

## **Crazy 1171**

### **Chapter 1171: Hanging Coffin Mystery**

On a cliff on Wuqing Mountain, where the Seven Star Hanging Coffins were.

After driving over a bumpy road, Zhao Yu and the others had finally come to the extraordinary crime scene.

At that moment, the cliff had been blocked by the police, and people living nearby were not allowed to go up. Therefore, curious reporters and locals could only go to the opposite bank of the Baisha River, and they watched the police working on the cliff from there.

A local criminal police captain named Xiong Wendong told Zhao Yu and others about the incident.

“Yesterday morning, there was a construction team piling wiring poles on the cliff. Digging the pole pit requires the drilling of rocks, and breaking rocks here is likely to cause damage to the hanging coffins.

“So, when Pang Zhihui, the President of the local Cultural Relics Protection Association, received the news, they immediately came to stop the construction team. He came with Ma Fusheng, the director of the Cultural Relics Bureau.

“They and the construction team exchanged words, which ended in a fight. Someone got pushed aside and accidentally hit the switch on the pole inserting machine, causing the pole to fall off the machine and roll down the cliff,” Captain Xiong explained.

“What an odd coincidence!” Zhao Yu said, pouting. He then walked cautiously to the cliff with Xiong Wendong.

The Seven Star Hanging Coffins were a famous local scenic spot. But their location was far from the town. On that cliff, there were no protective railings. It was quite dangerous.

“Be careful, sir.” Xiong Wendong said to Zhao Yu as he pointed down the cliff. “You see, fortunately, the cliff is sunken. After the pole fell, it just swept the top corner of the coffin. It smashed a small piece of the coffin lid, so they saw what was inside.”

Cui Lizhu had sharp eyes. She looked down and saw the problem immediately. She then said, “This is not right. The coffin lid is closed. It’s not broken.”

Xiong Wendong quickly explained. “Well, it was the forensic experts who closed it. And we filled the gap in. We were afraid that if the body was exposed to the air for too long, it would accelerate the decay.”

Zhao Yu looked back at Cui Lizhu. “Please shut up! Do you understand the rules? Stop interrupting, will you?” He turned around and said to Xiong Wendong, “Captain Xiong, you can just ignore her and tell me about this accident in detail.”

That was the first time Xiong Wendong had met such a prominent leader. He was obviously excited.

“Where did I stop? Oh! Yes! President Pang of the Cultural Relics Protection Association saw that the pole fell on the coffin. Of course, he was very angry and also frightened. He rushed to the edge of the cliff to look down.”

Xiong Wendong then said, "At first, he was furious when he saw that a coffin had been broken." Captain Xiong pointed to the bottom of the cliff. "But he looked carefully, and soon found something wrong with the coffins.

"President Pang had participated in the scientific excavation movement in the 1980s. He knew that the hanging coffins should have been empty. But when he looked down, he could clearly see that there was something in the coffin, and it was something similar to a human."

Although the team members present had known about the dead bodies in the coffins before they arrived, they were still scared when Xiong Wendong told them what happened that day. Some even felt as though their hands and feet were freezing cold.

"President Pang was scared stiff. Both the destruction of the Seven Star Hanging Coffins and the thing he saw in the coffins made him realize that he should immediately report it to the police. He called us and also informed the Cultural Relics Bureau and other related units.

"I was the first to arrive. I took binoculars with me there. The sunlight got into the coffins. We saw that there was a human foot in the coffin from the gap," Xiong Wendong said with a complicated expression on his face.

Xiong Wendong then said, "You know, local people believe in geomantic superstitions. The hanging coffins are a mysterious and sacred thing in their eyes. So, I really didn't know what to do for a moment when I saw the foot in the hanging coffin. They always said that the hanging coffins were empty. How could there be a corpse in them? [1]

"So, we reported it to our leader and asked for forensic experts to help us investigate this strange case. Around noon, the experts from the city arrived. After a preliminary check, they decided to have someone go down to open all the coffins and check what was inside.

"Then, we helped them find a good climber and lowered him down with ropes..." Xiong Wendong was sweating as he spoke. "After the first hanging coffin was opened, we saw the body of a girl. You should have seen the picture, right? Although the girl was dead, she seemed just to be asleep.

"She is, at most, fifteen years old. She is wearing a popular shroud, and her feet are bare." Xiong Wendong talked about the strange occurrence with a complicated expression. "At that time, forensic experts were also shocked. They hadn't seen such a thing before, so they reported it to the provincial government.

"You know, we are too far away from the provincial capital, and there is no airport in this area. So, when the provincial government learned about this, it immediately gave us clear instructions. One was to have the best forensic experts conduct an on-site autopsy, but to try to avoid damaging the scene. The other was to open other hanging coffins immediately to see what was inside."

Xiong Wendong sighed. "They are right. After we opened the other coffins, we found that in each of the seven coffins, there was a dead girl. You have seen the pictures. The girls are all of similar ages as the first one. They look like they are just asleep. You can't tell if they are dead or not, or how long they have been dead. Some of them even have rosy cheeks, which makes people think they are still alive.

“It’s bizarre.” Xiong Wendong seemed like he was exhausted and had consumed all his strength. “So, when all of the seven coffins were opened, we finally realize this was a big case. The provincial government also believes that we need help. Therefore, they immediately asked us to suspend the autopsy and to close the coffins, then wait for you to come.”

Xiong Wendong asked Zhao Yu with expectant eyes, “Sir, please tell me. What should we do next?”

Zhao Yu stood up and frowned. The case turned out to be more complicated than he imagined.

At that time, Miao Ying said to Zhao Yu with a solemn expression, “Team leader, I’ll call Zhang Peipei now. I think it would be hard for the forensic team to deal with this kind of thing alone.”

Zhao Yu nodded. “In addition to the forensic team, we need someone who often deals with corpses that have been dead for a very long time. And...” He looked at the sun and said, “I need to call the provincial government and ask them to send helicopters to pick up the forensic team. We’ve wasted one night already. We can’t stand to waste any more time.”

“It’s all high cliffs here. We can’t wait until night. We must finish the work with the corpses before the sun falls,” Zhao Yu said. “Only when the autopsy is finished can we know how the girls died.”

#### **Chapter 1172: Transfer the Dead Female Corpses**

In the afternoon, with the arrival of the forensic team led by Zhang Peipei, the bank of the Baisha River opposite the Seven Star Hanging Coffins bustled with noise and excitement.

The forensic team brought professional equipment with them. They needed to transfer the bodies before the sun fell.

When the people on the opposite bank heard that the female corpses were about to be taken out of the coffins, they grew excited. More people came to watch the police working on the cliff.

The local police tried their best to maintain order. The coffins were hung on the high cliff, which could not be blocked. The reporters were aiming their large Canon cameras at the cliff.

It could be imagined that the news of the mysterious female corpses suddenly appearing in the Seven Star Hanging Coffins would spread across the country overnight.

Realizing this, Zhao Yu understood why the Criminal Department sent his team to deal with the case.

The case would cause big headlines. If the police couldn’t find out the truth as soon as possible, the pressure coming from the media would be unbearable.

At that moment, the scaffold and elevator for aerial work were set up on the cliff. Zhang Peipei’s forensic team, accompanied by the police, took the elevator to the bottom of the cliff and headed for the first hanging coffin.

Seeing someone going down the cliff, the people on the other side of the river could not help but make a commotion. Some even screamed.

Zhao Yu looked at the shouting crowd and frowned. "These people have nothing better to do? Why are they so interested in our work?"

Miao Ying stood on the edge of the cliff, looking at the forensic experts working with the corpses carefully, and said, "It's different. The hanging coffins are a mystery, especially for the local people. Of course they are curious about what's inside the coffins. Dead bodies suddenly appeared in them. They want to come and have a look."

Zhao Yu sighed. "The hanging coffin case suddenly became an open and transparent thing. I'm afraid that if the case is really a murder case, the attention from the media will be harmful to our investigation. Even a fool knows to run away after committing a murder, let alone a criminal smart enough to hide bodies in the hanging coffins."

At that time, Cui Lizhu was almost lying on the edge of the cliff. "Boss," she said to Zhao Yu. "This reminds me of someone. Do you remember Ma Laodan in Jinping?"

"Huh? Ma Laodan?" Zhao Yu didn't know why Cui Lizhu suddenly mentioned someone irrelevant to the case.

Seeing Zhao Yu frowning and shaking his head, Cui Lizhu explained. "Ma Laodan once told me about the hanging coffins when he was in Jinping..."

Cui Lizhu tried to remember that moment and said, "He said that drug dealers in Southeast Asia especially liked to put bodies in hanging coffins on a cliff after killing people. He also said that when one of his buddies went to Thailand to do business, he was threatened by a drug trafficker like this."

Zhao Yu listened to her and didn't say anything.

Cui Lizhu looked at the black hanging coffins under the cliff and said, "After all, hanging coffins are also coffins for the dead. Typically, people won't open a coffin."

"I was wondering if it was god's idea that such a coincidence happened. You know, the falling wiring pole breaking the coffin lid and people finding the female corpse in the coffin. Such a coincidence!"

"I think all the girls in the coffin were killed," she continued. "They were innocent people. They want us to find the murderer and take revenge for them. Boss, if that's the case, we must catch the murderer and put him in jail for his whole life."

"Cui..." Miao Ying opened her mouth and wanted to say something, but a scream came from the opposite riverside.

The three had to stop temporarily and looked down the cliff.

It turned out that at that moment, the forensic team had opened the coffin lid of the first hanging coffin. Some people were taking photos and videos, while others put their hands into the coffin.

The people on the opposite riverside could not see the situation unfolding, but Zhao Yu, Miao Ying, and Cui Lizhu could see what was inside the coffin clearly.

In the coffin, there was a young girl in a dark blue shroud, which was too large for her. The cover was embroidered with red flowers and patterns of dragons and phoenixes.

The girl was not tall. Lying in a huge coffin, she seemed petite.

There was no headscarf on her head, and her long hair was like a waterfall.

Zhao Yu and the others couldn't see her face clearly. They could only see that under the big shroud, the girl's feet were bare.

"This is so weird," Zhao Yu thought.

For him, it seemed that he had only seen this kind of thing in horror films and thrillers.

At that time, due to time constraints, the forensic experts simply checked the female corpses in the coffins. They then began carrying out the transfer work.

In order to prevent the bodies from rapidly rotting in the air, they used vacuum bags to wrap the bodies.

For convenience's sake, they did not take the bodies out of the hanging coffins, but put them into the bags while still in the coffins.

The body bag was opaque, so the audience in the distance couldn't see what the corpses looked like. When the body bags were finally carried back to the cliff, the audience was undoubtedly disappointed.

"Group leader Zhao..." As Zhao Yu watched the police carrying the corpses, Zhang Peipei, wearing a suit, appeared in front of him and said, "Please do me a favor."

"Oh, of course." Zhao Yu hurriedly stood up as he replied.

Zhang Peipei said, "As you can see, the equipment here is terrible. So is the preservation method. Carrying corpses for long distances is not a good idea for us. So, now we can only race against time and transport the bodies to the county criminal police department for autopsy."

Zhao Yu nodded. "I've informed them. They say they can make sure everything is set at a constant temperature and humidity, but they can't perform vacuum sterility."

"Ok, so we need to finish the autopsy as soon as possible, before the corpses decompose, to find the cause of death," Zhang Peipei said without any emotion.

Zhao Yu nodded and asked, "What else do you need?"

"The equipment and tools we brought with us work well, but seven bodies are too much for our team, so..." Zhang Peipei responded.

"I see." Zhao Yu picked up his phone and said, "I'll have them send all the local forensic doctors to help you. You can distribute tasks to them. Is that ok?"

Zhang Peipei nodded. "Thank you. I need two groups of people. One comes to the cliff to help, and the other goes to the county criminal police's autopsy room to wait for the work to come."

Zhao Yu immediately made an ok gesture.

"Group leader! Group leader." someone called.

Suddenly, Zeng Ke ran toward them from a distance, holding his laptop.

“Huh? Peipei...” Zeng Ke recognized Zhang Peipei at a glance and was stunned for a moment.

“Hi.” Zhang Peipei greeted him. The next moment, she passed Zeng Ke and went to direct the work.

“Well...” Zeng Ke turned around and stared at Zhang Peipei’s back.

“Zeng Ke...” Zhao Yu said with a wicked smile, “Haven’t you dated her? Do you want me to help you?”

“Um... No, no.” Zeng Ke just remembered what he was going to ask Zhao Yu for. He ran to Zhao Yu excitedly and said, “Look, I compared the picture of the female corpse in the hanging coffin with the missing person database. I found this just now.”

“Ah?” Hearing this, Zhao Yu was shocked and asked, “This girl is a missing person? If so, then...”

“Oh my God.” Cui Lizhu covered her mouth sadly.

Miao Ying also clenched her fist and said in a trembling voice, “I get it. They were not put in the coffins after they died of natural causes. This may be a major murder case.”

### **Chapter 1173: Not Ordinary Materials**

“The name of the girl is Geng Yaai, from Baiping Town, Beigang City. She is 16 years old. She left home a month and a half ago and hasn’t come back since then,” Zeng Ke said with a pile of documents in his hands.

“Baiping town?” Zhao Yu opened the map on his phone to check the place. He quickly found the town’s location and said, “It’s more than 100 kilometers away from Wuqing County.”

“I was right about this case.” Cui Lizhu rubbed her palms nervously and said with a solemn expression, “Only a crazy murderer could do this, killing people and putting their bodies in the hanging coffins. This murderer is so cruel.”

“In that case, Team Leader Miao, let’s do things separately this time. You take Zeng Ke and Cui Lizhu back to the criminal police team in Wuqing County,” Zhao Yu said to Miao Ying. “First, find out the identities of the dead girls. Now that we have found a missing person, maybe it will be a useful clue to the case.”

“I see.” Miao Ying nodded, agreeing. “Don’t forget to call me when you hear back about the autopsy.”

“I will. Don’t worry about that.” Zhao Yu repeatedly asked Miao Ying to be careful before she and the others left for the police station.

After Miao Ying left, Zhao Yu took a deep breath, then took a look at the day’s new hexagram. On the system interface, there were two prominent characters. Kun Gen.

Kun Gen! Kun meant that something big was going to happen, and Gen stood for cases. Zhao Yu’s understanding of the system made him realize that this hexagram was announcing a big case to him in advance.

Zhao Yu had started the new hexagram on the way to Wuqing in the high-speed train. So, he had known that the hanging coffin case was not ordinary before he arrived.

Now it had been proven that one of the dead bodies in the hanging coffins was a missing girl. So, these girls were very likely to have been murdered.

If those seven girls had all been murdered, this case had more victims than the Headless Female Corpse Case or even the Devil Case.

The victims were all underage girls, so the murderer must have been a cruel monster.

“Who was it? Who was the one that killed these girls? Why did this guy choose to hide the bodies in the hanging coffins? Why did the killer do this?” Zhao Yu kept asking himself.

“Team leader.” At that time, Ran Tao came to Zhao Yu along with a middle-aged man in his 50s. Ran Tao said, “This is Pang Zhihui, the president of the Wuqing County Cultural Relics Protection Association, and also chief of the County Cultural Relics Bureau and deputy director of the County Museum.”

“Haha. Wuqing is just a small place. So...” Pang Zhihui quickly waved his hand and said, “We are a small town in Wuqing. In fact, the museum, the Cultural Relics Bureau, and the Cultural Relics Protection Association are all the same thing.”

“Team leader, President Pang just led my technical team colleagues and me on a walk around. Apart from the pole pit which was not completed, we haven’t found anything,” Ran Tao said.

“Oh... So...” Zhao Yu nodded then asked, “President Pang, do you think the murderer used the scaffolds to go down the cliff?”

“I’m not sure about that. But, Leader Zhao, come here and have a look.” Pang Zhihui went to the edge of the cliff and pointed to a place on the ground. “Look, these small holes sealed with cement were used to fix scaffolds when we carried out the first scientific expedition in the 1980s,” he said.

“Here.” He pointed to the people who were working below and said, “Just like how they went down, we used the same method to get down the cliff at that time.”

Zhao Yu squatted down and looked at the sealed holes carefully. After a very long time, the cement and the rocks almost became the same color. He needed to watch carefully to identify the holes.

“I see, there are seven coffins on the cliff,” Zhao Yu said. “The coffins are in different places. So, if the murderer wanted to put a body in each coffin, he had to constantly adjust the scaffolds’ position, which would leave undeniable traces on the cliff.”

President Pang nodded and said, “I didn’t think I could explain this to you in a short time, but you understood it all immediately. No wonder you solved so many big cases.”

“So, if there are no scaffolds and elevators, is there any other way to get down?” Zhao Yu asked.

Pang Zhihui thought for a moment then said, “There are many hanging coffins on Wuqing Mountain, but for the sake of safety, we used this method to go down high cliffs every time. Besides the elevators, we also used safety ropes. Although there were no formal guidelines, we always used scaffolds and elevators.”

“So, the murderer didn’t do this on his own,” Zhao Yu said. “He carried dead bodies here and needed to open the coffins. Is it difficult to open the hanging coffins?”

“It’s not an easy thing. But it’s not that hard, either.” Pang Zhihui didn’t sound very sure.

“What do you mean?” Ran Tao urged him. “Is it easy or not?”

Pang Zhihui quickly replied, “It’s not hard to open the coffins if you master the key rule. But if you don’t know how to do it, you can’t open them.”

“Oh? What is the rule?” Zhao Yu asked.

“The coffins have no nails or wedges. I’m afraid you won’t believe this. Although these hanging coffins were built 600 years ago, they used sliding lids,” Pang Zhihui explained.

“Ah? You mean you can slide the lid to open a hanging coffin?” Ran Tao asked.

“There is a fixed slide on the coffin, but you need to remove the wooden dowels in the slide before you open it,” Pang Zhihui answered.

“Is it? The designers are smart.” Ran Tao was surprised.

Pang Zhihui smiled and said, “The wisdom of our ancients is far beyond our imagination. You may not know this. These Seven Star Hanging Coffins are different from the other hanging coffins in Wuqing Mountain. The rest of the hanging coffins were more than 2000 years old. The oldest one could be traced back to primitive times.”

Pang Zhihui continued, saying, “But these seven hanging coffins by the Baisha River are different. They have only been around for 600 years. They are relatively young compared to the ancient coffins. These seven coffins hanging from the cliff form a distinct pattern; the Big Dipper. This is a rare thing.

“We also found that the plates of these seven coffins are different from those of the others.” As soon as he spoke about the coffins, President Pang’s eyes lit up and he excitedly raised four fingers. “Cypress, pine, willow, and sandalwood. Come on, what do you think?”

“It’s Sandalwood. I often hear people say that sandalwood is the best materials for making coffins,” Ran Tao said without hesitation.

Pang Zhihui smiled mysteriously and said, “Yes, but not all of them. The Seven Star Hanging Coffins are indeed made of sandalwood, but through our testing, we found that the sandalwood is semi petrified.

“We have picked up a variety of compounds and unknown chemicals from the samples. Some experts suspect that the Seven Star Hanging Coffins had been immersed in a kind of oil-like liquid for a long time, and that’s how they become like they are now. That means, in a thousand years, or even in a million years, the hanging coffins will not be eroded.”

### **Chapter 1174: Mystery Within a Mystery**

“Actually, the thing that I’m most puzzled by and can’t figure out is...” Pang Zhihui began, still eagerly sharing his professional knowledge and insights, “that we totally didn’t expect the coffin to be completely empty! There was nothing in it at all!

“For many years, I have participated in the excavations of hanging coffins,” he said, spreading his hands. “Even if the body is rotten, there should, at the very least, be some teeth, hair, and other residues remaining! But the insides of these seven coffins were completely empty. There was not even any corpse oil present. It was as if it had never been filled!”

“Could it be... the bodies were stolen?” Ran Tao asked. “Such a good Seven Star Hanging Coffin could have attracted grave robbers, and they would have cleaned out the contents inside! Uhm, wait...” Before Ran Tao had even finished his sentence, he backtracked on what he had been saying. “I guess grave robbers wouldn’t have taken the corpses away...”

“Yeah! Grave robbing isn’t this clean!” Pang Zhihui said. “The hanging coffin themselves are a mystery, and the Seven Star Hanging Coffins are undoubtedly a mystery as well!”

“It’s pretty incredulous!” Ran Tao said, scratching his head and turning to Zhao Yu. “Leader, say, could it be that this hanging coffin case is related to some secret fengshui or something? Or could it be that someone is using the hanging coffins as a prelude to something?”

“That can’t be, right?” Pang Zhihui said, frowning suddenly. “In order to open up this scenic spot, we did a large-scale survey about the Seven Star Hanging Coffin. However, until now, it remains a mystery, and nobody knows the origins behind the Seven Star Hanging Coffin!”

“Also, the locals are also very respectful of the hanging coffins and normally, nobody would have even dared to think about opening them!”

“Hmm... that means...” Ran Tao raised an eyebrow. “The murderer isn’t a local...?”

As he said this, Ran Tao saw Zhao Yu bend over and look down the cliff again. Zhao Yu had bent too far forward and Ran Tao quickly reminded him of the danger, saying, “Hey, boss! Be careful! Even though it’s water below...”

He had wanted to say, ‘once you fall over, you’re done for!’ but thought it was inauspicious and quickly stopped.

“This cliff wall... isn’t it vertical?” Zhao Yu asked, still bending over to look.

“Yes, yes!” Pang Zhihui answered hurriedly. “The cliff face slants inwards by six to seven degrees, and it is wide at the top and narrow at the bottom. The cliffs are 67 meters in height and the hanging coffins are positioned between the 20 to 40-meter marks!”

“That way, even if there are any falling rocks from the cliff, they will not damage the hanging coffins below!” Saying this, Pang Zhihui shook his fists in the air. “Unfortunately, the one fell off yesterday because of an electrical pole. The electrical pole spun around in the air, hitting the corner of one of the hanging coffins. That was really, urgh...”

“President Pang! You can’t say that!” Ran Tao said. “Although a little bit of a cultural relic was damaged, it was a blessing in disguise to stumble upon such a big case! Otherwise, who knows when these poor girls would have been found?”

“Well, leader...” Pang Zhihui began nervously, seemingly having thought of something. “How was it? Did you manage to find out the identity of those girls? They... they weren’t murdered, right...?”

“Well, that...” Ran Tao was about to answer the question.

However, Zhao Yu suddenly interrupted. “You don’t need to know about that! From what I see, let’s think about how the murderer could have carried the bodies to the hanging coffins instead!

“President Pang,” Zhao Yu said, pointing below the cliff. “You said that since the mountain slopes inwards, nobody can climb up from below?”

“Uhm, yep. That’s about right...!” Pang Zhihui said nervously. “I feel that even if someone were able to climb, it would be impossible to climb up with a dead body in hand!”

“That’s true, even though it was a little girl...” Ran Tao began, shaking his head. “But it’s also a bit of weight. To just climb up like that, it is a little strange, right?”

“There’s water under the cliff...” Zhao Yu said, stretching out his neck to take a look. “It is not possible to use a machine either. Hey, Ran Tao, let’s find some climbing experts later!” he said, instructing Ran Tao.

“Also, take someone to the bottom of the cliff and check it out for yourself. If someone did indeed climb up, there should be some chisel marks on the mountain,” Zhao Yu said.

“No, no, no!” Pang Zhihui said, unexpectedly shaking his head. “Leader, you might not know this, no, you definitely don’t know this! All the mountains here are structured by granite, and granite is one of the hardest kinds of rock! If it were just one person, it would take a whole lot of effort to even dent them!”

“But I heard that when climbing, you don’t necessarily need to make a hole. You can just use some of the natural cracks in the rocks and put wedge holders in them!” Zhao Yu retorted.

“Leader, I’m telling you the truth!” Pang Zhihui said politely. “Nobody knows more about the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins in the entire Fulai province than I do!

“There are definitely no cracks under the cliff!”

“What?” Zhao Yu was taken aback.

“One more thing, Baisha River, as the name implies, holds a lot of white sand!” [1] Pang Zhihui said, pointing to the river below. “So, on the side nearest to the cliff, the water is very, very shallow and is filled with sand. Shipment boats usually steer clear of the area as they are worried about being stranded!

“If anyone really dared to climb, once they fell, death would be inevitable, so...” Pang Zhihui said seriously. “Climbing is almost like a foreign term to us!”

“Tsch!” Although Zhao Yu didn’t like the way Pang Zhihui was speaking, he had no choice but to admit that the man was right.

Thus, he stepped back, left the cliff, and turned his attentions elsewhere.

At that time, the staff was changing the position of the scaffolding in preparation for reaching out to the next hanging coffin.

Seeing this, Zhao Yu thought of something and said to Pang Zhihui, "President Pang, yesterday, the vehicle with the electrical pole. What was it like?"

"Well... it was yellow in color!" Pang Zhihui answered quickly, not knowing what Zhao Yu meant. "One was equipped with an impact drill for pitting, and the other was holding the electrical pole and preparing to insert it."

"Was it big?" Zhao Yu asked again.

"Not particularly big." Pang Zhihui gestured. "It was more like an ordinary small excavator!"

"Do you think..." Zhao Yu said, "If you put the scaffolding and scissor lifts on those two cars, could they bear the weight?"

"Ah! I see! That's what you wanted to ask!" Pang Zhihui said quickly, finally understanding. "Leader, you really asked the right person! I bet you didn't know this, but I was a physics major when I was in college!"

"Give me a second. I can use a calculator and make some rough calculations and see whether this idea you talked about is feasible..."

As he spoke, he took out his phone and began to calculate. While calculating, he also mumbled about the scaffolding. "Assuming the lightest scaffold weights 50kg, and the scissor lift can basically be calculated at about 50kg... and then factoring in the ropes and the people..."

Seeing President Pang deep in thought, Zhao Yu didn't want to interrupt him and waited patiently with Ran Tao.

In the end, not even three minutes had passed before President Pang raised his head and said to Zhao Yu with certainty, "Leader, it's not possible! If the scaffolding and lift were to be fixed onto two large vehicles, then they would have to be at least one third larger than the two cars yesterday!"

"Also, one more thing," he continued, "The scaffolding would need to be fixed entirely on one place. If it is not fixed on the ground, it must be fixed on the car! So..."

"So... the driver must be of a particularly high standard!" Zhao Yu said, pointing to the cliff without any obstacles. "The car must have been driven to the very edge of the cliff!"

"Yes, that's what I meant!" Pang Zhihui said, nodding.

"Ha!" Zhao Yu let out a grin when he heard that. "If that's the case, then this seems to be easy!"

"Why?" Pang Zhihui and Ran Tao asked simultaneously.

"President Pang!" Zhao Yu said, turning and pointing behind him. "Is there only one road to this cliff? The road that we came from?"

"Yes!" Pang Zhihui nodded.

"I just noticed that a camera was installed on that road!" Zhao Yu said, snapping his fingers. "So, all we have to do is check if there have been any large vehicles on this cliff recently. Perhaps this case is not that difficult to solve!"

## Chapter 1175: A Series of Mysteries

Around 4:00pm, at Wu Qing Shan county's Interpol brigade, temporary office of the Special Task Force.

Wu Qing Shan was a small town in the mountains. It was rather remote on account of it being far from the plains. The scale of the buildings there could not be compared to those in the big cities.

However, as it was a popular tourist destination, it was still rather good in terms of hygiene. Moreover, the police stations there were surrounded by the two mountains. One side faced the water and offered a picturesque view of beautiful mountains and clear waters. It was exquisite.

Besides, even though the police station was small, it was well-equipped with facilities. The network was smooth, and it was able to meet the basic needs of the task force generally.

"Zhao Yu, what brings you here?" Miao Ying asked, surprised to see Zhao Yu by the office entrance. "Three corpses have been sent over, aren't you going to supervise over the site...?"

"What good does it do for me to supervise? Based on the site environment, I've already asked Ran Tao to supervise the operations there!" Zhao Yu said, taking a cup of water from the water dispenser and gulping it down. "Now they even have another helicopter. With two helicopters, we should easily be able to finish our work before sunset!"

"Leader..." Zeng Ke said, raising his hand in the distance. "I have sent someone to retrieve the video surveillance footage from the cliff's intersection. Leader Xiong also transferred several experienced Interpol agents from the city. With their assistance in monitoring, we should be able to finish it before the night ends!"

"Okay!" Zhao Yu said. "It is best to do it on foot. Let Leader Xiong send a group of people in to survey the area. Don't miss any clues! As long as we can find the tools used by the killer, the case is as good as half-solved!"

"Okay!" Zeng Ke said, taking the lead and immediately setting off.

"Zhao Yu," Miao Ying began, pulling him to one corner. "Aside from using the scaffolding lift, did the murderer have no other way to put the dead bodies inside the hanging coffins? Is it impossible for him to have climbed up from below?"

"That's impossible," Zhao Yu said, immediately relaying to Miao Ying what Pang Zhihui had said.

"Still, we can't rule out the possibility!" Miao Ying objected after hearing Zhao Yu's explanation. "Have you ever heard of Stelio?"

"Huh, what the h\*ll is that?" Zhao Yu asked, frowning.

"One look and I can tell that you've never done any rock climbing before!" Miao Ying said, pressing a few buttons on her mobile phone and retrieving a picture from an online shopping page. "This thing is called a gecko rock climbing wedge. It's something that climbers use on slippery rock surfaces to maintain a strong grip. The texture is similar to that of a gecko!"

“Miao Miao...” Zhao Yu said, shaking his head to reject her suggestion. “First and foremost, don’t even talk about geckos. The key issue here is that the person would have had to rock climb while carrying a corpse on his back!”

“Hey!” Miao Ying said, shaking her head. “Zhao Yu, how can you still consider yourself a detective? Can you use your brains? Who said that the killer had to rock climb with a corpse strapped to his body??

“As long as the person can climb up, he can install a pulley system to the hanging coffin and pull the body up!” Miao Ying said.

“I’m not a fool! Both Zhang Peipei’s team and the technical team have already confirmed,” Zhao Yu said, unfolding his arms to explain. “There were no traces of pulleys being installed near the hanging coffins!”

“However, in order to lift the corpse, the pulley does not necessarily have to be installed near the hanging coffin! You can use a cave, or place a beam under the hanging coffin, etcetera...” Miao Ying said.

“Logically speaking, that could be true,” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “I have even asked the technical team to check everything over once again, but...” he said, pressing his lips. “Do you know President Pang Zhihui?

“That guy seems to treat the Seven Stars Hanging Coffin as if it’s his treasure. He himself said that he would go to the hanging coffin at least once a week to check on it. He not only knew the hanging coffin very well but also the entire cliff side! It’s as if he was counting his own treasures!” Zhao Yu paused and scratched his head. “Wait, counting his own treasures... am I using the term correctly?

“Anyway, if something was amiss, he said he would definitely have discovered it earlier!”

“Then... what about the hanging coffins themselves?” Miao Ying asked again. “What’s the reasoning behind using them? The murderer took such a risk by putting the bodies into the hanging coffins. It surely wasn’t done to hide them from other people’s views?”

“Lao Pang has already said,” Zhao Yu said, pouring another glass of water. “The Seven Stars Hanging Coffins are indeed a mystery. Regarding their origins, no matter official or folktale, it has always been unknown!”

“Ugh!” Miao Ying said, sighing. “Wu Qing Shan is so big. If you wanted to dispose of a corpse it would be too easy! But to specifically put the corpse in the hanging coffin, it’s a little too risky, isn’t it...?”

“Yes,” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “Lao Pang said the same thing. On the east side of Wu Qing, there are cave-like hanging coffins. There are more than 20 coffins stacked in a single cave!

“If it was really done to hide the corpse, wouldn’t it have been safer to put it there? Also, that cave is easier to climb to than the Seven Star Hanging Coffin!”

“So, that means...” Miao Ying said, furrowing her brows as she went deep into thought. “Solving the mystery behind the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins will also lead to us solving the entire case?”

“Rest assured!” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “I have already asked the superiors to send in experts from across the country to consult. When they come, let’s listen to what they have to say...”

“Hmm...” Seeing that Miao Ying was still frowning, Zhao Yu asked with concern, “Miao Miao, are you okay? You look pale.”

“Zhao Yu...” Miao Ying said solemnly. “The girl we identified just now went missing a month and a half ago!” Miao Ying said. “It is impossible to leave a dead body in a hanging coffin for more than 40 days. The corpses would definitely have decayed. But those corpses...”

“Okay, stop scaring yourself!” Zhao Yu said in a hurry. “The girl we have identified went missing a month and a half ago, but that does not mean that she was killed a month and a half ago! What if she was just put into the hanging coffin recently?”

“Then... it can’t be all seven of them, right?” Miao Ying said, her eyes revealing some doubt. “All seven corpses were well-preserved. That means all seven girls had just recently been killed?”

“Hmm...” Zhao Yu thought about it for a moment. “Remember Li Fei from the Headless Female Corpse Case? If the killer had treated the corpses with anticorrosive treatment, it might not be impossible!” he explained.

After finishing the sentence, the two looked at each other silently and went deep into thought. Then, a seemingly evil thought passed their minds. The fact that the bodies in the hanging coffins had yet to decay, could it really be related to the Headless Female Corpse Case?

“Ah, speaking of that,” Zhao Yu began, waving. “I don’t want to take up all the spotlight. How are things on your end?”

“We confirmed the identity of Geng Yaai. She grew up in a single-parent family,” Miao Ying said. “Before disappearing, she quarreled with her mother and ran away from home! After that, she was never seen again...”

“I have arranged for Wu Xiumin and Cui Lizhu to visit Bai Ping Town! Sister Wu is an expert in this field, so it is best to let her contact the victim’s family!”

“Oh, but...” Zhao Yu’s expression became nervous. Since the conclusion of the treasure case, he felt that it was not appropriate for the two lesbians to go out there and investigate.

“Relax!” Miao Ying said, understanding Zhao Yu’s concerns. “They took half of the Interpol team. In addition to understanding the situation with the family members, they also needed to investigate the disappearance of the girl. If necessary, they will also work with the Northport Police!”

“Ah, that’s good then. That’s good!” Zhao Yu said, relaxing and drinking his second glass of water.

As Zhao Yu drank, the door of the office slammed open. Some police officers stormed in and informed Zhao Yu and Miao Ying that Zhang Peipei had requested their presence in the dissection room immediately.

### **Chapter 1176: The Mystery Behind the Preserved Corpses**

“I’ve already called my shifu!” Zhang Peipei said to Zhao Yu and Miao Ying as she stood outside the dissection room, wearing a white coat. “Even if he can’t come, he will send a more experienced forensic doctor. I can’t handle such a corpse!”

“She is beyond my field of knowledge. I have never seen anything like this before, really... it’s incredible!”

“Don’t get so worked up!” Zhao Yu said curiously. He had never seen Zhang Peipei, who was usually always calm, so flustered before. “What exactly happened?”

“Leader Zhao, I have already ordered a stop to the transfer of the remaining corpses, we aren’t moving them anymore!” Zhang Peipei said, taking off the mask and speaking in a panicked voice. “I have made them put back those that have been stored in the corpse bags. Everything must be left as it is, at least until my shifu comes...”

“Huh, is it that serious?” Zhao Yu asked.

Zhao Yu and Miao Ying glanced at each other, immediately feeling that the matter on hand was of high importance. If it were not for an emergency, Zhang Peipei would not have the right to suspend the autopsy process.

“Peipei, don’t panic. Tell us what happened first,” Miao Ying urged quickly. “Is there a problem with the body?”

“Yes!” Zhang Peipei said, calming her emotions a little. “The corpses are very well preserved, from the skin to the internal organs. Not only did the body not blacken, but rigor mortis also has yet to set in. It’s as if everything just happened a few moments ago!”

“What?! How could that be?” Zhao Yu asked, suddenly feeling a chill. “Don’t tell me... Were these girls just killed? Could it be... and...”

The meaning behind Zhao Yu’s words was evident. He was wondering whether or not there would be girls in the coffins who had yet to die, and whether they could be rescued.

“No... no! That’s not what I meant!” Zhang Peipei said in horror, taking a heavy breath. “The deceased has no temperature, no heartbeat, and no pulse or signs of breathing. We can be sure that she has no vital signs!

“And... during the autopsy, the body did show signs of rapid decay. The skin’s moisture has evaporated and oxidized, and the body has dried up substantially. The face is even deformed. From what I can see, it’s completely different from what has been found in the hanging coffins!”

“Huh?!” Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu and Miao Ying reacted with shock. Zhao Yu hurriedly asked, “So, nobody used any sort of preservation treatment on them?”

“I don’t think so!” Zhang Peipei said. “Other than the makeup on the face, there are no signs of artificial treatment on the corpse that I just dissected!”

“Then... what about the cause of death?” Miao Ying asked urgently.

“There are obvious cuts on the right wrist of the deceased, and the wound is so deep it reached the arteries,” Zhang Peipei said. “It is initially suspected that the possibility of death by cut wrist is very high!”

“That means to say...” Miao Ying wondered. “It can’t be confirmed if it was a suicide or a homicide? Does the deceased show any signs of fainting?”

“This requires further testing!” Zhang Peipei said, seemingly returning to her previous calm self and continuing without emotion. “About this corpse, my colleagues are still at work dissecting it, and there seem to be other causes of death. So, we need to wait until the dissection of the corpses is complete and wait for the laboratory test results before we know for sure!”

“Death by wrist cutting, a body that’s not decayed...” Zhao Yu thought for a moment before asking, “If the body is not decayed, that means...?”

“That’s right!” Zhang Peipei cut in, immediately nodding when she realized what Zhao Yu meant. “We can’t judge the specific time of death!”

“Does that mean we won’t know when this girl was killed?” Zhao Yu asked, turning to Miao Ying. “Leader Miao, has the identity of this body been discovered?”

“Not yet!” Miao Ying said. “Zeng Ke is still attempting to match them to the missing population database, but currently only managed to match Geng Yaai!”

“That slow?” Zhao Yu shook his head and turned to Zhang Peipei to ask, “Dr. Zhang, is there any information available other than the time of death?”

“Hmm...” Zhang Peipei began, nodding. “The female corpse that we are dissecting now will be referred to as female corpse number one since she’s the first female corpse transferred here from the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins.

“According to preliminary tests, the age of female corpse number one should be between 16 to 18 years old! Height is 1.55 meters, weighing 45kg...”

After that, Zhang Peipei continued reporting the information of the corpse to Zhao Yu and Miao Ying.

After the report was completed, Zhao Yu continued, asking, “How is Geng Yaai, Dr Zhang? Didn’t I ask you to transfer out her body first?”

“Oh...” Zhang Peipei heard Zhao Yu’s concerns and quickly pointed towards the dissection room. “It has been transported to the dissection room and is waiting to be processed! Geng Yaai was transferred from the sixth hanging coffin, so we call her female corpse number six!

“Leader Zhao, I’ll personally be responsible for it!” Zhang Peipei said, “Back then on the cliff when you informed us, we were dealing with female corpse number two.

“So, female corpses number one, number two, and number six are currently being sent to the autopsy room. The rest of them were put back in the hanging coffins and left as they were. I hope the remaining corpses can be dealt with properly. So, I hope you can understand me acting on my own previously. If I had asked you for your orders first, I might not have been able to preserve the bodies!”

“I understand, I understand! Even if you had asked me for orders, I would have made the same decision! Nobody wants the corpses to be destroyed like that!” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “The decaying process for the three corpses can’t be stopped anymore, so you must hurry up!

“Especially female corpse number six!” Zhao Yu emphasized. “Geng Yaai is the only deceased whom we have identified at this point. Therefore, we must give priority to this corpse as it may be crucial to solving this case!”

“I understand. Rest assured!” Zhang Peipei said, nodding.

“Uhm...” Zhao Yu glanced at Miao Ying and said to Zhang Peipei, “About the corpses left in the hanging coffins... Dr. Zhang! Can you at least do some simple inspections? Even if they have to be done inside the hanging coffins themselves?”

“Yeah!” Miao Ying echoed after thinking about it with Zhao Yu. “Only by understanding the cause of death of all the girls will we be able to figure out how to go about doing our investigations properly!”

“Okay, okay!” Zhang Peipei promised, hurriedly taking out her phone. “I will contact my colleagues now and have them find out the cause of death of these corpses by today!”

“Okay...” Zhao Yu said.

Zhao Yu nodded. At that point, the door of the autopsy room suddenly swung open and a heavily armed forensics doctor stepped out with a plate. On the plate was a navy-blue shroud.

Zhao Yu and Miao Ying recognized it at once. It was the shroud that female corpse number one had been wearing.

“Dr. Zhang,” the forensic doctor who was holding the plate said to Zhang Peipei. “Please, have a look. There is a piece of yellow paper inside the shroud, and some words are written on it!”

As he said this, he took a yellow piece of paper out of the shroud.

The yellow paper was not large by any means, and it was not folded. After it was taken out, everyone could clearly see the written text. It was a traditional character written with a red pen.

“One, two, three...” Miao Ying counted. There were eight letters on the paper.

“Ren, Gu, Cing, Xin...” Zhang Peipei read out the words, wondering. “What does this mean? It seems rather familiar.”

“No way?” Zhao Yu shook his head and smiled. “Have none of you ever done fortune-telling? This is the legendary eight characters of a person’s birth date and horoscope!”

### **Chapter 1177: Chinese Eight-Character Compatibility**

Wu Qing Shan Interpol Brigade, Special Task Force Office. 8:00pm.

“Boss,” Ran Tao said to Zhao Yu from the phone. “Both the top and bottom of the cliff, across the riverbank, and all the nearby villages and intersections are ready and guarded! I won’t be going back tonight. I’ll stay here and supervise everything. Tomorrow, we will continue to send technical teams to inspect the entire cliff...”

“Alright, good work, brother Tao!” Zhao Yu said politely before hanging up.

“Zhao Yu...” Miao Ying said, walking forward with a report in hand. “Forensics doctor Gao Facai just called and said he would be arriving tomorrow afternoon. He will also be coming in with several experts and professors from the Metropolitan University!”

“Okay!” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “Old Gao has really gone all out this time, even gathering all his old friends! When they’re here, let the experts handle the bodies!”

“What about...” Miao Ying pointed to the yellow paper in front of Zhao Yu. “What did you find?”

“Ren Chen [1], Gui Chou [2], Bing Xu [3], Xin Mao [4],” Zhao Yu said, fanning out three pieces of yellow paper after he finished reading. They were copies.

It turned out that in addition to female corpse number one, the forensic doctor also found the same yellow paper in the shrouds of female corpses number two and number six. The written text on the yellow paper was the same across the three copies.

“This must be someone’s Chinese eight characters of compatibility,” Zhao Yu said. “This person was born at 6:00am on January 20th. However, the ‘Renchen’ written here can represent either 1952 or 2012.

“That means that this person can be sixty-six years old or six years old!”

“But whether it’s sixty-six or six, the number cannot possibly be used to represent the deceased person! After all, they are young girls...” Miao Ying said. “So... what about the remaining bodies? Are there any more of these papers?”

“Yes!” Zhao Yu answered confidently, but his expression was unusually pained. “Except for female corpse number seven. Female corpses number one through number six all had the same yellow piece of paper with the same text written!”

“Wait!” Miao Ying said, giving a long sigh. An ominous shadow in her heart had become clouded. “Zhao Yu, things are not looking good!

“The person represented by these eight characters is probably the murderer!

“He killed the girls, put them inside the hanging coffin, and then put his own eight characters! There is obviously a deeper meaning behind all of this!”

“Right!” Zhao Yu said, feeling the same way. “I don’t know whether this person is playing god or wants to be immortal. I have only seen things like this happen in ghost novels before. Things like going against God, or extending their lifespan... but these are all novels, after all!

“It’s already the 21st century, how can there be anyone so stupid as to believe fengshui superstitions like this?”

“Hmm... did you find anything else on the yellow paper?” Miao Ying asked, taking a closer look at the sheets.

“No, I didn’t find any fingerprints or dandruff,” Zhao Yu said, shaking his head. “It seems that the murderer planned this all out very carefully!”

“The technical team said that this kind of yellow paper is too common to pinpoint its origins!” Zhao Yu said, pointing at the yellow paper. “Also, the red letters on the yellow paper are written in cinnabar. This kind of cinnabar is pretty standard as well. Fortune tellers, priests, amulet makers; they all use cinnabar too!”

“It won’t be easy to figure out its origins!”

“Therefore, if we really want to investigate the birth date of the eight characters, there’s only one way we can go about doing it!”

“We have to check who was born in 1952 or 2012, on January 20th, at 6:00am!” Miao Ying said without hesitation.

“Yes!” Zhao Yu said, nodding. His eyes showed admiration. “I think that since the murderer knew so much about the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins, the murderer is most likely a local!”

“Whether the motive behind his murders was to seek immortality or to beat the heavens, if it was meant for him, then he is sixty-six years old. If it was meant for his children, then his child is six years old!”

“Okay. Zeng Ke is trying to match up the identity of the deceased. I’ll do it!” Miao Ying said. “Wu Qing Shan county has less than one million people in total. I can give it a try!”

“Okay, but...” Zhao Yu nodded, then glanced at Zeng Ke in the distance. “Is there no news from Zeng Ke? Shouldn’t he have something by now?”

“Hmm...” Miao Ying, too, looked in the direction of Zeng Ke.

“Leader, sister Miao!” After hearing Zhao Yu’s comments, Zeng Ke quickly got up and said, “I have checked the entire database twice! Except for Geng Yaai, none of the remaining six girls have any matching information!”

“Huh? No way!” Zhao Yu and Miao Ying were both taken aback. Based on a normal situation, since finding Geng Yaai’s information went so smoothly, the other people’s information should have been easy to find too.

“How is that possible?” Miao Ying asked, shaking her head. “A child went missing. Did nobody report it? It can’t be that nobody reported all six people, right?”

“Well... it is possible that the family did not report the case, but there are several other possibilities too!” Zeng Ke said reluctantly. “The first one being that the child was bought from other family members, so they couldn’t easily report it!”

“Secondly, these girls might be illegal immigrants from overseas!”

“And lastly, uhm...” Zeng Ke said seriously. “I used photos to make the comparisons, but if these children have been missing for a long time, the photos used by the family members to make the missing child report may not be accurately matched!”

“Ah,” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “I see. So, DNA is the most reliable!”

“Yes!” Zeng Ke said, nodding. “After the forensic doctors have collected the DNA of the deceased, I will immediately match it with DNA in the database for comparison. This will be the most accurate method!”

“Okay, make it quick!” Zhao Yu said, waving. “Since the case of the coffins has already been exposed, you should keep a cool head and think about it. By the way, the supervision...”

“There’s still no news!” Zeng Ke said. “Leader, the supervising side does not look very optimistic. According to their current findings, the cliff above the hanging coffin is a dead end. On average days, even cars rarely reach there, not to mention people!

“If suspicious targets were found, someone would have already reported them!”

“I see... that means that the killer may not have descended from the top?” Zhao Yu asked.

Zhao Yu thought about this genuinely. He did not expect that things were far more complicated than he had previously imagined.

“Well, let’s continue working!” Miao Ying said, gesturing. She and Zeng Ke each sat in front of a computer and began working on their respective tasks.

Tsch!

Zhao Yu pursed his lips and sat down slowly.

At that moment, the whiteboard used for analyzing the case had been prepped. Zhao Yu began adding information to the whiteboard when a knock once again came from the office door.

“Leader Zhao, Dr. Zhang asked me to bring this over to you,” a colleague from the forensic team said, holding a stack of documents. “These are the preliminary reports on all seven corpses. Please take a look!”

“Oh, thank you!” Zhao Yu said, quickly taking the information and skimming through it.

However, even though he had only skimmed through it, Zhao Yu still subconsciously frowned.

Little did he know that the cause of death was utterly different from what he had predicted.

### **Chapter 1178: Autopsy Report**

“What happened?” Miao Ying asked.

Seeing Zhao Yu frowning and slightly shocked, Miao Ying put down her work and joined Zhao Yu to check the autopsy report.

“So...” Zhao Yu said, asking the forensic doctor, “He may not have killed the deceased?”

“Yeah!” The forensic doctor pointed at the report. “At least with female corpse number two, her death was obviously caused by a disease. The possibility of homicide is minimal!”

“This...” Zhao Yu began.

With one sentence, Zhao Yu’s original train of thought was completely broken. It was really depressing.

“Ah?” Miao Ying was also surprised. It was only after she hurriedly reviewed the report that she understood the reason behind Zhao Yu’s depression.

Since only three corpses had been dissected, only the causes of death for female corpses number one, number two, and number six had been confirmed.

Female corpse number one had died from excessive bleeding due to the cut on her wrist. From the wrist wound alone, it was difficult to determine whether or not it was a homicide.

The cause of death for female corpse number two was entirely beyond their expectations. The forensic doctor did not see any apparent injuries or causes of death based on the appearance of the corpse, and it was not until after the anatomical test that they finally managed to confirm.

Female corpse number two had died of congenital heart disease!!

The cause of death clearly differed from Zhao Yu’s expectations. If the cause of death was a heart attack, then the possibility of murder was as good as ruled out!

Although, if the murderer had used some means to agitate the deceased, inducing a heart attack was not out of the realms of possibility. But the chance of that happening was too small!

The autopsy report showed that the deceased’s heart disease had reached a severe level. At such a point, would there still be a need to be so brutal with the murder?

Looking back at female corpse number six again, she was the only one who had been identified. This corpse was Geng Yaai.

Her condition was even more strange. The autopsy report stated that she had multiple fractures; a fracture in her left humerus, a fracture of the ulna and the wrist, and even a rib fracture. There was also a significant dent on the left side of her skull.

The forensic doctor hypothesized that she died from a traumatic injury to her head!

However, in order to confirm the cause of death, a craniotomy was required. Due to insufficient equipment, Zhang Peipei had to transfer some professional tools and equipment from the provincial hospital before they could continue.

However, although Zhang Peipei was very young, she was still an apprentice of Forensics Gao. Although he had never dissected a skull, Zhang Peipei was still able to judge from experience that the deceased Geng Yaai probably died from a car accident!

The forensic doctor who had brought the data pointed to the enlarged picture on the autopsy report, explaining, “These fractures and breaks have obvious characteristics of an impact from a car crash, which is different from general impact injuries.

“For example, her skull sank into a pothole. This is the typical result of an impact with a high-speed vehicle. If someone had used a blunt weapon, the wound would show an inevitable rupture!

“And...” He pointed to the corpse in the picture and continued to explain, saying, “There is also a large bruise on the ankle of the deceased. This indicates that she was hit on her side and hit by a car from the

front during the car accident. Her entire left body was hit by a car, and her head was unfortunately badly injured, so it was fatal!”

“If the accident was fatal...” Zhao Yu said after thinking for a moment. “Then I’m afraid that there is no way to judge whether this was a murder or an accident, right?”

“Oh...” Miao Ying said quickly, glancing at Zhao Yu. “Anyway, I have to tell Wu Xiumin about this situation and let them investigate the car accident!”

“Don’t worry, let’s talk about it after we finish seeing the rest!” Zhao Yu said, flipping the post-mortem report to the back. All of the back pages held information about the undissected corpses.

Because the bodies were still inside the hanging coffins, forensic scientists could only guess based on the surface conditions of the bodies and simple sample tests.

Although the surface features of the four corpses were not apparent, the experienced forensic doctors had basically determined the causes of their deaths.

Looking first at female corpse number three, it was the body of a girl about fourteen to fifteen years of age. Her body was abnormally petite and she was wearing a pale green shroud.

The forensic doctor had searched her entire body and found no obvious causes of trauma. However, after prying open her mouth, they found unknown liquids and sediment. Some inconspicuous foam marks were found in her nose.

Because of this, they took a liquid sample on the spot. After returning to the Interpol brigade and observing it under a microscope, traces of algae were found in the unknown liquid.

Therefore, the forensic doctor’s preliminary guess was that the girl most likely died from drowning!

Furthermore, judging from the conditions of the dead body, the drowning process of the deceased was very short. After drowning, she had not been in the water for very long.

“The same situation!” Zhao Yu said, sighing. “We still can’t confirm whether this was a homicide or an accidental death! She may have been forcefully drowned by someone in the water or drowned by accident!”

“Exactly! And it’s the same for female corpse number four!” The male forensic doctor said. “Female corpse number four also had no obvious indications of trauma, but we found a large number of amide chemicals in her body! It means that she most likely died from drinking pesticides!”

“Ah? Committing suicide by drinking pesticides?” Zhao Yu asked, grimacing.

“Although the possibility of suicide is indeed very high, but we cannot rule out the possibility that someone forced her to drink it either!” The forensic doctor said.

“So... it’s the same situation for female corpse number five?” Miao Ying asked, pointing at the report. “Carbon monoxide poisoning! It could also be suicide from burning charcoal, or she was murdered by someone with that method. These causes of death, they are a little...”

Miao Ying was at a loss for words to describe it.

“What about female corpse number seven? The last one died from...” Zhao Yu said, flipping the page again and finally reaching the autopsy report for female corpse number seven.

“Well, this corpse is a little different!” The male forensic doctor said immediately. “Female corpse number seven wore a white shroud. The shroud was also different from the previous ones. The texture was much rougher and the color had already faded.

“Also, this corpse’s moisture content evaporated faster than the remaining corpses. We checked her body and found no obvious signs of trauma. The sampling test also found no obvious symptoms...” he said, pointing to the picture on the report. “But her eyelids were bleeding a little, and her lips are purple. We suspect that she died from suffocation!

“Thus, we focused on her neck and found imprints of finger marks, as well as some signs of epidermal peeling and subcutaneous bleeding!”

“Oh? So, she was strangled to death?” Zhao Yu asked, frowning. “Are you sure she didn’t hang herself or was strangled by something else?”

“Absolutely not possible!” The forensic doctor replied confidently. “The bruises from hanging or strangling by rope would not be so shallow, and strangle marks or rope marks each have their unique characteristics. This would definitely not be wrong!”

“Aha!” Zhao Yu said with a complicated expression, opening his palms. “I’m speechless! We counted from one to seven, but it wasn’t until the seventh that we can be sure of homicide. And by strangling no less!” He struck his throat with both his hands. “It’s impossible this is suicide anymore, right? Who would choke themselves to death?”

### **Chapter 1179: Not Letting You Rely on Me**

“But...” The male forensic doctor continued his explanation to Zhao Yu. “Because the bodies have not been dissected, these are just preliminary judgments. We still cannot rule out other causes of death. However, don’t worry too much. Forensics Gao will be here tomorrow!”

“Understood!” Zhao Yu said, clenching his fists. “You guys have worked hard!”

“Not at all, not at all. This is our job!” The male forensics doctor said, clearly flattered. He nodded out of respect, then stood up and left.

“Well, the shroud of female corpse number seven is different from the rest...” Zhao Yu said, thinking about it with his hands on his back after the forensic doctor left. “There was no yellow paper in her shroud with the eight characters either, and the body was drier than the remaining corpses...”

“Miao Miao...” Zhao Yu said uncertainly. His eyes were peculiar. “Say... do you think the identity of female corpse number seven might be different from the remaining six?”

“This case is really quite strange!” Miao Ying said, sighing. “Could it be that the other six girls were buried to accompany female corpse number seven?”

“That can’t be!” Zhao Yu said, shaking his head. “The material of the shroud on female corpse number seven is worse than that of the other female corpses, and her face has no makeup... I don’t think she looks like someone with a noble background!”

“The issue now is...” Miao Ying said, “That we cannot conclude whether or not all these girls were murdered. If you look at female corpse number two who died of heart disease, it probably was not murder. But the situation for number seven is the complete opposite. This case is really abnormal!”

“Yeah...” Zhao Yu said.

Zhao Yu sighed in his heart. This hanging coffin case was really unprecedented!

The hanging coffins, female corpses, the bodies not rotting, the strange cause of deaths, and the mysterious birthday characters; each clue, in this case, revealed a peculiar, indescribable mystery!

And when all the clues were connected together, it became even more elusive and confusing.

What was the truth behind the case of the hanging coffins?

Was it murder? Was it magic? Or were there any other unknown reasons?

Thinking about everything, Zhao Yu finally went to his whiteboard that had been set up and began to add information in. He analyzed the case based on his usual, established routine.

Seeing this, Miao Ying also immediately returned to her desk and continued to investigate the situation around the eight characters.

Time passed by in the blink of an eye, and by the time Zhao Yu had filled up the two large whiteboards, it was already the dead of night!

From Zhao Yu’s office, the sound of the rushing river could be heard out the window as well as occasional, low-lying bird calls.

“Seven Stars Hanging Coffin...” Zhao Yu thought.

Zhao Yu looked at the information on the whiteboard and concentrated, deep in his thoughts. He tried to analyze the possible outcomes of this case and any clues that might have been hidden or missed.

Just then, the system in his brain began to flash. He didn’t expect the Kun Gen hexagram that he had opened earlier actually to be completed!

“What?” he thought.

Zhao Yu was a bit surprised, to say the least. Logically speaking, Kun was a large hexagram. It usually would not have been completed so soon after opening it. It would usually last for two or more days.

The last Kun Gan hexagram had lasted a whole three days before it had announced its completion!

“This...” Zhao Yu thought.

Zhao Yu opened the system interface to take a look and saw that he had a 298% completion rate and had received five items as a reward.

This degree of completion could only be considered satisfactory. Compared with the past Kun hexagrams, it was actually much worse.

“How come...?” he wondered.

Zhao Yu wondered what the sudden end of the Kun hexagram meant.

After thinking about it, he only managed to come up with two possibilities. Either his investigation was headed in the wrong direction today and a significant loophole had popped up, or the big incident represented by the Kun hexagram wasn't as substantial as he had previously imagined!

Tsch!

This was not easy to figure out!

If it was the first possibility, then he had to adjust his thought process when solving the case and see what he was missing.

And if it was the second possibility... did that mean that the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins case was not as serious as previously imagined? That the seven girls were not murdered? Or maybe, not all of them had been murdered?

Uhm...

After thinking about it for a long time, Zhao Yu felt that if he wanted to find out what the hexagram meant, then the only way was to open up another one and see what type would appear today.

If there were still a Kun hexagram, it would mean that the direction he was investigating in was wrong. On the contrary, it would also mean that not all of the deceased had died of murder!

Thinking about this, Zhao Yu quickly clicked into the system page and opened up a new hexagram.

In the end, the system managed to tease Zhao Yu again.

When the new hexagram came out, it was a Qian Gen hexagram!

"Freak!" Zhao Yu thought.

Zhao Yu fanned his face a few times and swore in his heart. "System administrator, I'm really impressed! Not once have you been nice and properly showed me the cards!" he thought to himself.

The Kun hexagram was gone, but now the Qian hexagram had surfaced again. This was really too ironic!

The Qian hexagram was a hybrid, and it was possible that it included the Kun. All his thoughts became foggy.

Oh...

However, Zhao Yu quickly realized something. It seemed that to this day, the system was reminding Zhao Yu, either intentionally or unintentionally, not to rely too much on his systems or to rely too heavily on the hexagrams!

Hmph!

"Alright..." he thought.

Zhao Yu thought about his situation with a huff. "I won't rely on the system then! It's not the first time I have managed to solve a case. Complicated cases have been solved before, why would I be afraid of the situation I'm in now?"

"Hmm... it's just..."

Within a second, Zhao Yu shifted his eyes to the system equipment and spoke in his heart. "Hehe! If there are no clues in the hexagram, at least the system tools can still be used, right?"

Thinking about this, he opened the equipment bar and roughly browsed through it, quickly turning on the invisible browser.

At the very least, he first needed to understand the origins of the hanging coffins. That wasn't too much to ask for, right?

Thus, he typed the term 'Seven Star Hanging Coffins' into the browser and hit the search key.

The system equipment was better than those in reality. Zhao Yu knew that this browser was able to search through a lot of information that an ordinary search engine would not have access to.

Therefore, he hoped that he could find out about the unknown mysteries of the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins from there.

In the end, something depressing happened.

The browser listed a lot of information about hanging coffins and the Big Dipper seven stars, but nothing about the 'Seven Stars Hanging Coffins.'

"This..." Zhao Yu thought.

Zhao Yu carefully looked at the browser and the system interface. He didn't know whether there was really no such term, or if the only way to search for it was to strengthen the browser.

However, after searching for a long time, he didn't manage to find any clues.

Hng...

Zhao Yu's depression was easy to imagine. From his point of view, the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins must really be as President Pang Zhihui had said. It was a mystery that was unknown to everyone.

However, so as to not miss out on any clues, Zhao Yu patiently looked through some materials related to the hanging coffins and learned a lot about them in the process.

After he finished reading, he realized that he had thought about the hanging coffins too simply. Regardless, whether it was relating to the distribution area, type, age, or culture behind the hanging coffins, it was all beyond his imagination.

Although scientists had studied them for a long time, the origin and role of the hanging coffins were still unknown, much in part due to the differences in geographical environment and cultural customs.

Some people say that the hanging coffins were placed on the cliff to avoid being damaged by beasts, while others said that the deceased were buried on the cliff to facilitate the preservation of the corpses.

Others said that hiding on the higher mountains allowed the souls of the dead to enter the other world easily.

So...

Zhao Yu opened the photo of the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins, wondering in his heart what the purpose of these coffins was.

### **Chapter 1180: I'm Not Lacking Money**

The next morning, Zhao Yu washed his face in the bathroom and poured himself a cup of coffee. He saw Miao Ying standing at his desk, engrossed in a picture.

However, although she was engrossed, Miao Ying knew that Zhao Yu had returned without having to look behind her.

"Isn't this the Big Dipper?" Miao Ying asked, pointing to the picture. "Detective Zhao is truly extraordinary! You even began to study astrology?"

"If you don't study, you'll never know. Once you've begun to study, you'll be surprised by what you've learned!" Zhao Yu said, coming forward to take a sip of coffee. "Each star in the Big Dipper has a name!

"Look..." he said, pointing to the Big Dipper in the picture. "Alkaid, Mizar, Alioth..."

"If that's the case..." Miao Ying held up the picture and gestured. "Then the Seven Stars Hanging Coffins are placed exactly like the stars in the Big Dipper!"

"Yup," Zhao Yu said, nodding. "Did you know? Yesterday afternoon, President Pang also told me something. He said you could find the Big Dipper if you head in the direction of the North Star!

"So, they once organized a team and really went to look for it. But... they only managed to find granite. There was nothing there at all!"

"Haha!" Miao Ying smiled slightly. "Did you get addicted to treasure hunting? Don't tell me... you think that the hanging coffins are also related to the treasures?"

"Whether or not it's the treasure, this has nothing to do with the female corpses!" Zhao Yu said, sighing. "Last night, I also went to read up about afterlife marriages, but it did not match the female bodies in the hanging coffin!

"Afterlife marriages, wearing red robes, everything has its own set of rules!

"But none of the seven female corpses were wearing red robes!"

"Speaking of color..." Miao Ying said, recalling something. "I realized that the colors of the shrouds worn by the seven girls were all different!"

"Yup, that's right!" Zhao Yu said, flipping his materials over and finding a drawing marked with the color of the clothes. "In sequence, they were cyan, blue, green, purple, orange, yellow, and white!"

“Hmm?” Miao Ying began counting with her fingers. “Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple... strange... if it represents the colors of the rainbow, there shouldn’t be white!”

“I thought about that too!” Zhao Yu said, shrugging. “If you change the white color of female corpse number seven to red, you can match that reference of the rainbow. But... it’s clearly different from what we’re thinking!”

“However, the colors of these shrouds are not just colors alone. There are also patterns on them too! So...” Miao Ying said, shaking her head, “Just judging by the colors, I’m afraid I don’t think you’ll be able to solve anything!”

“I also read up on a lot of information. There is no color correspondence to the Big Dipper. There has never been this color combination of shrouds before!” Zhao Yu said, taking in a big mouthful of coffee. “Today, I plan to find a few metaphysicians or fortune-tellers and get them to come here to see if they can solve this mystery!”

“Well... although feudal superstitions are not credible, this case is obviously very linked to the spiritual realm,” Miao Ying said. “If a similar case can be found, it may be of great help in solving this case.”

“So, how’s progress on your end?” Zhao Yu asked quickly. “Is there any progress in the investigation of the eight characters?”

“I have already sent my men to check on all the residents in Wu Qing Shan Province!” Miao Ying said. “As of now, I have asked them to send in more staff and expand the scope of the search!”

“What? No way... not even one person matched?” Zhao Yu asked, practically shouting. “That’s more than one million people!”

After hearing Zhao Yu shout, Miao Ying immediately raised five fingers playfully and said, “A total of five were found! One was six years old and the other four were 66 years old!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “Then go follow up with these five people today!”

“Well, one of them is paralyzed from the waist down and is being hospitalized, this...” Miao Ying began to say.

“Don’t miss even one of them!” Zhao Yu said firmly. “The person represented by the eight characters may not necessarily be the person who committed the crime, but he or she may be of some help to this case!”

“Also, don’t you watch those movies and TV shows? Where they use sorcery to cure a person’s illnesses? The sicker the person is, the more you should check on him or her!”

“Understood!” Miao Ying said, nodding. “Hopefully luck will be on our side today!”

“Leader!” At this point, Zeng Ke put down his phone and ran over to update his report. “There has been some news from the video surveillance team. The Skynet surveillance under the cliff was installed there merely half a year ago!”

“So, the video can only be traced back up to six months ago. They have checked everything and found nothing of suspicion. They are now checking everything for a second time!”

“Oh, okay!” Zhao Yu said, finishing his coffee. “It seems that the method of transporting the corpse by the criminal is still an open question!”

“If it’s not from top to bottom, then...” Miao Ying began, raising her eyebrows. “It can only be from bottom to top...?”

“In any case...” Zhao Yu said, crossing his arms. “It’s impossible to fly up!”

But when he said this, a thought began to form in his mind. If he had the invisible aircraft, perhaps he would be able to fly up himself at the very least?

“Also...” Zeng Ke continued his report. “Last night, the forensic team quickened their pace and used a helicopter to send the samples to the provincial laboratory.

“They reported back with news that the DNA data belonging to seven deceased has already been tested,” Zeng Ke continued. “There is a professional missing persons section over at the Fu Lai Provincial Department. I have delegated the search, made the comparison, and sent it over to them. The results should be in by the morning!”

“Very good! We don’t need to do such things ourselves. The progress you have made is commendable, Zeng Ke!” Zhao Yu said, grinning. “I realized that whenever you get to see Zhang Peipei, you always work full of energy. Hehehe...”

Zhao Yu deliberately emphasized the word energy, which almost immediately caused Miao Ying to roll her eyes.

“Leader!” Zeng Ke said, blushing briefly before continuing, “I have told them to send the data to me. I’ll find another channel to compare it!”

“OK!” Zhao Yu agreed. “If those girls were really sold by their biological parents, it would be impossible to find the missing people!”

Zeng Ke nodded, turning back to his desk and continuing to work.

“Dear...” Miao Ying whispered, walking over to Zhao Yu. “This case can’t be solved in a mere day or two. You have to find a place to get some rest!”

“It’s okay. I’ve only stayed up for one night!” Zhao Yu said, stretching his arms. “I have received the news that Gao Facai and his expert friends will be here soon. By then, there will be a lot of work to attend to!”

“Hmm... speaking of Dr. Gao...” Miao Ying said, her eyes widening. “Dear, before we came to Wu Qing Shan, we made a lot of money from my dad, right?”

“Yeah, what about it?” Zhao Yu asked, confused.

“I heard that Dr. Gao didn’t accept your 2000-yuan gift at all?” Miao Ying asked.

“Yeah, what about it?” Zhao Yu relaxed.

“But you went to Zeng Ke and the rest and received a 400-yuan red packet from each of them? What was that about?” Miao Ying asked, her hands on her hips. “Are you short of money?”

“I’m not short of money!” Zhao Yu replied firmly. “But, I’m short of morals... hehehe...”

“It’s over, it’s over...” Miao Ying said, wiping her sweat. “You have started to be an a\*\*hole again...”