

Crazy 841

Chapter 841: Target Found

"The agency must have the contract..." Miao Ying shook her head and said, "We must send someone over there to get it!"

"I've already sent someone!" Wu Xiumin said as she came over with her phone in her hand and made an okay hand gesture to Miao Ying.

"Alright. Give me the related materials, then. Let's find out if the other victims have anything to do with this agency," Zhao Yu said to Miao Ying.

"Good..." Miao Ying said as she immediately handed several files to Zhao Yu, who then began to read them carefully.

It was just before midnight, so Zhao Yu could not open a new hexagram yet. But, he had figured something out within the past day.

It seemed that yesterday's Kan hexagram probably referred to Cui Lizhu. After all, it was quite unexpected that she would find the key clue from a neglected detail!

"Look at this..." Miao Ying said as she pointed to a document. "Zhan Jiankang, the first victim, has been to see a few houses last year, but according to his colleagues, he could not afford to buy a house at all! And Sun Peibin, the electrocuted victim, seemed to have no contacts whatsoever within the real estate industry!"

Zhao Yu shook his head. "But... Since he died in such a rough house at the Xianghe Home neighborhood, maybe it still has something to do with the real estate agencies!"

"I can't find any record of Pei Zhi having any contact with such agencies." Miao Ying shook her head. "According to his financial situation, he could not afford to buy a house!"

Zhao Yu then turned to Zeng Ke and said, "Maybe our information is not as comprehensive as we first thought! Zeng Ke, how is your investigation into the agencies going?"

"Well... Employee records at real estate agencies are highly classified," Zeng Ke said. "I logged into their system, but was only able to find an employee list, which had their names, but no photos!"

"Well, send me the list, so I can have a look at it!" Soon, the employee list was sent to Zhao Yu's mobile phone. He and Miao Ying then worked together to try to spot any suspicious names.

At this time, Cui Lizhu entered the office and immediately asked Zhao Yu, "Boss, how's everything going? Have you found any suspects yet? Is the real estate agency involved?"

"I'm not sure yet," Zhao Yu said, while waving her over. "Come here and have a look at this list of employees. See if you think that it could be any of them."

Zeng Ke then asked, "In the meantime, should I look into the detailed background of these employees, one by one?"

"Yes, and while you are at it, try to find out if they have anything to do with Han Kuan," Zhao Yu said, while nodding his head.

They had just gotten started, when Zhao Yu's phone suddenly rang. He saw that it was Ran Tao calling.

When Zhao Yu answered the phone, Ran Tao said, "Boss, the manager at the agency is right here next to me! He said that three employees had access to the keys of the Xianghe Home: Yang Bo, Zhao Ruilan, and Liu Xiaochen. In fact, Liu Xiaochen was the one who found the corpse!"

"I don't think the murderer would be the one who found the corpse. After all, what murderer would go back to the scene in person? Ran Tao, are the other two people men or women?" Miao Ying asked.

"Um... They're both women!" Ran Tao answered.

"What? They're both female?" Miao Ying asked for confirmation, while she looked at Zhao Yu, both of them showing doubts in their eyes. This was because, according to their analysis, the murderer should be a man!

"Wait a minute..." Zhao Yu suddenly thought of something and said to Ran Tao, "I want to speak to the manager."

"Okay. One second... Now, I've turned on the speaker!" Ran Tao said.

Zhao Yu then asked urgently, "Manager, about a year ago, a female client named Hao Lili signed a contract with your agency to buy a house. But, after you signed the contract, she did not end up buying the property. Instead, she bought a house from another seller. Do you remember who the salesman was on that account?"

The manager answered him hesitantly, "Um... Well... I'd have to go back and check for you! Although our company is not big, each employee is independent and responsible for keeping track of his own daily work and clientele. As such, it could be that the salesperson who signed the contract doesn't even remember this account himself!"

Hearing this, as Zhao Yu had placed his own phone on speaker as well, Miao Ying said, "Well, please go back to the company right now and check on that contract. We must know that person's identity is as soon as possible."

"Okay..." Although the manager didn't know what was going on, he agreed to do so obediently.

Zhao Yu suddenly thought of something else and said, "Wait a minute! Manager, think about it carefully... Did a tricycle driver used to work for your company?"

"Tricycles?" The manager was clearly confused by the seemingly random question.

Zhao Yu said, "Yes. I am specifically referring to passenger tricycles. Most of them are electric! There are a lot of them in the Golden City."

Finally understanding his meaning, the manager replied. "Well, we have over 100 staff members, so how can I possibly know if one used to work as a tricycle driver?"

After a while, the manager suddenly remembered something, so he hastily added, "Um... Wait... Wait a minute... I do recall that Xie once worked as a tricycle driver! I heard from someone that Xie's parents were ill, so he had worked as a salesman during the day and drove a tricycle at night to earn extra income to help out with bills. He had a very hard time!"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu and Miao Ying looked at each other as if they had just uncovered an important clue.

The manager then said, "But... Xie is no longer working with us! It seems that the big boss fired him because of his poor performance!"

Zhao Yu asked hastily, "He was fired? When was that exactly?"

"Must have been about half a year ago, when I was promoted a manager. At that time, he was no longer with our company!" The manager thought back and said.

"Then... How old is he now? What's his full name, and what does he look like?" Miao Ying asked eagerly. "Would it have been possible for him to get the keys to the Xianghe Home?"

The manager answered her, "Well, he is quite young. He looks rather ordinary, as he has a medium height and regular figure. He is just an average person. Also, I really can't remember his full name! But... I do remember that the young man was really to a good salesperson, as he always looked gloomy, In fact, I never once saw him laugh."

"Ah!" After hearing the manager's words, the others couldn't help but exclaim in unison. This was because the manager's description of Xie was almost exactly the same as the psychological profile that Wu Xiumin had described of the murderer before.

Hence, they all had to wonder... Could this man be the murderer of the serial killer case?

"He shouldn't have had the keys to Xianghe Home..." the manager said.

Then, after thinking about it more carefully, he said, "Don't hang up! I'm calling Zhang, who is in our Personnel Department, now. He should know more about this! Wait just a minute..." As he spoke, the manager called Zhang using his landline phone.

After a brief introduction of the current case, the manager went straight to asking Zhang if he knew about Xie's situation. "Of course I know!" Zhang answered. "His name is Xie Tongguo! That kid's stubborn! Boss asked him to leave six months ago because he performed so badly at work! In fact, I gave the 1,000 yuan severance payment to him personally."

After Zeng Ke heard the name, he immediately started searching information online.

"Zhang, did Xie have a tricycle?" the manager then asked.

Zhang answered, "Yes! He didn't make enough money selling houses, so he drove a passenger tricycle at night so that he could afford to keep food on table. That kid is honest, but he is sure not a salesperson!"

The manager then asked, "Was it possible for him to get the keys to the Xianghe Home..."

The manager didn't finish before Zeng Ke suddenly stood up and said to the others, "I... I don't think we need to ask any more questions. Xie Tongguo is the main suspect in my opinion, now!"

The others present were confused, so they all rushed over to Zeng Ke's computer. When they got there, they saw that Zeng Ke was pointing to the address of Xie Tong's home.

"No. 302, Unit 1, Building 2, Kangle Park District..." Miao Ying read aloud. She immediately saw the problem at a glance, then asked in shock, "Isn't this where Han Kuan's parents live? And... It's the same building... And the same unit! Oh my God! They are neighbors!"

Chapter 842: Embarrassing Arrest

On a summer day 10 years ago, in the Golden City's Kangle neighborhood.

"Tongguo, go get daddy's ointment in the basement, the one with the trademark on it!" On the third floor, an old man's voice was heard.

"Okay..." a middle school student muttered, then took a key and went to the basement.

When he came to the stairway entrance, he saw that the old couple, who lived opposite him, was selling their old stuff to an antiques collector. The old lady said that the scale was not working properly, so the weight was not right, but the antique collector disagreed with her.

As Xie Tongguo was not a social person, he ignored them and went straight to the basement. The basements of their two houses were next to each other, and at the moment, the basement opposite his was open. He could see that the light was on, but there was no one in it.

When he passed by the door, his attention was suddenly attracted by a cardboard box that was on the ground. There were a lot of old manuscripts in the box, some of which had sketches on them.

Although Xie Tongguo was not very good at studying in school, he did like to draw. So, when he saw the box, he was deeply attracted to it.

First, he turned his head and listened to the old couple, who were still arguing with the antiques collector upstairs. Satisfied that they were properly distracted, he went into the couple's basement boldly out of curiosity. He immediately squatted down and began to look through the manuscripts.

The manuscripts looked very old and smelled like his favorite books. He was particularly fascinated by the many sketches and big words that he found on the manuscripts.

He wanted to find out the meanings of these words and images. But, he was shy, and the old couple living opposite him didn't seem very friendly. So, he didn't dare ask them about the manuscripts, much less request that they lend them to him for further study.

What should I do? Just as he was wondering this, he suddenly heard that the old couple had stopped arguing. What was worse, it sounded like they were coming down to the basement to close the door!

In a hurry, he made a bold decision. He picked up the box of manuscripts and rushed out with them! He then opened his own basement door, while trembling all over, and brought the manuscripts inside.

After he closed the door, he leaned back against the door. He was so nervous, he could barely breathe!

After all, this was the first time that he had ever stolen anything! He had no idea why he was so enchanted by these manuscripts!

At the moment, he was nervous and anxious, his cold sweat soaked through his clothes! After a while, he finally heard the sound of the old couple closing the door to their own basement.

At first, he thought that the old couple would make some surprised sounds, such as gasping, then wondering something aloud, such as, "Where did the box disappear to?"

However, he had clearly overestimated their memories, and as they closed their basement door, they merely talked about how dishonest the antique collector was and didn't notice that anything was amiss!

As soon as he heard their footsteps retreating once more, Xie Tongguo gasped heavily, while taking a closer look at the manuscripts.

The sketches on the manuscripts were drawn in black. Although they were not very delicate and looked rather gloomy, something about them resonated with his heart.

Fast forward to the present, on a cold winter night, as Zhao Yu was driving the police car quickly to a designated place for investigation.

"What a surprise!" Cui Lizhu said. "We thought it was the antiques collector, but it turned out to be the neighbor that stole Han Kuan's manuscripts!"

"You can't say that for sure!" Miao Ying said from the passenger seat. "The Golden City is so small, so it could just be a coincidence!"

Unhappy with Miao Ying's stern face and tone, Cui Lizhu pouted with her lips and immediately stopped talking.

Seeing that the two weren't getting along, Zhao Yu said hastily, "If Xie Tongguo is really the murderer, then he certainly doesn't know yet that we suspect him! So, we will definitely be able to catch him tonight!"

After Zhao Yu finished speaking, neither Miao Ying nor Cui Lizhu responded, which made him feel rather embarrassed. The silence felt very awkward.

At the moment, only the three of them were in the car. This was because Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke had stayed at the police station to continue their investigative work.

The Kangle neighborhood was in the center region of the Golden City, which was far from the police station. As it was just around midnight, everything was pretty quiet. Before long, Zhao Yu parked the car in front of unit 1 in Building 2.

As it was so late at night, there was no sign of any people outside, and most of the windows were dark. This was because the residents had long since turned off their lights and retired for the evening.

Zhao Yu looked up and saw that Xie Tongguo's windows were dark as well. This made him wonder if anyone was even at home.

At first, Zhao Yu wanted to use his devices, but on second thought, he felt that since Xie Tongguo was just an ordinary criminal, he was not worth his using his valuable devices upon.

So, Zhao Yu made a gesture to Cui Lizhu as he said, "Cui, show us what you can do! Do you have all of your tools with you?"

"Of course!" Cui Lizhu patted her pocket as she said excitedly, "For the first time, doing this kind of things feels so good, like I am doing something right! Of course, I came fully prepared! To be honest with you, this feels fuc*ing awesome!"

"Do you have to use the f-word so much?" Miao Ying rolled her eyes at Xui Lizhu.

She then glared at Zhao Yu and said, "You! Give me the gun!"

Zhao Yu shook his head. "You must be kidding! You're only catching a small-time criminal, yet you think you need a gun?"

"Well... It's just in case something unexpected happens! Just give it to me!" Miao Ying quickly grabbed Zhao Yu's pistol.

In the next moment, the three of them arrived at apartment 302, which was on the third floor, ready to arrest Xie Tongguo. At first, Zhao Yu thought that it would take Cui Lizhu quite a long time to jimmy the door open. However, he was greatly surprised when she just stuck a few tools into the lock hole and instantly opened the door!

"Wow! That was awesome!" Zhao Yu complimented her skills in a low voice, while thinking that Cui lizhu would save him from having to use his Invisible Unlock Device if she went on duty with him in the future.

After the door was opened, Miao Ying was the first to rush in with the gun, followed by Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu. According to their plan, Miao Ying went left, Zhao Yu went right, and Cui Lizhu stayed by the entrance.

Crack!

As Cui Lizhu turned on the lights in the living room, Miao Ying kicked open the bedroom door on the left and rushed inside it.

"Ah!" Miao Ying's shrill scream pierced through the air.

At the same time, Zhao Yu opened another bedroom door, only to find that the room was empty. So, he immediately turned back and rushed in Miao Ying's direction.

When he got there, he turned on the bedroom's lights and was shocked by a sexy scene! In the bedroom, a man was lying in the middle of the bed, and there were two women lying beside him, one on each side. Although the three people were covered with a quilt, it was clear that they were all naked underneath it!

"Shi*" Zhao Yu exclaimed, while he shook his head. "This fellow..."

Before Zhao Yu had finished his sentence, he and Miao Ying had already deciphered that the man before them was not Xie Tongguo, but was instead a random, middle-aged fat man!

“Ah...” the two women exclaimed in unison, while they shrank down beneath the quilt in terror.

At the same time, the man demanded to know, “Who are you? My wife... Does she know?”

Chapter 843: A Citywide Search Isn't a Good Idea.

“What? You're looking for Xie Tongguo?” The man in the middle of the bed covered himself with the quilt and said, “He is my nephew! He sold this house to me! Why are you asking about him? Um... Also, were you just taking a pistol?”

“We are the police, and we are here working on a case!” Cui Lizhu said with pride.

The man on the bed asked in surprise, “What does my son or I have to do with your case? Why are you in my home?”

Zhao Yu roared in reply, “This is not your home! Your name is not on the property certificate or household registration!”

“Xie Tongguo! That little a*shole!” After hearing this, the man swore. He was clearly frustrated.

He then begged Zhao Yu, “Police officer, I promise I am not lying. He really sold me this house! When Xie Tongguo's father was ill, he borrowed a lot of money from me. Now that his father is dead and he has no money to pay me back, he gave me a deal on the house as repayment of sorts!”

“Oh... I see...” Zhao Yu frowned.

“Yes, we even signed a contract!” the man said excitedly. “The only reason that he didn't transfer the ownership to my name is because the property certificate has his father's name on it. After his father died, he couldn't transfer this house into my name legally! Besides, if I had an additional property under my name, my wife would have to know about it ... Oh... No...”

Suddenly, the man realized that he shouldn't be sharing all of his thoughts. So, he quickly changed the subject of the conversation. “I am good to my nephew. I bought the house based on the present market price. I didn't even ask him to make up the difference for the money he owed me. I just gave him 150,000 yuan for the house instead, which is a great deal for him!”

“Then... Where is Xie Tongguo now?” Miao Ying asked.

The man said, “Um... I don't know. After I gave him the money, I never saw him again! Who knows where he went. Maybe he left the Golden City...”

“When did Xie Tongguo's father die? When did he sell the house to you exactly?” Zhao Yu asked.

“Um... It was about half a year ago,” the man answered honestly.

Half a year ago! Zhao Yu and Miao Ying looked at each other in astonishment, while thinking the same thing.

It was exactly six months ago that Xie Tongguo had been dismissed from the real estate agency! Then, his father had died and he had sold this house to get out of debt! All of this might have caused Xie Tongguo to kill, due to his rage and indignation!

From this point of view, Han Kuan's book might only have played a part of the role in this murder plot, as Xie Tongguo's miserable life experiences were the real instigators!

The man covered in the quilt pointed to the two women next to him and asked, "Officer, if you are going to ask me many more questions, which will clearly take a long time, shall we relocate to a more proper place? At least let me put on some clothes, okay?"

"Okay..." Cui Lizhu said.

She then laughed wickedly as she rushed to the bed and grabbed the quilt. "At least let me pull the quilt away first! Our boss might be interested..."

Zhao Yu was speechless at her immature actions. His face looked gloomy, and so did Miao Ying's.

"Ah..." the two women exclaimed.

"Don't... Don't..." The man was shocked and he urged them, "I'll tell you whatever you want to know, but please don't let my wife know anything about this!"

"Where is Xie Tongguo?" Miao Ying asked again.

"I really don't know!" The man was trembling as he pointed to his clothes and said, "I have his number, but he must have changed it, as I've called many times, yet failed to get through!"

Cui Lizhu heard this and immediately took out the man's mobile phone from his pocket.

"Think about it carefully. Where else would Xie Tongguo be likely to go?" Zhao Yu asked.

"I really don't know!" the man said. "There's something wrong with him! He really doesn't talk too much to anyone. Also, it's impossible that he would come to me."

"You just said that you gave him 150,000 yuan..." Zhao Yu said. "Was that payment in cash or via debit or credit? In other words, does he have a bank card?"

"I paid in cash!" the man answered quickly. "He insisted on it being cash. I guess that he owes somebody else money besides me. I vaguely heard him mention it. The sum is probably around 40,000 to 50,000 yuan!"

"Okay, so, assuming he paid of that debt, then Xie Tongguo still has at least 100,000 yuan in cash, right?" Zhao Yu looked at Miao Ying, then said, "Well... Now we know that he didn't need to look for a job right away!"

What Zhao Yu was implying was that since Xie Tongguo did not have to worry about money, he could devote himself solely to carrying out the murders!

“Boss, what should I do?” Cui Lizhu approached Zhao Yu and asked in a low voice.

“Um... Say you’re policemen...” At this time, a woman, who was in the bed, asked weakly, “Where are your badges?”

Another woman then added, “Even if you show us your badges, you can’t break into someone’s house!”

“Nonsense!” The man was so anxious that he stared at the two women and shouted, “Didn’t you see their gun? Shut up!”

Zhao Yu shook his head and sighed. He really didn’t want to cause any trouble, so he said, “Okay, here... I’ll show you my badge.”

Miao Ying sneered at them and immediately picked up her cell phone and called Zeng Ke. When he answered she said, “Zeng Ke, send a group of our men here right away! Xie Tongguo has sold his house! However, there may still be some important clues that he left here, so we must carry out a comprehensive search!”

Upon hearing this, the man looked embarrassed, and he urged her and Zhao Yu, “Officers, conduct your search as you will. I don’t need this house for the time being, but please just don’t let my wife know about all of this...”

Completely ignoring the man, Miao Ying said to Zeng Ke over the phone, “Also inform the Golden City Police Station that we seem to have caught a sex trafficker. Ask them to come and investigate this matter carefully.”

The man turned to the two women and scolded them, “Look at what you’ve done!”

As she came out of the bedroom, Miao Ying grabbed Zhao Yu and said, “Zhao Yu, considering the current situation, I don’t think that a citywide search is a good idea!”

Zhao Yu nodded his head and agreed with her. “At the moment, Xie Tongguo doesn’t know that we suspect him. Also, he has money. If he gets startled and discovers that we are after him, he will definitely run away!”

Miao Ying nodded and said, “His running away is not the worst case scenario! I’m afraid that he will just continue this crazy killing spree, as I’m afraid that it will be hard for him to stop! As such, we must think of a perfect way to catch him soon!”

Miao Ying had just finished voicing her concern, when Zeng Ke chimed in from over the phone, “Leader Miao, our people are on their way. They’ll get there in two minutes. I just checked Xie Tongguo’s personal information, and his ID card shows that he has not registered at any hotel in the vicinity.”

He took a breath, then added, “It also appears that he has only one bank card with no transaction history in the last half a year, which means that it must be his bank card from his previous employer. That explains why he hasn’t used it since his dismissal!”

Miao Ying shook her head and said, “Xie Tongguo seems to know how to avoid exposing himself! Zeng Ke, although the Golden City doesn’t have many surveillance cameras, you can still use our software to see if you can find any traces of Xie Tongguo.”

“Okay, no problem!” Zeng Ke said before he hung up the phone.

Zhao Yu then waved to Cui Lizhu and said, “Go get the key to the basement from that man, then go and check it out!”

“The basement?” Cui Lizhu frowned.

“Since Han Kuan’s manuscripts went missing from the basement, it is very likely that Xie Tongguo stole them! So, you need to go down there and see if you can find any clues,” Zhao Yu explained.

Cui Lizhu seemed reluctant. “It’s dirty and dark down there. Isn’t there a search team that can do that? Why make me do it? I’m a senior policeman!”

Zhao Yu rolled his eyes and asked, “When you went into the sewer, why didn’t you say that you are a senior person? Why didn’t you think it was too dirty then? Hurry up! Don’t annoy me any longer! Maybe you can find some important clues there. I’m giving you a chance to make a contribution to this case. Can’t you see that?”

“Hmph! Your fine words don’t mean that much to me!” Cui Lizhu gave Zhao Yu a fierce glare, but did as he asked her anyway.

As Cui Lizhu took the key to the basement, she heard a siren outside the building...

Chapter 844: Wait for the Criminal to Appear

Although Miao Ying called a group of policemen to the scene, she did not ask them to take Xie Tongguo’s uncle to the police station. Instead, she just asked him for more detailed information about Xie Tongguo.

After that, the police searched the house. Although the house had not been renovated since the sale, none of Xie Tongguo’s personal belongings had been found. It seemed that Xie Tongguo must have thought of all of this in advance, eliminating any trace of himself or his belongings.

As such, they assumed that he had done the same thing in his basement. And, just as they thought, when they searched the dusty basement, they found nothing important, only old, useless stuff.

For this reason, Cui Lizhu was seriously annoyed at Zhao Yu. She felt like the search had been an unnecessary waste of her time and skills!

After they decided that Xie Tongguo’s house would not provide them with any more clues, Zhao Yu, Miao Ying, and Cui Lizhu returned to the Golden City Police Station to continue their investigation.

When they returned to the police station, they received news from Ran Tao that confirmed their suspicions about Xie Tongguo. As Ran Tao was thinking about the case, he realized that the real estate agency could be a key point in their case. So, he asked the manager to call in several employees during the night.

These employees had all worked with Xie Tongguo before, and they told Zeng Ke everything they knew about Xie Tongguo. They each confirmed that it was Xie Tongguo who had signed the contract with Hao Lili.

They also confirmed that the contract would have brought Xie Tongguo a generous commission. However, Hao Lili broke the contract when he went to buy a house from another seller.

Because of this, Xie Tongguo had an argument with the manager at that time. Xie Tongguo was upset Hao Lili's behavior and wanted to sue. Of course, the managers didn't agree with that course of action, as according to the contract, the property owner should be the one who decides whether to sue or not, not the agency.

But, Xie Tongguo was stubborn, and he went to the homeowner to argue about Hao Lili's breach of contract. But, as the homeowner didn't lose anything, but actually gained a deposit from Hao Lili, he was naturally unwilling to get involved in any dispute.

So, in the end, Xie Tongguo was the only loser in the deal. In fact, this kind of breach of contract was quite common in the real estate industry. As such, the agency rarely sued.

However, this sale was extraordinarily important for Xie Tongguo. After all, Xie Tongguo lost his mother when he was young, and his father was seriously ill.

He needed this job's income to pay for his father's treatment. Also, he could only stay with the company if he had a good sales record. Needless to say, Hao Lili's contract was extremely important to him.

After they explained to the police about Hao Lili's contract, Xie Tongguo's colleagues also told the police a few other things about Xie Tongguo. According to an elderly female co-worker, when Xie Tongguo first came to the agency, a complaint was filed against him within the first 30 days of his employment.

The complaint said that he had a bad attitude and had deceived customers. For this reason, Xie Tongguo was almost dismissed from the company.

As other employees got to know him better, they gradually discovered that Xie Tongguo had to drive a passenger tricycle every evening to help make ends meet. One night, he had got into an argument with another tricycle driver who also transported goods.

They had a nasty quarrel, and even fought each other physically. Xie Tongguo didn't win against the other driver, as the other driver was much stronger.

After that, the driver held a grudge. When he learned that Xie Tongguo was employed by the real estate agency, he came to Xie Tongguo's company and pretended that he wanted to buy a house.

He was trying to embarrass Xie Tongguo by fooling Xie Tongguo into showing him properties for a whole day, only to later complain about Xie Tongguo to the agency.

When he discovered that he had been fooled in such a way, Xie Tongguo was filled with hatred for this man. Although the employees didn't know the man's name, Zhao Yu and the others guessed that the man must be Zhan Jiankang. Therefore, if Xie Tongguo was really the murderer, then it was totally reasonable that he had killed Zhan Jiankang first, making him the initial victim of his revenge murders!

The agency employees also explained to them the relationship between Sun Peibin, the third victim, and Xie Tongguo. According to them, Sun Peibin was a well-known customer at the agency. The reason for this was not because he often bought houses from the agency, but because he liked to show off at the agency.

Sun Peibin was a pig farmer. He was poor, but pretended to be rich in order to get women's attention. He often brought different women to the agency and pretended that he was going to buy a house, especially wanting to go and see the most expensive ones.

All of the employees knew about his antics, so they usually just ignored him. But, because Xie Tongguo was a relatively new employee, he didn't yet know about him. So, when he came in, Xie Tongguo thought that he really wanted to buy a house, and he always tried his best to sell one to him.

Sun Peibin knew this, so every time that he came to the agency, he would ask specifically to be helped by Xie Tongguo. Later, when Xie Tongguo learned what was going on, he also started ignoring Sun Peibin.

After this, the shameless Sun Peibin got angry. He even cursed Xie Tongguo in public and made a big scene!

The fourth victim was Pei Zhi. The agency employees also revealed his history with Xie Tongguo.

It turns out that Pei Zhi had signed a contract with Xie Tongguo to buy a old, somewhat cheap house. But, in the end, just like Hao Lili, he had violated the contract and bought the house directly from the property owner.

Then, an employee gave the team another important piece of news. Apparently, when Xie Tongguo was fired from the company, he was in charge of housing resources in the whole Xianghe Home area. And, after his dismissal, the company found several of its keys missing.

However, there was no conclusive evidence that could prove that he took the keys. Also, because they thought that the missing keys were not that important, nobody paid much attention to it at the time. From this point of view, it was possible that Xie Tongguo had already been planning all of these serial murders!

All of this information basically confirmed to Zhao Yu and the others that Xie Tongguo was indeed the murderer behind the serial murders case! Thus, their current task was to arrest Xie Tongguo!

Zhao Yu didn't want to issue a citywide arrest warrant, as he did not want to risk alerting Xie Tongguo that they were after him. Instead, he and Miao Ying believed that they should set up checkpoints in crucial places, such as train and bus stations and main highway junctions.

After Zhao Yu had assigned these tasks, Cui Lizhu voiced an opinion, "Since Xie Tongguo may have kept the keys from the agency, then... Could he be hiding in one of the houses... Like the house where the electrocution case occurred?"

"That's a great idea!" Zhao Yu nodded. He then immediately called Ran Tao and asked him to send some officers to check the houses that had keys that were missing.

Zeng Ke hesitated a moment on the phone, then suggested, "How about we send someone to search the Xianghe Home neighborhood again. It's hard to believe that Xie Tongguo would still be hiding in a house! After all, it is so close to the murder scene!"

Miao Ying immediately disagreed with this course of action, "No. Such a large scale search will definitely attract attention!"

She then waved at Wu Xiumin and said, "Send a group of people to wait at the Xianghe Home. This way, we won't be that noticeable."

Wu Xiumin nodded and was just leaving to make the call, when Zhao Yu suddenly asked Wu Xiumin, "Wu, according to the plot in Han Kuan's 11 Kills, how did the next victim die? More specifically, where did he die?"

"He drowned!" Wu Xiumin said. "The victim was drowned in an abandoned swimming pool! The killer manipulated the crime scene to make it look like the victim had drowned after he fell into the pool by accident."

After hearing this, Zhao Yu seemed deeply confused. He frowned as he repeated, "An abandoned swimming pool..."

"Oh..." Cui Lizhu realized something and said loudly, "Boss, if Xie Tongguo wants to complete his killings according to the plot of 11 Kills, that must mean that he is planning his fifth kill right now!"

Chapter 845: Next Murder

"This sure isn't easy, is it? The murderer must be facing a difficult problem as well!" Zeng Ke said.

He then added, "After all, it's winter now. So, where can he possibly find a swimming pool with water still in it? Wouldn't all of the outdoor ones be frozen by now, if not emptied already for the season? Besides, I'm afraid there aren't many swimming pools in this small city."

"I haven't figured it all out yet..." Zhao Yu frowned at Wu Xiumin. He then asked, "Why must it be an abandoned swimming pool? Why did Han Kuan design such a murder in his storyline?"

"Yeah, I was wondering the same thing..." Miao Ying thought it over and said, "If you want to drown a person and then make it look like a suicide or an accident, the most reasonable place to do so would be near a river or lake, not a pool. Even a puddle is more reasonable than a swimming pool! I think this choice is really strange..."

Zhao Yu nodded his head and agreed, "Yes. I'm not saying that I can read your mind, but I was thinking that exact same thing, too! It's like there's something else behind the book and the case!"

Wu Xiumin shook her head and said, "No way! Han Kuan told us that he wrote 11 Kills a really long time ago, when he just graduated from school. He also mentioned that there are many loopholes in the novel. So, maybe this swimming pool is one of those loopholes!"

“No... ” Zhao Yu was still shaking his head. “I don’t think that the loophole has anything to do with the swimming pool!”

“Team leader, actually... I may have found something that says otherwise...” Zeng Ke looked at the computer screen and said, “There are three, very long rivers near the Golden City. So, if he killed people in the wilderness, we could hardly stop him. But, if it’s a swimming pool that he uses, at least we can narrow the possible locations down!”

Miao Ying quickly asked, “Can you narrow it down to one place?”

“I do think that there’s a way! But, I have to get in touch with the Construction Bureau and see their drawings first!” Zeng Ke said.

He then turned to Wu Xiumin and asked, “Wu, did Han Kuan say that it was an outdoor swimming pool or an indoor one?”

Wu Xiumin answered, “I didn’t think to ask that. I can check with him about it later.”

“There’s a big difference between an indoor pool and an outdoor pool!” Zeng Ke scratched his head and said, “It would be much easier if it’s outdoors. If it’s indoors, it will be troublesome...”

Cui Lizhu shook her head and said, “If it’s indoors, would a public bath count? I think an abandoned public bath could be a possible place. And, it makes more sense for the murderer to carry out his plan in one of those! Didn’t you say that the scene of the electric shock case in the Xianghe Home is different from the original plot of the book? Whenever the murderer can’t find a place that fits the plot perfectly, his pattern is to just choose a similar place.”

“If it’s a public bath, that will be really difficult to narrow down! As it deals with a public, government facility, we can only let the police conduct a thorough search for it,” Zeng Ke frowned and said.

“Anyway...” Zhao Yu said with determination, “We must find this swimming pool! According to the plot, the murderer will not kill anyone for the time being, so we still have a little time!”

Miao Ying said, “Speaking of killing, it seems that there is another thing we can focus our efforts on in the meantime!”

Zhao Yu asked, “You mean... The next victim?”

Miao Ying nodded. “The four victims all had conflicts with Xie Tongguo because of agency related stuff! So, this fifth victim is likely to also be related to Xie Tongguo in this same way.”

Zhao Yu nodded. “Okay. I’ll get Ran Tao to find out who else had conflicts with Xie Tongguo!”

“Wow! He had a beef with so many people!” Cui Lizhu bit her lip and said, “I haven’t made so many enemies in my whole life!... And I was a thief! How could a mere real estate agent get into so much trouble with so many people?”

Zhao Yu said, “Although what you used to do is dangerous, you were quite skilled at it. Xie Tongguo is different! He has no financial resources and struggles hard to afford his life. All of the injustices that he has had to face has made him angrier than ordinary people!”

“In psychology terms, it’s called forced reverse pressure psychology!” Wu Xiumin explained. “The reasons for this occurring are very complicated, but it has something to do with low birth weight, poverty, hopelessness and so on.”

She shook her head, then continued, “Xie Tongguo obviously has the psychological characteristics of this syndrome. He has transformed his grievances into hatred, and after a long time silence and stuffing his emotions inside, his anger finally erupted!”

Wu Xiumin then added, “Overseas, more than 60% of the people with such a psychological tendency will commit crimes, most of which are felonies! At school, my teacher once said that this psychological tendency is mostly the result of poor social communication skills. Since patients cannot get along with other people and cannot effectively handle pressure, it eventually leads to a mental collapse!”

“That’s crazy...” Cui Lizhu stuck her tongue out at Zhao Yu, indicating that she could not understand this crazy phenomenon at all.

After rolling his eyes, Zhao Yu said, “Okay, I’ll contact Ran Tao now! Let’s split up and work on this angle separately. Hopefully, we can arrest Xie Tongguo soon!”

After that, they left. When he hung up the phone, Zhao Yu took the opportunity to open a new hexagram. It was two o’clock in the morning, and in order to get new inspiration for the new day, he knew that he couldn’t miss his new hexagram!

After seeing the hexagram, he frowned. Unexpectedly, he had opened the same Gen Kan hexagram as yesterday!

This was weird. He recalled that when he was on Yongjin Island, the system had given him several Li hexagrams in a row. This time, he had been given repeated Kan hexagrams.

If yesterday’s Kan referred to Cui Lizhu, then he had to wonder who today’s would be referring to. He also wondered about the Kan hexagram.

After opening the new hexagram, Zhao Yu added a little information to a white board. Because he stayed up so late working on the case, he felt that his brain was about to explode and he was extremely exhausted. So, he went into the small side room in the office to take a short rest.

As soon as he lay down on the little bed, he fell asleep and had many strange nightmares. In his dreams, he seemed to enter a Gothic dark world, where there were only black, gray, and white colors.

In this gloomy world, old buildings, monsters, bandits and robbers all came out from every corner. Some of them killed people and set numerous fires, and some danced around and sang loudly.

Zhao Yu finally woke up and yawned, then rubbed his sleepy eyes. He didn’t know how long he had slept. When he looked at his watch, he discovered that it was already morning!

The thick curtains blocked the window, so he couldn’t see the sunlight outside. But, as it was still quite early, Zhao Yu knew that it should still be dark at this time.

The lights in the office were already on. When he opened the door and went into the office, he did not see Miao Ying and Cui Lizhu, but only Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke.

At this moment, Wu Xiumin was standing at the door, saying something to the two Bureau Chiefs of the Golden City Police Station. When the two Bureau Chiefs saw Zhao Yu, they nodded to him, then left in a hurry.

“Team leader, you’re up!” Wu Xiumin whispered, “They just wanted to ask us what we wanted for breakfast. They recommended the Golden City special fried buns!”

“Ahhh...” Zhao Yu had not yet fully awakened, and he yawned again.

After hearing Zhao Yu’s yawn, Zeng Ke immediately stood up from the computer desk and said, “Team Leader, after working all night, I found six possible places! But, I have narrowed it down to one place... That is where Xie Tongguo is most likely to commit his next murder!”

“Here...” He then pointed to his computer screen and said, “Lo and behold, there was an unfinished club in the uncompleted building where Hao Lili was hanged, and there just happens to be a small open-air swimming pool at the bottom of it!”

As Zeng Ke said this, Zhao Yu looked up at the picture of the swimming pool that he had projected on the screen. Although the swimming pool had not yet been tiled, its main body had been completed!

Zeng Ke pointed to the photo and said, “Look.... The swimming pool is open-air, and it has snow and ice inside. If the ice and snow melt, it’s possible that a person could drown there!”

“Hmm...” Zhao Yu nodded. “If I were Xie Tongguo, I would definitely choose this pool! So...”

“Your thoughts are exactly the same as Leader Miao’s!” Zeng Ke nodded and said, “In fact, Leader Miao and Cui Lizhu have already gone there to check it out...”

Chapter 846: Almost Missed Files

“Da*n it! How could I forget such an important thing?” Zhao Yu suddenly shouted angrily.

“Team Leader...” Wu Xiumin quickly asked, “What have you forgotten?”

Zeng Ke also asked, “Do you think that Leader Miao and Cui Lizhu went to the wrong place? Well... Nevermind, as regardless, I sent some undercover officers go to the other possible places as well. So, If Xie Tongguo went to any of them, we’ll definitely catch him!”

“No...” Zhao Yu said gloomily, but he did not explain the reason why.

Zhao Yu wasn’t upset about the criminal, but was angry because of his carelessness. He had missed today’s side adventure! He hadn’t expected that today’s side adventure would start so early!

After he opened the hexagram last night, he was thinking about the case the rest of the night. Later, because he was dizzy and tired, he went into the side room to rest.

But, he did not realize that the side adventure was set to occur at 4 o'clock in the morning, which was exactly when he was sleeping! Feeling that he might have missed something important, Zhao Yu was extremely depressed.

He chided himself as he wondered... How could I have made such a huge mistake?

He paced gloomily back and forth, but suddenly stopped to take a careful look at the details of the side adventure. Past experiences had made Zhao Yu quite familiar with every side adventure's specific instructions. So, at just a glance, he could basically identify the general position of each location.

Hence, he realized something immediately... He was surprised to see that today's side adventure was set to occur in the very office where he was now!

Zhao Yu couldn't believe that anyone could have been in this room at four o'clock in the morning, and he wondered what the side adventure was. He also wondered... Since I was not present, could other people have known the side adventure?

"Team leader... Are you okay?" Wu Xiumin was looking at Zhao Yu curiously. She knew that since Zhao Yu was frowning tightly, he must be thinking about something important.

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu opened his mouth, but could not say what he was thinking.

After all, his system was highly confidential, so he couldn't tell anyone about it. He thought about it for a long time, then finally asked Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke, "Did anybody come to our office last night?"

The two were puzzled by his question. They thought about it for a few seconds before they Zeng Ke finally asked, "Team Leader, who would you be talking about?"

"Um..." Zhao Yu shrugged his shoulders and gestured with his hands. "I mean... Did anyone other than our team members come into the office in the middle of the night? You see... I fell asleep last night, so I just wanted to know if anything happened."

Zeng Ke shook his head, "All I can think of is that I found a swimming pool in the uncompleted building, and Leader Miao and Cui Lizhu went there to check it out."

"In the office! I mean in the office!" Zhao Yu repeated, clearly annoyed. Then, in case the two had any doubts about his meaning, he added, "Especially at 4 in the morning! I heard someone talking in the office!"

"At four in the morning? Somebody was talking?" Wu Xiumin thought for a while, then finally said, "Oh, wait... At four o'clock in the morning, I remember! I had fallen asleep, when someone knocked at the door. I was too tired to get up, so Leader Miao answered the door! Then... Hmm... Zeng Ke... What happened then?"

Zeng Ke rushed to the center of the office, scratched his head, and said, "It was an officer, delivering information that he had collected for the case. He gave the materials to Leader Miao, who put them on your desk!" He then pointed to Zhao Yu's desk and said, "That's all of it... Right there!"

Zhao Yu felt like he was in a daze as he walked over to the desk to check the materials. There was indeed a small box on his desk, which had a lot of documents in it. As he looked at the box, he found a note on the side of the box.

He read it aloud, "Zhang Jingru's Office Papers."

After hearing what it said, Zeng Ke said to Zhao Yu with relief, "Oh... No wonder these were placed on your desk! These are the materials related to Han Kuan's case! We have been putting so much effort into the serial murder case that we had almost forgotten our own case!"

Zhao Yu took the documents out of the box and saw that they were Zhang Jingru's office papers. He saw that there were many numbers on them.

He suddenly remembered that he had asked the Golden City Police Station to collect this information. His purpose for this command was because he wanted to further investigate Han Kuan and his wife.

Zhao Yu suddenly realized something very important. If these papers were today's side adventure, then he hadn't actually missed it! He wondered... What important clues could be hidden in these papers?

Although the box was pretty small, it was filled with papers. Thus, if he really wanted to go through all of the papers carefully, it would take him a lot of time.

However, since this was most likely the side adventure, Zhao Yu certainly couldn't miss it. Therefore, he immediately asked Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin to help him.

Wu Xiumin said, "Team Leader, since the Golden City police sent this information to us, they must have checked it beforehand! Is it really necessary for us to go through all of it again?"

Zeng Ke picked up a bunch of files and said, "In case they missed anything, I think we'd better do it again. Obviously, they brought this from Zhang Jingru's office and didn't take it to the Department of Evidence first. So, we might be able to find something new."

"Yes!" Zhao Yu picked up a stack of files and said, "Even if they have already checked them, they wouldn't have seen any secret information!"

"Okay..." Wu Xiumin pulled up a chair, sat down at the table, and began to read through the papers.

They were all Zhang Jingru's office papers, and they were filled with banking terms and complicated numbers. This would definitely be a laborious task!

Zhao Yu instructed them to carefully examine every single piece of paper, every line, and every word. This only added to the level of difficulty of the task. As such, even with all three of working together, they still hadn't finished going through even half of the papers by noon.

While they were working, the Bureau Chief arranged to have breakfast sent over to them. By the time breakfast arrived, Ran Tao had confirmed the news of lost keys, and many other investigators that they had dispatched had returned with new information.

Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke were tasked with dealing with these new findings, leaving Zhao Yu alone to continue sorting through the papers. At first, Zhao Yu thought that Zhang Jingru was working in bank credit, so he assumed that the serial murder case had something to do with the real estate industry, specifically, the buying of homes.

Therefore, he decided that he needed to find out if there was any information regarding that in this box of papers. But, even after searching for a long time, he found nothing in Zhang Jingru's papers.

Zhao Yu would never stop with only half of the work done, so after eating a simple lunch, he went right back to reading through the papers. When he had almost finished going through all of the papers, he noticed a strange piece of paper.

It was a letter that was requesting payment, and it was marked with an Evergreen Development Bank logo. The header was clearly addressed to Mrs. Zhang Jingru. The letter went on to explain that Zhang Jingru owed the bank 127 yuan.

Zhao Yu couldn't understand why Zhang Jingru would owe another bank money, as she worked at a different bank. Out of curiosity, Zhao Yu looked at the paper more carefully. Within seconds, he found a big problem.

The date on letter was late last month, but Zhang Jingru had been dead for more than three months! That was to say, the letter was sent after Zhang Jingru's death!

Chapter 847: Secrets in the Safe

"What?" In the office, Zhao Yu roared. "A safe... Again?"

Wu Xiumin replied, "Yes, Zhang Jingru rented a safe at the Evergreen Development Bank in Longjiang City. The date was October 21! She paid for only one month, and as the bank allowed one month for late payment, she received the payment reminder last month!"

Zhao Yu frowned as he said, "October 21 was the week before Zhang Jingru was killed! Did she keep anything important in the safe?"

"Longjiang is the nearest prefecture-level city to the Golden City!" Zeng Ke analyzed aloud. "No bank in the entire Golden City rents out safes, so that explains why Zhang Jingru chose to go to Longjiang!"

Wu Xiumin then said, "According to our records, Zhang Jingru was absent from work on October 21. I'll ask her company the reason why."

"Wait a minute!" Zhao Yu said. "Wu, ask the Longjiang police to find out what was in the safe first! We need to know what Zhang Jingru put in the safe as soon as possible."

"Okay." Wu Xiumin immediately called the Longjiang local police.

Zhao Yu looked at the letter as he said doubtfully, "Zhang Jingru had been to Longjiang before she died, but... What about Han Guang? Zeng Ke, you check Han Kuan's activity in our records."

"Okay..." Zeng Ke quickly searched his computer and found the answer. "Team leader, Han Kuan's confession mentions that, before his wife's death, he and Zhang Jingru went to Longjiang to visit a friend!"

Zhao Yu then asked, while trying to piece all of the information together, "A bank safe... And a friend? What does this all mean?"

“I’m going to ask Han Kuan about that!” Realizing that it was a matter of great importance, Zeng Ke quickly put down his work and got ready to go.

However, Zhao Yu waved his hand to stop him and said, “Never mind. I’ll go have a talk with him myself. You guys focus on handling the safe situation.”

After that, Zhao Yu went directly to the place where Han Kuan was being held. The normal police station was not like this detention center, as this place was where the prisoners were detained, and it was shabby, having just cells alone within it.

Zhao Yu walked fast and soon arrived at Han Kuan’s cell. He immediately asked, “Han Kuan, tell me what happened to you and your wife in Longjiang? Why did you go there?”

In order to keep everyone back at the office in the loop, Zhao Yu called Zeng Ke and kept the phone on speaker as he questioned Han Kuan. In this way, Zeng Ke could have the latest news as Zhao Yu himself was receiving it.

“Longjiang?” Han Kuan was confused by Zhao Yu’s question.

He tried to recall for a moment, then asked, “Which time do you mean exactly? We used to go to Longjiang all the time, as several publishing houses are in Longjiang...”

“I am specifically wanting to know about October 21. It was a week before your wife was killed!” Zhao Yu reminded him.

“Oh... I’ve already told the police about this many times!” Han Kuan said. “We drove there to visit an old colleague of my wife’s, who had just been promoted at work. The name was Huo Weifang. However, when we got there, we were told that Huo Yufang was away on a business trip. So, we just spent half a day enjoying Longjiang, then drove back in the afternoon!”

“So... What about the bank?” Zhao Yu asked. “What were you doing at the bank?”

“The bank? Oh... Yes!” Han Kuan thought for a moment, then remembered. “You know, we couldn’t come empty-handed when we went to visit someone, so we had brought a gift with us. When we discovered that Huo Weifang was not at home, my wife called her and asked where we should leave the gift. Unexpectedly, Huo Weifang asked us to drop it by her bank and place it in her safe. She even gave us the password!”

“What kind of gift did you buy for her?” Zhao Yu asked.

Han Kuan answered him without hesitation, “A designer bag. My wife said that she was really into fashion, so we bought her a very expensive bag. We also placed a set of our golden card collection in the bag. After all, my wife was hoping for a promotion, so...”

“So... You really went all the way to Longjiang just to give this woman a gift?” Zhao Yu asked.

Han Kuan nodded and said, “Yes! Who would have thought she would be so cautious! Can you imagine that she actually uses a bank safe for gifts? I was joking with my wife that I should write this into my next novel somehow!”

“Team leader...” At this time, Zeng Ke’s voice suddenly came from the mobile phone speaker. When Zhao Yu heard it, he immediately turned off the speaker so that he could hear what he had to say privately.

Once he knew that he was off speaker phone mode, Zeng Ke said eagerly, “Han Kuan is lying! I have checked the records, and there was no such a person named Huo Weifang listed as a client in any of Longjiang’s banks. Although Zhang Jingru once had a colleague named Huo Weifang, that person is still listed as living in the Golden City, she is just not in the same department as Zhang Jingru anymore!

After hearing this, Zhao Yu looked up and asked Han Kuan, “Han Kuan, are you familiar with Huo Weifang? Have you actually met her yet?”

“No. Why? What’s wrong?” Han Kuan was confused. “I heard all of this information from my wife. I’ve never even seen her!”

Zhao Yu then asked, “Were you the one who bought the bag?”

“No. My wife bought it. It was a white bag. Um... I can’t remember the specific brand...” Han Kuan answered.

Zhao Yu thought for a moment, then asked eagerly, “Did you both go and put that bag in the bank together?”

“Oh... No...” Han Kuan said. “I wanted to go with my wife, but she said that if we went together, it would attract too much attention.”

“How long was she in the bank?” Zhao Yu asked.

“Um... Quite a long time!” Han Kuan said. “I waited for her in the car and listened to a long talk show. I would guess that she was in the bank for at least 20 minutes!”

After getting these answers, Zhao Yu did not speak, but left quickly as he said to Zeng Ke over the phone, “Zeng Ke, the bank safe was actually rented by Zhang Jingru. This means that Han Kuan might not be lying after all!”

“Does that mean... Is Zhang Jingru the one who is lying? But... Why?” Zeng Ke was puzzled.

“If everything about Huo Weifang was a lie, then Zhang Jingru must have put something important in that safe!” Zhao Yu said. He then asked, “What’s going on with you... In Longjiang?”

Zeng Ke reported, “I have notified the local police. Within half an hour, they have promised that they will open the safe and see what’s inside it! God, I can’t imagine what’s in that safe! Leader...”

Zeng Ke had not yet finished his sentence, when Wu Xiumin suddenly grabbed the phone away from him and said with excitement, “Come here! Leader Miao just told us that Xie Tongguo has been arrested!”

Chapter 848: Good Things Come in Pairs

As soon as Zhao Yu returned to his office, he heard Zeng Ke's voice, which was filled with ecstasy, "This is amazing! Our plan was a success!"

After seeing Zhao Yu, he quickly said excitedly, "Team Leader, guess what? Xie Tongguo was caught in the uncompleted building that we were talking about! Xie Tongguo really came to that abandoned swimming pool and was caught by deputy leader Miao on the spot!"

"Oh? Really? Miao Ying caught him?" Zhao Yu smiled upon hearing the news, as he was also very excited by it.

Zeng Ke clapped his hands as he said, "It was so awesome! When Xie Tongguo was caught, he was carrying a large bag of potassium chloride in his hand! It turned out that he was going to do an experiment. Specifically, he was going to put the potassium chloride into the pool, then use the heat that was released by the potassium chloride to melt the ice and snow in the pool, so as to prepare for his next murder!"

He took a breath, trying to calm himself down before he added, "But, she caught him before he could even pour the potassium chloride into the pool!"

"Good!" Zhao Yu said with a smile. He then asked, "So... Did you figure out if Xie Tongguo has anything to do with Han Kuan?"

Zeng Ke replied, "Not yet. Wu has gone to arrange the interrogation, we also called Gu Tao over. However, I just heard from Leader Miao that Xie Tongguo has kept silent all this time. I don't know if he will reveal anything to us."

Zhao Yu sighed, then said, "Well... Never mind! We have the evidence. There was DNA found under the nails of the third victim, so we just need to compare that DNA with his. He'll definitely give in once he is faced with such irrefutable evidence!"

"But..." Zhao Yu suddenly thought of something important, so he added, "We have to get Han Kuan's box of manuscripts as soon as possible! That's the most important thing in this case!"

"Yes, that's true!" Zeng Ke also realized this, and he quickly asked, "Shall we call Leader Miao and have her ask him about it?"

Zhao Yu nodded, then picked up his phone to call her. Unexpectedly, as soon as Zhao Yu touched his phone, Miao Ying called! It was as if she could feel exactly what he was thinking!

"Hey, what's going on, my big team leader?" Miao Ying asked in a flirty manner.

She then said with a happy laugh, "It's not easy to win against you!"

"Haha... Well... Congratulations..." Zhao Yu smiled as he complimented her.

Miao Ying was surprised by how good of a sport he was being, so she asked, "What's wrong with you? You are actually congratulating me? That's not like you!"

Zhao Yu laughed again, then said, "Hey, your success is also my success! If the case is solved, it will be a credit to our whole team!"

Miao Ying was surprised by his magnanimity once again, and she said, "You are really starting to impress me now."

"Well... I'm like most people... We always want to make progress!" Zhao Yu said with pride. "Besides, I am an honest man now..."

"Screw you!" Miao Ying laughed, then said, "Okay, let's talk about the case now. I got Xie Tongguo's address. Apparently, he lived in a small bungalow in the southwest corner of the Golden City. I am taking some people over there now. You should know that our top priority is to get Han Kuan's manuscripts!"

"Wow, we leaders are on the same wavelength, as I was thinking that very same thing!" Zhao Yu said.

He then added, "Send me the address, and I'll meet you there! In addition to Han Kuan's manuscripts, I also want to take a good look at Xie Tongguo's residence! I want to see if he has connection to Han Kuan or Zhang Jingru!"

Miao Ying promised to send him the address, then said, "Oh, I almost forgot... You don't have to make Wu Xiumin interrogate him anymore, as just now, I coerced Xie Tongguo to confess to all of his crimes! He actually admitted that he had even planned ahead of time to murder Zhan Jiankang and the others!"

"Wow! It was that simple?" Zhao Yu was surprised to hear this.

"Yes! I was surprised, too, but when I think about it, I feel that it actually makes sense!" Miao Ying said. "Although Xie Tongguo committed a felony, he is not really a sophisticated killer."

Miao Ying shook her head, then said, "Wu Xiumin's psychological profile was correct. At first glance, I could clearly see that he has psychological problems!"

Zhao Yu nodded, then said, "Well... Just ask him some more questions before he has a chance to calm down. In particular, ask him about Han Kuan's case. I want to know if he had anything to do with Zhang Jingru's death."

"Sure thing!" Miao Ying said. She then hung up the phone and sent the address to Zhao Yu via text.

"Zeng Ke, you stay here!" As Zhao Yu put on his coat, he said to Zeng Ke, "I'm going to search Xie Tongguo's residence with Miao Ying! Tell Wu Xiumin that she will have to wait and see Xie Tongguo later."

Zeng Ke nodded, then called after Zhao Yu, "Take care, and good luck!"

Just as Zhao Yu put on his coat and was about to leave, the door suddenly opened and a person rushed in. In fact, the person was in such a rush, she almost ran right into Zhao Yu!

Zhao Yu recognized Wu Xiumin immediately. She looked very anxious, and it like something very big had just happened.

"Team Leader, where are you going?" Wu Xiumin asked, as she noticed that he was preparing to leave.

"We finally got Xie Tongguo address, so I'm going to there to see Han Kuan's manuscripts!" Zhao Yu explained. He then asked, "You seem like you have something to tell me. What's wrong?"

"Don't leave yet!" Wu Xiumin grabbed Zhao Yu, then said, "I have news from Longjiang!"

After Zhao Yu heard this, he immediately pulled Wu Xiumin into the room and asked, "Did they find the safe?"

Wu Xiumin gasped, then said, "Yes, and it was just as Han Kuan said. There was a white Santa Feica bag and a set of 12 golden cards in the bag that was in the safe! But... In addition to these items, they also found something else!"

"What did they find?" Zhao Yu asked.

Wu Xiumin said, "As the police were checking the bag, they found something hard inside of it. It is was sewn into the bag's lining!"

Wu Xiumin eyes grew wide as continued, "Originally, the Longjiang police wanted to take the bag as evidence, but the bank insisted on checking what was inside it beforehand to avoid unnecessary legal disputes in the future. So, the police had to agree to their demand!"

Wu Xiumin finally got to the key point as she explained, "After they cut into the lining and took the object out, they discovered that it was a pen that had a recording device embedded in it!"

"A recording pen?" Zhao Yu was surprised by this surprising bit of news.

"Hey..." Wu Xiumin opened her mobile phone and saw that she had just received a voice recording. She then said, "Team Leader, if I'm guessing right, this Han Kuan case might just have been solved!"

Then, Wu Xiumin jumped up excitedly and said, "It seems that good things happen in pairs, as the two cases have been solved at the same time!"

"Oh my god! I thought something terrible had happened! You scared me!" Zeng Ke touched his chest as he said, "Wu, is what you just said true? Has the truth really been discovered... So suddenly? Tell me, what on earth is the truth behind Han Kuan's case?"

"Listen carefully..." Wu Xiumin pointed to the voice recording on her mobile phone and said, "The truth is in this voice recording!"

After that, she placed her phone on speaker and gently clicked on the icon. At that moment, a woman's voice came crackling out of the speaker, "Dear police officers, if you are hearing this recording, it means that my perfect murder has been successful! Now, my husband can finally be proven innocent."

Everyone in the room was hanging on every word as the woman's voice continued, "Yes, I planned this perfect murder! I planned with the help of countless effort and repeated experiments! I believe that none of you would have found out the truth without this confession. Ha ha... And... My poor husband would probably be rotting in prison forever! I am guessing that you all must want to know why I did it..."

At this point, the woman paused, then said, "Actually, the reason is very simple! I just wanted to create the perfect murder... And I did! Even the best detective in the world couldn't crack the case! It was really unfair to my dear husband! Yes, I will speak to you now... I'm very sorry that I used you, but I promise you that your suffering will not be in vain. Have you realized that my case will benefit you a lot by now?"

At that moment, the woman erupted in a wild fit of laughter, then said, "Goodbye, husband! No matter, I will always love you!"

After that, the recording clicked, signally the end of the message.

“Whoa...” Zeng Ke shook his head, then said, “So, Zhao Yu guessed right again! The real murderer of Han Kuan’s case was Zhang Jingru!”

But, after listening to the recording, Zhao Yu clenched his fists and gritted his teeth fiercely as he said, “Actually... We may all have been fooled!”

Chapter 849: Unconvincing Truth

Zeng Ke was surprise by Zhao Yu’s statement, so he asked him, “What? Who is fooling us? Team Leader, what do you mean? Isn’t Zhang Jingru the speaker in the recording?”

Wu Xiumin frowned, as she was confused as well. “Yeah. After all, Zhang Jingru rented that safe. If it’s not her in the recording, who else could it be? How about I ask Han Kuan to listen to this recording to confirm it... Or, I can find someone else who knows Zhang Jingru? Maybe Zhang Jingfeng?”

“No...” Zhao Yu clenched his fists, then said with great doubt, “I feel that this is fishy! In fact, without this recorded confession, I might think that Zhang Jingru committed suicide! But... Now... With this, I don’t think that is the case at all!”

“Why? Do you think that it’s a lie?” Zeng Ke asked.

“I don’t know... But something doesn’t add up!” Zhao Yu frowned as he wondered aloud, “Zhang Jingru’s confession didn’t convince me! It just seems too coincidental!”

After hearing this, Wu Xiumin said, “This confession did come a little too abruptly. But, leader, we have seen the crime scene before. Didn’t you suspect that Zhang Jingru used her own suicide to frame Han Kuan? Her confession even explains how she did it. So, why do you think differently now?”

Zhao Yu shook his head, then said, “My conclusion before was based on the premise that Han Kuan was innocent! But... What if that’s not the case? If Han Kuan lied... Um...”

Suddenly, Zhao Yu thought of the hexagram that he had opened today, which was a Gen Kan hexagram. The Gen hexagram indicated that he would make progress in the case.

As he was about to crack both of the cases now, there was no problem with that. But, he had to wonder... What does the Kan stand for, specifically? Could it be the dead Zhang Jingru?

If Zhang Jingru had really committed suicide and was the true mastermind behind Han Kuan’s case, it would explain the Kan portion of the hexagram. Then, if this was true, Zhao Yu could really close the two cases today!

So, he had to ask himself... Why am I so worried about it? Why do I have such an uneasy feeling?

Zhao Yu had to admit to himself that it was possible that Zhang Jingru became a fanatical crime fiction fan because she had been reading Han Kuan’s crime fictions for such a long time. As he thought of this

angle, Zhao Yu wondered... Would she really sacrifice her life in order to attempt to commit a perfect murder?

If that was the truth, Han Kuan must have magic powers over his readers! After all, his unpublished 11 Kills had caused Xie Tongguo to kill 4 people! Then, his wife tried to commit a flawless crime because of his fiction as well!

As Zhao Yu recounting these facts, he was forced to ask himself... Is Han Kuan really just a writer? Or... Is there something dark and shady going on here?

Based on his own understanding of Han Kuan's case, Zhao Yu knew that Zhang Jingru was not at all like Xie Tongguo! Many witnesses said that Zhang Jingru was a cheerful and lively person, who had no psychological problems. So, it made no sense for her to do such an absurd thing!

Zeng Ke scratched his head and sighed before he said, "I'm really confused. Do you mean to say that you think Han Kuan killed Zhang Jingru? But... Why? That seems to fly in the face of common sense, right?"

At this moment, Zhao Yu was also confused. Xie Tongguo's arrest, the confession via the voice recording, and numerous other clues had all made him suddenly lose his direction. Before this, he had felt quite confident.

However, Zhao Yu reminded himself that he had solved many big cases, and based on his investigative experience, he believed that he would find the truth hiding within the numerous clues.

So... Let's figure out what the hell is going on! Zhao Yu made his way to an empty white board and quickly starting writing on it.

As he wrote, he said to the other two, "The reason why we are confused now because of this recording that suddenly appeared! So, we must check the origin of this recording!"

He then looked at Wu Xiumin and asked, "Wu, would you please play this recording to Han Kuan? Specifically, see how he reacts to it. In fact, it'd be best if you could secretly record his reaction."

"Ok..." Wu Xiumin replied, her tone filled with doubt.

Zhao Yu then said to Zeng Ke, "Zeng Ke, you look for any videos or recordings of Zhang Jingru, then compare those with this recording. We must find out if this recording is really Zhang Jingru's."

Zeng Ke nodded, "Okay... Understood!"

As Zhao Yu continued to write on the whiteboard, he asked Zeng Ke, "And... Can you also check to see if Zhang Jingru's recording was possibly synthesized?"

Zeng Ke nodded, then said, "That won't be too difficult. But, I need the original recording to do it!"

Wu Xiumin said, "Oh, it's already on the way! You will get it within no more than two hours!"

Zhao Yu then said, "Well, ask the forensics department to be ready for that. Zeng Ke will take care of the recording and the other physical evidence! We will let them carefully examine the bag and the golden cards, as well as collect all of the fingerprints and DNA!"

"Understood!" Wu Xiumin said.

Zhao Yu stopped to think for a moment, then said, "And... Wu, please tell Miao Ying that I can't go with her! Also, please remind them that they must take a video recording of Xie Tongguo's home when they search it! That way, I can watch the video later."

As Wu Xiumin nodded, Zhao Yu said one last thing with a serious look, "Wu, I will have to bother you with one more very important thing! You need to call the Longjiang police station and ask them for access to the Evergreen Development Bank's security camera recordings. I need all of the recordings that captured Zhang Jingru in them!"

"Of course!" Wu Xiumin immediately picked up the phone and started to complete her tasks.

After that, Zhao Yu turned around and started to write some more things on the white boards. Since he had just shared his suspicions regarding Huan Kuan, the atmosphere in the office had suddenly become tense and heavy.

Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke could not believe that they had jumped from believing that they had cracked both cases to basically feeling like they were back to square one. The situation had completely changed in an instant!

Even Zhao Yu felt perplexed by this change of events. He really could not put his finger on what was causing him to have so many doubts, and although he had opened a Kan hexagram, he still felt that this case was not as simple as it first seemed!

Xie Tongguo, Han Kuan, Zhang Jingru, the book's plot, and the recorded confession... As Zhao Yu thought about these clues, he felt like there was a deep, dark veil of mystery that was covering them all, not allowing him to see the truth behind it!

Chapter 850: Crazy Criminal Fiction Fan

"Team Leader, the recording appears to be real! It's 100% authentic! This speaker is indeed Zhang Jingru! Also, the video shows no obvious signs of editing. But, in order to confirm this, I still need the original recording!" A few minutes later, Zeng Ke broke the silence and interrupted Zhao Yu's thoughts.

Zhao Yu nodded slightly as he stood in front of the white boards. This result was clearly exactly as he had expected.

He thought for a moment, then said, "Zeng Ke, you need to transcribe Zhang Jingru's confession word by word, then project it onto the big screen. I want to have a good look at it!"

"Okay!" Zeng Ke said, while he went to work on the task immediately.

Just after this, Zhao Yu's phone chimed. When he looked down at it, he saw that Wu Xiumin had sent him a video link.

Apparently, while Wu Xiumin was playing Zhang Jingru's recording to Han Kuan, she had secretly recorded his reaction, just as Zhao Yu had requested! The link was a real-time recording of this event!

In the recording, Han Kuan was listening carefully to Zhang Jingru's recorded confession. His eyebrows were furrowed and his expression was very complicated. It was obvious that he was doubtful about what his wife was saying.

However, when he heard the last part of the confession, he suddenly got excited. Tears ran down his face and he shook his head vigorously. He just couldn't seem to accept what he had just heard.

Finally, when she had finished speaking and there was no sound left in the recording, he lay his head down on the interrogation table and began to sob quite loudly. After he cried for a long time, he covered his eyes, which were filled with tears, then said with a trembling voice, "It's impossible... She couldn't be an avid crime fiction fan. I never knew that she was into that kind of thing."

Wu Xiumin then asked, "Han Kuan... Are you sure that this is your wife Zhang Jingru's voice?"

Han Kuan nodded, then asked, "But... Where did you find it?"

Wu Xiumin told him, "The last time you went to Longjiang with Zhang Jingru, she put it in her bank safe. Also, what she told you about Huo Weifang was made up!"

Han Kuan raised his head to look at her, then asked doubtfully, "What? My wife... She... Did you just say that she lied to me?"

After Wu Xiumin kept silent, Han Kuan pounded his fists on the table and said angrily, "Police officer, trust me! My wife definitely didn't plan all of this! I know her. She isn't a scheming person. This recording must have been forged. She must have been threatened by someone to admit to such a thing. Believe me, we have been married for ten years, and I know her best!"

Han Kuan looked dazed as he added nervously, "This is simply impossible. Please, you must find out the real truth!"

Wu Xiumin stared at Han Kuan as she said, "Zhang Jingru said that you could benefit from this case. What specific benefits would you get? Also, is it true that if she died, you could become famous? Would it make your book more popular?"

"You... How can you think that way?" Han Kuan roared, "I would gladly never write a single word more if she could come back alive! I never thought that something like this would ever happen to us..."

After that, Han Kuan couldn't hold his emotions back any longer, and he burst into tears. This was the scene that Zhao Yu was observing. He was specifically focusing his attention on Han Kuan's reaction in the video.

It was undeniable that Han Kuan's reaction was a natural grief, which made him appear innocent. Zhao Yu saw nothing abnormal in his mannerisms, no secret delight on his face, no deliberate affectation. Everything seemed to be a perfectly normal reaction of a grieving husband.

However, it was just this fact that caused Zhao Yu to question Han Kuan. It's almost as if his was a perfect performance. This made Zhao Yu quite suspicious.

Zhao Yu believed that there could only be two reasons why Han Kuan's reaction was so perfect. One was that his reaction was completely real, which meant that he was indeed innocent! The other reason was that he had rehearsed this reaction many times in advance, obviously knowing that the police officers would let him listen to this audio recording!

If the first assumption was the case, then Zhao Yu's investigation was complete. His Special Investigation Group would have solved another big case and would gain great prestige! But... If it is the second scenario... Zhao Yu shuddered at the thought.

When Zhao Yu stopped the video, he looked up and saw that Zeng Ke had projected the transcript of Zhang Jingru's confession on the big screen. It read:

Dear police officers,

I guess that my husband can finally be proven innocent now, right?

And, yes, I planned this perfect murder!

"Team Leader..." Zeng Ke looked at the big screen and said, "At first, I didn't see anything strange. However, after transcribing this, I suddenly felt that some didn't make sense. You see... Throughout the whole confession, she did not mention her name or Han Kuan's name once, nor the exact date or anything. This just doesn't seem right."

Zhao Yu nodded in agreement. "I agree. If she really wanted to tell us the truth, she should have at least told us the specific details of the crime. For example, how did she render Han Kuan unconscious? How did she take Han Kuan's hand and cut her wrists, ensuring that his fingerprints would be found? And... How did she take the picture and send it to Zhang Jingfeng?"

Zeng Ke nodded, then said, "Right! This confession lacks specific details! If Zhang Jingru was really a fan of crime fiction, then she shouldn't have made such a huge mistake! Her confession is filled with contradictions."

Zhao Yu then added, "And... She even didn't mention her suicide! Imagine that if Zhang Jingru had really planned all of this, then she should at least have said something like, 'I sacrificed my life in order to execute a perfect murder.'"

Zeng Ke nodded his head and agreed, "Yes! She said that this was a confession, but if Zhang Jingru really committed suicide, she was not a criminal! Team Leader, do you think that this is a fake confession, meaning that the person who is really guilty of the murder is Han Kuan? That would be crazy, as he has been right here in front of us this whole time!"

"We can't jump to conclusions until we get ahold of the real evidence. Although there are still a few questionable points in Zhang Jingru's confession, it doesn't look like it was doctored or edited in terms of her tone and emotions," Zhao Yu said.

He then asked, "Moreover, what if Zhang Jingru did actually rent the bank safe? Do you think that Han Kuan could possibly make his wife record a confession like this and put the recording pen in the bank?"

"Um... This..." Zeng Ke frowned, as he couldn't figure out a way to explain this.

Zhao Yu then said, "The most challenging part about all of this is trying to figure out Han Kuan's motive! If he is really the murdered, then why did he kill his wife? Would it be too crazy an idea to think that he might have committed such a heinous crime just to increase his popularity and sell his novels?"

After hearing this, something suddenly occurred to Zeng Ke. He was clearly scared as he said to Zhao Yu, "Team Leader, do you think that it is possible that what Zhang Jingru said about the crazy fan in her confession was actually pertaining to Han Kuan?"

"Huh? What do you mean?" Zhao Yu was puzzled.

"I mean..." Zeng Ke stared at him and said mysteriously, "What if Han Kuan is actually the crazy crime novel fan, and his real purpose for killing Zhang Jingru was to commit an impeccable murder!"