

## Crazy 831

### Chapter 831: The Crime Scene

The next morning, the wind was mild and the sun was bright. However, because there had been a sudden drop in temperature overnight, Zhao Yu still felt quite cold.

The breeze that blew on his face felt like a sharp knife, constantly pricking his skin. In order to stay warm, he borrowed Director Ba's cotton hat. Director Ba dared not to complain about this, as Zhao Yu was the leader, after all. So, he asked someone to buy Zhao Yu and his team members a few new cotton hats.

At this moment, Zhao Yu, Zeng Ke, and Cui Lizhu arrived at the Royal Tomb neighborhood to check out the crime scene, which was in Han Kuan's and Zhang Jingru's house.

Although the name "Royal Tomb" made it sound like it would be a remote place, it was actually a village in the city. Specifically, it was located in the northwest area of the Golden City, within the fourth ring road.

It had been named "Royal Tomb" because it was said that, during the Qing Dynasty, many royals had been buried here. Thus, the people who lived here were all descendants of the tomb guardians.

However, Han Kuan and his wife were not born here. They had only bought the house and moved here after they got married.

Soon, they arrived at the house. At the sight of the police, many of the local residents ran out of their houses and gathered together while gaping at Zhao Yu and his team members.

Looking at the busy scene in front of him, Zhao Yu recalled last night's warmth, which he had shared with Miao Ying. However, since they had decided to divide the labor for the investigations, after dawn, they had to separate from each other and each look after their own case.

Miao Ying, along with Ran Tao and Wu Xiumin, continued to investigate the 11 Kills case, while Zhao Yu brought Cui Lizhu and Zeng Ke with him to investigate Han Kuan's case. Of course, before beginning the investigation that day, Zhao Yu had opened a new hexagram as usual.

This time, he got a Gen Kan hexagram, which indicated that he would attain a certain level of achievement both the case investigation and in his relationship with a woman! However, Zhao Yu was no longer enthusiastic about any other women, as only Miao Ying had his heart.

Thus, he was only really concerned with the Gen portion of the hexagram, which referred to the case itself. As he had received a few Gen hexagrams in a row, he was thinking of taking advantage of this in order to make great process in his investigation!

Therefore, in order to restore the crime scene as authentically as possible, Zhao Yu had not only called over the civil police who were at the scene that day, but he had also called the forensics team to join

them. Even Zhang Jingfeng, the victim's brother, and Han Kuan, who was still being detained, came along.

So, as the local residents saw a big investigative team arrive, they were very surprised and could not help but start whispering amongst themselves enthusiastically. This was especially the case when they recognized Han Kuan among the group!

Taking off the police seal that had cordoned off Han Kuan's gate, Director Ba then opened the gate with a key. As he watched Director Ba, Zhao Yu felt strange. After all, Director Ba was the logistics director, so had no obligation to participate in this criminal investigation.

Therefore, Zhao Yu thought that the Deputy Bureau Chief Zhang must have asked him to temporarily act as the captain of the criminal police in replacement of the actual captain, who had just given birth to a baby boy.

They really were severely short-handed! However, Zhao Yu was not annoyed that he was not dealing with the actual captain, as he had really started to like Director Ba. After all, at least Director Ba was more logical than many of the others in the police station!

Since no one had been taking care of the yard for more than three months, Han Kuan's yard was in quite a shocking state of disrepair. At the moment, it was covered with snow. As Zhao Yu stepped into the yard, his ankles sank deep into the snow, causing a chill to shoot up his legs.

In order to prevent anyone from entering and burglarizing the home, or worse, contaminating the crime scene, the police had reinforced the damaged door frame and repaired the broken door. After Director Ba opened the door, they entered Han Kuan's house.

The couple's bedroom was on the left side of the house. After pushing the bedroom door open, Zhao Yu finally saw the crime scene.

Although the sheet with bloodstains had already been taken to the police station for tests, upon seeing the big bed, Zhao Yu felt like he could almost smell the blood, and he immediately imagined Han Kuan lying in a pool of his wife's blood!

Zhao Yu then raised his hand and motioned for Director Ba to stand at the door, thus preventing all of the others from coming in. As he now had the room to himself, Zhao Yu carefully observed the bed, all of the other furniture, the floor, the windowsills and so on. As he perused everything, he was thinking about all kinds of possibilities...

In this way, Zhao Yu observed the room in silence and without disruption for more than ten minutes. He then waved to Zeng Ke, while asking him to bring him the photos of the crime scene. The others also entered at this moment.

Then, much to the others' surprise, Zhao Yu lay on the bed, in the exact spot where Zhang Jingru had died! Moreover, he adjusted his posture and positioned his limbs exactly according to the photos, even closing his eyes at the last moment.

Everyone looked at each other, dumbfounded. None of them had ever seen such strange investigation methods before! Among them, the handcuffed Han Kuan opened his eyes wide and looked very excited. He was thinking that Zhao Yu's strange behavior would serve as a great inspiration for his next novel!

Zhao Yu lay there for several minutes, and just when everyone thought that he had perhaps fallen asleep, Zhao Yu sat up and straightened his arms, striking a classic zombie pose! The others were shocked by his sudden movement, and they didn't know what to make of it.

Zhao Yu, of course, had his own reasonings for his strange ways. As he laughed wickedly, he raised his right arm and began to compare the crime scene photo with what he saw in the room presently.

After a while, he said to Zeng Ke, "See... Zhang Jingru was on the left... And Han Kuan was on the right! Zhao Jingru's right wrist was slit! So, if she wanted to commit suicide, she must have slit her right wrist with her left hand!"

At this time, Zhang Jingfeng suddenly shouted angrily, "My sister did not commit suicide! Are you trying to help the bald man get away with murder?"

"Shut up!" Director Ba snapped, shooting him a mean glare.

Zhao Yu then asked, "Han Kuan, was your wife left-handed?"

"No... Absolutely not!" Han Kuan replied.

"Well... Even if she was left-handed, this still would not add up!" Zhao Yu then pointed to his right hand and said, "The autopsy result showed that Zhang Jingru's wound was deeper on the left side. So, even if she had wanted to commit suicide, why would she carry the knife in such an unnatural way?"

"Hmm..." Upon hearing this, Director Ba couldn't help but add, "Leader Zhao, even if she held the knife the other way around, this can't explain the fingerprints! Zhang Jingru's fingerprints were not found on the weapon... Only Han Kuan's were!"

He then said, "Also, after Zhang Jingru's wrist was slit, there was no sign of a struggle. So, if she had really done this to herself, it would be impossible for her not to leave her fingerprints on the knife!"

Zhao Yu nodded his head and said, "Okay... So, let's say she didn't commit suicide. If the murderer is Han Kuan..."

"What?" Han Kuan's face changed as he shouted in disbelief, tinged with a hint of rage.

"Yes, that would make sense!" Director Ba nodded and said, "When we rushed into the room, we found Han Kuan holding the knife in his right hand. If he had used his right hand to slit Zhang Jingru's right wrist, it would coincide with the direction of the slit."

Zhao Yu nodded.

"Then... What are you waiting for?" Zhang Jingfeng pointed at Han Kuan angrily and said, "Shoot him dead!"

Han Kuan panicked upon hearing that, and he started to beg Zhao Yu, "It really wasn't me!"

"Hmm... Okay... Let's suppose there was a third person at the crime scene that day..." Zhao Yu said. "Could this person have manipulated such a scene?"

“We’ve thought about that possibility before,” Director Ba said. “If the murderer wore gloves, it would be easy. He just had to render them both unconscious, then slit Zhang Jingru’s arm. All that would be left after that would be to put the weapon into Han Kuan’s hand. That’s all!”

Zeng Ke then said, “But, in that case, we have to ask ourselves the first question again... If there was a third person, why didn’t the person just go ahead and kill Han Kuan? Wouldn’t it be more believable to create a scene depicting a couple committing suicide in the name of love? Why would he have spared Han Kuan?”

Zhao Yu replied with a possible theory, “Maybe... The murderer and Han Kuan had a history, which would mean that he either was either seeking revenge on Han Kuan, or he wanted to prove something about Han Kuan’s novel.”

Just as Zhao Yu had finished this thought, Cui Lizhu suddenly came in and said, “Boss, I have checked the entryways and mirror! It’s impossible that there was a third person!”

### **Chapter 832: Dead End**

“There’s nothing wrong with the door!” Cui Lizhu said. “I also checked the door mirror, and it showed no signs of being tampered with whatsoever. Moreover, this house has no back windows, the chimney is not big enough for ordinary people to come through it, and none of the windows were broken. If the door was really locked from the inside, it was indeed what you call a ‘locked room crime!’”

Zhang Jingfeng grabbed Han Kuan’s clothes as he yelled, “Then... What are you waiting for? Figure it out! Who else could be the murderer besides Han Kuan?”

“Um... Are there any secret doors in your house?” Cui Lizhu asked Han Kuan.

“No.” Han Kuan shook his head.

Cui Lizhu suddenly clapped her hands. “Okay... That settles it! There can’t be anyone else involved except for this couple!”

When Cui Lizhu spoke, Zhao Yu got up from the bed and walked to the windowsill in the inner room. The curtains were pulled open.

After seeing the curtains, Zhao Yu compared them with a picture from the crime scene, his strange reaction making it seemed as if he had found something important while doing so.

The others did not know what Zhao Yu was thinking about, so they waited quietly for him to speak. A moment later, Zhao Yu pulled the curtains closed. The curtains immediately blocked out all of the light, causing the room to become completely dark.

After he closed the curtains, Zhao Yu smacked his lips and looked up. As he did so, he noticed that, at the top of the left curtain, a hook was missing, allowing just a tiny bit of sunlight to stream in. Where the light beam shone, a small and irregular triangular shadow appeared on the bed.

Zhao Yu pointed to the gap where the missing hook was and asked Director Ba, “Did you see this?”

Director Ba did not answer, but a young policeman next to him nodded and replied, “Yes, leader. I also saw this same gap that very night, so I climbed up to the top of the windowsill!”

“Hmm...” Zhao Yu nodded, then asked, “You saw that there were people in the room, which made you decide to break in, right?”

“Yes!” The policeman answered without hesitation. “Although I couldn’t see everything clearly, I knew that they must be lying on the bed! We knocked on the door for a long time, yet no one responded, so we were worried and wondered what could have happened to them!”

“Oh...” Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu quickly pulled up a chair, stepped onto the windowsill, then carefully observed the hooks and the curtain.

The others didn’t quite understand why Zhao Yu was so interested in curtains and hooks, but they kept silent and dared not question him.

Zhao Yu then turned to Han Kuan and asked, “Who pulled the curtains closed that night?”

Han Kuan recalled, “It must have been my wife, as I was typing in the guest bedroom that night and didn’t go to bed until 11 o’clock. By the time I went to bed, the curtains were already closed! Um... And I was the one who locked the door! Also, I remember that I went to the toilet before I locked the door...”

“Don’t waste my time with unnecessary details! Did you notice this missing hook before you went to bed?” Zhao Yu interrupted him and asked.

“No...” Han Kuan shook his head. “Actually... I really can’t remember!”

Zhao Yu then turned and snapped his fingers at Director Ba and said, “Hurry up and call in your forensics staff to check the curtain near the hook. Look especially for dandruff tissue! They must check it carefully!”

Director Ba nodded, then ran to the door and waved to the forensics team. Two staff members immediately came to the windowsill with professional forensic tools.

“Boss, what’s wrong with the curtain?” Cui Lizhu rushed forward and asked.

Zhao Yu smiled and said, “I just remembered a scene... The one from Justice Bao!”

“What?” Cui Lizhu frowned, as she was unfamiliar with the reference. “What does that mean?” Not only was Cui Lizhu puzzled, but none of the others understood the reference either.

“No... No way... Officer Zhao...” Han Kuan suddenly understood Zhao Yu’s meaning, and he looked around in surprise and asked, “Are you saying that... In your opinion... The murderer is among us?”

Upon hearing this, everyone was shocked. Hoping to diffuse the situation, Zhao Yu waved his hand hastily and said, “Don’t talk nonsense. It just reminded me of that. However... In response to your question... I’m not sure.”

Han Kuan raised his hands and said, “That’s why you suddenly called all of the people here today! You really are an expert!”

All of the people present were shocked by Han Kuan's words. They didn't know what to think!

Director Ba then scratched his head and asked, "Hey, officer, what exactly does Justice Bao have to do with our case?" He was clearly still confused.

Zhao Yu pointed to the gap above the curtain and said, "I suspect that the murderer may have deliberately removed the hook! His purpose for doing this was to make sure that you could see what was in the room and to let you know that there were people in danger, which would then lead you to break in by busting the door down!"

Zhao Yu's voice grew more excited as he explained, "Then, when you broke down the door, the murderer knew that you would rush into the couple's bedroom first, and when you saw the couple lying in the victim's blood, you suddenly had no idea about what to do..."

"Yes!" Director Ba nodded and admitted, "I remember that I was really quite panicked at that time..."

All of the others nodded in agreement.

"In Justice Bao, there is a similar scene," Zhao Yu said. "When a large number of officers rushed into a murder scene, all of their attention was attracted by the victims, so nobody noticed that the real killer was actually hiding behind the door!"

Zhao Yu's words made everyone shiver.

Han Kuan instantly agreed that this was a real possibility, "Yes! And... That killer was also a police officer! I remember now! He wore the police uniform and joined the other police officers immediately, so that no one noticed him at all! It was the perfect murder!"

"Ah!" This time, all of the people finally understood Zhao Yu's meaning, and they were shocked by his new theory.

Cui Lizhu looked at everyone with wide eyes as she asked, "So... You guys actually think that the murderer is one of the police officers here?"

After she asked the question, no one spoke for a good 15 seconds. After all, no one dared say such a thing out loud!

Finally, Director Ba twisted his eyebrows and carefully perused the policemen in front of him, one by one. He was trying to recall which one of them might have suddenly appeared at the scene during that time.

Zhao Yu made a pausing gesture with his hands as he said, "Okay... Everybody stop for a moment, and let's all take a deep breath. This is just a theory, after all. Moreover, Justice Bao is a fictional drama!"

An old policeman thought for a while, then suddenly said, "I remember now! At that time, after the door was broken down, Director Ba rushed in with a few colleagues, while I stood at the doorway! So, if someone left the house, how could I not have noticed?"

"Yes! When we found the victim in the couple's bedroom, I also went to the guest room to check to see if there were any other victims," another policeman said.

After hearing this, Cui Lizhu grabbed Han Kuan, then turned him to face the the policemen present and asked, "Great writer, take a good look at these people... Do you recognize anyone?"

"Um... This..." Han Kuan shook his head, then said, "I used to go to the police station to get inspired for my writing, so they all look familiar! But, I don't know any of them..."

The policemen all heaved huge sighs of relief upon hearing this.

At that moment, Zhao Yu shouted, "Okay, that is enough! Listen to me! If there is such a murderer out there, he might not have known that the police would come to the scene! He may have just sent a picture of a slit wrist to Zhang Jingfeng..."

After hearing Zhao Yu's words, everyone turned their eyes toward Zhang Jingfeng again.

Upon seeing this, Zhang Jingfeng asked, "What do you mean? You don't think that it's me, right?"

Zhao Yu shook his head and said, "The murderer sent you the picture in order to get you to come here. That way, his carefully planned crime scene could be discovered! But, he didn't know whether you would come alone or with the police. So, he wouldn't have risked staying at the scene!"

Han Kuan suddenly stared at Zhang Jingfeng, while saying, "But... The murderer should be familiar with you, right? At least... Enough to know that you were still playing cards into the wee hours of the night, and in a remote place at that! As such, he was sure that you wouldn't be able to rescue your sister, but that you could be led to come to see the crime scene. That explains why he he sent you the photo, right?"

"What do you mean? You're the murderer! You bald murderer!" Zhang Jingfeng burst into a temper tantrum, while shouting abusive words at Han Kuan.

Han Kuan shouted back at him angrily, "You have the audacity to accuse me? Look to yourself! Did you have any enemies? I bet you did, and that your sister really died because of you!"

"Shi\*! How dare you say such a thing! You'll soon regret making me angry..." Zhang Jingfeng was so angry that he rushed at Han Kuan and fought with him.

Director Ba and others rushed forward and pulled them apart. The whole scene was a total mess. Looking at the mess in front of him, Zhao Yu suddenly realized that all of his previous inferences had resulted in nothing but dead ends.

### **Chapter 833: Restart from the Very Beginning**

Either Director Ba and the others deliberately avoided getting involved in their fight, or Zhang Jingfeng was daft! He actually grabbed a handful of hair from Han Kuan's head, causing Han Kuan to scream in pain!

After the police finally separated them, Han Kuan's nearly bald head had lost a few precious handfuls of hair! Seeing that neither of them could provide any important information, Zhao Yu asked the police to

take Huan Kuan back to the police station, while he decided that he would Zhang Jingfeng away himself later.

Zhang Jingfeng was an unemployed gambler. As he was one of the important people in Han Kuan's case, the police had already checked out what he was doing on the night of the murder. That evening, it turned out that he had really been playing cards with his friends. So, he had a solid alibi.

Although Han Kuan had mentioned Zhang Jingfeng's debts, after further investigation, Zhao Yu's team confirmed that Zhang Jingfeng didn't have any major financial problems at present. Also, in the past, Zhang Jingru did help her brother out quite often in terms of money, so it seemed highly improbable for him to hurt her.

After Huan Kuan and Zhang Jingfeng had left the room, Director Ba frowned as he asked Zhao Yu, "Special Investigator, what shall we do next?"

Zhao Yu was still thinking about something, so did not answer his question immediately.

At that moment, Cui Lizhu bit her lip and said, "This is going to be a hard one! After all, all of the evidence clearly points to Han Kuan! It seems that he really can't remove all doubts regarding his guilt!"

"It's too early to say that now!" Zeng Ke said, refusing to agree to her assertion. "Maybe deputy leader's investigation into the truth could be helpful to us. In fact, I'm even more curious about the true identity of the serial killer now!"

"Director Ba!" At this time, Zhao Yu finally stopped thinking and said sternly, "I need you to do an important thing. And... You must do it well!"

"Okay! You have my word!" Director Ba said as he saluted Zhao Yu.

"Cui is right. Because it was a locked room, we can only assume two hypotheses before we know if there are other people involved!" Zhao Yu said, while he held up two of his fingers.

He then said, "Either Zhang Jingru committed suicide and framed her husband... Or... Han Kuan is the murderer! The reason why we are still uncertain about which one is correct is because we are still missing a lot of key evidence! We need to know what happened to both of them!"

"Um... Well... Do you mean..." Director Ba still could not quite understand Zhao Yu what Zhao Yu was getting at.

Zhao Yu, upon seeing his confusion, rushed to clarify what he wanted for Director Ba to do exactly, "You need to immediately assign people to investigate all of Han Kuan's and Zhang Jingru's activities within the three months leading up to Zhang Jingru's death!"

He then clarified things in even more detail, "Be sure that you are meticulous, as you must not leave out any details! You must find out what they did, who they met, what happened to them... Every single day! Even things like shopping or going to the movie theater must not be overlooked!"

"Ah? This..." Director Ba's face showed signs of reluctance.

Zhao Yu did not let him finish his thoughts before he continued giving Director Ba further instructions, "Find any security camera videos, ask every applicable witness to find more clues, and even check film



tickets if that is applicable! In a word, no matter what method you use or how many people you assign to get this task handles, you must find out all of the related information for me in three days!”

Upon hearing this quick deadline, Director Ba frowned and, although he was skeptical as to being able to get it all done in such a short period of time, he reluctantly agreed, “Okay, I will try my best!”

Zhao Yu stared at him for a second, then shouted, “This is not a matter of merely trying! In fact, you can tell your chief that you have made a great mistake in terms of your own responsibility in this case!”

He shook his head, then added, “As for the novel serial killer case, your station has also been seriously negligent! I’m telling you... If you can’t manage to do even these trivial things I’ve asked of you just now, your whole Golden City Police Station will be punished!”

Director Ba stood up in a hurry, saluted Zhao Yu respectfully, and promised, “I promise to finish these tasks!”

“Well, what are you waiting for then? Get started!” Zhao Yu urged him. “But, I still have one more request! Don’t ask Han Kuan about any of these things during your investigation!”

“Oh...” Director Ba frowned. He was clearly confused as he asked, “Why?”

Zhao Yu stared at him in frustration yet again. “Why do you have to ask so many questions? Just do what I tell you! Do you understand?”

“Um... I understand!” Director Ba nodded, while a cold sweat broke out on his forehead.

Zhao Yu then reached out his hand to him and said, “Oh... And leave us a car! We’ll stay at the scene for a little longer! You go ahead!”

“Okay,” Director Ba said, while he quickly gave Zhao Yu the front door keys and the car key. He then went to handle all of the tasks that Zhao Yu had just mentioned.

As soon as Director Ba left, Zeng Ke asked Zhao Yu out of curiosity, “Do you think we’ve missed anything?”

Cui Lizhu overheard this and said with a wicked smile, “Our boss must just be toying with them on purpose. After all, look at them! What kind of criminal policemen are they, anyway? None like I have ever seen... That’s for sure!”

Upon hearing her sneer, Zhao Yu said solemnly, “No! Ke Zeng was right when he said that the case has a dead knot! If we want to untie this knot, we must start from the rope’s ends! I think that... Either we missed something, or Han Kuan and his wife deliberately hid something from us!”

Cui Lizhu stuck out her tongue, then asked, “Are you joking? Zhang Jingru is dead! What else can she possibly hide from us?”

“Um... I seem to understand a little of what you mean...” Zeng Ke nodded, then said, “It seems that Han Kuan’s case is not as simple as it first seemed on the surface!”

Zhao Yu felt relieved that Zeng Ke was following his line of thought, and turned to give him further instructions, “When you get back to the police station, ask Han Kuan to write down a detailed record of

his activities within the three months before the murder, including both his and his wife's every move! Do you understand?"

"No problem!" Zeng Ke made an okay gesture with his hand, then said, "When Director Ba finishes investigating on his end, then we can compare our findings with one another! Then, we'll know who is lying!"

Zhao Yu raised a single thumb in approval as he said, "Great! But... The policemen who were at the scene just now can't be overlooked. You'll need to go back and sort out all of their background details for me! Regardless of whether there was a third person on the scene or not that night, we can't let leave any possibility unchased or any clue uncovered!"

"Okay!" Zeng Ke nodded, then asked, "In that case, shall we go back to the police station now?"

"Not yet. There is one more thing that I have to figure out first!" With that, Zhao Yu pointed to the big bed in the middle of the crime scene. He then patted Cui Lizhu on the shoulder and said with a strange look, "Cui, come here! Get on the bed with me!"

"Okay..." Cui Lizhu nodded her head and followed Zhao Yu for several steps before a strange look flashed across her face. Then, she suddenly looked up and asked him, "Wait... I beg your pardon? Did I just hear you correctly?"

"Shi\*! What bad hearing you have! I said... Let's go to the bed! Can't you understand me?" Zhao Yu waved at her impatiently, then said, "Hurry up!"

#### **Chapter 834: Is It a Suicide Plan?**

"Come this way... A little more! Why are you being so shy?" Zhao Yu asked, while he pulled Cui Lizhu towards him on the bed.

He then urged her, "I know... I'll pretend to be dead... No, even better... I'll pretend to be unconscious under the effects of sleeping pills! Then, you put the handle of a knife in my right hand, and..."

Before he could even finish his sentence, Cui Lizhu stuck out her tongue at him and said, "Boss, don't scare me with such nonsense! I thought you wanted me to undress for you again, like last time!"

Zeng Ke felt super awkward upon overhearing their banter, and he didn't know what to say.

"Don't joke around! This is a serious case investigation!" Zhao Yu emphasized in a serious tone, "We're working here! And... Hey! Wait a minute... When Did I ever make you undress? That is nonsense!"

It turned out that all Zhao Yu wanted Cui Lizhu to do was to play the role of the victim, Zhang Jingru, while he played the role of Han Kuan! He hoped that, by recreating the death scene, the group might get some inspiration.

Once everyone understood his intentions, they got on board with Zhao Yu's plan at once. Since they didn't have a fruit knife available, they used a comb instead.

Of course, Zeng Ke took on the role of director, and as he threw the comb on the bed, he commanded, "Team Leader, you have just taken the sleeping pills. Now, lay down and act like you have just lost consciousness!"

Hearing this, Zhao Yu closed his eyes and lay down in the exact same position in which Han Kuan had been found.

"Now, Cui, you quietly pick up the knife!" Zeng Ke continued to instruct them, "Okay... Now wipe the pillow lace on the knife handle, paying close attention to not leave your fingerprints! Then, put the knife handle into Zhao Yu's right hand!"

Cui Lizhu obediently placed the comb in Zhao Yu's right hand according to what Zeng Ke had just said.

Zeng Ke then continued, "Next, hold his right hand tightly with your left hand! Then, try to reach up and lightly slit your right wrist! See if it's possible..."

"Okay!" Cui Lizhu did as he said.

She then exclaimed, "As long as my left hand uses enough strength, it's possible!"

Cui Lizhu held Zhao Yu's right hand tightly and made a motion of slitting her wrist. A clear mark appeared on her wrist, although she had only broken the skin lightly for realism's sake.

"Then... It's feasible?" Zeng Ke thought about it for a while, then said, "So, it really is possible that it was a suicide?"

Zhao Yu sat up and said, "The evidence report revealed that the fruit knife was very sharp. If Zhang Jingru used enough strength, she could indeed kill herself with the knife that was found in Han Kuan's hand! Then, she could have easily made it look like Han Kuan was the killer!"

Zeng Ke nodded and said, "Yes! Zhang Jingru could have taken the sleeping pills in advance, then committed suicide before the pills took effect! After she slit her own wrist, she would have then had enough time to take a few pictures with her left hand, send them to her brother, Zhang Jingfeng, then call him..."

"Huh..." As Zhao Yu stroked the comb in his hand, he suddenly recalled something and exclaimed, "The witness detected a high concentration of sleeping pill residue in the drinking cup on the bedside table! That cup was Zhang Jingru's, so the police suspected that Zhang Jingru fell into a coma after Han Kuan gave her sleeping pills."

He shook his head, while his eyes grew wide. "But, what if the truth is the exact opposite of that hypothesis? According to Han Kuan's confession, he had planned on writing until the wee hours of the morning. But, before it was even 11:30, he started to feel dizzy. Then, he went to relieve himself in the yard, went back to the bedroom, locked the door, and went to bed!"

Zhao Yu paused to take a breath, then said, "He also vaguely remembered that when he went to bed, Zhang Jingru had already fallen asleep. But, what if Zhang Jingru didn't fall asleep at all? Han Kuan also said that he had the habit of drinking tea while he was writing novels. He had tea that evening, but did not finish it, and after the police arrived, they only found the empty cup!"

At this point, Zhao Yu took a deep breath, then said meaningfully, "If all of this was really Zhang Jingru's plan all along, the scene that day might have been as follows: Zhang Jingru put sleeping pills in Han Kuan's tea, and after Han Kuan fell into a coma, she orchestrated her own suicide plan!"

His voice raised an octave as he was getting so excited. "First, she poured out Han Kuan's tea, washed the cup clean, and destroyed the evidence! Then she examined the door carefully, making sure it was locked. In this way, she was able to create the illusion of a locked room murder!"

Zhao Yu then said, "Second, she removed a hook from the curtain so that people outside could see the bed in the bedroom through the gap above the curtain. Later, she added the sleeping pills to her cup, stirred them in, and drank the laced concoction! She deliberately left half of the cup's liquid, which created the illusion that Han Kuan had done this to her in order to make her lose consciousness!"

Zhao Yu shook his head, then added, "Then, using the method that we just practiced, she carried out her devious plan to commit the perfect suicide. In this way, Han Kuan's fingerprints were left on the weapon, which made us think that Han Kuan had killed her! After slitting her wrist, she took her mobile phone in her left hand and sent her brother a picture of her slit wrist. She was afraid that Zhang Jingfeng could not see it, so she called him. But, after the call went through, she did not speak!"

Zhao Yu was getting more and more excited. "Zhang Jingru must have known that Zhang Jingfeng would be playing cards not too far away. Therefore, she knew that Zhang Jingfeng could bring the police to her home to catch Han Kuan!"

Zhao Yu was lost in his own thoughts as he continued, not even noticing the others' reactions, "Han Kuan fell asleep just before midnight, but Zhang Jingfeng didn't receive the photo until about one o'clock the next morning! So, there was just enough time for Zhang Jingru to carry out her plan!"

After Zhao Yu finished explaining his hypothetical scenario, the other two fell were absolute silent. You could say that they had been shocked speechless! Zeng Ke and Cui Lizhu stared at each other and didn't speak for a long time.

Then, Cui Lizhu asked, "Boss, that still doesn't explain one of the most important questions... Why would Zhang Jingru kill herself and frame her husband? What was her motive?"

Zhao Yu nodded, as she did have a good point. So, he said, "Well... I asked Director Ba to look into all of the details, and if he finds that there is no possibility of a third party involved, then there must have been some major problems between the couple that we don't know about!"

Cui Lizhu shook her head, then said, "No! I don't think that's possible! You know... When I was lying in bed just now, imagining that I was Zhang Jingru, I got a strange feeling! Um... Anyway... I think that, no matter what secrets she and Han Kuan may have had, she still wouldn't have committed suicide! In my opinion, the murderer is either someone else or Han Kuan!"

Zeng Ke shook his head, then said, "Cui, you can't handle cases by using your intuition alone! We have to trust in the cold, hard facts and clear evidence!"

Hearing this, Zhao Yu agreed with Zeng Ke, so he quickly said in frustration, "Yes, Zeng Ke is right! Even if our hypotheses are correct, we still cannot prove that Han Kuan is innocent without having evidence to

back it up! So, no matter who the murderer is, we all have to agree that we have met a very smart opponent in this case!”

### **Chapter 835: The Hanged Victim**

At noon, the sunshine glimmered on the snow-covered ground. Although the sunshine made it seem like it should be warm, it felt still cold outside. Even after quite a long time had passed after it had fallen, the snow still did not show any signs of melting.

However, even in this cold winter weather, many people were bustling about outdoors. As he was sitting in the corner of a restaurant, Zhao Yu could see the crowds of people passing by in the streets and lanes.

Everywhere he looked, he saw people walking alongside one another, pushing small carts to sell goods, and talking amongst themselves in small groups. He even saw a few old men in military coats and cotton gloves, who were playing chess in a nearby park.

At the moment, Zhao Yu, Cui Lizhu, and Zeng Ke were having lunch, and they had just ordered several local specialties. Zhao Yu finished his meal quickly, then looked at his watch and told the other two, who had not finished yet, “I’m going to go do something by myself now!”

He then waved his hand and said, “You two just do as we planned. Zeng Ke will go back to the police station, while Cui will go to collect information. But... Remember to be careful! Call me if there’s anything that you can’t deal with! Oh... And Cui... I don’t think I need to remind you of that other thing one more time, right?”

Cui Lizhu nibbled at her meal as she replied playfully, “Okay. I hear you... We need to be serious... Oh! No... You mean that we need to be honest people! Haha! Rest assured, after what happened to my dad, I have learned my lesson about being honest!”

Zhao Yu nodded at her, then said. “Okay, as long as that is understood, then I will allow you to follow your own routine. If you can’t find any useful information from Han Kuan, then start to look for something regarding the novel murder case. After all, four people have died, so it’s impossible that people won’t have something to say about it!”

He then seemed to recall something, so he asked, “Oh yeah... Didn’t you say that you used to study here? Then... Go to your school and ask around!”

“But...” Cui Lizhu replied, “If I really find something, then Miss Miao won’t think you are the one helping her! At that time, she’ll make you suffer!”

“Screw you! Um... I mean...” After his angry outburst, Zhao Yu saw that there were people nearby, so he stopped himself from really losing his temper, while he lowered his voice and scolded her, “Don’t talk nonsense! If you want to prove to me how capable you are, go and find some useful information for me!”

“Ha ha ha, rest assured, I will not let you down!” Cui Lizhu promised as she nodded at Zhao Yu. She had a wicked smile on her face and made no immediate moves, but just kept on eating!

Zhao Yu rolled his eyes, said a few more words to Zeng Ke, then opened the door and left. The reason why Zhao Yu had to go and handle his next piece of business alone was that the time for his side adventure was approaching.

Today's side adventure would take place in the northern region of the Golden City, which was close to the highway. According to the electronic map, that area was called the Qiaobei District, and it was a relatively remote place.

Thus far, Zhao Yu had benefited greatly from his side adventures. In fact, at almost every critical moment of the investigation, the side adventure had provided him with some very helpful clues. Although these clues might have deviated slightly from the investigation's main focus, they often brought him new and useful ideas.

Therefore, Zhao Yu was really looking forward to today's side adventure. As he headed towards the location, he wondered... What clues will I find this time?

Zhao Yu hired a local taxi, and just as the car approached the destination, he suddenly realized something. He quickly turned on his phone to check the case information, which confirmed exactly what he had just guessed... The location of the side adventure and the place where the second victim in the novel-related case was killed were one and the same!

After he got out of the taxi, Zhao Yu looked around to find that he was at an unfinished construction site! According to the information that he had, this neighborhood was called the Qiaobei Home, and it was one of the high-profile residential areas that had been developed by the local government several years ago.

Due to economic constraints, there were very few high-profile residential areas in the Golden City. Therefore, this was the first trial run of the local government in building one.

However, because the original developer's capital funding fell through, the construction project was taken on by several different developers. Then, due to mismanagement, the entire project was eventually abandoned.

For this reason, what existed here now was a mere skeleton of the original construction plan. In fact, most of the residential buildings in this district barely had roofs and windows.

Three months before the murder in Han Kuan's personal case, the police had found a hanged victim in one of the residential buildings. It was the second victim in this serial case, at least according to the death order in Han Kuan's 11 Kills.

As he looked at the half-constructed buildings, Zhao Yu could not help but wonder why the system had arranged for the side adventure to take place here. He thought...

If this is related to 11 Kills, why did it not take me to the first victim's crime scene, or someone else's? Why the second victim?

What's more, the hexagram that he had opened today was a Gen Kan hexagram. The Kan portion represented a female.

He recalled that, in the current serial killer case, only the second victim was a woman. So, he wondered... Could the meaning of the Kan portion of the hexagram refer to this female victim?

As Zhao Yu looked at his watch, he saw that the side adventure was about to take place. As he did not want to miss it, he quickened his pace.

After the system had been upgraded, its calculation of the location, time, and altitude of the side adventures had all become much more precise. Thus, it did not take very long for Zhao Yu to find his destination.

He arrived at the first floor of an unfinished building. When he saw the security tape that had been left by the police, it only confirmed that today's side adventure did indeed involve the young, female victim that was hanged. At the moment, he was at the exact spot where she was hanged!

This building had no doors and no windows. After Zhao Yu entered the building, leaving the strong sunlight, the lighting seemed quite dim in comparison.

The first floor was quite spacious. It had an elevator on its right side, while there was a staircase on the left side.

As he looked up, Zhao Yu could see that a cement beam was hanging from the roof in the middle of the hall. According to the crime scene report, it was from this cement beam that the young woman was hanged.

It was said that she threw the rope over the beam, then tied it tight with a few knots at the end. Next, she picked up some bricks from outside and piled them up to about half a meter in height. Finally, she stepped on the bricks, put the knotted portion of the rope around her neck, then kicked over the bricks and killed herself.

According to the autopsy report, her time of death was pronounced to be between two or three o'clock in the morning. Hence, it was not surprising that there had been no witnesses so far. In fact, if her body hadn't been seen by a garbage man early in the morning, who knows how long it would have taken for the corpse to be found?

Zhao Yu looked through the records and found that the victim was named Hao Lili. She was a 28-year-old woman, who came from a village in the Golden County and who worked as a saleswoman in a hardware store.

As he looked at the photos, Zhao Yu could see that Hao Lili had a beautiful face and a slim figure. Moreover, when her body was found, she had been wearing the best and most expensive brands of clothing and accessories.

This was the only information that Zhao Yu had obtained so far. He had not yet obtained any detailed information about Hao Lili herself, at least regarding her personality and human relationships.

At this point, Zhao Yu was not sure why the police had immediately treated the case as a suicide. After all, based on what he had just gathered from the scene, as well as when he considered the identity of the victim, there were too many questionable points for this conclusion to hold water.

So, he had to wonder... How could they close the case so hastily?

As Zhao Yu was observing the crime scene, he suddenly heard a sound. At first, Zhao Yu was shocked. Then, he realized that the sound must have something to do with the side adventure!

With this in mind, he got really excited. In fact, he could not calm down, and he immediately took out his pistol and aimed it at the place where the sound came from.

### **Chapter 836: Murders According to A Novel**

After the Quliang case, Zhao Yu had learned a valuable lesson. He learned that he had to take measures to protect himself, so he had applied for a gun permit from the Criminal Division, then obtained a pistol.

Although Miao Ying had since joined his team as the deputy team leader, she was not yet qualified to wear a gun on duty because of her relatively short time on the force. Therefore, Zhao Yu and Ran Tao, who was in charge of the field mission, were only two people with pistols in the Special Investigation Group.

However, at this moment, which was not long after Zhao Yu had pointed the gun at the stairway, he suddenly lowered it and placed it back in its holster at his waist. This was because he had heard Ran Tao's loud voice, coming from the stairway. Immediately thereafter, he heard Wu Xiumin's familiar and taunting lilt. A few seconds later, Ran Tao, Wu Xiumin, and Miao Ying appeared together in the hall on the first floor.

"Boss, why are you here?" Ran Tao saw Zhao Yu and hurried forward to say hello.

Upon seeing his team members and realizing that his initial terror at the sound was a false alarm, Zhao Yu frowned. He did not realize that what the system had arranged for him today would be an encounter with his own team.

Miao Ying was also surprised to see Zhao Yu. She came over to Zhao Yu with a smile and said, "Leader, this is strange behavior for you. Didn't you say that we should have different duties in this investigation? Are you trying to steal my credit?"

Zhao Yu felt a bit offended by her misguided accusation, so he immediately replied, "I'm not here to steal anything from you! Anyway... I'm the group leader, right? So, taking stock of the overall situation is well within my jurisdiction!"

"Hey... What overall situation are you talking about?" Ran Tao asked with a laugh. "Obviously, you are here to find your girlfriend! After all, Team Leader is not so kind to care about us!"

Miao Ying laughed, then asked Zhao Yu with a slight blush, "He's just being silly, but really... What on earth are you doing here?"

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu replied with his own question, while he pointed to the stairs and asked, "Why were you going upstairs?"

Ran Tao was opening his mouth to answer, but Miao Ying beat him as she replied, "Zhao Yu, you got here at the perfect time. I must report something about the Golden City Police Station to you..."



With that, Miao Ying pointed to the exact spot where the victim had been hanged and said, “A young woman hanged herself in this abandoned building in the middle of the night! It’s obvious that there are some abnormalities with this crime scene, right? But... What did the Golden City Police Station do? They ruled it as being a simple suicide!”

Miao Ying shook her head, then said earnestly, “I feel that we must report how misguided and lazy their jumping to such a hasty conclusion is! After all, it is not only our duty to check on how they handled the case, but to also prevent others from repeating the same mistake and following such a bad example!”

“Hmm...” Zhao Yu mumbled, while showing no real interest in what she had just said whatsoever.

He then said absentmindedly, “Sure... Whatever you like! But... Let’s get back to talking about the specifics of the case. If we follow the plot of the novel, this woman should not have committed suicide, right?”

Miao Ying nodded her head vehemently as she said, “Correct! But... Because the body has already been cremated, there is little evidence left, which makes it difficult for us to prove anything at all! The local police didn’t even do an autopsy on her! They are completely useless!”

“Then... What about her family?” Zhao Yu shook his head in disappointment, then asked, “Don’t they want to know the truth?”

Wu Xiumin then jumped in to the conversation and said, “Well... Her circumstances were quite special! Hao Lili’s parents have been divorced for many years. Her father is said to have gone south for work, and there has been no news from him for about five years now.”

She shook her head, clearly frustrated at that dead end. “As for her mother, she is remarried and now lives in Russia. The Golden City Police did call her, but she just told the police to deal with as best as they saw fit, without showing any concern or sadness at all!”

Wu Xiumin then added, “After that, the police had to find a few of Hao Lili’s distant relatives, all of whom lived in the countryside at that time, to decide how to handle her remains.”

Wu Xiumin shook her head again, then said, “Not one of these people wanted to deal with it, so no one really had any thoughts on the matter. At that point, the police just decided to cremate her, as that was the easiest and quickest option!”

“Hmm... The fact that they had such a hard time finding anyone in her life to care what happened to her remains seems very strange!” Zhao Yu said.

He then recalled, “After all, although Hao Lili worked in a hardware store, when she died, the clothes that she was wearing were all designer brand clothes, which should have cost quite a lot of money to purchase!”

Ran Tao nodded, then said, “We thought about this, too. So, we carefully investigated Hao Lili’s contact history from her phone and other electronic devices and found out that she had a secret lover! He’s a wealthy hardware wholesaler in Zhaoyun. We contacted the local police, who have promised to bring this guy to us this afternoon!”

Wu Xiumin then jumped into the conversation and added, "But... This wholesaler said that he had broken up with Hao Lili six months before the murder, and at that time, he claimed that he had given her a good sum of money to help her in the transition."

She then shook her head and said, "Also... We have already ruled him out as a suspect, as on the day of her death, he was traveling in Nanjiang. He even has an alibi to prove it."

"Well... If her death was really related to the novel, then we don't have to worry about this rich businessmen being involved, regardless of whether he has an alibi or not" Miao Ying said. "After all, that timeline of six months without contact doesn't coincide with the plot. So, we'd better focus on checking to see who Hao Lili contacted just before her death. At the same time, the possibility that we are dealing with a random murderer, who kills for no special reason, cannot be ruled out."

Zhao Yu thought for a few seconds, then asked, "So... What about the other victims? Do you have any leads?"

Miao Ying shook her head as she said, "So many obstacles are facing us at the moment. Broken cameras... The deaths having taken place so long ago... No witnesses... As things stand at the moment, it seems that we can only rely on luck! Regardless, the investigation of 11 Kills is still the main focus of our investigation, as we feel that there is where we have the best chance of finding new clues!"

Wu Xiumin then reported, "The only thing that we can be sure of now is that the murderer is not exactly killing according to the novel! In the novel, the victims are all males, and they are all of similar ages. Also, they all attend the same school."

She shook her head, then added, "But, in this case, the four victims have nothing to do with each other. Whether it be gender, age, occupation, family or financial conditions, they all vary from one to the other! There is hardly any commonality among them!"

"That is to say..." Zhao Yu nodded and said, "The cause of death in this case is not due to bullying or campus violence?"

Miao Ying said, "Right. In fact, it may have nothing to do with the campus whatsoever!"

"But..." Wu Xiumin added, "Except for these differences, the other details of the case are highly consistent with the novel's plot, including the orders of the deaths, how the victims were killed, the crime scene locations, how the real killer fabricated the scene to look like suicides, and so on... All of these things mirror the plot exactly!"

"Oh..." Zhao Yu's nodded as he was thinking.

Wu Xiumin was quiet for a moment, not wanting to interrupt his thoughts. She then said, "I have read Han Kuan's 11 Kills countless times, and after doing so, I went to all of the crime scenes again! From a psychological point of view, I don't think that the murderer is killing people at random!"

"Oh?" Zhao Yu was surprised by this assertion.

Miao Ying also seemed to be hearing Wu Xiumin's point of view for the first time, so she wore a similar look of surprise on her face as she listened very carefully to her words.

Wu Xiumin then said, "It strikes me as being an unusual psychological transfer. After reading Han Kuan's novel, the murderer seems to have responded to the character sympathetically. That is to say, even though the murderer does not necessarily have the same experience as the character did in the book, he can still feel the same feelings!"

Her eyes were wide as she concluded, "So... Maybe this killer has a certain kind of psychological paranoia or lacks the capability to control himself or decipher reality from fiction. This would explain why the killer might imagine himself as the character in the book, then start to implement his plan to murder all of these people!"

"Oh... I understand now!" Zhao Yu nodded and grew quite excited as he said, "That is to say, the murderer must also have been bullied in some way during his life, just like the protagonist's daughter in the book. Hence, the people he killed must have had something to do with those instances of him being bullied!"

Miao Ying nodded and said, "Yes... More specifically, maybe the person who was bullied wasn't the murderer himself, but was one of the murderer's relatives! That would make it just like in the novel, as it was indeed the killer's daughter who was bullied and committed suicide. This would mean that the murdered was taking a similar kind of revenge on his victims!"

Zhao Yu looked up at the place where the victim had been hanged, nodded his head, then said, "If this is really the motive, at least this case will not be hard to crack now!"

Wu Xiumin smiled and said, "Yes! Now, we just need to investigate each victim in detail in order to find out what they have in common. Then, surely that will lead us to the murderer!"

Zhao Yu shivered as he said, "In that case, let's go back to the police station immediately! We can report all of this and leave the rest to the local police!"

"But..." Miao Ying looked worried as she said, "We've already seen that their abilities are really lacking!"

"Ha ha ha ha..." Zhao Yu laughed and smiled at Miao Ying as he said, "It seems that you are still not used to the process of how the Special Investigation Group works! I can tell you responsibly that we can always press people to do better than they think that they actually can!"

He tried to convince her, "Don't worry, I'm the best at putting pressure on people to get their acts together! As such, I can assure you that a detailed report of the four victims' backgrounds will be on your desk this very day!"

At this point, Zhao Yu put his arms around Miao Ying's shoulders like he usually did and said, "Come on! Let's go! This place is so cold!"

After that, the four people left the building together. When he reached the door, Zhao Yu thought of one more thing and asked Miao Ying, "Oh, by the way, you haven't told me why you were going upstairs just now..."

"Oh... It was nothing!" Miao Ying smacked her lips and said doubtfully, "It just feels like I've seen this place before!"

"No way! I didn't know that you had been to the Golden City before?" Ran Tao asked, clearly surprised.

Miao Ying shook her head and said, “No... It just looks familiar.”

“Hey! You just reminded me of something!” Zhao Yu looked up at the unfinished building and said with mixed emotions, “I also seem to have seen this place before! Meow, do you think... Could it be because of Qiu Xinyang’s case? The ghost city of Qinshan?”

“Um... Maybe...” Miao Ying couldn’t help but look back at the gloomy building as they walked.

### **Chapter 837: Killing Textbook**

Zhao Yu did just as he said he would. In the afternoon, he turned the Golden Police Station upside down. Since he had been a debt collector in his previous life, exerting pressure on people was like second nature to him.

He first called Bureau Chief Liu Chongmin at the Golden Police Station, scolding him directly over the phone. After being scolded, the minute that Bureau Chief Liu hung up the phone, he hurried over to Zhao Yu’s present location within the station.

But, before he could even say anything in his defense, Zhao Yu vividly rehashed all of the details of the station’s bad performance both within Han Kuan’s case and the serial murder case. Zhao Yu then threatened to inform the Criminal Division of the station’s negligence.

In order to show how serious he was, Zhao Yu even called the Criminal Division in front of Bureau Chief Liu and all of the other leaders. This made Bureau Chief Liu and the other leaders so frightened that they hastened to try to calm Zhao Yu down.

Then, Zhao Yu signaled to Miao Ying, who made a big show of coming and enacting a charade to dissuade Zhao Yu from calling the division leaders, while pleading on the Golden City station’s behalf.

Upon seeing her words, all of the Golden City Police Station leaders echoed what Miao Ying had just said. Then, Zhao Yu pretended to calm down, while taking the opportunity to shift the focus of the conversation back to the case.

He then proceeded to criticize the police station’s inefficiency and reluctance to cooperate with him and his team. He then pointed out several of their faults, warning them that, if he was kept from solving the case as a result of their incompetence, they would be severely punished!

After hearing this threat, Bureau Chief Liu apologized profusely and swore that he would tighten his reins on the station’s police detectives, mobilize all of the available police forces, and give everything they had to accomplish the task with the highest quality performance, and all within the deadline window.

Zhao Yu knew that, at this critical moment, he couldn’t really afford to have a falling out with them, as that wouldn’t be conducive for solving the case. Therefore, he began to employ the stick and carrot approach.

That is to say, he spoke softly to the policemen, his tone filled with reason and compassion. He told them that, as long as they could find important clues for the case, not only could they make up for the demerits that they had previously been given, but that they could also receive acclaim for making valuable contributions toward solving the case.

Such a stellar speech thoroughly convinced the leaders of the Golden City Police Station. In order to show their determination, Bureau Chief Liu immediately convened a meeting, where he gave official orders to all of the policemen.

He also urged them to obey the orders of the Special Investigation Group strictly, while emphasizing that mistakes would simply not be tolerated. Otherwise, they would all be dismissed. As a result, the Golden City Police Station changed dramatically.

After the policemen became aware of just how important the two cases were, they all worked very hard to solve them. In order to obtain information, they visited each household to inquire about all of the necessary details, including the victims' family trees, as well as their usual routines.

Before long, all kinds of information had been gathered by the police officers' investigation, all of which had been gathered at the office of the Special Investigation Group. Undoubtedly, with such an impressive influx of detailed information, Zhao Yu and the others could make great progress!

In order to make the most efficient use of his team's time, Zhao Yu declined Bureau Chief Liu's offer to host them at a luxury restaurant that night. Instead, he decided that his team would use this time to analyze the case.

That night, he added four more white boards for all of the new information. After they had transferred all of the data onto the white boards, Miao Ying pointed to one of the white boards and said, "If the killer really was doing everything according to the novel's plot, then that means that Zhan Jiankang was the first victim, and it is highly probable that he was murdered."

After hearing her words, Zhao Yu looked at Zhan Jiankang's information. He was a 21-year-old delivery man, who pedaled an electric tricycle to deliver goods. He worked in the building materials market.

According to the information, this man was young and strong, and he not only was capable of delivering goods, but he was also highly skilled at many other things. Hence, his business had always been better than his colleagues, which often resulted in a lot of jealousy.

At the end of July last year, his colleagues noticed that Zhan Jiankang hadn't shown up for work. Nevertheless, because this man was also short-tempered and often confronted people, they preferred not seeing him.

Thus, nobody from his workplace had reported his disappearance. However, when Zhan Jiankang's family couldn't contact him, they reported it to the police.

The Golden City Police took the matter seriously, immediately dispatching a large number of policemen to find Zhan Jiankang. Finally, his body was found in an abandoned building near his workplace.

Zhan Jiankang had died in a corner of the building, which explained why his body had not been discovered by passersby. The autopsy revealed that he had been dead for more than half a month when

he was finally found. In addition, because it had been very hot, the corpse had already decayed quite a bit.

Although the police suspected that there was a great possibility that this was a murder, neither autopsy that they conducted nor the crime scene indicated any obvious signs that a murder had occurred. Thus, the police ended up closing the case by pronouncing it a suicide. Although the families objected to this conclusion, they had no power to contest it.

“I read the autopsy report!” Miao Ying said as she pointed to the photograph of the victim. “Because the corpse had already decayed quite a bit, the autopsy results were unsatisfactory. This explains why the forensics team did not find any obvious signs of it being a homicide!”

Zhao Yu nodded, then said, “Well... If someone wanted to make a murder look like a suicide, at least he would need to render the victim unconscious first! Didn’t you find anything that would indicate that in the blood test?”

Wu Xiumin shook her head, then said, “No. But... Han Kuan’s book did mention that all of the victims were rendered unconscious by the murderer via ether.”

“Ether!” Zhao Yu repeated in shock.

Miao Ying said, “Well... If they inhaled the ether, it wouldn’t have been detected after such a long time. But... It would certainly be capable of killing someone!”

Zhao Yu nodded, then said, “At first, I thought that it was the result of an electric shock! The first case that I handled was a rape, where the victim was knocked out by an electric prod.”

Miao Ying then pointed to the white board and said, “Also, Zhan Jiankang’s crime scene was exactly the same as the first victim’s in 11 Kills! The first victim in the book also died in a corner of an abandoned building! So, we can confidently confirm that Zhan Jiankang is the first victim of the serial killer case!”

Zhao Yu thought this over as he repeated the words, “Abandoned building! Abandoned building...”

With that, he took a step to the side, while pointing to the picture of Hao Lili, the second victim, and said, “The second victim was in the corridor of an unfinished building!”

Wu Xiumin immediately said, “Yes The second victim in the book also died in the same place as the book! But... The victim in the book is a man!”

Zhao Yu then came before the third victim’s information on the white boards and asked, “What’s the third crime scene like?”

Wu Xiumin answered, “It’s a very ordinary neighborhood! The buildings were built two years ago... But, because of their low quality and the disputes over heating, the occupancy rate is not very high. Also, since the project was not ever properly finished, the surveillance cameras were installed but never activated! After all, most of the people who had previously bought apartments there had never moved in at all!”

Miao Ying then chimed in and explained further, “As such, ninety percent of the people who live there are tenants, only renting, as the rent is extraordinarily cheap! As numerous thefts and fights occur, over time, people began to move away. Now, very few people live there!”

Ran Tao then said, "Still... You would think that renters would even care about a dead body being there for such a long time! I'm amazed that no one knew about it all that time!"

"So... What does the book have to say about the third victim? Zhao Yu asked Wu Xiumin.

"Well... It's a little different in the book!" Wu Xiumin said. "The third victim died in an roughcast room in an older community in the book."

Ran Tao nodded, then said, "Well, I think that's understandable. After all, where could the killer find the exact same place as the one in the book, especially in a city that is as small as the Golden City? Besides, novels are fiction!"

Zhao Yu nodded, then said, "Regardless, the scene is nearly the same! At least, it's close enough for us to confirm that this is the scene of the third murder."

Zhao Yu then smacked his lips and added, "It seems that I have underestimated the killer. That fuckin\* Han Kuan said that there are loads of loopholes in his book, but the killer used his book like a killing textbook!"

### **Chapter 838: Shocking Deduction**

Zhao Yu pointed to the white boards and said, "Look... The killer chose to kill people in either abandoned buildings or empty houses. These places were always nondescript and were far away from urban areas, so as not to attract anyone's attention!"

He paused, then added, "If it hadn't been for the third case, the police would not have been able to connect these cases at all, nor could they have possibly known that they were not suicides, but murders!"

Zhao Yu patted the white boards as she said, "The killer chose his targets very carefully. Although the identities of the victims were different, most of them did not have a steady jobs or families nearby. Thus, the killer knew that if they disappeared, no one would report it to the police for quite some time!"

He then added, "So, although the killer seems to rely on the book 11 Kills as a guide, the murderer still put a lot of thought into his own murder crime scenes! Specifically, he went to scope out the locations ahead of time, then made a thorough plan to avoid being detected by any cameras or witnesses! However, he clearly was not very good at using the electric shock method, as he made a mistake when he killed the third victim that way!"

Zhao Yu sighed as he looked at the white boards again, then said, "Now, what I really want to know about Han Kuan's 11 Kills is... If it's really a rubbish book, then how come the murderer is so enamored with it?"

Ran Tao suddenly guessed, "Yes... If the book is really garbage, then... Maybe Han Kuan taught all of this to the murderer himself? Or... Maybe there are accomplices? Or... The real murderer behind the serial murder case is actually Han Kuan himself?"

“Wow, like the movie Saw? So... Maybe he even had apprentices?” Zeng Ke shook his head, then asked, “Is Han Kuan insane? I mean... Did he really call us over and let us arrest him?”

Ran Tao then asked, “Perhaps Han Kuan did so because he assumed that, once he was detained, he could give up the identity of his apprentice in order to help prove his innocence?”

Wu Xiumin immediately taunted him, “Don’t you think your words are full of contradictions? Instigating or abetting a murder is just as bad as committing the murder itself! If Han Kuan really did what you said, he would not get let off so easily! Come on, could you stop causing trouble here? We were really starting to get somewhere, and here you go making us deviate from the route!”

Ran Tao disagreed with her, quickly retorting, “Again, What the hell am I doing to you? Do you think that taunting me makes you a winner? Please think about it. If this was all really planned by Han Kuan, it would benefit him greatly!”

“How so?” Zeng Ke asked.

Ran Tao gestured wildly around as he said, “Wow! You don’t see it? Think about it! Once people know that there is a serial killer who kills people in accordance with Han Kuan’s novel, think about popular it will make that book? Then, not only 11 Kills, but all of the novels the he ever wrote or will write in the future will fly off the shelves!”

Zeng Ke said, “Oh! That does make sense! So... Assuming that Han Kuan planned this serial killer case, what about his own case? Did his apprentice set him up, meaning that the two wanted to destroy each other?”

Upon hearing this, Ran Tao suddenly gave a loud cry, while pointing to Zeng Ke and saying, “Zeng Ke, that’s a good question!”

Ran Tao then glanced around at the others and asked mysteriously, “Could it be that Han Kuan’s wife accidentally discovered his secret... And killed him?”

Before waiting for anyone to respond, Ran Tao clenched his fist and said, “Actually... The murderer is Han Kuan himself! He called us to help him clear his name only because he had no other alternative. He had to gamble with his luck and see if we would help him get away with murder unknowingly!”

“Wait...” Zeng Ke interrupted as he looked at Zhao Yu.

He had suddenly remembered all kinds of guesses that they had made earlier at Han Kuan’s house that day. He then said with anxiety, “Maybe... There is a more realistic explanation...”

Ran Tao stared at him and urged him to explain, “Well... Go on! What are you waiting for?”

“Maybe...” Zeng Ke said, “After Zhang Jingru discovered Han Kuan’s crime, she fell into a deep despair. On the one hand, she did not want to expose her husband’s crime, but on the other hand, she could not stand living with a guilty conscience. While plagued by all of these conflicting emotions, she made a shocking decision! She decided to use her own death to recover Han Kuan’s lost soul!”

Zeng Ke then went on to explain Zhao Yu’s previous deduction about how Zhang Jingru had committed suicide and framed Han Kuan. After hearing all of these details, everyone instantly became silent.



Although it was undeniable that all of their previous doubts could be explained by this hypothesis of Zhao Yu's, they still somehow remained unconvinced.

"How much courage and determination must she have had to take such extreme measures?" Miao Ying shook her head, then said, "If Han Kuan is found guilty of killing his wife, the probability of his being sentenced to life in prison is very high! Did Zhang Jingru really want to punish Han Kuan in this way? Or... Was it done in order to stop Han Kuan from abetting others in committing a crime? But... I do think this is quite a strange way to go about accomplishing either task."

Ran Tao scratched his head, then said, "Let's not dive too deep into considering this theory just yet. But, if this is the truth, it means that Han Kuan really is innocent! He didn't kill his wife, which means that he did call us to help him!"

He smiled, while looking relieved as he said, "Now, all of this can make sense! According to Zhang Jingru's colleagues and friends, during the period of time leading up to Zhang Jingru's death, they did notice some abnormal behavior on her part."

"Look..." Zeng Ke pointed to his computer and said, "A colleague of hers said that she had spoken to Zhang Jingru one day before her death, but that Zhang Jingru seemed very distracted as even after the colleague repeated herself several times, Zhang Jingru answered the wrong question! It seemed that she was distracted by something of great importance."

Zeng Ke then added, "Also, their department manager said that the day before the incident, Zhang Jingru signed an incorrect loan form. Although it had little impact on the business, Zhang Jingru had never made that mistake before..."

Zeng Ke then said, "Also, the evening before the incident, Zhang Jingru had a school gathering that she had planned attend. But, in the end, she did not go, nor did she give the reason for her absence. These instances show that Zhang Jingru must have had something on her mind, and judging by her actions, it was not a trivial matter!"

"Fuc\*!" Upon hearing this, Ran Tao slapped the table violently and turned impatiently to Zhao Yu and asked, "Boss! What are we waiting for? Let's interrogate Han Kuan at once! If we are right, he must know who the serial killer is."

### **Chapter 839: Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining**

At 10 p.m., Zeng Ke, Ran Tao, and Wu Xiumin went to the interrogation room to question Han Kuan. Although there was no definitive evidence, the three of them agreed with Zeng Ke's astonishing deduction. They all believed that Han Kuan had hidden important information from them.

As Zhao Yu sighed in his heart, he could not help but think of the Invisible Lie Detector, which might be able to solve his problem immediately. For some reason, however, he had not seen this device for a long time. It was even not on the device bar, which made him wonder...

Did the system decide that this device is a bug? Will it ever appear again?

As soon as she saw the other team members leaving, Miao Ying turned to Zhao Yu and said, "Hey, babe! Why don't you go with them to interrogate Han Kuan? After all, you are quite good at that kind of work."

"I'm flattered." Zhao Yu smiled, but shook his head and said, "If we have guessed wrong, then that means that Han Kuan is innocent and we won't be able to get any new information from him."

He took a breath, then said, "But, if we have guessed right, Han Kuan will most likely be fully prepared for this kind of thing, so he won't say anything! Either way, the results will be the same, so why should I go? Besides, Wu Xiumin is a great psychologist, so she should be the one to decide if Han Kuan is lying or not. Hence, there's really no reason for me to join them!"

"Okay!" Miao Ying exclaimed, then said with some surprise, "Being a Special Investigation Group leader surely has caused quite a difference in you. You are much calmer than before."

"Stop joking! If I am a calmer person now, explain my hitting your dad!" Zhao Yu then turned to look at the white boards and said, "But, let's talk about the case now. I prefer the first theory, as if I was Han Kuan and was involved in the serial murder case, then I would never be so foolish as to want the central Special Investigation Group to get involved! So... I feel that Han Kuan still cares more about his own case!"

"That makes sense! In fact, maybe neither of the cases have anything to do with him!" Miao Ying said. "But, if we can find the serial murderer, then we can at least know half of the truth!"

Zhao Yu nodded. "Yes! We'll definitely be able to find him, as long as we have enough information!"

After saying that, Zhao Yu once again faced the white boards and thought carefully about every detail of the case thus far. Then, he turned to Miao Ying and said, "I noticed that, from the third case onward the murderer appears to have acted alone!"

Miao Ying nodded, then pointed to the suspect column one of the white boards and said, "Yes, as if he had an accomplice, he would not have had to fight so fiercely with a semi-comatose victim!"

She then added, "Oh, by the way, I forgot to tell you that the forensics team extracted DNA from under the nails of the victim, and they are testing it now. But... Their equipment seems to be having problems, so they will have to send the evidence away to be processed elsewhere. In short, we will have to wait for any DNA results, as well as for identification of any fingerprints."

Zhao Yu nodded. "I also received confirmation from Wu Xiumin that this murder confirms to the characteristics of each of the other individual murders. And... If this person really committed the crimes alone, he must be very strong!"

Zhao Yu then said, "Moreover, if the murderer didn't want to attract any attention, he wouldn't take the victim to the scene and then kill the victim there. This means that the murderer must have rendered the victim unconscious first, then taken the victim to the crime scene!"

Miao Ying nodded her head in agreement, then said, "Han Kuan's book also says that the killer used a van! So, even if it's not a van, the murderer has to at least have some suitable means of transportation."

Zhao Yu then added excitedly, "Also, these cases all happened late at night, which means that he wanted to avoid attracting attention. So... The murderer would not have chosen a vehicle with any distinctive features. I have noticed that there are three kinds of vehicles that are the least noticeable in the Golden City. These are taxis, express delivery cars, and passenger electric tricycles!"

Miao Ying then pointed to a photograph of the crime scene from the second case and said, "We went to Hao Lili's crime scene today. There are piles of debris everywhere in that neighborhood. The road is really messed up, which meant that the taxi couldn't get there at all! So... The murderer obviously couldn't have parked his car right outside the door and carried the unconscious Hao Lili there from inside the building! The building's main entrance is way too far from the scene of the crime!"

"Then... If we're narrowing it down from express delivery cars and electric tricycles..." Zhao Yu thought quickly. "Isn't it unreasonable for express delivery cars to go to abandoned buildings? Wouldn't this leave passenger tricycles as the only remaining possible option?"

Miao Ying nodded, then said, "Okay! I'll write this down and send it to someone at the bureau to check first thing tomorrow!"

Zhao Yu then pointed to the white boards and asked, "Has there been any progress on Han Kuan's lost box of manuscripts?"

"Yes!" Miao Ying said. "I asked Ran Tao to ask Han Kuan's parents about it today. They said that if the box was really stolen, then it must have happened when they sold all of their old stuff. Thus, an antique collector must have taken it!"

"The collector took it?" Zhao Yu repeated her words, while mulling this over in his head.

"Yes!" Miao Ying confirmed. "His parents are right. As Han Kuan is not really famous, only those types of people would be interested in the manuscripts. I've already arranged for someone to investigate all of the antique collectors near their house..."

Zhao Yu thought again, "Um... Maybe there is another possibility! If Han Kuan's wife took it..."

Miao Ying was surprised by this hypothesis. "No way! Do you suspect that the serial case has anything to do with Zhang Jingru?"

"Well... I haven't figured it all out yet!" Zhao Yu said frankly. "But... As long as we can catch the murderer, we can definitely make it all clear!"

"Well..." Miao Ying pointed to the white boards and continued, "Let's look at the fourth victim. The body was found in an abandoned factory building! The victim, Pei Zhi, was a 45-year-old truck driver, and he was also an alcoholic. According to 11 Kills, the murderer..."

As Zhao Yu and Miao Ying continued to analyze the case together, it felt as if they had gone back to the time when they were working together at the Rongyang Branch in Qinshan. During their discussion, their thoughts became more and more clear. It was not until late that night that they decided to go back to the hotel and rest.

On the way back, Zhao Yu's Gen Kan hexagram finally came to an end. He got a 140% completion score and received two good devices. However, although these results were good, Zhao Yu still felt uneasy.

After all, he still didn't know what the purpose of today's side adventure was. This made him wonder... Why did the system lead me to the crime scene of the second victim? Was there any special clue that I should have found about Hao Liii's death? Also, today's Kan hexagram was not very clear either...

Just as they arrived at the hotel, Miao Ying suddenly remembered something and asked Zhao Yu, "Why haven't I seen that girl this evening? Where did she go?"

"You mean Cui Lizhu?" Zhao Yu asked for confirmation, then answered, "I sent her to dig around the city for the latest gossip!"

Miao Ying shook her head as she said, "No way! Are you confident that she won't take the opportunity to try to escape?"

"She wouldn't do that." Zhao Yu smiled as he gently opened the door for Miao Ying.

But, before Miao Ying went inside, Zhao Yu's mobile phone rang. It happened to be Cui Lizhu calling!

"Boss! I have some super good news!" Cui Lizhu's excited voice came from the other end of the phone line. "Although I didn't find out anything about you asked me to investigate, I mistakenly stumbled upon a very critical piece of information! If I am guessing right, I know who the serial killer is!"

Zhao Yu was speechless.

#### **Chapter 840: Reasons for Getting Angry**

"Little girl, if you didn't find any clues, I don't blame you!" Zhao Yu and Miao Ying had just entered the hotel lobby, when he scolded Cui Lizhu over the phone angrily, "But, you shouldn't lie!"

"No... Trust me! I'm not wrong!" Cui Lizhu said excitedly. "Boss, after we parted company today, I went and wandered around the Golden City. I discovered that all of the places that my dad used to go to get information were gone. It's a true shame!"

Cui Lizhu shook her head, then said, "So, I to several schools. But, I did not hear anything about a student suicide. So, I think that the serial murder case, unlike the novel, is not about bullying or campus violence."

"Um... Can you cut the chase and get to the point?" Zhao Yu saw that Miao Ying was also listening to his phone call and he urged Cui Lizhu, "I have work to do here!"

"Okay!" Cui Lizhu replied, then quickly changed her tone as she asked, "Do you remember the third murder in the serial killer case?"

Zhao Yu frowned as he whispered, "Was that the one with the electrocuted victim? You're shifting topics quite fast..."

"Didn't you just tell me to hurry up?" Cui Lizhu asked angrily. "Anyway... I've just come from that crime scene! Guess what? The Golden City Police are all useless! They didn't even see that obvious clue!"

Zhao Yu frowned again, clearly confused as he asked, "What clue?"

"The front door!" Cui Lizhu said proudly. "I hadn't even entered the door yet, and I knew the problem at first sight! But, those policemen, all of whom have checked the scene several times already, still have not found it! I'm telling you, the apparent method that the culprit used to pry open the door, it wouldn't be possible in reality!"

"Oh..." Zhao Yu nodded quickly, while looking like an electric current had suddenly passed through his body. He shivered suddenly as he realized what she was saying. "What you mean to say is..."

Before letting him finish his thought, Cui Lizhu continued to explain excitedly, "I'm saying... The damage on the door was either left by the murderer on purpose in order to distract us, or it was the result of a foolish theft, where a burglar pried it open after the victim's death! However, based on the fact that the house has been vacant for so long, I don't think anyone would really want to burglarize a vacant building!"

Zhao Yu suddenly got goosebumps as he asked, "Well... Are you saying that you think the murderer opened the door with a key?"

"No... Not necessarily..." Miao Ying suddenly said. "I've seen thieves who can open a door lock with only a plastic credit card! Even if the murderer damaged the door later to make it appear like a break-in, it doesn't necessarily mean that he had a key to the house!"

After hearing Miao Ying's voice in the background, Cui Lizhu said in a somewhat condescending tone, "Oh! Miss Miao... Hi! You're right, but you clearly don't know about all of the different doors and lock types! I've checked the door carefully, and it is not that solid. It's just the most difficult U-lock to open. Thus, it couldn't possibly have been opened by flimsy plastic credit card!"

Cui Lizhu then said, "Also, the lock has a double-sided, double-row bullet groove and a tension spring. In our thief world, when you see such a lock, you do not hesitate before aborting the mission and going home immediately! This is because only thieves of my dad's expert level can open them! It's a pity that he didn't teach me this trick!"

Zhao Yu then asked excitedly, "So... You are sure that the murdered opened the door with a key?"

"Well... I'm not 100 percent, but I am at least more than 80 percent confident of that fact!" Cui Lizhu said. "I also went inside to check the surroundings. As the crime scene was on the third floor, the windows are normally tightly sealed, which would have meant that the murderer couldn't get in through a window. However, we can't rule out the possibility that the windows were not closed completely at the time of the murder..."

Zhao Yu interrupted and said, "But... If the murderer had entered through the window, then he wouldn't have needed to destroy the door! So, this guy must have had the key to that house!"

Miao Ying nodded, then said, "As the owner of the house has been traveling all year, he gave the house to an agency to manage in his absence. Thus, the agency representatives must have the key!"

"Yes, I remember reading that in the report!" Cui Lizhu laughed, then asked, "It should not be too difficult to find these people, right?"

“Right!” Zhao Yu exclaimed over the phone.

He then turned and said to Miao Ying, “In that case, let’s hurry back!”

“Um... So you two are not at the police station?” Cui Lizhu asked, clearly annoyed and perhaps a bit angry as well.

“None of your business, little girl!” Zhao Yu laughed. He then said, “If we find the murderer because of your intel, you will have made a great contribution to this case! Come back as soon as you can, as if the investigation goes smoothly, we might just be able to close this case tonight!”

After Zhao Yu hung up the phone, Zhao Yu and Miao Ying immediately returned to the police station. Coincidentally, just as they returned to the office, Wu Xiumin, Zeng Ke, and the others were also returning from the interrogation room.

Just as Zhao Yu had expected, even after a time-consuming and laborious interrogation, his team had obtained no new information at all. Han Kuan had insisted that he was innocent and knew nothing about the two cases.

The three team members were clearly dejected, but after hearing the news that Zhao Yu had just received from Cui Lizhu, they immediately became excited and hopeful.

Wu Xiumin smiled, then said, “Cui’s words, though they do sound reasonable, should not be considered as foolproof. The door was made to look like it had been pried open, which would have been caused by the murderer’s attempt to fake the suicide scene. He clearly wanted to mislead the police into thinking that the victim had pried the door open himself. Also, we mustn’t neglect the possibility that the murderer could have climbed in through the window!”

At this moment, Miao Ying relinquished her previous skepticism and said, “No! You’re forgetting that, when we were at the crime scene today, we saw a poodle on the balcony of the second floor. The poodle would have barked at a stranger, so if the murderer climbed up past the balcony in order to get to a window, it would have surely caused the poodle to bark at him!”

Zhao Yu then said, “Well... Maybe what she said is not entirely foolproof, but even if there is only a one percent chance of her being right, we must investigate it!”

“Hey! I found something!” At this time, Zeng Ke came across some information online. “Xinyuan Agency is the largest real estate agency in the Golden City. It says here that it employs over a hundred staff members!”

“Good...” Zhao Yu snapped his fingers and said to Zeng Ke, “Look at all of their employees’ information to see who is responsible for the district where the crime took place. This will tell us who may have had the key to the house!”

Wu Xiumin nodded, then said, “I’ll call all the police station right now and tell them to drop everything in order to investigate the company itself!”

“Yes, and since company managers should know their employees best, I’ll go and talk to the manager now!” Ran Tao said, while he patted his gun holster. He then left the office in a hurry.

Zhao Yu then pointed to the white boards again and said, "If the murderer is really an employee at the agency, then he and the victims should have some kind of history! That means that we have to do a good job of investigating whether the victims had any contact with the agency and its employees before they died... Like buying a house!"

"Good... Let me check on that now..." Seeing that the others were all busy at their individual tasks, Miao Ying sat down at her desk and began to look for that information.

After only searching for a few minutes, she immediately found some useful information, so she said excitedly to Zhao Yu, "Leader! Hao Lili, the second victim... He did take out a mortgage and buy a house!"

Zhao Yu nodded. "Great! It was probably bought through the Xinyuan Agency!"

"Oh, I found more information!" Miao Ying said excitedly. "Here... It says that Hao Lili considered many options before she finally bought her house, and she also signed a contract with an agency. This agency must be the Xinyuan Agency, right?"

"Oh... She signed a contract with an agency, but finally chose a straight sale! The salesman would have been desperate at that point!" Zhao Yu exclaimed.

He then wondered aloud, "Is this why the killer got angry? If so... It's no wonder that Hao Lili died in an abandoned building! Well... Who was the salesman for that particular deal?"