

Crazy 851

Chapter 851: Murderer's Motive

When Wu Xiumin returned to the office and heard Zeng Ke's assumption, she immediately disagreed, "That's impossible. After Zhang Jingru's death, psychological experts assessed Han Kuan, and although Han Kuan was somewhat agitated, the results showed that his mental state was no different than an average person's.

Wu Xiumin then added, "Also, when our team took over this case, I reassessed him myself. I confirmed that his psychological status is relatively stable! If he is really a fanatical crime fiction fan, who could go to such extreme lengths in committing a crime, there would definitely be some more obvious signs. But, I have been in contact with him for several days, and I still have not noticed any such signs."

Zhao Yu frowned and said, "Actually... If you think that Han Kuan is the murderer, there seems to be another thing that is hard to explain! If Han Kuan truly designed everything, why did he want us here?"

"Yes! But, in fact, it was not us, but you! Leader, he wanted you here!" Wu Xiumin crossed her arms, then added, "That point is much too big to ignore!"

"I know! That's why I'm surprised..." Zhao Yu said. "After all, he knows that I am a super detective, who was able to solve the Headless Female Corpses Case. So, why would he have asked me to investigate his case if he was the murderer?"

Zeng Ke thought about this for a moment, then snapped his fingers and said, "There are only two possibilities as to the reason that Han Kuan did this. Either he is innocent, so he invited our leader here to prove that..."

Wu Xiumin excitedly interrupted him, asking, "Then... What about the other possibility?"

Zeng Ke's nose bulged as he said mysteriously, "The other possibility is that Han Kuan is actually the murderer, and the reason why he invited Zhao Yu to investigate the case was purely in order to pose a challenge to himself, as it is only if our team leader can't find out the truth that he could consider his murder as a truly perfect crime, thus giving him a sense of accomplishment!"

"This... It's not a challenge, it's provocation!" Zhao Yu frowned and immediately grew serious. He did not know whether Zeng Ke was actually wanting him to analyze the case or if he was just complimenting him and his detective skills.

Wu Xiumin then shook her head and said, "No, I believe that your theory is far too subjective. We must take into account Han Kuan's psychological status. Based on the results of the psychological test, Han Kuan doesn't show any clear signs of paranoia or fanaticism."

She sighed, then added, "If we assume that his agitation at the beginning was a natural reaction to his wife's death, then I am positive that Han Kuan is a very calm person! This means that he is either innocent or that everything he does has a definite purpose in this crime!"

“What do you mean... A definite purpose?” After hearing this, Zhao Yu seemed confused. Then, after giving it some more thought, he suddenly seemed to understand something and quickly ran over to the white boards and started scanning the notes on them, which he had added previously.

“Han Kuan... Calm?” he repeated, while shaking his head. He then turned to ask Wu Xiumin, “But... Ever since I first saw him, I have not felt that he is not a calm person at all!”

Wu Xiumin then said, “Really? I don’t understand that, as I use the most popular version of Ester testing. According to these results, Han Kuan is absolutely a very calm and patient person! The reason why you don’t feel this way must be that every time you have seen Han Kuan has been when he’s experiencing some extreme emotions. Hence, you have only seen one small portion of his whole personality. But, our professional assessment is the most comprehensive one, not yours... No offense!”

“Huh...” Zhao Yu exhaled heavily, then murmured, “Maybe so... But... Another possibility is that Han Kuan’s reaction in front of me was all him putting on a show. Maybe... He’s faking it all along!”

“This...” Wu Xiumin was speechless, and she and Zeng Ke looked at Zhao Yu, each suddenly having a bad feeling.

“I... Maybe... He actually managed to fool me!” Zhao Yu slammed his fist down on the table and said indignantly, “He was faking all of it! That asshole was playing a very smart game, as he carefully planned his every step! Why didn’t I see this earlier? He’s a very calculating criminal!”

“Team Leader...” Zeng Ke quickly stood up and tried to comfort him, “Calm down! Let’s think about this again. After all, there is no evidence to support such a conclusion. Hence, it is too early to draw such a conclusion to this case!”

Zhao Yu looked grave as he shook his head. “It appears that I may really have underestimated him! I forgot that he is an expert when it comes to crime fiction? That explains so much...”

“Team Leader, what are you thinking of in particular?” Wu Xiumin asked in surprise.

Zhao Yu then said, “Han Kuan may have deceived us all by using a form of reverse psychology on us! At first, I never considered the possibility that he was a murderer because he was the one who invited me here. I also believed in his theory about 11 Kills.”

He shook his head, then said, “Then, when I saw him, he totally fooled me with his visible indecision and uneasiness! I didn’t believe that he would have the courage to let me investigate his case if he had actually done it. After all, if he had killed his wife, I couldn’t imagine that he would dare to keep the murder weapon in his hands!”

Zhao Yu clenched his fists as he continued, “All my hypotheses have been based on my assumption that he was innocent! Hence, my trust in him blinded me, rendering me unable to see what was right in front of my eyes! I never even thought about the possibility that he was the murderer!”

Zhao Yu then described the hypothetical process of Han Kuan’s murder in great detail, “If it was him, he must have put sleeping pills in his wife’s drink, then locked the door, removed the curtain hook, cut his wife’s wrist with a knife, then took pictures and sent them to his wife’s younger brother, Zhang Jingfeng! Then, he must have worried that Zhang Jingfeng might not receive the pictures, so he also made a phone call!”

At this point, Zhao Yu smashed his fists down on the table again and said, "Think about it... If Zhang Jingru had done this herself, after she called her brother, she could have called for help! In this way, she could have fully executed her plan, allowing Zhang Jingfeng to bring the police to the scene in time! So... That leaves the question... Why was there no sound coming from the other end of the phone line?"

Zhao Yu pointed to a white board and said, "Although her wrist was cut, she could still send pictures and make phone calls. Hence, wouldn't she have been able to call for help?"

Although Zeng Ke had no objection to Zhao Yu's statement, he did not forget to remind him, "Team Leader, Zhang Jingfeng was playing cards at that time, and the environment in the room was surely quite noisy. Maybe Zhang Jingru did call for help, but he just didn't hear it!"

"Good point..." Zhao Yu gave him a thumbs up as he said, "Let's ignore this for now and move on! Do you know why Han Kuan wanted us to investigate his case?"

"Why?" Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin were confused by his sudden changing of the topic.

"Because he made a mistake in his original plan!" Zhao Yu picked up the bank letter and said, "This letter is the evidence of that very thing!"

Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin were more confused now, as they both had blank stares on their faces.

"Just think about it... If Han Kuan designed this murder, the reason why he dared to implement it in such a bold manner was because of Zhang Jingru's recorded confession that was hidden in the bank safe. Han Kuan probably forced Zhang Jingru record it somehow, without telling her his real purpose for doing so. That would explain why there are so many unreasonable things in the recording!"

Zhao Yu took a breath, then continued, "I haven't figured out how he did it yet, but if the police get ahold of the recording pen, Han Kuan will surely be acquitted!"

Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin nodded.

Zhao Yu then said, "It was because of this that he was able to carry out his plan. He killed his wife and left his murder weapon at the scene because he knew that once his wife died, he would be caught by the police and then detained as the prime suspect!"

Zhao Yu's eyes grew wide as he continued to explain, "But, he also knew that the bank would send Zhang Jingru the payment request letter when the rental fee was due. At that time, he knew that as long as the police found the recording confession according to the letter, he would be set free!"

"Wait a minute..." Zeng Ke could not help but interrupt Zhao Yu as he asked, "Team Leader, why did it have to be a bank safe? Since Han Kuan had the recording, couldn't he just leave it at the scene? In that case, the police would have found it immediately and he wouldn't have had to stay in the detention center for three months."

Wu Xiumin stared at Zeng Ke incredulously as she scolded him, "Try to use your brain before you say anything! If Han Kuan is the real murderer, he would obviously want to make Zhang Jingru the scapegoat! If the recorded confession was found at the scene by the police so easily, it wouldn't be half as convincing."

“Yes!” Zhao Yu nodded, then said, “He knew that he would have to wait a month or two before this recorded confession could play its due role. Only at that time would the police readily believe in Han Kuan’s innocence!”

Zhao Yu then added, “But, although this seems like a perfect plan, he neglected something important! The Golden City police force is not as good as he imagined, as nobody noticed the payment request letter on the desk in Zhang Jingru’s office.”

“Oh... I see!” Wu Xiumin suddenly understood, and she clapped her hands with excitement as she said, “Zhang Jingru only paid a month’s fee for the safe, and the bank always issued a payment request letter when its safes’ payments were one month overdue! So, according to Han Kuan’s original plan, he only needed to wait two months to be able to get away with his crime seamlessly.”

Wu Xiumin then added excitedly, “But, he waited three months before he found out that the police didn’t get that important letter! So, he had to take the risk of calling our leader over to investigate the matter himself! His real purpose for this was for us find the letter, as well as Zhang Jingru’s recording!”

Chapter 852: Irrefutable Reversal

“Wow, if that’s the case, then our being here wasn’t even part of the original plan! Should we thank the Golden City police for not finding the letter?” Zeng Ke asked.

Wu Xiumin said, “You’re right! If they had found the letter, there would have been no reason to contact us, Xie Tongguo would most likely still be at large, and Han Kuan could have been acquitted! Then, just like Zhang Jingru said in the recording, Han Kuan would become famous, and his novel would sell copies like crazy, making him a very wealthy man.”

Zhao Yu looked at his two team members and said, “But... As Zeng Ke said earlier, although our hypothesis looks like it is the truth, it is still just a guess for the time being! At this critical moment, we have to let the facts speak for themselves! So, as far as the current situation is concerned, we must clarify four things before we can truly know whether Han Kuan is the real boss behind the scenes.”

Zhao Yu then turned and pointed to the white boards, where he had already written four goals for the investigation. He then said, “First, we need to close the serial murder case as soon as possible, as well as find out whether Xie Tongguo has any connection to Han Kuan and his wife. We also need to see if there are any connections between the two cases.”

He then pointed to the second and third objectives, saying, “Second, we need to check Zhang Jingru’s original recording to see if it has been edited. It may even be a fake! Third, we should investigate whether Zhang Jingru rented the safe in the bank herself. If not, we need to find out who else was involved.”

Zhao Yu then emphasized the importance of the last goal, “The fourth goal is the most important one! We must find out the reason why Han Kuan killed his wife! I don’t believe that Han Kuan would kill his wife only to increase the popularity of his book. After all, they were married for ten years!”

He shook his head, then said, "As Wu said earlier, Han Kuan must have his own purposes for doing these things, so we cannot stop investigating both Han Kuan and his wife. Also, we must find out whatever problems they may have had, both in their marriage and individually. That's the plan!"

At this point, Zhao Yu's mobile phone suddenly rang. It was deputy leader Miao Ying.

"Leader Zhao, we are done here!" Miao Ying reported with satisfaction. "We found Xie Tongguo's home and Han Kuan's lost manuscripts. And... Just as Xie Tongguo said, all of the manuscripts are here!"

"Good! Then..." As Zhao Yu was just about to say something, Miao Ying kept talking over him, as she could not wait to report, "Xie Tongguo said that he didn't have an accomplice. He did all of it himself! Also, because he and Han Kuan were neighbors, he knew Han Kuan and his wife, but he never talked much with them, just a greeting here and there!"

Miao Ying then added, "Xie Tongguo also knew that those manuscripts belonged to Han Kuan. He said that he had wanted to talk to Han Kuan, but because he had stolen his stuff, he was too embarrassed to do so. He also admitted that he related on a personal level to Han Kuan's books, especially 11 Kills! This is because the main character in the book had a miserable experience that was similar to his."

Miao Ying then said, "Apparently, they were both treated unfairly. So, he killed people and copied the book's killing methods. Although his logic was not good, the details that he shared about the crime were consistent with our findings. Therefore, it looks like Xie Tongguo is our guy!"

"Oh... So... Then..." Zhao Yu wanted to say something, but was interrupted by Miao Ying yet again!

With excitement in her tone, she reported, "Oh! We also found a list of victims on Xie Tongguo's desk. It turns out that he had arranged for exactly 11 victims. These 11 people had all treated him very badly, and the group included a few of his clients at work, some colleagues, his boss, and even a few of his classmates, who apparently beat him up at school. Fortunately, we stopped him. Otherwise, we don't know how many more people would have died!"

"Wow, in that case..." Zhao Yu still wasn't able to finish his thought when Miao Ying interrupted him for the third time, "Oh yeah! I heard from Wu that you are about to crack the case! Has the evidence been confirmed? Was it really Zhang Jingru's own plan all along? If so, that means that we have all solved two cases in one day!"

"Alas... It's hard to get a word in with you talking nonstop!" Zhao Yu finally got the chance to speak, and he said with a sigh, "I told you earlier that my case is more difficult than yours! So, we'll wait till you come back, and then we can discuss it together!"

"Well, we're ready to come back now!" Miao Ying said quickly. "See you later!"

After hanging up the phone, Zhao Yu furrowed his eyebrows, drew a big X on his first investigation goal on his list, and murmured, "It seems that we can drop the first goal, as the serial murder case is clearly not related to Han Kuan and his wife!"

At this time, Wu Xiumin, who was listening to someone talking to her on her phone in the distance, waved to Zeng Ke and said, "Zeng Ke, look at your computer! The Longjiang police just sent the security camera footage over."

She then covered the mouthpiece on her phone and said to Zhao Yu, "Team Leader, maybe the third goal can be removed now!"

"Ah!" Zhao Yu rushed over to Zeng Ke's computer, while Zeng Ke quickly clicked on the video that he had just received. It was obvious from the video that Zhang Jingru was the one who had rented the safe, as the footage clearly showed Zhang Jingru going into the bank alone and rented a safe. The footage also showed that Zhang Jingru was holding a yellow plastic bag in her hand. Based on the shape of the bag, they could safely assume that it held a recording pen within it!

Hence, they could tell from this video that Zhang Jingru did rent the safe by herself, and she also put the pen in it herself. There was no other person involved in the whole process!

But, as Zhao Yu watched Zhang Jingru's movements, he felt that something was off. Zhang Jingru was dressed in pink and looked very fashionable. As she rented the safe, her actions and facial expressions were calm, as if she was doing something that she did every day. Moreover, when she was waiting for confirmation after signing the contract for the box rental, she even showed a trace of impatience.

After Zhao Yu paused the video at the exact moment when Zhang Jingru's impatient facial expression first appeared, he hesitated for a moment before he turned to Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke and said, "I feel that she behaved perfectly normal, which gives me pause..."

Wu Xiumin agreed. "Yeah! After all, if Zhang Jingru knew that there was a recording pen in the bag, then she should at least have glanced at the bag once or twice a bit nervously. But... She didn't! Not even once!"

Zeng Ke scratched his head and said, "Zhang Jingru would also have known that there was a camera recording her. Could it be that she deliberately avoided doing that on purpose?"

Zhao Yu pondered this for a moment, then said with a firm tone, "No. I don't think so, as from this video, it appears that Zhang Jingru left the recording for the police on purpose. So, she should have acted like that bag was very important, maybe even causing her to make a gesture to the camera."

"So... You're suggesting that Zhang Jingru probably didn't know about the recording pen at all?" Zeng Ke was shocked as he asked, "So... Han Kuan used her?"

Wu Xiumin frowned. "But... How did Han Kuan manage to do it?"

Suddenly, Zhao Yu thought of something important and shouted, "We are in trouble now. If Han Kuan is really the murderer, then we can't stop him!"

"Ah! Why?" the other two exclaimed at the same time.

Zhao Yu pointed to the computer screen and replied, "This video just proved that Han Kuan is innocent... Or... At least it makes it look like he is! No matter what we do now, Han Kuan will get away with his crime seamlessly!"

Once again, Zhao Yu clenched his fist and said angrily, "Han Kuan fooled us all!"

Chapter 853: Murderer's Motive

6 p.m., the Golden City Police Station interrogation room.

Zhao Yu took a bag of cookies and stepped into the monitoring room that was next to the interrogation room. In the monitoring room, besides Zeng Ke and Cui Lizhu, there were also several leaders from the Golden City Police Station. When they saw Zhao Yu coming, they quickly moved to give him the best seat.

As Zhao Yu was used to such preferential treatment, he just took it for granted and didn't even think to thank them. As he sat in front of the monitoring screen, he chewed his cookies and looked at the people in the interrogation room with a solemn gaze.

At this moment, Miao Ying was interrogating Xie Tongguo with the assistance of Wu Xiumin and Ran Tao. Xie Tongguo didn't even bother to lie, but just told them all the whole truth. Hence, his interrogation went rather smoothly.

Under Wu Xiumin's guidance, Xie Tongguo quickly told them how he had obtained the manuscripts, "Eight years ago, I saw the box of manuscripts in my neighbor's basement. The door to the basement was open, and I was curious about what was inside it, so I went over to have a look..."

Although Xie Tongguo was young and handsome, his gloomy eyes made people feel uncomfortable. With this gloomy demeanor, he continued to explain, "When I was in school, I liked drawing. So, I was naturally attracted by the sketches that I saw on the manuscripts! I felt that those sketches were very similar to my style of drawing, so I stole the whole box! Then, I took it to my own basement and hid it. I didn't think that the manuscripts were important, but are they?"

Xie Tongguo didn't wait for an answer, but just shook his head and said, "Anyway, the family that lived opposite me never asked about the box, so after a while, I wasn't even afraid that I would be caught! At first, I just liked the sketches on the manuscripts, but after studying the manuscripts for a long time, I also started to really like the stories, too. After all, they were very exciting stories about murders!"

Xie Tongguo then raised two index fingers as he said, "I especially like the book 11 Kills. It's like the book was written just for me, as I just can't seem to get along with others. In my primary and middle school days, I always got bullied!"

He shook his head, then added, "Actually, the reason why they bullied me was not because they hated me, but because they wanted girls' attention and felt that bullying me in front of the girls would make them look good. I was like a toy that amused them... Nobody cared about my feelings at all. When other students saw me get bullied, they just laughed at me, and even the teachers turned a blind eye to what was happening." Xie Tongguo seemed extremely calm as he recalled this painful time in his past. It was almost as if he were telling someone else's story.

However, he suddenly got an angry look on his face and spat out the words, "Actually... I do kind of hate them though! In fact, this kind of hatred that I feel in my heart is exactly the same kind that Julie, the murderer's daughter in 11 Kills, felt!"

Xie Tongguo's eyes grew wide as he added, "But, at least Julie had a father who was willing to find justice for her! My father just lies in bed all day and needs others to take care of him!"

He sighed, then said, "During those very painful days, this book was my only consolation. I kept telling myself that I couldn't die like Julie, and that I have to live! But, I also promised myself that I would remember who bullied me, and even though I knew that I couldn't get revenge yet, I vowed that one day, I would kill them all like Paul, the murderer in 11 Kills! After all, they should pay the price for what they did to me!"

At this point, the room was absolutely quiet. Xie Tongguo's words, as well as his painful experience and the psychological changes that he underwent, made everyone sigh. It was truly a sad story.

"They called me trash, and they even treated me like garbage," Xie Tongguo recalled bitterly. He then smiled coldly and said, "They always used to pull down my trousers, grab my hair, or slap my face. They couldn't even be a bit more creative than those silly methods! But, I determined that I would be different once I exacted my revenge! I used various creative ways that I learned from 11 Kills to murder every one of them. They really are the most wonderful killing methods!"

Xie Tongguo squinted for a moment, then added in disappointment, "It's only a pity that I killed them off so slowly. You caught me before I could finish! I have to admit that this book might not have been written exactly for me, after all, as its hero didn't keep silent like I did at the very beginning!"

Upon hearing this, the two chiefs beside Zhao Yu exhaled with relief. They knew that they were very lucky that the murderer had been arrested. Otherwise, the Golden City would have been in big trouble, having a killer on the loose!

Wu Xiumin then raised a question about the order of deaths. "Those people that you planned on killing later... Are they more important to you, which is why you were going to kill them last? If the campus bullies were your ultimate target, then... The people you killed earlier were the ones you met after you started working? Did they bully you as well?"

Xie Tongguo replied calmly, "Yes. Those people were also scum. They enjoyed bullying me as well! They were selfish little dirtbags, who never considered my feelings! In order to be able to afford my father's surgery fee and support my family, I had to work a hundred times harder than an ordinary person, but I still failed to get the reward in the end, just because of those scumbags!"

Xie Tongguo pulled at his clothes and stared at the table without blinking. After a long while, he added, "Actually... I really cherished my job! I know that I'm stupid and not good at talking, but I really tried very hard at work! I just never understood why everyone was so mean to me!"

Although he was emotional, his eyes remained motionless and fixed on the table. He then said, "First, Zhan Jiankang hit me with his tricycle, and after that, without apologizing or saying anything to me whatsoever, he started to beat me up! Then, he even came to my company and made trouble at my workplace! He asked me to bow down to him and kicked me several times in secret. After that, he filed a formal complaint against me! So, I killed him, and I don't feel guilty! He asked for it!"

At this point, Xie Tongguo's eyes were fierce, and his body was trembling. But, his eyes were still staring at the table, as if he could set it on fire with his fierce glare!

Xie Tongguo continued to explain the events that brought him to this day, "And... That woman lied to me! She signed the contract but broke her promise! Others might think that is normal or okay, but I was counting on that commission to save my dad's life!"

He shook his head in dismay and frustration, then added, "Moreover, Sun Peibin is also a scumbag! He had a mountain of debt, but he still came and pretended like he was buying a house. He even hit me because I refused to help him!"

He then said, "Pei Zhi is also a very dishonest person! And... So are Qiao Xin and Wang Ling! These two are my colleagues, but instead of helping me, they were trying to get me kicked out of the agency. If you hadn't caught me, neither of them would be alive! And... Manager Zhao... And big boss Liu Qiang..."

Xie Tongguo became more excited the more he spoke about his past abusers. "If they hadn't fired me, my dad wouldn't have died!"

Xie Tongguo's tears kept rolling down his face, but the others could not see the slightest bit of remorse on his face, only anger. The whole time that Xie Tongguo was speaking, the monitoring room was completely silent.

This was because everyone was shocked by Xie Tongguo's angry words. No one expected that Xie Tongguo would have such a motive for the murders.

"You... You must calm down..." Wu Xiumin said, then looked at Ran Tao, who immediately brought Xie Tongguo a glass of cold herbal tea that he had prepared in advance. However, Xie Tongguo was too upset and didn't drink it. Upon seeing his refusal, Wu Xiumin insisted, "Have a drink. You'll feel better."

After Xie Tongguo calmed down a little and took a sip of tea, Wu Xiumin asked him, "Was your father's death the main reason why you decided to commit the murders?"

"Yes!" Xie Tongguo admitted without hesitation. "Before that, I had already made a careful plan! But, I knew that if I was caught, no one would take care of my father! So, I planned to wait until a future time to execute my plan. But, once my father was gone, I had nothing else to worry about, so I just went ahead and did it!"

Chapter 854: Cleared of Charges

The next portion of the interrogation was more similar to what Zhao Yu and the others had expected. Shortly after Xie Tongguo was dismissed from the company, his father, who had been ill for many years, died.

Xie Tongguo then sold the house to his uncle, paid off the debt that he owed to many people, and rented a small house in a remote place. By that time, he had 90,000 yuan left.

From that moment on, he started to exact his revenge. Xie Tongguo's description of his killing process was consistent with the crime scenes. He had copied Han Kuan's 11 Kills almost exactly!

The murders of Zhan Jiankang, the first victim, and Hao Lili, the second victim, went smoothly. He followed both of these victims at night, and when the opportunity came, he rendered them unconscious with ether. Then, he used his tricycle to transport the victims' bodies to the crime scenes that he had chosen in advance, where he killed the victims. Then, he made the crime scenes look like suicides.

However, when it came to Sun Peibin, the third victim, due to the fact that Xie Tongguo was not good at handling electrical appliances, there was a complication and it did not go as smoothly as planned.

As Zhao Yu suspected, Xie Tongguo had carefully chosen the place where he would commit the murder. Then, he opened the door with the key that he had stolen from the agency.

In order to make it look like that the victim had broken into the abandoned house himself, then committed suicide by touching the electric switch, Xie Tongguo intentionally broke the door lock.

However, he did not expect that Sun Peibin would awake unexpectedly. So, he failed to electrocute Sun Peibin!

When Sun Peibin woke up, he recognized Xie Tongguo immediately, then had a fierce fight with Xie Tongguo. Since Xie Tongguo was young and strong, he was eventually able to knock Sun Peibin out and replace the wire to electrocute him!

After Sun Peibin was electrocuted, Xie Tongguo was not sure whether Sun Peibin was really dead. So, he stayed there for more than two hours just to be sure. It was only after Sun Peibin's body had turned completely cold that he cleaned up the scene and left.

In fact, Xie Tongguo already knew that when the police found Sun Peibin's body, they would immediately know that it was a murder. Therefore, he figured that he'd better change the place where he put the body, maybe even bury it. This way, he figured that it would arouse less suspicion.

However, since he was determined to copy the overall plot of 11 Kills, he left Sun Peibin's body there, even at the risk of being caught by the police! However, what he could not understand was that even after more than half a month had passed, there was no news that the police had found the corpse!

This was a great surprise to Xie Tongguo. After all, there were people who lived near the place where Sun Peibin had died and the house's door was open. Also, because it was not particularly cold at that time, the corpse surely would have started to smell!

So, he wondered why no one had found the body yet. Of course, he was not complaining, as this was good news for Xie Tongguo.

After he realized that he was not going to get caught for the first three murders, Xie Tongguo started to plan his fourth murder, completely forgetting about Sun Peibin.

However, Xie Tongguo had definitely learned a lesson from Sun Peibin's case. After deciding to freeze Pei Zhi to death, Xie Tongguo not only carefully inspected the scene, but he also patiently observed Pei Zhi's daily routine and did not rush into action.

Finally, one evening, he got the perfect opportunity. That night, the outdoor temperature in the Golden City had dropped to minus 17 degrees, and Pei Zhi and his friends had been drinking all night at a local pub!

Feeling that this was a godsend, Xie Tongguo followed Pei Zhi, who was completely drunk, from the pub. Then, when Pei Zhi was about to get home, he used ether to render him unconscious. After that, everything was easy.

Xie Tongguo didn't even have to resort to violence, as he just abandoned Pei Zhi in the abandoned factory nearby. And... That was it... His mission was completed!

As it was such a cold day, Pei Zhi was frozen to death before he even woke up from his drunken stupor! After Pei Zhi's death, Xie Tongguo had successfully completed the four murders according to the book's plot.

It could be said that Xie Tongguo's serious psychological deficiencies and lack of communicative competence was the main cause of the tragedy. However, if the people involved in this case had been less indifferent, less selfish, and more concerned about Xie Tongguo's feelings, perhaps this cruel serial murder case would never have happened!

After the interrogation, Zhao Yu and others returned to the temporary office. Once they got there, Wu Xiumin turned to tell Zhao Yu, "Just now, deputy leader Miao and I asked Xie Tongguo about Han Kuan. From his reaction, it appears that he really has no connection with Han Kuan!"

"Yes," Miao Ying agreed. "Xie Tongguo said that he had never seen Han Kuan and his wife since he sold his house!"

"Oh..." Zhao Yu nodded. "So... It was purely accidental?"

Ran Tao scratched his head and said, "But... Don't you think that it is quite uncanny that the two cases happen so close in the same time period? To be honest, it seems that Xie Tongguo indirectly helped Han Kuan. Without Xie Tongguo's case, Han Kuan would not have been able to invite us here!"

He then added, "In fact, Han Kuan wasn't much help to us in solving this case. Although he said a lot about his book, it was entirely by our efforts that we were able to catch Xie Tongguo!"

Miao Ying came up to Zhao Yu and said with great seriousness, "I think that we should take a thorough look at Xie Tongguo's father's death! After all, that's why Xie Tongguo committed the murders. Han Kuan's father and Xie Tongguo were neighbors, so Han Kuan had to know about Xie Tongguo's father's death. If Han Kuan knew that Xie Tongguo stole his manuscripts and that Xie Tongguo had psychological problems, would it be possible that he did something secretly?"

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu thought about this for a moment, then nodded and said, "Xie Tongguo's case would indeed benefit Han Kuan! If Han Kuan secretly instructed him or offered him help..."

"And..." Zeng Ke interrupted, "Don't forget about Han Kuan's case! If Han Kuan is really a part of this, maybe his own case is related to Xie Tongguo as well!"

Wu Xiumin then said earnestly, "Well... From my professional point of view, Xie Tongguo did not lie to us. He really seems to not have known Han Kuan well! Think about it, Xie Tongguo has already pleaded guilty and admitted that he killed four people. There is no reason for him to protect Han Kuan."

"Wu, have you watched the TV drama 'Crime Scene?'" Ran Tao asked Wu Xiumin, his voice filled with great excitement. "In that TV drama, there is a masked instructor, who specializes in laying trap for others. He then forces them to kill people! Is Han Kuan possibly like this? Or... Did he commit the crime via something like anonymous letters, the Internet, or something of that sort?"

Wu Xiumin shouted, "Don't waste your breath on spewing such meaningless nonsense, okay? When Xie Tongguo killed these last two victims, Han Kuan was already in the detention center!"

"Um... This..." Realizing she was right, Ran Tao was speechless.

At this time, Zhao Yu suddenly remembered something and asked Zeng Ke, "Didn't the Longjiang police send Zhang Jingru's original recording here before? What about the examination? Have the results come yet?"

Zeng Ke smacked his forehead, as he had clearly forgotten to tell his boss the results, and he quickly took out the report and said, "Team Leader, the people in the Evidence Department confirmed that the recorded confession was not edited. The voice is indeed Zhang Jingru's! Their results are the same as mine."

Wu Xiumin then pointed to the whiteboard and said to Zhao Yu, "That means that the second investigation goal can also be removed! Now, there is only one left!"

Zhao Yu put his hands on his waist and exhaled heavily. Although he had expected this outcome, he was still very depressed to see such a result, as it meant that Han Kuan could be acquitted! Whether he killed his wife or not, he could still escape punishment for his crime!

Chapter 855: Throw a Stone in the River to Find out the Depth

"What's the matter, honey?" Miao Ying asked after she noticed Zhao Yu's frustration. "Do you think that Han Kuan's case is not quite solved yet? I never would have expected that our super detective, who has solved so many difficult cases, could be stuck on such a simple case now! You know that it has to be either Han Kuan or his wife."

Cui Lizhu, who had been silent for a long time, nodded and said, "Yeah! It's either Han Kuan or Zhang Jingru! Since it happened in a locked room, it must be one of them! In my opinion, now that we have the recording, it's solid proof! What else are you worried about? Let's just close the two cases together, right now!"

Cui Lizhu then pouted her lips and added, "This could be a great help to reduce my sentence..."

"Little girl, don't talk nonsense now!" Zhao Yu shook his head and rolled his eyes at her before he said, "What we want is to find out the whole truth! I can't ruin my super detective reputation over this case!"

Miao Ying stared at him for a long while, then asked, "So... You have doubts that Han Kuan is the culprit? You really don't think that he planned everything and was just acting since the beginning?"

"Wait..." Cui Lizhu interrupted Miao Ying and asked Zhao Yu, "Boss, did you just hear what the Evidence Department reported? There was no problem with the recording, which shows that Han Kuan is innocent! So... Why are you hesitating?"

"Who said that there was no problem with the recording?" Miao Ying interrupted Cui Lizhu harshly, then pointed to the transcript that was projected on the screen and said, "Look at it carefully... This confession is full of loopholes! Without this confession, I might think that Han Kuan is innocent. But, with this confession, I think that he has to be murderer... No doubt in my mind!"

"Um..." Zeng Ke glanced at Wu Xiumin and the two shared a meaningful glance. After all, Miao Ying's words were almost the exact same as Zhao Yu's earlier. Zhao Yu had the same reaction after he heard about the confession for the first time.

“Elites always see the same truths!” Zhao Yu said as he smiled and went over to Miao Ying. He then asked her, “Meow... Why do you think that this recording is questionable?”

“Its length!” Miao Ying pointed at the screen and said, “Think about it... If Zhang Jingru really planned everything and was willing to sacrifice her life in the process, she would have at least made all of the details clear in her confession. But... This confession is short and far from complete, as it is missing several vital details!”

Miao Ying continued earnestly, “If Zhang Jingru really was a fan of crime fiction, then she certainly knew how to record a comprehensive confession that would be sure to help her innocent husband get away with her crime! But, if you look at this one...”

Again, Miao Ying pointed to the screen and said, “The time, the people, the location... These three vital elements have not been explained! Think about it... She admitted her guilt, but didn’t explain anything else! She didn’t even say what crime she had committed exactly! Isn’t that strange?”

“So...” Miao Ying stepped forward and patted the screen as she said, “It is this strange and faulty confession that gives me reason to doubt that Han Kuan is the real culprit in this case! In fact, I suspect that the reason that Zhang Jingru made this confession may be something else entirely!”

Ran Tao was surprised by her words and asked, “If it’s Han Kuan, then this fellow is a master at hiding things, as from the very beginning, I never doubted him at all!”

Wu Xiumin then said, “I have conducted a psychological assessment of him, and although his wife died, his mental state is very stable! So, come to think of it now, I do think that is a little suspicious!”

“Yes,” Miao Ying agreed. “A writer, whose sole job is to write crime stories all day long could possibly have some psychological problems. Think about it... His wife just died, and then he slept in her blood! And then... He was suspected of being a murderer! If he is innocent, then how can he be so calm about all of these crazy, awful things?”

“Wow...” Ran Tao looked at the screen, scratched his head, then said, “If we look at it that way, Han Kuan really does seem to have psychological problems! But...”

Zhao Yu interrupted him and finished Ran Tao’s sentence, “But... We can’t stop him now! Even if the recording is vague and full of loopholes, it’s real and highly effective toward proving his innocence, even if it’s false!”

Zhao YU shook his head, then said, “So, Han Kuan will have an absolute advantage in court! According to the normal procedures, even if the police hand Han Kuan over, the court-appointed attorney will not really prosecute him, much less convict him!”

“Yes!” Miao Ying said. “There are too many cases just like this, and in order to avoid wasting the nation’s limited resources on a long and drawn out trial, the police usually release the suspects directly and sometimes even throw out the case entirely!”

Cui Lizhu was not happy to hear this, “Ugh! Why do bad things always happen to me? That would mean that my chances at a sentence reduction would be gone! I... I don’t understand. What if Han Kuan really killed his wife? Can he really be deemed as not legally liable?”

“Sadly, yes. That’s why he is so smart!” Zhao Yu shook his head and said, “He has already planned everything out for just this kind of outcome! We have definitely underestimated him. He fooled us all!”

“Wait a minute... What if we can find some new evidence?” Zeng Ke asked. “What if we can prove that Han Kuan tricked Zhang Jingru into recording the confession?”

“Then... How do you explain the safe?” Wu Xiumin asked. “If Zhang Jingru recorded the confession and put it in the safe, wouldn’t she notice that something was wrong?”

“It’s possible... Look...” Zeng Ke waved his hands and said, “Since Han Kuan is a writer, he could have written a type of script for her to read as she was being recorded. The very words that he would have scripted for her would have provided him with a perfect, made-up excuse!”

He shook his head and continued, growing more excited as he spoke, “As for the bank safe, it’s not a very difficult thing to explain. After all, don’t forget that the recording pen was sewn into the inside of the bag’s lining. Zhang Jingru probably didn’t even notice it at all.”

He paused to take a breath, then added, “Then, Han Kuan could use the excuse of the gifted bag in order to implement his plan! Han Kuan could say that he wanted to give a gift to the friend in the publishing house, but as the friend was not there, he knew that she would ask him to rent a safe and put the gift in it. But, when he arrived at the bank, Han Kuan tricked Zhang Jingru into doing it by telling her that he didn’t have his ID card with him.”

Zeng Ke then concluded his hypothesis, “That also explains why Zhang Jingru looks so impatient in the camera footage. She was annoyed that he had forgotten his ID, and she also knew that he was waiting for her to finish her errand!”

Ran Tao scratched his head and said, “I can’t deny that your theory sounds quite possible. But... If that’s really the case, Han Kuan is too wicked! In order to kill his wife, he made up so many lies and planned everything out so meticulously!”

“My suspicions about Han Kuan have become even stronger after hearing all of this!” Cui Lizhu eyes grew big eyes as she said, “Han Kuan is surely the murderer! Ugh! He’s disgusting! He is so cruel that he killed his wife, who he had been married to for ten year! We must reveal his dirty secret!”

“But... There is the confession... We can’t do anything...” Wu Xiumin shook her head, clearly feeling helpless.

“Zhao Yu...” At this time, Miao Ying’s eyes lit up. She suddenly pulled Zhao Yu aside and whispered, “Do you remember Liu Pengfei from Qinshan? We can do the same thing to Han Kuan!”

“This...” Zhao Yu frowned and looked unwilling to go along with her suggestion.

As Miao Ying’s whisper was overheard by the other team members, Zeng Ke was surprised and gasped, while he covered his mouth with his hand. He had suddenly remembered a scene from the Yongjin Island command vessel. At that time, Zhao Yu said the same thing as Miao Ying had just said. Even their tones were identical!

Wow! Zeng Ke thought. He felt that these two leaders were really a perfect match for each other!

“No way!” Zhao Yu replied, while he patted Miao Ying on the shoulder, shook his head, then said, “Meow... This case is different from the past ones. If Han Kuan is really the murderer, then no matter how we try to trick him, it won’t work! Han Kuan is very calm, and he can anticipate all of the moves that we could try to make. As long as he insists that he didn’t know anything, we can’t trick him into revealing his guilt at all!”

“Besides...” Zhao Yu added solemnly, “Even if you really want to trick him, now is not a good time. Even if we put aside the confession, we should still know the reason why Han Kuan killed his wife. At present, we still don’t know his motive for certain!”

Zhao Yu patted his chest a bit dramatically, then asked, “Besides... Don’t you know that I am an honest man now? Hence, I couldn’t do such a dishonest thing...”

Miao Ying knocked Zhao Yu’s on the forehead and said indifferently, “You’re an idiot!”

“Um... Boss...” Unexpectedly, Cui Lizhu also overheard their conversation, and she rushed over to them and said to Zhao Yu, who was holding his forehead in pain, “Boss... I have an idea!”

“What is it?” he immediately asked.

“There’s an old saying among us thieves: Throw a stone to find out the river’s depth,” Cui Lizhu said earnestly. “I think we can use a proverbial stone to find out about Han Kuan’s situation first, then take countermeasures accordingly!”

Zhao Yu raised his eyebrows and smiled, as Cui Lizhu’s words had indeed provided him with a new idea. Miao Ying also seemed to be very interested in this new angle, so she asked, “So... Who is this ‘stone?’”

Cui Lizhu gave her a strange smile and replied, “Think about 11 Kills! Don’t you think that we have a perfect candidate here?”

Chapter 856: The 11 Kills Manuscript

The prison that was designated for detaining temporary criminals was located on the first floor of the Golden City Police Station. The prison only had two cells, as the station itself was not very big and there were hardly any prisoners detained here.

At the moment, Han Kuan stayed was being held in the cell on the left, waiting to be interrogated by the police. After being held here for two months, Han Kuan looked very depressed and quite pale. His hair was also very messy and tangled.

It was just past 7 p.m. at the moment, and a police officer had just brought Han Kuan his dinner. At the moment, Han Kuan was holding a paper cup that was filled with hot water, waiting for the water to cool down so that he could drink it.

From his cell, he couldn’t see the window in the office, which made it hard for him to distinguish whether it was day or night. Han Kuan let out a heavy sigh, while his eyes looked a little confused. At the same time, Zhao Yu and the others gathered in front of a computer screen in the Special Investigation Group office and were carefully observing Han Kuan’s reaction through a hidden camera that had placed near his cell.

Judging from his current state, Han Kuan looked like an innocent person and was showing no abnormal behaviors. However, no one knew whether he was faking it or not.

Then, there a loud commotion. It turned out that several police officers had showed up and were bringing a new criminal into the prison.

Han Kuan instinctively frowned when he saw this. This was because, when he had been escorted into the prison, there had been only two policemen assigned to guard him.

However, there were five policemen escorting the new arrival! This criminal wore both handcuffs and chains on his feet, which meant that he must have committed a serious felony and be considered very dangerous!

At that moment, Han Kuan heard a screech of metal. The police had just opened Han Kuan's cell and pushed the criminal inside it. Only then did Han Kuan see that the new criminal was a young man.

The next second, Han Kuan recognized the young man, then stared at him and asked with confusion, "Hey? It's you! What did you do?"

Surprisingly, this new prisoner was Xie Tongguo! Hearing Han Kuan's question, Xie Tongguo raised his head dispiritedly and looked at Han Kuan.

Once Xie Tongguo finally recognized Han Kuan, a look of surprise flashed across his face and he stammered, "You..."

As he spoke, Xie Tongguo frowned. He hadn't expected this at all.

"Aren't you the guy who lives across from my parents? Han Kuan approached him and asked, "What's wrong, bro?"

"Um... I... I..." Xie Tongguo stammered some nonsensical sounds, then just lowered his head. He did not know what to say.

Han Kuan looked at him carefully. Although he was quite curious, he knew that this man was an introvert, so he waited for ten seconds to give him time to speak in his own time. But, upon seeing that Xie Tongguo still refused to answer, even after a long while, he stepped back and sighed.

In the office.

Ran Tao was watching Han Kuan carefully as this scene unfolded. He then commented, "These two people... It seems that they don't know each other. Han Kuan was surprised by this, and Xie Tongguo was curious, too."

"Shh... Just be patient..." Wu Xiumin glared at him.

At this moment, although nothing was happening in the cell, Zhao Yu and Miao Ying still kept their eyes fixed on the screen. They knew that every detail mattered.

After drinking his water, which had finally cooled down a bit, Han Kuan sat on a stool and said to Xie Tongguo, "Hey, bro, it can't be cool to lie on the ground! I have a stool here... Do you want it?"

Xie Tongguo nodded, then rose from the ground and sat down across from Han Kuan. Then, Xie Tongguo looked at Han Kuan timidly. He looked as if he had something to say, but that it was too hard for him to speak the words.

Han Kuan looked puzzled as he frowned, then asked, "Did you get beaten up? Or did you beat up someone else? Do you not recognize me? You live across from my parents..."

"Um... 11 Kills! I did it!" Xie Tongguo suddenly blurted out.

"So, you did it." Han Kuan nodded, and after two seconds, he suddenly asked, "Wait... What? I beg your pardon? How do you know about that?"

"Mr. Han. I am your biggest fan..." Xie Tongguo's eyes revealed his deep admiration as he said to Han Kuan, "I stole the manuscripts, including 11 Kills, and I did it!"

"What?" Han Kuan jumped up from the stool, spilling his water in his haste. He then stammered, "You mean... You killed those people according to the plot of 11 Kills? The murderer... It's you!"

"Yes. It's me!" Xie Tongguo nodded earnestly, then said, "I don't want to be like the humiliated Julie. I want to be the one to fight against fate, like Paul! I want those bad guys to pay the price for what they did to me!"

Upon hearing this, Han Kuan suddenly fell down on the ground and crawled to the furthest corner of the cell. While he was crawling, he shouted loudly, "Officer! Help me!"

As everyone was watching this scene unfold in the Special Investigation Group office, all of the team members were silent.

"Wow... Isn't he being a little dramatic?" Only Cui Lizhu dared to break the silence as she asked in a low voice.

"Officer! You can't lock me up with a murderer! Hello? Officer?" Han Kuan grabbed the iron bars and shouted at the police officer outside, "Get him away from me! Isn't there another cell besides mine?"

The policeman at the door shouted, "We're trying to have dinner! What's wrong with you? Aren't you a murderer yourself?"

Another policeman then said, "Yeah, and besides, he has handcuffs and shackles on! He can't hurt you! Do you think he's going to eat you for dinner or something? Haha!"

"You..." Han Kuan shook his fist in the air and shouted again, "I want to see Zhao Yu! Now! I can't stay with this murderer!"

"Mr. Han, I've always wanted to get to know you, but unfortunately, I stole your stuff..." Xie Tongguo looked nervously at Han Kuan and said, "I appreciate your writing so much! I've read everything you've written!"

Ignoring his flattery, Han Kuan shrank back into the corner in fear and asked, "Boy... When did you steal the box? You... Your surname is Xie, right?"

"It was eight or nine years ago, when I was a middle school student. I only took one look at it and fell in love immediately. Your sketches are amazing..." Xie Tongguo complimented him.

"That's not even published yet! It's not even good! And... Even if you think it's great, you can't kill people because of that!" Han Kuan said with regret. "I... I just write that stuff for fun. How can you take it seriously? Novels are for entertainment, not for encouraging readers to actual go out and kill people! Are you sick in the head? Why don't you even understand this simple truth?"

When Han Kuan saw Xie Tongguo's face grow dark and gloomy, he dared not say more. At this time, Zhao Yu raised her head, glanced at Miao Ying and Wu Xiumin, then gently shook his head and said, "Look... Han Kuan and Xie Tongguo did not lie. Except for the book 11 Kills, they seem to have nothing to do with each other! Therefore, we should still focus on that confession and on discovering Han Kuan's motive for the murders!"

Just as Zhao Yu finished speaking, Cui Lizhu appeared in front of everyone with a cardboard box and said happily to them, "Come on... The Evidence Department has finished collecting the evidence, so I've brought the manuscript box!"

She lifted up a book and said, "Come and have a look! The legendary 11 Kills is right here in front of you..."

Chapter 857: War

Ran Tao looked at the 11 Kills manuscript and took the lead in expressing his opinion, "I didn't expect it to look so old! I thought it would look hip and cool, but it just looks like a child's composition book!"

Zeng Ke took the manuscript, turned two of its pages, then said, "The paper looks even older than I am."

Then, it was Zhao Yu's turn to take the manuscript and look at it. He saw that the paper Han Kuan used was notepaper from the 1990s. The cover and the edges of the manuscript had yellowed and looked quite aged.

Cui Lizhu shook her head and said, "I can't believe that such an ordinary thing made Xie Tongguo kill four people in a row! It's unreal!"

"Well, sin is in one's heart, regardless of outward things!" Zhao Yu read the manuscript, then said, "Different people react differently to the same things. Hence, the book is not the main factor, but Xie Tongguo's unfortunate experience is. That's why he identifies with the book, and even relied on it to kill people! He is really just a lonely, hurt person!"

After that, to the others' surprise, Zhao Yu suddenly swore, "Shi*! When did I learn to conduct such deep analyses?"

"Well... I felt the same loneliness as Xie Tongguo in my own childhood!" Cui Lizhu said. "When I was a child, even though my father was around, I felt very lonely. I remember wishing that I could have just one friend at that time, even if it was an imaginary friend, or even a virtual friend. Maybe 11 Kills was like Xie Tongguo's friend! That could be it, right?"

Upon hearing this, Miao Ying sighed, as she also had a deep understanding of loneliness.

“This book, 11 Kills, is not very long!” Zhao Yu exclaimed as he looked through the manuscript. He then said, “It seems that Han Kuan is right. This book is not up to the standards of publishing at all!”

“I agree,” Wu Xlumin said. “The day before yesterday, when I was helping him organize the plot, he told me that he had sent his manuscript to several publishing houses, but never succeeded in convincing anyone to publish his work.”

She shook her head, then added, “He later learned that he should not use foreign names for characters, as it apparently doesn’t allow the reader to relate to them. Later, when he gained some popularity, he thought about revising this book, but he never had the time. Hence, he didn’t even know that the manuscript was missing!”

As he was looking through the manuscript, Zhao Yu saw many sketches. These were illustrations that Han Kuan had drawn with a black pen. Although they looked rough, they had a wicked charm about them, which was quite consistent with the topic of the novel.

“In the box, besides 11 Kills, there are many other manuscripts that Han Kuan wrote when he was young...” Miao Ying pointed to the box and said, “I had a look at them all before. Some he even wrote when he was in elementary school. But, it seems that besides 11 Kills, the others are not complete stories, but just his creative ideas and partial drafts.”

Miao Ying then added, “Oh, and there are also several notebooks, where he wrote down many famous quotes from detective stories, such as Holmes, Death on the Nile and so on. Um... He also kept notebooks that were filled with only artistic sketches.”

As he listened to Miao Ying, Zhao Yu put down the 11 Kills manuscript and checked out the other stuff in the box. The manuscripts in even had that familiar scent of old books and ink, which gave them an old-fashion aura.

After a while, Zhao Yu put down the manuscripts and said to the others, “We’ll keep these things here for the time being. I will check them more carefully later, when I have more time.”

“Now, our top priority is Han Kuan’s case...” Zhao Yu raised his head and said earnestly, “Based on Xie Tongguo’s and Han Kuan’s reactions in the prison, we can basically confirm that Han Kuan had nothing to do with Xie Tongguo’s case!”

Zhao Yu then said, “If Han Kuan is the murderer in his wife’s case, then his plan should not include us. According to his plan, two months after the crime, when the police saw the bank letter, he would be set free! What he didn’t expect was that the police wouldn’t find the bank letter!”

Zhao Yu then added, “Han Kuan certainly didn’t feel insecure, as he invited us to come and help solve the case! This reveals to me that he must not know who the murderer of the serial murder case is.”

Zhao Yu shook his head, then added, “In fact, he just used the case to get our help! There may be some coincidences between the two cases, but it is certain that Han Kuan did not give Xie Tongguo any guidance or help.”

Miao Ying shook her head and sighed. “Han Kuan almost hurt himself in this little game! After all, since the bank’s safe business is conducted online, if the letter had been lost or the police couldn’t find the safe, he would have been miserable!”

Wu Xiumin agreed, "Yes! He dared not tell that to the police directly! That would have been way too suspicious. So, he decided to invite our leader here."

"Everyone knows that I'm a super detective, so there's no need to talk about my impressive detective skills all the time!" Zhao Yu said with pride.

****He then turned to a whiteboard and said earnestly, "So... Let's focus on our work. Our top priority now is to find out whether Han Kuan killed his wife, Zhang Jingru, or not. Since Zhang Jingru's recording has been found, if we follow the standard procedures, Han Kuan will be acquitted within three days!"

He sighed, then said, "If we can't find out the truth in these next three days, then we, the famous Special Investigation Group, will lose face to a mere novelist! Can you accept this? I sure can't! Remember, we solved the famous Headless Female Corpses Case!"

Zhao Yu paused for a moment, then said, "We can't lose to Han Kuan. So, no matter what method we use, we have to find out the truth! If Han Kuan has really been wrongfully accused, then all will be well and his name will be cleared, but if he's really the culprit, I'll absolutely make him regret the day he was born!"

At this time, Miao Ying stood up and said, "How about we just tell him what we think, then see how he reacts?"

"Hmm..." Zhao Yu thought about that for a moment, then said, "Okay! Although he definitely won't tell us the truth, interrogating him will tire him out. Then, if we play our cards right, he may make some mistakes when he is talking."

Zhao Yu narrowed his eyes at Miao Ying, then said, "Deputy Leader Miao, I think you are the best person to interrogate Han Kuan. We need a tough interrogator like you to knock him off guard!"

"I'll take that as a compliment..." Miao Ying glanced at Zhao Yu as she replied with a smile.

Zhao Yu smiled back at her, then said earnestly, "Once you launch the first attack, our war of wits against this wicked fiction writer will officially begin! Within these next three days, we must find enough ammunition to break him down! Otherwise, we may lose to him miserably!"

Ran Tao was the first to stand up, clap his chest, and salute Zhao Yu. He then said with confidence, "We cracked the Headless Female Corpses Case, so nothing can stop us finding out the truth in this case! Just tell us what we should do!"

Zeng Ke followed suit and said, "Yes, I can practically see my annual bonus for solving this case waving at me now!"

Zhao Yu immediately said, "Well then, Miao Ying and Wu Xiumin, go interrogate Han Kuan! You must break him down!"

"Okay!" The two nodded enthusiastically in unison.

Zhao Yu then added, "Zeng Ke, you are responsible for figuring out the truth behind the recorded confession. Imagine that you are Han Kuan, then ask yourself what you could do to coerce Zhang Jingru to record it!"

“Okay!” Zeng Ke said.

Zhao Yu then turned to Ran Tao and said, “Ran Tao, you go collect any information related to Han Kuan and his wife from all of the people who knew them. Don’t miss a thing! If we want to find out the whole truth, we must find out the reason why Han Kuan killed his wife!”

Chapter 858: Important Thing That Is Going to Happen

“How can I make you believe me?” In the interrogation room, Han Kuan shouted hysterically, “Why would I want to kill my wife? We’ve been married for 10 years! Are you crazy?”

He shook his head, then sighed and said, “I’m not smart enough to fabricate a confession. You can’t just make up stories because you’re Special Investigators! I beg you... Please find the real murderer!”

In the monitoring room next door, Zhao Yu was watching Han Kuan closely, his eyebrows twisted together. He did not know why he always had a strange feeling about Han Kuan.

In fact, Han Kuan didn’t show any abnormal behavior. But, maybe it was his perfectly normal behavior that was exactly what made Zhao Yu so uneasy.

If a normal person found out that his wife of ten years had died beside him and that he was being wrongfully accused of her murder, he would definitely fall apart, or at least he would show some extreme emotions. However, Han Kuan had always behaved quite calmly for the most part.

His anger, his surprise, his grievances, all appeared on his face at the perfect time. It was like these reactions were all the result of previous rehearsals. Hence, Zhao Yu couldn’t help but feel suspicious about Han Kuan.

But, Zhao Yu knew that if he couldn’t find new evidence, Han Kuan would be acquitted, whether he killed his wife or not. So, he had to wonder... How can I find out the truth?

The most important thing now was to find Han Kuan’s motive for killing his wife. At the beginning, Zhao Yu thought that maybe it was because Han Kuan had participated in Xie Tongguo’s murder and that, somehow, Zhang Jingru had found out about that, so Han Kuan had killed her.

What led him to believe this was that some people had said that Zhang Jingru looked depressed before she died. In particular, it seemed that she had something that was weighing on her mind.

Now that Xie Tongguo had been caught and confirmed that Han Kuan was not involved in the serial murder case, this original theory obviously was not correct. So, now Zhao Yu pondered...

Could there be any other motives for Han Kuan to have killed her? Or... Is Han Kuan innocent and I have been wrong about him all along? Or... Is there some unknown murderer involved in Han Kuan’s case?

At this moment, in the interrogation room, Miao Ying was carrying questioning Han Kuan in her signature style, putting an intense amount of pressure on him. However, in Zhao Yu’s opinion, no matter how hard Miao Ying tried to coerce him to talk, he was afraid that she would not get any useful information from Han Kuan.

He knew that if they wanted to find out the truth, they must find other ways of doing so. With this in mind, Zhao Yu left the monitoring room silently and went to the office upstairs.

While he was walking there, he was still thinking about the case. Feeling that his steps were getting heavier, as he was clearly exhausted, he looked at his watch to see that it was midnight! Time had flown by so fast that he didn't realize that it was a brand new day already!

Zhao Yu reached out to press his temples, then sighed as the thought... Being a criminal policeman is really a hard job!

Looking back on the days just after he came to the Golden City, he had spent almost all of his time investigating the case, except for just one night that he spent with Miao Ying in the side room. Although they could claim that the two cases had been solved, Zhao Yu still insisted that Han Kuan was the murderer.

As such, he wondered if he was making trouble for himself. After all, Zhao Yu was not stupid. He knew that he could just say that Zhang Jingru had committed suicide so that he could close this case and win his team glory.

This would be an easy thing, as Zhang Jingru's confession would easily serve as evidence to prove that she committed suicide and that her death had nothing to do with Han Kuan. Han Kuan would then be acquitted, and nobody could say anything about it!

As Zhao Yu thought of this, he shook his head and wondered... Maybe Han Kuan also knew that the police would think this way! He must have, as that would explain so much!

Zhao Yu thought that, if it had been another investigator, he would have put an end to this case, even if that there were still some questionable points that hadn't yet been resolved. Zhao Yu knew that if he was unscrupulous like that, he could have cracked the case and Han Kuan would be set free. But, he cared too much about uncovering the real truth!

Zhao Yu crossed his arms and looked out the window at the dark, cold night. He could see the stars shining in the clear sky. The night sky in the Golden City was always so beautiful.

Zhao Yu was smart, but he was also stubborn. As he looked up at the stars, he murmured softly, "At least Zhang Jingru would surely care about the truth! Although she is dead, she still deserves the truth to be revealed! If I can't bring Han Kuan to justice, Zhang Jingru won't rest in peace. When I was a debt collector, I wouldn't let bad guys do bad things, so now that I'm a criminal policeman, how could I possibly let a criminal escape punishment?"

Zhao Yu clenched his fist and swore that no matter how difficult it was, he would find out the truth and bring the real culprit to justice. With this determined attitude, Zhao Yu quickly returned to his office.

Unexpectedly, as soon as the door to the office was opened, Zeng Ke waved at him and shouted, "Team Leader, I found something new..."

"Oh? What have you found?" Zhao Yu's eyes lit up as he rushed over to Zeng Ke and asked what he had discovered.

“Team Leader...” Zeng Ke held his mobile phone excitedly as he said, “Don’t you remember that you asked me to investigate the confession? Well, when I searched all of the related websites, I found this!”

Zhao Yu saw that Zeng Ke was reading an audio book website on his phone.

“Listen FM!” Zeng Ke explained, “This is a software that provides audio books! In addition to songs and talk shows, there are also many audio novels! Although this website is not super popular, Han Kuan’s novels appear on many of the top channels.”

Zhao Yu took a closer look and saw that he had pulled up one of Han Kuan’s novel on the page. After he clicked on one of the audio clips, Zeng Ke asked mysteriously, “Listen... This voice... Are you familiar with it?”

A woman’s voice suddenly came out of the speaker on the phone. The woman was reading Han Kuan’s novel. She had quite a melodious voice.

“Oh...” When he heard the voice, Zhao Yu immediately got goosebumps. He then stared at Zeng Ke and asked, “Is this...”

Zeng Ke interrupted him before he could finish and said, “Yes! It’s Zhang Jingru! I have checked the broadcaster’s information and compared her voice with the confession... The person who is reading Han Kuan’s novel is most definitely his wife, Zhang Jingru!”

Zhao Yu suddenly understood everything and said, “So... Han Kuan wrote that confession in his novel, which means that Zhang Jingru might have recorded that for him without knowing his real purpose for wanting it recorded?”

Zeng Ke nodded, then replied, “Yes. In this way, Han Kuan could achieve his goal, without Zhang Jingru even knowing that it was a trap! Team Leader, I just compared the audio with that confession! I found that the recording environment of the two were completely the same! That means that Zhang Jingru recorded the confession in the same place where she recorded Han Kuan’s audio book! Therefore, it really looks like Han Kuan might have been the one who deceived her!”

Zhao Yu then asked excitedly, “Can you find his novel that may have that confession in it? If we can find that, though we can’t officially declare Han Kuan guilty, it will at least buy us more time and keep him detained here!”

Zeng Ke sighed, then said, “Unfortunately, I have already checked. Han Kuan has never published a novel with such a passage in it! He might have deliberately fabricated such a novel, one that he did not publish at all!”

Zhao Yu also sighed, then said with great disappointment, “Yes, he might have destroyed that already. After all, he is pretty smart. He wouldn’t keep such an obvious piece evidence laying around for us to find!”

Zeng Ke then pointed to the box of Han Kuan’s manuscripts and said, “I was looking through his manuscripts just now. Maybe we can find something useful by taking a closer look at them again.”

“Good idea...” Zhao Yu nodded and said. He wanted to say that he would join Zeng Ke in doing so, but before he could say anything, he received an alert from the system.

The alert said that his level of completion had reached an impressive 185%! It also notified him that he had also received a five-piece device set!

This was not necessarily a surprise, as he had cracked the serial murder case today! So, the completion score wouldn't be low. Although he didn't catch the murderer himself, he had made great progress.

Zhao Yu looked at his watch. It was already past midnight, and in order to find out the truth of Han Kuan's case as soon as possible, he did not dare delay, but opened a new hexagram immediately.

After seeing the new hexagram, Zhao Yu got a silly look on his face. This was because, on the interface in the center of the system, two big characters appeared... Kun and Li!

Chapter 859: What Big Thing?

Zhao Yu was frightened and depressed when he saw the two characters. He completely did not expect that, at such a time, the system would give him a Kun hexagram! This meant that something big was going to happen!

He wondered... Will it be a new case? A big case?

At the moment, Zhao Yu was quite worn out. After all, Han Kuan's case was still confusing, and if there was a new one, Zhao Yu would feel desperate and very overwhelmed!

Suddenly, Zhao Yu thought of something regarding the Li hexagram. Since he had opened several Li hexagrams during his work on the Yongjin Island Case, Zhao Yu had a better understanding of this hexagram.

To him, receiving this particular hexagram was not only a hint about friends or friendship, but also involved the important males around him. In the past, these had included men such as Dou Zili in the Yongjin Island Case and Miao Kun at the hotpot chicken restaurant!

Zhao Yu thought about what this Li hexagram could possibly mean in this case... Could it be referring to Han Kuan? Or... Could it be a sign of another big case to come?

No matter how hard he tried to recall, he couldn't think of any connection between Han Kuan and any of the other cases. Zhao Yu smacked his lips and frowned, while an intense uneasiness welled up in his heart.

At the moment, Zeng Ke was waiting for Zhao Yu to continue, but the look on Zhao Yu's face made him realize that something was very wrong. He knew that Zhao Yu must be thinking about something important, so he asked, "Leader, are you okay? What is it?"

Zhao Yu shook his head, then said, "I'm fine. Zeng Ke, you check Han Kuan's manuscripts again later, then continue investigating the recording. If we can find similar content, we can really make some progress in Han Kuan's case!"

"Um... Okay..." Zeng Ke nodded, then proceeded to begin reading through Han Kuan's manuscripts.

Zhao Yu took a long breath as he went to his desk. Then, he took out his notebook and began to write something in it.

He was, of course, writing down the time and location of the next side adventure. Having learned a lesson from his last side adventure, he knew that he couldn't miss such an important thing anymore.

Moreover, from his past experience, an important hexagram like a Li hexagram was often a sign of an important side adventure that could bring Zhao Yu some major benefits. Therefore, he knew that he must pay close attention to this matter and make sure that he didn't miss a thing.

Zhao Yu wrote down the time, which was a quarter past eight in the morning. When he was about to write down the location, he noticed that the location was exactly the same as yesterday's, his office!

At first, he thought that the system had not refreshed its data, but after checking again, he got the same result! Thus, it really did seem that today's and yesterday's side adventure locations were the same!

Zhao Yu looked up and found that Zhang Jingru's box of office papers was still on the desk. Yesterday, it was in this same box that he had found the bank letter, which had helped him make significant progress in the case! So, he figured that yesterday's side adventure must have something to do with this box!

But, what about today? Zhao Yu wondered... Can I find anything important again if I look through this box? Or... Did I miss anything else important the first time?

As these thoughts ran through his mind, Zhao Yu stepped over to the box and wanted to go through the files again. However, he had just taken two steps when he suddenly stopped.

As soon as he stopped, he carefully assessed his physical state. Since he would encounter a Kun hexagram, he knew that he must make sure that he had enough energy to deal with what could happen to him!

So, he knew that he couldn't stay all night, as saving his energy was the smart thing to do. After all, a side adventure was set to occur first thing in the morning.

Although Zhao Yu had an Invisible Recovery Agent that could quickly restore his energy, the instruction clearly said that using this device would have side effects that could harm his body. So, he wouldn't use that unless there were no other alternatives.

And, his fellow team members also need rest. If they consumed a lot of their energy in advance, his team wouldn't be able to keep up with him or the case investigation in the following days.

As he was thinking about these things, Zhao Yu greeted Zeng Ke and told him to have everyone go back to the hotel and rest. At first, Zeng Ke was reluctant to stop his work, but he understood why Zhao Yu had given this order. So, he stopped what he was doing and did exactly as Zhao Yu told him.

After that, Zhao Yu called Bureau Chief Liu of the Golden City Police Station and ordered him to place more people on duty this night. In this way, he could ensure that nothing unexpected would happen at the police station during his team's absence. Bureau Chief Liu dared not ignore Zhao Yu's demands, so he followed his instructions immediately.

After he had made all of these arrangements, Zhao Yu went back to the hotel to take a bath. He then laid in bed, trying not to think about the case anymore so that he could have a sound and peaceful sleep.

However, he could not keep from thinking about the Kun hexagram. Hence, he just lay on the bed for a long time until he finally started to get a little drowsy.

But, just as he was about to fall asleep, the door suddenly opened. It turned out that Miao Ying was just returning after having finished Han Kuan's interrogation.

Originally, since the Golden City police did not know about his and Miao Ying's relationship, they had booked everyone his or her own room. However, since Zhao Yu and Miao Ying had been separated from each other for a long time, they had decided to stay in the same room.

When Miao Ying returned, she was clearly exhausted. She took a bath, then got into bed and chatted with Zhao Yu about the case for about twenty minutes. Then, they both fell asleep in each other's arms.

At 7 o'clock the next morning, Zhao Yu's phone alarm rang. He suddenly sat straight up in the bed. He was full of energy, and after quickly finishing his morning routine, he was ready for work.

Miao Ying yawned in bed, then asked in a lazy tone, "Honey, it's so early... Did you come up with any new ideas?"

"No... Meow, you can stay in bed a little longer." Zhao Yu ran over to her and kissed his goddess on the face, then said gently, "I'll let you know if anything happens."

Miao Ying was really worn out after working so hard yesterday's, so after Zhao Yu finished speaking to her, she closed her eyes and immediately fell asleep again. Zhao Yu opened the door slowly to avoid making a sound, then hurried toward the Golden City Police Station.

It was a sunny day, and as he enjoyed feeling the warmth of the sunshine on his face, Zhao Yu couldn't help but think that something terrible might happen today. As he looked up at the bright sky, he sighed as he thought... I have a strange sense of impending doom...

Chapter 860: A Devil He Seems to Have Met Before

Unexpectedly, except Miao Ying, all of the other members arrived earlier than Zhao Yu. Zeng Ke had even prepared soybean milk and deep-fried dough sticks for everyone to enjoy for breakfast.

Since the serial murder case was over, the Special Investigation Group had handed over the follow-up duties regarding the case to the Golden City police. This morning, they would transfer Xie Tongguo to the detention center for yet another interrogation.

Han Kuan had been detained in the police station for 48 hours, so according to the standard procedure, he should be sent back to the regular detention center today. However, because there were still many questionable points in Han Kuan's case, Zhao Yu, as the leader of Special Investigation Group, had asked for a 24-hour extension period.

Han Kuan's attitude towards the police had completely changed after he found out about Zhao Yu's suspicions about him. He no longer actively cooperated with the police, and he had even hired a lawyer!

As such, it seemed that either Han Kuan was keenly aware of the importance of Zhang Jingru's confession... Or... He had already made plans ahead of time for such a situation. If his lawyer came, Han Kuan could be acquitted soon, rendering absolutely free the risk of any legal punishment.

It was already past 8 o'clock in the morning, and as he looked at his watch, Zhao Yu's heart was racing. He had no idea what would happen in the office today.

According to the system, the side adventure would happen at exactly 8:15 in the morning. At 8:13, Miao Ying arrived. She was wearing a green cashmere overcoat, which looked lovely on her.

When Zhao Yu saw the door open, he thought that the side adventure was happening ahead of time. But, when he saw that it was only Miao Ying arriving, he let out a big sigh.

"Zhao Yu, I thought of something important yesterday!" Miao Ying said the moment she saw him. "We need to check Zhang Jingru and Han Kuan's phone records again, including those from even a long time ago, particularly any long-distance calls that were made from other cities..."

As he listened to her, Zhao Yu realized that the time for the side adventure was fast approaching, so he handed his soybean milk and deep fried bread sticks to her as he said, "Have some. The pastries are still warm. They will go cold if you wait any longer."

"I'm not hungry yet. But... Zhao Yu... Why are you staring at the door like that? Are you waiting for someone?" Miao Ying waved her hand in front of Zhao Yu's eyes to try to snap him out of his daze.

"No..." Zhao Yu answered, while he continued to stare at the door without blinking. He then added casually, "I'm just thinking! You just go and enjoy your breakfast."

"What's wrong with you?" Miao Ying insisted on finding out what was distracting him, continuing to gently wave her hand in front of his face.

When Zhao Yu didn't respond, she turned to Zeng Ke and said, "Zeng Ke, give me Zhan Jingru's and Han Kuan's phone records. I want to check them."

"Okay..." Zeng Ke said, then immediately went to look for them.

Suddenly, Zhao Yu frowned as he looked down at his watch. He was afraid that his watch had stopped working, so he glanced at the clock on his computer screen just to be sure.

Upon seeing his anxious behavior, Miao Ying crossed her arms and asked him, "What is it now? Did you have a new ideas that you don't want to tell us or something?"

Zhao Yu's forehead was sweating profusely, as it was already 8:16, but nothing had happened in the office yet! Before this, Zhao Yu had used an Invisible Detector in case anything beyond his control should arise, such as the presence of a bomb on the scene. He had even used 200 system points in order to double the detection range of the detector.

However, the detector had detected nothing at all. Zhao Yu was very puzzled by this, and he wondered...

Is Miao Ying today's side adventure? Will she find more clues? But... She is a female, so she couldn't be related to the Li hexagram.

Zhao Yu didn't respond to Miao Ying's question, but just opened the door of the office and looked out into the corridor. There were two police officers standing guard at the door of the office, and when they saw Zhao Yu, they immediately greeted him.

Zhao Yu ignored them as he looked in both directions of the corridor. He saw that the corridor was empty, and there was no signs that any special event was about to occur.

When he went back into the office, Zhao Yu forced himself to focus his attention on the box of Zhang Jingru's office papers. He saw that the box of Han Kuan's manuscripts had been placed right next to Zhang Jingru's box.

Seeing that, Zhao Yu couldn't help but think of something. As he was lost in his thoughts, Miao Ying saw him and asked, "Zhao Yu, are you waiting for someone?"

Miao Ying then poured some more soybean milk into a cup and asked, "Please, if you think of anything new, can you be sure to tell us?"

Zhao Yu thought about the side adventure and suddenly recalled what had happened at the lighthouse at Yongjin Island. At that time, the side adventure's location pointed to the lighthouse, but in the end, nothing had happened when he went there. However, Zhao Yu had gotten a clue from the film Lighthouse!

Yesterday's side adventure was the same. The police had sent Zhang Jingru's office papers to him, and although the time of the side adventure had already passed by then, he had still found the bank letter!

Since today's side adventure was exactly the same location as yesterday's, Zhao Yu thought that some important clues might be hidden in these two boxes. However, they had already searched the two boxes carefully, so he couldn't imagine what they could have missed.

In response to Miao Ying's question, Zhao Yu simply pointed to the two boxes and said, "I think that there are important clues in these boxes, which we may have overlooked! So, I want to look through all of these materials again!"

Zeng Ke then said, "Leader, I've read through all of Han Kuan's manuscripts, and I haven't found anything special. But... Um..."

"What?" Zhao Yu urged him to finish his sentence quickly, as he was losing his patience.

Zeng Ke shook his head, then said, "It just feels weird! I seem to have seen Han Kuan's manuscripts, especially his sketches, somewhere before."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu was shocked. He immediately recalled Hao Lili's crime scene. At that time, he had also had a similar feeling.

He had thought that it might be because the uncompleted building where Han Lili had died was similar to the ghost city in Qinshan. However, after just hearing that Zeng Ke had similar feelings, he had to rethink his original hypothesis.

After all, Zeng Ke had never been to Qinshan before. So, he could not know about the Corpses In the Bank Case or Qinshan's ghost city! As he thought about these things, Zhao Yu couldn't help but wonder...

Why does Zeng Ke feel the same way? Does this have anything to do with Han Kuan's manuscripts?

Zhao Yu reached out and picked up 11 Kills. After he flipped through several pages, he noticed that Han Kuan had drawn every murder scene as an illustration!

As the sketches had been drawn with a black pen, they looked quite gloomy and sinister. With a single glance at the images, he could feel an indescribable sense of darkness filling his heart.

The first sketch was of an abandoned commercial building, while the second one was an uncompleted building, and the third one was an uninhabited residential building. The fourth one was an abandoned factory, the fifth one was an abandoned swimming pool, and the sixth one was an abandoned office building, which was about to be demolished.

Zhao Yu's heart was beating fast as he scanned through the images. It was just as Zeng Ke had said, these sketches did look strangely familiar!

Suddenly, Zhao Yu recalled another unsolved case. He felt that the crime scenes in the illustrations seemed were very similar to those in that case.

Suddenly, Zhao Yu felt a chill run down his spine, and he couldn't help but laugh at himself as he wondered... How is this possible?

He kept repeating this question in his mind as he thought... That case happened a thousand kilometers away... In Beiqian!