

Crazy 741

Chapter 741: Insipid Truth

"The Nanjiang Film and Television School," Zeng Ke said excitedly. "This Qiao Ruxue was not only Guo Yihang's classmate, but she was also from Caohai City!"

"That is to say..." Li Qian felt surprised. "Guo Yihang may have done this for Qiao Ruxue? Then, Zhang Yong, what happened to Qiao Ruxue later on?"

"She left! "Lao Zhang said. "I didn't know her very well. We didn't talk to each other very much!"

"I found it. She jumped fell off of a building!" Zeng Ke pointed to a news article on the screen and read it aloud, "During a 2014 Spring Festival, Qiao Ruxue was hospitalized after falling from a building."

"That was the same time as when she had just been kicked off of the crew!" Li Qian said.

"My God! Did she die?" Wu Xiumin asked.

"I don't know, but I haven't found an official death certificate yet! Okay, here's her medical records..." After Zeng Ke searched again, he said, "Um... The hospital records show that she stayed in the hospital for a little less than a month before being discharged. So, it was not very serious, right?"

"Let me see..." Wu Xiumin seemed to have seen something, so she grabbed Zeng Ke's mouse and clicked on several sections of the hospital records.

Soon, she shouted at the others, "Look! Qiao Ruxue has a skin allergy. The doctor's note specifically states "cephalosporin!" That is to say... Qiao Ruxue may be allergic to cephalosporins!"

Hearing this, the others all got goosebumps.

Zeng Ke was shocked. "So... The murderer left the molecular formula of cefuroxime on Qin Hao's neck... Does that mean that Qin Hao may have done something bad to Qiao Ruxue via the use of cefuroxime?"

"Since Qiao Ruxue missed being able to play the heroine role in 'Crazy Delivery Woman' because of her pimples, it might have actually been her allergic reaction... Which may have been caused deliberately!" Li Qian said.

"Yes!" Wu Xiumin agreed. "Qin Hao might have put cefuroxime powder into Qiao Ruxue's makeup products, which caused her face to become swollen and red, so she had to give up shooting the film! That's why the crew had to choose a new actress!"

Zhang Yong swallowed in surprise, then said sadly, "If this is true, no wonder Qiao Ruxue was so angry!"

"Zhang Young, you've been in the entertainment industry for so long, don't you know what has happened? This definitely is not just about changing roles!" Li Qian's eyes were full of unspeakable sadness.

She then shook her head and said, "Think about 255! If 255 represents 2.55 million in sponsorship funds, then ask yourself how did the sponsorship come about? How could a mediocre director and a rubbish script get so many supporting funds?"

Zeng Ke finally understood what she was saying and said, "255 was written on Qian Jin's mobile's screen saver. You think that Qian Jin used Qiao Ruxue to get the 2.55 million sponsorship? My god!"

"Actually... This kind of thing is very common," Li Qian said coldly. "If Qiao Ruxue could help get the sponsorship by sleeping with the sponsor, that could be an easy task."

"How could you say that?" Zeng Ke clenched his fists in anger.

Li Qian ignored him and went on, "The important thing is, if Qiao Ruxue really traded her body for the sponsorship, she shouldn't have been kicked out like that! That is the cruelest thing! If that happened to me, I would stab him to death!"

Zeng Ke sighed. "Why didn't Qiao Ruxue take legal measures to seek justice?"

"Oh, you are so naive!" Li Qian laughed. "Is there any legal contract for such a dirty thing? What could you say to the court? Would you actually admit in public that you slept with others for money?"

"This..." Zeng Ke's pouted in anger, realizing she had a point.

"I'll tell you something even more cruel..." Li Qian pointed to the computer and said, "The murderer exposed the cameraman's videos. So, what does he want to tell us?"

What? Everyone was shocked, and they all gasped in unison.

"The director was close to the cameraman. They probably were involved in a conspiracy together. Zhang Chenggong may have taken an indecent picture or video of Qiao Ruxue long ago to threaten her. In this case, besides keeping silent, what else could she do?"

"That is so dehumanizing!" Zeng Ke shook his head. "They are a horrible criminal gang!"

Zeng Ke wanted to say "they all deserve to die," but it was not appropriate for a policeman to say such a thing.

Zhang Yong sighed, but could not say a word.

Then, Wu Xiumin asked, "So... Guo Yihang killed these people in order to seek revenge for Qiao Ruxue? Is Guo Yihang Qiao Ruxue's boyfriend, or have they ever been in a relationship in the past?"

"This is not something that we can find online, so we have to find their classmates or friends!" Zeng Ke muttered. Obviously, he was still upset.

"But... You must not forget..." Zhao Yu suddenly reminded the others, "All of this is just our guessing, as there is no sufficient evidence to back up these claims. It is also possible that the murderer has deliberately misled us!"

"Yes, maybe so." Zeng Ke pulled himself together and said, "Also, we haven't found out how the other victims were connected with Qiao Ruxue yet. For example, does Kang Leming's 'mommy' have anything to do with Qiao Ruxue?"

Zhang Yong, who had been silent for a while, suddenly said, "I once heard Kang Leming mention that he was the one who introduced Qiao Ruxue to Qian Jin!"

Li Qian clapped and said, "Karma! It seems that Guo Yihang had made a thorough plan before he came to the island! I never thought such a seemingly innocent person would be able to..."

"And actor Xie Hao and screenwriter Cai Jinda... What's the relationship between those two and Qiao Ruxue?" Zeng Ke asked.

"Xie Hao often bullies new actresses, so maybe Qiao Ruxue was bullied?" Li Qian guessed.

Wu Xiumin also had a guess. "What about the scriptwriter? The writers add to scenes a lot, too. Is it possible that he added scenes for other actresses in order to suppress or punish Qiao Ruxue?"

"It shouldn't be hard to find out. Wait a minute." Zeng Ke typed on the keyboard and soon found the answer. "It's 'Dragon Palace' from 2010! It was a big-cost production, but was ultimately a big flop! Xie Hao and Qiao Ruxue both starred in this film, and the scriptwriter was Cai Jinda! Since that flop, Cai Jinda's career has not been able to recover!"

"Did Xie Hao and Qiao Ruxue have any love scenes in that film?" Li Qian asked. "I'm betting that Xie Hao was taking advantage of Qiao Ruxue during the filming!"

"We can only watch the film to find out!" Zeng Ke said.

"It's already clear. Next, it's up to Captain Dou to catch Guo Yihang!" Li Qian said.

The others were discussing their opinions. However, Zhao Yu still felt that there were many mysteries that still needed to be solved until he could relax.

He remembered that, in Captain Jin's yellow notebook, it said that "The truth is often insipid." That was to say, the motive for a crime, in reality, was often plain, and was not half as exciting as in the movies!

As such, this case was probably just Guo Yihang's seeking revenge on Qiao Ruxue due to his own selfish desires. Therefore, this case might really be simple and clear.

But, since Zhao Yu was the leader of the Special Investigation Group, he had to think more than the others. Specifically, he needed to look at the whole picture.

So, he re-examined the case from another perspective. At that time, he suddenly realized a crucial issue! He started to think...

If Guo Yihang really wanted to get revenge on Qiao Ruxue, then why was it so coincidental that all of his enemies were gathered on this island at the same time?

Was it pure coincidence, or was there another hidden secret behind it?

Chapter 742: Not Alone

"What? Nanjiang? Master, are you kidding?" Ran Tao spoke into the phone reluctantly, "I've driven halfway there already! Now you want me to go back to Nanjiang?"

Zhao Yu said, "If you already drove halfway, then you are right near Nanjiang, right? I want you to go to the Nanjiang Film and Television School to investigate Guo Yihang's and Qiao Ruxue's backgrounds! Hasn't Zeng Ke sent the information to you already? After you go to Nanjiang Province, next go to Caohai City, as that is Guo Yihang's and Qiao Ruxue's hometown."

"Um... But master..." Although Ran Tao dared not disobey, he had to mention a key point, "I am not doing all of this alone. I have a dog here! I can't take a dog with me to investigate a case, can I?"

As if Tycoon could understand his words, the dog's barking came across the phone line.

"Isn't it cooler to bring a dog?" Zhao Yu asked. "You can handle this. Besides, this task has to be completed, and my dog has to be taken good care of at the same time, so kill two birds with one stone!"

After that, Zhao Yu hung up the phone.

Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin, who were beside him, could not help but laugh. Zeng Ke then said, "I can imagine Ran Tao's upset face right now! Ha ha ha..."

Zeng Ke then asked, "Leader, we have already notified the Quliang police force about the issue regarding Guo Yihang and Qiao Ruxue. They will dispatch some men to find out what you have requested soon. So, why do you need Ran Tao to go there again?"

Wu Xiumin retorted quickly, "He's our mobile member! He must do something! Otherwise, when he comes back with the dog, he'd complain to us nonstop."

Zhao Yu agreed. "Why are you always so good at telling the blunt truth?"

Hearing him tease her, Wu Xiumin couldn't help but laugh again.

Although Zhao Yu had said that this was so, that's was not really his plan. He still believed that the relationship between Guo Yihang and Qiao Ruxue was not so simple, and that is really why he wanted Ran Tao to there, so that he could confirm that fact for Zhao Yu.

At this moment, it was dawn. After the sun rose, the temperature also rose sharply, making all of them feel warm after a busy and cold night.

The white boards that Zhao Yu used for analyzing the case were set up, and Zhao Yu had pinned his white papers that were filled with case information on them. Due to the large number of deceased victims in this case, the information looked messy and a bit cluttered. Even the two white boards could not accommodate it all.

As Zhao Yu over read the clues again, his doubts grew. He believed that Guo Yihang was only a newcomer. If he had wanted to put Qiao Ruxue's enemies into a crew altogether, it would obviously not be that easy. So, either Guo Yihang had an accomplice, or the truth was not as simple as they had first thought.

Zhao Yu pondered this for a while, then decided that he needed to meet someone in person...

Early the next morning, Quliang Bureau Chief, Wang Chenggang, brought in a luxurious breakfast for everyone. However, Zhao Yu was not in the mood to have breakfast, but went directly to the guest room of the command vessel and met with the president and executive seniors of Champion Pictures.

The president of Champion Pictures was Gao Peng. When he found out that Zhao Yu was the leader of the Special Investigation Group from the highest Criminal Division, Gao Peng became very nervous and started to sweat.

Gao Peng was 53 years old and wore a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. He had almost gone bald, and his bulky figure gave him quite a typical boss-like look.

“Leader Zhao...” Gao Peng rushed to Zhao Yu and said, “Please catch the murderer! These murdered crew members were pillars of our company.”

Zhao Yu ignored what he was saying and got straight to the point, asking, “Tell me, how did the crew get together?”

Hearing Zhao Yu’s abrupt question, the sweat on Gao Peng’s face started to pour down like rain. At the same time, all of the other people in the room looked at each other in confusion, without saying a word. They didn’t expect Zhao Yu to be so straightforward, without even saying any pleasantries or opening words.

Gao Peng looked back at the other executives, scratched his head, then said, “Our company must have put the team together.”

“Yeah...” someone agreed. “First, we set up a project. Then, we choose the actors and other staff members. We do this all in accordance with the company’s procedures.”

“Oh yes, I remember!” Gao Peng lightly smacked his forehead, then said, “It was Cai Jinda, the scriptwriter, who chose the candidates!”

Zhao Yu was surprised to hear Cai Jinda’s name. As soon as he did, something occurred to him.

“Director Qian Jin, the cameraman Zhang Chenggong, and lead actor Xie Hao...” Gao Peng said, while counting with his fingers. “These people were all recommended to us by Cai Jinda. They were all quite close with each other.”

“Yes!” Another person present shared the same thought. “Qin Hao, Kang Leming, Xu You and Zhang Yong... These people have all worked with the director for a long time, as well!”

“Leader Zhao, I have a complete list of the crew here,” Gao Peng said. “The crew of ‘Lighthouse’ has 37 people, but because the filming was about to be finished, most of them had already left the island. Only some key members stayed behind to finish!”

“Oh yes, and Li Qian!” Gao Peng added. “After setting up the project, Cai Jinda asked us to pick a well-shaped, mature, and charming actress for the lead role, so we chose Li Qian!”

He then said, “As you know, this is a low-budget production. As such, we only had about one million in spending funds. So, we couldn’t be too picky, and after watching Li Qian’s audition, Cai Jinda agreed to her being the actress!”

Zhao Yu frowned as he asked, “Why did this script writer get to have a say in deciding the cast? Isn’t that usually up to the director or producer?”

Gao Peng wiped away his sweat as he answered, "Well... Seniority matters in this industry. For a small company like us, Cai Jinda has the absolute authority! After all, he used to be a famous scriptwriter!"

He then added, "Although I'm the nominal chief producer, I actually have to ask for his advice about everything!"

Speaking of this, Gao Peng sighed helplessly and almost brought out a whining voice, "I still can't believe such a terrible thing happened. Officer, did you find out who the murderer is yet?"

Zhao Yu did not answer his question, as he was already lost in thought about Cai Jinda's affairs. Is it possible that Cai Jinda was Guo Yihang's accomplice?

He helped Guo Yihang, but was killed by Guo Yihang?

If so, how can we explain the plus sign that was written on Cai Jinda's stomach?

Suddenly, Zhao Yu thought of another important thing, so he asked in a hurry, "How did Guo Yihang get assigned to the crew?"

"Guo Yihang?" Gao Peng thought for a moment, then shook his head and asked, "Who is Guo Yihang?"

"What? He is the supporting actor!" While introducing him, Zhao Yu showed the picture of Guo Yihang to him. "Don't tell me he just appeared for no reason."

"Oh..." Unexpectedly, a manager suddenly nodded and asked, "Isn't this the last young actor that we chose? His part is actually quite small. Also, they should have finished filming his part long ago. Why would he stay on the island?"

"Guo Yihang? Oh... I remember!" Gao Peng nodded and said, "When we were preparing to shoot, director Qian Jin mentioned to me that the young man was doing well and that his appearance and temperament was just what he was looking for. So, he put him in the cast."

"What? Director Qian Jin?" Zhao Yu couldn't help but shake his head and smack his lips.

So Guo Yihang was not doing this alone!

Chapter 743: Order of Deaths

In the office, when Zhao Yu retold his conversation with the executives of the film company, Li Qian was the first to reply to him, "Guo Yihang gave Qian Jin 20,000 yuan to get the role! Qian Jin was the one who got him in the cast!"

She then said, "As far as I know, Qian Jin has been on a tight budget recently. Apparently, he invested in a business and ended up losing all of his money and racking up a mountain of debts!"

Li Qian shook her head, then added, "So... Guo Yihang only had to pay 20,000 yuan to get him in the cast? Hmm... For a film like this, his role could have been played by anyone, even our cook Zhang Yong! So, why should Qian Jin recruit another new person? He must have received some benefits from it. Moreover, Guo Yihang is too young to play this role!"

After he finished listening to what she had just said, Zhao Yu muttered, "That is to say, Guo Yihang must have bribed Qian Jin to get into the crew."

He now thought that his previous prediction might be wrong. If the scriptwriter Cai Jinda and the actor Guo Yihang were accomplices, then Guo Yihang had no reason to give Cai Jinda any money. It seemed that Cai Jinda had brought these people together in the crew for another reason altogether.

"Leader, did you ask about Qiao Ruxue?" Zeng Ke suddenly interrupted Zhao Yu's thoughts.

"I actually just wanted to talk about that!" Zhao Yu said. "When I mentioned Qiao Ruxue, Gao Peng got a funny look on his face. So, I believe that there must be something fishy about him. Zeng Ke, you look into Gao Peng and Champion Pictures to see how they are connected to Qiao Ruxue."

"Okay!" Zeng Ke nodded.

"Xiumin," Zhao Yu then turned to speak to Wu Xiumin again. "You go delegate tasks to the Quliang police force. Today, we must find out all of their connections and relationships with one another!"

Then, Zhao Yu went on to assign specific tasks. "First, send someone to investigate the investors of 'Crazy Delivery Woman.' Specifically, see if director Qian Jin forced Qiao Ruxue to sleep with any of the investors. Second, send someone to search Zhang Chenggong's house and his studio to see if there are any videos of Qiao Ruxue."

He took a breath, then continued assigning tasks. "Third, send someone to investigate Qin Hao, the makeup artist, and see if our thoughts about cefuroxime are right. Fourth, talk to the original crew of 'Dragon Palace' and investigate Xie Hao's relationship with the actresses in the cast, especially Qiao Ruxue."

He then concluded with one final task. "Fifth, do a thorough investigation of the scriptwriter Cai Jinda. We need to find out more about his previous history with Qiao Ruxue and Guo Yihang!"

"Okay!" Wu Xiumin wrote each task down in her notebook.

But, apparently, Zhao Yu wasn't done assigning tasks yet! "Sixth, I need you to go to the hospital and talk to Kang Leming. In fact, he is the real survivor! So, he must know more than the others! Ask him about Guo Yihang and Qiao Ruxue to see his reaction."

"Don't worry, Leader, I'm good at this kind of thing!" Wu Xiumin promised him. "If there is anything suspicious about him, I will be able to tell immediately!"

"Finally, although the prop person Xu You seems to have nothing important to do with this case, we mustn't ignore a single clue!" Zhao Yu added. "It is possible that the murderer left a clue on him, but it was burnt by the fire. So, we need to send someone to verify if he at all connected with Qiao Ruxue."

"Ok!" Wu Xiumin replied.

"Li Qian and Zhang Yong!" Zhao Yu then turned to speak to the two survivors, "You need to follow me to the island again. I want to re-investigate the crime scenes! Then, you'll need to tell me more about the cast."

"Okay." Li Qian nodded.

However, cook Zhang Yong was trembling and seemed reluctant. After all, the island was a nightmare that he never wanted to revisit! Zhao Yu ignored his reaction, while hastily taking a fried dough stick before taking them to the island.

Last night, Zhao Yu had neglected to thoroughly investigate a lot of things at the crime scenes because it had been so dark. So, he had decided to go over them again today to see if there were any new discoveries.

However, this shocking news had already spread. At this moment, on the sea around Yongjin Island, there were many speed boats and ships that had been hired by the press. They were clearly trying to find out more details about the situation.

Fortunately, the Tongjiang Provincial Office had sent a marine police force early in the morning to support Zhao Yu and his team. They had blocked the island, so that no other ships and boats were allowed to come to the island!

After arriving at the island, Zhao Yu did not rush to the scenes, but called Gao Facai first to see if he had any updates. He also wanted to ask Gao Facai if the order of deaths could have been determined yet.

Since taking about this case, Zhao Yu had always felt that this was a well-planned murder, which shared an eerie similarity with the plot of 'And Then There Were None!' He felt that something was not right about all of this, but he couldn't yet put his finger on it specifically.

He hoped that discovering the order of the deaths might inspire him. However, Gao Facai told Zhao Yu that, due to the different ways that the victims had been killed, he could not accurately calculate the exact time of death for every victim. Instead, he could only narrow each death down to a window of time.

Moreover, as the time windows for the murders were relatively close to one another, it was almost impossible to determine the order of their deaths. Zhao Yu was disappointed to hear these results.

However, this later reminded him that the reason why the murderer had used different methods of killing was very likely to mislead the police as they were trying to discover the order of the deaths. This made Zhao Yu wonder...

Why did he do that?

Does the order of the deaths really matter so much?

Zhao Yu also had a slight feeling that the murderer might know the inner workings of the police regarding how they handle cases! If so, he might have even killed the people in different ways in order to increase the difficulty of solving the case!

Thinking of this possibility caused Zhao Yu to return to his previous question... If the murderer was Guo Yihang, how could he possibly let Kang Leming survive?

"Leader Zhao!" While Zhao Yu was contemplating this, a speedboat stopped at the dock of Yongjin Island. Captain Dou rushed to the dock and greeted Zhao Yu, "Leader Zhao, I'm back!"

After that, he took a breath, then said to Zhao Yu, "Last night, we checked all of the cameras that were near the beach, but none of them captured Guo Yihang. It's like he vanished into thin air!"

As he heard Captain Dou's report, Zhao Yu was thinking... Guo Yihang is missing. Was it really him who drove the speedboat away?

It was at that moment that Captain Dou saw Li Qian and Zhang Yong. He looked at them, then asked Zhao Yu doubtfully, "And... They are..."

"Captain Dou, you're just coming at the exact right time!" Zhao Yu said before he turned to introduce the pair, "I've asked these two to help me today. Now, I'm going to go over the crime scenes again!"

Chapter 744: Zhao Yu's Conclusion

"You said Xu You was burned at this place! Are you two sure?" Zhao Yu pointed to the white lines on the dock as he asked Li Qian and Zhang Yong.

They both nodded. Then, Li Qian said, "Yesterday, we were both very frightened! First, we saw Qian Jin hanged! Then, we saw Xie Hao's head.. It was cut off! We were so frightened that our minds went completely blank. All we wanted to do was to leave the island quickly. So, we ran here. Then we saw Xu You's burnt body!"

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu took the last bite of his fried dough stick, wiped his mouth with a napkin, then asked, "Why are you so sure that the one who was burned must be Xu You?"

Just as Zhao Yu asked the question, Li Qian nodded with absolute certainty, but Zhang Yong only shook his head and shrugged.

"I recognized Xu You's clothes, and the corpse looked exactly the same as his figure!" Li Qian said confidently.

"I was too scared to look at it very carefully!" Zhang Yong confessed.

"Leader Zhao, do you think that it wasn't Xu You who was burned to death?" Captain Dou scratched his head. "Don't you have a professional forensics pathologist?"

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu inserted a straw into his soymilk and took a deep suck. The soymilk had warmed a bit, but Zhao Yu still drank it thirstily.

At this time, Zhao Yu did not say a word. Then, after thinking for a few minutes, he suddenly pointed to a young policeman under Captain Dou's command and said, "You, lie on the ground! Let me have a look!"

"Hmm... What?" The others couldn't understand what Zhao Yu was up to.

Zhao Yu showed the young policeman a photo of the crime scene, then said, "Please, take the same posture as Xu You... Like in the photo..."

"Okay..." Surrounded by the others, the young policeman lay within the white lines on the ground, clearly confused.

Zhao Yu smacked his lips, nodded, then snapped his fingers. After that, he turned and walked straight towards the center of the island.

Captain Dou scratched his head and could not understand what he was doing at all. Li Qian and Zhang Yong followed Zhao Yu quickly, as did the other policemen.

The young policeman, who was still on the ground, felt embarrassed. So, he got up quickly, dusted himself off, and ran to follow Zhao Yu as well.

Zhao Yu walked ahead of them without saying a word, and as the group followed behind him in a confused daze, it all looked quite funny. Soon, Zhao Yu came to the tents.

He looked around and didn't pay much attention to any single item at the scene, but he looked very serious. The others couldn't figure out what he was wanting to do at all.

As Zhao Yu came to the tent where the actor Xie Hao had died, he asked another young policeman to come over. The young policeman had just started to take a step forward, when he was suddenly stopped by Zhao Yu!

Then, Zhao Yu made a knife gesture with his right hand as he aimed it at the policeman's neck. The young policeman was very cooperative, and as Zhao Yu made a wave with his arm, the policeman fell down directly.

"No!" Zhao Yu, clearly frustrated, showed the picture of the death scene to the young policeman and explained, "The knife cut the left artery at the throat. You wouldn't die so quickly like that! You have to first cover the stab wound with your hands and struggle for a while!"

"Eh?" The policeman seemed confounded for a moment, but then began to act according to Zhao Yu's instructions.

"Here... Come over here a little. Kick the chair..." Zhao Yu instructed the young policeman's movements like a film director. "Over there... Hit the sleeping bag over there... Now, fall to the ground... Crawl... And... Now... You are dead!"

After hearing the word "dead," the policeman lay on the ground and did not move again.

At this time, Captain Dou frowned and asked, "Leader Zhao, didn't the deceased take some anesthetics before he died? If so, why did he struggle so much when his neck was cut?"

"Shh..." Zhao Yu hissed at him mysteriously. He then stood there thinking for quite a while.

A few minutes later, Zhao Yu led the others to the tree, which still had the ropes hanging from it. As soon as they saw the hanging ropes, all of the policemen stepped back. They were clearly a bit worried as to how Zhao Yu would reenact this scene...

He wouldn't really hang a live person in order to solve this case, would he?

Fortunately, Zhao Yu did not really ask anyone to hang himself. Instead, he made some gestures under the tree for quite a while, trying to tie knots around the trunk as if he were the murderer.

After that, he looked at the other crime scenes, while making strange hand movements at every one. He would occasionally ask Li Qian and Zhang Yong for some more information, but he did not say much overall.

However, unlike last time, after Zhao Yu came out of the tents, he did not go to the lighthouse, but went straight to the windbreak along a weedy path. After yesterday's search, the police had basically figured out Kang Leming's escape route, which he took after he was stabbed by the murderer. They had been able to piece it together based on the blood traces that he had left on the ground.

As he made his way down this road, Zhao Yu looked quite strange. He was holding a wooden stick and moving it back and forth, like a shepherd. The others had no idea what he was doing.

Along the way, Captain Dou wanted to say to him something several times, but he eventually shut his mouth tight and did not make a sound. Finally, when Zhao Yu found the place where Kang Leming had fallen, he stopped. He looked at his watch, seeing that an hour had passed since they had started revisiting the scenes!

At this time, a shrewd young policeman volunteered to help. "Leader Zhao! I'll play the victim this time!"

After that, he lay down where Kang Leming had been stabbed. However, this time, Zhao Yu did not use his stick to mimic any stabbing motions, as he was currently lost in thought.

After about ten seconds, Zhao Yu's mobile phone rang. It was Wu Xiumin.

"Leader, you were right! Kang Leming really knows a lot about Qiao Ruxue!" Wu Xiumin said excitedly.

She then went on to give him the full details, "First, he introduced Qiao Ruxue to the director Qian Jin. Then, Qiao Ruxue joined Champion Pictures. After that, the cameraman Zhang Chenggong did take videos of Qiao Ruxue! But, we don't know what those videos are about yet."

She took a breath, then continued, "Third, 'Crazy Delivery Woman' does have something to do with Qiao Ruxue! Although the company's top management didn't want to say much about this, there must be some dirty business afoot. Fourth, although Zhang Meiwei is a new actress, she has a relationship with some top political figures. So, the company dared not reject her!"

Wu Xiumin continued, "Therefore, Qian Jin is very likely to be the one who caused Qiao Ruxue's allergic reaction, so that Qiao Ruxue would have to give up the role to Zhang Meiwei! And... I checked Qiao Ruxue's medical records. When she had to give up the role, she went to see a doctor and stayed in hospital for quite some time."

She shook her head. "The records show that her face was red, swollen, and had rashes on it. This makes it obvious that it was an allergic reaction. Moreover, as it only showed up on her face, it's very likely that it has something to do with the makeup that she was wearing!"

Speaking of this, Wu Xiumin grew solemn. "Leader, it looks like what the clues led us to believe really is true! Oh, and there's another important thing that I haven't told you yet. After talking to some of their old classmates, Zeng Ke confirmed that Guo Yihang and Qiao Ruxue were in a relationship when they were classmates at Nanjiang Film and Television School. Therefore, Guo Yihang should be the murderer!"

"No!" Shockingly, just as Wu Xiumin's voice fell, Zhao Yu suddenly cried out in a decisive voice, "You're wrong, Xiumin! I have already gone over every crime scene yet again, and I am now very sure of two things. First, there is more than one murderer! Second, the murderer is absolutely not Guo Yihang!"

Chapter 745: Criminal Psychology

“Wh... What?” After hearing Zhao Yu’s astonishing conclusion, Captain Dou stammered. “Leader Zhao, you’re not kidding, are you? If it’s not Guo Yihang... Who else can it be?”

“Yeah... Who the heck is the murderer?” Li Qian was perplexed.

“Hum hum...” Zhao Yu sneered, then turned around and glanced at the rest of the group with his sharp eyes. He then said three words that stunned all of the people present...

“I don’t know!” he said flatly.

Captain Dou wiped the sweat off his forehead and asked helplessly, “Leader Zhao, what do you mean by that?”

“I’m telling the truth!” Zhao Yu said frankly. “I really don’t know who the real murderer is! But I can say one thing for sure... The murderer is not Guo Yihang!”

Everyone looked bewildered.

“Ha ha ha ha...” Zhao Yu was laughing strangely, seemingly at himself, then he finally answered, “Just now, when I was re-investigating the crime scenes, I focused on Kang Leming’s escape route. After being stabbed for the first time, Kang Leming ran nearly a kilometer. He ran away from the tents towards the windbreak!”

He then added, “You were all just able to see how difficult it was to walk on the path that we just went by! Moreover, he was running during the middle of the night. Also, Kang Leming could not run fast at all! Besides all of that, there are many traces of weeds that were trampled on along the way. So... We must ask ourselves, what does this mean?”

“It means that Kang Leming fell down and crawled over the weeds!” a young policeman replied eagerly.

“Yes!” Zhao Yu nodded in approval. “Think about it carefully. Kang Leming crawled on the ground. If the murderer wanted to kill him, wouldn’t it be so easy? So... Why did he wait until he crawled to the woods?”

“Hmm...” The policeman thought for a moment, then said, “Maybe the murderer just wanted to play with him, like a cat that is catching a mouse. Or... Maybe the murder wanted to insult him!”

“Is that possible? How could the murderer have had time to play games when he needed to kill so many people that same night?” Zhao Yu asked.

“Maybe the murderer didn’t really want to kill him! Could that be right?” another young policeman asked.

“Then... Why didn’t he want to kill Kang Leming?” Zhao Yu asked again.

“Um... Maybe... The murderer changed into Guo Yihang’s clothes and wanted to make Kang Leming mistakenly think that the murderer was Guo Yihang!” the young policeman guessed. “That means... The murderer wanted to frame Guo Yihang!”

“Come on, you’ve seen too many TV dramas!” The first young policeman clearly disagreed with this hypothesis.

“Interesting, but there’s one more thing, which also happens to be the key point...” Zhao Yu raised his eyebrows, then asked, “Who knows what it is?”

All of the other policemen frowned, and no one answered.

“Then, what about you?” Zhao Yu turned to address Captain Dou.

“Maybe the person who drove the speedboat away was not Guo Yihang? So, we might as well check the cameras carefully one more time. But, if the murderer was not Guo Yihang, is it possible that he might have died? We’d better search the island again!”

“That’s not necessarily true,” Zhao Yu said with a smile. “If Guo Yihang is dead, then the murderer would have had to ensure that we would not find Guo Yihang’s body! Think about it. This island is surrounded by the sea. If someone were to tie the corpse to a rock, then throw it into the sea, how in the world could we find it?”

“Yes, that’s true!” Captain Dou agreed. “The water depth around Yongjin Island is quite deep, and the visibility is not great. Thus, it would definitely not be easy to find a body. How about I call the marine police and have them send some submarines?”

“Um... That may be a good idea, but it looks like we are getting a bit off the mark.” Zhao Yu scratched his head and said, “We were discussing Kang Leming just now!”

“Yes, right.” As Captain Dou realized that he had just taken them down a rabbit trail, he asked, “What else did you find out about Kang Leming, Leader Zhao?”

“Ha ha...” Zhao Yu laughed to keep the moment light and ease Captain Dou’s embarrassment, then said, “I found the most critical thing! Kang Leming should be the last victim! The murderer must have dealt with everyone else before he finally stabbed Kang Leming.”

He added with wide eyes, “That is to say, judging from the order of the killings, Kang Leming was the last one who was attacked! However, the murderer did not want to kill Kang Leming because he wanted to use Kang Leming to prove that Guo Yihang is the murderer! Also, Kang Leming is a pimp! Because he knows so much, the murderer wanted to use him to make us believe that Guo Yihang is the murderer!”

Hearing Zhao Yu’s conclusion, the others were taken back for a moment.

“Leader Zhao...” Captain Dou couldn’t help but ask, “Why do you say that Kang Leming was the last one attacked?”

“Because his attack took the longest!” Zhao Yu pointed to his watch and said, “The killer spent far longer with Kang Leming’s attack! So, before that, he had to make sure that he had dealt with the others first.”

He then added, “Moreover, from the traces that were left behind on the route, the murderer was clearly not in a hurry, but was walking steadily. That was, until Kang Leming ran to the windbreak, when the murderer began to stab him again, then left a clue on him!”

"But..." Captain Dou shook his head. "I still don't quite understand. Although the murderer was not in a hurry, how does that prove that the murderer is not Guo Yihang?"

"Yes, that doesn't quite make sense." Li Qian held the same opinion as Captain Dou.

"The murderer is not Guo Yihang!" Zhao Yu said affirmatively. "While I was investigating the crime scenes just now, I imagined myself as being Guo Yihang, as well as the murderer. But I found that there were obvious differences between their mentalities!"

"Differences?" Captain Dou frowned, still clearly confused.

"I'll explain this to you in detail." Zhao Yu made a "be quiet" gesture, then said earnestly, "If the murderer is Guo Yihang, and he was doing this to seek revenge for his girlfriend Qiao Ruxue, then the murders that he committed on the island would be totally contradictory!"

Everyone stared at him with wide eyes, waiting for further explanation.

In order to be able to express himself more clearly, Zhao Yu paused for a moment to collect himself. He then said, "Murderers normally have one of two mentalities. The first is a mentality of revenge, where the murderer kills without caring about anything else but seeking his revenge! Just imagine. If that's the case, Guo Yihang would have killed him right away after poisoning the others. Then, he would either run away or confess."

Zhao Yu continued, "The second mentality is that the murderer didn't want the police to find out what he did. So, he's going to destroy all of the evidence and hide from the police!"

He shook his head. "Obviously, if the murderer is Guo Yihang, these two mentalities don't make sense! Think about it. Guo Yihang is a member of the crew. Even if there were no clues found, he would be the No.1 suspect."

"Yes, that's true." A policeman thought about it and began to flatter Zhao Yu with his praise, "Why didn't we understand such simple logic? That's what makes you our leader!"

Zhao Yu went on to say, "The murderer's methods of killing were all different and quite complicated. Also, the murderer left us riddle-like clues and intentionally spared Kang Leming's life. Think about it. Guo Yihang couldn't commit such a contradictory crime."

Li Qian hurriedly added, "Although the young man spoke very little, he was a very good man. I didn't see anything wrong with him the whole time I knew him."

A young policeman then said, "You're right. Since he knew that the police would suspect him anyway, his leaving the clues and sparing Kang Leming's life would obviously not be necessary. So... Wow... Was Guo Yihang really framed by the real murderer?"

"Or..." Another policeman jumped in to offer a different hypothesis. "Maybe the man who Kang Leming saw was actually Guo Yihang, but Guo Yihang was being used by other people! Then, after the completed the mission, Guo Yihang was murdered by the real murderer!"

"Um... So..." Captain Dou nervously pulled at his untidy hair and said, "This case may have another secret, you mean? It's not as simple as we thought? Who the heck is the murderer?"

The shrewd policeman suddenly remembered something, so he asked Zhao Yu, "You said before that there was more than one murderer! How do you know that?"

"That is simple." Zhao Yu stretched out his arms and said, "I know this because of the means of transportation! If the murderer was not Guo Yihang, how did he get to the island? If the murderer came by boat and killed people, wouldn't he need to drive the boat away? So, why was the crew's speedboat also driven away? This must mean..."

As Zhao Yu was analyzing the case excitedly, his mobile phone suddenly rang. This time, it was Zeng Ke, who reported, "You asked me to investigate Gao Peng and Champion Pictures. I've got some important information..."

Chapter 746: A Massive Murder?

At 11:30 p.m., Gao Peng, the owner of the Champion Pictures, was taken by the police to the temporary interrogation room on the command vessel.

The interrogation room was located in the cabin. It had dim lights, which made it perfect for interrogations.

As soon as he entered the interrogation room, one could tell that something was strange about Gao Peng. He didn't look well. He seemed quite awkward and nervous, and his hair was untidy.

At this time, Wu Xiumin had not come back from the hospital yet. So, in order to ensure a smooth interrogation, Zhao Yu had to go interrogate Gao Peng with Zeng Ke.

Just after Zhao Yu sat down and put the case file on the table, Gao Peng shivered in horror. He then said in a hurried manner, "Officer... I was wrong! I wasn't telling the truth. Li Qian... Um... Li Qian offered me some benefits, so I made her the leading actress of 'Lighthouse!'"

Zhao Yu swallowed hard. He never thought that Gao Peng would say such a thing.

"What benefits?" Zeng Ke asked. He was sorting out the computer files at the moment.

"Um... Well..." Gao Peng hesitated.

"Forget it!" Zhao Yu waved his hand, indicating that Zeng Ke should not ask again. Obviously, Zhao Yu knew what Gao Peng was referring to.

"Then... Ok!" Gao Peng put his fat finger on his gold-rimmed glasses and said, "I was wrong! I shouldn't have hid it from you. When 'Crazy Delivery Woman' started, the heroine we chose was Qiao Ruxue. And, in order to get sponsorship, Qian Jin put Qiao Ruxue into contact with some investors."

Then, Gao Peng bowed and said, "Please believe me. It really has nothing to do with me. Qian Jin did all of this for money. He got a sponsorship of 2.55 million yuan, but the cost of the whole film was actually less than one million yuan. Since our company could also profit from this, I just turned a blind eye to his actions!"

"Turned a blind eye? How about admitting that you encouraged them to do it?" Zeng Ke taunted him.

“Yes, yes...” Gao Peng did not dare refute this claim. “But, unexpectedly, Zhang Meiwei suddenly showed up, insisting on playing this role! Although Zhang Meiwei was a new actress, her background was so intimidating that we dared not offend her!”

Gao Peng shook his head, then said, “So after I negotiated with Qian Jin, he agreed to help me. But, I never expected that Qian Jin would do such a bad thing! I thought that maybe he would offer Qiao Ruxue some compensation, but I didn’t expect that he would use such a dirty trick and even involve Qin Hao in all of this!”

“Hum... It seems like no one is clean in all of this!” Zeng Ke angrily scolded him.

Zhao Yu sighed, then said, “Surely Zhang Meiwei must have offered you and Qian Jin a good price.”

Hearing this, Gao Peng shuddered.

“Well, let’s cut to the chase,” Zhao Yu said. “Gao Peng, I’ve got the confirmed information now. Your company insured all of the crew members with a large amount of accident insurance, right?”

“What? Insurance?” Gao Peng was stunned. He did not expect Zhao Yu to suddenly mention insurance. “Yes... I believe so.”

Zhao Yu snapped his fingers. Then, Zeng Ke added, “At the beginning of this year, your company bought a large amount of accident insurance for your employees. The insurance’s compensation is far larger than normal, especially for accidental deaths! What’s more interesting is that it’s double insurance.”

He went on to explain, “This means that the family members and the company are both beneficiaries, meaning that each get half the compensation if an accidental death occurs. That is to say, once an employee dies unexpectedly, the insurance company will not only compensate the family members of the employee, but the company also get compensated an equal amount to those family members!”

Zeng Ke then said coldly, “I’ve done the math... Six people died on the island. If the insurance company pays in full, your company can get up to 80 million yuan as compensation!”

“Oh my god. That’s an extraordinary amount of money!” Gao Peng was stunned.

He then shook his head and rushed to explain, “Officer, this is not exactly what you think it is. That’s... Oh... The insurance company owed us a debt, and they wanted to use that employee insurance to pay for that debt. That is why it is such a high compensation! I... I also suffered a great loss! But they say that they have no money, so what can I do?”

Gao Peng shook his hands, then said, “Oh, officer, that’s six lives. Please, believe me... I dare not go that far, not just for the insurance money.”

“Really? I’ve checked your company’s financial status. Hasn’t it been several years now that you have not be able to make ends meet?” Zeng Ke asked him coldly. “What’s more, you have a lot of personal debts! How can you pay for those?”

Gao Peng hurriedly explained, “I could never kill someone just because I was short on money! And... It’s accident insurance. That means that, if it is deemed a murder, the insurance company won’t pay for it!”

“Well, we’ve already thought about that!” Zeng Ke said. “To identify whether it’s a murder or not, we need to solve the case and catch the real murderer! However, the suspect has disappeared! Therefore, you can apply for compensation from the insurance company in case we fail to settle the case!”

He then added, “Moreover, the lawsuits between you and the insurance company would not be difficult to win. And... If there is no murderer to be found, all the dead victims on the island could be classified as accidental deaths! That figure would be considerable! So, I’m afraid you’ve planned this since long ago!”

Zeng Ke then said forcefully, “All of these island murders are a big show of your company’s. Guo Yihang is just your scapegoat! Gao Peng, tell me the truth. Where is Guo Yihang?”

Hearing this, Gao Peng shook his head and muttered, “Officer, I am really innocent. How could I dare do this kind of thing?”

“Where were you the night before the murder? Who can testify for you... Do you even have an alibi?” Zeng Ke asked him with a stern look.

“The day before yesterday? I... Um... Um...” Gao Peng hesitated for a long time, but suddenly thought of something and said, “Right! Officer, as far as I know, the insurance company has gone broke. Where could I get such a large compensation from then? They’ve already sold the whole company, so they couldn’t afford to pay such a large sum of insurance money!”

“Oh?” Zhao Yu made an unexpected sound.

Hearing this, Zeng Ke was surprised. He and Zhao Yu looked at each other, then Zeng Ke quickly did an online search.

A while later, Zeng Ke said, “You’re right. The insurance company is called Anlumei. It did indeed go broke. However, Haipingyang bought it!”

“According to their agreement, Haipingyang will pay all of Anlumei’s compensations! Haipingyang is a domestic leading insurance company,” Zeng Ke said with relief. “It turns out that you are aiming at this big fish, which is the reason for this murder scheme on Yongjin Island! Gao Peng, how can you explain this?”

Gao Peng was so stunned that his eyes didn’t even blink. He was speechless.

“So where were you the night before the murder?” Zeng Ke stood up and raised his voice, which made Gao Peng tremble.

“Zeng Ke...” However, at this time, Zhao Yu suddenly stopped Zeng Ke, then said, “We are wrong! This incident... It has nothing to do with insurance claims!”

“What? Leader, you...” Zeng Ke could not understand. He then asked, “Why?”

However, instead of answering him, Zhao Yu gathered up the files that were in front of him and left the interrogation room in silence.

Chapter 747: I’m at the Racetrack

“Leader... Wait for me...” Zeng Ke caught up with Zhao Yu, then asked eagerly, “Leader, what do you mean? We just figured out that if we can’t catch the murderer, the insurance company must pay for accidental deaths. Also, there is definitely something wrong with that Gao Peng! So, why don’t you continue?”

“Um...” Zhao Yu impatiently made a gesture to Zeng Ke before taking ahold of his shoulder and leading him over to the deck.

He then said, “Zeng Ke, we must take into account the actual situation!”

“What is the actual situation?” Zeng Ke asked as he shook his head, still unable to understand him completely.

“Zeng Ke...” Zhao Yu said in all earnestness, “If Gao Peng was killing these people for insurance compensation, why would he have made the murders so complicated?”

“Complicated? How is it complicated?”

“Isn’t it complicated?” Zhao Yu asked.

Before waiting for a reply, he explained, “If he wanted the insurance money, why not poison the crew directly? Wouldn’t it look more like an accident that way?”

“Um... This...” Only then did Zeng Ke understand Zhao Yu’s meaning.

“Or... Wouldn’t it be more convincing to push people into the sea and fake a collective drowning scene?” Zhao Yu asked.

Again, before getting a response, he continued, “If it was for insurance, then why should he leave a living person? Moreover, why would he leave clues on the bodies?”

Zhao Yu shook his head, then explained further, “Leaving clues and a living witness would make people think that the murderer is Guo Yihang. Then, the insurance company could use that to argue that this is a murder and refuse to pay the compensation. In this way, Gao Peng wouldn’t get any money at all!”

“Oh...” Zeng Ke frowned, still trying to understand Zhao Yu’s explanation.

Zhao Yu had a good reason to say all of that. Although there were many cases where killers committed murders in order to get insurance money payouts, those criminals would make the murder look like an accidental death. But, what happened on the island were clearly murders!

Nevertheless, Zeng Ke still insisted, “Leader, even if Gao Peng had nothing to do with the murder, we should still do a background check on him carefully, just in case we missed some other clues.”

Zhao Yu said as he patted Zeng Ke on the shoulder. “Zeng Ke, I know that you dislike him. You think he’s rubbish! However, a man like him simply couldn’t carry out such a complicated murder! If you really want to solve this case, you can’t bring your personal emotions into it. People like Gao Peng are everywhere in this world, so you’d better learn how to do this now!”

Zhao Yu’s words were undeniably true, and Zeng Ke nodded silently. At this time, Captain Dou and Bureau Chief Wang Chenggang came up to Zhao Yu with a big bag of lunch boxes.

Bureau Chief Wang said, "Leader Zhao, you've worked all day. Please try our local fried rice with sea cucumbers. It's authentic Liu Ji fried rice!"

Before the lunch boxes were opened, they smelled an appetizing aroma coming from them. Captain Dou took the opportunity to report to Zhao Yu, "Leader Zhao, the investigators we sent to Caohai have sent back some information. Guo Yihang hasn't returned home yet. Although, we have taken full control of his house! As soon as he appears, we can arrest him at once!"

Zhao Yu nodded and asked casually, "Where is Qiao Ruxue? Isn't Caihao her hometown, too?"

"Oh..." Captain Dou paused, then said with a little nervousness, "We have already sent someone to her old house, but Qiao Ruxue's family has long since moved. But, we are still looking for her!"

"Moved?" Hearing this, Zhao Yu felt something was fishy, so he asked, "What happened to Qiao Ruxue? Is she still alive?"

"Oh, we checked with the hospital," Captain Dou said. "We confirmed that Qiao Ruxue did jump out of the building, but she did not die! The doctor said that she was lucky. She jumped from the fifth floor, then was discharged from the hospital after only one month."

He took a breath, then continued, "She suffered just a slight fracture and a concussion, nothing too serious! But, rumors are what kill people, and neighbors said that it was probably because of this that her family moved! But, you can rest assured... As long as Qiao Ruxue is still alive, we should be able to find her!"

During their conversation, Zhao Yu made his way back to his temporary office, while Captain Dou followed him and kept reporting to him, "Leader Zhao, the dive team has also started their work. Do you have any specific search area that you want them to focus on?"

Zhao Yu shook his head. After all, he didn't expect too much from the underwater search. So, he turned to ask Captain Dou, "What happened with the surveillance camera? Did you find anything suspicious?"

As he asked this, Zhao Yu pushed open the door to the office and walked in.

"Still nothing!" Captain Dou responded helplessly. "We have carefully checked the surveillance videos that were positioned near the beach that night. Although the cameras captured several people, these people have all been cleared of any suspicion! Also, the beach area is vast. If the murderer did not take the public road, it would be very difficult for him to be captured by the cameras!"

"Well, later, you can let Zeng Ke handle all of those surveillance videos!" After Zhao Yu said this, he felt a little hungry. So, he picked up a lunch box and got ready to enjoy some local cuisine.

"Um... We have issued a warrant for an arrest!" Captain Dou said as he handed Zhao Yu some disposable chopsticks. He then said, "I believe that we will definitely find Guo Yihang!"

As Zhao Yu took the chopsticks, he had to admit that he thought the exact opposite. He felt that it would be impossible to find Guo Yihang. He might have even been killed by the real murderer!

During the meal, Captain Dou asked about Gao Peng and the insurance compensation scheme again. After hearing about all of that, although Captain Dou agreed with Zhao Yu's assertion, he said that he would send someone to follow up on the matter to see if there were any other secrets behind it.

Even though the stir-fried rice with sea cucumbers tasted good, after its long-distance transport to the command vessel, it had basically gone cold. So, Zhao Yu finished his meal quickly, then stood in front of a white board and began to analyze the case.

At this time, Zeng Ke came to report that Gao Facai had gone to the hospital to identify Kang Leming's wounds. After conducting a comparison, Gao Facai believed that the weapon that killed Xie Hao and stabbed Kang Leming should be the same weapon, a knife with a blade that was only 10 centimeters in length!

Zhang Yong said that he had a fruit knife that matched that description, and he mentioned that he never saw it again after the crime. From this point of view, this fruit knife was probably the murder weapon!

Zeng Ke had just finished reporting the situation, when Zhao Yu's mobile phone suddenly rang again. Unexpectedly, it was Ran Tao.

Interestingly, as soon as the phone was picked up, Zhao Yu heard the sound of horse hooves in the background!

"Master, how's the case going? Did you find the murderer yet?" Ran Tao asked him loudly. "I'm in Jinhai now! Did you hear that sound? I'm at a racetrack!"

Over the phone, Zhao Yu also heard Tycoon barking in the background. He then asked, "Ran Tao, didn't you go to Nanjiang? How did you get to Jinhai?"

"Master!" Ran Tao laughed and said, "Didn't you tell me to investigate Guo Yihang and Qiao Ruxue? Well, I'm with Qiao Ruxue now! Listen, Qiao Ruxue is riding a horse! She is a good rider, too! By the way, the horse that she rides, she bought by herself. It was very expensive..."

Chapter 748: Awoken from the Actress Dream

"Yes, thank goodness I am smart and didn't go to Nanjiang!" Over the phone, Ran Tao was speaking with great pride.

He then said, "If you want to investigate a case, you have to ask the people who can help you find the necessary details! So, I asked my friend, who told me that Qiao Ruxue and her family now live in Jinhai. So, I went there directly. And... Guess what? We were all wrong!"

Ran Tao said excitedly, "Qiao Ruxue is doing very well now! She married a pharmaceutical tycoon and is now a rich housewife. Oh, she also changed her name. Now, she is Qiao Jingqi!"

After hearing this news, Zhao Yu asked in a hurried and serious manner, "Ran Tao, can you confirm her identity? Is she really the Qiao Ruxue we're looking for?"

"Of course!" Ran Tao said with great certainty. "Master, believe me. I have just talked to her personally! Since her history is pretty dark, she didn't want to talk about it at first. But, of course that wouldn't stop me! So, I finally persuaded her to speak with me by using my charm!"

"Ok, so tell us what she said!" Zhao Yu urged.

Ran Tao immediately began sharing about their conversation, “Well, I threatened her, telling her that, if she didn’t tell me the truth, then I’d tell her husband all about her history!”

“Fu*k!” Zhao Yu murmured mostly to himself. Ran Tao’s shamelessness was somewhat like his own! “Then tell me what happened between her and Guo Yihang?”

“She admitted that, while they were both at that same school, she did have a relationship with Guo Yihang. But, they broke up pretty soon after it began!” Ran Tao said earnestly.

He then added, “In Qiao Ruxue’s words, they were both too good-looking and self-absorbed for it to work. So, within a few months, they had already broken up. Qiao Ruxue also said that, since graduation, they never saw each other again. Therefore, they are not as close as we thought, so Guo Yihang couldn’t have killed those people to avenge Qiao Ruxue!”

“Oh...” After seeing Captain Dou and the others all looking at him, awaiting information, Zhao Yu turned on the speaker so that everyone could listen to the call.

“Even though their relationship was not like what we thought, what we thought about all of the clues that the murderer left was exactly right!” Ran Tao went on to say, “Qiao Ruxue admitted that the director Qian Jin did use her to eventually get the 2.55 million sponsorship. However, in the end, she was replaced because of her sudden allergic reaction. Then, Qiao Ruxue jumped out of the building because she was so ashamed of everything that she had done. She said she just felt so desperate!”

“Hmm...” Ran Tao paused for a moment, then said, “At that time, Qiao Ruxue thought that the allergic reaction was just her bad luck. She never thought it would have anything to do with the makeup artist Qin Hao!”

“Oh?” Zhao Yu asked again, “What about the others? Did you ask about them at all?”

“Yes!” Ran Tao answered. “When Qiao Ruxue first starting acting, she participated in several big dramas and believed that she had a bright future ahead. However, during one film, the writer Cai Jinda forced her to do a nude scene in bed!”

Ran Tao’s eyes grew big as he told the story, “Qiao Ruxue refused and got into a quarrel with Cai Jinda. But, as Cai Jinda was a big name at that time, the whole crew had to listen to him. So, Qiao Ruxue eventually compromised and did the scene, even though she thought that it was humiliating.”

He shook his head and sighed. “But, Cai Jinda is just an as*hole, apparently, and he even added several similar scenes to Qiao Ruxue’s part after that! However, what Qiao Ruxue couldn’t bear the most was that Xie Hao, the actor who was acting with her in the film, kept trying to take advantage of her! As such, Qiao Ruxue had a big fight with Qian Hao. But, that only resulted in her getting kicked out of the film cast altogether!”

Ran Tao sighed. “After that, most of the good opportunities for acting never came her way. Her career was getting worse, and finally, she could only get crappy roles in rubbish movies. It was then that she met Kang Leming!”

Ran Tao said, “It was Kang Leming who introduced Qiao Ruxue to Champion Pictures and the director Qian Jin. Qiao Ruxue said that Kang Leming was very good to her at first. Kang Leming told her that Champion Pictures had many big stars and would help her to succeed.”

He shook his head again. "But, when she started working with the company, her situation was even worse than before! Her main work was to accompany the higher-ups to restaurants and to serve all kinds of investors and celebrities. Even though she hated this, for her dream, Qiao Ruxue persevered."

He sighed again. "When she finally got the role in 'Crazy Delivery Woman,' she thought that it might be her great comeback! But, it was a low-budget production, and that's why she did not hesitate to help the company to procure the 2.55 million in sponsorship funds! She thought that would certainly ensure her the leading role. But, in the end, because of her skin allergy, she lost the opportunity! Feeling desperate, she jumped out of the building."

After that, Ran Tao added in a low voice, "Unfortunately, this girl still had no idea about the real reason behind her allergic reaction!"

After listening to Ran Tao, Zhao Yu and the others remained quiet. Everyone felt both indignation and sympathy for Qiao Ruxue's tragic experience.

"But, maybe the good guys have good rewards after all!" Ran Tao continued, "Jumping from the building was not her sad ending! After getting discharged from the hospital, Qiao Ruxue was taken back to her hometown by her parents. However, rumors started to spread, so they moved to Jinhai, where they ran a breakfast stand."

He concluded his findings, "Surprisingly, although Qiao Ruxue failed to get the role in 'Crazy Delivery Woman,' she got the role of Cinderella! Then, a local pharmaceutical tycoon fell in love with her and married her. Ha ha... Isn't it all like a movie? She finally got her happy ending!"

"Good job. Have you asked Qiao Ruxue about Xu You, Li Qian, and Zhang Yong yet? Do these three people have any connection with Qiao Ruxue?"

"Um... I asked!" Ran Tao said. "Believe me, I am a professional! Qiao Ruxue said that she did not know Li Qian. As for Xu You and Zhang Yong, she knew them, but not very well!"

"Then... What about Guo Yihang?" Zhao Yu asked again.

"Um... Well..." Ran Tao hesitated for a moment, then said, "At the moment, Qiao Ruxue is riding a horse. I can ask her later, though."

Hearing this, Zhao Yu quickly devised a plan and said, "Ran Tao, when you speak with her later, you will tell Qiao Ruxue about the whole case. Be sure to tell her that all of the people who framed her were killed! Pay careful attention to her reaction, so that you can report back to me."

"Master..." Ran Tao asked in surprise, "Do you suspect that Qiao Ruxue sent people to do this in order to avenge herself? But... She is doing so well now! Wouldn't that seem unnecessary?"

"You're so stupid!" Zhao Yu scolded him. "What I mean to discover by this is whether or not Qiao Ruxue has any loyal fans or secret lovers, as they might have killed for Qiao Ruxue!"

Chapter 749: Who Else?

No one noticed that it was getting dark. Throughout the afternoon, Zhao Yu had combed over almost the entire Yongjin Island, trying to get an overall picture of the island's geology and geomorphology.

Although more clues continued to surface, the case didn't get any clearer, only more complicated and confusing!

Ran Tao and Qiao Ruxue talked for quite a while. According to Qiao Ruxue, Guo Yihang was handsome, but extremely self-centered. He only considered how everything would affect him first, and he never considered others' feelings.

Besides that, although Guo Yihang seemed to be manly and heroic on the surface, he was actually an absolute coward! Even rats and cockroaches terrified him, let alone the thought of killing anyone!

Therefore, Qiao Ruxue was very sure that Guo Yihang couldn't be the murderer at all! He had neither the ability to kill, nor the motive to kill.

Qiao Ruxue tried hard to recall the past, but she could hardly think of anyone who could commit a murder in order to avenge her. According to Qiao Ruxue, the people she knew in the past had just wanted to take advantage of her. If there had been such a kind-hearted person in her realm, she would not have jumped out of the building!

After hearing about this seemingly dead-end, Zhao Yu and the others were very disappointed. They had really thought that they could get some new clues from Qiao Ruxue.

Nevertheless, Zhao Yu did not give up, but asked Ran Tao to have another good chat with Qiao Ruxue about all of the suspicious people from her past. Zhao Yu never expected that the murder case on this isolated island would become so difficult! Up to now, they still hadn't even found a solid suspect!

Although Kang Leming's testimony pointed to Guo Yihang, it was clear that this was flimsy, at best, and not enough to place Guo Yihang's as an official suspect yet. Zhao Yu was thinking of all of these things, trying hard to figure everything out...

If it wasn't Guo Yihang, who was the murderer?

Also, what was the motive for the murders? What was the purpose of the clues that he intentionally left on the dead bodies?

Was it all done really to avenge Qiao Ruxue?

Zhao Yu was struggling with the same clues as before, having made no significant progress at all! This only made him more upset.

An accident? Revenge? A conspiracy?

At this moment, Zhao Yu, Wu Xiumin, and Zeng Ke walked along the coastline towards the lighthouse. Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke did not know that Zhao Yu had chosen to go to the lighthouse at this exact time on purpose. The reason for this was that today's side adventure was there!

Such a clear instruction certainly inspired Zhao Yu! He believed that there was a reason that the system chose the lighthouse specifically as the site for the side adventure.

Zhao Yu thought that there could be a great possibility that he would get new case clues from this forthcoming side adventure, thus achieving a breakthrough!

“Leader!” During the journey, Zeng Ke was still explaining his thoughts, “I think that, besides the other suspects, Tan Tao needs to investigate Qiao Ruxue more carefully! I have a feeling that this case may have something to do with Qiao Ruxue!”

Wu Xiumin said, “Zeng Ke, don’t you remember? Ran Tao confirmed that Qiao Ruxue has an alibi. She hasn’t left Jinhai in nearly a month!”

“Of course Qiao Ruxue wouldn’t handle such an unsavory thing herself!” Zeng Ke said. “But, since she’s rich now, she could pay someone to kill people!”

“Six bold murders? Is your brain damaged?” Wu Xiumin retorted. “Qiao Ruxue is doing so well now, why would she take such a risk that might ruin her life?”

“Well, it’s certainly not impossible!” Zeng Ke was stubborn. “What if the crew knew that Qiao Ruxue had become rich, so they wanted to blackmail her with her past secrets? So, in order to protect herself, Qiao Ruxue killed them!”

“Hey! You just reminded me of something!” Wu Xiumin said. “It might be Qiao Ruxue’s husband!”

“Oh?” Zeng Ke was stunned by Wu Xiumin’s bold guess.

“Maybe, since Qiao Ruxue’s husband knew that Qiao Ruxue had been bullied before, he wanted to do something for his wife.” Wu Xiumin continued, “Then, because Li Qian and Zhang Yong were not involved with the bullying, the murderer let them live! And, since Guo Yihang was Qiao Ruxue’s ex, her husband also hated him, so he not only killed Guo Yihang, but put all of the blame on him!”

“Wow, that’s really impressive!” Zeng Ke said.

He turned his head and looked at Zhao Yu. “Leader, I think we really need to investigate this couple! This is the only motive and explanation that makes sense right now.”

“Don’t worry. I actually thought about this possibility long before now, so I’ve already asked Ran Tao to check it out! But...” Zhao Yu frowned as he said, “But, even though what you have just said seems to make sense, there is a one bug in the ointment.”

“Oh? What is it?” Zeng Ke had a confused look on his face.

“If Qiao Ruxue or her husband had done this, they wouldn’t leave any of the clues that we have seen! They wouldn’t want to attract our attention by bringing up the past! The clues that were left do exactly that, right?” Zhao Yu asked.

After hearing this solid logic, Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke had to nod to acknowledge that Zhao Yu was right. Zeng Ke then said, “Yes... You’re right. If they did it, they would also not have used so many different ways to kill the people, would they? As our leader said before, just simply poisoning the crew would have served their purposes.”

At this moment, Zhao Yu received a text message. After reading the message, Zhao Yu shook his head helplessly and said, "It seems that we aren't on the right track! Ran Tao just texted me that Qiao Ruxue's husband had bypass surgery half a month ago and has stayed in the hospital until now."

Zeng Ke shook his head. "So, it seems that it has nothing to do with him."

"Could it be a cover-up?" Wu Xiumin was still doubtful.

"No. Ran Tao has double-checked the medical records. It's absolutely true!" Zhao Yu shook his head.

At this time, Wu Xiumin also received a text message. After reading it, she said angrily to the others, "The policeman in charge of investigating the cameraman Zhang Chenggong has found more videos and photos in his studio. Moreover, they have found indecent photos and videos of Qiao Ruxue!"

Chapter 750: What Instructions?

"Leader, I don't quite understand. We've been standing here for ages. What on earth are you looking at?" Zeng Ke asked Zhao Yu curiously as they were standing under the old lighthouse.

Zhao Yu looked at his watch. There were still ten minutes left before it would be the exact same time that the accident had occurred. He had arrived a little early today.

Since the murder had happened two days ago, no policemen were on duty here anymore. All they could see now were the yellow caution lines and the white lines that outlined where the scriptwriter Cai Jinda's body had been.

The place where the writer Cai Jinda was killed was right below the most southern point of the lighthouse. The murderer had hit him over the head with a huge and heavy rock, which had killed him instantly.

Among the many deceased victims, besides Xu You, who was burned to death, he must be the most tragic one. When it was found, his corpse had no face at all!

The Forensics Department had calculated that the rock that killed him had weighed 25 kilograms. They also determined that it had been falling from the lighthouse!

After carefully studying Cai Jinda's head wound, Gao Facai calculated that the rock had been pushed out of the lighthouse by the murderer. The murderer had also apparently had catapulted the rock from the lighthouse with a great amount of strength, which made the stone produce a very strong destructive force. Although Cai Jinda was only hit once, he couldn't survive such an intense blow.

After carefully observing the crime scene on the ground, Zhao Yu raised his head again and looked up at the lighthouse. Tonight, the moon was so bright that he could see the outline of the lighthouse easily, without even having to turn on his flashlight.

As a result of its suffering years of blowing winds and the rain's erosion, the lighthouse was badly damaged. In fact, it looked like it could collapse at any time.

While he was looking at the tall lighthouse, Zhao Yu muttered to himself, "Is there any other possibility for this murder?"

"Oh? Our leader has another good idea!" Seeing Zhao Yu thinking, then barely hearing his mutter, Zeng Ke asked Zhao Yu excitedly, "What possibility are you thinking of?"

"If Guo Yihang, Gao Peng, and Qiao Ruxue were not the murderer, then is there another plausible explanation?" Zhao Yu pondered for a second, then said, "Well, I always thought that this case was really weird!"

"Weird? How?" Zeng Ke asked.

"Um... For example... Um... Let's say..." Zhao Yu stammered at first, then finally drew a conclusion, "I just think it's so weird!"

"Master, you just said that..." Zeng Ke was starting to get really confused now.

Zhao Yu ignored him, continuing to mull things over aloud, "The murderer killed people in different ways, left clues on the deceased and spared the life of a witness. The witness made us believe that the murderer is Guo Yihang. Then, we found that Guo Yihang had disappeared! Then, we went to investigate Qiao Ruxue and her husband, but found that they are clean! Isn't this all so weird?"

"Leader, you... What on earth are you trying to say?" Wu Xiumin was rolling her eyes now.

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu paused, trying to collect his thought. He then said, "Let me say it this way. I think that the case might not be a premeditated murder! Maybe, this case was an accident!"

"Leader! You are brilliant!" Zeng Ke acted amazed but really thought Zhao Yu was a bit mad at this point.

"Or... You are absolutely nuts!" Wu Xiumin added. "Putting drugs in drinking water, killing people in different ways, leaving clues on the dead bodies, sparing Kang Leming's life, hanging Li Qian, and burying Zhang Yong...All of that... You think all of those things were an accident?"

"No..." Zhao Yu hastily explained, "What I am trying to say is that it may have been caused by an accident!"

"Master," Zeng Ke asked, "what exactly are you trying to say?" Were they trying to kill each other? Or... Do you suspect Li Qian and Zhang Yong?"

"No!" Zhao Yu denied his colleague's assertion, then explained, "Don't interrupt me, just let me finish. I mean to say that the murderer might just have wanted to kill someone in the crew, but when he killed that one person, the whole thing just somehow spun out of control. So, then he had to kill more people!"

"Wow! There's a great Hollywood movie script right there! One sniper killed five innocent victims. The police thought that he was a mad killer, but they didn't realize that only one of the five people was the sniper's actual target." Zeng Ke couldn't wait to interrupt and share his two cents.

"Da*n! Are you going to let me finish or not?" Zhao Yu stared at Zeng Ke with a frightening look, instantly silencing him.

He then clarified, "Specifically, I think that, after the situation got out of control, the murderer had to kill all of the people who knew about the first murder, so it escalated into the mass murder that we now have on our hands!"

Zhao Yu then added, "So, changing the ways of killing and leaving clues were just to hide the original motive of the first killing! Hence, we need to find out the murderer's real motive in order to be able to finally solve this mystery!"

Hearing Zhao Yu's conclusion, Zeng Ke, and Wu Xiumin were both shocked and tongue-tied.

"Okay, you can talk now!" Only then did Zhao Yu allow them to speak. "Go ahead and try to prove me wrong!"

"Leader, there is only one thing about what you just said that I don't understand." Zeng Ke raised his hand weakly, then asked, "Your analysis and conclusion are perfect, but... Who is the murderer?"

"Um... This... Well..." Zhao Yu suddenly had the idea of strangling Zeng Ke to death.

"At least one thing is for sure!" Wu Xiumin, calmly interrupted them. "This murderer must have known the inside story of the crew! At the very least, the murderer had to know about these people's backstory with Qiao Ruxue. So, the murderer must be one of the crew members."

"Yes." Zhao Yu nodded quickly. "Even Qiao Ruxue herself did not know that Qin Hao used cefuroxime to make her allergic reaction occur! Therefore, this murderer must be a powerful person within the crew or in the company!"

"Gee, that means you have to investigate a lot of people now!" Zeng Ke said. "There are so many executives at Champion Pictures. Who knows which one of them is our guy? It's also possible that the murderer is someone in the crew, but has already left Yongjin Island!"

Wu Xiumin then voiced her opinion, "This man would have to know a lot about the island!"

"Don't worry!" Seeing that the side adventure was about to begin, Zhao Yu said to the two with confidence, "Believe me, the time to witness a miracle is approaching!"

Just as Zhao Yu was laughing wildly, the time had come for the side adventure. He quickly became silent and observed his surroundings carefully in order to prepare himself for any unexpected event.

However... As the watch ticked away the seconds, Zhao Yu's expression gradually turned from one of excitement to one of frustration. Seeing that Zhao Yu's mood had clearly shifted, Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin held their breaths. In their eyes, Zhao Yu looked a bit mental at the moment!

Five minutes later, Zhao Yu finally lost his composure. After cursing in the air and reopening the map on his mobile phone, he compared it with his current location. The location was right, so he had to wonder...

Why was there is no response?

Did I miss anything?

Just as Zhao Yu was about to really lose his temper, he suddenly found that his side adventure score had unexpectedly increased by 5 points.

What is this?

Zhao Yu quickly looked around the surroundings again. When he looked at the lighthouse once more, the score increased by another five points!

This time, Zhao Yu finally understood what was happening. He stared at the lighthouse, which was now right in front of him, and murmured, "That is today's side adventure!"