

Crazy 151

Chapter 151: Twists and Turns

There was a meeting at ten in the morning. Zhao Yu had thought that he could rest for a little bit more, but Peng Xin's phone call came before he could even shut his eyes! Peng Xin told Zhao Yu to rush back to the police station; there was something urgent that he needed to settle! Zhao Yu was a little surprised and asked what had happened, but Peng Xin told him he would know when he arrived!

Ahhh...Zhao Yu stretched. Although he had a "Dui-Zhen" hexagram, which meant that there could be changes in money and status, there was no "Kan" which represented work. This implied that he would not obtain any clues to solve the case.

However, since he had already decided to turn over a new leaf, it could not just be all talk! A fault confessed is half redressed. He had to prove that he was able to do it! Zhao Yu went to the bathroom to wash up. It was only then that he realized that he was covered in bruises and wounds from the night before. The most severe were those from Miao Ying. He had been kicked twice in the chest, and it was already fortunate that his ribs were not broken! The worst was the punch on his face; it had landed right between his brows. His nose bridge was in pain, his eyes were red and swollen, and he was almost disfigured!

"This Miao Renfeng is really too much! To think that I am so mesmerized by you!" However, thinking back on the sudden kiss last night, Zhao Yu touched his lips again and started to reminisce.

After changing into his clean police uniform, Zhao Yu was about to step out when he suddenly remembered the two beauties in the other room and he could not help but stop. "As I've already said, I'm gonna turn over a new leaf today! I have to keep to my word. How can I not pay after playing with the girls?" Thinking of this, he looked into his wallet and took out two thousand RMB and then placed it on Yang Hong's jacket.

Daheng saw Zhao Yu going out and wanted to follow, but Zhao Yu waved his hand and chased him back. "Later, Sis Huahua will take care of you. I've got important things to see to! Daheng, you have to remember, from now onward, your master is a good person! You also have to be a good dog, understand?" Zhao Yu looked up and only saw Daheng's tail which was getting further from him.

He took his bag and went downstairs. The moment he stepped out of the corridor, the bright sun shone on his face, making him feel refreshed and enthralled. "Ah...wonderful sunshine, from now onward, everything is a fresh start..." Zhao Yu was still in the midst of feeling emotional when Jiang Dafeng's roar came from the fruit stall, "Darn policeman, I was about to look for you! Quick pack up your stuff and move out right now! What were you up to? You actually brought girls home and wailed and howled all night? Outrageous!"

"I...holy..." Zhao Yu was about to get into a fit of rage when he suddenly remembered his promise and took a deep breath to control his anger. "Oh, Boss Jiang, I'm really sorry to have disturbed you last night, erm...next time, there won't be a next time..." Zhao Yu had never said such soft words before and he felt extremely awkward saying them.

“No more next time, understand?” Jiang Dafeng was furious. “What kind of police officer are you? You brought a dog back, and now even humans? My building’s gonna be torn down by you, y’know?”

Looking at Jiang Dafeng’s domineering attitude, Zhao Yu had to keep taking deep breaths as he wished he could tear down his stall immediately! However, his rationality got the upper hand in the end, and he said calmly with much difficulty, “Boss Jiang, I shall not waste my breath on you. We have a contract and it was not stated on the contract that I’m not allowed to have dogs or chase girls. If you wanna get rid of me, you have to go to court and sue me! Bye!” With this, Zhao Yu turned and walked away. Jiang Dafeng threw a pomelo skin thrown at him.

Heh heh heh...Zhao Yu turned into a corner, feeling very pleased with his performance just now. “Win people over by virtue, speak with the law. I, Zhao Yu, am a reasonable civil police!!! Heh heh heh...”

When Zhao Yu finally reached the police station, the scene at the entrance gave him a shock. The place was filled with different television trucks, reporters with microphones, and cameramen carrying big cameras! “My goodness...what’s the big fuss about?” He stuck out his tongue, and felt it was better to go in through the back door. Unexpectedly, there was also a group of reporters at the back door. After seeing Zhao Yu, a few of them came up and asked questions which were mainly about the Mianling Case.

Zhao Yu had never been interviewed by reporters and had wanted to wrangle with them, but before he could open his mouth, Peng Xin’s called him again, rushing him to head straight for the forensics department.

Forensics Department? Zhao Yu pondered for a while. It seemed like it was something major! With this thought, Zhao Yu went through the crowd at his fastest speed and went into the main building of the police station. When he reached the main hall of the Forensics Department, he saw that it was also crowded with people. However, it was different from the bustling scenario at the entrance. Although there were many people here, it was all silence except for a few sobs and cries.

There were all sorts of different people sitting on the seats on both sides of the hall. There were twenty to thirty of them and the sobs came from them. Zhao Yu looked left and right but did not see Peng Xin. Zhang Jingfeng appeared out of the blue and greeted him. “Zhang, good that you’re here!” Zhao Yu quickly asked, “What’s the situation now?”

“I also just got here!” Zhang Jingfeng pointed at the main entrance of the forensics department. “I only heard that the official autopsy report is out! Maybe there was a problem so the leaders are still discussing how to solve it? Let’s see how the meeting goes later!”

“Huh? Problem? What problem?” Zhao Yu was shocked.

“I have no idea!” Zhang Jingfeng shook his head and pointed to the people on the seats. “These are the family members of the children who were kidnapped that year! Since they were asked to come over, I think, the skeletons...” As the place was too quiet, Zhang Jingfeng did not want to go into detail. However, Zhao Yu understood that the skeletons had to be those of the children who had been kidnapped, and that the family members were here to claim them!

Previously, Hu Bin told Zhao Yu this, so Zhao Yu was already mentally prepared and did not feel surprised. However, he did not understand what could have happened during the autopsy. The two

were talking when the door to the evidence room at the side opened, and Peng Xin led a man and a woman out. The couple both had gray hair at the sides and looked of a certain age, but they dressed very stylish and extravagantly. They looked like people of wealth and status.

The woman's eyes were red and wet. She looked like she had just cried. The man was frowning and looked gloomy, and he was carrying the handbag which Zhao Yu had picked up from the mine pit. The handbag was still round and full, which meant that the money was still inside.

"Oh." Peng Xin introduced to the two people the moment she saw Zhao Yu, "Mr Tao, this is Officer Zhao who discovered...erm...discovered the crime scene. He was the one who found your money!"

The middle-aged man who was being addressed as Mr Tao quickly put his palms together and bowed before Zhao Yu before stretching out his hands and held Zhao Yu's hands tightly! "Officer Zhao, thank you, thank you!" Mr Tao said emotionally. "If not for you, my son could have been missing forever! I've been able to find Xiaoxiao's remains while I'm still alive. It's also...also..." At this point, Mr Tao's eyes were wet and he was unable to continue. As for the woman beside him, she was already covering her face and crying.

"Don't mention it, please don't mention it!" Although Mr Tao did not say much, Zhao Yu had already been deeply touched and he quickly consoled them. "I picked it up by chance when I was chasing a suspect! This...is probably heaven's will! It's what I should have done!"

"Thank you, thank you so much!" Mr Tao held Zhao Yu's hands tightly and then suddenly pressed the handle of the handbag into his hand. "Oh, right! Officer Zhao, if not for you, the kids would never have been found! This money was found by you. Please take it! This is just a little something from me and all of the other family members!"

Ah!? Zhao Yu was stunned, and the agents on the side also looked at one another not knowing what to say.

"No, no, no..." Zhao Yu quickly pushed back the handbag. "This won't do! The money is yours, how can I take it?" However, Mr Tao clenched his fists tightly and had no intention of taking back the money. The middle-aged woman beside him also started to persuade Zhao Yu as her tears flowed, asking Zhao Yu to take the money, saying that it was their gratitude for him. Unexpectedly, just as Zhao Yu was jostling with them, a white-haired elderly man suddenly stood up and shouted, "Please take it, Officer!" The elderly man's words caused a moment of silence. The people present looked up and saw that the elderly man was wearing an expensive suit, with a walking stick in his right hand. His hair was all white but he looked very alert.

The old man took big steps and came before Zhao Yu, and said emotionally, "Officer, this little money is nothing to us. It's an expression of our gratitude for you! If not for you, our poor children would never have been found! And we would never be able to die in peace! My...my poor child!" The elderly man was shaking all over with tears pouring down his face and exclaimed in a thunderous voice, "Twenty-six years ago, I've already been disappointed once. I hope you won't disappoint us again this time! Officers, I beg all of you, since our children have already been found, I hope you can find the culprit as soon as possible and bring those heartless b*stards to justice!!

“I, Liang Wanqian, am willing to give a reward of two-million RMB to the person who is able to catch the real culprit!! It’s been twenty-six years! I will not allow them to remain at large!”

“Yes!” Mr Tao said with swollen red eyes. “I’ll also give two million RMB!”

“Add me in...” Another wheelchair-bound elderly man raised his hand.

“Me too...”

Chapter 152: The Sneaky Kidnappers

The children that were kidnapped were all children from rich families in Mianling Town. Take Sir Liang Wangan as an example. He used to be the one of the richest people in Mianling town and now was even more incredible. As a boss who owned two massive real-estate businesses and tens of industrial companies, he was one of the biggest names in the Qinshan business world. Twenty-six years ago, the six-year-old girl, Liang Shuhan, who was kidnapped, was his only daughter.

Liang Wangan only managed to have this one precious daughter at the age of thirty-seven, and always saw her as the jewel of his eye. He had never expected such a tragic incident to happen. After the kidnapping, the daughter’s fate was unknown for twenty-six years. The family was completely devastated. That they had finally obtained news about their daughter, but it was only to find her skeleton! How could they not be completely crushed? Death would have been preferable!

Mister Tao, who gave Zhao Yu a bag of cash, was not only the executive director of Qinshan Bank, but was also an important member of city council. His son, Tao Xiao, was one of the victims, and was only eleven when he had been kidnapped.

Other than those two, the elderly Mao Die was one of the victim’s, Liu Hongxiang, grandfather. Mao Die was the boss of the Mianling Agricultural Company, and owned tens of textile enterprises.

The other two victims’ families were not as famous as the other three, but were all rich in their own right, having millions to their name.

Thus, when Liang Wangan encouraged the police’s efforts and offered two-million as a reward, the other four family did not even hesitate. The reward for finding the culprit reached an astonishing ten-million yuan! Along with the five-hundred thousand yuan police reward for closing the Mianling Kidnapping Case, the reward was now 10,500,000 yuan, and without tax as well!!

Zhao Yu was already dumbfounded. He held the leather case of money that Mister Tao had given him and almost felt a bit awkward. This bag of two-hundred thousand yuan almost felt too light!

“Holy sh*t...10 million yuan?! This was no joke!! Zhao Yu...Zhao Yu, Zhao Yu!!” He kept calling his own name, trying to clear his head!

“Seriously, I have the Miracle System! If I can close this case like the other few and catch the culprit before the others, then...I won’t have to worry about money for the rest of my life!”

Strangely, at first Zhao Yu did not even fantasize about what he could do with all of the money. His first thought was rather random, “If I have money, then I can buy a Volkswagen Phaeton and show it off in front of Miao Ying. Then what would Miao Renfeng say about, right?!”

“It’s over, it’s over! This is lovesickness!” he quickly realized. Zhao Yu could not help but be angry at himself. Even at a time like this, how was he still thinking about Miao Ying? “Could it be...I really have fallen for her?” he wondered.

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Ever since reopening this massive case that shook Qinshan, Rongyang Branch became the focal point of the citizens overnight. Reporters crowded outside of the police station, and the inside was even more chaotic. From investigators to higher-ups, every department was completely swamped with work.

The branch office had meeting rooms specialized for case analysis, but the Key Case Investigation Unit rarely used them. Usually, they simply gathered in Team A’s office and briefly spoke over a whiteboard. But this time it was obviously different. Due to the severity of this case, many higher-ups came to the office. Thus, the case analysis was organized in the biggest meeting room in the police station.

Right at 10 a.m., the meeting officially started. Due to the influence of this case, all the higher-ups were basically bantering right at the beginning of the meeting.

Vice-Bureau Chief Luan Xiaoxiao first introduced all of the city level officials and gave her warm welcome. Then, the Vice-Bureau Chief of the city station, Liao Jingxian, who had recently been promoted to Head Criminal Investigator started speaking. Bureau Chief Liao noted that the higher-ups were very focused on the case, and hoped that the people of the Rongyang Branch could uncover the truth and bring justice to the victims!

Immediately after, it was the leader from the branch office, Bureau Chief Zhou Andong’s, turn to speak. He first welcomed the higher-ups, then mentioned that since Rongyang Branch had such a huge mission, they must focus and work hard, etc. He encouraged all of the investigators, urging all of the departments to band together and quickly solve the case!

In the end, he very seriously warned all the police officers, noting that this case was quite influential, and asked all the investigators to keep this case confidential. They could not let any information leak, not even to their relatives!

All in all, the higher-ups spoke well. Not only did they give everyone a direction to work towards, but also motivated all of the investigators. After, when the higher-ups had left, the case analysis for the Massive Mianling Kidnapping and Murder Case had officially begun.

Bureau Chief Luan Xiaoxiao acted as the main director and took care of the higher-ups. The Key Case Investigation Unit Captain, Liu Changhu, was obviously the main organizer of this analysis meeting. Even though the investigators were already very familiar with the case, according to the rules they still asked Team Leader Qu Ping to describe the scenario of the kidnapping case over again.

Twenty-six years ago, the driver, Niu Weiguang, drove a Changhe van, taking five students from the Guangming Elementary school in the city. They disappeared on their way back to Mianling Town. Three

days later, the criminal called the victims' houses and asked for two-hundred thousand yuan from each family as ransom, and threatened them not to call the police.

Originally, the family had not called the police. They had planned to simply sacrifice the money and bring back the five children. But the disappearance of the five children raised much attention, and the information quickly spread. Before long, all of Mianling Town knew.

Also, since the kidnapers had not mentioned the driver Niu Weiguang over the phone, Niu Weiguang's wife became worried about her husband and had already called the police. In the end, the police arrived anyway and was involved.

At the time, the police took a traditional approach and theorized that since the kidnapers had aimed for the children of the rich family, it meant that they were looking for money, and that the possibility of killing the children was rare. Also, they were very careful about their involvement, and believed the entire situation to be under control.

On the day of the ransom exchange, the police not only placed agents all over the target area, but also put a tracking device with the money. They asked Mister Tao and another two parents to head toward the location.

Unexpectedly, once they arrived at the designated area, Mister Tao suddenly got a phone call from a public phone booth. The kidnapper asked them to change the money exchange area, and that they must do so in a short amount of time. Mister Tao could not do anything but rush towards the new location with the other parents. The police officers that were undercover could not do anything but also change the route of their ambush.

Then, once they arrived at the new location, Mister Tao got yet another public call, asking them to move to another location. Just like that, the kidnapper swapped locations four times. They even requested the same location twice, completely confusing the police officers.

Mister Tao was very angry and started threatening the criminals. Yet, through the phone suddenly came the sound of his son, Tao Xiao's, cries. With that, Mister Tao no longer dared to disobey their commands. He took the bag of money and continued toward the meet-up location described by the kidnapper.

In the end, just as the sun set and the area was about to be enclosed in the darkness of the night, they finally bought the money to a uninhabited cliff side as instructed by the kidnapers. Then, a phone that was placed under a rock suddenly rang. The kidnapper requested for Mister Tao to take all the money and throw it from the cliffside!

The cliff was sixty meters high, and there was no way to go down from there. At that time, the sun was already setting. Other than the tightly packed trees down below, they could not see anything at all!

At the time, Mister Tao could not imagine how the kidnapers would be able to get money, and hesitated as he was going to throw the money. But once he remembered his kidnapped son, his love for his son won, and he threw the money off the cliff!

Chapter 153: The Eyewitness Who Disappeared

Mr. Tao was not the only who did had not expected this. The detectives in charge of this case also had not thought that the kidnappers would be cunning enough to resort to this method in order to get the ransom money. What was even more beyond their expectations was that when they located the tracking device, they found that it was still at scene and the money was gone! The five children who were kidnapped, along with Niu Weiguang, never returned.

Although the police had put in much manpower and resources afterwards, not only did they not find the kidnapper, but even the van that Niu Weiguang drove could not be found. The ransom money had been taken, but the children were not released. In the end, the police were even unsure of the number of kidnappers involved. That year, the case had caused a big stir throughout Qinshan. The leaders of the police force were furious and gave heavily punished the detectives in charge of the case. As the money had been thrown by Mr Tao, he had been beating himself up after all these years. If he had not thrown the money, would the children still be alive?

At that moment, Zhao Yu was listening very carefully. Although he had reviewed the information on the case many times, he still managed to discover a few points which he had not noticed previously. He felt that there seemed to be some areas in the case which did not make sense, and there were slight inconsistencies from what he had previously understood. However, he was unable to figure out what they were exactly in such a short amount of time.

Tsk tsk... Zhao Yu touched the handbag that Mr. Tao passed to him. The money inside had not been touched, and it was now all his! Although he attempted to reject it a few times after that, Mr Tao still insisted to give Zhao Yu the money as a form of gratitude. He had initially thought that this huge sum of money had slipped out of his hands, but the events took an unexpected turn. He never would have imagined that the money would eventually end up in his hands again.

It seemed that his "Dui" hexagram was quite powerful after all. Mr. Tao had also told Zhao Yu that he was working in a bank that year and was holding an important position. The ransom money had been taken directly from the bank vault. Not only were they all new notes, but they were all in running numbers. The police had recorded the numbers at the time, and had also taken pictures of the money and handbag. After the children disappeared, the police had cooperated with the bank to check on these numbers, but nothing had been found. However, no one would have expected that the culprits had not touched the money at all, but had it buried in the collapsed mine pit all along.

Money... Ransom... Zhao Yu thought hard about it and started to feel that there was something eerie about the ransom money. Why did the culprits keep it beside the bodies of the children?

"That year, the police had gone in from every approach. Telephone, fingerprints, interpersonal relationships, etc. had all been investigated!" Qu Ping continued, "But in the end, not even one suspect had been found, and the number of kidnappers was also unknown. The only person who had been listed as the suspect was Niu Weiguang! There were people who had suspected that even if Niu Weiguang was not the kidnapper, it was also highly possible that he had collaborated with the kidnappers in plotting their operation! However..." Qu Ping shook her head and signaled to Liu Changhu, which meant that she finished talking about the case.

"Oh," Liu Changhu quickly pointed at Wang Fei who was standing in front of the big screen. "Now, Chief Wang will talk about the remains!" Hearing this, Zhao Yu quickly composed himself and paid attention.

He wanted to know what situation they had encountered during the autopsy. Due to the recent heavy workload, Chief Wang looked pale and a little haggard; however, she still began her explanation professionally and was full of energy.

After the screen lit up, the first thing to appear was a dark gray skeleton. As the size was very small, even a layman could tell that it belonged to a child! “Dear colleagues, we have found a total of five complete skeletons from the collapsed area of the mine pit. DNA analysis has shown that four of them belonged to the children who were kidnapped, namely, Liang Meili, who was nine years old then; Liang Shuhan, who was twelve; Tao Xiao, who was eleven; and Liu Hongxiang, who was ten! Also, there was another body which belonged to the van driver, Niu Weiguang, who had disappeared that year!!” The moment Wang Fei said this, there was an uproar and the agents were all shocked!

Zhao Yu was no exception. He had not thought that the result of the skeleton analysis would be like this! If Niu Weiguang had also been killed by the kidnappers, it still seemed reasonable, but...why was there a body missing? Zhao Yu compared the information and realized that there was no Liang Sisi among the names which Wang Fei had mentioned. Liang Sisi had started first grade that year and was only seven!

Why...What about Liang Sisi? Was she not harmed or was her body not found?

“Among the five sets of remains, there was no information obtained regarding Liang Sisi.” Wang Fei continued, “According to the latest update, that collapsed area of the mine pit has already been cleaned up thoroughly, and no other remains have been found! The engineering team has already sent out a professional search team to search nearby mine pits. We will need to wait to see if there are any other results.

“This is the handbag found by Comrade Zhao Yu, and it contains the ransom money from that year.” Wang Fei introduced, “We’ve already done a thorough examination, but the time elapsed was too long, and the item has been severely damaged. We were unable to get any useful evidence from it anymore!”

Oh... Zhao Yu touched the handbag. It seemed like the money was no longer be usable evidence, which was why it had been returned to the owner so quickly. As the handbag had valuable bills in it, the agents present all looked enviously at Zhao Yu and exclaimed how lucky Zhao Yu was. Not only had Zhao Yu picked up money, but the money had even been gifted to him by the owner. Although there was only two-hundred thousand RMB inside, they were all old notes in running numbers. They could be sold for at least five-hundred thousand or more in the open market. Wouldn’t this young chap suddenly strike it rich?

However, Zhao Yu had not thought very much about this. His thoughts were still on the remains. He could not figure out why there was a set of remains missing.

The screen changed again with Chief Wang Fei’s control, and a picture of the five sets of remains appeared. “We’ve already analysed all the remains” Chief Wang explained. “Due to the time elapsed and water erosion, we were unable to determine the real cause of death of these people; however, the remains were scattered all over, and there were obvious signs of an explosion and landslide, and we’ve also found sulfur nitride content in the rocks. The evidence shows that there had indeed been an explosion at the scene, and the explosion caused the mine pit to collapse.

“We’re only unable to determine if these people had been buried after they died or they had died from the explosion! We’ve also found some coarse fabric near the remains. After analysing, we’ve already determined that it was a type of old hemp rope material. We suspect that the victims could have been tied up by this type of rope, and the rope was still on them when the explosion took place.” When Wang Fei said this, the hearts of all the agents present felt heavy. There were four children among the victims. The culprit used such a cruel method to kill them, it was really infuriating.

The screen changed again and the picture was now that of larger sized remains. “These are the remains of Niu Weiguang.” Wang Fei pointed at the screen and said, “We found other issues with his remains! There is an obvious stab mark on Niu Weiguang’s left ribs. One of the ribs had been broken directly, and the other two beside it had clean cuts. We can deduce that Niu Weiguang had been stabbed by something sharp before he died. This place was very close to the heart. Although the heart had not been stabbed directly, death was very likely!” After Wang Fei finished, the agents started discussing among themselves again.

Zhao Yu heard someone beside him whisper, “Since Niu Weiguang is dead, it seems like he’s only an innocent victim. He shouldn’t be related to the kidnapping case, right?”

“That’s hard to say!” another person said. “What if he had been killed because they couldn’t agree on how to split the ransom money?”

“That’s right!” someone said. “I heard that Niu Weiguang has been suspected as being one of the kidnapers all these years. His whole family had even been chased out of Mianling Town. I wonder if he has any family members coming to claim his remains?”

The one who spoke first sighed and said, “One case has caused so many broken families. I wonder who exactly were those evil kidnapers! I’ve just heard that the victims’ families publicly stated a reward outside! The reward money is ten million! Brothers, let’s buck up! It’s time to change our destiny!” These people were discussing when the conference room door suddenly opened and a person walked in.

After Bureau Chief Luan Xiaoxiao saw the person, she quickly signaled for him to come to the front. After Liu Changhu saw him, he also stood up and led this person to the seat beside himself. Zhao Yu turned and saw that this person was not only someone that he knew, but was the original team leader of Team A—Mao Wei!!

Chapter 154: Get Away from Miao Ying If You Value Your Life

“Hahaha, that’s great!” Liu Changhu patted Mao Wei on the shoulder as he spoke. “Right now is the perfect time for more hands on the Key Case Investigation Unit! Mao’s return has truly added more strength to our numbers! Hahaha...”

“Indeed!” Bureau Chief Luan smiled softly. “Team Leader Qu Ping, Team Leader Mao Wei, our powerhouse Team A and B cooperating. This time we will truly have a good outcome and add more glory to Rongyang Branch!”

Bureau Chief Luan was incredibly skilled in motivating the police force. Under his lead, even officers who did not want to clap followed in response.

“Thanks for the praise from the higher-ups!” Mao Wei spoke modestly. “Lying in the hospital, I was just so bored! I love this job too much. I missed the brothers and sisters of the Key Case Investigation Unit too much! Everyone relax. This time I came back early, but I’ll be sure to work hard and listen to Team Leader Liu’s orders, and contribute to our branch!” Clap, clap, clap...another wave of clapping rang out.

Zhao Yu threw a careful look at the sincere Mao Wei, but felt a bit suspicious. Why? This guy’s leg was still crippled, right? Why did he suddenly come back? He heard that Mao Wei needed to be in the hospital for two months before he could be discharged...

Could it be...That this guy had his eyes set on the ten-million yuan?

Wasn’t this...Too fast?

Zhao Yu had not been at the Key Case Investigation Unit for too long before Mao Wei was injured. He and this team leader had not shared many interactions, so he did not know about his temper much. He had only heard from Peng Xin and others that Mao Wei was a honest person, good to the higher-ups, good to his underlings, and never offended anyone! But seeing Mao Wei and Liu Changhu so close, Zhao Yu was instinctively on alert.

“Oh, right!” Bureau Chief Luan Xiaoxiao continued in a hurry. “During the time Mrs. Peng Xin was the temporary leader of Team A, her exceptional performance was clear to all. Due to the unusual circumstances right now, and Team Leader Mao has yet to recovery completely, the higher-ups have decided that for now, Mrs. Peng Xin will act as the vice captain of Team A, and assist Mao Wei in leading Team A. Hopefully everyone will cooperate and act as one to solve this case quickly!” As she finished, there was another wave of polite clapping.

Once the applause finished, the meeting finally moved onto the main topic. Since this was a case analysis meeting, the focus of the meeting was on discussing the case and organizing tasks for the investigation.

Team Leader Qu Ping was the first to suggest her own idea. Ever since the bones and the ransom was discovered, she had already sent people to investigate the story behind the mineshaft.

The silver tunnel of Yinpan Town had been abandoned since the 1980s. The tunnel area belonged to the government at the time, even though it was sometimes owned by individuals. Due to the age of the cave, most of the people were no longer alive, and it would be difficult to investigate.

But due to the complicated structure of the tunnels, strangers did not usually dare to enter area. Thus, Qu Ping suspected that the kidnapper at least had someone familiar with the area accompanying them. That was why they chose this area to hide the victims! Also, under the cave, someone had even put wooden fencing outside.

No matter what, this direction of investigation could not be given up on so easily. The future investigation focus should also focus on Yingpan Town tunnel area. They should send people over and familiarize themselves with the old people and see if they had any good information.

Also, the investigators back then had done some detective work themselves. Since so many people had been kidnapped, there had to be at least three or more kidnapers. Based on the day of the ransom exchange for example, the kidnapers needed at least one person under the cliff to wait for the money, one person to call the parents, and another to keep an eye on the kidnapers.

The kidnapers had skillfully obtained the ransom money despite being under the watchful eye of the police. Not only did they use public phones to avoid capture, but they also managed to break the tracking device on the money. This showed that within the kidnapers, there was someone who was very knowledgeable about how the police operated. This person may have worked within the police system, or he had a good friend who was a police officer!

This evidence was considered important in solving the case. The new investigation could start based on that information, and see if there were any suspicious people on that year's police force. Following that, through some more in-depth discussion between the investigation members, they decided on a number of investigation directions and started dividing up tasks.

This time it was truly an unprecedented level of force. All of the members vowed to solve the Mianling Kidnapping Case; they would not let any piece of evidence slip by!

Obviously, Zhao Yu could not avoid getting a mission. Due to Zhang Jingfeng and Liang Huan's return, along with Zhang Jingfeng's fame as the expert people locator, they were given one of the most important missions of the investigation—to find Liang Sisi!! If this girl was still alive, then this massive cold case would be solved easily once they found her!

Yet, Zhang Jingfeng who was skilled at locating people was not very optimistic about their odds. He spoke honestly. To find this girl who had disappeared twenty-six years ago, not even knowing if she was dead or alive, was like finding a needle in a haystack.

The possibility of the girl being alive was miniscule! The kidnapers had already ruthlessly murdered five of their hostages. There was no reason to leave one alive and open a risk to themselves later!

If the girl was already dead, the corpse must be buried elsewhere. Unless someone could reenact Zhao Yu's miracle-like discovery, there was no possibility of a discovery like that!

If the girl was still alive...The three men's expression betrayed themselves. The possibility was nearly zero! How could Liang Sisi be alive? How could she have lived? She was only seven when she had disappeared. If she had escaped, how could no one have discovered her? What happened to this girl?

Of course, no matter how difficult, they had to investigate no matter what. Thus, once the analysis meeting was over, the three men started discussing their plan for the investigation.

Zhang Jingfeng was the most experienced. He said straightforwardly that the most effective method was go to the National DNA Database and see if they could find DNA from Liang Sisi's family members!

Their next step would be to ask the Missing Persons Department's experts to make a portrait of her and see what Liang Sisi's adult form probably looked like. Then they would distribute it throughout the country, making it a missing person's case!

Other than that, there were no other methods. Liang Sisi was still a child when she had gone missing. There was no type of identification for her at all. The usual methods that Zhang Jingfeng used to find

people would not work at all in this case. Because of their limited options, the three decided to try the methods that Zhang Jingfeng had in mind.

With their plan set, Zhao Yu finally pointed to his bag of money and asked Liang Huan, “Liang, can you get some contacts for me? The faster I can deal with this money the better. I can’t save this in a bank, and it’s unsafe to keep at home. The faster I can turn this into usable money the better!”

Liang Huan nodded and told Zhao Yu to let him take care of it. He would make sure to give Zhao Yu a good price!

Zhang Jingfeng suggested that just to be safe, they should go get a safe from the bank, and put the money in there! Zhao Yu thought it was reasonable and decided that when he got off work he would store the money in the safe.

The three of them were just cleaning up when Liang Huan suddenly remembered something and grabbed Zhao Yu’s arm. “Right, Zhao, I heard from my wife yesterday...you and Miao Ying had some kind of conflict? She...she didn’t do anything to you, right?”

“Huh?” Zhao Yu was stubborn and immediately asked, “Liang, don’t be like that. Are you underestimating me?”

“Zhao!” Liang Huan spoke wisely, “No matter who you go against, don’t go against Miao Ying! At my wife’s branch, they have a saying, ‘Stay away from Miao Ying if you value your life!’”

“Shit, isn’t that an exaggeration?” Zhao Yu laughed and spoke without fear, “I’ve fought her before, but I didn’t feel anything. Yeah, she’s tough, but against me, Zhao Yu, hehehe...”

“You, don’t understand at all!” Liang Huan shook his head. “I didn’t mean it like that. I’m saying that Miao Ying’s background is too...too much. Anyone who annoyed her at all had a bad ending!”

“What? What’s her background?” Zhao Yu’s eyes lit up, and he asked in a hurry, “Liang, tell me, what is Miao Ying’s background? Was she rich? Does she have a boyfriend?”

“Bro!” Liang Huan continued to shake his head. “If we knew her background, then we wouldn’t need to fear her, right? The problem is we don’t know! I heard from my wife that even their branch’s bureau chief doesn’t know Miao Ying’s full background!”

“One time, Miao Ying and their branch office’s vice bureau chief had a conflict. I think that guy wanted to take advantage of Miao Ying. In the end, Miao Ying beat him to a pulp then and there, as mercilessly as you can imagine!”

“Originally, everyone thought it was over for Miao Ying! But guess what? The next day, the vice bureau chief got transferred. The order came overnight from the provincial level. He was directly transferred to lead a nearby village’s police department, basically a three-level demotion! And Miao Ying? Nothing happened to her! Went to work as usual, and continued as the Criminal Investigation Department Leader!”

“Sh*t, no way?! Holy sh*t...” Zhao Yu thought. He was shocked. To think that once again, he had underestimated Miao Ying. Apparently, Miao Renfeng was not only good at fighting and was rich, she even had connections!

This...What was he going to do now?

Thinking back on the shocking kiss from last night, Zhao Yu felt a chill go up his spine...

Chapter 155: It Was Not only Wealth That Was Out of This World

“No, no!” In Team A’s office, Zhao Yu said seriously to Peng Xin as he pushed back the money. “Big Sis, colleagues, I really can’t keep all this money to myself. I’ve already decided that from now on I’m gonna be a good person!!”

An agent who was drinking spit out his water. Some even got onto Liu Xueshan’s head, however, Liu Xueshan was oblivious to it. He simply wiped his head, and his eyes were still looking at Zhao Yu.

“So, I’m not gonna keep this reward of twenty-thousand RMB no matter what!” Zhao Yu passed the pen and paper in his hand to Peng Xin. “It was through everyone’s effort that we managed to catch Yang Wentao. Everyone has worked hard for days and nights, how could I keep the money all to myself? So, I’ve decided to divide this money equally between everyone! We can’t go against our team’s rules!”

After Zhao Yu finished talking, the whole team was silent, and the agents all looked at one another speechless. They had complicated expressions, especially Li Beini who could not help but make fun of him. “Oh gimme a break...”

“Yu, are you not feeling well?” Peng Xin did not believe what Zhao Yu was saying and passed the pen and document back to him. “The case closure report is already done. What’s the use of you saying all of this rubbish now? Why didn’t your conscience prick you the day the report was written? Aren’t you being a little hypocritical saying all this now?”

“Eh? Holy...” Zhao Yu wanted to curse but swallowed it and said with a sincere look, “I’ve turned over a new leaf. Please believe me! How about this, I’ll distribute the reward money to everyone after it’s given out, alright?”

“Yah right!”

“Come on!”

“Gimme a break...” Although everyone was just joking, Zhao Yu could still tell that these people did not believe him at all and thought that he was just pretending to be good.

“Mmm... alright.” Having no other choice, Zhao Yu grabbed a pen and said, “I’ll sign then! Pretend I didn’t say anything just now!” Hearing this, the agents jeered again.

It was an acknowledgment form for the reward money. Zhao Yu had received twenty-thousand RMB for arresting Yang Wentao. The finance department would be able to credit the money into Zhao Yu’s account after he signed! After he signed the form, Peng Xin passed him another acknowledgement form which was for the official reward of sixty-thousand RMB for solving the Slaughter Case. The City Bureau added in another twenty-thousand, so it was a total of eighty-thousand RMB!

“Young man, you’re truly lucky in wealth!” Peng Xin pointed at Zhao Yu’s handbag and said enviously, “Hey, why didn’t you say that you wanna share this two-hundred thousand ransom money and eighty-thousand of reward money with us?”

“What a joke!” Zhao Yu said seriously as he signed the forms. “I’m a reasonable person! I picked up this two-hundred thousand RMB when I risked my life fighting with the criminal. It was gifted to me after I nobly returned the item to the owner! It seems that this has nothing to do with you guys at all.

“This is even more true for the Slaughter Case! I was in charge of this case as the leader of the Cold Case Department, and the reward money belongs to the Cold Case Department. Since the Cold Case Department only has me, who else should take the money?” Jeers came from all around again.

“Huh!” Peng Xin took back the acknowledgement forms and gave Zhao Yu an angry glance. “I’m really regretting that I ordered only one small abalone at your seafood feast!”

“Eh? How could you say that?” Zhao Yu was suddenly in high spirits at the mention of food. “Never mind, when have I ever been stingy when it comes to treating you guys? How about this, this afternoon...” Zhao Yu raised his hand and was about to invite everyone to a meal when a voice suddenly came from the door.

“This afternoon at Natural Food Town! My treat, all are invited!” Everyone turned back and saw that the person who spoke was none other than the team leader, Mao Wei!

“Hey, Mao, you’re finally back!” An agent walked forward and gave him a high five.

“Mao, you’re really too much. Why didn’t you tell us beforehand that you were coming back? We’re totally unprepared!” Peng Xin smiled happily and gave him a bear hug.

“Alright, alright!” Mao Wei pushed Peng Xin away and said jokingly, “I’m finally able to walk again, don’t hug me crippled again!” Everyone laughed.

“Brothers and sisters,” Mao Wei raised his hand and smiled. “I’ve also just received notice on this big case! The leaders wanted me to come back, so what could I do? Let’s not talk about this now. Let’s all talk about it this afternoon at Natural Food Town! I’ve already reserved a big table!”

“Sure...” Everyone agreed. Liu Xueshan and Peng Xin, along with other senior team members quickly went forward to catch up with Mao Wei. At the same time, Li Beini went to Zhao Yu and hit him on the arm. “Bro, you’re really amazing. Even when you wanna treat us, there’s someone fighting with you! Your luck is simply out of this world!”

Zhao Yu thought to himself, “Seems like the ‘Dui’ hexagram didn’t happen for nothing. Money just keeps coming!” However, although he felt lucky, he also felt a little disappointed. He could not understand why he had been called hypocritical when he suggested sharing the money with everyone. What kind of logic was that? Why was it so difficult to be a good person?

After going back to his desk, Zhao Yu wanted to read through the Mianling Case again to verify some of his previous thoughts; however, his colleagues were all surrounding Mao Wei and asking him how he had been. They were very noisy, and Zhao Yu was unable to get down to work! These people got louder and did not show any signs of stopping.

Damn! Zhao Yu could not help but hit the table and shouted, "Hey! Dear colleagues, can all of you please quiet down? I'm thinking about a case! Can you all please shut your mouths? We've gotten such an important mission, and all of you are still in the mood to chitchat. Do you still wanna solve the case?" The agents were all stunned by Zhao Yu's nonsensical shout.

Mao Wei looked at Zhao Yu and quickly smiled at him. "Ah, it's Bro Zhao Yu. What happened? Why are you so angry? Brothers, what Bro Zhao Yu said is also correct. Now that there is such a big case, we should all quiet down and not disturb him!" As Mao Wei was talking, his colleagues looked strangely at Zhao Yu again, not knowing what had gotten into him that day.

Seeing that everybody had stopped talking, Zhao Yu sat down again and continued looking at the files on the computer.

Mao Wei was a tactful person. He had long heard of Zhao Yu's fiery temper. Now that he had seen Zhao Yu's outrage, he quickly limped in front of Zhao Yu and said to him softly, "Bro, I've heard of your outstanding achievements. You've brought much glory to Team A recently! But you have to take care of your health too! Give yourself a break. This case has been quiet for twenty-six years. There's no hurry to solve it immediately..."

Zhao Yu looked at Mao Wei and nodded. He even said thank you to show that he had understood him.

Seeing that Zhao Yu's attitude had softened, Mao Wei quickly said in a low voice, "Bro, there's something that I have to nag you about! I heard that you and Captain Liu had some conflicts? How about this? I'm on pretty good terms with Captain Liu. Why don't I find a chance to try to settle the dispute between you two. What do you think?"

Zhao Yu shook his head and thought to himself, "If I had not vowed to turn over a new leaf, I would have already found a girl and set Liu Changhu up."

"No!" Mao Wei advised, "Liu is a leader after all. Actually...he's quite a nice person! People like us with no background, it's better that we don't offend the leaders..." Mao Wei was also thinking for Zhao Yu, but Zhao Yu did not give a damn about Liu Changhu. Even though Zhao Yu had decided to start anew, it was impossible for him to give in.

Mao Wei was about to persuade him a little bit more when a few people came in from the main entrance. The leaders from the police station clustered around the newly appointed city bureau deputy chief, Liao Jingxian, as they walked into Team A's office. The agents quickly stood up straight after suddenly seeing so many leaders arrive. A few of them even saluted them!

"At ease, everyone," Bureau Chief Luan Xiaoxiao quickly spoke. "Bureau Chief Liao is here to look around and understand the agents' daily office situation. Please relax and continue doing whatever you were doing!" The agents nodded, but who would be able to remain calm after suddenly seeing a big leader come in to observe? Everyone stood in their spot, unsure of what to do.

Bureau Chief Liao looked around and walked straight over to Zhao Yu after seeing him. Mao Wei thought that the leader was walking toward him and quickly limped forward, wanting to shake his hand; however, Bureau Chief Liao brushed past him instead.

“Kekeke...” Liao Jingxian laughed heartily as he approached Zhao Yu. “How are things, Comrade Zhao Yu. How’s the case investigation going?”

Huh? What!? Zhao Yu was dumbfounded by the leader’s question. He answered straightforwardly without even standing up. “Argh! The meeting has just ended. What could I have possibly found out?” Seeing Zhao Yu’s attitude, everyone was shocked, and Bureau Chief Luan quickly coughed loudly at him.

Zhao Yu naturally knew that this person was a leader. Given his previous temper, he would not give a damn whether he was a leader or not! However, once he thought about turning over a new leaf, he stood up immediately and gave a respectful salute. “Good morning, sir!”

“There’s no need for this, there’s no need for this!” Bureau Chief Liao asked smilingly, “Comrade Zhao Yu, I’ve heard about your heroic acts of solving difficult cases for a long time. The leaders from the city bureau spoke very highly of you! I’m here on behalf of the city police to ask if you are doing well in the Key Case Investigation Team.”

“I’m good!” Zhao Yu replied pleasantly. “Thank you for your concern! I’ll definitely do my best to solve this case! I’ll be a good policeman! Please don’t worry!” With this, Zhao Yu saluted twice!

“Haha,” Bureau Chief Liao laughed and pointed at the pantry at the back. “Alright, don’t be so polite with me! Come, my good nephew, I’ve got something to talk to you about!” With this, he walked toward the pantry.

Chapter 156: My Guesses

In that moment, Zhao Yu was truly confused. “Higher-up, did you talk to the wrong person? Calling me his nephew, are we that close?” Zhao Yu wondered. Seeing how all of the investigators looked at him stunned, he could not reject Bureau Chief Liao’s kindness, so he lowered his head and follow him. Then, something happened that confused Zhao Yu. The higher-up watched as Zhao Yu followed him, yet said nothing, only messing with the coffee machine instead.

“Mm...” Zhao Yu watched for a while and could not help but ask, “Boss, do you want coffee? Should I get a cup for you?” Unexpectedly, just as Zhao Yu opened his mouth, Bureau Chief Liao immediately made a mysterious shushing motion at him. He continued in silence, looking around the break room, almost like he was shopping.

Zhao Yu looked around, but his mind was completely underwater. He even started to wonder, “Is the higher-up afraid that there’s some sort of listening device? What the hell are you even doing?”

Just like that, the higher-up stood with Zhao Yu in the resting room for five minutes. There was absolutely no communication between them. Once the five minutes was up, Bureau Chief Liao started walking out. As he passed Zhao Yu, he said softly into his ear, “Zhao Yu, I could only help you this much! Good luck from now on!”

The hell was that? Zhao Yu was already dizzy with confusion. He kept wondering, ‘how could someone so insane end up in such a high position?’ But once Zhao Yu walked out of the break room, he suddenly noticed that everyone’s gaze toward him had changed completely. Especially Mao Wei; he could not do anything but stare! He had just been chatting idly with Zhao Yu, saying that people like them did not

have any connections and could not afford to offend others! But then the higher-up had come, and he and Zhao Yu had chatted for five minutes! Wasn't this support...Too much?

Not just the investigators, but even branch leaders like Luan Xiaoxiao looked at Zhao Yu in a different light. A few days ago, a provincial level officer acted like Zhao Yu was his brother, then immediately, this new city level chief investigator called Zhao Yu his nephew. What was...Zhao Yu's background?

Bureau Chief Liao laughed as he left the office. As he left, he even affectionately waved at Zhao Yu. Yet, the confused Zhao Yu forgot to wave back in farewell and stood thunderstruck in his spot.

Zhao Yu was truly completely stunned. "If this higher-up is not insane, was he approaching me...to help raise my status?" he wondered.

Status? The "Zhen" Hexagram! Could it be...this was today's adventure?

"But...I don't know this person at all, right? Why is he helping me? Liao Jingxiao? I didn't have any relatives with the first name Liao, right?" Even though Zhao Yu was confused, his co-workers were already looking at him differently. Other than the shock and surprise, there was even some admiration!

Once he got off work, Zhao Yu first took some time to open a safety box at the bank and stored the bag of cash. He rushed towards the Meiranju Food Court to attend Mao Wei's party afterwards.

Mao Wei was quite popular. He booked two large tables at the restaurant. One table for the members of Team A, and another for all the heads of each department, like the Public Information Department, Public Relations, Economic Investigation Department, and even the supervisor of the border control were all there. Even Lu Zhaohong, the director responsible of the Anti-illegal Substances Squad, was there.

As soon as Director Lu saw Zhao Yu, he wanted to show off, to tell him just how he had managed to completely crack down on Chahai Street! Yet, Zhao Yu only shook his hand and nodded his head at him, and feigned wisdom as he told him, "This is our secret. Humble, be humble!" Director Lu realized what was happening and immediately nodded. He began to admire Zhao Yu even more.

Seeing Director Lu so polite to Zhao Yu, the investigators were even more stunned, and looked at Zhao Yu like a god!

Due to their close relationship, Liu Changhu arrived as well, but Mao Wei knew that he and Zhao Yu did not get along, so he arranged for Liu Changhu to sit at another table so the two would not meet.

At the table, all the co-workers curiously questioned Zhao Yu. They asked, "What did Bureau Chief Liao say to you? What is the relationship between you two?"

This time, Zhao Yu hid nothing and very honestly told everyone, "There is no relationship between the two of us, and the bureau chief didn't say a thing to me!"

"Che!" Zhao Yu's honesty was rewarded with disdain from everyone around him.

Peng Xin said, "Alright, kiddo just pretend! I really have nothing to say to you. You're clearly the star in the higher-up's eyes, yet you're pretending like you're not!"

“Huh?” Zhao Yu immediately tried to explain, “It’s true, that...whatever bureau chief really said nothing! I thought he was crazy!”

“Psh...” The more Zhao Yu tried to explain, the more his co-workers scorned him, thinking that he was lying.

Sigh! Zhao Yu was angry and frustrated. Look at that! No one would even believe him when he spoke the truth! Being a good guy is so hard!!

The party was quite festive, but there was still some idle chatter here and there. Other than welcoming Mao Wei’s return, everyone constantly brought up the so-called first cold case of Qinshan—the Mianling Kidnapping Case!

The two tables were inside the same private room. Even though there was a curtain between the two, Zhao Yu could clearly hear the loud discussions of the higher-ups next to him. Unexpectedly, even though the case had such huge stakes, those self-proclaimed expert higher-ups were all very pessimistic about the case.

One of the Department Leader did not hold back at all. “Everyone watch, I’ve already experienced this type of commotion at least ten times. In the end, it could all be summarized in four words: all bark but no bite! Don’t get confused by the commotion. Once there’s no leads, no one will want to talk about it anymore!”

“Huh” Liu Changhu laughed as he nitpicked. “Isn’t ‘all bark but no bite’ five words? Department Leader Zhang can’t count? Hahaha...” Everyone laughed along.

“Team Leader Liu, this time you guys truly have a heavy mission!” Lu Zhaohong spoke honestly. “Maybe it’s because of my lack of experience, but a twenty-six-year-old cold case, I’ve never heard of it! Say, do you think the culprit already died? How could you find them?”

“Mm...” Liu Changhu responded, but without much strength, “Still have to, still have to...”

“Lu,” a higher-up with a southern accent spoke up, “You don’t have to worry for Captain Liu. Captain Liu has already been vice-captain for N years. This tiny job as a police team captain is only a stepping stone in his path! Come, come, let’s cheer to our future higher-up, right?”

“Ohohoh, nonono...” Liu Changhu was shocked by all the respect and said, “Director Su puts too much faith in me. Let me drink to everyone else instead!”

“Cheers...”

Hearing these people pointlessly talk to each other, Zhao Yu felt disgusted. The thought of setting a trap for Liu Changhu with a woman once again floated into his mind. Because he was still busy that afternoon, Zhao Yu did not drink. After he finished his food, he gave a call to Huahua and asked her to take care of Daheng, then he headed directly back to the office. He was also curious. He wanted to see just how the experts in the missing persons department drew the mysteriously missing Liang Sisi.

When Liang Sisi disappeared, she was only seven-years-old. Twenty-six years had already passed. If she was still alive, she would be thirty-three-years-old. Would the expert drawing even be accurate?

Doubtful, Zhao Yu headed straight for the missing persons department, but to his disappointment, there was not a single person there. The door was tightly shut.

With no other way in, he could only go back to his office and rest first. He still had a long time before work hours started in the afternoon. The police building was very quiet, completely opposite of how busy it was in the morning.

Yet, when Zhao Yu walked into the office of Team B, he realized that the door was open. When he poked his head in, he saw that in the large office, only Team Leader Qu Ping was there.

Team Leader Qu was standing in front of the white board, as if pondering something. She kept writing and drawing on the whiteboard. Due to the large number of victims, one whiteboard was not enough; she needed to use three. Each was packed with information.

Seeing the scene in front of him, Zhao Yu's thoughts once again flew to back when he had been working on the Lost Hand Case. At that time, Team Leader Qu was just like this, looking through all the evidence without a pause, without any rest!

Just now at the table, those higher-ups were all cheerful and spoke arrogantly, showing great contrast with Team Leader Qu who was working hard and dutifully. In the higher-ups' mind, they dismissed this important case as "all bark but no bite" and considered themselves done. But Team Leader Qu Ping was still at the office working as hard as she could, using up all her mind and energy to find the key to solving this case, not giving up a single sliver of hope. Such spirit, how could one not admire it?

Zhao Yu silently watched Qu Ping. He could not help but respect the other. He was not sure what he was thinking, but he thought for a bit and ended up entering the Team B office and walked in front of Qu Ping.

Qu Ping turned and threw a glance at Zhao Yu, then moved her eyes towards the whiteboard. Her voice was filled with hostility as she said, "Ah, detective Zhao's here now. What kind of tip will you have for me today?"

"Hehehe..." Zhao Yu was all smiles as he answered, "Don't misunderstand! Team Leader Qu, I'm here to thank you! Two days ago I attacked Liu Changhu, that bastard. If it wasn't for your help, I could've gotten in a lot of trouble!"

"No need!" Qu Ping still gazed at him coldly. "I don't talk people, only facts!"

"Mm..." To avoid awkwardness, Zhao Yu immediately started idly chatting. "Where's your teammates? Did you already send them out to investigate? Mm...how was the investigation? Is there any news?"

Click...Qu Ping put the pen cap back on her fountain pen and turned to glare at Zhao Yu. "Zhao Yu, spit out whatever you want to say! I only don't like you as a person, but I don't deny your abilities..." As she spoke, Qu Ping handed the pen to Zhao Yu and asked, "Speak. What are you thinking?"

"Mm..." Zhao Yu looked at Qu Ping, then at the whiteboard. He hesitated for about three second before taking the pen and saying, "Team Leader Qu, if it's like that, I'll...speak! It's like this. These days I've been thinking...Do you think that this kidnapping case and the Lost Hand Case's situation could be the same?!"

Chapter 157: They Are All Millionaires

“What do you mean?” Qu Ping asked.

“This kidnapping case has not been solved after so many years.” Zhao Yu played with the marker in his hand and said seriously, “Could it be the same situation as the Lost Hand Case. Perhaps it’s the investigation direction of us police that has deviated somewhere?”

“Deviated?” Qu Ping crossed her arms and carefully thought about Zhao Yu’s words.

“Look” Zhao Yu found the van on the board. The picture of the van had been obtained from the Vehicle Administrative Office that year and was very old. “Mmm...” Zhao Yu pointed at the van and said, “For example, the police had thought that the kidnappers made careful preparations in advance to kidnap the children, which was why the kidnaping went smoothly! But what if...that was not the case? What if the kidnaping was only an accident!?”

“What!? Accident!?” Qu Ping looked at Zhao Yu, unable to figure him out.

“It’s possible! Really!” Zhao Yu explained, “You’ve never kidnapped a person, there are some details which might be overlooked!”

“I’ve never kidnapped a person? You have?” Qu Ping was puzzled.

“Erm...no...what I meant was...” Zhao Yu quickly tried to cover up his lie. “I’ve read many files on kidnapping. For example...like this one here! It was stated that the kidnappers only called three days after they had taken the children. There’s something here that doesn’t make sense!”

“Three days? What doesn’t make sense?” Qu Ping still did not understand what Zhao Yu meant.

“Don’t you know, a blackmail call is not made after such a long time!” Zhao Yu said. “You can go check if you don’t believe me. The longer the hostage is in one’s hands, the higher the risk! If they had already planned everything beforehand, it wouldn’t be possible that they waited until three days later to call the hostages’ families! Think about this, the kidnappers definitely wouldn’t want the hostages’ families to call the police, so the sooner they made the phone call, the lower the chance of the families calling the police! On the contrary, if you wait for three days, wouldn’t the families already be very worried and have called the police?”

“Hmm...” Qu Ping looked straight at Zhao Yu. She was unable to deny that Zhao Yu’s peculiar way of thinking also had a certain level of persuasiveness, and it had widened her thoughts in a short span of time.

“There’s more!” Zhao Yu used the marker to point at the van again. “The van also disappeared. This is also rare among professional kidnappers! They kidnap people, but not along with the vehicles!”

“Professional kidnappers?” Qu Ping was unfamiliar with this term.

“Look, there are different hierarchy levels among prisoners right?” Zhao Yu passed on his criminal knowledge to Qu Ping like a teacher. “At the top, the one with the highest status, are usually fraudsters. Second place would be kidnappers. Robbers and murderers could only be ranked third! You know why?”

Because kidnapping is really a technical skill, and it requires great technical knowledge! You can check this, a kidnapper would always have his own vehicle, and they seldom kidnap their victim's vehicle too! Firstly, the vehicle that you took would be easily discovered; secondly, you wouldn't know if the vehicle had any problems or how much gas it had left. If the vehicle broke down halfway, wouldn't it be terrible? Thirdly, the van already had six people in it. Wouldn't it be tight if the kidnappers all got in?"

"Hmm...you mean," Qu Ping guessed, "the kidnappers had another vehicle?"

"No!" Zhao Yu answered firmly. "What I mean is that those kidnappers did not have a plan at all. They did not know that there were so many people in the van! Or they had only wanted to take the van, or only wanted to rob them! This Mianling Kidnapping Case could have just been an accident!!!"

"I...I don't get it!" Qu Ping was more puzzled. "Such a meticulous kidnapping plan, and you say that...it's an accident?"

"Yes!" Zhao Yu admitted. "Anyway this is how I feel about it! Just that I don't know what happened in the van then?"

"If it is like what you said," Qu Ping turned toward the whiteboard, "those kidnappers had not planned beforehand, and they were not professional kidnappers at all. But they made the blackmail call and obtained the ransom money perfectly. How could that not be called professional?"

"I haven't figured that out yet," Zhao Yu said frankly. "But...none of the professional kidnappers that I know could do it to such perfection! It's precisely because the Mianling Case kidnappers had done it too seamlessly that I felt that they were not professionals! They could have thought of the idea at a spur of the moment!"

"Kidnappers that you know? You even know kidnappers?" Qu Ping was shocked.

"Oh, I...I was referring to the kidnappers that I saw on the data files," Zhao Yu faked an explanation and continued, "Oh yes! Actually, I agree with the viewpoint that you expressed during the meeting. I feel that there might've been a police officer or someone who was once a police officer among the kidnappers! It was because of this person that the kidnapping was done so seamlessly!"

Qu Ping took in a deep breath and thought over Zhao Yu's words. Was the truth really like what he said? Could it be...the police had been looking in the wrong direction for the past twenty-six years?

"Then..." Qu Ping pondered. "If it's like what you said, the driver, Niu Weiguang, would be innocent?"

"That's hard to say!" Zhao Yu shook his head. "But nothing has been found to be wrong with him after so many years of investigation. I guess there shouldn't be any problem with him. I remember the data file stated that his family background was not too bad, and that he was from the same village as those children, and some of them were his relatives. There would be no reason for him to take part in the kidnapping."

"But, even if this was the case," Qu Ping looked at the wordy whiteboard, "we're still unable to solve it. Who was the real culprit?"

"I'm not sure who it was, but there's one thing that I'm certain of" Zhao Yu seriously. "If the kidnappers are still alive, they would definitely be millionaires now!"

“Oh? Why?” Qu Ping was surprised.

“This is simple” Zhao Yu explained. “Other than the bodies, there was also a bag of money in the collapsed mine pit. Only the real culprits knew this secret! The notes in the bag are worth a million. If they were poor now, wouldn’t they be tempted to go back to dig for it? So, if they are not dead yet, they are definitely millionaires who have no need for the money!”

“Oh...” Qu Ping nodded. “I’ve thought of that too! If that’s the case, we could start investigating from here and see if any of the related parties that year are wealthy now.”

“Although we can do that, but,” Zhao Yu said uneasily, “the scope is too wide and it’s not gonna be easy!”

“Don’t worry!” Qu Ping said with determination. “It doesn’t matter how difficult it’s gonna be! As long as we put our hearts into it, we will see results!” With this, Qu Ping looked at the whiteboard again and said, “I hope those criminals are still alive! Only then can we put them to trial! One needs to pay for the evil crimes that he committed!”

Hearing this from Captain Qu Ping, Zhao Yu felt very touched and encouraged. This had further strengthened his will to solve Qinshan’s Number One Cold Case! Zhao Yu knew that even though he had the help of a powerful miracle system, if he did not put his best into solve the case, it would be useless. If he was unable to find any clues and target the suspect, he would not know if the real culprit was standing right in front of him. Therefore, Zhao Yu was determined to put in everything to solve the case, and put those inhumane criminals to justice! Of course, there was also a reward of more than ten million RMB! This was equally as important! If he could really solve this case, he would be rich!

Chapter 158: Free for You

The busy work has started. Truly, the three of them made a good group. As soon as they went to work in the afternoon, Liang Huan immediately went to the National DNA Database to compare DNAs, while Zhang Jingfeng was working on Liang Sisi’s portrait at the Missing Person’s Department. Once it was complete, he would announce it to the nation. Zhao Yu obviously was not resting himself. He sat at his office desk and read through the Mianling case record, attempting to find any sort of lead. To make thinking easier, he started sticking information and evidence on a whiteboard, wanting to copy the miracle that happened with the Lost Hand Case.

In the end, it was even crazier than Qu Ping’s. He took over six whiteboards all by himself, each of them filled with information on the victim. In the end, the entire backside of the office was taken up by him! Anyone who entered would have been shocked by the scene!

Of course, he was not the only busy one. All of the Key Case Investigation Unit Investigators were sent out to look for evidence and any clues imaginable. From the family of the victims, the original investigators, to witnesses, all had someone investigating it. With a case of such grand scale, obviously the stakes of investigation was unprecedented as well.

As soon as the case analysis meeting was over, the police representatives finally started a meeting for reporters to summarize the situation. One hope was for any civilians to provide tips for the police, another was to show the determination of the police force to capture the criminal!

Even though there was so much attention on this case, the information given out during the public conference was incredibly little. As soon as they briefed the reporters on the case and showed their sincerity, they ended the meeting! There was no mention of any details, including how one person could still be alive!

Zhao Yu did not see it for himself, but he heard from others that when Liang Sisi's family realized there was no body for their child, they nearly had a breakdown! It was as if their heart was put on a skillet and continuously fried and endlessly tormented.

Some people say no news is good news, but to these parents who had already waited twenty-six years, sometimes bad news was also a sort of good news! Like the other parents, they could at least bury their children, giving them peace! But what about Liang Sisi's parents? They still have to wait, but for how long? If they did not get any news for the rest of their lives, how could they die peacefully? It was for that reason Mr. Tao would so generously gifted the bag of money to Zhao Yu!

That day, Zhao Yu did not leave work until very late. When he finally left, he was the only person in the office. After pondering an entire afternoon about the case, Zhao Yu had a more in-depth understanding of the case.

Mianling Kidnapping case truly was the first cold case of Qinshan! The culprits were very careful, with very little openings. The police officers at the time put in incredible effort but found little evidence. Needless to say, twenty-six years later, there was even less!

This case was indeed many times harder than the Slaughter Case! The slaughter case happened ten years ago. At least there were surveillance cameras during that time, as well as some forensics techniques, but the Mianling case was different! No surveillance, no fingerprints, no DNA. The only evidence was from the witnesses back then!

Yet, time is cruel. Even love could fade with time, not to mention other things. Twenty-six years had destroyed many things. Evidence disappeared, there was no scene of the crime, and even many witnesses were no longer in this world! Now, other than the bones, they have nearly nothing else!

Difficult! Difficult! Difficult! Facing the whiteboard, Zhao Yu felt nothing but helplessness. If he could not find even one opening, then...No matter how amazing the Miracle System was, he still would not be able to solve this case! Could it be...The final result really would be "all bark no bite" like the higher-ups had said? If they waited long enough, would people forget about this big case too?

Sometimes, you have to take what you can get. Even though Zhao Yu had not made any progress, but in other aspects of his life, everything was going well. He was not sure if his efforts to help Yang Hong and Huahua that night got the two women hooked, or if the two just wanted to thank Zhao Yu, but they called him quite early and invited him out for food and to have a great time with just the three of them!

A time for the three of them?! This word was both affectionate and teasing. It truly leaves much to one's imagination. Remembering the intense action from last night, Zhao Yu could not help but wonder if they did it again, would they drive Jiang Dafeng crazy?

Once he returned home, Yang Hong and Huahua had indeed prepared everything and were waiting for him, but to Zhao Yu's surprise, it was not just the three of them—there were four. More specifically, it was four people and a dog.

Other than the dog, Daheng, there was also a red-haired girl. Yang Hong made the introductions. The red-haired girl was named Xiao Mei, and was one of Yang Hong's good friends. She lived right downstairs. As a neighbor living in the same area, Zhao Yu had seen the girl, and greeted her.

Xiao Mei was not tall, and had long wavy hair down to her waist. Her fiery red hair gave off a passionate vibe. Her clothes were also very alluring. She wore a white low collar shirt and a low-cut jean shorts. Her midriff was exposed, revealing her belly button.

Xiao Mei's personality matched her attire. Having already heard of Zhao Yu's story of saving the damsel in distress, she already eagerly jumped on Zhao Yu right after she greeted him. She immediately started talking to him, and used her chest to rub against him, making Zhao Yu rather uncomfortable.

For regular people, maybe this would have been very enjoyable, but Zhao Yu did not feel that way. In his previous life, he had dealt with many women like this. Not only was he not enjoying it, but he even felt rather disgusted. Zhao Yu purposely stood up to pour wine for the group, throwing Xiao Mei to the side.

Under the candle light and with the glistening wine cup, even the cheap wine seemed extra fancy. Zhao Yu poured half a cup for himself, and immediately downed it all. To calm Yang Hong and Huahua, he told them all of the news he had heard from Director Lu Zhaohong that day.

As it turned out, Chahai Street's Hong Zhigen had already been sentenced for his many crimes. According to Director Lu's estimate, quarreling, battery, gambling, and etc. had all been added. Once sentenced, he had at least seven years in jail!

Not only that, but to add fuel to the fire, once Hong Zhigen fell, all of his underlings immediately stepped up to take some power for themselves. Added with the many other gangsters trying to take the area for themselves, even once Hong Zhigen managed to leave prison, there was not much chance for him to recover his former glory! Thus, Yang Hong, Huahua, and even Zhao Yu no longer had to fear Hong Zhigen's revenge! Cheers!

Having completely gotten rid of a worry, the few of them felt even more free. Zhao Yu enjoyed a candlelit dinner with the three beauties. Under the soft light, laughter continued endlessly.

Eating steak, salad, pasta, drinking wine, with ice cream for desert, along with beautiful women to chat with, Zhao Yu felt especially at ease. He felt as if he had returned to his happy past life! But the scenario he had thought of to drive Jiang Dafeng nuts did not happen. Before dinner was over, Yang Hong got a call and left with Xiao Mei. Without a doubt, they went to work!

Only Zhao Yu and Huahua were left in the house. Huahua was head over heels for Zhao Yu, batting her eyelashes as she listened intently. She made quite a few adult jokes, and kept teasing Zhao Yu with her words and actions.

Zhao Yu knew that Huahua had completely fallen for him both mentally and physically. He could do whatever he wanted with the girl! But faced with the young, naïve, and eager girl, Zhao Yu really had no interest. In the end, he denied her advances and went home alone.

First of all, he really had no interest in Huahua; two, due to Huahua's special job, he did not want any useless relationships with her, third, he still had a case to investigate, so he could not really focus either; as for fourth...his mind was completely occupied by the beautiful Miao Renfeng, almost like he was lovesick. His heart could no longer beat for any other woman. He did not even miss Yao Jia anymore!

Sigh! He wondered, how was Miao Ying doing? Did she finish dealing with her Phaeton and the assault case? Could they meet again?

Seeing Zhao Yu determined to leave, Huahua could not really force him to stay. She could only tell Zhao Yu that she bought a washing machine with the two-thousand yuan! She also said that she would not take the money at all. If it had not been for Officer Zhao's help, she and Yang Hong would have definitely died by Hong Zhigen's hand!

She said, "So, if Officer Zhao has any needs from now on, just come find me! I won't ask for money now or ever. From now on it's all free!!"

Chapter 159: Getting Better

There was really no way to stop the wealth! After reading a message when he got home, Zhao Yu was pleasantly surprised. The bonuses and rewards that he had gotten from solving cases had all been credited to his account. The police had given out the bonuses really fast! The first to reach his account was the reward from Rongyang Branch. Zhao Yu received a share of twenty-thousand RMB for assisting in Jian Wenli's murder case! Also, since the case had been in its tenth year, the City Bureau had specially added another forty-thousand, and Zhao Yu got a share of ten-thousand. Following this was the twenty-thousand for capturing Yang Wentao, and the eighty-thousand for solving the Uptown Murder Case. Zhao Yu had gotten a total of one-hundred and thirty-thousand in bonuses in one go!

However, there was a difference between rewards and bonuses. There was no need to pay a tax on rewards, but bonuses were subjected to personal income tax. What Zhao Yu received in the end was only slightly more than one-hundred and ten-thousand. Nonetheless, this was still a huge sum of money! Also, this sum of money was from legal means, and was well-deserved and satisfying! This feeling was really great!

Thinking back on his previous life, although he had also made money, it had all been by illegal means, and he had not felt good taking it. "Seems like it's better to be a policeman! Wahaha...I, Zhao Yu, am gonna be a righteous police officer from now on! I'm gonna catch more evil guys in future and receive more bonuses of justice! Wahaha..."

Zhao Yu held on to his phone and calculated the total. Adding in the bonuses he had received previously, plus the money he had ripped off from Hao Jiajun, his total assets exceeded two-hundred thousand! Wow! He started to total up the sum "If I'm able to sell that bag of ransom money, wouldn't I really strike it rich? That would be more than a million...What should I do? Start a business or buy a house? Or get a wife?" At the thought of a wife, he instinctively thought of Miao Ying! Although Miao Renfeng was shrewish and fierce, and had a powerful background, he was unable to stop thinking about her!

“If I marry her...erm...no!” Zhao Yu started to think of something else. “The car that she drives is already more than two-million! The little bit of money I just got seems to be too little to get a wife like that!? I think I gotta put in more effort to catch more baddies and get more bonuses!

“Isn’t there a super big case with an out this world reward right in front of me? I heard that the ten-million is considered as a personal reward from the victims’ families, and it should non-taxable!? Wahaha! This rewards is gonna be mine!” Zhao Yu had just put down his phone when the system in his brain started to speak. The system told Zhao Yu that his current adventure had been completed and the completion rate was ninety-seven percent, and he had received ten reward tools at once!

“My goodness!” Zhao Yu got a shock. “Ninety-seven percent!? What happened? Is there something wrong with the system today? What is it so high?” Thinking back on the “Dui-Zhen” hexagram, Zhao Yu began to make sense out of it.

He had ran into money quite a few times that day. First, the ransom money had been given to him by Mr. Tao, and then he had gotten a series of bonuses and rewards, and it was already a hefty sum! In between, he had wanted to spend some money treating everyone to a meal, but Mao Wei beat him to it! Even the two-thousand RMB that he had given Yang Hong and Huahua had been returned back to him. It seemed like it was difficult for him to even spend money!

As for the “Zhen” hexagram, it had to be related to the strange Bureau Chief Liao without a doubt. “I wonder what’s wrong with that bureau chief? Why did he pretend to be close to me? Now my colleagues think that I have some kind of powerful background! How should I explain this?” Zhao Yu wondered.

However, he was also aware of another problem. “I’ve been ranting about turning over a new leaf and being a good person since early this morning! Could it be, this high completion rate was...erm...related to me finding my conscience?” With this thought, Zhao Yu suddenly saw the tools still flashing in his brain and he quickly opened to check. These ten tools that he had just received were known as “invisible detectors.”

“What?” Zhao Yu thought that it was the previous detector which could only test air quality! That tool had not been very useful! He was about to pout when he heard the system say, “Invisible detector. Able to accurately detect the existence of listening, recording, and tracking devices, etc. within a radius of twenty meters, and also accurately locate them. This tool lasts ten minutes.”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu just noticed the difference in wording. The previous one was called invisible air monitor whereas this one was an invisible detector. The name seemed to suggest that it was a powerful anti-detection tool, and could effectively overcome being tracked or bugged.

“Hmm..that’s more like it. I might be able to use this in the future. But if I could receive ten invisibility cloaks in one go, that would be terrific! Alright! I have to work harder!” After finishing taking notes, Zhao Yu wanted to have another hexagram reading, but there was still some time before midnight.

Zhao Yu had wanted to look through the case again, but he was already exhausted from the last few days of running about and working relentlessly. In the end, he quickly took a shower and fell into deep sleep after hitting the bed.

This time, Zhao Yu slept all the way to daybreak without having any dreams. He finally had a good sleep! After waking up, he felt energetic and alert, as if he had been resurrected. According to his usual practice, there was only one thing to do after waking up, which was to make a divination reading. After some loud coughing, the divination given was a “Dui-Gen” hexagram.

There was going to be something good! Zhao Yu could not help but feel excited. The “Dui” hexagram meant that his wealth was going to continue! And the “Gen” hexagram, which represented work, was what he had dreamt for!

Would there be any surprise findings in today’s investigation? As there was one more “member” in his house, other than the hexagram reading, there was another thing that Zhao Yu had to do, which was walk the dog! There was a small park behind Shunfeng Street, so Zhao Yu brought Daheng there to walk one round. He could do some running as training at the same time.

However, Zhao Yu was inexperienced in keeping dogs. He did not even bring along a dog collar despite the fact that he had a big dog, and ended up scaring the uncles and aunties doing their morning exercises. Although Daheng did not bite, he had a habit of going in circles around a person. This fella was about one meter in height, and it was quite scary to see him going around people like that.

On his way to work, he took a small break and had a bowl of mutton soup. He felt more energetic on a full stomach. The weather was good, with a clear sky and light breeze. Smelling the fragrance from the trees on both sides of the street as he walked down the sidewalk, Zhao Yu felt comfortable and pleased. At that moment, he finally felt that he had gradually gotten used to his new life and job, and that he was getting better!

“Alright! It’s a brand new day, I’m gonna work hard to solve the case! I’m definitely gonna find out the truth behind the kidnapping case!!!”

Chapter 160: Unforgivable Acts

Sometimes, wishing is good, but reality is merciless.

For a whole day, Zhao Yu was very confident, but he did not get the same reward as he had hoped. The “Dui” hexagram was worth it. Early in the morning, Liang Huan told Zhao Yu that there was a collector who had set their eye on the old cash, and offered one-million and two-hundred thousand! If he could see the goods the next day, then he could immediately buy it!

One-million and two-hundred thousand! This price was already above Zhao Yu’s expectations, but Zhao Yu was very cunning. Seeing such a high price, he did not act overjoyed, but instead considered another perspective.

If someone was willing to offer such a high price so quickly, that meant that the set of old bills must have some hidden value way above its original price. Because this bag of old bills was the ransom money from the famed Mianling Kidnapping Case, if Zhao Yu advertised that, then the bills may be worth far more than this price!

Technically, this money was no longer police evidence and was entirely Zhao Yu's property. If he sold it so quickly, it might not be considered very respectful of the dead! If Mr. Tao knew, it would be quite rude.

"I've already made up my mind to be a good person! How could I do something so immoral?" Zhao Yu thought. "So, let's wait until the case is closed, then worry about selling the money! If we've really managed to close the case, not only could the money be sold with a good conscience, but with some advertisement, maybe it could be sold for two-million instead! Hehehe..."

Zhao Yu explained his thought process to Liang Huan, who could not help but give Zhao Yu a thumbs up, praising him for his wit and marketing sense.

With the money businesses temporarily on hold, Zhao Yu quickly put all of his effort and focus into the investigation. Once again, he started to add more information and evidence onto his six whiteboards!

In order to more clearly understand the case, Zhao Yu asked for Li Beini's help and used a mapping software to note down the important locations and routes at the time. From the mountain roads where the kidnapping happened, to the various routes the kidnappers asked the family to move to, then to the cliff where Mr. Tao threw the money down, and also the cave where the corpses were found, were all marked on the map.

Looking at the entire map, Zhao Yu noticed that even though the original crime locations were all around the mountain area, the distance between each location was huge. Mianling, the cliffside, and Yingpan Town Tunnel formed a perfect large triangle. The furthest area was nearly forty kilometers away.

Zhao Yu could not understand. Why would the kidnappers work in such a large area? What were they thinking back then? Twenty-six years ago, public transportation was not as convenient, so why would the kidnappers waste so much effort?

Could it be...just as he originally guessed, these people were not professionals? Or...were they trying to hide something?

Just as Zhao Yu was thinking hard about the case, Zhang Jingfeng and Liang Feng had more news. They said the DNA database did not have anything on Liang Sisi, so they needed another method.

Even though the result was disheartening, it was within everyone's expectations. Liang Sisi's chance of survival was already low. The chance of her being inside the DNA database was obviously even more miniscule.

Thus, everyone all put their hope on the missing person's portrait. Liang Sisi's 3D image had already been created. In order to raise the accuracy of the portrait, the experts made three possible images of Liang Sisi's adult appearance. They were immediately distributed across the nation and advertised on all major media sources and websites as a missing person's case.

At the same time, Team Leader Qu Ping's investigation continued at its blistering pace, but there was no new information. The amount of evidence for the Mianling case was pitifully limited, the investigation effort was immensely difficult, and they were running into dead ends everywhere.

Other than them, Department Leader Wang Fei of the forensics department also worked non-stop. After a new investigation, they managed to find the same fabric material on the cheekbones of all five sets of corpses. Preliminary speculation was that at the time of the hostages' death, they were blindfolded with some kind of cloth!

It was not hard to guess. If the culprits blew up the tunnel when the hostages were already dead, then...why would they have to blindfold the hostages?

To restore the original condition of the explosion, the forensics department even ran countless impact simulations using the angle of the explosion. The result showed that other than the driver Niu Weiguang, at the time of the four hostages' death, they were in a sitting position in a tight formation. In other words, when the culprit blew up the tunnel, the four children were most likely still alive! They had been killed by the explosion!! The ruthlessness of the killers was truly shocking, completely unforgivable!

Liu Weiguang's corpse was near the tunnel opening, a fair distance from the four children. Based on the fact that his corpse was not as scattered, it could be speculated that at the time of the explosion, he was lying in a face-up position. Thus, it was very possible he was already dead by the time of explosion!

The strange thing was, where Zhao Yu had dug up the ransom money was not only close to the opening of the tunnel, it was only three meters away from Niu Weiguang's corpse. Someone suspected that Niu Weiguang was one of the criminals, and that the ransom money was his share, but when the cave was being blown up, he had been betrayed by his companions and was buried in the tunnel along with the ransom money.

But there were still flaws to this speculation. If the culprits wanted to betray Niu Weiguang, why would they wait until the time of the explosion? They could have just killed him earlier and taken his share of the ransom money as well!

Not only that, but the forensics department also found the ingredients of the explosives in the ruins, and found that it was a commonly used explosive for mountain demolition. Both the amounts of explosives used and the positioning were perfect. It was clear that the person was familiar with explosives, perhaps an expert!

Added with the complex geography of the tunnel, it would be difficult for unfamiliar people to enter. Thus, the police had plenty of reasons to suspect that the kidnapers had worked in the tunnel and were used to working with explosives!

Miao Ying immediately sent people out again, but this time with a focus. They looked near the Ying Tunnel area to try and find people who matched this description and skill set!

Just like that, the investigation continued without a pause. But even after the entire day there had not been significant progress made.

Zhao Yu was the same. Even though he had gotten the "Gen" hexagram, for some reason, it did not activate. It was not even dark out when he got the ending notification from the system. Since Zhao Yu did not make any money or any progress on the case, his completion rate was not even forty-percent. There were no rewards at all.

But Zhao Yu, who already knew the system well, was not discouraged at all. He knew this was just the beginning. Thinking back to the Lost Hand Case and the Slaughter Case, there was not one that was easy to solve, right? No pain, no gain. Thus, even though there was no success, it did not mean that he should not work hard!

That day, Zhao Yu was the last to leave the office. When he left, the six whiteboards were completely filled up by him. There were also many relationship lines tightly packed on it, there was time, people, and locations. For someone who was unfamiliar with the case, it was almost incomprehensible!

Even when he returned home, Zhao Yu continued to think. He endlessly pondering over the case, hoping to find a single opening out of the countless amount of evidence. But no matter how much he tried, there were no results at all.

In the end, the helpless Zhao Yu had a new idea. Tomorrow he would go to the mountains and investigate the original scene of the crime directly to see if he could get any inspiration, or maybe a miracle?!