

Crazy 621

Chapter 621: The East Doesn't Brighten, but the West Does!

"Police Officer Zhao, you didn't even handcuff me," Cui Lizhu spread her hands and said.

"Hehe, hehe..." Zhao Yu laughed as he patted his chest. He then said, "I only doubt a person if I am not cooperating with them in an investigation. After all, my mind is as broad as the ocean..."

"Tsk..." Cui Lizhu made a gesture of wiping her sweat off her forehead in relief, then pulled up her pants leg. She pointed at her black GPS anklet and said, "If you are really speaking truthfully, then why didn't you remove this?"

Zhao Yu smiled, then pointed at the anklet as and explained, "You silly girl. The GPS anklet is the latest version this year, and it's a limited edition! I've obviously given you such a nice present, yet you don't appreciate it!"

"Humph! You've gone back on your word. Back then, you were the one who assured my dad's safety!" Cui Lizhu complained. "Now, there's only one press release away from making all of this public, right? Then, the whole world will know that he's the thief, Tao Xiang! He has stolen too many things and has too many enemies!"

"He can have as many enemies as he wants. That has nothing to do with me!" Zhao Yu explained in disdain. "I didn't expose the news, so you can't blame me!"

"Well, I don't care." Cui Lizhu walked before Zhao Yu slowly, her eyes full of tenderness and love. "First, you'll have to guarantee my dad's safety. Second, if I help you retrieve the gemstone, you have to report my cooperation to your higher ups, so that they will reduce my sentence!"

"That's not a problem." Zhao Yu agreed straightforwardly. "If there aren't any cases involving human lives, I even might be able to even keep you out of prison entirely! I can even request that you join the special investigation group as my underling. Then, I'll use your skills to investigate all of those thorny cases!"

"This idea..." Cui Lizhu was tempted by what Zhao Yu said. She blinked her big eyes and said, "I like this idea! I can steal things legally that way. Hehe... quite interesting..."

"But, you first have to find the gemstone!" Zhao Yu lifted his eyebrows.

"Alright. Also, I recalled something just now! I wonder if it is will be of any help..." Cui Lizhu reined in her smile and lowered her voice, telling Zhao Yu, "Actually, my dad has a problem in 'that aspect'... He fools around with many women!"

She paused to be sure Zhao Yu understood her meaning, then continued. "He said that he had an accident 'down there,' so he lost that ability for intimacy!"

"Oh? Is that so?" Zhao Yu pouted. "Then, the female fish vendor didn't manage to take advantage of your dad? Hehe... Mm... Eh?"

Suddenly, Zhao Yu's expression went stiff. He had just remembered that, among the victims of the Headless Female Corpses Case, not one of them was sexually assaulted. Back then, the police had suspected the murderer to be a woman. But now, he was thinking that either the murderer was psychologically twisted or the murderer had no ability to commit such a physical act!

Suddenly, Zhao Yu's heart started thumping, and he felt chill run down his spine. Could the king of thieves, Tao Xiang, actually be the murderer in the Headless Female Corpses Case?

Firstly, he had Bai Lili's photo!

Secondly, he didn't have the ability to assault a woman in that way.

Thirdly, after the last victim, Bai Lili, died, the murderer suddenly vanished into thin air. This just happened to be the same exact time when Tao Xiang had adopted Cui Lizhu. Was it because he had adopted a child that he had stopped committing the crimes?

Moreover, Tao Xiang is the king of the thieves, meaning that he's best at disguising himself.

It's just like that saying, The East doesn't brighten but the West does! There's always a different way of looking at things!

If I were to solve this case, I wouldn't even need to bother with that stupid Gem Theft Case! After all, this Headless Female Corpses Case is the level one pending case. Compared to it, the Gem Theft Case is nothing. If I were to solve the case, I would be superb... Wahaha...

"Police Officer Zhao... Hey..." Cui Lizhu called to him a few times, trying to get Zhao Yu to come back to reality.

"Mm, are... Are you okay?" Cui Lizhu asked suspiciously. "I just told you about my dad's difficulties, so why do you seem so happy?"

"F*ck your... Mm..." Zhao Yu realized that what he was about to say was inappropriate, so he quickly swallowed it. He then smiled maliciously and said, "Come come, little Zhu, chat with your brother. I feel that I have already found an important clue! Hurry up and tell me more about your dad!"

"Hey? You... What are you trying to do?" She shouted, "Are you making fun of my dad?"

"No, I am trying to solve the case!" Zhao Yu smiled mischievously. "Hurry up, little Zhu! Tell me the name of the female fish vendor! Let's see if I know her."

"Ew! Police Officer Zhao Yu, your smile is so boorish! Hey!" Just as Cui Lizhu was joking with Zhao Yu, she suddenly caught a glimpse of the information on the whiteboard.

Zhao Yu saw her wandering gaze and wanted to block it, but he couldn't get to it in time. He saw Cui Lizhu bite her lips, then heard her say, "It turned out that my dad lied to me all along! It seemed that he had been sick for a long time!" Cui Lizhu was looking at the comparison results of their DNA.

Cui Lizhu continued in a melancholy tone. "It seems that all of that nonsense about my mother leaving me after she gave birth to me was bullsh*t! That bast*rd lied to me!"

Zhao Yu could tell Cui Lizhu was very sad, but he had no idea how to comfort her.

“If the woman in the photo isn’t my mother, then where did I come from?” She then pointed at a name on the whiteboard and asked, “And, what does Gege mean?”

Hearing Cui Lizhu’s response, Zhao Yu did not answer her, but started thinking...

Hmmm....the age matched, the time matched, the motive matched, the mental state matched...

Zhao Yu felt that Tao Xiang was becoming more and more suspicious. But, even though he now had a probable suspect, he was still lacking important evidence!

If Tao Xiang was really the murderer of the Headless Female Corpses Case, then where would the evidence be?

Chapter 622: Forcefully Pushed Her Against the Wall

Zhao Yu wanted to ask about the female fish vendor. He specifically wanted to find out if she was one of the victims of the Headless Female Corpses Case. If she was, he could be certain that Tao Xiang was the murderer!

However, when he pondered it a bit more, he finally realized that the female fish vendor’s murder happened after Bai Lili’s, as Bai Lili was the last victim. So, his guess was obviously incorrect.

Following this line of thinking, he were to suspect Tao Xiang, he only needed to investigate what happened to Tao Xiang before 1988. However, Cui Lizhu was only two years old at that time, so he wouldn’t be able to find out anything from her. This was because it was impossible for Cui Lizhu to know about things that happened when she was just a toddler, much less before she was even born!

“Police Officer Zhao, let me tell you a secret. You might not even believe it!” Cui Lizhu suddenly blushed. Then she said to Zhao Yu, “I have actually never had a boyfriend!”

“Mm?” Zhao Yu creased his eyebrows. He had never expected Cui Lizhu to suddenly redirect the conversation to personal relationships!

He immediately disregarded her flirtatious comment, then asked, “What does your having a boyfriend or not have to do with me? Little Zhuzhu, I am talking to you about the case! Don’t switch topics!”

Cui Lizhu felt rejected and her face suddenly grew grave. After all, she had taken a liking to Zhao Yu, especially after Zhao Yu had saved her life a few times!

Since Zhao Yu was an expert, he naturally knew that if he could use her affections to win over the female cat burglar. However, Zhao Yu wasn’t in the mood to talk about relationships then.

Plus, although he had been involved with Cui Lizhu for quite a long while and they shared a unique relationship, he felt that it was similar to when he had first met Li Beini. He didn’t have those kind of romantic feelings towards her.

“Alright!” Cui Lizhu was smart, too, so she could quickly tell from Zhao Yu’s tone that he wasn’t interested. Hence, she could only continue to tell her story about Tao Xiang and the women involved.

However, the version of Tao Xiang from Cui Lizhu's story didn't sound like a psychotic murderer. Although he sounded calm, composed, meticulous and smart, his cheerful and humorous personality didn't align with the traits of the murderer that the police's forensics psychologist had described.

Soon, Cui Lizhu could stay awake no longer. So, she returned to her bedroom to rest. Meanwhile, Zhao Yu read through Cui Lizhu's testimony. After he had finished reading the whole transcript, he returned to his own bedroom.

That night, Zhao Yu didn't sleep much, as his mind was occupied with Tao Xiang's case. In the end, after some thinking, Zhao Yu finally decided that, although Tao Xiang was a suspect, there wasn't evidence that could certify that he was the murderer of Headless Female Corpses Case.

Hence, he decided to take a step back. He planned to look for clues for the Gem Theft Case, while he investigated information about Tao Xiang's past to see if there was a possibility that he was the psychotic murderer.

However, if he wanted to continue his investigation, he was still lacking of large amount of information, especially regarding the Gem Theft Case. This information was currently in Wu Fangfang's hands, and Wu Fangfang obviously didn't want to work with him

Of course, Zhao Yu had the most important witness, Cui Lizhu. So, he naturally had his countermeasures to use as bargaining chips! Hence, as the sun was just beginning to rise, he turned on his phone, which had a tracker installed in it, and put it in the courtyard. That way, whoever that want to know where he was could easily find him.

Just as Zhao Yu had expected, he saw that there were a few black cars that were parked at the door of the courtyard. Then, at eight fifteen sharp, Wu Fangfang and a few of her teammates barged in!

"This is such nonsense!" Zhao Yu heard Wu Fangfang yelling as she made her way to the front door.

"Zhao Yu, get out here!"

Hearing Wu Fangfang's scream, Zhao Yu and his other teammates appeared in the courtyard.

"Seriously?" Wu Xiumin creased her eyebrows and asked, "We didn't turn on our phones, nor did we tell anyone where we were. How could she have found out that we were here?"

"Yeah, could it be that there is a snitch among us?" Zeng Ke swept his glance over everyone, suspicion filling his eyes.

"No," Zhao Yu pointed at his phone and said frankly, "I invited them here!"

"Team Leader, what do you mean?" The three teammates were confused.

Ignoring them, Zhao Yu walked out of the house and came before Wu Fangfang.

"Zhao Yu, look at what you have done! I have to complain to Division Chief about you now, so you are going to be in big trouble!" Wu Fangfang pointed at Zhao Yu's nose, while assuming an air of dominance.

"You stole away an important witness of mine! Then, you sent people to beat up my colleagues! What kind of nonsense is this?"

Zhao Yu looked over at Wu Fangfang's underlings, who were covered with bruises. It seemed that Ran Tao hadn't lied about giving them a good beating!

"You'd better give me back my witness and apologize to my people! Otherwise..."

Just before Wu Fangfang was done issuing her threat, Zhao Yu preemptively took a step forward and pushed her against the wall!

Huh?

Everyone at the scene was astonished, Wu Fangfang's underlings were shocked, too. They never thought that Zhao Yu would be so rude!

They quickly went forward to stop Zhao Yu. However, Ran Tao stood in at the middle to block them.

"Hey! Team Leader Fangfang, what did you say?" Zhao Yu purposely moved his face really close to her and smiled mischievously. He then said, "You've got it all wrong. The higher ups requested that we work this case together! So, it is only right and proper that I be able to interrogate the witness, right?"

"You... You are swearing black is white!" Wu Fangfang was so mad, her chest was heaving up and down. "Who would want to work with you? You beat people up! How is that legal?"

"You started it, okay?" Ran Tao was raging with anger now. "Come on. Come at me again! I dare you!" These people had experienced Ran Tao's fighting ability before, so they didn't dare to dash forward.

Zhao Yu took a deep breath of Wu Fangfang's perfume and smiled mischievously. He then said, "Team Leader Fangfang, you are obviously putting the blame on the victim!"

He continued to pose as though he suffered bitterly, then pointed at Ran Tao and asked Wu Fangfang, "My colleague was merely carrying out orders to get case information from you! Not only did you not give it to him, but you beat him up! Are you even human?"

He then added, an even more dramatic look on his face, "Look, my great teammate is injured. I have not even asked for compensation from you, and yet you came here! Isn't this going a little overboard?"

"You! You... You..." Wu Fangfang was fuming with anger. "Zhao Yu, you are the one getting carried away! I have been working on the frontlines for so many years, and I have never seen anyone act like such a gangster!"

"Me? Act like a gangster? Wahaha..." Zhao Yu roared with laughter, then moved his face closer to Wu Fangfang's, his lips almost touching her face. "Hehehe... Fangfang, if I had really acted like a gangster, I'm afraid that you would've fallen in love with me!"

"You! You..." Wu Fangfang shoved Zhao Yu away, then, totally exasperated, she suddenly raised her hand to slap Zhao Yu's face. However, Zhao Yu raised his hand and stopped her, grabbing her by the wrist.

"Wu Fangfang!" Suddenly, Zhao Yu's facial expression changed, while he roared like an evil spirit, "Your head! Was it kicked by a donkey when you were a child?"

Chapter 623: Strategy and Countermeasures

“The higher ups gave the deadline order to both of us, which means that I have to solve the case, too!” Zhao Yu held Wu Fangfang’s wrist tightly and shouted, “What you are doing now is very unprofessional!”

“Exactly! We have the rights to the same information as you!” Wu Xiumin, who was standing of to the side, added. “You are one who is misbehaving!”

“Zhao Yu!” Wu Fangfang had never been so humiliated, and she immediately roared unhappily, “You and I are different! You are the Division Chief’s relative, so if you miss the deadline, you would merely need to transfer to another department! But, my people and I have to return home, having been released from the force!”

“Motherf*cker!” Zhao Yu became even angrier after hearing her words. He spat a hostile reply, “All of you b*tches! Are you going through menopause? Can’t you see that we are all in the same d*mn boat? We are all being framed by the person who exposed the secret! What benefits do we get from continuing to fight amongst each other?”

Zhao Yu then continued to reprimand, “Actually, you all just look down on us! You think that you are the special force for the Gem Theft Case, and you see us as being meddling. In that case, let’s part ways and see who solves this case!”

Then, Zhao Yu turned around and left.

“Zhao Yu! You... Listen to me!” Wu Fangfang roared in anger, “If you do not hand over Cui Lizhu, I... I will...” As Wu Fangfang spoke, she drew her gun her holster and aimed it at Zhao Yu’s head!

Wow...

Everyone was frightened. No one had expected for Wu Fangfang to take out her gun!

“If you are not going to hand her over, don’t blame me for not showing mercy!” Wu Fangfang had a ferocious look in her eyes and her arms were shivering.

“Team Leader!” one of Wu Fangfang’s underlings shouted. They were all frightened, as to aim her gun at her own people was a serious offense, even if they were unwanted collaborators!

“Calm down!” another of her underlings yelled. As everyone else rushed to to stop her, Ran Tao and Wu Xiumin took a few steps back subconsciously.

“Heh...” Zhao Yu laughed again as he stared down the muzzle of the gun. “Team Leader Fangfang, you are really dedicated! Try me!”

Then, Zhao Yu purposely moved forward. Wu Fangfang stared at him in fury, then cocked her pistol.

“Team Leader, don’t act recklessly!” One of teammates, a young man, became frightened, so he dashed forward, intending to block Wu Fangfang’s gun.

Just then, Zhao Yu kicked the young man off to the side.

“You...” When Wu Fangfang saw Zhao Yu’s swift, brutal action, she shivered.

“Ran Tao!” Zhao Yu waved at Ran Tao and shouted, “Do you remember how they beat you up? Here’s your opportunity to take your revenge! Beat them to death!”

Then, Zhao Yu kicked once more, sending the young man flying.

“Zhao Yu, you...” Wu Fangfang continued to aim her gun at Zhao Yu, but she was shivering all over.

By that time, Ran Tao had already dashed among the crowd and had started fighting with Fangfang’s underlings. He looked like a tiger among a crowd of weak goats, and everyone was wailing in pain. It was a wretched sight.

“Zhao Yu! Ah!” As Wu Fangfang saw that her underlings were being bullied and couldn’t stand it, she finally threw the gun on the ground. Seeing the gun on the ground, Zhao Yu and Ran Tao stopped their attacks.

“Alright! Zhao Yu, you won!” As Wu Fangfang clamored to regain her composure, she pointed at Zhao Yu’s nose and roared, “How about this... We can share the information, but you have to hand over Cui Lizhu to us. What do you think?”

After hearing Wu Fangfang’s proposed compromise, Zhao Yu didn’t reply immediately, but squatted down to pick up her gun. He then passed the gun back to Wu Fangfang and said, “I’m sorry, Team Leader Fangfang, but it’s really difficult for me to work with you!”

Zhao Yu then pointed at the gate and said coolly, “Seize this opportunity to leave unscathed, before I get really angry. Oh yeah, and f*ck off!”

Then, Zhao Yu snapped his fingers and led Ran Tao and Wu Xiumin upstairs, leaving Wu Fangfang, who was completely dumbfounded, in the middle of the courtyard! Wu Fangfang’s face grew grave and her lips grew pale.

She looked at her underlings, all of whom were injured, and felt extremely embarrassed. She couldn’t just let this slip!

However, besides being angry, there was nothing else she could do at the moment. She now realized that she had made a big mistake in belittling Zhao Yu.

Zhao Yu! She thought to herself in silence, We are now enemies. Just you wait. We shall see who will be left smiling in the end!

Wu Fangfang then left with her teammates.

Meanwhile, from inside the house, Wu Xiumin watched Wu Fangfang and her teammates leave. She then quickly turned around to tell Zhao Yu, “Team Leader! They left!”

As Wu Xiumin was speaking, she saw Zeng Ke and Cui Lizhu appear at the stairway. They had been coming from the backyard and were panting hard. She could also clearly see that Zeng Ke was carrying a laptop in his hands.

“Did you manage to do it?” Zhao Yu asked anxiously.

“Of course!” Cui Lizhu crossed her arms and said, “I unlocked the car door, and he stole the information!”

This had all been Zhao Yu’s strategy from the beginning! He knew long ago that Wu Fangfang and her team would come to look for Cui Lizhu. So, he told Cui Lizhu and Zeng Ke to get the information from their car during their fight!

Since Cui Lizhu was an expert at picking locks and Zeng Ke was a pro hacker, the two of them worked together to get the information on the Gem Theft Case easily! In reality, from the very beginning, Zhao Yu had never intended to work together with Wu Fangfang!

Although the Gem Theft Case special force team did have more information, he honestly couldn’t bear Wu Fangfang! Hence, even if Wu Fangfang had agreed to work together, Zhao Yu didn’t want to deal with her. Now that he had the information, he wouldn’t need them at all!

“That woman is crazy!” exclaimed Wu Xiumin. “She aimed her gun at Team Leader! I regret not recording it. Otherwise, I could bring it to Central Criminal Division, then she would be doomed!”

Not paying attention to her, Zhao Yu was in his own world of thoughts, stunned. He pondered, There seems to be something wrong...

He remembered that he had wanted to return to the house with Ran Tao and Wu Xiumin, but then Wu Fangfang had suddenly took out her gun!

Since she knew that she wouldn’t pull the trigger, why did she draw her gun?

Could it be...?

Sh*t!

Zhao Yu looked around the house, then quickly ran to the whiteboard and took a closer look at it.

“Zeng Ke...” Zhao Yu extended two fingers at Zeng Ke, who immediately understood what Zhao Yu meant. He quickly transferred the surveillance video. Then, everyone saw a shocking scene!

Just as they were talking to Wu Fangfang in the courtyard, someone wearing a mask snuck into their house and took photos of their information on the whiteboard! The person had also recorded Cui Lizhu’s verbal confession!

...

Meanwhile, in Wu Fangfang’s command car, one of her teammates complained to Wu Fangfang, “Team Leader, how could they beat so many of our people up? I should have recorded them, so that we could report them to the Central Criminal Division!”

“Humph!” Wu Fangfang held up her phone, then checked the information that they stolen from Zhao Yu.

She then said aggressively, “Zhao Yu, you didn’t expect this, right? You have your strategy, but I have my countermeasures! Although we don’t have Cui Lizhu, we still have the most complete amount of information! Now, let’s see who can find the gemstone first!”

Chapter 624: A Thief Calls Another Thief

“At least I took revenge for myself!” Ran Tao comforted himself. “So, it shouldn’t be consider a deuce, right?”

“Of course.” Wu Xiumin looked at Zhao Yu and confirmed. “Team Leader pushed that woman against the wall! Hehe, it felt great just to watch! Dealing with a hot-tempered woman like her, violence must be met by violence!”

“Alright, then why does it sound like you are scolding me for acting like a gangster?” Zhao Yu looked helpless. He never expected that Wu Fangfang wasn’t as weak as he had first thought.

“No! I didn’t say that Team Leader was acting like a gangster!” Wu Xiumin replied. “No way! Our Team Leader is a legit gangster!”

As everyone in the house roared with laughter, Cui Lizhu stole a glance at Zhao Yu. She felt her heart ripple with emotion.

A few minutes later, the information that they had obtained from Wu Fangfang’s side had been printed out. Zhao Yu and his teammate read through it carefully.

It turns out that the special force for Gem Theft Case really hadn’t put in much work on the case. However, they had at least set up news notifications worldwide. That way, once the Tamil Star appeared, they would be the first to find out.

What surprised Zhao Yu and the others most was that Wu Fangfang’s team’s prime suspect for the Gem Theft Case wasn’t the king of thieves, Tao Xiang! Instead, their suspect’s name was Akanksha, who was an Indian.

When referring to him, the special force called him “AK” for short! AK was a wealthy businessman from India. His leather company had branches all across the globe, so he was a well-known international business tycoon.

However, besides being a tycoon, he had another important identity. He was the owner of the Tamil Star!

That’s right! After the gem was stolen, the police first suspected the owner. They suspected that he had hired someone to steal the gemstone, so that he could then put up a show, where a thief would call another the thief!

Apparently, the Tamil Star had somehow found its way to Europe during the war. It was then that Ak had bought it from an auction at a sky-high price. After he got it, he placed the Indian national treasure in his personal collection.

Over time, due to the huge importance and national symbolism of the gemstone, India hoped that AK would donate the gemstone to their country. However, AK wasn’t willing to do that, as he thought that his buying the gemstone at such a sky-high price meant that it should belong to him legally!

Later on, AK's company was involved in a court case that would only be solved if he gave up his citizenship. The Indian government seized this opportunity to offer him a deal. In exchange for his donation of the gemstone, they would extract him from his current difficult situation.

At first, everyone thought that AK would opt to make the exchange in order to avoid any further conflict. But, before any decision could be made, the gemstone was stolen from an exhibition in China!

As the gemstone was now lost, the Indian government could no longer use it as a bargaining chip to threaten AK. Thus, if the burglary really had been planned by AK himself, this meant that he could run away from his trouble and also keep his gemstone! It was like killing two birds with one stone!

However, the loss of the gemstone had triggered a huge diplomatic storm. So, the police couldn't help but list AK as among the prime suspects and investigate him thoroughly.

However, in Wu Fangfang's investigation record, it was clearly noted that there were no traces of AK's having participated in the robbery, even after her team had kept watch over and investigated him for quite a long time. Plus, the police even sent a special agent to investigate, who already certified that the Tamil Star wasn't in AK's possession!

Actually, not only did the Chinese police investigate the matter, but India also sent countless spies to investigate AK thoroughly. Yet, they couldn't find anything either.

Zhao Yu found this whole case puzzling...

If the gemstone wasn't in AK's hands, nor in Tao Xiang's, then where was it?

And... if Tao Xiang really did take the gemstone, then why wasn't it with him in the end? What had happened to it?

"I had an idea back then..." Cui Lizhu analyzed aloud. "After my dad returned, not only did he have problems mentally, but I also found many wounds and bruises on him! So, I suspect that my dad was betrayed by someone! For instance, the person who sent my dad to rob the gemstone maybe didn't want to pay, so he tried to kill him!"

"I've seen Tao Xiang's medical analysis." Wu Xiumin nodded and said, "His skull didn't change in shape, nor was it fractured. But, there was some serious damage to his brain. This means that Tao Xiang's head might have experienced a heavy blow, or maybe he fell from a high place..."

Wu Xiumin then added, "I feel that he likely suffered a heavy hit during the chase, and the possibility of his falling from high ground seems even higher! The wounds and bruises on his body might be related to a fall!"

"That makes sense!" Zeng Ke said. "Do you think the person who was after Tao Xiang was AK? Maybe AK and Tao Xiang worked together, and Tao Xiang helped to steal the gemstone. Then, after it was done, AK wanted to kill to shut him up, so he forced Tao Xiang off a cliff!"

"Really?" Ran Tao scratched his head, "If AK killed him to shut him up, then wouldn't he get the gemstone after that? Or... Could the gemstone still be with Tao Xiang?"

After Ran Tao said this, everyone was astonished. They then redirected their gazes to Cui Lizhu.

“Hey, if I had the gemstone, I wouldn’t have had to live such a poor life!” Cui Lizhu waved her hands helplessly.

“Actually, there’s another problem that we didn’t figure out!” Zhao Yu walked before the whiteboard, his eyebrows tightly knit together. “If Tao Xiang stole the gemstone and planned to return in ten days, in the end, he only returned after thirty days. So, during those several days, where did he go?”

“I remember that, after my dad had been gone for about five or six days, there was some news about the Gem Theft Case on the television,” Cui Lizhu recalled. “When he returned home, some twenty days later, he was in bad shape and his clothes were all torn! I asked him so many questions, but he refused to tell me anything!”

Wu Xiumin suspected aloud, “I feel that something is amiss here. If we could find out where Tao Xiang went and who he saw during those twenty days, we might be able to find some real clues, right?”

“We know that the exhibition was held in the capital. In a period of twenty days, he could have run all over the nation!” Zeng Ke said helplessly.

“Hence, it’s a dead end!” Wu Xiumin said. “No wonder the special force team, even after six years, still couldn’t unearth the gemstone’s whereabouts!”

“Don’t be disheartened,” Zhao Yu clapped his hands and told everyone. “There are no definites in this world! Have you ever thought that, although Tao Xiang was called the king of thieves, no matter how capable he was, he would need an accomplice for every deal he made?”

Zhao Yu then turned to Cui Lizhu and said, “Try to think of who might be that person. It might be one of your dad’s friends, or even your neighbor!”

“Alright, let me think!” Cui Lizhu replied. “Actually, all this while, I shared a similar suspicion, but my dad never told me where he got his news! And, in my impression, he really didn’t have any friends!”

“It’s okay, but try to think again. Once you think of any suspicious person, we will investigate them thoroughly!” Zhao Yu said.

“Let’s start with the female fish vendor!” Cui Lizhu shrugged. “After all, she is the one who spoke with my dad most often!”

“Okay, pass this task to me!” Zeng Ke pointed at his computer and said, “Tell me more about her situation, then I’ll be able to find her...”

“Okay! You guys go ahead with that! I have something else to take care of!” Zhao Yu pointed at Cui Lizhu, then said to his colleagues, “Look after her, as I feel that Wu Fangfang might return! Be cautious!”

“We understand!” Everyone agreed together, then Cui Lizhu asked, “Police Officer Zhao, where are you going?”

“I am burning with rage at the moment, so I have to go somewhere to vent my anger...” he said.

Then, after seeing the confused looks on everyone’s faces, Zhao Yu rectified, “I’m just joking. My Phaeton is still at the police station, so I need to drive there and get my car back. See you later.”

Then, Zhao Yu left...

Chapter 625: The Indestructible Great Wall

Not only was Zhao Yu able to easily retrieve his car, but Bureau Chief Mu greeted him personally and transferred the two million in compensation fees to him! That two million, plus the four million that he also received in unregistered bonds, meant that Zhao Yu had conned six million from He Sheng Credit!

No wonder I got a Dui Zhen hexagram today! Zhao Yu thought happily. It seems like today I was meant to get some extra income!

In reality, Zhao Yu's Phaeton had not been severely damaged. Although his car headlight had been cracked, it wouldn't affect his normal driving.

In fact, the only real damage was an obvious scratch on the car bumper. Even so, he felt that it would probably cost less than ten thousand to repair it if he took it to the local automobile sales service shop.

But, since he was working under a deadline for the Gem Theft Case, he didn't have the time to repair his car. Hence, after he left the branch, he drove directly towards the north.

He drove in this direction in order to complete his side quest for that day. Zhao Yu had finally realized the importance of accumulative points, as with sufficient accumulative points, he would be able to upgrade the system, which would then enable him to strengthen the device and activate new functions!

Currently, the only way that he could obtain accumulative points was to complete his side quests. At present, he only had about a hundred accumulative points, so he was in a hurry to increase them.

According to the side quest's instruction, Zhao Yu arrived at a place called Liu Village. Once he looked around, he realized that the location was actually a cemetery!

What's going on?

Zhao Yu let out a heavy sigh. He didn't understand why did the side quest had led him to such a place!

It was already winter, and there were withering weeds among the gravestones. Zhao Yu looked at the bleak scene, watching as a bunch of people, who were dressed in mourning clothes, were conducting a burial ceremony.

Pili-palak...

The sound of firecrackers could be heard, echoing across the barren land, while paper money, which was being burnt for the dead, floated through the air...

It can't be, right?

Zhao Yu took a closer look and realized that the exact location of the side quest was right around the funeral!

Tsk tsk...

In order to get the accumulative points, Zhao Yu knew that he had to bite the bullet and actually drive the Phaeton directly there! When he got a little closer, Zhao Yu saw that there were many cars parked around the burial plot. There was also a crowd of people. It seemed like it was a big funeral.

Besides orchestrating the lighting of firecrackers and the burning of paper money, the host had even hired a monk and a priest to co-conduct the ceremony. Plus, there was even a band that was playing live music for the funeral!

After Zhao Yu parked his car and rolled down his window, he was shocked to hear that the band was playing the song named The Indestructible Great Wall! After the prelude, a man in a suit came to the middle of the stage and started singing with in a loud voice, "Centuries in trance, compatriots are waking up slowly..."

What the f*ck...

Zhao Yu was stupefied. He never would have expected anyone to sing that song during a funeral! However, the singer's voice was so professional, just like the singers on television!

Then, a few young men in silk tops and trousers popped up in front of the stage. Then, after a few roars of "He, he, ha, hey," they started to conduct a martial arts performance!

That's interesting!

Zhao Yu sat in the car and watched the proceedings seriously. He was intrigued by these cultural traditions of Jin'an. A funeral was held like a dinner banquet here apparently!

Just as Zhao Yu was watching happily, the passenger door of his car suddenly opened. A woman, who was in a pink jacket, blew warm air on her palms, while she took a seat inside the car casually.

Zhao Yu raised his right eyebrows, perplexed, but before he could say anything, the woman flashed him a gorgeous smile and said, "Bro, it's cold outside. Let me warm up here with you!"

Zhao Yu looked at her closely. She had dyed blonde hair and was wearing a white knitted hat, which seemed quite warm. However, she was only wearing a super short leather skirt on her bottom half!

"This is a Volkswagen Phaeton, right? You must be quite rich, huh?" The woman smiled and asked, "Are you a relative of the host? Why didn't I see you earlier?"

"This car isn't mine!" Zhao Yu spoke with a low voice, "I killed someone, then stole his car. The dead body is still in the car trunk! Do you want to take a look?"

Hearing that, the woman nervously gulped. Then, she smiled stiffly and said, "Bro, you sure are a jokester!"

"I'm not joking. Plus, I am not here to attend the funeral. I am here to look for a place to bury the dead body!" Zhao Yu said seriously. "I saw someone singing here, so I decided to come and take a look!"

Zhao Yu then began to sing along, "The indestructible Great Wall... the Yellow River surges for a thousand miles..."

His singing sent chills down the woman's spine. Soon enough, the woman couldn't take it anymore and spat out the word, "Psychopath!" She then opened the door and ran away.

Humph! Zhao Yu humphed and thought, Bit*h, you want to play with me? You're too inexperienced!

As it turns out, Zhao Yu knew the woman's identity long ago. She had just used an excuse to warm up in his car, but she was really attracted to the value of the car. Hence, she wanted to get closer to him to figure out a way to con Zhao Yu into bed. She obviously thought that he could be her new sugardaddy!

Although the woman was pretty, Zhao Yu was no loose man. As expected, when the Indestructible Great Wall song was finished, Zhao Yu saw that same girl go up on the stage to dance in a very sexy outfit!

Even as she swayed her beautiful body, Zhao Yu was not interested at all! Just then, Zhao Yu realized that his accumulative points had increased by twenty-one points!

It can't be, right?

System Bro! Zhao Yu complained, That's it? What the h*ll is this? I came all the way here to complete the side quest. Yet, in the end, you just arranged that b*tch for me? And, what do you want me to do with her? Do you want me to roll around in the bedsheets with her to get more accumulative points?

This is ridiculous...

After he finished complaining, Zhao Yu started his car engine and was ready to leave, when his phone rang. It was Zeng Ke calling.

"What is it, Zeng Ke?" Zhao Yu was upset. "Don't tell me any bad news, or I will..."

"No! It's good news!" Zeng Ke said excitedly. "Team Leader! I just received a notification from the DNA Data Center! They found Cui Lizhu's immediate family!"

Chapter 626: An Important Timeline

"Nanjiang Province, Bai Ling City!" Zeng Ke was looking at his computer screen as he said, "I never thought that Cui was really Cui Lizhu's surname!"

Zhao Yu and all of the members of his special investigation group, including Cui Lizhu, were gathered around the computer, looking at the latest information.

"Your real dad is called Cui Fangyu!" Zeng Ke signaled to Cui Lizhu as he spoke. "But, the comparison information came from Nanjiang Prison! Unfortunately, your father was a prisoner there!"

Cui Lizhu sighed helplessly, then mumbled, "Such is my fate..."

"Unfortunately, this person has already died!" Zeng Ke said regrettably. "According to the prison records, Cui Fangyu was sentenced to ten years for smuggling. However, even before he had served half a year, he passed away due to a myocardial infarction! Luckily, although DNA wasn't popular back then, the Nanjiang Police kept a copy of his DNA on file! Otherwise, it would have been very difficult for us to find a match!"

“Then... What about my mother?” Cui Lizhu asked.

“Hold on!” Zeng Ke quickly tapped on the keyboard, finding the related information very quickly. “I only have the information from the prison records. Cui Fangyu was apparently the boss of a logistics company. His wife... Mm...” Zeng Ke’s expression went dull, as he told Cui Lizhu in a low voice, “I’m sorry, Cui. On the information, it states that your father was widowed...”

“Let me see that! Imprisoned in 1998...” Wu Xiumin said. “Cui was only two years old then. So, in other words, her mother might already... after she gave birth to Cui...”

“It can’t be...” Cui Lizhu was obviously upset. “Please don’t tell me that my mother died while giving birth to me! If that was really so, I am really a devil killer”

“No, there’s no record of that! Don’t panic. The file is too old, so let me figure out some other way to find the information!” Zeng Ke comforted her. “Give me some time, and I can definitely find some more detailed information!”

Then, as she saw that Cui Lizhu was getting emotional, Wu Xiumin immediately walked over to Cui Lizhu and hugged her shoulders. She then said, “I think you just need a hug right now.”

Wu Xiumin was really a psychological expert. She merely hugged her faintly, and Cui Lizhu jumped into her embrace, squeezing her tightly. Then, she started sobbing. Wu Xiumin had realized that, at that moment, Cui Lizhu was fragile and really needed someone to show her kindness.

“Why do I feel that this is not a coincidence?” Zhao Yu looked at Cui Lizhu’s parents’ information, growing more suspicious by the second. “Cui Lizhu’s name was given to her by Tao Xiang, and Tao Xiang let her keep her surname, Cui, instead of changing it to his, which was Tao. Does that mean that Tao Xiang knew Cui Lizhu’s parents?”

“I asked Tao Xiang about why we didn’t share the same surname once before.” Cui Lizhu sobbed as she explained, “He told me that the reason my surname was Cui was in order to provide a cover up. You know that my dad was constantly changing his identity, so our names were merely codes! This made sense to me, so I didn’t pursue it any further!”

“But...What role does Bai Lili play in this?” Zeng Ke pointed at the information on the whiteboard and asked. “Tao Xiang had a photo of Bai Lili, who was holding a baby Cui. Why would Cui be with Bai Lili as an infant?”

Ran Tao clapped his hands and said, “Tao Xiang was dating Bai Lili! Tao Xiang didn’t have any biological children, so he took Little Zhuzhu. I mean, he stole little Cui! Then, the two of them broke up, so Tao Xiang told Cui that her mother had run away with another person!”

“Hey! No one ran away! That was 1998, right when Bai Lili became a headless female corpse! Don’t bullsh*t, okay?” Wu Xiumin refuted. “Plus, Bai Lili was so pretty. Why would she be with impotent old Tao Xiang? My guess is that Bai Lili was related to Cui’s parent’s. She was either their relative or a nanny hired to take care of Cui!”

“Don’t panic!” Suddenly, Zhao Yu suddenly had a strange feeling, as though he had already found the crucial clue, but had yet to grasp it!

He thought carefully, while giving an order to Zeng Ke, "Hurry up and write down the information about Cui Lizhu's parents on the whiteboard! Write down the dates and let us align them in chronological order. Maybe we can organize some ideas!"

"Yeah, yeah!" Zeng Ke quickly obeyed Zhao Yu's instructions and listed the information in chronological order.

"No, the earliest year was when Cui Lizhu was born!" After he wrote everything down, Zeng Ke started analyzing the dates aloud. "After she was born, her mother passed away. Then, only her father was taking care of her!"

He paused for a moment, then continued. "But, that didn't last long, as in another two years, Cui's father was involved in a smuggling bust and was imprisoned. Then, he died of myocardial infarction after being in the prison for half a year. We don't know where Cui Lizhu, who was only two years old, went after her parents passed away."

"With Bai Lili!" Wu Xiumin said excitedly. "Look at the photo! Cui had just turned two years old then, right? Look, Bai Lili was most likely a nanny that her father had hired. Cui Fangyu entered the prison, and no one was looking after his child, so the child must have been passed to Bai Lili!"

"However, if Cui were to two years old then, it would be 1998!" Zhao Yu creased his eyebrows and said, "It was during that year that Bai Lili was killed by the murderer and became the last victim of the Headless Female Corpses Case!"

"Oh my God. Cui Lizhu must have then fallen into Tao Xiang's hands! Would it be that Tao Xiang was the murderer in the Headless Female Corpses Case?" Wu Xiumin was stupefied. "After Tao Xiang killed Bai Lili, he must have realized that Bai Lili was taking care of a child. So, maybe he took the child in and raised her. Hence, he had stopped killing then?"

"Oh my God! I have goosebumps all over!" Ran Tao hugged himself.

"Impossible! Don't make such a joke, okay?" Cui Lizhu refused to believe what was being said. "My dad never killed anyone! He is the king the thieves, not a murderer! You must believe me! I was raised by him all along, so I know him the best. He isn't a murderer!"

"Calm down. I feel like we are on the right path." Zhao Yu signaled everyone to calm down, but he was boiling inside, too.

"Could the murderer be Cui Lizhu's dad?" Ran Tao suddenly thought of another possibility. "After all, her biological dad died in the prison, then after 1998, there weren't any more killings in that case!"

"Dumba**, can you stop talking now?" Wu Xiumin roared. "You are merely playing a silly guessing game now! Bai Lili died after Cui Lizhu's biological father died in prison! Duh! I have never heard of a dead prisoner that could go out and kill someone! Please don't make this harder, okay?"

"Exactly!" Zeng Ke said. "Regarding the rest of it, I'm not sure. But, the time when Cui Fangyu was in prison and the time when Bai Lili died are conclusive. Cui Fangyu was imprisoned during the spring, while Bai Lili died during at the beginning of winter. In other words, when Bai Lili died, Cui Fangyu was already dead and buried! Hence, his having killed her is impossible!"

“But...” Zhao Yu looked at Cui Lizhu, who was crying her lungs out, and said, “We can’t confirm Cui Lizhu’s birthdate, though! She was only told her birth year by Tao Xiang. What if Tao Xiang made it up? We have to ensure that crucial piece of the timeline before we can continue.”

“Finding her age is easy!” Wu Xiumin said. “We only need to bring Cui to the police station forensics department! Then, we can find out her exact age by checking her teeth! But, as for the photo...”

“The photo could be certified by radiocarbon inspection!” Zeng Ke chimed in. “But, we still wouldn’t know when was the photo printed! So, we could only know the age of the photo itself, but we couldn’t know when the photo was taken exactly!”

As they stopped their discussion, Zhao Yu suddenly felt smug with success. He pointed at the photo and told everyone, “So, we as detectives should take note of all of the details, as it is the details that will determine our failure or success. Understand? Look closely at Bai Lili in the photo. Look carefully at her clothes. Did you see the label? Boston, right? A down jacket, right?”

He waited for a moment, letting his questions sink in, then said, “So, we only need to find out which year that particular style of down jacket was launched, then we can pinpoint the date, right?”

“Impressive! You definitely deserve to be our Captain!” Ran Tao gave Zhao Yu a thumbs up.

Zeng Ke was an expert in finding information, so he turned on his computer and immediately contacted the manufacturer to make an inquiry about the jacket. The information was sent back almost immediately!

The down jacket that Bai Lili wore in the photo was a limited edition bestseller. It was first sold in stores in 1995, and had been manufactured yearly since then. The worst news was that it looked exactly the same every year!

“Hehe, hehe...” With everyone’s stupefied gaze directed at him, Zhao Yu redirected the topic to resolve the awkward situation. “Look, what did I say earlier? A limited edition bestseller down jacket is not something that just anyone could afford. Hence, Bai Lili couldn’t just be a nanny that looked after a child! Right? What do you think?”

Chapter 627: The Embalming Accidentally Revealed a Secret

In order to not attract Wu Fangfang’s and the others’ attentions, Ran Tao and Wu Xiumin brought Cui Lizhu to a professional dentist to do an examination. In the end, they certified that Tao Xiang had not lied to Cui Lizhu.

She was really born in 1996, which meant that, when her biological father passed away, she was only two years old. Moreover, Zhao Yu had used an Invisible Appraiser to determine the date of the photo. The Appraiser had shown that the photo had been printed in 1998, which was the crucial year!

Plus, Zeng Ke had finally found more information on Cui Lizhu’s mother. It turns out that she didn’t pass away due to illness, but a tragic accident. At that time, Cui Lizhu was not even one month old!

These uncovered facts helped the team to roughly determine the timeline of the case. In 1996, Cui Lizhu was born, and she lost her mother that same year. In the beginning of 1998, her biological father was arrested and imprisoned. He then died from health issues about half a year later.

That same year, Cui Lizhu and Bai Lili had appeared in the photo. During the winter of 1998, Bai Lili became the last victim of the Headless Female Corpses Case.

“Bai Lili came from the Linqi tribe from Northern Qi in the Meng Xiang Province.” Zeng Ke pointed at the information on the whiteboard and said, “After she got into Nanjiang Teachers’ College, she pursued her studies in Nanjiang. She even stayed there for an internship after she graduated. After that, there are no other records in the file!”

Zeng Ke paused, then continued. “Some said that she returned to her hometown, while others said that she moved to her boyfriend’s house. But, because Bai Lili and her family weren’t on good terms before she was killed, no one knew about her real situation at all!”

“This has been certified!” Zhao Yu immediately announced, then clarified, “The 03 special force once investigated her hometown in Mengxiang. The people in her hometown said that she never returned after she went away to college! The special force even found Bai Lili’s classmates and certified that she had been staying in Nanjiang city! But, none of them knew what she was working on exactly!”

The 03 special force that Zhao Yu was referring to was the investigation group that Captain Jin Zhenbang was in. They had been the ones to begin recording about the case in the yellow notebook.

“Look!” Zhao Yu pointed at Bai Lili’s information as he analyzed aloud, “My information certified that Bai Lili was from a poor family. Theoretically, with her excellent results, it shouldn’t have been difficult for her to find a good job! But, she obviously opted for other career options. Then, look at Bai Lili in the photo. Look at her clothes. Aren’t they mature and fashionable? She obviously dressed like a rich man’s wife...”

“Oh...” Ran Tao seemed to realize something. He opened his mouth and was ready to say something else, but Wu Xiumin covered his mouth rudely.

“Shut up, you!” Wu Xiumin gave him a death glare and said. “Wait until he is done talking, will you? Stop causing trouble, please. I can’t stand you anymore!”

“Look,” Zhao Yu pointed at Cui Lizhu’s biological father’s picture on the board, then said, “Cui Fangyu lived in Bai Ling City, which is not far away from Nanjiang. In fact, it is merely a hundred and fifty kilometers away! Plus, Cui Lizhu was involved in a logistics business, so if he were to go to the city often, would there be a possibility that...”

“Are you trying to say that she was Bai Lili was my father’s mistress?” Cui Lizhu creased her eyebrows, clearly concerned by this idea.

“Mm... I have a question...” Ran Tao raised his hand again. Before Wu Xiumin could stop him, he asked, “Aren’t we supposed to be solving the Gem Theft Case? The gemstone was stolen six years ago, so what are we doing now? Even if Bai Lili was Little Zhou’s stepmom, that has nothing to do with the gemstone, right?”

“Ugh! You are so embarrassing!” Wu Xiumin covered her face. “In the future, don’t tell anyone we know each other, okay? You are brainless!”

“Bro Tao,” Zeng Ke said in a hurry, “Don’t you understand? Team Leader was not only dealing with facts regarding the Gem Theft Case!”

“Mm? Oh... Oh... Oh...” After he exclaimed for a while, Ran Tao gradually understood the relationship between the two cases.

“Well, mine was merely an assumption!” Zhao Yu then continued to talk about his thoughts. “So, what we have to do next is to find all Cui Lizhu’s relatives and everyone who knew Cui Fangyu, to see if any of them knew about Cui Fangyu’s and Bai Lili’s relationships with Tao Xiang!”

“Alright, let me take care of that!” Zeng Ke nodded. “I will work overtime today to get it done!”

“Thank you for your hard work!” Zhao Yu pointed at Bai Lili’s photo and said. “Next, let’s assume that Bai Lili was still in Nanjiang back then. Would the photo have been taken in Nanjiang? If we can confirm the location, it might be useful to the case investigation!”

Then, Wu Xiumin found an issue and voiced it, “Team Leader, the Headless Female Corpses Case is so strange! Don’t forget that Bai Lili’s dead body appeared in Ganlong City, which belonged to the Jin’an Province. The distance from Nanjiang would be... Mm...”

“It’s five hundred and fifty-five kilometers!” The figure left an extremely deep impression in Zhao Yu’s mind. This was because, from the very moment that he received the yellow notebook, he had memorized its contents by heart!

“That’s actually pretty far...” Wu Xiumin creased her eyebrows and said. “After the murderer killed her, he then sent the dead body so far away, placing the dead body in an unknown forest. This...”

Just then, Cui Lizhu suddenly cut in and said, “There’s also a possibility that the murderer first kidnapped her, then only killed her after they arrived at their destination, right? I’ve been a thief all of my life, and I’ve never seen anyone behave so psychotically!”

“How old are you? What do you mean all of your life, saying that like you are so old?!” Zhao Yu pouted. “That is not even the sickest part. The sickest part was that the murderer took care of the dead body so thoroughly. He drew out all of the blood in the dead body, then replaced it with a preservative. If it had been during winter, the dead body could have maintained its pristine state for at least a whole month without rotting!”

“Oh my God!” Cui Lizhu gawked, her mouth agape. “That’s definitely not my dad. My dad is a thief, but he doesn’t know how to embalm anyone! How would he know those preserving techniques?”

“You are right.” Zhao Yu sighed. “Back then, the police had suspected that the murderer was indeed an expert embalmer, who had the experience to take care of dead bodies!”

“Then, what about their heads?” Cui Lizhu asked in fear, almost not wanting to know the answer. “The deceased’s heads, where did they go? Could it be that the psychotic murderer kept them as part of some sick collection?”

“Then, that would be a great thing!” Zhao Yu shrugged. “At least we could find some evidence that way! Our biggest difficulty now is that we have no evidence! Even if we found a suspect, unless he confessed, we couldn’t do anything to him!”

“It’s not my dad, so don’t worry!” Cui Lizhu said. “Go ahead and make fun of him, but my dad is scared of blood! And, his brain is so muddled. If he really had been the killer before, he would have accidentally revealed this secret in his incoherent ramblings, right?”

“Hehe, that’s an interesting take on it!” Ran Tao couldn’t help but ask, “But, the Tamil Star was stolen by your dad, as you said earlier, and his brain is indeed so muddled. So, why didn’t he reveal the secret of where he hid the gemstone as well?”

“Well, that obviously means that the gemstone is not in my dad’s possession” Cui Lizhu rolled her eyes at Ran Tao, thinking that he was silly to not see something so obvious to her.

After Zhao Yu overheard their conversation, he clicked his tongue a couple of times and asked Ran Tao, “Tao, what did you say earlier, about him accidentally revealing a secret?”

“I was asking why Tao Xiang didn’t reveal the secret of the gemstone’s whereabouts!” Ran Tao repeated himself.

“Oh...” Zhao Yu leaned backwards and muttered to himself, “It seems like I have to take a trip to Nanjiang...”

Chapter 628: Traveling with a Thief

Zhao Yu didn’t manage to catch the last flight to Nanjiang, so he had to take the high speed rail instead and travel through the night. Actually, the speed of a high speed rail wasn’t much slower compared to the plane, as it would normally only take him three hours to reach the city. Besides, it was quite fast and convenient!

Zhao Yu didn’t bring his team members, but decided to go alone instead. He had ordered his teammates be on standby in Jinping, while they continued to search for more information about the two cases.

Although it was already midnight, Zhao Yu didn’t have time to rest. He was still listening to Zeng Ke’s latest update over the phone.

“Team Leader, I found Cui FangYu’s household registration record. His wife’s name was Du Manting. The record clearly states that they had a daughter back then, whose name is Cui Jinghao. She was born on January 25, 1996. There was also a remark that was written on the record that said that Cui Jinghao went missing!”

“Oh... So, it seems like Cui Jinghao was perhaps Cui Lizhu’s original given name?” Zhao Yu sighed.

“Team Leader, I’ve checked the record at the local police station,” Zeng Ke continued, “Cui Jinghao has been missing for over ten years, and she was announced as being deceased by the public security agency!”

“Poor Little Zhu! Both her parents died, then she was adopted by the king of the thieves! I think it’s best that I take good care of her then!” Zhao Yu said. “However, I feel that the reason that Tao Xiang took Cui Lizhu back then might be due to some secret agenda! This secret likely involves the Headless Female Corpses Case!”

Just as Zhao Yu was guessing, the system suddenly sent a notification that alerted him that the miracle adventure had ended. It was currently blinking in his head.

Zhao Yu knew that it was extremely important, as the adventure had just ended that day, so he quickly told Zeng Ke over the phone, “Zeng, we’ll talk again soon. Don’t forget to report to me whenever you get any updates! It doesn’t matter how late it is!”

“Mm... Team Leader!” Over the phone, Zeng Ke suddenly stuttered, “Mm... actually, there’s one more thing...”

However, Zhao Yu was in a hurry to check the system, so he hung up before hearing Zeng Ke out. It was only after he hung up, that he realized there was more updated news! However, the system was quite important as well, so he didn’t call back, but quickly checked on the ended adventure.

The Dui Zhen hexagram that Zhao Yu had gotten had ended beautifully, which earned him a high completion rate of one hundred and forty-four! The system thus rewarded him with a trio device pack.

The three devices were all new to him, as he had never gotten them before. They included a Life Detector, a Lip Reading Device, and a Metal Detector.

The Life Detector was mainly used in a rescue. It could detect signs of life within a great distance. The Lip Reading Device, as the name suggested, could gauge the content of one’s speech according to the person’s lip movements. As for the Metal Detector, it was obviously used for hunting treasure!

However, Zhao Yu wasn’t interested about that at the moment, as it was already past midnight by then. Right now, he was most anxious about getting a new hexagram! After all, Zhao Yu knew the importance of the hexagram!

As he was on his way to Nanjiang, if the hexagram were to involve a Gen, that would signify that he was on the right track! If it was contrary to this, he could return immediately!

In the end, his hard work had clearly paid off, as Zhao Yu got a Dui Gem hexagram! This was sufficient to prove that he was headed in the right direction!

I wonder if I will be able to find any breakthroughs here?

Just then, Zhao Yu’s phone rang again. It was Zeng Ke calling him back. He figured that Zeng Ke must really have something important to report, so Zhao Yu quickly answered the phone.

“Mm... Team Leader, I have something that I forgot to inform you about earlier!” As Zeng Ke stuttered, Zhao Yu could feel that something was wrong.

“What’s up?” Zhao Yu asked with concern.

“Cui Lizhu...She ran away again!” he managed to blurt out.

“What? She f*cking escaped? How did you let that happen? Eh? That’s not right, she...” Zhao Yu suddenly remembered something. “Didn’t she have a GPS locator on her? How could she run away? Don’t tell me, she somehow managed to unlock the super expensive GPS anklet?”

“No! The GPS is still there, so she didn’t cut her ankle off, but... But...” he was still stammering, as he was so nervous.

“Cut her ankle off? F*ck! What are you thinking? Cui Lizhu has already lost both of her thumbs, so why would she still cut her ankle? Hurry up and check to see where the hell she is according to the GPS! She can’t be heading over to rescue her dad, right? Mm... Hold... Hold on...” As Zhao Yu was still babbling over the phone, he lifted his head and saw that Cui Lizhu was sitting opposite him!

And, as she most likely just overheard them talking about her lost thumbs and ankle-cutting, Cui Lizhu puffed up her cheeks and stared at Zhao Yu fiercely. She then shot him the middle finger!

“Mm, alright, I know where she is now! I’ll deal with you later! Humph!” Then, Zhao Yu hung up the phone angrily.

“Team Leader Zhao, I suddenly realized something!” She squinted her eyes and said, “You are the head of the special investigation group, but it seems that you are even more treacherous than us thieves! You speak of one thing before certain people, then speak otherwise behind their backs to others!”

“This is called repaying evil with evil! But, Little Zhu, how does that make me treacherous?” Zhao Yu then asked maliciously, “I should be saying the same about you, right? After all, I’m the Team Leader! Do you know what the outcome is for not listening to an order? If I were to get angry, things wouldn’t end well for you! If I were to be really provoked, I’d send you to Wu Fangfang, who’d drip hot wax on you and whip you!”

“Team Leader, from what I see, you feel guilty!” Cui Lizhu’s eyes were like sharp blades, stabbing through Zhao Yu’s heart.

This girl is impressive! Zhao Yu complimented her in his head... I never thought that Cui Lizhu, who is so young, would be able to see through my intentions.

“I’m not lacking in intelligence!” Cui Lizhu said. “You either tell me your real goal, or you’re not better than me!”

“My real goal is to take advantage of you, then kill you! Then, I will make you into a headless female corpse!” Zhao Yu said impatiently. “I’m telling you, when we arrive at the station later, you must hurry up and buy a return ticket. Otherwise, don’t blame me for not showing you any mercy! I’m warning you, don’t challenge my patience!”

“Okay, Team Leader, I’ll give you a present then!” Cui Lizhu threw Zhao Yu a watch and said, “This watch belongs to the old man who is sitting right behind you. If you don’t allow me to follow you, I will shout out now, saying that you stole his watch!”

Zhao Yu was entertained by Cui Lizhu and quickly placed the watch on his wrist. He chuckled and said, “I’ll count to three, and if you don’t shout, then I’m going to shout! Let’s see who’s louder, okay? One... Two...”

“Team Leader, it’s my bad! Stop!” Cui Lizhu finally realized that Zhao Yu was more shameless than she was, so she quickly pleaded for mercy, “Great Team Leader, I’m begging you! Bring me along! I might be able to help! Plus, you know why I have to follow you. It’s my home, and I really want to know where I came from, and if I still have anyone left in this world! Team Leader, bring me along! I swear I won’t cause you any trouble!”

“Mm... That’s more like it! In the future, take note of your attitude, understand?” Zhao Yu smiled happily.

He then leaned back in his seat and closed his eyes. However, he was thinking in his heart...

As the smart Cui Lizhu is now following me, I should make a corresponding adjustment to my plan.

Chapter 629: Sunshine Avenue

Although Bai Ling City wasn’t a provincial city, it also had a high speed rail that was connected to it. This was Zhao Yu’s first stop, as he was coming here to find out more about Cui Lizhu’s origins.

However, as he arrived with Cui Lizhu, it was already two in the morning. So, they naturally had to look for a hotel to rest for a bit.

They found a hotel nearby, but as they were checking in at the reception desk, Cui Lizhu began to argue with Zhao Yu. She was trying to convince him to only get one room for the both of them to share.

Cui Liz said that her reasons for this argument were to save money, and also because she didn’t have any identification document with her, so she couldn’t get a room of her own. Hence, she concluded that they should get one room...with one bed.

Suddenly, Zhao Yu took a trip down memory lane, as he found this scene familiar. He remembered that, back when he had investigated the case with Miao Ying in Lingyun, he had tried many ways to sleep in the same room with his goddess! Unfortunately, his plans fell through in the end!

Now, here was this beautiful girl with an innocent face and huge boobs welcoming him to share a bed with her! However, in Cui Lizhu’s opinion, Zhao Yu didn’t have any male hormones and instincts at all! After all, he was now insisting that they get two rooms, one for each of them!

Zhao Yu had his reasons for this decision, of course, which had nothing to do with his male hormones! After all, he was the team leader of the central special investigation group. Hence, he had a reputation to uphold!

However, even though Zhao Yu had ended up getting them their own separate rooms, he had underestimated Cui Lizhu’s stubbornness. When he got into his bed after taking a shower, he realized that Cui Lizhu was already in his bed!

“What the heck?” Looking at a girl, who was lying in his bed, Zhao Yu’s heart raced. However, his rationality won out, keeping him from leaping on top of her!

“Team Leader, if I told you that I told myself a ghost story earlier and scared myself, so now I dare not go to sleep alone, would you believe me?” Cui Lizhu was lying in his bed, talking to him, while hiding her head beneath the pillow.

Hearing her flimsy excuse, Zhao Yu sighed helplessly and put his hand on Cui Lizhu’s smooth calf. He then said sincerely, “Little Zhu, what you need now is comfort, but not this kind of comfort! Do you understand?”

He continued to speak to her in a coaxing tone, “In the past, I experienced similar kinds of feelings. However, your heart knot can only be untied by you. You are the only person that can help you now! Plus, I am a man with principles, so...”

Zhao Yu looked at Cui Lizhu’s thighs and said seriously, “So, take off all of your clothes now, and I will go downstairs to get some candles and whipped cr...”

Just then, Cui Lizhu stood up and carried the pillow over as she lowered her head and spat out the words, “Team Leader, you are such a psychopath! Humph...”

Then, she threw the pillow at Zhao Yu’s head and turned around to leave.

“Hold on!” Zhao Yu waved at her and clenched his teeth. “You can leave, but leave all of the things with me! After all, Zeng Ke might want to update me with more information later!”

“Alright. Fine...” Cui Lizhu then threw the phone, watch, and wallet at Zhao Yu.

“A thief doesn’t leave empty-handed, right? Wow. I’m warning you, this is the last time. Understand? If you were to steal from me a second time...” Zhao Yu had yet to finish his sentence, when Cui Lizhu closed the door behind her.

“That girl is truly trying to wear me out!” Zhao Yu ran to the door and locked it, sweat beaded all over his forehead.

Actually, Zhao Yu knew that Cui Lizhu had thrown herself at him because she really liked him. So, if he had asked her to stay, that night would have gone very differently for them.

But, all the same, Zhao Yu merely felt pity for Cui Lizhu at the moment! The girl looked tough, but she was really on the edge of breaking down.

Zhao Yu knew that the kind of comfort that she really needed would not be found in bed! Thus, if he really wanted to help her, he had to unearth the truth for her!

When the sun rose on the second day, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu had breakfast in the hotel, then started their investigation early. The night before, Zeng Ke had worked through the night and investigated Cui Lizhu’s family thoroughly.

He had discovered that Cui Lizhu’s immediately family members were all dead! This was because Cui’s family had only had sons several generations in a row, so Cui Lizhu’s mother had been the only daughter for quite some time. Hence, some men remained unmarried and the family lineage died out, along with its name.

After further investigation, Zeng Ke could only find a few distant relatives. But, even these few people had not kept in contact with one another, so they were all just like complete strangers. Hence, there was no point in visiting them.

In light of those findings, Zhao Yu redirected his attention to the people who were once involved with Cui's family. Among the limited targets, a person named Ma Wenliang, who was Cui Fangyu's underling, popped up.

Apparently, Ma Wenliang was working as the general manager in the company, and after Cui Fangyu was put behind bars, he was sentenced to serve five years in the prison as well.

Hence, as he was a person who shared such a close relationship with Cui Fangyu, he would definitely know something. As long as they found them, they might be able to clarify some details of the situation back then.

Hence, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu started to look for him. According to the address that Zeng Ke had found, he had lived in a simple house. However, the house was mortgaged to someone else long ago.

The current house owner said that Ma Wenliang was a person who didn't engage in any honest work and liked to frequent the gambling houses. Five years ago, he had been forced to mortgage the house, and no one had seen him since then! The house owner didn't even know whether he was still alive!

Zhao Yu asked the house owner about Cui's family too, but the house owner had no idea about any of that. Feeling helpless, Zhao Yu left him his phone number and told him to call him if he heard any news about Ma Wenliang's whereabouts. He also assured him that he would be heavily rewarded.

This beginning wasn't smooth, but it didn't affect Zhao Yu's confidence. He brought Cui Lizhu to visit her old house and a few of the places that Cui Fangyu had once resided.

Unfortunately, all of those places were either completely run-down or had been moved! As such, even though they asked around for a very long time, they still didn't find anyone who knew anything.

The time flew by quickly. Soon, it was already time for lunch. Zhao Yu found an express restaurant and shared a simple lunch with Cui Lizhu.

Cui Lizhu obviously had no appetite after she had found out about her origins. When she was eating, she seemed anxious.

"Team Leader, these seven days seem to be flying past, but..." Cui Lizhu said anxiously, "We still haven't found anything! Plus, what we are investigating has nothing to do with Gem Theft Case. Even if you found out about my origins, what can you do about them?"

Zhao Yu enjoyed his lunch, refusing to become a worry wart Cui Lizhu! He then replied casually, "Forget about the other staff! You were merely a criminal that we arrested! When the deadline arrives, the worst thing that could happen is that we would be dismissed and sent back to our original branches! So, you don't have to worry!"

"How can you speak so carelessly?" Cui Lizhu clenched her teeth and said, "If you solve the case, I can get a reduced sentence! On the other hand, if you don't succeed, my youth will be spent in prison!"

Then, Cui Lizhu's eyes suddenly beamed with joy, as she had just thought of an idea. "Let me get in touch with the local gangster and spread a secret bounty notice for us!"

"Are you going to be paying for it?" Zhao Yu rolled his eyes at her.

"Money is easy to come by for me. Give me some time, and I'll take care of it!" Cui Lizhu patted her chest. "Team Leader, I have a feeling that my biological father might have been on the scene back then! Look, that Ma Wenliang that we found out about, he liked to gamble and was a womanizer. He lived such a bad life, so how would he be given the position of company manager?"

Zhao Yu said straightforwardly, "Your dad and Ma Wenliang were arrested for smuggling. Do you think they were innocent? You didn't read through the information, right? You are unclear of what the real underlying truth is!"

Cui Lizhu sighed, but was still so sure of her instincts. She said, "Fine, but we need to find the gangster that used to be involved with my dad! Then, we will find more clues!"

"Your head is up in the clouds!" Zhao Yu creased his eyebrows and said, "I warn you, I'm a police officer! If you dare to go back to your old stealing and scheming ways, don't blame me when you have to face the consequences!"

"Then... What do we do?" Cui Lizhu panicked, "We can't just wait here, right?"

Zhao Yu gulped down some of his tea and said calmly, "Maybe, I have something that would work..."

"Oh? What?" Cui Lizhu asked quickly.

Zhao Yu smiled and said in all sincerity, "Little Zhu, have you noticed that we have been in this scene for too long, so we are always thinking about the worst case scenarios and the bad sides of everything first? However, we never notice that there's a sunlit avenue right in front of us!"

Chapter 630: Guilty

It was two in the afternoon at the Bai Ling Police Station, when Zhao Yu brought Cui Lizhu to the captain of the police detective's room. The captain's surname was Sun, and he was fifty-nine years old. Nineteen years ago, he was the one that had arrested Cui Fangyu.

As Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu entered his office, Captain Sun immediately poured them a cup of tea and said, "Ah, you are just in time! If you were to have visited even a week later, I would already be retired! I heard about your working on a case that I was involved with twenty years ago!"

Then, Captain Sun passed a cigarette to Zhao Yu, but Zhao Yu refused it politely.

"Cui Fangyu, right? I vaguely remember this person." Captain Sun took a seat and started recalling the distant past. "I remember that, not long after the court decided his punishment, he died from a myocardial infarction. In actual fact, there are many of the other details that I can't remember. But, I do recall that Cui Fangyu was about my age!"

Captain Sun saw that the two of them were listening quite seriously, so he kept talking. "And, I do remember that he ran a company. They weren't rich, but their company was obviously involved in some illegal dealings! The company was merely a front. Besides smuggling, they were also involved in money laundering, the reselling of cultural relics, and many other crimes."

"Regarding those criminals, do you still know any of them now?" Zhao Yu asked. "More specifically, how can I find someone who would know more about Cui Fangyu?"

"Unfortunately, I don't know anyone anymore. Soon after the bust went down, those illegal groups disbanded and everyone fled." Captain Sun shook his head.

He then asked curiously, "Sir, I wonder, why are you interested in all of this? After all, he has been dead for many years! Oh..." He suddenly recalled something else. "Back then, as Cui Fangyu's death was quite sudden the higher ups were worried that someone had killed him to shut him up. We investigated that too!"

He then added, "However, it was concluded that it was an accidental death. Although Cui Fangyu was young, he had always had heart problems! Also, the criminal gang had been taken care of, so there shouldn't be any situation whereby someone would have tried to kill him to shut him up."

"Then, what about his wife and his family?" Cui Lizhu couldn't help but ask. "Do you remember anything?"

The old police detective creased his eyebrows as he thought long and hard for several moments. He then shook his head and offered, "How about this? Wait here for a minute, and let me make a few calls. I'll ask a few of my old colleagues and see if they have any information."

Then, Captain Sun started making calls to his former colleagues. In the end, only one of the colleagues had been able to tell him anything helpful. He told him that when Cui Fangyu was arrested, he had been alone.

This meant that his wife had died long ago! As for his child, no one knew about that. However, with Captain Sun's continued assistance, they were finally able to find out about something that had happened after Cui Fangyu's death.

Apparently back then, Cui Fangyu's parents were still alive, and they were the ones that took care of the funeral. Also, regarding Cui Jinghao's missing persons report, it was lodged by the two elderly grandparents! Unfortunately, the two passed away due to health issues a few years later.

As he was helping them, Captain Sun seemed very friendly. He used all of his sources to help Zhao Yu check out Ma Wenliang's whereabouts. In the end, they found that Ma Wenliang had been arrested in a local police station after being involved in a fight. The record book even had his contact details and temporary address at that time!

As long as they could find this person, they could definitely find more clues! This excited everyone immensely!

"Thank you so much!" Before he left, Zhao Yu shook Captain Sun's hand and the two men happily exchanged numbers.

Captain Sun said that he was free anyway, so he would be happy help to gather more information. He also promised that he would inform Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu whenever he found any valuable information. They thanked him once again, then left the police station.

“After they left, Zhao Yu looked at Cui Lizhu and asked, “How’s that for a sunlit avenue? The power of the police team is strong and far better than any seedy source of information!”

“Team Leader, are you suggesting for me that I should take the bright path, like you?” Cui Lizhu teased. “I heard some hidden message behind what you just said! I was forced to take my dark path back then, but what about you? I see that you know quite a bit about the rules of the seedy scene! Would it be that you used to be a spy?”

“Hey, don’t drift away from the topic!” Zhao Yu immediately took out Ma Wenliang’s address, which he had copied from the record. “Let’s find this bast*rd!”

Investigating a case in a foreign place was different from investigating it locally. One example was that Zhao Yu had no car here, so he could only take the public bus with Cui Lizhu.

Even though they put a lot of effort into finding Ma Wenliang’s temporary residence, once they got there, the results were very disappointing. This was because there was no one at the temporary residence!

According to the neighbors, Ma Wenliang had been living there about a year ago. So, the address that he had left at the police station was clearly an old, fake address. They didn’t even bother to check the phone number, as they were certain that it was a fake as well!

“This is so depressing!” On the way home, Cui Lizhu said in distress, “Looking for this person took so much time and effort! I think it will be too difficult for us to complete this task within the allotted time!”

“Silly girl,” Zhao Yu patted Cui Lizhu’s shoulders. “An investigation isn’t as easy as a burglary! This is a job that requires patience and determination! Let’s go look for the local police station that detained him and see if there’s any reward being offered. According to my experience, the more difficult it is to find a witness, the more valuable he is!”

“Mm... Team Leader...” Just then, Cui Lizhu pushed away at Zhao Yu’s inappropriately placed hand.

She then creased her eyebrows and said, “I feel like your sunlit avenue ideal isn’t quite realistic. Why don’t we split up and both try our own approaches? Ma Wenliang is a gambler and a womanizer, so I’ll go to the nearby casino and entertainment venues that are near where he was arrested!”

“Mm... This...” Zhao Yu creased his eyebrows, clearly concerned as he was thinking about her proposal. “But, you’re a girl. Isn’t it inappropriate for you to go to those kinds of places? Why don’t we swap?”

“It’s okay!” Cui Lizhu smiled. “I’m no rookie. If I can’t even deal with this kind of a situation, I’d better not mix around with the special investigation group! Plus, you have legal documents, so it’s more suitable for you to go to the local police station, Mister Police Officer!”

“Then, at least let me buy you a phone, as we have to be in touch at all times!” Zhao Yu said, as he extended his hand into his pocket to get some money.

“It’s okay!” Cui Lizhu took out a white phone from her pocket and said, “I’ll contact you if there’s anything to report!”

“What the h*ck? Little Zhu, you can’t do that...” Before Zhao Yu could give her a lecture, she had already disappeared!

Phew...

Zhao Yu sighed, He had to admit that he was secretly glad that the smarty pants finally left. After all, it was much easier when he could simply do his own thing.

Zhao Yu flashed a treacherous smile and called a cab. Then, he took out his phone to call his most trusted people searching expert at the Rongyang Branch, Zhang Jingfeng!

“Hey, Zhang!” Zhao Yu greeted his colleague. He then lowered his voice and asked, “About that thing that I told you to investigate, how did it go? Have you found the location?”

“Yes!” Zhang Jingfeng replied excitedly. “I’m sending you the location now. But, when you arrive at the destination, you gotta look closely for it, as I only found Cui Family’s ancestral tomb’s address, but I can’t guarantee that the tombstone that you’re looking for is there!”