

Crazy 631

Chapter 631: Wishful Thinking

It turns out that Zhao Yu had travelled to Bai Ling City to not only investigate Cui Lizhu's origins, but to also look for clues about the Headless Female Corpses Case and the Gem Theft Case. So, he really did have ulterior motives!

Actually, he even had a third main goal, which was to look for Cui Lizhu's parents' graves. More accurately, he was searching for Cui Lizhu's mother's, Du Manting's, grave!

It turns out the story began from the side quest that Zhao Yu had experienced the day before. At that time, the side quest had pointed him towards a funeral that was held in a cemetery, where he met a gold-digging b*tch!

At first, it didn't seem like anything special, and Zhao Yu had scared off the b*tch, not thinking anymore of it. At least, not until night, when Zhao Yu read through the case information and suddenly had a great discovery. In Cui Lizhu's testimony, there was a crucial piece of information that had been recorded.

Cui Lizhu had said that, before something happened to Tao Xiang's brain, he had once told her he wanted Cui Lizhu to bury him with her mother! Back then, Cui Lizhu was curious about his strange request, so she asked him to explain more. However, Tao Xiang never carried the conversation any further.

Back then, Cui Lizhu had thought that it was merely Tao Xiang's emotional desire to be placed next to her mother, so that he would not miss her mother in eternity. But, after Tao Xiang went mad, he had told Cui Lizhu the same thing a couple more times!

As Cui Lizhu didn't even know exactly who her mother was, she still couldn't take the matter seriously. However, when Tao Xiang was arrested, and it was suspected that he was the murderer of the Headless Female Corpses Case, Cui Lizhu could not longer take his last request lightly.

This was why she had immediately recorded it in her official testimony. With all of this uncovered mystery and secrecy, Cui Lizhu was beginning to worry that Tao Xiang might really be capable of having done such horrible things.

Cui Lizhu felt a chill run down her spine and she had goosebumps all over. Could my step dad, the man that raised me, really be a treacherous serial killer?

At first, Zhao Yu had thought of the same possibility. However, as he repeatedly pondered it, he was guessing something else entirely...

First off, the request had been made when Tao Xiang was of a sound mind, so it shouldn't be random nonsense. Specifically, there should be some hidden meaning behind it.

This was especially proven when, after the incident, he repeatedly brought it up again. This meant that he was not joking, but that there really was some vital and important reason for the request.

Next, Tao Xiang knew that Cui Lizhu wasn't his real daughter, so he wouldn't call another woman that he had nothing to do Cui Lizhu's mother.

In the end, Zhao Yu read between the lines, sensing a shocking truth behind the request! Could it be that Tao Xiang and Cui Lizhu's mother were actually related?

Of course, he was strictly speculating. Hence, he didn't investigate it any further.

However, when Cui Lizhu's DNA comparison report was completed, everything changed, especially when Zhao Yu found out that Cui Lizhu's mother had died not long after she was born! Hence, he had to reinterpret the request again.

As he did so, he obviously found out another piece of shocking news...

If Tao Xiang were to be telling the truth, doesn't it mean that Tao Xiang and Cui Lizhu's mother were in a very special relationship?

Then, would it be...

As Tao Xiang and Cui Lizhu's mother Du Manting were once a couple, this could have meant that Tao Xiang, who was still young at that time, had not yet had his manhood ability issues yet.

However, Du Manting didn't partner with Tao Xiang till the end, but instead married Cui Fangyu and gave birth to a daughter while she was with him. But, maybe Tao Xiang thought the child was his, so he stole the child away! Then, when the child hadn't yet turned a month old, Du Manting had died in a car accident!

According to the report, Du Manting had been driving during a bad snowstorm. She had lost control of the car and hit a big truck, which had killed her instantly. Theoretically, a woman who had just recently had a baby wouldn't drive out into a snowstorm alone!

Hence, she must have been trying to run away to be with Tao Xiang! Or... Maybe because Tao Xiang stole her daughter, she was in a hurry to find her?

Regardless, one thing was for sure, although Du Manting had died, Tao Xiang still missed her. Hence, he had made such a request to Cui Lizhu.

From Cui Lizhu's testimony, it could be seen that Tao Xiang never had any feelings for other women, as he had lost his physical ability for intimacy soon after that time. Maybe, in his heart, Du Manting was his one and only, so having that physical intimacy with anyone else just didn't seem to matter anymore...

Then...

Then...

If the Tamil Star was still with Tao Xiang, then... Would he have buried it in Du Manting's grave?

Could it be?

At first, Zhao Yu too was shocked by his own ridiculous hypothesis! But, the thought remained deeply carved in his thoughts...

Tao Xiang had said, "Bury me with your mother...Bury us together..."

This seemed to turn into a curse in Zhao Yu's head, causing his thoughts to whirl.

Back then, Tao Xiang had stolen the gemstone and only returned it after such a long time! Was this because he went to pay his respects at her grave, which is why he had buried the gemstone in her grave?

Adding to his suspicions, Zhao Yu had happened to come across the funeral at the cemetery during his side quest, and he heard the Indestructible Great Wall song... Thus, everything seemed to be the system's hinting at him, pushing him to come to these conclusions about the case!

Especially during the analysis meeting, when Rao Tao had annoyed Cui Lizhu by asking why her dad hadn't divulged the whereabouts of the gemstone, it had reminded Zhao Yu that the reason Tao Xiang had repeated the request to Cui Lizhu might be because he wanted to be sure that she would find something in her mother's grave!

Hence, Zhao Yu immediately decided to take a trip to visit Du Manting's grave! After all, he must see if there was any truth to all of his suspicions!

Of course, Zhao Yu didn't want to hide anything from Wu Xiumin and the others, but his current idea was too strange. As such, he was worried that if he went and investigated, only to return empty-handed, he would become a joke!

So, he used some random personal excuse to head to Nanjiang alone. Then, if he could find the gemstone, it'd be a shocking and pleasant surprise to everyone. But, if he didn't find the gemstone, he wouldn't be embarrassed!

So, when Zhao Yu had gotten the Dui Gen hexagram on the high speed rail, he was super excited! He knew that Gen represented the progress of the case investigation, but he wasn't sure about Dui...

Did its meaning corresponded with the return of the gemstone?

If so, when Cui Lizhu felt anxious and wondered if all of this was a waste of time, Zhao Yu could still remain calm! Moreover, he had thought through all of this long ago. Once he was able to find Du Manting's grave, he would immediately get rid of Cui Lizhu and hunt for treasure in the cemetery himself!

However, since he might be digging up Du Manting's grave, and she was Cui Lizhu's mother, he obviously couldn't let Cui Lizhu know about it! Sitting in the taxi, Zhao Yu showed the driver the location of the cemetery as he chuckled maliciously.

If I really can find the Tamil Star, I'll be famous!

Hehehe...

Wu Fangfang, you'll shower in your own regret! This will be your retribution for giving me the cold shoulder! You're too inexperienced to fight against me! You should have known better!

The taxi driver saw that Zhao Yu was laughing crazily, so he already thought that Zhao Yu was not quite right in his head. Then, when he saw that he was getting out at the cemetery, the driver felt even more terrified of him. He dropped Zhao Yu off and quickly drove away.

Zhao Yu hummed a song and walked through the graves to look for the location of the Cui family's graves. Zhao Yu quickly noticed that there was a two-seater battery powered vehicle located at the bottom of a small hill nearby. The weirdest part was that, when he got closer to the vehicle, he heard a digging sound next the grave!

Hey? What's going on?

As he was curious, Zhao Yu walked over to investigate the scene carefully. In the end, when he took a closer look, he was shocked!

Oh my! Motherf*cker! How could this be?

Chapter 632: Atheist

When Zhao Yu came forward quietly, he saw that Cui Lizhu was dressed in sky blue sports attire and was digging up soil with a shovel!

What the h*ck?

Zhao Yu couldn't believe his eyes! Why would Cui Lizhu appear?

"Oh, I see. It is Team Leader!" When Cui Lizhu saw Zhao Yu, she wasn't shocked at all.

She threw another shovel over at him and pointed at the tombstone, beginning to read its inscription aloud, "Dearest wife, Manting.... This should be it! It must be here!"

Zhao Yu took the shovel and felt uncomfortable. At first, he just stood there awkwardly, then he took a look at the tombstone.

The inscription on the tombstone showed that the owner of the grave was indeed Cui Lizhu's mother, Du Manting. However, due to the passing of time, the photo that was depicted on the tombstone had become quite blurry and worn.

Cui Lizhu moved some more soil with her shovel, then pointed at the next tombstone and said, "That's my biological dad's tombstone! Although they lived bad lives, they were still together at the end. This is considered another kind of bliss, right?!"

Zhao Yu walked before Cui Lizhu and scratched his back as he said, "Stop now. Otherwise, I'll take out my gun!"

"Hehe, Team Leader, stop fooling around!" Cui Lizhu couldn't be bothered with his nonsense, so she said, "I slept in your bed, so I know everything, including what you brought with you! There's no gun!"

"You... Mm..." Zhao Yu stuttered and continued to glare at her. He then asked, "Do you know what you are doing? Digging about a gravesite is not a becoming act for a woman, or anyone for that matter! Moreover, you are digging in your own mother's grave! Aren't you afraid of bad karma?"

“Team Leader, I am an Atheist!” Cui Lizhu said, continuing to dig. “If you want to talk about bad karma, wasn’t the first half of my life tragic enough? I lost my parents, then was raised by a thief!”

“Yeah, exactly!” Zhao Yu seized this chance to give her a lecture. “I’m trying to pull you back to the right path? Listen to me, don’t do silly things, just because you were raised by a criminal, okay?”

Cui Lizhu continued to shovel and asked, “You’re leading me now? Are you Jesus? You think that I don’t know why you are here? Don’t tell me that you have a different intention than my own!”

“Alright. Tell me! What’s the purpose of my visit?” Zhao Yu was stubborn.

“Alright!” Cui Lizhu finally put down the metal shovel. She walked before Zhao Yu and said with hatred, “You really remembered what my dad said! Honestly, I only understood this when you bought your railway ticket here! Fortunately, my response was fast enough. Otherwise, you would have been the early bird that caught the worm!”

Listening to what Cui Lizhu said, Zhao Yu finally understood. Cui Lizhu had realized that the gemstone might be hidden in Du Manting’s grave!

As he, who was an outsider, could understand Tao Xiang’s meaning, he had to wonder how Cui Lizhu, who was the person involved, could she not understand from the very beginning! However, if Cui Lizhu had realized his intentions long ago, it seemed that her anxiety during the previous day was most likely a show that she had just put on!

This female cat burglar is sure cunning!

“But... I don’t understand...” Zhao Yu pointed at the grave. “How did you find this grave before I did?”

“It wasn’t that difficult!” Then, Cui Lizhu took out her phone. “You kept Captain Sun’s phone number, so I was able to find it too!”

“Oh... So, Captain Sun found it for you?” Zhao Yu was surprised

Then, he threw the shovel on the ground and said, “That means that none of the things here are yours?”

“No... I bought the sports attire, so that’s mine!” Cui Lizhu pointed at the clothes on her back and said, “My clothes were too tight!”

Zhao Yu went crazy. “You bought that with money? Where did the money come from? Did you steal the money? Little Zhu, when will you start listening to me?”

“Shh! Alright, Team Leader, keep your voice down. We are digging up a grave, after all!” Cui Lizhu pointed at the grave before her and asked seriously, “How about this? We follow the rules, then we split this in half? After digging out these things, besides the gemstone to fulfill the quest, we will split the rest of the things evenly between us, okay?”

“You... What are you talking about?” Zhao Yu creased his eyebrows and asked, aghast.

“Oh please! I’m talking about serious business here!” Cui Lizhu said seriously. “My dad is the king of the thieves, after all! You aren’t thinking that there is only a single piece of India gemstone in here, right? Do

you know how many good things that he stole? Don't you understand? My mother's grave is most probably a golden mountain of treasures!"

"Bullsh*t!" Zhao Yu roared. "Are you sure that Tao Xiang would bury every treasure that he had ever stolen here? That is quite an assumption!"

"My dear daughter, after I die, you must bury me with your mother! You must remember this wish!" Cui Lizhu suddenly imitated Tao Xiang's tone, mimicking what her father had once requested of her.

She then told Zhao Yu, "Team Leader, can't you tell? My dad was leaving me an inheritance!"

Zhao Yu let out another sigh. Suddenly, he understood another thing...

It turns out that Cui Lizhu had misunderstood him. She thought that he was trying to take Tao Xiang's treasures as his own, when in actuality, Zhao Yu had no intention of taking all that treasure!

No matter how valuable those things were, they were all stolen goods. Thus, he couldn't take them into his personal possession.

The reason why he did so secretly was merely because he was afraid that he couldn't find anything, which would be embarrassing for someone of his position as team leader and a sleuth detective! However, what Cui Lizhu meant was regarding utility and efficacy!

No way!

Zhao Yu realized that, if he didn't give Cui Lizhu a stern lecture, she might be a thief for the rest of her life! He was even thinking of taking out his handcuffs to really scare her!

However, he then thought, What's the hurry? Even if I said a bunch of things to Cui Lizhu, and then it turns out that we don't find anything in the grave, I would have just been wasting my time and effort!

Hey?

Oh yeah!

Suddenly, Zhao Yu remembered that one of the latest devices that he had gotten was a metal detector!

It'd be great if I used the metal detector first, right? If it doesn't sense anything, there's no point in wasting our time and effort!

Then, Zhao Yu immediately tapped the device in his device bar and used it. The device rewarded by the system very powerful, and it could even detect any metal item below twenty meters in depth!

Beep, beep, beep... The detector started working, as Zhao Yu moved around in the cemetery. Cui Lizhu found his actions inexplicable.

Zhao Yu had merely walked a few steps, when the detector suddenly reacted.

Beep, beep, beep... Beep, beep, beep... The detector started blinking. In no time, a simple detecting plan had appeared in Zhao Yu's head!

Oh my God!

He looked at the detecting plan and shivered in excitement!

I never thought... Underground... There's really something there!

Chapter 633: Secret in Each Mind

"Team Leader, slow down!" Cui Lizhu saw that Zhao Yu was shoveling too quickly, which caused him to be covered in sweat.

She was shocked by the sight of him, so she teased him. "We are digging a grave, bro. And, she's my mother! Can't you be more gentle? Why are you even in more of a hurry than I am?"

"Save your bullsh*t! The sky is growing dark! Hurry up, will you?" Zhao Yu continued to dig, then said, "Luckily, the ground hasn't frozen yet. If we were to return any later, we wouldn't be able to dig through it! Little Zhu, don't just stand there. Hurry up and move the battery-powered vehicle to the forest. It's too conspicuous, and anyone could see it from even a great distance away!"

Cui Lizhu crossed her arms, then asked in confusion, "Aren't you a police officer from the special investigation group? What are you afraid of? If someone asks, you can just say that you're investigating a case!"

"Follow my command! No more of your nonsense! Have you seen any case investigation that requires someone to dig up a grave?" Zhao Yu shouted. "Plus, the sky is growing dark! Go and prepare some lighting for us!"

Hearing Zhao Yu's command, Cui Lizhu left the battery-powered vehicle unwillingly.

It turns out that Zhao Yu had used the metal detector to find that, under Du Manting's grave, there was a huge metallic object! That object was rectangular, like a metal box!

The object was buried three meters deep and was leaning at the opening of the coffin pit. So, they only needed to unearth the box itself. He was grateful to find that there was no need for them to dig any further or disturb anything else at the gravesite.

Just in case, Zhao Yu looked around again, even at Cui Fangyu's grave. But, as the detector didn't send any unique response, he figured that the box was all that he needed to be focused on.

From the detecting map, the metal box appeared to be quite huge. This made him think that there must be a lot of things inside it!

Needless to say, the metal box was definitely the treasure that the king of the thieves left behind! That Tamil Star was most likely hidden in this very box!

Unable to keep his cool at such a critical moment, Zhao Yu quickly took up the metal shovel and started digging even harder than Cui Lizhu had been! A few minutes later, Cui Lizhu parked the vehicle and returned to dig alongside Zhao Yu.

"No, no, come closer to my side. Dig along the traces that I left, all the way down!" Zhao Yu pointed out the location carefully.

“Seriously?” Cui Lizhu was surprised by his seemingly strange instructions. “What exactly did you see there? How do you know where to dig?”

“Hmmm....A good guess?” Zhao Yu was hesitant to explain the whole truth to her.

“Oh... Team Leader! You’re awesome!” Cui Lizhu pointed at the soil and said, “Could it be that you’re the legendary gold officer, so you can see treasure before it has even been dug up?”

Zhao Yu smirked, then said, “To be frank with you, I have fluoroscopic vision! Not only can I see things underground, but I can picture you, as you are standing before me, without your clothes on!”

Cui Lizhu stuck her tongue out at him, then exclaimed, “Team Leader, I realize now that you are a true gangster!”

“Thank you for your compliment! Now, don’t be envious of my digging prowess!” Zhao Yu was arrogant. His digging speed was faster than hers!

As they continued to dig, Zhao Yu look at her, his face full of solemnity. Then, he said in all sincerity, “Little Zhu, regardless of the items that we dig out, you must remember that they are not yours!”

Hearing his somewhat accusatory words, Cui Lizhu immediately dropped the shovel and shouted at Zhao Yu, “Team Leader, do you not know the rules? Are you trying to up the price now?”

Zhao Yu put down his shovel, then turned to her to try to clarify what he meant. “That’s not what I meant. I’m trying to help you, don’t you know that? Tao Xiang’s things are all stolen goods! They’re not an inheritance! You have to understand that this is merely a great opportunity for you to earn merits with the police and the law. It doesn’t mean that you can take the treasures!”

“What are you talking about?” Cui Lizhu shouted. “Fine! Consider yourself as having done well! Then, you take your eight percent, and I’ll take my twenty. Alright?”

“Silly girl, you still don’t understand...” Zhao Yu put both his hands together and did a Buddhist hand gesture, then said, “This is not about money! This is about your bright future! You are young...”

“Team Leader,” Before Zhao Yu could finish, Cui Lizhu cut in and said, “I don’t understand how you think. Don’t you know that how much my dad’s inheritance, were it to be buried here, would be worth? Even if you only got one percent, it would be more than enough for you to gain a fortune! With so much money, you wouldn’t have to be a police officer!”

“That’s enough!” Zhao Yu roared. “What kind of nonsense is this? I was the one who found the Gold Buddha treasure in the Qinshan General Ridge, after all! Cui Lizhu, wake up. The treasures are not yours! Do you really desire to be on the wanted list at the police authority for the rest of your life? Listen to me, among all of the thieves that I know, not one of them has a good ending!”

He paused to compose himself, then continued lecturing her. “If you were to earn some merits, I would then apply for a reduced sentence on your behalf. Then, you could be a free person and live a normal life! So, don’t be silly again!”

Cui Lizhu laughed bitterly and raised her palm that had lost both thumbs. She then asked, “Team Leader, do you really think that I could live a normal life?”

“Why not?” Zhao Yu asked determinedly. “If you are willing to try, nothing is impossible!”

“Hehehe...” Cui Lizhu laughed and looked off to the side. She then said expressionlessly, “Alright, Team Leader, I’ll listen to you, but what if there’s nothing here?”

“Just you wait! I really have fluoroscopic vision!” Zhao Yu said determinedly. He then picked up the shovel and started digging again.

After settling down her emotions, Cui Lizhu also grabbed a shovel and started digging with Zhao Yu. From then onwards, they remained in an awkward silence.

In Zhao Yu’s heart, he had to wonder if he had managed to convince her. Maybe, in Cui Lizhu’s head, she was thinking on how to take away the treasure from his hands later!

Hence, Zhao Yu reminded himself that, once he found the treasure, he must be extremely cautious with this woman. He couldn’t let Cui Lizhu find any loophole that she could take advantage of!

Chapter 634: The Treasure of the King of Thieves

Digging up the grave was hard work! Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu began at sunrise and were still digging after the sun had set!

At that very moment, the cemetery was quiet and desolate. Although the two of them were covered in sweat, they felt a chill run down their spines.

Cui Lizhu even said a prayer as she dug. “Mum, protect me. Mum, protect me...”

Thanks to his metal detector, Zhao Yu was able to pinpoint the location of the box accurately. He reckoned that soon he would be able to dig the box up!

He had planned this all out long ago. Once he confirmed that it really was Tao Xiang’s treasure in the metal box, he would immediately report it to the police and request local backup. If Cui Lizhu were to try any funny business, he would resort to force, as he wouldn’t want her to make another mistake!

Dong!

Just then, Cui Lizhu’s shovel hit on a tough object and made a clashing sound that only metal would make. Cui Lizhu was thrilled!

She quickly turned on the flashlight function on her phone and shined it at the object. Zhao Yu saw this and quickly got into the pit, looking around carefully. Underneath the just unearthed soil, there really was a silver metal object!

“It’s... It’s a box!” Cui Lizhu immediately switched to a smaller size shovel and started digging along the edges of the metal box. Zhao Yu helped as well.

Soon enough, the two of them started unearthing the box. However, the box was still half buried beneath the heavy soil, so they couldn’t dig it all out at that moment. However, the lid of the metal box was exposed entirely, allowing them to open it.

“Seriously? Why would there be two locks?” Cui Lizhu looked closely and realized that the ancient box had two locks on it. One required passcode and the other required a key.

“Can you open them?” Zhao Yu asked her about the locks. “After all, you’re the daughter of the king of thieves!”

“I know the passcode! My father told me it once! As for the other lock, of course I can open that! However...” Cui Lizhu said awkwardly, “I don’t have any tools here! Without my tools, I can’t open it! Let me at least see about the first one...”

Then, Cui Lizhu touched the first lock carefully, spinning the letters and entering the passcode that she remembered. Suddenly, with a crisp clicking sound, the first lock was unlocked with ease!

However, she now saw that both of locks were intertwined! Hence, there was no use opening only one lock, as they still wouldn’t be able to open the box!

“It’s stuffed with soil!” Cui Lizhu examined the keyhole of the second lock carefully, then said helplessly, “We will have to find tools in the city! But, by this time, many places are already closed, right? Plus...”

Cui Lizhu blinked at Zhao Yu, she meant to say that neither of them was an appropriate candidate to stay back and look after the treasure alone.

Cui Lizhu took a step back, then said, “We should both just continue to dig until the box is exposed entirely!”

Zhao Yu thought for a moment, then realized the complication of the matter. Looking at the size of the box, if it was really filled with treasure, the battery powered vehicle that Cui Lizhu had stolen obviously wouldn’t be able to transport the box.

Then, Zhao Yu came before the box and activated the Skeleton Key in his device bar. Now that he had activated the Skeleton Key, any box lock wouldn’t be able to stand in his way!

However, Zhao Yu was an expert in acting, and he knew that he couldn’t let Cui Lizhu know about his secret weapon. Hence, he pretended to direct his energy to his hand through his concentration. He then roared along with the tap on the skeleton key. And...Voila! The second lock was unlocked!

“See that? My strength brings miracles!” In order to not draw Cui Lizhu’s suspicions, he intentionally exaggerated and acted boastful of his own might. “Don’t admire you brother, as then I would become too full of myself!”

Cui Lizhu could only wipe her sweat and reveal a disdainful expression. As they both looked at the two unlocked locks, their hearts started pumping. Their eyes were opened wide and they were holding their breaths!

The box was made of metal, so even the lid was extremely heavy. Even working together, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu only barely managed to open the lid entirely!

As the lid was opened, they both got a whiff of an old and musty scent. Then, a rotten smell followed.

Zhao Yu reacted by immediately using an Invisible Detector to detect the quality of air. In the end, the detector certified that the air within the box was normal, thus ruling out the presence of any poisonous gases and such. Only then did Zhao Yu relax.

Then, Cui Lizhu creased her eyebrows and asked, "Hey! Why would it be black inside?"

Hmmm... Zhao Yu was wondering the same thing. He thought that it'd be like when he had found the Golden Buddha treasure. At first glance, that treasure was a shimmering gold, accompanied by bright and sparkly jewels! However, unexpectedly, this box was just full of darkness!

"Seriously? Could it actually be empty?" Zhao Yu spoke with a disappointed tone.

"No way! What is this?" Cui Lizhu saw that there was something in the box, but she dared not touch it with her hand. Instead, she used the short shovel to flip it over.

"This is..." Cui Lizhu lowered her head to take a closer look, then suddenly understood what it was...

"Ah!!!!!" Cui Lizhu got frightened and started to tremble. She dropped her phone and shovel, then moved backwards till she fell on her butt!

"Oh my motherf*cker..." Zhao Yu was also shining his phone's flashlight in the box, so he saw exactly what was in the box at almost the same time as Cui Lizhu!

It was a skull!

Cui Lizhu was as pale as a sheet and was scared out of her wits. She was shivering all over as she asked Zhao Yu, "Is it real?"

At that very moment, even Zhao Yu was deathly pale. He could clearly see that it was definitely a real skull! Although most of it had rotted, there was surprisingly still some hair on it!

Suddenly, Zhao Yu felt numb, as though the blood in his body had stopped flowing. In order to confirm his thoughts, he lifted up his phone and shined it into the box.

The skull was located at one of the corners in the box, so Zhao Yu extended his hand to grab the short shovel, then he poked around on the other side of the box. It turns out that there was a pool of water at the bottom of the box, too! As he moved around the short shovel, he felt other things within the pool of water!

Oh my God!

Suddenly, a strong suffocating feeling spread over the stupefied Zhao Yu!

1...2....3... He started counting in his head with a poker face.

He finished his counting at the number six. This is because he had counted six skulls in the box! Taking a moment to let the implications of this sink in, he then turned around and told Cui Lizhu regretfully, "This proves that Tao Xiang is the murderer of the Headless Female Corpses Case..."

Chapter 635: Two News Updates

At ten that night, a huge concert was held in Bai Ling Stadium. The singing queen Zhang Zichen was holding her hundredth concert!

Her fans from across the nation had gathered there and it was an extremely magnificent spectacle! There were many celebrities that came to support her, giving her fans one surprise after another.

Just as Zhao Yu was panicking and rushing to the venue, the concert was nearing its end. Zhang Zichen was singing her last song and every audience member at the scene was being enchanted by her melodious voice.

Actually, Zhao Yu had rushed there because he had no choice. This was because his side quest that day had pointed him there!

Even though he had just had such a harrowing experience in the cemetery, he couldn't give up on the side quest. After all, besides earning points, he might be able to find more clues about the case!

Zhao Yu held his phone up and finally found the exact location of the side quest. The singing queen, Zhang Zichen happened to be finishing her last song at that very moment.

As she sang her final note, she took off her hairband and threw it into the crowd. At that moment, the power of side quest showed itself, her hairband fell right into Zhao Yu's hands! Then, the concert ended and Zhang Zichen recruited all of her guest singers to come up on the stage to bid farewell to the audience.

"Bro, bro!" A young man with glasses squeezed through the crowd and called out to Zhao Yu. He then said anxiously, "Come, pass me your WeChat ID! I'll transfer you the money now, as I want to buy Zhang Zichen's hairband!"

"No, no!" Just then, a fat man came over to Zhao Yu and said, "I'll give you twenty thousand dollars if you sell it to me! I have to get that hairband today!"

The young man with glasses immediately extended all five of his fingers and said to Zhao Yu, "I'll give you fifty thousand for it! Pass me your ID and I'll transfer the money right now!"

That very next second, a girl in a pink shirt shouted at Zhao Yu, "I'll give you sixty thousand! Give it to me!"

"Seventy thousand... I'll give seventy thousand!"

The three of them constantly increased their prices, and on and on it went for quite awhile. Looking at those mad fans, Zhao Yu felt dizzy. From the bottom of his heart, Zhao Yu actually really wanted to break the silly hairband in front of everyone, just to vent his distress!

However, he suddenly held back the urge, as although he wasn't in need of money, he was in need of more miracle adventure accumulative points! If he were to break the hair band brutally, his accumulative points would definitely be affected.

So, Zhao Yu suppressed the anger in his heart and raised the hairband in the air. He then shouted, "Godd*mnit! Listen to me! I will only sell it for one price, and that is two hundred thousand! Anyone who wants it must pay me that amount now! If not, I shall leave with it immediately! I'll count to three..."

“Hey? He’s here!” Just as Zhao Yu was shouting his price, two security guards who had been looking for him saw him.

They ran towards him and were going to capture him! However, Zhao Yu immediately threw a punch at one of them and kicked the other one, sending the two security guards flying through the air.

“Anymore offers? I shall close shop then!” Zhao Yu waved the celebrity’s hairband in the air and shouted, “Two hundred thousand...”

“Alright! I want it! Give it to me!” The petite woman in the pink skirt clenched her teeth and finally got it. Zhao Yu sold her the hairband at the sky high price of two hundred thousand dollars!

...

However, even though Zhao Yu got the money, it didn’t cheer him up at all. It was actually the contrary, as he still felt unsettled and terrified. The six skulls in the treasure box were like terrifying incubus, taking up all of the space in his mind!

How could this be?

Even if anyone gave Zhao Yu another hundred chances, he would have never guessed that things would turn out this way! At first, it could be considered magical that he could find the box at Du Manting’s grave!

But, who would have guessed that, in the box, would be...

Sigh!

Zhao Yu felt a mixture of emotions churning within him. It had all happened so suddenly! If he were to have gotten a Kun hexagram in the high-speed rail on the way there, he would at least have been mentally prepared!

However, he had gotten a Dui Gen hexagram, and he was confident that the Dui hexagram represented wealth. Hence, he thought that the wealth would come from Tao Xiang’s treasure in the box!

Yet, from what it seemed, everything he had thought had been wrong! The Dui hexagram wasn’t referring to the treasure, but to the hair band!

As Zhao Yu drove, his car went faster and faster. Then, when his cell phone rang, Zhao Yu was so jumpy, he nearly lost control of the car!

“Hello?” Zhao Yu answered.

The call was from the contact officer, Chen Zhuo. “Zhao Yu, what’s going on? Didn’t we say that we are focusing on investigating the Gem Theft Case? Why would there be skulls that appeared out of nowhere? Where did the skulls come from, and how do they relate to the Headless Female Corpses Case? Also, why are you in Bai Ling?”

“Can you slow down with the rapid-fire questions?” Zhao Yu was obviously on the brink of breaking down. He roared at Chen Zhuo, “Didn’t I tell you everything? Where’s Tao Xiang? Tao Xiang is a murderer!”

“He... I... I asked!” Chen Zhuo was stupefied that he was being scolded. He stuttered and said, “Wu Fangfang brought Tao Xiang with her. They are on their way to the capital!”

“Don’t go to the capital. Bring him to Bai Ling!” Although Zhao Yu lowered his tone, his voice still sounded frightening. “Although he went insane, he still has to sit for trial for the crime that he committed!”

“Okay, okay... Hurry up and send me the details and information!” Chen Zhuo said anxiously. “I will go and apply with the higher ups now! This is a big mess...”

Zhao Yu had just hung up when Zeng Ke called. “Team Leader, we are on the high-speed rail now! We will be there by tonight. So, calm down! Don’t panic! Just wait for us, and remember to tell us whenever you have any updates...”

Just as he hung up with Zeng Ke, the Bai Ling Police Station called! This time, it was the friendly Captain Sun.

As the skulls were found in Bai Ling, the case was naturally assigned to the Bai Ling police authority. As the captain of police detectives, Captain Sun became the main person in charge.

“Where are you?” Although Captain Sun had been working on the frontline all of his life, he was shocked by the discovery of the six skulls too.

He reported to Zhao Yu anxiously, “I... We just received two updates! One is that we found Ma Wenliang. He is on his way to the police station right now! The second update is that the test results for two of the skulls are out. Through DNA comparisons, we have certified that the two deceased were indeed victims of the Headless Female Corpses Case. One was Xi Yanmei, who was the deceased that was found in Jinlang in 1996, while the other was Bai Lili, who was found in Ganlong in 1998...”

Chapter 636: Half Right

Following the sudden occurrence of such a terrifying major incident, the Bai Ling Police Station became a frenzied whirlpool of activity. At that very moment, not only were the higher ups in Bai Ling, startled by the news, but even those in Nanjiang provincial city were shocked.

In fact, all of the higher ups who were in any way related to the case traveled through the night to get to the station! So, by the time Zhao Yu arrived at the Bai Ling Police Station in the police car, it was already a bustling scene.

The police officers there had never come across such a huge spectacle, so they were panicking. Luckily, as the police had yet to announce any news to the media, no camera crews were on the scene just yet.

Just as Zhao Yu arrived at the Key Case Investigation Unit that was inside the Bai Ling Police Station, another two DNA comparison reports had just arrived. The results showed that the two skulls belonged to the victims in the Headless Female Corpses Case.

Although there were still two more reports that had yet to be sent over, the police could basically confirm that all of the skulls in the metal box belonged to the victims of the Headless Female Corpses Case. Without a doubt, those skulls were put there by the murderer!

As Zhao Yu had found the location of the box via the clues that Tao Xiang had left behind, he naturally held the primary suspicion that Tao Xiang was behind it all. Then, the national level one major case that happened in Jinzhong had basically confirmed this hypothesis! Once Zhao Yu could prove it, the news would definitely create a great stir throughout the whole nation!

In the Key Case Investigation office, a few local policemen were reporting the updated situation to Zhao Yu. Cui Lizhu suddenly ran out from where she had been hiding in the corner and flung herself into Zhao Yu's arms.

"Woo woo... Woo woo..." Cui Lizhu was really crying her lungs out, so the surrounding policemen didn't dare make any noise.

"Where did you go? I thought, you were going to leave me all alone here. Woo woo..." Cui Lizhu hammered her fists on Zhao Yu's chest and complained, "Woo woo... My dad is a serial killer! He lied to me... Woo woo woo..."

At first, Zhao Yu didn't understand why Cui Lizhu was being so emotional. Then, he finally understood that if Tao Xiang was really the murderer, it meant that Cui Lizhu had been raised by a psycho! This shocking news definitely explained her present breakdown and collapse.

"Alright, alright! I'm back, I'm back!" Zhao Yu patted Cui Lizhu's back and comforted her. "Don't worry, this too shall pass! Like I said, you have to look forward. Don't cry..."

Then, Captain Sun rushed in from the entrance and said, "Ma Wenliang has been arrested and is in the interrogation room now. You can... Mm..."

Captain Sun took a step into the office and saw Zhao Yu hugging Cui Lizhu. As this embarrassed him, he stopped before he could finish what he had planned to say.

"Alright! I'll go now!" Zhao Yu saw that Cui Lizhu wasn't in a stable emotional state, so he dragged her away by her hand and said, "Come on, let's go together!"

A few minutes later, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu finally met Ma Wenliang in the interrogation room. Ma Wenliang was only forty-seven years old, but due to his life having been full of ups and downs, he looked like an old man.

He was an old fox that often visited the police station. As such, although he was seated in the interrogation chair, he didn't look bothered at all.

As Zhao Yu was thinking about what to ask first, before the official interrogation started, Cui Lizhu asked Ma Wenliang, "How did my parents die? Also, my mom and Tao Xiang, how are they related? Tell me... Quick..."

"Mm, what? What's going on?" Ma Wenliang was stupefied.

He then muttered to himself, "Why is this conversation today so bizarre? This is not standard procedure! Did they invent a new interrogation tactic?"

Zhao Yu was confused by Cui Lizhu's outburst too, so he stuttered and pointed at Ma Wenliang, then asked quickly, "Ma Wenliang, take a good look at this female police officer! Do you know her?"

“Huh?” I... I... Don’t know!” Ma Wenliang continued to play dumb.

“Listen carefully, she’s Cui Jinghao, Cui Fangyu and Du Manting’s daughter!” Zhao Yu said. Ma Wenliang replied immediately by gasping and nearly falling out of the chair.

“Jinghao? No... No no no... That’s impossible.” Ma Wenliang struggled to once again hold his body upright, while he opened his eyes wide and looked at Cui Lizhu more closely.

He then asked, “Why... Mm... You don’t say, you do look like her! But... That’s not right. Police officers... What is going on?”

Then, Captain Sun spoke by the side, “We are look for your help! Remember, tell us everything you now honestly!”

“Oh... Oh oh... It has nothing to do with me? You just want my help? You gave me a shock!” Ma Wenliang lifted his head and told Cui Lizhu, “Girl, don’t toy with me. Are you really Third Bro Cui’s daughter? If he were to know that you became a police officer... hehe... How ironic!”

“Alright, save your bullsh*t,” Captain Sun waved his hand and said, “Hurry up, tell us everything that you know about Cui Fangyu and his family! If are helpful, we will reward you!”

“No problem, no problem!” Ma Wenliang didn’t waste any more time and told them everything he knew.

After listening to him, what surprised Zhao Yu most was that his assumption about Cui Lizhu’s parents had only been half right. In actuality, Cui Fangyu and Du Manting had grown up together, so they had nothing to do with Tao Xiang!

In the earlier years, Cui Fangyu used to be a gangster. He was even considered as being quite famous locally and people called him Third Bro!

Although he was a gangster, Cui Fangyu was more business-minded. He quickly set his sight on the smuggling business, creating a business that took off very well. He even established his own company.

Du Manting naturally followed him and became a rich man’s wife. She then gave birth to Cui Fangyu’s daughter, which was obviously Cui Lizhu!

However, their blissful life had a dark current surging underneath. When Du Manting was pregnant, she found out that Cui Fangyu might have had an affair.

Du Manting then hired a detective to find out the truth. It turns out that Cui Fangyu really did have an affair with a woman in the provincial city.

Understandably, the new mother Du Manting got very angry and emotional. So, she drove her Benz towards provincial city in the middle of the night to catch the adulterers in the act. However, on her way there, Du Manting got into an accident and died tragically!

Cui Fangyu obviously had felt deeply regretful and remorseful. So, after he buried his wife, he parted ways with the woman forever, then took care of his child by himself.

However, this good time didn't last for long. Within two years, his company went down the tubes. This placed Cui Fangyu in a terrible state.

Just at this crucial moment, there was yet another surprise. The woman who had once had a thing with Cui Fangyu had been living a deplorable life, so she came to ask Cui Fangyu for money.

As Cui Fangyu barely had enough for himself, he couldn't give her any money. In the end, the woman got angry with him and stole Cui away!

"Oh..." Then, Zhao Yu finally understood. It seemed like he had at least gotten it half right. Hence, he asked Ma Wenliang, "The woman who stole the child, is her name Bai Lili?"

Chapter 637: The Most Reasonable Explanation

"Yes yes yes, her name is Bai Lili! Aiyo... You knew it all!" Ma Wenliang seemed to have goosebumps all over. "That woman died tragically. She even lost her head! And... She didn't die in Nanjiang, but in Jinzhong..."

Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu exchanged a glance. It seemed that Zhao Yu's earliest inference was right. Cui Fangyu really did have an affair with Bai Lili! However, he didn't know that Cui Fangyu's affair would indirectly cause the death of Cui Lizhu's mother!

"Have you heard of Tao Xiang? What is the relationship between the Cui couple and this person?" Zhao Yu asked.

"Tao Xiang?" Ma Wenliang thought for a moment, then said, "Police Officer, I don't even know a single person with the surname Tao! I definitely don't know this person!"

"Then, what happened after the child went missing?" Zhao Yu asked.

"Yeah, they didn't lodge any police report! It wasn't because Third Bro didn't want to lodge a police report, it was because he was under police investigation at that time!" Ma Wenliang took a stroll down memory lane and said, "In the end, Third Bro looked for a friend to help him, but not long after that, Third Bro and I went to prison. Mm... I heard that Third Bro's parents lodged a police report but they never found her..."

Cui Lizhu sighed sadly and said, "It'd be great if I could remember what happened when I was two!"

Cui Lizhu words reminded Zhao Yu that he had the magical Memory Replay Device. If he were to use it on Cui Lizhu, he would be able to see what she saw when she was two!

However, it could only offer a ten-minute clip, so if Cui Lizhu were to be sleeping then, he would have used the device in vain. After some thinking, Zhao Yu found that it was still worth the risk to use the device at such a crucial time.

"Actually..." Ma Wenliang paused for a while, then continued to talk about Cui Lizhu's family's affairs, "Although Third Bro Cui was their only son, he wasn't on good terms with his parents! Otherwise, he wouldn't have needed to join the gangsters at such a young age!"

“Not only that,” Wa Wenliang continued, “But, my sister-in-law was in the same field of burglary. Sometimes, when we would all drink together, the two of them would call each other senior and junior!”

“Huh?” Zhao Yu was stunned. He never thought that the both of them would be burglars. No wonder Cui Lizhu was so talented in it, but....

Hey?

Suddenly, Zhao Yu thought of another possibility, so he asked, “Ma Wenliang, you kept referring to Cui Fangyu as Third Bro, do you know how this name came about? He’s an only son, after all!”

“Hey! You’re right! Mm... Maybe...” Ma Wenliang pondered while, then said, “I don’t know. I’ve just always called him that! In fact, the whole gang did. They were all kind of like siblings anyway.”

“Team Leader...” Cui Lizhu seemed to make out something from what he had just said. She quickly asked Zhao Yu softly, “Maybe Tao Xiang and my biological father were sworn brothers, so what if Tao Xiang is like a Big Bro or Second Bro?”

Zhao Yu nodded faintly and replied, “Possibly. If they were really fellow apprentices, that could explain why Tao Xiang knew your parents and why they were so close! Plus, Tao Xiang, who was the king of the thieves, might even be the friend that your biological father asked for help!”

“Very possibly!” Cui Lizhu exclaimed. “Do you remember the photo? I was kidnapped by Bai Lili, and then my father told Tao Xiang to look for me. That photo could prove that Tao Xiang found me!”

“True!” Zhao Yu said. “Don’t forget Tao Xiang buried the things in your mother’s grave. This means that he held special feelings towards your mom! Also, Bai Lili had to take partial responsibility for your mother’s death. Hence, not only did Tao Xiang find you, he even...”

“This is what you call a motive, right?” Cui Lizhu interrupted him, a terrified look in her eyes. “So here’s motive to kill Bai Lili, but what about the others?”

“No idea!” Zhao Yu shook his head. “It seems like we have to investigate this further, now that we have a new approach in mind.”

Cui Lizhu continued, “We also need to figure out why, after Tao Xiang found me, he didn’t return me. Did he intentionally take me away because he missed my mother and wanted to raise me as his own daughter?”

“It’s hard to say.” Zhao Yu said. “Let’s take a look at the timing. After you were stolen by Bai Lili, your biological father was put behind bars! Tao Xiang couldn’t even have returned you if he wanted to. Although you still had grandparents, they were never in contact, so Tao Xiang and your biological father weren’t assured that your being with them was a good idea...”

“So, do you think it is the safest bet to follow Tao Xiang? But...” Cui Lizhu had so many questions. “But, when my dad passed away, Bai Lili was still alive. Bai Lili was killed in the wintertime, right? If Tao Xiang had really wanted to kill her, why did he wait for half a year before he took action?”

“Maybe he had to take care of you and had no time to take revenge...” Zhao Yu guessed.

“No way...” Cui Lizhu’s eyebrows were tightly knit as she found this idea too weird. “Team Leader, I still feel that Tao Xiang isn’t the murderer! After all, he raised me! If he were really a serial killer, how could I not have noticed anything? Even if he had split personalities, I could at least see that, right?”

“Look at your dad now! Don’t you see him displaying split personalities?” Zhao Yu refuted her.

“That’s different! That’s because he was knocked on his head! That happened later on!” Cui Lizhu said anxiously. “Think about it. Did Tao Xiang say that line to give us a hint that would lead us to the view six skulls in the box? If he liked my mother, why did he bury skulls in her grave? This just doesn’t make sense!”

“No...” Zhao Yu shook his head and said in distress. “Cui, it does make sense! It really does make sense! Think about it. If all six of the deceased had something going on with your father...”

“Huh? What?” Cui Lizhu was stunned on the spot.

“Can’t you tell? Tao Xiang was taking revenge on behalf of your mom. He killed all of the women that had some funny business going on with your biological father, so that he could bury them with her!” Zhao Yu said solemnly. “It isn’t realistic to bury six people there, so he opted to cut off their heads and only bury their skulls! Then, the entire Headless Female Corpses Case makes sense...”

“No... No...” Cui Lizhu shook her head helplessly, still not wanting to believe what Zhao Yu was saying.

Although Zhao Yu found it cruel, he had to continue. “Do you know why there weren’t any more headless female corpses after 1998? It is because Du Manting passed away! Thus, Tao Xiang didn’t have any reason to kill anymore!”

Chapter 638: Funny Evidence

After he interrogated Ma Wenliang, it was already past midnight. Thus, Zhao Yu’s miracle adventure for the day had ended.

Zhao Yu was shocked by the Dui Gen hexagram, as he never expected that it would turn out like it had. However, he had obtained a high completion rate of a hundred and thirty-six, as well as receiving a reward of three Invisible Appraisers!

As it was already past twelve, Zhao Yu didn’t hesitate to get another hexagram. This hexagram then was even more bizarre! He got a rarely seen Kan Li hexagram.

Kan represented woman and Li represented friendship. This was the first time that Zhao Yu’ had gotten this combination.

Zhao Yu thought about it... There isn’t Gen hexagram or Kun hexagram, so it seems like everything should settle down a little today...

Especially without the Gen hexagram, does this mean that the Headless Female Corpses Case can be closed? Is Tao Xiang the psychotic serial killer? He found things to be unfair for his Goddess, Du Manting, so he killed all the women?

Just as the interrogation was about to end earlier, Ma Wenliang seemed to remember something new, and he told them that he had known Cui Fangyu since they were young, so he could guarantee that Cui Fangyu only was with Bai Lili, never any other women!

However, that obviously didn't mean much to them anymore, as the six victims in the Headless Female Corpses Case didn't have to be Cui Fangyu's affairs. Now, they might have offended Du Manting in some way, so Tao Xiang took revenge on her behalf!

Tao Xiang's love towards Du Manting was obviously one that no ordinary people could understand! Then, as long as the police could find the association between the deceased victims and Du Manting, this national case could finally be concluded!

Now that the truth had finally revealed itself, it was entirely different from what Zhao Yu had imagined...

For a period of time after the interrogation, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu sat side by side on the bench in the office of the Bai Ling Key Case Investigation Unit. They had finally gotten a short break.

Cui Lizhu leaned on Zhao Yu's shoulders, as her mind and body were worn out. Her vacant eyes kept staring blankly forward.

Although Zhao Yu was resting his eyes, his thoughts in his head were running around chaotically. He recalled everything that had happened in the Hasty Murder Case over and over again.

He hardly ever came across such situations where cases overlapped one another. He felt that this resulted in a mountain of complicated evidence!

Because of this, Zhao Yu felt weary. He felt like he had been tense for so long that he was simply going to break! Plus, more interestingly, the father and daughter pair, Tao Xiang and Cui Lizhu, were involved in all three of his cases. It was fantastical!

Although the Headless Female Corpses Case was nearing its conclusion, Zhao Yu knew that the final collection of evidence would be very difficult due to Tao Xiang's deteriorated mental health and instability.

Even though Tao Xiang was most likely the murderer of the Headless Female Corpses Case, it was obviously not easy to convict him for a crime that he had committed, at least not now that he was basically crazy! With his current mental state, even if he was convicted, he wouldn't receive the harsh sentence that he deserved.

Such a disappointing and unjust outcome was obviously not something that the victims' families were willing to accept. Besides collecting evidence enough to convict him, Zhao Yu had another thing that was on his mind. Where is the Tamil Star?

Moreover, although the Headless Female Corpses Case had progressed tremendously, the special investigation group still was under the deadline order to look for the lost gemstone!

What if we can't find the gemstone, and the Headless Female Corpses Case can't be closed? I would be in an awkward situation then...

Tsk tsk...

How do I find the gemstone? How do I convict Tao Xiang of his crime?

Just as Zhao Yu was pondering these things, his teammates arrived. Zeng Ke, Ran Tao, and Wu Xiuming entered, bringing simple equipment and updated information with them.

Although he hadn't known these men long, he had formed a strong bond with the three of them. After they arrived, Zhao Yu felt more energetic and confident immediately.

As soon as they were settled, Zhao Yu naturally had to explain everything to them. Zhao Yu told them the truth that, although he had found the clues leading to the cemetery, he was afraid that he wouldn't find anything, so he hadn't told them ahead of time.

His teammates understood Zhao Yu's reasonings. However, the three teammates were shocked by the news of the six skulls! No one expected that there would be skulls in Tao Xiang's treasure box, especially skulls that belonged to the deceased victims of the Headless Female Corpses Case!

After Zhao Yu shared his updates and the specifics from Ma Wenliang's testimony, everyone suddenly understood. They agreed with Zhao Yu in thinking that Tao Xiang was definitely the murderer.

As everyone was already there, the special investigation group started on their tasks immediately. They found an office in the Bai Ling Police Station and started setting up their equipment.

Their immediate priority was to find the connection between the six deceased victims and Du Manting. They had to figure out if they were related somehow. Besides that, they had to investigate Tao Xiang's past to look for new evidence.

At four in the morning, the forensic department in the Bai Ling Police Station sent them updates. The DNA comparison showed that the six skulls belonged to the exact six deceased victims of the Headless Female Corpses Case!

However, what confused the forensic scientists was that, although the six skulls had rotted, they did find a large amount of embalming fluid on the skulls, which also explained the pool of liquid that had collected in the bottom of the box! Theoretically, the dead bodies of the Headless Female Corpses Case were also treated with embalming fluid by the murderer!

However, the fishy part was that the degree of rot that the six skulls had suffered was identical! That was simply unexplainable, as the Headless Female Corpses Case murders had been carried out throughout a timespan of several years!

In those several years, the murderer took six lives. So, theoretically, the rot level of the skulls should be different, depending on the time that they had been murdered. Hence, they were stumped as to why such a situation occurred...

The experienced forensic scientists did make an inference. They thought that there was only one possibility that would lead to identical rot level in the skulls. That is, after the murderer killed the victims, he immediately soaked their skulls in embalming fluid.

Then, when he got all six skulls together, he put all of them into the metal box. As they were only exposed to the air, and all at the same time, the skulls had all come to their exact same current rotten state!

Oh my God!

When Zhao Yu heard this news, the very first scene that popped in his head was when he had found the victims' arms from the Hand Chopped Case in Li Dan's house! The image of those pale arms soaked in the liquid in the jars was trapped inside his head for a very long time. But... Those were just arms. Imagine if they were.... Heads....!

Motherf*cker, Zhao Yu didn't dare imagine any further. This murderer is so treacherous! He was really psychotic...

Chapter 639: Expert

Although Nanjiang was in the South, they still couldn't escape the cold. A chilly current flew through the skies and the outdoor temperature was almost zero.

Plus, due to the moisture in the air, people felt cold and clammy. Although they had heat in the buildings, their bodies were still tense.

Also, the temperatures between the outdoors and the indoors was vastly different. Hence, a layer of thick fog had condensed on the window pane. Even though it was already broad daylight, they still couldn't see through the glass to look outside.

Zeng Ke blew a hot breath on the glass and extended his hands to wipe a partial peephole on the window. He then was finally able to see the police station compound from a short distance.

"Eh? They're here, they're here, they're here!" Zeng Ke had his eyes wide open and called everyone over to the window.

"Where? Where?" Ran Tao quickly wiped away more of the fog and also looked outside. He saw that the police station was surrounded by many armed police forces, which left him astonished. "Wow, that's a great formation! Tao Xiang's identity has changed again. Not only is he the king of the thieves, he is now a psychotic serial killer too!"

Wu Xiumin seized this chance to tease him. "I think you're drooling! Are you green with envy of Tao Xiang? You want to be as famous as this?"

Ran Tao just rolled his eyes at Wu Xiumin.

"Look, Officer Chen is here too!" Zeng Ke yelled.

The three of them looked out and saw the contact officer Chen Zhuo. There was an elderly man who wore a Chinese tunic standing next to him. Although the old man was dressed in an old-fashioned way, he still had an distinguished appearance. In fact, he had quite an imposing air about him.

"Oh..." Zeng Ke recalled, "I overheard Officer Chen and Team Leader's conversation yesterday. They said that they would sent over a forensics expert. Could it be that old man?"

Zeng Ke turned back and looked into the office. He then realized that Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu were nowhere to be seen. When he looked towards the compound again, he saw that Zhao Yu had arrived in front of Chen Zhuo and the elderly man. In fact, he was shaking his hand right then!

“Let’s go, let’s go!” Wu Xiumin quickly beckoned the rest of the team. “We should head down there quickly!”

...

Zeng Ke had guessed right, as the elderly man in the Chinese tunic really was the forensics expert that the Central Criminal Division had hired. He was specifically there to assist the police with evidence collection for the Headless Female Corpses Case.

It was said that he was an highly regarded within the industry, having participated in many major cases within the country and abroad. Not only were his results splendid, he was also hired by many schools as a lecturer. Hence, he was a recognized a supreme authority in this field.

However, the person’s actual name was very lackluster when compared to his impressive persona. The person’s surname was Gao (which means tall) and his given name was Facai (meaning prosperous).

Gao Facai! The name sounded just like an old man who sells cabbage at the village entrance!

However, Zhao Yu knew that, regardless of his name, the expert must be top-notch. Hence, he hope that he could really help in the Headless Female Corpses Case. So, he had to treat him nicely.

Plus, he had gotten a Li hexagram that represented friendship earlier that day, so maybe the hexagram was referring to the old man! Perhaps he was the friend that Zhao Yu was going to meet that day!

Gao Facai was indeed a friendly person and he was diligent in his work. Right after he greeted Zhao Yu, he went to change and immediately began working.

As Zhao Yu was getting ready to speak to Chen Zhuo, he suddenly saw a familiar figure. It was Team Leader Wu Fangfang, who was with her underlings. They had just arrived and were making arrangements to hand over the suspect, Tao Xiang.

Even though Wu Fangfang saw Zhao Yu out of the corner of her eye, she considered him her enemy, so she wouldn’t speak to him. Hence, she pretended not to see him and continued with her work.

Most interestingly, Wu Fangfang’s underlings still had bruises all over their faces from getting beaten up earlier, so they had to walk around in front of Zhao Yu with their heads lowered in embarrassment! Moreover, they were afraid that the hot-tempered demon would throw a tantrum again!

Chen Zhuo approached Zhao Yu and said, “This is different from the murder case in the pharmaceutical factory. The Headless Female Corpses Case is a major national case! The discovery of the skulls has attracted the attention of the higher ups, so you have to take care of this case very carefully.”

He then added, “I just got updated that the few higher ups in the Central Criminal Division will arrive here by tomorrow for an inspection. Division Chief Jiao might be one of them, so please try to get more evidence! If there is no progress in the case by the time the higher ups arrive, it won’t bode well for us!”

He concluded by saying, “We knew that Tao Xiang’s situation wouldn’t be helpful for the case. Hence, we invited the professors from the psychology department at Tsinghua University to send some psychologists over to examine Tao Xiang. And, we know that the deceased victims of the Headless Female Corpses Case were located in different areas, so we informed various related units, who have agreed to fully cooperate with you! Now, you only need to make a call to use the help of whichever police station you desire. As long as you tell them clearly about their tasks, we here at the Central Criminal Division will have the upperhand!”

As he saw that Chen Zhuo had shown great consideration for his team in helping to pave the way to solving the case, Zhao Yu quickly thanked Chen Zhou. What Chen Zhuo had just said was really the main obstacle that Zhao Yu had been dealing with. Now that the higher ups were helping, it gave them a great headstart in their evidence collection.

When Zhao Yu and Chen Zhuo was almost done talking, Tao Xiang was brought in by the armed policemen.

“Dad... Dad...” Cui Lizhu barely managed to see Tao Xiang’s figure amid the swarm of policemen who were surrounding him. She dashed over in a hurry to catch a better glimpse.

Zhao Yu quickly grabbed her by her arm and stopped her. He knew that no one could get close to Tao Xiang at that moment.

“Lizhu, Lizhu!” Zhao Yu pushed Cui Lizhu behind him gently and advised her, “Don’t go over... Hold back...”

“Dad... Woo woo... Dad...” Although he wasn’t her biological father, their relationship was still intimate. Now that she saw that Tao Xiang was a serious criminal, Cui Lizhu couldn’t stay composed and could only wail.

As he was surrounded by so many armed policemen, even Zhao Yu couldn’t see Tao Xiang. In no time, he was brought into the booking area of the building and the police station compound resumed normal peaceful tone.

Suddenly, Wu Fangfang seemed to have popped out of thin air. She eyed Cui Lizhu, who was now crying behind Zhao Yu. There was a ferocious look in her eyes.

At that moment, Zhao Yu knew that the Cui Lizhu was actually the source of the bad blood between him and Wu Fangfang. Wu Fangfang saw that, not only was Cui Lizhu not handcuffed, but she was very close to Zhao Yu...

It’s hard to say if she was planning to complain about Zhao Yu to the higher ups. One could never tell with that crazy woman! However, the Headless Female Corpses Case had nothing to do with her really, and she was much more concerned about meeting the deadline for the Gem Theft Case!

Regardless, Zhao Yu was not afraid of her. He saw that Wu Fangfang was looking at him in such a haughty manner, so he gave her the middle finger, making sure that Chen Zhuo didn’t notice.

Wu Fangfang saw him and it made her blood boil. She ground her teeth and clenched her fist anger.

Chapter 640: The Slanting Evidence

The expert lived up to his name. Gao Facai was jumped right into work, and the forensic department kept updating them with the latest news. Gao Facai's first task was to extract a kind of microorganism on the surface of the metal box that was commonly found in soil. He then was able to estimate the year that the metal box was buried underground by analyzing the growth of the microorganism!

According to his estimation, Tao Xiang's metal box was buried in somewhere between ten to thirteen years ago, while Du Manting had died about twenty-one years ago. In other words, Tao Xiang didn't bury the box there right after Du Manting had been buried.

Then, another major discovery was made. Gao Facai estimated the corresponding time through the examination of a kind of microelement in the skulls, as well as the embalming liquid. It turns out that both the embalming liquid and the skulls were poured into the metal box about five to seven years ago. That timing just happens to coincide with the exact time when Tao Xiang stole the Tamil Star!

After that, Gao Facai and his team used some kind of chemical method to discover that there were traces of lacquerware and silver and gold powder on the scratches inside the metal box. This could prove that the box had been storing other gold, silver, and lacquerware at one time. However, it was unknown if those things were a part of Tao Xiang's treasure.

Through these three discoveries, Zhao Yu and his teammates could roughly make out the timeline. About ten years ago, Tao Xiang had buried a metal box in Du Manting's grave. At that time, there might have been gold, silver, and lacquerware inside the metal box.

However, about six years ago, Tao Xiang took out all of his treasure from the box and replaced it with the victims' skulls! Hence, that one day six years ago seemed to be the crucial moment. Something had happened that led Tao Xiang to take this action...

Was it somehow related to the Tamil Star?

And, if so, will we be able to find the whereabouts of the treasure and the missing Tamil Star?

Zhao Yu pondered these things, while also marvelling at Gao Facai's efficiency level, which was truly shocking. It was only noon, and he had already discovered something else!

As he examined the six skulls further, he found that the embalming liquid that the skulls had been soaked in was different for each. Specifically, the older the skull, the simpler the ingredients were for the embalming liquid. Thus, the most recent skulls had been embalmed with the more expert and modern embalming methods and ingredients!

Although this discovery was shocking, Zhao Yu had mentally prepared for this long ago. This was because Gao Facai's discovery matched with the autopsy report of the Headless Female Corpses Case.

Ever since the case had been opened, the forensic scientists had realized this same pattern with the corpses, so the skulls should be no different. This also led the police to believe that the murderer was constantly experimenting and improving their skills as they continued their killing spree.

These improvements in his methods could especially be seen in Bai Lili's remains. The murderer cut an opening at the main arteries and drew out all of the blood with professional equipment.

He then filled the body with a self-made embalming fluid. Not only did the fluid act as a preservative, it also made the deceased look vivid and alive! It was actually said that only a professional undertaker would know how to accomplish such a feat!

Gao Facai's autopsy report showed that there was a hole in Bai Lili's skull. This made him suspect that the murderer might have tried to remove Bai Lili's brain, as he wanted to carry out some kind of embalming experiment on her head. Plus, they also found traces of embalming fluid on several areas of the skin.

All of these signs showed that the murderer spent a lot of time and effort in preserving the dead body. It was like he had committed the murder as some type of experiment. It was obvious that his mental state was that of no ordinary murderer.

Looking at the reports that were sent over from the forensic department, the special investigation group teammates, who were enjoying their lunches, lost their appetites instantly. As Wu Xiumin read the report, she creased her eyebrows and asked everyone, "Why do I feel like this case isn't that straightforward? There are so many facets of it that are unexplainable!"

"Such as?" Ran Tao put down his sandwich and asked her curiously.

"Look... Tao Xiang liked that woman and didn't want anyone to bully her. So, he would make whoever bullied Du Manting into a headless female corpse!" Wu Xiumin creased her eyebrows further and asked, "But, why didn't he just kill Cui Fangyu? Don't you think it was Cui Fangyu's betrayal that really led to Du Manting's death? Plus, not only did he not kill Cui Fangyu, he even helped Cui Fangyu to look for his child. This doesn't make sense..."

Wu Xiumin waited for a moment, thinking, then wondered aloud, "If Tao Xiang were to kill six women for Du Manting, why didn't he bury the skulls there right after Du Manting was buried, but instead waited for so many years? This is so confusing! Treasure and skulls, replacing one another, what's all the hassle for?"

"You're not married, so you wouldn't know!" Ran Tao started making fun of Wu Xiumin. "Do you think it's easy to raise a child? Tao Xiang was taking care of Cui Lizhu, which requires time and money. Since he needed to raise the child, he dug up the treasure and sold it off to get extra money! At least, that's my guess!"

Wu Xiumin pouted. "Just go ahead and finish your lunch and keep quiet!"

Listening to his teammates' discussion, Zhao Yu also felt that there were many fishy aspects regarding Tao Xiang. For instance, seeing as how the murderer took such care of the headless female corpses, the killer must be meticulous, perhaps even a perfectionist! However, Tao Xiang didn't seem to fit those characteristics.

The more Zhao Yu thought about it, the more he felt that the evidence that he had gotten that day seemed not to coincide with his hunches somehow...

Is there some other hidden insight behind this case?

Did Tao Xiang have an ally, or maybe Tao Xiang isn't the murderer at all!

