao Yu’s mobile phone. “I still want my big house...”

At the same time, far away in Wellington, New Zealand.

Miao Kun had just put down his phone. He seemed uneasy.

“Sir, are you okay?” A young man with a crewcut asked worriedly. “Don’t worry anymore, the two months will be over quickly, and when that time comes, they’ll understand what you’ve been doing for them!”

“Yao Zu!” Miao Kun said to the young man as he pulled out a cigar. “Say, why do you think my daughter fell for this mad man? I just don’t get it! He was able to beat up a group of professionally trained agents! Isn’t that absurd?”

“Yeah...” The young man frowned. “But isn’t this quite normal? Did you forget that time at the hotpot restaurant...?” After seeing the look on Miao Kun’s face, the young man hurriedly changed the topic. “Rest assured, I will send more men to cooperate and protect brother-in-law! Don’t you realize? He has a never-say-die spirit that’s just like you! Isn’t that a good thing?”

“Ha! Kid...” Miao Kun took a deep puff on his cigar. “When did you learn how to sweet talk? But you are not wrong, this kid’s heart is much bigger than I thought. I’m looking forward to seeing how he fares in this case!”

Chapter 1087: The Strange Reasons for Murder

It was 8:00pm in the case analysis room of Feng Ping Police Station. Zhao Yu had brought along his team members and they were analyzing the information they had on the treasure. Since the previous office had been destroyed, they had to move to the professional case analysis room in the police station.

“This case is too strange!” Cui Lizhu said, expressing her doubts. She faced the whiteboard, full of information. “No matter what, the names on the list were all experts who had helped the Secret Service team investigate this case through the years, right?”

“Yes!” Li Beini said to the team. “These 16 people were all experts in their respective fields. Since the 1960s, they had participated in the investigation of gold treasures and all of them had formally signed confidentiality agreements.”

“Since the 60s...?” Liu Zhanbing asked. “What about before the 60s?”

“There’s no information about before the 60s on the documents!” Li Beini shook her head. “It’s only been mentioned in several reports that after the founding of the country, the relevant departments had never stopped their investigations! I guess the lapses in information are due to the division of work between different departments. But we also cannot rule out the possibility that Li Jing has given us incomplete information.”

“To add on to that point...” Cui Lizhu pointed at the 16 names and asked, “Other than the last five, the first 11 were all considered cases of natural death?”

“Yes!” Li Beini nodded. “The information clearly shows that the first 11 experts died of natural causes and not of murder!”

“Then what about the last five people?” Cui Lizhu asked again. “Is it confirmed that they were murdered?”

Li Beini nodded slightly. “It’s only suspected! Yuan Juncheng, Li Shijiang, Gu Xilai, Bai Wenhua, and Shao Jun... based on the information we have on these five people, they were suspected to have been murdered. But, ironically, this document was drafted by me! That means that it wasn’t until our team started digging into this matter that the Special Services took notice.”

“What the h*ll were they doing?” Cui Lizhu asked, frowning as she looked at Zhao Yu. “They knew the importance of these experts, so why didn’t they send someone to protect them?”

“It’s not like that! These old experts were merely involved in the investigation as advisors, they had all been retired for a long time!” Li Beini said. “And after retirement, according to the confidentiality agreement, they could no longer participate in investigations related to the treasure!”

“That won’t do either!” Cui Lizhu spread her hands and pointed at the five names on the whiteboard. “These five people didn’t die at the same time. There was a span of several months before and after each death. Were the people at Special Services not doing anything? One death could be considered an accident, but the second, and then the third; wouldn’t that have been a cause for concern?”

“This question... I’m afraid we can only ask Special Services themselves!” Li Beini shook her head. “But based on my analysis, it is very possible that this matter had been completely overlooked by them!”

“Oh? Why?” Cui Lizhu asked.

“Because times have changed. The Special Services department has been busy trying out new methods and means,” Li Beini explained, switching to the big screen and pointing at the document. “Look, starting nine years ago, these experts were no longer working with the Special Services team. They all had their own work and lives. The search for the treasures was merely a project they had participated in in the past.”

“Yes!” Xu Hai said. “Although I may not know much, I would imagine that it would be impossible for the Special Services department to expend energy protecting and monitoring these experts for a long time!”

“The most important thing is...” Li Beini continued, opening another document. “The treasure has not been found! Therefore, there was no need for Special Services to worry about people going after these experts. Before this happened, there had been no other deaths!”

“Yeah!” Zhang Jingfeng tapped his head. “This issue is so strange! What did these murderers want from them?”

“Indeed, and they even used professional truth serums...” Liu Zhanbing frowned. “These old experts don’t know where the treasure was hidden either, what were they hoping to get out of them?”

“Ah?!” Cui Lizhu said mysteriously, squinting her eyes. “Hey, guys, could it be that there was something fishy about these five old experts? For example, maybe they had kept some information to themselves? Maybe they had discovered some important information about the treasure but didn’t report it, and someone found out later so they wanted to get them to tell the truth and then silence them?”

“There’s only a small possibility that is what happened!” Li Beini said, shaking her head. “This treasure is extraordinary. Anyone with half an IQ would understand that it belonged to the country and nobody would be able to keep it for themselves. Besides, these experts were old comrades with a stubborn mindset, they would never do something that childish!”

“Tsch!” Zhang Jingfeng frowned. “Then what is the reason? Truth serum and also a very advanced drug used to kill... just what did the murderer want to accomplish?”

“Unless...” Liu Zhanbing said. “Unless these experts actually did have important information, things like treasure maps that they didn’t realize were related to the treasures but the murderers did know! So, the murderers forced them to give them the information and killed them afterward!”

“Eh?” Zhang Jingfeng’s eyes lit up. “If you say it like that it sounds like a real possibility! Hearing it makes me think we’re in a movie, how exciting!”

“But...” Li Beini frowned. “The documents made it clear that when the experts quit, it was impossible for Special Services to let them take any of the information with them. Moreover, Special Services has a special monitoring system. They would definitely have noticed if these five experts were still involved in researching the treasure after leaving!”

“That means to say... we’re not on the right train of thought?” Liu Zhanbing shook his head in regret. Everyone could feel the air of mystery surrounding this case.

“Nine years!” Xu Hai exclaimed. “Those old experts had been gone for nine years. During those nine years, who was investigating the treasures? Were there any new experts who joined the case?”

“No!” Li Beini said. “The Special Services team mainly started with advanced technology, and there was some international level news. I can see from the report there was a clear sense of powerlessness. Think about it, it had been 80 years since they began looking and it had still not been found. People had to have been changing their minds! Perhaps the treasures didn’t exist, or it had already been destroyed during the war...”

“Exactly, if the treasure doesn’t exist, then isn’t everything we’re doing pointless?” Cui Lizhu asked, sounding distressed. “It’s a pity, there go my dreams of a mansion!” Cui Lizhu then noticed Zhao Yu engrossed in the whiteboard. He seemed to be thinking about something important. Out of curiosity, she tugged at his sleeve and asked, “Boss, what are you thinking about?”

“Well...” Zhao Yu stared at the whiteboard without blinking. “I don’t know... do you guys notice a problem? You see, the list from Special Services and the list from Tao Xiang, aren’t the orders of the names exactly the same?”

“Oh?” Li Beini was the first to respond. “The list from Special Services was written in the order in which the experts were hired. From what you said, they definitely are!”

“Oh... then since this list comes from Special Services... could it mean my dad stole it from them?” Cui Lizhu asked, suddenly understanding.

“What the f*ck! No wonder he’s the thief king!” Xu Hai exclaimed in surprise.

“No!” Zhao Yu said unexpectedly, shaking his head. “I feel that this may be more complicated than we think! Seems like I have to seriously consider what Li Jing said before.”

“Oh? What did she say?” Cui Lizhu asked.

“Xiao Cui!” Zhao Yu turned back and stared at Cui Lizhu seriously. “Let’s talk about this. What else do you know that you haven’t told me yet?”

Chapter 1088: Mysterious Associates

Although the bonus was estimated to be worth 100 million yuan, everyone from the Special Investigations Team knew that bringing this up was just Li Beini’s attempt to comfort them. How were a few police officers from the Criminal Investigations Team supposed to find a treasure that an entire country’s efforts couldn’t locate over 80 years?

Even without Zhao Yu’s reminder, everyone knew that discovering who had murdered the five experts was their real mission! Only when the murderer was found would it be possible to obtain new clues for the treasure case! At that time, even if it was impossible to actually find the treasure, they could at least give a satisfactory answer to the Secret Services department.

Hence, when the investigations began, the focus of Zhao Yu and the team was on uncovering the truth behind the murders. Their job was to look for the murderer! However, there was an obvious unprecedented difficulty regarding the experts’ murders. Both the bizarre manner of death of the old experts and the confusing motives behind the murder cast shadows of doubt over the case.

According to the data, after Secret Services found out that the deaths of the five experts were potentially murders, a wave of in-depth investigations had been carried out. However, even with their most advanced investigation methods, they were unable to find any obvious leads. You could tell this murderer was of an entirely different class of criminals considering he was able to escape the reach of Secret Services! This would be an even more difficult task for the lower positioned Criminal Investigation Department.

Thinking about it, Zhao Yu felt that if the case were to be solved, they would need to start from the motive for the murders. Only by finding out why the five experts were murdered would they have any hope in finding the killer. The list of names from the thief king was the most important piece of this puzzle. Thus, Zhao Yu turned his gaze to Cui Lizhu.

“Ah? What do you mean?” Cui Lizhu was shocked and hurriedly clasped her hands, trying to defend herself. “Boss, you have to speak with some conscience! I’ve already told you all I know. If there is anything else I’m hiding, may the heavens strike me with lightning five times and allow me to be arrested the minute I open this door!”

“God d*mn it!” Zhao Yu said seriously, frowning. “I’m being serious here! I didn’t mean you hid something and didn’t report it, I’m asking you if there were any details that you could have overlooked? Li Jing is right. After all, you were the closest person in the world to the thief king. Even though he didn’t discuss anything directly with you, if you think back carefully, can you remember if you ignored anything that might be of importance?”

“Well... you... what do you mean by that...?” Cui Lizhu was obviously not taking what Zhao Yu had said well.

“Urgh!” Zhao Yu turned around and looked at the whiteboard. “Actually, I don’t really understand what your job entails. If this was just a petty theft or a small tiff, then maybe we could treat it as a separate crime. But to reach the level of King of Thieves, he must have received some form of help! Xiao Cui, think about it carefully. All those large-scale operations that Tao Xiang participated in, could he really have done it all alone?”

“Are you trying to say he had accomplices?” Cui Lizhu asked, surprised. Her eyes widened.

“Maybe not multiple accomplices...” Zhao Yu said. “Just one very capable accomplice! Xiao Cui, tell me, what’s the most difficult part of a major theft?”

“Well...” Cui Lizhu’s eyes turned red. “Do you actually need me to say this? It’s obviously getting information! If you don’t get real information, then even if you have the skills, you won’t know what you’re stealing!”

“Yes!” Zhao Yu nodded. “With Tao Xiang’s ability, the actual theft itself is not the most difficult part! The most difficult part is how to get detailed and reliable information!”

“Well, so... so...” Cui Lizhu tried hard to recall. She felt as though her blood was boiling.

“We...” Zhao Yu said to the group, sighing. “We have to look at the big cases that Tao Xiang had committed and analyze them more. If you look at it, doesn’t it seem as though he had a really well-informed accomplice? In addition,” Zhao Yu said, turning to Cui Lizhu. “Write the exact locations where you and Tao Xiang have lived before. I’ll send someone over to them see if he left anything behind.”

“Ah, okay! Oh, right!” Cui Lizhu suddenly remembered something. “In the rented house in Jin Ping, there were some things my father left behind...”

“Alright!” Zhao Yu nodded. “I will inform Li Luoyun later. And...” Zhao Yu patted Cui Lizhu on the shoulder. “I need you to calm down and carefully recall every detail of Tao Xiang and your past life. This time, we have to be even more detailed than we would be when we were looking for gems. You

shouldn't neglect to share even the slightest of expressions and movements! Especially your past with your father in the Golden City! Carefully recall who you were in contact with at that time! Your dad's accomplices may have entered your sight without your knowledge!"

"Alright, I understand what you mean!" Cui Lizhu nodded vigorously. "Rest assured, I will try my best to recall! Actually, I also suspected that my dad might have some team or accomplices, but he never told me if he did!"

"Yes! From gathering the information to planning out the theft, right up to the final sale, it would be impossible for one person to control the entire operation, even if he were a thief king!" Zhao Yu nodded. "If we can find out more about Tao Xiang's accomplices, maybe we can figure out what the list of names is all about!"

After Cui Lizhu agreed, she immediately picked up a piece of paper and a pen and began working based on what Zhao Yu had asked of her. Seeing Cui Lizhu's positive attitude, Li Beini quietly approached Zhao Yu and whispered, "Brother, do you suspect that Tao Xiang's accomplice is someone within the system? Wouldn't it be someone in the Secret Services?"

"Whoa, well done Beini!" Zhao Yu complimented her. "It seems like I didn't choose the wrong person this time! You're right, I did have such a suspicion. When Tao Xiang was at his peak, he often disappeared unpredictably and carried out one unimaginable theft after another. I feel that if there were no high-profile personnel behind him, he wouldn't have been able to get away with it! It's just that I'm not sure whether or not Secret Services was involved!"

"I agree with your judgment! Tao Xiang probably wasn't alone in his actions. He had a mysterious accomplice in the shadows that he did not even tell Cui Lizhu about," Li Beini said with serious thought. "Maybe he got the list from his mysterious accomplice. Either they were looking for the treasure, or they were trying to utilize Tao Xiang's intelligence and wisdom..."

"Beini, these are mere speculations, we still can't come to any concrete conclusions," Zhao Yu said, shaking his head. "Actually, if you compare another case to this one and look at them together, we may be able to figure out a rough framework!"

"Oh? Which case?" Li Beini asked.

"The Gemstone Theft Case!" Zhao Yu said as he moved toward a blank whiteboard and began writing words. "Look, before the Tamil Star was stolen, Tao Xiang had always pulled off thefts without a hitch. He frequently committed big thefts from private vaults, museums, diamonds, gold, art... no matter what he stole he didn't make any mistakes. However, who would have thought that his legacy would come to an end after the gemstone case? The buyer did him dirty and almost cost Tao Xiang his life, injuring his head and causing him to become crazy!" Zhao Yu continued. "The most important point was that in the gemstone case, Tao Xiang suddenly made use of his long-lost senior Li Fei! Beini, have you figured anything out?"

"This..." Li Beini was trying to keep up with Zhao Yu's ideas but was still one step behind him.

"We can assume that Tao Xiang really had a great acquaintance who could scout for information and help Tao Xiang avoid the police's eye. If this was the case, in that gemstone case, why would Tao Xiang still need Li Fei's help?" Zhao Yu asked.

“Oh, something must have gone wrong!” Li Beini suddenly realized. “Either the mysterious acquaintance of Tao Xiang got into trouble, or they broke off the partnership and no longer cooperated! With no other options, Tao Xiang went to Li Fei for help!”

“That’s about it!” Zhao Yu nodded. “I was hoping that it had been because they fought, that way we would at least have some chance to find out who the accomplice was. But if this person is long gone, then the matter of the list of names will be hard to investigate!”

“Ah!!” Li Beini exclaimed, her heart pounding with excitement. “Senior, you said... the list of names was given to Tao Xiang by a mysterious accomplice, and now the murder of the five experts... could it be the same person?!”

Chapter 1089: Scary Suspect’s Silhouette

“No!” Zhao Yu answered with certainty. “I have thought about this before, but we have to take the issue of age into consideration. Even if this mysterious accomplice of Tao Xiang was younger than him, he would definitely be at least 60 years old by now. Even if he had wanted to commit such delicately planned murders, he might not be capable of it!”

“But...” Li Beini began, her eyes widening. “We can’t rule out that the mysterious accomplice is the mastermind! Even if he can’t do it himself, he can still hire someone else to do it for him!”

“That’s true,” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “But think about it, if this person and Tao Xiang had been working together for so many years, they should have earned a lot of money together. He is already of age, so what’s the reason he would be looking for the treasure again? Even if he found it, how would he spend it?”

“There are two possibilities!” Li Beini replied. “Firstly, it could be that this person still has a conscience and actually wanted to discover the treasure for the good of the country. The second is that he was held hostage! Someone discovered his secret and forced him to look for the treasure!”

“Hmm, if there really is such a mysterious accomplice...” Zhao Yu said, nodding again. “Then it is more likely the second possibility! If it was for the country’s interest, there was no way he would be killing people!”

“Yes, but...” Li Beini was facing a dilemma. “Senior, how are we supposed to find this person?”

“Tsch!” Zhao Yu pouted. “It’d be great if we could transfer Wu Xiumin over! He would be able to psychologically profile this mysterious accomplice. But, uhm, I guess I’ll give it a go...” Zhao Yu said, closing his eyes as he tried to recall the case. “I think... the fact that this person had access to so much top-secret information and was able to help Tao Xiang avoid police detection means that he is very likely in a high position within our system with a certain amount of authority ordinary staff would not have...”

“This person is similar to Tao Xiang’s age!” Zhao Yu continued. “Based on the era and a quick calculation, he is possibly slightly younger than Tao Xiang... He is very rich and has a prominent position... As for his character... he’s definitely the kind of person with very good rapport and excellent interpersonal relationships! He probably knows a lot of senior officials, businessmen, and wealthy people, and hangs out with them comfortably. He’s also probably pretty generous...”

“In addition, this person is extremely disciplined, nimble, and not that different than Tao Xiang, and, uhm...” At that point, Zhao Yu paused and tried his best to think. “Six years ago, in the period leading up to when Tao Xiang stole the Tamil Star, something might have happened that caused to Tao Xiang to instead use Li Fei as a partner...”

“Well, uhm, this seems like, uhm...” Li Beini hesitated after hearing the non-professional description Zhao Yu had just given.

“What’s wrong?” Zhao Yu asked, sounding sensitive. “If you have something to say then say it. Why are you hesitating?”

“Uhm, then I will say it...” Li Beini said nervously.

“Out with it!” Zhao Yu told her.

“That, uhm...” Li Beini said weakly, blinking. “Senior, did anything unusual happen to your father-in-law six years ago?”

“What the f*ck?!” Zhao Yu reached out to hit Li Beini. She quickly moved her hands to cover her face.

“Senior! This is just a guess, don’t take it to heart!” Li Beini urged Zhao Yu. “Your description really sounds like Miao Kun!”

“You...” Zhao Yu retracted his hands and rubbed his messy hair. He thought about it for a moment. The description he gave really did sound like his father-in-law; it was just like he was introducing Miao Kun!

But... Zhao Yu quickly dismissed the thought. What a joke! How could Miao Kun be the mysterious accomplice of Tao Xiang? Miao Kun was an overseas agent from the time Miao Ying was young, how could he be related to the thief king Tao Xiang? This was not a movie, so how could something that preposterous be reality? It was impossible! Impossible!

Zhao Yu shook his head and smiled bitterly. Whether it was related to his work or his private life, he did not think that this shocking speculation would be true! Even though the adventure system being active meant many impossible coincidences were actually possible, believing that his father-in-law had been Tao Xiang’s accomplice was too much of a stretch!

However, after thinking about how Zhao Yu had gotten caught in Li Jing and Xiao Hang’s scheme, Miao Kun’s subsequent odd reaction, and the deadline that had been set, he could not help but have his own suspicions. This all felt strange... God d*mn it! Zhao Yu thought as he let out a heavy sigh. This treasure case seemed odd right from the get-go. From the very beginning there had been odd occurrences. It felt as if these were indicative of something.

“Hey!” Li Beini suddenly pointed at what Zhao Yu had written about Tao Xiang on the whiteboard and sighed heavily. “No wonder people say that the mysterious Tamil Star is the stone of destiny! It’s this stone that changed the fate of the thief king himself! Senior, since you said that he didn’t participate in the gemstone theft, could he actually have found the treasure?”

Later that night, Zhao Yu was in his hotel room. This case was different from others and Zhao Yu knew that since the investigations had just begun, he needed to pace himself. Instead of working day and

night, it was better to keep his mental state in check so that he would be able to think accurately and make the best judgment calls.

At that point, Zhao Yu was nervously waiting for it to become midnight. The Gen Dui hexagram he had started earlier that day had ended just before this. He had obtained a 213% completion rate and several tools as a reward.

Looking back at today's encounter, Zhao Yu felt that he had been deeply affected by the hexagram, almost pulling the muscles in his lower back. Before this, he had thought that the Gen Dui hexagram represented the clues related to the treasure and he would be able to achieve an important breakthrough. In actuality, this dui hexagram didn't have any returns, and it did not represent the treasure, but his own prize. It turned out that he received a 210,000-yuan bonus from the Criminal Department today for the Demon Case! This bonus had been in his account for a while, but Zhao Yu hadn't realized until the end of the day since he had been busy.

He had also fought the Secret Services team earlier today and had obtained investigative authority over the treasure case. It would have felt more appropriate if it had been represented by a zhen hexagram, which meant something shocking. Or because he and Li Jing had developed a grudge, and he had fought with Xiao Hang, if he had seen a kan, li, or even gan hexagram, he would not have been surprised. However, the system had given him a gen hexagram, meaning toughness, which seemed unrelated to this case.

Zhao Yu thought seriously about the hexagram. After all, he had received the USB information from Special Services today. Perhaps the gen hexagram was referring to that? Or was the system not indicating that there would have been a battle today? Was it all just about self-meditation?

Hng... Zhao Yu first checked his watch and then checked the system in his brain. Just then, a new hexagram had begun opening in the distance and was close. He became inevitably tense, as he knew very well that this upcoming glimpse was important. It would determine the future direction of the investigation!

Based on his understanding of the system, Zhao Yu felt that the chance of gan or kun appearing in new hexagrams was very high! He didn't know if he could handle whatever was coming. Suddenly, while waiting for the hexagram, his phone rang. Zhao Yu knew without picking it up that there was only one person who would call him at this time, and that was definitely the person closest to him. When he unlocked the phone, he realized he was right. It was Miao Ying. After receiving the deadline, Zhao Yu had told Miao Ying what had happened that day.

However, Miao Ying wasn't as shocked as she had been before. She knew Zhao Yu's character well, and that no matter where he went if he didn't make a huge scene, he wouldn't be Zhao Yu! On the phone, Miao Ying told Zhao Yu that she was stepping up her work so she would be able to reunite with him quickly. She was already arranging for staff to replace her and was ready to prepare Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke to come over and help Zhao Yu.

When Miao Ying mentioned Wu Xiumin, Zhao Yu was reminded of the suspect profile he had written up by himself, and when he thought of this, he inevitably remembered the problem. Zhao Yu picked a suitable opportunity from the silences that arose between changes in topics and asked Miao Ying,

“Miaomiao, there’s something I need to ask you. Did anything big happen in your family about six years ago?”

Chapter 1090: Who Wants to put Righteousness Before Family?

“What are you saying? Are you trying to imply something?” Miao Ying asked, confused. “What do you mean by a big event? You of all people should know that our family has big events practically every day.”

“Uhm, about that...” Zhao Yu said. “Think about it carefully. Around six years ago, did anything odd happen to your father? Uhm, maybe not just six years ago, maybe something even earlier?”

“Hey, Zhao Yu, what’s wrong with you?” Miao Ying asked. “Aren’t you supposed to be looking for the treasure? Why are you suddenly asking about my dad? Eh? No, that’s not right... why are you specifically asking about my dad six years ago? What’s on your mind?”

“Uhm, fine!” Zhao Yu understood Miao Ying’s urge to get to the bottom of things, so he didn’t want to hide why he was asking, so he told her directly. “It’s like this, we’ve suspected for a long time that the thief king Tao Xiang had an accomplice working from the shadows! This accomplice could be someone from inside the system, and is somebody in a high position...” Zhao Yu told Miao Ying everything they had deduced, not leaving out a single word. He was worried his father-in-law had been involved with Tao Xiang.

“You are way too talented! Hahaha!” Miao Ying began unexpectedly laughing after hearing his explanation. “My dear, you really are a godly detective! We haven’t even gotten engaged and you’re already targeting your father-in-law?”

“Are you joking?” Zhao Yu explained in a hurry. “You still don’t know me? I am just worried. If I was really suspicious of him would I still tell you, his daughter!”

“Okay!” Miao Ying laughed. “In that case, I have a faster way to solve this problem! Do you want to hear it?”

“Oh? How?” Zhao Yu asked.

“I will call my dad and tell him about your suspicions!” Miao Ying said quickly. “If he sends somebody to silence you, that shows that he was indeed involved with Tao Xiang. If not, then it shows that there’s nothing there. How about that for an idea?”

“Eh?” Zhao Yu could tell Miao Ying was angry and tried to calm her down. “Miaomiao don’t be mad! Let’s be professional here, okay?”

“Yeah sure! Would you be angry if I suspected your parents?” Miao Ying asked, pouting. “Zhao Yu, I beg you to stop letting your imagination run wild, okay? Do you think such a thing is possible? Just because of your lame psychological profile, you think my dad had been Tao Xiang’s accomplice? I admit that maybe my father did participate in the whole Li Jing situation, but I believe that he did so with our safety in mind. Don’t forget, we are getting engaged in June, he doesn’t want us to be involved in a national-level case. Isn’t that understandable?”

“Missy, I was just asking! You should know how I am!” Zhao Yu consoled. “If I suspected my mom and dad of something, I would also find out the truth! I beg you! I can only ask you this because I’m close to you. Right now, I don’t have much time left. With only two months, I don’t want to let any possibility slip by!”

“Fine, fine, fine...” Miao Ying said. “Then I’ll be more professional. Let me think about it, six years ago... hmm, six years ago... nothing big happened,” Miao Ying recalled. “But my dad has always been very secretive, so I don’t know everything that happened either! How about I ask him personally?”

“Uhm, that...” Zhao Yu felt like he had made the wrong move and began to regret involving Miao Ying.

“It’s okay darling, I know what you mean! You don’t know how much I wish my dad was Tao Xiang’s accomplice!” she told him.

“Uhm, what?!” Zhao Yu was stunned.

“Yeah!” Miao Ying sighed. “If my father had conspired with Tao Xiang then wouldn’t this whole case be simpler? All we would need to do is arrest my dad, then force him to confess. We could beat him up until he told us the truth!”

“Uhm...” Zhao Yu was beginning to become confused and felt like he was no longer the only one to put justice above his family.

“But it’s a pity, the probability of something like that happening is too small!” Miao Ying said confidently. “However, what you said made me think of something. If Tao Xiang’s accomplice really does exist, and if it really is somebody from inside the system, then we wouldn’t be able to investigate this with the ability of our Special Investigations Team alone! The only person who can help us, in that case, would be my dad!” Miao Ying said seriously. “How about this, if you could get the suspect’s profile out, then my father can go find him and see if anyone in the Secret Services department, or any department for that matter, meets that description!”

“Good idea... but you definitely cannot tell him about me suspecting him!” Zhao Yu said, nodding.

“It doesn’t matter! I know my father the best! If he knew his future son-in-law suspected him, he’d be really happy!” Miao Ying said, imagining the scenario.

“Uhm...” Zhao Yu swallowed. He started to seriously consider what Miao Ying meant. His father-in-law, Miao Kun... just what sort of temper did he have?

“My dear, I will send Wu Xiumin over tomorrow! Let her help you profile the suspect better!” Miao Ying said. “But we cannot pin all our hopes on this alone. If we want to find the murderer and the treasure, there’s a lot we have to work on!”

“Ah, to be able to work on a Secret Services department case and find a national treasure... how awesome! I’m getting excited just thinking about it!” Miao Ying said, her adrenaline pumping. “I want to fly over immediately and solve the case with you! Darling, for as long as I’ve known you, there’s nothing that has eluded you before, so you have to continue your legendary streak. Even with this!”

“Uhm...” Zhao Yu frowned, grumbling in a low voice. “Why do I feel like something is not right? I suspect Li Jing is meddling in my affairs, are you also a part of it? No wonder you got me to fight with her right way!”

“That’s enough out of you! After suspecting your father-in-law, now you suspect your fiancée? Detective Zhao, I think it’s time for you to see a doctor!” Miao Ying reprimanded him. “Where did you get all these conspiracy theories from?!”

“Just kidding, just kidding...” Zhao Yu replied. “But I am not as optimistic and excited as you. You probably don’t feel it but as soon as this case started, it’s been filled with strangeness! I feel, if we can find who murdered the experts, that would be a good start! Regarding the treasure... uhm...”

“Right, speaking about the murderers, I questioned Cheng Lingfei again regarding the Pitidebin,” Miao Ying said. “She gave me a few leads. We can probably try those! If we can find the source of the drugs that could be the key to unlock the mystery behind the murder of the experts!”

“Okay, then can you get in direct contact with Chen Ganshi?” Zhao Yu asked. “Let the Criminal Investigation Office investigate this!”

“I feel...” Miao Ying began. “Rather than giving this to the Criminal Investigation Department, why not let Secret Services handle it? They’re more professional!”

“Okay,” Zhao Yu nodded. “Can you indicate this in the report? The superiors will approve it if it’s related to national affairs!”

“Yeah!” Miao Ying agreed. “Then that’s it for today. Wait for me, darling! I will hurry up and finish things on my end, then reunite with you! Please don’t crack the case before I get there, leave something for me...”

“Alright!” Zhao Yu smiled and hung up the call. Ugh! After the phone call ended, Zhao Yu’s smile slowly stiffened up. Even though Miao Ying seemed to be in a good mood, Zhao Yu felt an unprecedented amount of stress. Could this case be solved? Could the treasure be found?

System boss... Zhao Yu thought, turning his attention to the system interface. Whether or not I can solve this case on time is up to you! Open! he commanded in his mind. As Zhao Yu’s mind moved, a banner popped out. At the center of the system was two large words – Zhen Kan.

God d*mn it! he thought. Zhao Yu couldn’t help but sigh after seeing the result. Dear system boss, why do you always screw up at the last minute?