

Crazy 611

Chapter 611: You Found the Wrong Person!

After he left the hospital to go to a nearby forest, Zhao Yu was thinking to himself, trying to anticipate what kind of encounter he would soon have. He had smelled something fishy on the anonymous phone call, so he could make a rough guess that something was amiss...

Although the person on the anonymous call had said that he had important clues regarding the case, Zhao Yu felt that the coming encounter would most likely be related to the Dui hexagram. It seemed that the Qian hexagram had yet to end. This was because there was still one more encounter awaiting him.

As it was already nine in the evening, the northerly wind was beginning to howl, hushing everyone. Besides the fallen leaves in the forest, nothing, and no one was in sight.

Zhao Yu gripped his jacket tightly, then pulled up its hood. However, the breeze was still biting cold.

He walked for a while, then found a black car that was parked in the depths of the forest. Suddenly, it turned on its headlights to catch Zhao Yu's attention. Then, just to be sure that he had done the trick, the person in the car honked the horn softly, too.

Zhao Yu knew that the person, who had made the anonymous call must be the person in the car. As expected, the person soon opened the door and waved at Zhao Yu. He then shouted politely, "Sir, this way, this way..."

As Zhao Yu quickly walked towards the car, the man said, "Sir, you're here. That's great!" He had black framed glasses and was smiling wide. He then said, "Come, let's get in the car and talk. The wind is howling!"

Zhao Yu was not scared, as he was confident in his skills. He also assumed that these people wouldn't dare make a move on him, so he lowered his head and entered the back seat of the car without hesitation.

It was an older Benz. The temperature in the car was warm, like spring, making it extremely welcoming and comfortable. Besides Zhao Yu, there were two other men in the car. One was the driver, who wore a pair of white gloves and was seated in the front seat, while the other was the man with glasses, who was in the backseat. The man was in his forties and looked mature and steady.

"Sir, sorry for all the trouble!" the man with glasses said. "Allow me to introduce myself. I am the general manager of He Sheng Credit, Fu Qian. It is nice to meet you!"

Then, he extended his right hand politely. Zhao Yu smiled, shook his hand, then responded politely, "No wonder your company is doing so well! Even the name of the general manager is apropos, as it literally means 'Pay money,' correct?"

"You flatter me!" Fu Qian smiled and said. "I'm sorry, sir! We really want to get to know you, so we lied about providing you an important clue! I hope you don't mind!"

“Oh? No clues?” Zhao Yu pretended to be disappointed and complained, “I thought I got lucky today and would be able to solve the case!”

Actually, the moment Zhao Yu answered the anonymous call, he knew the person’s intention. As the other party was from He Sheng Credit, they could only have one goal in mind, which was to bribe him!

With this in mind, Zhao Yu had already sent a message to the boss of He Sheng Credit via Bureau Chief Mu from the branch police station, saying that he didn’t agree with the car repair fees.

As for why he hadn’t agreed, there could only be one of two reasons. One was that he considered the amount to be too little, while the other was that he wanted to investigate the He Sheng Credit further, using this excuse to buy some time.

He Sheng Credit was in cahoots with the burglar group, after all. So, if they were to be investigated further, they would definitely be exposed! Hence, they risked having someone come over in order to hopefully appease Zhao Yu.

“Sir, first let me first apologize for our mistake, as our henchmen failed to recognize someone as important as you!” Fu Qian said, basically groveling. “We are very sorry that we offended you, and we hope that you won’t hold it against us! To express our sincerity, we...”

Fu Qian took this moment to signal to the driver in the front seat, who passed him a delicate case. After Fu Qian opened the case, he pointed at a stack of blue cash notes and said, “These are some unregistered bonds, which are worth about four million. You can easily convert them into cash at any international bond trading center, so you can rest assured that there will not be any trouble in the future. Please do us the kindness of accepting it!”

Zhao Yu sighed in his heart.

I never expected that bribery could be so straightforward! Isn’t this too easy?

“Your boss is so generous!” Zhao Yu complimented. “You only hit my headlight and bumper, so is all of this really necessary? Hehe...”

“Eh, no big deal... Please don’t even mention it.” Fu Qian smiled apologetically. “Firstly, it was our guys who hit your car, so providing you with compensation is only natural! Secondly, our guys didn’t recognize you, and they even offended and frightened you! As such, consider this psychological damage fees! Thirdly, our boss really wanted to befriend you!”

“Wahaha...” Zhao Yu suddenly roared with laughter, which gave Fu Qian and the driver quite a shock.

“What sir meant was...” Fu Qian grew less and less confident. He opened his mouth, didn’t dared to ask any questions.

“Humph!” After Zhao Yu laughed a little more, he suddenly tensed up. He then slammed his fist on the seat and shouted, “How dare you? Who do you think I, Zhao Yu, am? How dare you try to bribe me in broad daylight? This is so humiliating. Do you know that? I’m telling you, I, Zhao Yu, as the nation’s special investigation group leader, have to unearth the truth and carry out my duty, giving my all until my heart ceases to beat! As such, how can I allow myself to be bribed?”

He continued, getting further agitated. "I'm telling you, don't even mention the four million! Even if you gave me a mountain of gold and silver, I couldn't be bought!"

Zhao Yu shouted in an imposing manner, "The very fact that I didn't arrest the both of you and take you straight to the police station should be considered a great mercy! If you were to try to bribe me again in the future, I will not let it slip! Goodbye!"

With that, Zhao Yu jumped out of the car. Then, with a loud bang, slammed the door shut heavily. Very soon, he was out of sight completely.

...

Back in the car, Fu Qian was dumbfounded by what Zhao Yu had just said. He exchanged a few glances with the driver, then finally came back to reality. He creased his eyebrows and said, "So, what he meant was that he thought the amount was too little?"

"That can't be, right?" The driver also looked confused. "Even if he was a national official, four million is no small figure!"

Fu Qian spat angrily, then said, "This person is simply psychotic! If he thinks that amount of money was too little, he could have said so straightforwardly. If he were to be a really upright person, he could have just told us! Look at him just now... The way he spoke..."

Fu Qian was complaining and distressed when he suddenly noticed that there was a small tree that had broken and fallen right onto the hood of the car!

"What the heck?" Fu Qian shouted, thus frightening the driver.

The two of them then got out of the car to check it out. Luckily, it was just a small tree, so it didn't really damage the hood. The two of them quickly worked together to move the tree out of the way, then returned to the car.

"Oh my God!" The driver exclaimed. He had cold sweats all over. "That was a close call! The boss cares so much about this car, if it were to be damaged, I'd be in big trouble!"

"What are you just standing there for? We tried our best to minimize the damage. What's done is done, so let's head back!" Fu Qian urged.

However, suddenly, Fu Qian noticed that there was something wrong. He quickly opened the case that was carrying the bonds. But, he found that the case was now totally empty!

Ah...

The quiet of the forest was suddenly broken by Fu Qian's mad roar...

Chapter 612: Don't Overdo It

As Zhao Yu held the four million in unregistered bonds in his hands, he thought, What a joke! I am a man with principles, after all!

What I did would still be considered as upholding my principles, right?

Alright... Well...

As it turned out, the detector had extended time, so it was still on the moment he got into the car. As such, he was able to detect that there were two pinhole cameras and a mini eavesdropping device in the Benz.

Zhao Yu understood that instance how they could be so emboldened as to bribe the officials! They were obviously keeping the recordings as evidence! As soon as he received the stolen goods, he would be controlled by them, just like a high-class blackmailing scheme!

In order to foil their plan, Zhao Yu gave an impassioned speech in the car, whereby he scolded them and didn't let them seize any chance to entrap him. However, Zhao Yu was a treacherous person himself.

He figured that proper thieves never left a scene empty-handed. So, as the other party gave him a great opportunity, he was determined to not waste it!

So, he first used an Invisible Appraiser to certify those bonds in secret. The result showed that the bonds were authentic, and that the total value was far beyond four million!

After he confirmed that there was no mistake, Zhao Yu first pretended to leave the car angrily. But, in reality, he put on an Invisibility Cloak, so he wouldn't leave any evidence in those cameras!

He then broke the small tree and threw it on the car hood in order to lure the two of them out of the car. Then, he snuck into the car to steal away the bonds!

As Zhao Yu was a careful person, who didn't want the other person's surveillance camera to record any paranormal sight, where the bonds would be floating in the air, he used two of the decorations from the car to block the surveillance camera en route. That way, even if he was ever suspected, there would be no evidence whatsoever!

As Zhao Yu carried the bonds back to his police car, he was still thinking about what happened earlier. Ever since he had become a police detective, Zhao Yu had gained a moral conscious. So, as he held onto the bonds, he began to feel insecure.

Did I overdo it this time?

I am a billionaire now, so why should I be interested in this money?

Mm...

Why not?

Then, Zhao Yu took out his phone and called Bureau Chief Mu from the Jinping branch.

"Bureau Chief Mu, I am Zhao from the special investigations group.

Once Zhao Yu had introduced himself to Bureau Chief Mu, the other side of the phone suddenly became tense and quiet.

“Bureau Chief Mu,” Zhao Yu continued in all sincerity, “After giving it some thought, I feel that He Sheng Credit gave me a good offer. Look, I have solved my case and they obviously had nothing to do with it. And, my car has been parked at your establishment for a very long time, which is very inconvenient! So, how about I just agree with their compensation offer!”

Bureau Chief Mu didn’t react at first. Then he replied, “That’s great! Don’t you worry, I will get in touch with them tomorrow to get them to pay your losses as soon as possible!”

“Hehe... Sorry for the trouble. Hehehe...” Zhao Yu’s laughter was malicious, and it sent a chill down Bureau Chief Mu’s spine.

“Don’t mention it. This is what I should do, after all!” Bureau Chief Mu was covered in cold sweat when he spoke. “To have you getting frightened within are area of jurisdiction, I felt so bad! Team Leader Zhao, please forgive us...”

“Hehehe... Don’t worry about it. But, Bureau Chief Mu, speaking of that...” Zhao Yu reminded him, “You should really pay more attention to companies like He Sheng Credit! You are lucky that you met a person who was easygoing, like me. If it was someone else, I’m afraid that you might have been in hot water yourself!”

“Yes, you’re right!” Bureau Chief Mu said. “Don’t worry. From today onward, we will be sure to keep our eyes on them. We will never let anything similar occur again!”

After Zhao Yu chatted casually with him a bit longer, he hung up the phone. He felt much better, assuring himself that he hadn’t overdone it anymore...

When Zhao Yu drove back to the hotel at eleven that night, the system notified him that the miracle adventure had ended. Even though it was an amazing Qian hexagram, he had only received a one hundred and forty-three percent completion rate. It seemed that his somewhat of a moral misstep had cost him several points!

Recalling the tense day, Zhao Yu felt as though it had been a century. Even the blood war in the nursing home felt as though it had happened long ago.

So much had happened within the last twenty-four hours. It was unbelievable!

The Qian hexagram was really a superb combination hexagram. In Zhao Yu’s miracle adventure that day, the Kun, Zhen, Kan, Dui and Gen hexagrams had interlaced, all of which combined had simply swamped him with more than one person could attend to. In fact, Zhao Yu had no idea how he had persisted up until now!

Phew...

He let out a long sigh, reminding himself that he shouldn’t get another hexagram until at least after midnight! Forget about the Qian hexagram, even if it was a Kun hexagram, he knew that he wouldn’t yet be able to deal with it!

He recalled slightly that he hadn’t even had a proper sleep recently, and his body was extremely exhausted, almost to the point where he couldn’t even feel his own weariness anymore! If there’s a

device that allowed him to quickly recover his mental and physical strength, that'd be great! Otherwise, an Invisible Sleeping Pill would be nice, too!

Then, an idea flashed in Zhao Yu's head, which was to check the latest addition to his system device. It was a Qian hexagram, which was incredible. Although the completion rate wasn't ideal, he had received a ten-item pack!

When he opened it, the very first item that he saw was a special device. The device's name was really impressive, too. It was called the Invisible Lightning Conductor!

The introduction of the device showed that it could be activated automatically and would enable him to avoid contact with electric shock and lightning!

What the heck?

As he was looking at the device, Zhao Yu subconsciously touched the bonds. As he did so, he thought, System Bro, are you trying to hint for me to not be so mischievous next time?

But, if I were no longer afraid of lightning striking me, does that mean that I can swear or make false pledges? Wahaha, if I were to not follow principles and just do as I wish, God please strike me hard with lightning, wahaha...

Kacha...

Zhao Yu had just imagined it, and there was a thunder that roared in his brain coincidentally! This shocked Zhao Yu, and he grew pale.

When he looked out of the window, he realized that there had been a sudden change in the weather. Not only had the gale force winds lowered the temperature, but it was now pouring cats and dogs...

Chapter 613: My Motivation

Rumble...

As lightning interlaced with rumbling thunder, the rain poured down relentlessly. Such heavy rain was an unexpected occurrence, as it was already the beginning of winter.

The rain inevitably reminded Zhao Yu about the beautiful figure that left had left such a deep impression in his head. When Miao Ying had left back then, it had also been raining heavily.

As the heavy rain kept pouring, and his lover wasn't by his side, Zhao Yu thought to himself...

MiaoYing, where are you now? How are you doing?

Do you, on similar rainy nights, miss me as well?

Bro System, I wonder if you have a people-searching device? If so, can you give me one? If I had that kind of device, I might be able to find Miao Ying!

With a deep longing, Zhao Yu took a look at the ten-item bundle pack that he had just received. Besides the Invisible Lightning Conductor and a level one Invisible Biochemical Suit, the other devices were those

that he had before, including the Invisible Odor Bomb, Invisible Bomb Disposal, Invisible Propeller, Invisible Hemostat, Memory Flashback Device, Invisible Bullet Proof Suit, Power Jamming Device, Skeleton Key...

Although the ten items were all legitimate devices, Zhao Yu was still unsatisfied. This was because all that he could do at that moment was think about Miao Ying.

The past was still fresh in his head, including flashbacks from the fierce battle in the police training school, the incident that happened in the General Ridge, the life and death situation in the Gold Buddha cave, and even the passion and thrill that he had felt when he rolled around in the bedsheets with his goddess...

Zhao Yu still had no clue about what had happened to Miao Ying and her family, nor why she had left him so heartlessly. Although people say that time heals all wounds, Zhao Yu only missed Miao Ying more dearly with each passing day.

The two things that Miao Ying had told him to do, he would never forget. She had said, "First, be Sherlock Holmes!" and "Forget me."

I'm sorry, Miao Ying! Zhao Yu thought in his head. I can't forget you! But... I will be Sherlock Holmes!

During the past few days, he had been completely tense, as the case was weighing heavily on his mind. Hence, Zhao Yu had finally been able to push his sorrow aside. However, he knew that, deep down, this was only a temporary fix.

So, regardless of the price he had to pay, he had to find Miao Ying! He suddenly recalled that his miracle adventure system was being upgraded continuously.

Thus, if he were to upgrade it to a certain level, there might really be some sort of device to find a missing person! Or maybe, once the strengthening function was complete, he might be able to make a people-searching device by enhancing the current device!

For example, if he were to strengthen and combine the Invisible Tracking Device and Hacker's Command, he might then be able to look for Miao Ying's information through the internet!

This thought filled Zhao Yu with vigor. He was determined to believe that this assumption was not sheer nonsense, but that there was a high possibility of his realizing it!

He felt that, since there were so many different kinds of devices in the device bar, as long as he kept upgrading the system, he would definitely be able to find an efficient way to find Miao Ying! This had given Zhao Yu a huge confidence boost.

Be Sherlock Holmes!

That's right!

I must be Sherlock Holmes, and I must obtain more accumulation points to upgrade the system!

Ever since the Hasty Murder Case, Zhao Yu hadn't really been able to sleep much. But, once the case was closed, and he had now found a way to look for Miao Ying, he was finally ready to rest.

Although it was raining heavily and extremely windy outside, as well as there being lightning and rumbling thunder, Zhao Yu slept soundly throughout the whole night. He finally woke up at about ten the next morning.

As he tried to stretch, he realized that his limbs were all out of joint and the wound on his shoulder was aching. He kept his movements small and struggled to hold back a yawn.

After he pulled open the curtain, he saw that the rain had stopped and the brilliant sunlight was pouring in on his face. It felt extremely soothing.

However, even though the rain had stopped, the wind had not ceased to howl. He could see the people walking along in their winter wear, the breeze rustling the half-dead leaves on the trees that lined the street.

Zhao Yu remembered that the six Headless Female Corpse Case happened during the coldest part of winter, especially the very first case, which had taken place at Jinbian. In fact, he had recorded his analysis of the case in Captain Jin Zhenbang's yellow notebook. Captain Jin had thought that the reason the murderer opted to commit a crime in winter was most likely so that he could take advantage of the cold to preserve the dead body even longer.

Because of this fact, many forensic psychologists had added the label of "desire to showcase" in the offender's profile. This meant that they thought the murderer had a strong desire to show off the dead body, like an exhibit, before the people.

Wu Xiumin conducted her own analysis as well. Not only did she agree with her seniors' analyses, she also thought that the murderer was a perfectionist. Although the dead body was marred, the murderer wanted it to be perfect, which of course meant that he didn't want the dead body to rot too early and affect its aesthetics.

Based on those two points, the police were almost positive that the murderer was a stubborn person with a very morbid mentality. However, what made people wonder the most was, if this description of the murderer was true, according to the murderer's character, he would most likely continue to commit similar crimes.

Yet, eerily enough, after the Headless Female Corpse Case in 1998, the murderer suddenly appeared to stop. Ever since that time, there had been no similar cases.

No one knew why the murderer suddenly stopped, but many did their fair share of speculating about it...

"Was it because the murderer died?"

"Maybe the murderer came to his senses!"

"Maybe the murderer was getting old and couldn't continue!"

It had been nineteen years, yet people were still worried that the murderer was still alive. Although, they also knew that, if he had died already, then they may never find out the real truth behind the case.

At that moment, Zhao Yu picked up his phone to check his messages. Knowing that the clock was ticking, Wu Xiumin had gone ahead and interrogated Tao Xiang the entire night before, using her unique hypnotic technique. Zhao Yu wondered if she had obtained any useful intel.

He unlocked his phone to see that there were several messages from Wu Xiumin, just as he had expected. However, Wu Xiumin's messages had nothing to do with interrogation, but were rather to remind Zhao Yu that she had received the latest update, whereby the Central Criminal Division had sent two teams to take over the case! Apparently, they would arrive in Jinping that very morning, so they wanted Zhao Yu's team to be prepared to hand over the case immediately.

This can't be, right?

So soon?

Zhao Yu had just sent in the report to the Central Criminal Division the day before, and yet the special force had arrived the very next day! Their speed was beyond his imagination.

As Jinping and the capital were quite far away from each other, the special force would need to take the criminal away under armed escort. Hence, they must be driving the police car over. Plus, they had to arrange their team, pack up their equipment, and so on. This usually required at least two to three days.

No one would have guessed that they would arrive the next morning! This indeed put a wrench in Zhao Yu's plan! After all, once Tao Xiang was arrested and transported to the capital, Zhao Yu wouldn't be able to get any more information from him!

He looked at his watch and saw that he only had twenty minutes until it was eleven o'clock. He reckoned that the two special forces would have arrived by then.

So, Zhao Yu didn't dare to delay. He quickly washed up and drove towards the Jinping Police Station immediately.

Chapter 614: The Woman Is on Fire

Zhao Yu had expected to be met with a crowded and bustling scene. However, when he arrived in the meeting room at the Jinping Police Station, he only saw three people there, one of whom was his contact person, Chen Zhuo.

As this meeting was highly confidential, other than the special investigation group, no one else knew these two persons' identities. It was only after Chen Zhuo introduced them, that Zhao Yu realized that the two representatives were actually the higher ups in charge of the two special forces!

The first of the two was a polite middle-aged man, who looked steady and mature. His name was Ma Runkui, and he was the deputy section chief of the Foreign Affairs Office in the Central Criminal Division. As such, he had been entrusted to come and take care of the pharmaceutical factory murder case.

The other person was a woman in her thirties, who had her hair tied up in a ponytail. Her name was Wu Fangfang, and she had been placed in charge of the Tamil Star Gem Theft Case for quite some time.

The pair had actually taken a flight over, so that they could arrive earlier, giving them ample time to understand the situation, while their assistants were still preparing. Hence, their colleagues would arrive in a few days.

After Zhao Yu closed the office door, he tried to break the ice a bit, attempting to learn a bit more about the pair. Ma Runkui was very friendly, and when he shook Zhao Yu's hands, he extended two hands, then complimented him sincerely.

"Team Leader Zhao, you are so young and promising. You have just taken the post, yet you have already solved such an important and major case! You indeed have a bright future ahead of you!" he exclaimed.

Although they were both team leaders of special forces, Ma Runkui was a deputy section chief, so his ranking was obviously higher. Hence, Zhao Yu was bolstered by his compliment, so he thanked him politely immediately.

However, when he shook hands with the woman, Wu Fangfang, he was suddenly placed in a totally opposite situation. As she was wearing a tightly fitted suit and had an extremely cold look in her eyes, with just one glance, Zhao Yu could tell that she was a person with a marked personality.

As they shook hands, not only did she not smile, she even made a sarcastic remark. "You are the one that they are always talking about, Division Chief Jiao's relative! I have been looking forward to meeting you for a long time!" she said.

Zhao Yu was stunned. He felt that the woman's cold hands mirrored her cold look. As for this Division Chief Jiao that she was talking about, this was the woman that he had helped back at the highway pit stop in the past.

Later on, after he became the team leader of the special investigation group, rumors of the two started spreading. The rumors said that Zhao Yu was Division Chief Jiao's relative, and that Zhao Yu's post had only been obtained through abnormal and shady channels.

Zhao Yu also knew that, among the people that had spread the rumors, Wu Xiumin had played an important role. However, Wu Xiumin had since discovered the truth about Zhao Yu. As such, she had already apologized to Zhao Yu personally for her part in spreading the lies.

Zhao Yu had never expected that Wu Fangfang would speak so rudely to him during their meeting! It was obvious that she was filled with hostility!

Wu Fangfang's attitude had also caught Chen Zhuo and the others off guard as well. The entire situation was truly awkward.

However, since fighting against provocation was his expertise, Zhao Yu didn't even blink, but replied immediately, "Hehehe, Team Leader Wu, you flatter me! It would be great, indeed, if I was only her relative, right? Then, that would mean that I only became an official by nepotism! But, I heard, many female team leaders got their positions through intimate relations with men higher ups, which surely wouldn't be nice to spread around. But, what do you think? Tsk tsk..."

"You..." Wu Fangfang was flustered to say the least, as what Zhao Yu had just replied was extremely unpleasant to her ears.

"Don't misunderstand me," Zhao Yu quickly explained, turning to face her. "I'm sure Team Leader Wu earned her role with her own capabilities, right?"

“You...” Wu Fangfang had a murderous look in her eyes. She then replied coldly, “Team Leader Zhao Yu, there were so many deaths in the pharmaceutical factory case, do you actually think that you did a good job on it?”

“Oh? Well, thank you for your reminder, sissy! I thought I had won several honors by solving the case and arresting the murderer! It seems that I am still very inexperienced! As such, I must look towards you and learn from you! After all, you have been working on the Gem Theft Case for six years, so I believe you must be very experienced, right? I hope you can give me some pointers in the future!”

Pfft...

Wu Xiumin couldn't hold back, instantly bursting out in a fit of laughter. What Zhao Yu had just said was so sneakily treacherous! He obviously was teasing her!

Wu Fangfang was understandably pissed now. Her lips quivered in rage, then she yelled, “Alright! If there's a chance in the future, I will definitely give you plenty of pointers!”

As there was an abundance of friction in the air, Chen Zhuo and Ma Runkui quickly move to alleviate the tension between the two of them. They joked around and finally dispelled the majority of the pressure from the awkward situation.

They then started handing out specific jobs. The special investigation group reported the ins and outs of the Hasty Murder Case to the two. Then, the small group reported their current status to the Jin'an provincial office and the Jinping Police Station together.

Next, Zhao Yu signed a few documents, finally wrapping up the procedure to hand over the case. From that moment onwards, the Hasty Murder Case and the Gem Theft Case would officially have nothing to do with the special investigation group led by Zhao Yu.

As such, Zhao Yu could now return to the Jinbian Police Station to fully focus on the Headless Female Corpses Case. However, it happened to be lunch time, so Zhao Yu invited the small group, out of courtesy to a local restaurant for lunch. But, as Wu Fangfang was still nursing her wounded ego after being verbally attacked by Zhao Yu earlier, she used the excuse that she still had work to be done to turn down the lunch invitation.

With the absence of Wu Fangfang, the atmosphere at the lunch table was much more peaceful. As they still had work to finish later that afternoon, they didn't drink any alcohol, only reminisced about the past and discussed work.

Ma Runkui told Zhao Yu that their superiors didn't intend to bring Lao Feng and the rest back to the capital for interrogation. This was because the case had been officially opened in Jinping, so they hoped to leave the criminals there, in order for them to be taken care of locally until they found sufficient evidence. At that time, the Central Criminal Division would then take diplomatic measures to capture all of the criminals overseas in one haul.

Zhao Yu's contact person, Chen Zhuo, then seized this chance to introduce some new information to Zhao Yu. “Section Chief Ma has been working in the Foreign Affairs Office for many years, so he has dealt with many similar cases. Don't you worry! Those criminals that suppressed the pharmaceutical factory share prices and damaged the nation won't escape!”

Hearing this, Ma Runkui smiled humbly and said, "Officer Chen, you flatter me. But actually, the credit all goes to Zhao and his special investigation group! If it wasn't for them, our nation would have suffered even greater losses! Come, let me substitute the alcohol with tea for a toast! Thank you for all of your hard work!"

Ma Runkui's compliment sounded extremely flattering in their ears, and they immediately held their cups up to join in the toast.

After that, Ma Runkui sighed. He then told Zhao Yu, "Zhao, about Team Leader Wu Fangfang, don't mind her! She's like that with everyone. She's just a very straightforward person and always does as she wishes. She is also very hot-tempered. Those who have worked with her before even gave her the nickname 'Sis Fire!'"

"Sis Fire?" Zhao Yu smiled. "Meaning, this woman, is on fire?"

Actually, Zhao Yu was really thinking something cheeky in his head, Does she need me to put out her fire? But of course, he could not say that out loud!

"I could tell from the very beginning," Wu Xiumin couldn't help but cut in, "According to my analysis, that this woman is really too full of herself and can't control her emotions. Plus, she always seems to ignore others' feelings and easily offends people. I'm guessing that she definitely does not have a boyfriend!"

Cough cough... Zhao Yu saw that Wu Xiumin had said too much, so he coughed slightly to hint at her to hush.

"It's okay!" Ma Runkui quickly waved his hand and said, "You're right! She really doesn't have a boyfriend! However, Wu Fangfang is a very capable woman. She's actually quite similar to Team Leader Zhao, as she was selected for the special investigation group after solving many major and thorny cases!"

He then added, "However, half a year ago, she made a mistake, so she was assigned to the Gem Theft Case special force. That's why her temperament is even worse than before!"

Oh...

Zhao Yu then understood that this hot-tempered woman was indeed no simple female...

Chapter 615: Major News

In the afternoon, Zhao Yu brought Chen Zhuo and the rest of the group to Bethune Hospital to confirm the suspects. Although Ah Biao and the driver had already confessed to their crimes, they didn't know much about the group behind the scenes.

So, Lao Feng seemed to be the crucial person in this case at the moment, as he was the leader of the criminal gang. All this while, he was the one in contact with the group behind the scenes. As such, he definitely knew the most information.

However, Lao Feng was very determined and stubborn. Ever since he had woken up, he had remained unwilling to confess to any of his wrongdoings.

However, Ma Runkui, who was experienced, was in no hurry. He knew that it was only a matter of time until he clamped Lao Feng down. So, he figured that as long as they could stay patient and investigate him on their terms, all would turn out right in the end.

Plus, the investigation wasn't a solo endeavor. The headquarters of the Central Criminal Division had already sent a ton of manpower to help investigate the suspicious group. This was because the group's suppression of the share prices of the pharmaceutical factory had been so aggressive, they believed that there must be sufficient evidence left behind to indict them.

After they confirmed the three living suspects, the group returned to the forensic department in the police station to certify the few dead suspects and examine their dead bodies. But, by the time they got there, the police had already certified their identities. Although the man in the jacket had blown himself up and died, the police had somehow managed to find his information.

It turned out that these few deceased suspects had already gone through their official immigration procedures. So, strictly speaking, they were no longer Chinese citizens. After discovering this, the police continued searching their information, hoping to find more clues about the consortium behind the scenes.

Then, Zhao Yu brought the hot-tempered Wu Fangfang to visit Tao Xiang in the guarded room. However, besides Cui Lizhu's testimony, no one else had verified that the old man with mental health issues was actually the legendary king of thieves!

As the person's identity was secretive and his movement were suspicious, not many had ever seen his face. So, over a period of time, the king of the thieves, otherwise known as Tao Xiang, became merely a legend that was spoken of in public. The legend spread so magically, the mysterious man had even been given the nickname "God Tao."

Even with the help of comparisons via DNA, portraiture, fingerprints and various other channels, the police still couldn't find any conclusive match. It was almost as if the man didn't exist in the human world. It was indeed a mystery...

Finally, once all of the suspects were confirmed, Zhao Yu was able to completely hand over all of the case tasks. He then bid farewell to Chen Zhuo, Ma Runkui, and the others, called his teammates into the office, and started to discuss their next steps.

Their original mission had been to investigate the Headless Female Corpses Case. As it had officially ended, they naturally had to prepare to head back to the Jinbian Police Station to continue with their work.

However, as they had suddenly obtained Bai Lili's photo, they thought they should be putting in some effort towards investigating Tao Xiang. Wu Xiumin told Zhao Yu that she had tried her hypnotic interrogation method on Tao Xiang the night before. However, Tao Xiang's memory had been severely damaged, so she couldn't find anything out, even after an entire night of interrogation!

Apparently, Tao Xiang's memory was quite jumbled, so he had forgotten many things that happened in the past. Sometimes, he couldn't even talk fluently.

Cui Lizhu had told Zhao Yu once before that she had once taken her father to get a thorough examination by a doctor, who had told her that Tao Xiang had experienced heavy brain damage. Thus, his unstable mental state and loss of memory could be associated to such an injury.

Cui Lizhu had also been told that the brain damage was permanent, with the probability of recovering any memory being quite low. As Cui Lizhu had grown up with Tao Xiang, she was surprised by this, as she couldn't remember Tao Xiang's ever experiencing a heavy blow to the head!

The doctor had then said that, according to the results of his tests on Tao Xiang's head, there had most likely been an accident, a heavy knock, or an attack that had caused the injury. As Cui Lizhu recollected that Tao Xiang's symptoms only started after he stole the Tamil Star, she suspected that Tao Xiang had some sort of accident during that robbery!

However, as she was still very young back then, it would make sense that she did not remember it clearly. Also, her father had been careful to not involve her in such things, as she was only a child.

At first, Zhao Yu had thought that if he could use Memory Flashback Device to peep into Tao Xiang's memory, he might be able to find more clues about Bai Lili. But, although the device was great, Zhao Yu couldn't be certain of the exact time when Tao Xiang met Bai Lili.

This was problematic because the Memory Flashback Device could only show ten minutes of video. Thus, if he were to pick an incorrect time, it would be wasted! Hence, he determined that it wasn't realistic to use the device.

As Zhao Yu scrambled to find another investigation approach, his thoughts kept returning to Cui Lizhu...

When I compared the DNA of Cui Lizhu, Gege, Tao Xiang and Bai Lili, they were found to not be related. So, that makes the photo very suspicious!

If Bai Lili isn't Cui Lizhu's mother, then why would she appear in the same photo as Cui Lizhu?

This made Zhao Yu think that, if he could find Cui Lizhu's biological parents, they might be able to help him uncover some more important clues! Hence, he told Zeng Ke to take Cui Lizhu's DNA to do a comparison at the National Data Center, then use the results to see if he could find Cui Lizhu's biological parents.

"Team Leader, I have some bad news!" Zeng Ke had just left, when he suddenly ran back in a hurry.

Zhao Yu raised his eyebrows and thought, I haven't even gotten today's hexagram! Why is there more chaos already?

"Oh my God! It can't be, right?" Wu Xiumin looked at Zeng Ke, who was panting for air, and couldn't help but exclaim, "Don't tell me, Tao Xiang or Cui Lizhu ran away!"

Zeng Ke shook his head quickly, then took out his phone and opened it to one of the news applications, which he immediately showed them.

Everyone saw it and got a shock. The headline of the newspaper read, Shocking news! The Tamil Star Robber returned and was arrested by the police...

Chapter 616: Who Made Me a Fool?

“How could this happen?” Zhao Yu gasped.

Hearing such shocking news, he and the rest of the small group felt as though they had been struck by lightning! Ever since the special investigation group had arrested Tao Xiang by accident, the entire operation had been carried out in secret.

As Zhao Yu knew that it would be a major incident, he had been extremely careful. As such, at least theoretically, it was impossible for the news to have been exposed! Moreover, the Jinping Police Station had no idea about Tao Xiang’s true identity.

After Zhao Yu opened the news app, he found more detailed information regarding Tao Xiang’s name, the Jinping Police Station, and even the Bliss Nursing Home, where Tao Xiang was arrested.

“Oh my God! This report is so detailed!” Wu Xiumin was shocked. “It was obviously compiled internally! But, by who? And why?”

Zhao Yu immediately understood that this was a serious matter, as anything that involved the Tamil Star Gem Theft Case would surely lead to diplomatic turmoil! Plus, Tao Xiang had many enemies, so once his identity was exposed, it would put him in great danger!

Ran Tao patted his thigh, then said, “It must be that woman, who is obviously going through menopause! That woman on fire! She’s angry at Team Leader Zhao Yu, so she sold the report intel to the media in an attempt to fool us!”

“That totally makes sense!” Wu Xiumin, who stood alongside Ran Tao, unexpectedly chimed in. “Otherwise, who would know such details?”

Tsk tsk...

As he was listening to the conversation and various hypotheses, Zhao Yu couldn’t help but crease his eyebrows. He felt that it wasn’t Wu Fangfang’s doing, as she had already signed the official document to take over the case. Thus, if she were to sell the information to the media, she would also be pushing herself into a corner!

“Let’s track down the first media outlet that spread the news, then deal with them!” Zeng Ke said, while he connected his phone to the computer.

After just a few clicks, he couldn’t help but exclaim, “Oh my goodness, it has only been twenty minutes, and there have already been five hundred thousand clicks on the news link! This speed...”

“What’s going on?” Zeng Ke was still engrossed by the computer intel, when the office door was pushed opened by the contact officer, Chen Zhuo.

Chen Zhuo walked in quickly, then barked at Zhao Yu, “Zhao, didn’t we agree that this matter was highly confidential? Why would it be on the news? Do you know what this means? You and I are in big trouble! Who the heck did this?”

“Officer Chen, I have no idea!” Zhao Yu waved his hand and said. “I followed the procedure, so I’m sure there’s no mistake on our end!”

“Then, how could this happen?” Chen Zhuo scratched his head anxiously. “If it wasn’t you, who else could it be?”

“Zhao Yu! You crazy fool!” Suddenly, the office door was pushed open yet again, followed by an angry Wu Fangfang, who stormed in and shouted, “What have you done? We only argued for a bit, and yet you stabbed me in the back! How could you do this?”

“Hey, why do you assume that I did something?” Zhao Yu asked helplessly. “What did I do?”

“How dare you deny it!” Wu Fangfang then pointed at her phone and said, “The entire world knows about Tao Xiang’s being arrested. Are you happy now? You are so black-hearted. Just as I signed the document and became in charge of the case, you go and make a fool out of me! Alright, I shall report this to the division chief, then we’ll see what you have to say for yourself!”

“Hey? That’s strange!” Zeng Ke interrupted, while pointing at the computer screen. He then said, “Over a dozen media outlets posted the news at the same time! That doesn’t make sense...”

At that very moment, Chen Zhuo seemed to realized something, then moved to stand between Zhao Yu and Wu Fangfang, thus mediating the dispute. He then said, “Calm down, you two. This is so strange. I think we should investigate this further and not jump to hasty conclusions!”

“Officer Chen, don’t you understand?” Wu Fangfang asked emotionally. “This is such an embarrassment. If we had the gemstone, it might be okay! But, as we arrested the burglar without the gemstone being recovered yet, it makes us look ridiculous!”

At that moment, Ma Runkui, who had just heard the news and rushed to the scene, said, “Well, we can always go the old-fashioned route, meaning that we get into contact with the Central Cyber Police, seal off the news, then declare that it was all only a rumor! Then, it will be totally wiped from the news cycle!”

“No way!” Wu Fangfang shook her head and said, “If we tried that, it would only make the situation worse! Plus, it isn’t a rumor! It’s the truth!”

“Then, what else can we do?” Chen Zhuo scratched his head, right as his cell phone began to ring...

As Chen Zhuo looked down at the Caller Id, he suddenly lost it, exclaiming, “The higher ups are calling! What should I do?”

As no one could think of any reason for Chen Zhuo’s to dodge the call, he could only answer the phone hesitantly. As expected, he was scolded immediately. The higher ups requested that he take care of the matter as soon as possible.

Apparently, this whole incident had ruffled the feathers of everyone, from the Jin'an Provincial Office to the leaders in the Jinping Police Station! When they had all realized the severity of the situation, they had responded like kittens on a hot tin roof!

The higher ups in the Jinping Police Station were especially upset, as the pharmaceutical factory Hasty Murder Case had already put them in a difficult position, and within only a day of their having resolved the case, there had been another major incident!

Although the Gem Theft Case didn't involve any human lives, the Tamil Star was once listed as India's national treasure. As such, it was no small matter!

In light of the case's national importance, the Jinping Police Station had no choice but to add more armed policemen to guard the King of the Thieves. At the same time, Zeng Ke updated the investigation results, which is exactly when all of the media outlets spread the news regarding the Gem Theft Case!

As it turns out, these particular media outlets were all small news publishing agencies. Normally, they would rely on the major news media to spread their news, sending it to them in small batches to then publish themselves.

After that, the major news publications would spread the news, uploading it onto their own websites and applications, which would mean some timing delay in transition. However, somehow or another, after they had received the announcement instructions from the system, the small outlets had published the news directly. It was only after a while that they realized that the major media outlets hadn't uploaded any news at all!

After investigating the matter, they realized that the sharing platform for those particular media outlets was hacked! This meant that a hacker had gone in and completely taken control of the news! And, although various media outlets had already deleted the news in question, the internet had already done its magic, spreading the juicy gossip across the globe!

It can't be, right?

This means big trouble. There's even hacker involved now!

Zhao Yu pondered this whole situation seriously, thinking this particular plot must have been planned for quite some time!

Chapter 617: There's Only One Way

There, on the monitor that was right in front of Zhao Yu, was the Tamil Star, which had been lost six years ago. The image was zoomed in, causing the gemstone to look even gorgeous and stunning!

The blue gemstone, which weighed sixty-seven carats, was in a perfect oval shape and set on a dazzling white gold necklace. Although it was a blue, there was still a faint green refraction twinkling within the gemstone, which only served to further shroud the jewel in mystery!

It was said that the gemstone was once on the King's scepter. Apparently, however, after it had been through many wars, and had been lost many times, it finally fell into the hands of an Indian collector.

Then, six years ago, in one of the exhibitions in the capital, the gemstone surfaced. Apparently, someone stole it within the first two days of the exhibition!

It was said that the exhibition had taken great measures to protect the gemstone, adopting the utmost advanced security systems and protocols. However, it had still been stolen unexpectedly!

The incident caused a great stir. After all, losing such an important gemstone completely discredited the exhibition organizer's reputation!

Hence, the Central Criminal Division had sent the most outstanding police detectives to investigate the case. Even so, the investigation had been dragging out for six years now! In these six years, the mysterious gemstone never once revealed itself. So, as of today, it was still nowhere to be found!

Back then, there was a rumor circulating among the people, which said that the gemstone burglary was Tao Xiang's doing. However, all this while, Tao Xiang was merely a mystery suspect, charged with unsubstantiated evidence on some police investigation report. This was because no one knew his identity, much less where he was!

"Myself, Wu Fangfang, Chen Zhuo, Cui Lizhu, Jinping Police Station, Central Criminal Division..." Zhao Yu looked at the gemstone, while he listed down bunch of names, verbally repeating them aloud as he went. He was trying to figure out who had made a fool out of him and spread Tao Xiang's news to the media.

However, even though he pondered it long and hard, he still didn't come to any solid conclusion. He was confident that his own special investigation group wouldn't have caused such a problem. Also, he was confident that it was not Wu Xiumin, Zeng Ke, or Rao Tao. After all, if they were to sell the information, it would not benefit them much.

He especially felt that Wu Fangfang had the lowest chance of revealing the news, as she was now the main person in charge of the Gem Theft Case. As such, once the news spread, it would only put her at a disadvantage!

As for Chen Zhuo, he was much too professional for such antics. Plus, when they were reporting on the case, he wasn't even on the scene, so it couldn't possibly be him.

It couldn't be the Jinping Police's doing, either, as they weren't high-tech enough to get ahold of such a professional hacker. As for the higher ups in the Jinping Police force, they wouldn't have the guts to do something so ballsy!

The likelihood of it being Cui Lizhu was even more impossible, as Tao Xiang was her father, so she might even bring about his death if she were to sell the news! Plus, Cui Lizhu was being held captive at that time, so she wouldn't have even had the chance to do anything.

After thinking about all of these scenarios for some time, Zhao Yu decided that there was only one possibility left. The exposure of the incident most likely happened at the Central Criminal Division, most likely internally, meaning that it was most likely one of the higher ups!

Zhao Yu had come to this conclusion via four main factors. Firstly, he had once reported Tao Xiang's matter to the Central Criminal Division. As there were so many higher ups within the Central Criminal Division, if any of them wanted to find out more about the situation, it wouldn't be difficult.

Secondly, to be able to procure such a professional hacker, only the higher ups in the Central Criminal Division would have the capability and resources. Thirdly, according to the time frame, it seemed that only the Central Criminal Division would have been able to act so swiftly, as Zhao Yu had only reported the news to them the night before. As such, no one else would have had sufficient time to carry out the plan of revealing the secret to the public.

Fourthly, Zhao Yu had the Invisible Detector on him at that time. So, if someone within his own ranks or trusted circle had wanted to eavesdrop, he would have been able to find out about it immediately. If it wasn't someone around him, the possibility that it was the higher ups at the Central Criminal Division became even higher!

Such a combination of points made Zhao Yu confident in his conclusion. He had to wonder if the plot had been aimed at him or Wu Fangfang. Among the higher ups in the Central Criminal Division, there must be someone who wanted to frame at least one of them.

Almost instantly, Zhao Yu thought of Section Chief Yang...

Would Section Chief Tang have found out that it was me who threw the Odor Bomb in the toilet? So he was trying to take revenge?

Mmmm... Very likely. Although, it would have been impossible for him to get evidence connecting me to the Odor Bomb, as I really was at the corridor in the Central Criminal Division Building when it happened!

In that case, did he notice something else that made him think that I was related to the incident, which caused him to expose the news to frame me?

Motherf*cker...

If so, then...

No, no way...

Although Zhao Yu pondered on different ideas for quite a long time, he couldn't make any clear conclusions. Yet, he kept mulling it over...

It still doesn't make sense why Section Chief Tang might frame me, much less use a hacker to control the media. There's no need for that, right?

After all, everyone knows that exposing Tao Xiang equals exposing a national secret! It would damage the nation! Once it was revealed, he would be punished heavily!

Then... If it wasn't aim at me, would the news breach have been aimed at Wu Fangfang? Wu Fangfang must have offended some head honcho...

Realizing that he couldn't waste any more time thinking himself in circles, Zhao Yu gave up, dermining to revisit this when he had more evidence. At that very moment, Zeng Ke entered the office and told Zhao Yu in distress, "Team Leader, I already sent more men to investigate the few media outlet's computers, but there were no traces left behind at all! That hacker was definitely an expert! So, I'm afraid it's impossible to get any evidence from that end!"

Zhao Yu was already prepared for what Zeng Ke had just said. After all, he knew that the other party had made extensive preparations before acting. Thus, they would definitely not have left any evidence behind.

“What should we do now?” Zeng Ke asked helplessly. “I heard that the owner of the lost gemstone already heard the news, and is asking what is going to be done about the matter. From what I see, this matter is going to mean big trouble!”

“Cough! What is the big deal?” Ran Tao rolled his eyes and asked leisurely. “We have already signed the official document to hand over this case, so what does it have to do with us anymore? I say that we not waste any more time in Jinping. Hurry up, go pack up, so we can return to Jinbian! The Headless Female Corpses Case is still waiting for us!”

“My goodness! Are you really that dumb?” Wu Xiumin seized the chance to attack Ran Tao. “Go? Go where? Can’t you tell that, unless we help solve this matter, our lives as special investigators are over?”

“That can’t be, right? I mean, it’s just a gemstone!” Ran Tao still couldn’t be bothered. “The insurance company must have compensated him for its worth, right? So, why should we be afraid of him?”

“No!” Wu Xiumin said decisively. “Regarding the relic exhibition’s insurance, there wasn’t any, as it was a government-funded event! Otherwise, the owner wouldn’t be asking for help from the diplomats! Think about it, if you were the owner, you would definitely be upset and making trouble!”

“So, you’re saying that the higher ups would send us up to the chopping board for all of this. We’d take the heat?” Ran Tao then realized the gravity of the situation, right in mid-sentence. “Sh*t! No wonder I saw Officer Chen acting as though his parents had just died or something! We are going to be involved then, huh?”

Zhao Yu nodded faintly, then said calmly, “As of now, there’s only one way for us to respond!”

Everyone lifted their heads at the moment, curious as to what Zhao Yu would say next. However, just as Zhao Yu was about to continue, Officer Chen Zhuo barged into the office like a rocket, shouting at everyone.

“Alright, alright! The higher ups gave us a deadline. They requested Zhao Yu’s special investigation group and Wu Fangfang’s special force to investigate the Gem Theft Case together!” Chen Zhuo looked at Zhao Yu, then said, “The higher ups said that they would give you seven days to retrieve the Tamil Star. Otherwise, both your groups will be dismissed!”

Chapter 618: Do We Really Have to Investigate?

“What?” Ran Tao gasped.

After hearing such news, everyone was shocked. Ran Tao immediately held Chen Zhuo by his arm and shouted, “Are you making fun of us?”

“Yeah, we are innocent!” Zeng Ke said in distress. “We aren’t the ones that exposed the news, so why take it out on us?”

“Seven days? It has been six years since the gemstone was lost, and they only gave us seven days?” Wu Xiumin shook her head. “What can we do in seven days? This is obviously a prank! I don’t understand what the higher ups are thinking!”

“Team Leader Zhao...” Chen Zhuo creased his eyebrows and said to Zhao Yu, “Will you ask Division Chief Jiao personally what is going on? This is the first time I’ve acted as a contact officer. If the special investigation group is dismissed, my career achievement will be zero! I wouldn’t even have a chance to be promoted in the future!”

“Yeah!” Ran Tao suddenly recalled something, so he asked Zhao Yu, “Team Leader, weren’t you saying you had thought of some plan? What is it? Hurry up and tell us!”

“I propose...” Zhao Yu looked awkward. “We solve the burglar case ourselves, and find that gemstone!”

“Isn’t that the same as not saying anything?” Ran Tao was helpless. Everyone else shook their heads.

Wu Xiumin sighed. “If there was nothing wrong with Tao Xiang’s head, there might have been a chance. But, that man is completely mad. There’s no use to hypnotize him either, so what else can we do?”

“Exactly!” Ran Tao spread his hands out helplessly, then said softly, “We shouldn’t be bothered about this. We should just let Tao Xiang continue to stay in the nursing home and be a weird old man. Ain’t that okay?”

Zeng Ke shook his head helplessly, then told Zhao Yu, “Team Leader, the higher ups want us to join the Gem Theft Case special force in investigating. So, does that mean we have to go and look for Sis Fire to ask for a copy of the relevant information?”

“Wu Fangfang?” Zhao Yu looked up at Zeng Ke, then asked the contact officer Chen Zhuo, “Officer Chen, where’s Wu Fangfang? If it’s a joint investigation, shouldn’t we call her over to discuss all of this?”

“Oh, Team Leader Fangfang’s teammates are here,” Chen Zhuo pointed at the window and said. “I heard that they were getting the procedures down, so that they know how best to move Tao Xiang. Apparently, they want to bring him back to the capital! I think she already received her orders, just as we just have, but...” He creased his eyebrows, then continued, “Zhao Yu, do you really want to investigate this case? Don’t you maybe want to look for Division Chief Jiao and see what else you can do?”

“Can’t you see that someone is trying to frame us intentionally?” Zhao Yu shook his head. “Forget about the Division Chief, as even a minister wouldn’t be of much help to us now! Finding the gemstone is our only way out!”

“But... Only seven days! This...” Chen Zhuo creased his eyebrows again. He then took out his phone to call Wu Fangfang. However, she didn’t answer, even after several rings.

“What’s going on with Wu Fangfang?” Chen Zhuo hung up the phone helplessly.

At that moment, Zhao Yu realized something, so he quickly told Ran Tao, “Ran Tao, Zeng Ke is right. If we want to investigate this case, we have to get ahold of their information. So, go and look for Wu Fangfang. Then, ask her for the information! She must be where Tao Xiang is being held captive, preparing to take him away!”

“Alright!” Ran Tao agreed and turned around to leave.

Then, Zhao Yu exhorted, “Remember one thing! We are carrying out orders from the higher ups. If Wu Fangfang doesn’t give the information to you, beat her up! Understand?”

“What?” Ran Tao was dumbfounded. “Team Leader, you really want me to beat them up?” Ran Tao was stunned, and everyone else was surprised.

“Yes!” Zhao Yu smiled maliciously. “If they don’t give you the information, it means that they are looking down on us! I’ve been unhappy with those uppity b*tches for far too long, so don’t be afraid! If they don’t give it to you, beat them up! I will take responsibility!”

Although Ran Tao was still confused, he followed Zhao Yu’s instructions. Ran Tao had just left, when Zhao Yu turned to speak to Chen Zhuo.

“Officer Chen, Ran Tao definitely won’t be able to get the information, so I will have to entrust this to you! If you still want to be promoted in the future, do what I say. Get the information on the Gem Theft Case for me, then send me a message once you do so,” Zhao Yu said, obviously not having much confidence in Ran Tao’s ability to be a bully!

“Oh... Mm...” Chen Zhuo was dumbfounded.

Zhao Yu then turned his other colleagues and said, “Sis Wu, Zeng Ke, let’s go! The two of you, follow me. I have another more important task for you!” Then, without waiting for their response, Zhao Yu dragged the two of them with him. The trio then got in the police car and drove away.

“Team Leader, think this through. Do we really have to investigate the Gem Theft Case?” Wu Xiumin asked with concern. “Can’t we think about another method, such as revealing the person who exposed the news? We can’t just take the blame!”

“Yeah! Once we get start investigating, it means that we have officially accepted the order!” Zeng Ke added, “Then, there is no turning back! And seven days is simply impossible!”

“Humph! Have you ever thought...” Zhao Yu paused and asked, “What if we can’t find the person who exposed the news? What if the person who framed us is one of the higher ups in the Central Criminal Division? What should we do then?”

The two of them were shocked, and Zeng Ke quickly replied, “Team Leader, I believe that might be overthinking this! Why would the higher ups in the Central Criminal Division do that?”

“I don’t know!” Zhao Yu shook his head and said. “I only know that only by finding the gemstone will we be able to pass through this difficult time! So, instead of wasting our time investigating those who exposed the news, we might as well get down to business! So, the two of you need to head over to the workplace that we set up, then search for all of the information that you can find regarding the Gem Theft Case!”

The two of them recalled the secret place that they had once built for the Hasty Murder Case investigation. However, not long after the base was built, the Hasty Murder Case was solved, leaving it abandoned and empty.

“But, what about you? Where are you going?” Zeng Ke quickly asked.

“Don’t worry about me!” Zhao Yu waved them off. “Get out of the car. Follow my instructions! I will meet up with you as soon as possible!”

Although Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke were suspicious and worried, they didn’t say anything else. It was clear that Zhao Yu had made up his mind. So, they had no choice but to follow Zhao Yu’s arrangements at the workplace.

After dropping the two of them off, Zhao Yu drove to Bethane Hospital. It turns out that Zhao Yu knew all along that Wu Fangfang had no intention to work with him! Although she had realized that Zhao Yu and his team hadn’t exposed the news, she also knew that she and Zhao Yu were in the same boat. As such, she still looked down on Zhao Yu’s special investigation group, not wanting them to participate in the investigation.

However, Zhao Yu wasn’t someone that gave up easily. Even though Wu Fangfang looked down on him, he wouldn’t be bothered by the explosive woman!

Hence, the reason he had told Ran Tao to ask for information from Wu Fangfang was merely to interrupt her team and buy some time. His real intention was to pick up Cui Lizhu from the hospital!

It was clear to Zhao Yu that, if he wanted to solve the Gem Theft Case, Cui Lizhu was actually more important than Tao Xiang! This was because Cui Lizhu was the only person that knew Tao Xiang’s life history. Thus, only she could help find any clues about the gemstone!

Seriously... Motherf*cker! Zhao Yu cursed continuously as he drove along.

He had never expected that it would be so difficult for him to investigate such matters! It was really such a headache!

The way he saw it, the exposure of the secret news had made the higher ups angry. As such, unless he found the gemstone within the seven days deadline, he would really be sent home in shame! Moreover, he wouldn’t be given any opportunity to investigate any of the other cases in the yellow notebook!

But, everyone knew how difficult it was to find the Tamil Star! After all, the special force team had been looking for the gemstone for six years, and it was still nowhere to be found!

Another reason that Zhao Yu felt such an urgency in finding the gemstone was because he was so stubborn! He felt that, as he had already become the team leader of the special investigation group, he couldn’t afford to be looked down upon!

So, he wanted to use the investigation of the Gem Theft Case to teach those who looked down on him a lesson, especially those who had tried to frame him from behind the scenes! By the time all was said and done, they would all look at him in a new light!

Chapter 619: Stone of Fate

It was seven in the evening, and Zhao Yu and the others were at their secret base. Ran Tao had just returned with a bloody nose and a swollen face.

The moment he arrived, he complained to Zhao Yu, "Team Leader, that woman is so explosive! She would rather die than give me any information! So, I followed your instructions and fought her! Now look at me!"

"Seriously?" Wu Xiumin crossed her arms and said, "You're a man, and you're from a motorized troop, and yet you still can't even fight against a woman?!"

"What are you talking about?" Ran Tao asked in distress. "That Sis Fire didn't even move an inch! She had five or six male underlings do her dirty work for her! I'm telling you, even though I look bad, those b*stards ain't in any better shape! In the end, if the Jinping Police hadn't taken out their guns, I would have definitely knocked them all down!"

Zhao Yu complimented Ran Tao, "You did great! That's exactly what I wanted!"

"What?" Ran Tao creased his eyebrows, then quickly guessed the situation. He then turned to ask Zhao Yu, "Team Leader, why am I getting the feeling that you already knew long ago that I would be beaten up?"

Cough cough... Zhao Yu coughed, then explained quickly, "I only expected that the woman would definitely never give you the information! You're getting beaten up was merely a byproduct!"

"Is that so?" Ran Tao still felt suspicious. "Why do I feel like I was being used?"

"Woo! Here come the skewers! Move away, move away..." Then, Zeng Ke ran in with a big bag of hot mutton skewers, asking, "Who wants a kidney, I've got a lot of them!"

Smelling the fragrant mutton skewers, Zhao Yu took two steps back, then opened the door to one of the rooms. He shouted to Cui Lizhu, who was in the room, "Hey, come and eat!"

"Team Leader..." Wu Xiumin creased her eyebrows, while she gestured with her fingers to remind Zhao Yu that Cui Lizhu couldn't eat such foods after her recent surgery.

"Oh...Well, why don't I order a delivery for you, then?" Zhao Yu asked.

Just as he asked this, Cui Lizhu came out of the room. She took one of the skewers and said, "Mutton skewers are great. I haven't eaten any grilled food for a very long time. Let me have some more! Mm... Is there any back muscle-tendon left?"

"Mm..." Ran Tao saw Cui Lizhu and was shocked. He quickly lifted his head to look at Zhao Yu, asking with his eyes, "Why is she here?"

It turns out that, after Zhao Yu had arrived at the hospital, he had brought Cui Lizhu away, claiming that it was for the purposes of his criminal interrogation. As the Jin Ping Police were the ones guarding her, they naturally didn't dare stop Zhao Yu.

Plus, according to the latest instructions from the Central Criminal Division, Zhao Yu was an official legal investigator for the Gem Theft Case and Cui Lizhu was related to Gem Theft Case. Hence, it seemed only proper that Zhao Yu wanted to interrogate her.

After they left the hospital, Zhao Yu sent Cui Lizhu to their secret base, according to his initial plan. Of course, on the way there, Zhao Yu explained the entire situation to Cui Lizhu! As she was worried about her father encountering danger, she naturally expressed her willingness to fully cooperate.

“I’ve asked the higher ups!” Zhao Yu was eating a delicious skewer, while talking to his teammates. “They’ve said that the deadline of seven days starts tomorrow at dawn. So, it hasn’t officially started yet! That means that we still have time to enjoy ourselves!”

After he finished speaking, Zhao Yu was the first to turn and open a can of beer. He lifted his head, then took a big gulp.

“Team Leader, you sure are optimistic!” Wu Xiumin shook her head and said, “Forget about seven days, even if they gave us seventy days, that simply isn’t enough time! What if the gemstone is already overseas? What do we do then?”

“Hehe...” Zhao Yu took another big gulp, giggle, then told everyone, “Look closer, all of you. Wu Fangfang is eyeing us with hostility, and there are people within the Central Criminal Division who tried to exclude us from these proceedings!”

He then took another gulp, swallowed deeply, and continued. “So, remember this, after the investigation starts, you all have to give me your 100 percent!”

Although Zhao Yu wasn’t speaking loudly, his imposing manner made it seem like he was roaring. “I’m telling you, I will get the gemstone back, no matter what!”

Then, Zhao Yu raised his beer can and finished it! Zeng Ke, Wu Xiumin, and Ran Tao were dumbfounded. Then, Ran Tao and Zeng Ke quickly grabbed a can of beer and started drinking, while Cui Lizhu looked at Zhao Yu, a slight speck of indifference in her eyes.

After they had enjoyed enough food and drink, the investigation for the Gem Theft Case kicked off officially. On the screen, the blue gemstone with the magical charm had appeared once again.

Although it wasn’t as precious as a diamond or a red gemstone, its blueness was deep, like a starry night, which gave people a mysterious feeling. As such, people called it the Stone of Fate.

Using the infamous Tamil Star as an example, besides its being ill-fated, it witnessed many dynastic successions in ancient India. So, it really deserved its name, the Stone of Fate! However, it remained unknown if Zhao Yu’s fate would change because of the stone...

“Back then, my dad and I lived in a coastal county in Cao Hai. It was a small town that was peaceful and stood aloof from all worldly strife. I studied there in high school, while my dad worked in the post office...” Cui Lizhu introduced her experience in detail.

“I felt that the reason my dad was called the King of Thieves was not because of how skilful he was, but because he was better at disguising himself than anyone else. In fact, I remember that there was a female boss of a fish stall that took a liking to my dad, so she always sent seafood to our place. Sometimes, she sent so much, we couldn’t even finish it all...” she giggled a little at the memory.

“However, my dad’s original occupation was never interrupted by his postal work. Sometimes, he’d accept a deal, then disappear for a few days. If it was something simple and nearby, he would bring me along with him. It was during those times that my skills improved tremendously!” she added.

“Then, about six years ago, before the blue gemstone was stolen, my dad told me that he had just accepted a big deal.” Cui Lizhu had finally touched on the important point. “He said that he would need about ten days, then he would return for me! Back then, I didn’t feel that anything was off. After all, my dad’s mental health was good.”

She paused for a moment, then continued her story. “Just as my dad left, I heard on the news that the gemstone had been stolen. I was shocked, especially because I was if it was my dad’s doing or not. I remembered that my dad always kept a low profile, so I figured that he wouldn’t steal items that would cause such a major ruckus!” Cui Lizhu sighed.

“Then, I waited, but he didn’t return, even after ten days!” Cui Lizhu sighed yet again, then added, “In fact, he didn’t return for half a month! In the end, he returned after more than thirty days had passed! However, he wasn’t in good shape!”

Cui Lizhu recalled as she spoke, “In the beginning, he was forgetful. His sentence structure was also messed up. Sometimes, he would look at the clock, and still he couldn’t differentiate whether it was day or night! Then, his senses of taste and smell deteriorated. In the end, he became just like he is now!”

Her lips quivered, as she struggled to continue. “When he first came back, I was in a hurry to know the truth. I once asked him many times about the Tamil Star! Sometimes, he would tell me that he was the one who stole the gemstone! But, other times, he would claim that it wasn’t him! As such, I never knew what to believe.”

She then held up her hands, obviously feeling helpless. “I sent him for a physician’s check-up. In fact, we’ve seen many doctors. They all say that his head was hit, which led to severe brain damage. They explained that his situation would only worsen, and that the possibility of recovery is extremely low.”

She sobbed a bit, then forced herself to finish her explanation. “Then, there were those that I’ve told you about before. We came to Jinping and settled down in the nursing home, so I had to seek help from Ma Qing in Zhang Ping street to make a living! That nursing home is very expensive!”

“Alright!” Wu Xiumin interrupted, shaking her head helplessly. “At the end of the day, it’s still like nothing has been said! We are not even sure if Tao Xiang was the one that stole the gemstone!”

“Yeah!” Cui Lizhu said, not denying her words. “if my dad had told me where the gemstone was, do you think that I’d ever need to live like how I was living?”

“No, that’s not right...” Suddenly, Zhao Yu shook his head, then asked Cui Lizhu, “Why do I feel like your dad seemed like a fake?”

Chapter 620: Bluntly Conned!

At midnight, Zhao Yu activated the system in his head and received a new hexagram. He had taken a day off, since he was so exhausted mentally and physically from his recent case work.

As it was midnight, which was the beginning of the seven days deadline, he had to be in top form, with his head completely in the game. This meant that he had start to looking for the Tamil Star!

Dui Zhen!

At that moment, two huge characters appeared in the middle of the system interface. The moment Zhao Yu saw that it wasn't a Gen hexagram, he was disappointed, as this meant that he would need to put in more hard work to discover any clues.

So, Zhao Yu went straight to work via his traditional methods, adding all of the information regarding the Gem Theft Case on the whiteboard in front of him. Zhao Yu had several rough ideas in his head, the first of which was that Cui Lizhu's father was the infamous burglar, Tao Xiang, and that he had definitely stolen the gemstone from the exhibition!

There were a few main reasons why he suspected Tao Xiang. Firstly, Tao Xiang had never said what he had been doing when he went missing. Secondly, if Tao Xiang were really in and out of being consciously alert and sane, then muddled from time to time after he had been injured in the head, why hadn't he seized the time when he was lucid to tell Cui Lizhu everything?

Thirdly, as the King of Thieves, Tao Xiang was poor and wretched. As such, his daughter had to make a living for the both of them. That didn't make sense at all!

As Zhao Yu considered these things, he found an answer for all of his suspicions...

Firstly, during the Gem Theft Case, Tao Xiang happened to tell Cui Lizhu that he had landed a major deal! The major deal that he was referring to was definitely related to some kind of robbery. Hence, the possibility of his stealing the Tamil Star was very high!

Besides, in Cui Lizhu's memory, after Tao Xiang went mad, he had once brought up the subject of the gemstone. So, Zhao Yu assumed that Tao Xiang was the one who had stolen it. So, it was really what had happened after he stole the gemstone that had yet to be clarified.

Next, Zhao Yu was very familiar with how thieves operated. As he had investigated countless thieves, he began to notice a shocking pattern among them. Regardless of their skills, and no matter how valuable the items were that they stole, thieves seemed destined to be poor their entire lives!

In the end, this only led to one of two outcomes stereotypically. They either were caught and went to jail, or they led a dog's life! Hence, regardless of the items they stole, it still wouldn't change their fates!

So, Zhao Yu guessed that even the King of Thieves would fall into this same stereotypical pattern. Specifically, either he was an addictive gambler or he had a lot of enemies and had to pay his way out of trouble. Or maybe, he ran into a scoundrel and had all of his property conned away...

Besides, after so many incidents, there was no need for Cui Lizhu to lie to him any longer. So, Zhao Yu deduced that the psychotic old man was definitely Tao Xiang, which meant that the robbery of the Tamil Star was definitely related to him!

At that very moment, in the darkness of night, the team members of the special investigation group had already gone back to rest. There were two stacks of documents on the work desk in front of the

whiteboard. One stack was Cui Lizhu's detailed testimony, while the other one was a list of detailed information related to the Gem Theft Case, all of which Zeng Ke had found on the internet.

Wu Xiumin was the one who had recorded Cui Lizhu's testimony. In order to not miss any detail, Zhao Yu had requested that Cui Lizhu record each and every detail about Tao Xiang, for the entire last six years, even including every single sentence that he'd ever said before, as well as every movement and expression!

Zhao Yu even wanted her to share about his mad ravings, too! This was because Zhao Yu felt that, when a person went insane, it was even more difficult for them to keep any secrets!

After more than four hours, Cui Lizhu finally finished giving her testimony, having told them everything that she could remember. The document was over twenty pages long! Zhao Yu knew that such an abundance of information would take him quite a while to finish reading, so he picked up the stack of information that Zeng Ke had found, then began scanning through it.

Back then, when the exhibition was held in the capital, they had adopted some of the most advanced security measures in the nation. It could be said that all of these were flawless, making the exhibition perfectly safe and secure.

However, what shocked everyone was that the blue gemstone had still vanished into thin air. After that incident, there weren't even any videos of the burglar that were captured by the cameras!

In fact, the information that Zeng Ke had found only came from the internal archives of the police department. That information actually did record clearly the situation as the gemstone was stolen.

It turns out that, on the day the gemstone was stolen, the security guards at the exhibition had received a memo from the higher ups, explaining to them that the system would be upgraded and tested at a certain time to strengthen its security features. They were also told that the electricity at the exhibition would be cut off for fifteen minutes, which meant that they had to leave the scene temporarily. They were then told that, during that time, the alarm would be triggered, but they should just ignore it, as it would be only a test.

Hence, the obedient security guards followed the instructions given, and the moment the electricity was cut off, they left the scene. Even when the alarm was triggered, no one bothered to check it out, as they were assuming that it was merely a test.

In the end, the gemstone disappeared within that fifteen minute timeframe. After that, the security guards knew that the order hadn't been sent by the higher ups at all! They had all been conned by the burglar!

Zhao Yu was really impressed with this burglar! If it was really Tao Xiang, he more than deserved his title as the King of Thieves!

Just as Zhao Yu was scanning through the information, there was suddenly a white figure that flashed behind him. Zhao Yu turned around to see Cui Lizhu, who was wearing a white coat...