

## Crazy 891

### Chapter 891: Do Your Best

“Wait a minute...” After his initial shock, Zhao Yu quickly took out a pen and a piece of paper, then said, “Excuse me, I just had an operation, where I was placed under general anesthesia. So, my brain isn’t working well just now.”

Then, he wrote something on a piece of paper and asked Jiang Ke, “When did Laogua die?”

“Hmm...” Jiang Ke thought for a moment, then said, “It was the spring before graduation, in April of 2002.”

After hearing this, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu looked at each other before Zhao Yu said, “The Devil Case happened between August 2002 and February 2003!”

“Oh... So...” Jiang Ke thought for a moment, then said, “Han Kuan killed Laogua before the Devil Case happened. So, Han Kuan may have nothing to do with the Devil Case? Or, the person who guided Han Kuan was very clever. Maybe... When he learned that Han Kuan killed Laogua, he committed the Devil Case? Is that possible?”

Zhao Yu frowned and thought hard for a moment. However, the anesthetics’ effects were still impacting him, which made it difficult for him to concentrate.

Jiang Ke was also thinking carefully. “Has Han Kuan ever been to Beiqian?” he asked.

Seeing Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu staring at each other, Jiang Ke understood everything immediately. He frowned and asked, “So... You don’t know that either? Well... Where is Han Kuan now? Is he dead... Or... Being kept by you?”

“What do you think?” Zhao Yu did not want Jiang Ke to know too much, so he asked his own question instead of answering his. “Do you think that Han Kuan had the chance to go to Beiqian at that time?”

“How could I know?” Jiang Ke shook his head, then said, “At that time, according to our school’s tradition, their last school year, students go to the factory to practice their skills!”

He paused for a moment, then continued to explain, “Since students are sent to the oil school by the local oil factories, they naturally go back to these oil factories to intern, which is time that can be counted as a year of work experience! Did Han Kuan go back to Golden City? Isn’t he working at the oil factory?”

“No. He is a freelance writer now!” Zhao Yu said. “He specializes in crime fiction novels! But... It seems that he isn’t famous at all, as you didn’t even know that!”

“Writer? Writing crime stories? Are you kidding? Jiang Ke was surprised and sighed. “Murderers write crime stories... This idea is really creative, hey? If I write a memoir, can it also be a hit on the market?”

When Zhao Yu didn’t reply, Jiang Ke then said, “Officer Zhao, you just keep Han Kuan. Don’t let him leave. Aren’t there ghosts in the Devil Case? Let me tell you... If Han Kuan is not the murderer, he must

have had at least something to do with this! Do you know what he drew on his manuscripts that Laogua tore up?”

What? Jiang Ke’s words instantly attracted Zhao Yu’s and others’ attention.

“Ghosts! All kinds of ghosts!” Jiang Ke said loudly. “I know there is some problem with him. The things he drew would make anyone feel uncomfortable! Do you think that others...”

Before Jiang Ke had finished his question, Cui Lizhu, at Zhao Yu’s suggestion, handed the demon picture on her mobile phone to Jiang Ke. This demon picture was the one that they had found in Zhang Jingru’s documents.

“Yes.” Jiang Ke nodded. “That’s it! There’s a horn on its head! Han Kuan’s drawing is even more horrible than this!”

Hearing this, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu felt a tremor in their hearts and chills ran up their spines. Zhao Yu frowned heavily. It now seemed that Han Kuan was related to the demon picture, as was Zhang Jingru! This made Zhao Yu wonder... Is this couple responsible for the Devil Case?

Jiang Ke sighed thoughtfully, then said, “Now, I’d like to know what Han Kuan wrote about in his novels. How come all of these geniuses lived in our dormitory? Our principal used to say that our school never had any famous graduates. Originally, I thought I could be first one! But, I didn’t realize that Han Kuan was much more talented than me. Who would have known that such a mute would strike it big?”

Zhao Yu suddenly thought of something and reminded Jiang Ke, “The year that the Devil Case happened, SARS broke out! In fact, the timing coincides exactly! Do you remember where Han Kuan was during that period of time?”

“SARS...” Jiang Ke repeated the word as he thought. “Yes! I remember that year, and after that summer, I never saw Han Kuan again. When I went back to the dormitory to pick up my stuff, Han Kuan’s stuff was already gone! Um... But... I do remember that SARS didn’t have a huge impact in Yaoming.”

Jiang Ke then said, “At that time, some students who had planned to return home changed their minds. Maybe they were worried that the SARS outbreak in their hometowns would be more serious than at school. As to Han Kuan... I really don’t know. By the way, Cui Xiaolong may know more, as he is much more of a social person than me. You should go and ask him about it!”

After hearing this, Zhao Yu suddenly felt confused as he thought... Jiang Ke doesn’t know yet that I killed Cui Xiaolong? But, yesterday, when the big tank truck appeared, Jiang Ke and Cui Xiaolong were both there!

How could he possibly not know that Cui Xiaolong is dead? Is it because Cui Xiaolong’s body was covered in sludge at that time? Did he not see it? Or, before he had time to check Cui Xiaolong’s situation, maybe that was when he saw me and fought with me?

“Hmm...” After thinking through all of the scenarios, Jiang Ke seemed to understand something, and his face turned grave in an instant. “Xiaolong... He...”

“Cui Xiaolong refused to say anything!” At this time, Officer Wang quickly spoke up and finished Zhao Yu’s sentence for him. “If all of the criminals are willing to cooperate with us like you are, it’ll save us a lot of time!”

“Hmm...” Upon hearing this, the corners of Jiang Ke’s mouth rose slightly, revealing a cold smile that made everyone present shudder. It seemed that he was now aware that Cui Xiaolong had died.

“Alright! Anyway, thank you for the information!” Zhao Yu knew that the conversation with Jiang Ke should be over now, so he patted the armrest of the wheelchair and said, “As you said, I owe you a favor. If the Devil Case is solved by the help of your information and leads, I’ll put in a good word for you. But, whether it helps or not depends on how many bad things you have done before now.”

“Well, I appreciate it regardless.” Jiang Ke smiled indifferently, then asked gloomily, “Officer Zhao, how about taking my advice?”

Zhao Yu stared closely at Jiang Ke and saw an indescribable slyness in his eyes. Jiang Ke then said in a calm and composed voice, “Those people in high positions are the most likely to be attacked. I’ve seen a lot of outstanding people like you be taken down for this very reason. At the end of the day, things for such people do not end well! So, you’d better be cautious in the future.”

Although Jiang Ke said that this was advice, it sounded like more of a threat to Zhao Yu. “Well, thank you. I’ll take your words into consideration!” Zhao Yu nodded and smiled, then said without any change in his facial expression, “Well... I hope you don’t make trouble for yourself here.”

After saying that, Zhao Yu patted the armrest of the wheelchair and Cui Lizhu pushed him out of the interrogation room. As soon as the door of the interrogation room was closed, Zhao Yu immediately pulled a long face and turned to address Officer Wang.

He said, “Officer Wang, ask the bureau chief to send more forces here... Professional ones! Remember that you don’t need to keep your eyes on him 24/7, as the most important thing is to get rid of outside threats! Do you understand?”

Officer Wang dabbed the sweat from his forehead and asked, “Do you think that Jiang Ke will attempt to escape?”

“I don’t know, but I hope you won’t let him if he does try!” Zhao Yu shook his head and sighed. “If Jiang Ke manages to escape, it would mean big trouble for us! Anyway, just do your best.”

## **Chapter 892: The Murderers**

Because Zhao Yu was having an infusion and his cast changed, he and Cui Lizhu had to return to the hospital ward after Jiang Ke’s interrogation was over.

By the time he got back, it was almost dawn, and Zhao Yu remembered that he had forgotten today’s hexagram. He shook his head and figured that he should have done that before the interrogation.

As Zhao Yu touched his injured leg that was wrapped in a plaster cast, his head felt foggy and was still pretty swollen. In that moment, he also remembered that he had even forgotten to ask some Jiang Ke some important questions earlier.

“Boss... Don’t worry!” Cui Lizhu saw Zhao Yu’s impatience and tried to console him. “The case was 10 years ago, so we don’t need to get upset about wasting just one more day. But, if you don’t have a healthy body, you won’t be able to accomplish anything!”

When Cui Lizhu was gentle and considerate in the past, Zhao Yu didn’t mind bantering with her, but now, he really felt tired and very uncomfortable.

However, he still stubbornly hit the home page of the system and opened a hexagram for the day. Fortunately, it was the ideal hexagram, a Gen Li hexagram!

“Leader Zhao...” Zhao Yu didn’t have time to analyze this hexagram before Officer Wang came in and said impatiently after giving him a respectful salute, “I have reported to my leader as you instructed. Bureau Chief Guan asked me to thank you for your reminder. He said that the Provincial Office has made deployment arrangements and has also sent a large number of professional forces to ensure that nothing unexpected will happen!”

Officer Wang then thought of something else and said, “Oh yeah... Bureau Chief Guan ask me tell you that the City Council officials won’t come to disturb you today, as it’s too late. Please don’t blame them for coming to see you after dawn. By the way, Bureau Chief Guan asked me to temporarily act in Captain Jin’s place and assist your team.”

Officer Wang then handed Zhao Yu a document and said, “This is the record on file of Hou Shengyun’s case from 15 years ago. Jiang Ke did not lie. The time, location, and specifics regarding how Hou Shengyun died were exactly as he said. The police closed the case, citing it as an accidental death. They believed that Hou Shengyun fell off of the building after drinking too much that night.”

Zhao Yu took the document and read it. He then nodded and said, “Although Jiang Ke is cunning, because he is not involved directly with this case, he has no reason to lie to us.”

Zhao Yu then waved at Cui Lizhu over and showed her the photos of the crime scene in the document. At the same time, he asked, “Look, does this scene look familiar to you?”

“Yes...” Cui Lizhu looked at the photo that he was now pointing to carefully, then nodded. “It’s a lot like the crimes scenes from the Devil Case. They’re all abandoned or unfinished buildings!”

“Yes!” Zhao Yu nodded, then said, “This seems to be much more than a mere coincidence. The two cases must be closely related to each other. Did you realize that before now? Actually, Han Kuan’s 11 Kills is not a work of fiction, as the prototype of the story is his own life!”

Cui Lizhu stared at him and said excitedly, “Yes! Having suffered through long-term bullying on campus, Han Kuan wrote 11 Kills. His purpose may have been to vent his anger, right? Han Kuan also drew demons, which means that he may have committed a case similar to the Devil Case. So... Was he the murderer from the Devil Case?”

“Boss...” Cui Lizhu glanced at Officer Wang, then whispered to Zhao Yu, “Zhang Jingru was at Beiqian at that time. Do you think it would be possible that the two knew each other back then? In other words, is Zhang Jingru also involved in the Devil Case?”

Zhao Yu sighed heavily, then said in a concerned tone, “The Devil Case has had a wide impact. If it was really just two of them behind it, it would be a good thing for us.”

“So... Do you actually think that there might be other murderers?” Cui Lizhu was shocked to think of this possibility. “That would mean that the Devil Case murders were not committed by just one or two people, but by many murderers, like a murderer squad retaliating against campus bullying? In that case, it’s even beyond my scope of imagination!”

“It’s highly possible!” Zhao Yu said. “Although the methods are the same, it appears that there were different murderers. Such a case is very difficult to solve! Imagine that you have finally found out a suspect, but that suspect was not at the scene or even in the same city where the victim died!”

“Then... That’s really difficult!” Cui Lizhu said. “If Han Kuan represents Yaoming, and Zhang Jingru represents Beiqian or Changfeng, then were there similar murderers in others cities?”

When they thought about this, the two immediately felt scared. Officer Wang was also frightened and started to shiver.

Zhao Yu was the first to calm down. He then said to them, “Let’s not make such blind assumptions. We must find proof first! For example, I remember that among the nine victims in the Beiqian Devil Case, there was a 50-year-old man. How could he be related to campus bullying?”

“Yes... How could I forget that?” Cui Lizhu wondered aloud. “We have to prove that the nine victims are all related to campus bullying in order for our assumption to be proven!”

“I think I remember that he was a teacher,” Zhao Yu said, but then immediately corrected himself after thinking upon it a little longer. “No! That 50-year-old victim was actually a grocery store owner! I also remember that another victim was an unemployed old lady in her sixties. These two have nothing to do with any campus!”

“Um... Yes... But...” Cui Lizhu seemed to have thought of something, but for a moment, she couldn’t seem to find the right words, but only stuttered a few ones, then nervously scratched at her ears and cheeks.

At such a critical moment, Cui Lizhu’s mobile phone suddenly rang.

“Hi. Is this Cui speaking?” After she answered the phone, Wu Xiumin’s voice was heard on the other end of the line. “Sorry for waking you up so early!”

“It’s okay, Wu. I’m awake most all of the time!” Cui Lizhu seemed to have a premonition of something, so she asked quickly, “Wu, is there any news?”

“How is Leader Zhao? Did his operation go well?” Wu Xiumin asked. “I do have something important to tell him. If it’s an inconvenient time for him, you can write it down and then tell him when he wakes up...”

“Zhao Yu here! Say what you have to say!” Zhao Yu, aware of the importance of this call, rushed over to take the phone from Cui Lizhu. He knew that Wu Xiumin wouldn’t call him at this hour for anything that was not important.

“Oh... Team Leader...” Wu Xiumin said, “I’m calling for a very important reason. Well... Last night, as you instructed me, I interrogated Han Kuan again, mainly asking him about his school days...”

Zhao Yu’s eyes lit up as he asked, “What did he say?”

“I’ll send you the complete video recording of it later!” Wu Xiumin said. “Now, I’ll tell you what’s most important. It’s so weird... Last night, when I went to the interrogation room to interrogate Han Kuan, I thought that when I mentioned Beiqian, Yaoming, or the Devil Case, he would be surprised. However, just as before, he did not show any emotions on his face. It really seemed as if he had nothing to do with these things!”

Wu Xiumin then said, “Then, I asked him about his school days, and he told me about all of his classmates and teachers, and he even shared some stories about himself when he was at Yaoming Oil School.”

She paused to take a deep breath, then continued, “He said that because he was not very talkative and was often bullied because of it, he wrote 11 Kills and some other novels, hoping that he could punish the world’s bad guys as the hero in his own book. Among these bad guys, he mentioned a person who often bullied him. His name is Hou Shengyun!”

Wu Xiumin then said excitedly, “He said that Hou Shengyun had drunk too much one night, then fell off of a building! He said that it was god’s punishment to him!”

Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu looked at each other in shock. They never thought that Han Kuan would actually share such things with them!

Wu Xiumin then added quickly, “Most importantly, when I asked him if he had ever been to Beiqian, he did not hesitate to give me an affirmative answer. Then, he said...”

At this point, Wu Xiumin’s voice began to tremble. “He said that the year before graduation, he went to Beiqian with a retired teacher to do business, and he even mentioned that he had been working there during the SARS outbreak!”

### **Chapter 893: The Biggest Suspect**

Wu Xiumin then said, “Han Kuan also said that in the last academic year before graduation, the school arranges internships for students. So, he should have returned to the Golden City oil factory. However, because of some problem with his application, Han Kuan had to apply for a new work permit, so he had to wait until the second half of the year to do his internship.”

Wu Xiumin then explained, “Originally, Han Kuan planned to go back to Golden City to wait, but he happened to meet a teacher named Lang Xiangyang. After Mr. Lang retired, he and his friends started a sales company that sells teaching equipment in Beiqian. Mr. Lang thought that Han Kuan was honest and smart, so he invited him to work for his company and promised him a generous salary.”

Wu Xiumin took a breath, then said, “Han Kuan had nothing else to do at that time, and since he was attracted by the generous salary, he accepted the offer and went to Beiqian with Mr. Lang. Han Kuan said that there were several other students who went to Beiqian with them, but they were not in the same class as him. At that time, he was mainly responsible for the installation and maintenance of all of the equipment. He worked hard and was able to earn a lot of money during that time!”

Wu Xiumin paused for a moment, then continued, “But, after a busy half a year, he got his work permit, so he had to quit the job at Mr. Lang’s company to go back to work in Golden City’s oil factory!”

Wu Xiumin then said, "But, not long after he went to work there, his novel was published in a magazine, which made him a lot of money. As the work at the oil factory was not satisfactory to him at that time, he resigned and became a full-time writer!"

She then added, "Team Leader, I asked him carefully, and Han Kuan said that he has been to Yingping, Guang'an, Changping and Beiqian, which are all of the places where the victims in the Devil Case died! Moreover, the times that he visited these places were within the same period as the case! So, his chances of being the real murderer from the Devil Case are quite high! However, it's quite strange, as if he is really the murderer, he shouldn't have told me all of that!"

Zhao Yu also felt that Han Kuan's confession was very strange, so he asked, "Han Kuan told these things to you himself?"

Wu Xiumin instantly confirmed this to be true, "Yes. As soon as the interrogation began, he mentioned the SARS outbreak, saying that he had been working in Beiqian during the worst of it! Team Leader, he was clearly insinuating something. Do you think that he is playing a trick on us?"

"Then... What about Zhang Jingru?" Zhao Yu asked. "What did Han Kuan say about Zhang Jingru? Did they know each other at that time?"

"No!" Wu Xiumin said. "Han Kuan said that he only knew Zhang Jingru through others' introductions in Golden City. Apparently, Zhang Jingru attended a post graduate school in Changfeng. Although she attended school later than Han Kuan did, her school was a three-year program, so they started to work the same year."

She then added, "Also, Han Kuan mentioned one very important thing... Zhang Jingru once mentioned that the same year of the SARS outbreak, Zhang Jingru's parents asked her to come home early because they were worried about the epidemic's serious impact on Beiqian. Therefore, when SARS broke out, Zhang Jingru was not in Beiqian. Because of this, the two of them never met each other in Beiqian."

Zhao Yu was surprised by this. "Ah! She was not in Beiqian!"

Cui Lizhu shook her head, then asked, "So... Zhang Jingru has nothing to do with the case? But... We found the demon picture in Zhang Jingru's documents. I'm confused!"

"I was afraid that Han Kuan was lying, so I called Zhang Jingru's brother after we spoke!" Wu Xiumin said hastily. "Zhang Jingfeng confirmed it to be true. During the SARS outbreak, Zhang Jingru did indeed return to her home in Golden City. She did not return to Changfeng until the SARS outbreak was completely eradicated."

Wu Xiumin then said, "Later, I asked about the Devil Case. Han Kuan said that he never heard of it when he was at Beiqian, but had only heard about it later through the media outlets! I closely observed his reactions, and he was very calm throughout the whole interview, even calmer than anyone else I've interviewed regarding the Devil Case."

Her eyes grew wide as he added, "There's another incredible thing... I asked Han Kuan about what units or schools he visited when he was in Beiqian. He said that he could not remember those details clearly. In fact, he only remembered one or two of them. When he told me the names, one of them was the Guang'an Special Education School. This is a school that is specifically for the deaf and mute!"

“Oh...” Zhao Yu was very familiar with the Devil Case, so he knew the significance of this and immediately responded, “One of the victims in the Devil Case was a teacher at that very school!”

After Zhao Yu said this, Cui Lizhu suddenly thought of something and asked Zhao Yu, “Boss, have you read about this teacher’s background? Isn’t it similar to the Headless Female Corpses Case?”

“Why would you bring up the Headless Female Corpses Case?” Zhao Yu was quite confused by Cui Lizhu’s seemingly random words.

Cui Lizhu was so excited that she opened her hands wide as she said, “The Devil Case is about bullying, right? Well, maybe it’s not just about students who bully other students! It is also possibly about teachers bullying students! The victim was a teacher at a school for the deaf and mute, so maybe the teacher had bullied some of the students, so the murderer killed this teacher! This is very similar to Li Fei’s motive for killing people!”

Cui Lizhu then said with excitement, “Then, if we stay with this motif of bullying, maybe the store owner bullied the employees, and the old lady in her sixties may have taken advantage of others in this same way. So, on second thought, I think that the Devil Case murderer’s motive was not only about campus bullying, but against all injustices! In fact, he seems to want to use the power of the devil to destroy the evil and oppression in the world. So... Who could be the murderer? Do you really think that Han Kuan is the murderer?”

After hearing this, Wu Xiumin murmured, “According to what you just said, the murderer should be similar to Li Fei! But... All of Han Kuan’s psychological traits are the total opposite of Li Fei’s!”

“The thing is...” Zhao Yu frowned and said, “Han Kuan’s confession came too easily! There’s obviously something wrong with it!”

Suddenly, Cui Lizhu exclaimed, “Would it be possible that Han Kuan is not the murderer, but that the murderer is actually a person who is very familiar with Han Kuan, such as one of his classmates? Maybe this person wanted to help Han Kuan, or seek revenge on his behalf, so he came to Yaoming to kill Laogua?”

She then added in an excited tone, “Then, this mysterious murderer followed Han Kuan to Beiqian, and so on and so on! He killed people wherever Han Kuan went, which would then mean that the real murderer from the Devil Case is actually a shadow killer!”

Zhao Yu clucked his tongue and said in a somewhat fatherly tone, “Okay now, slow down, Cui, and let me think about all of this. If there is such a shadow killer, shouldn’t there have been a similar murder in Golden City?”

Golden City? When Wu Xiumin heard this, she immediately said, “I’ll call Ba Chen and tell him to check it out!”

“My God...” Cui Lizhu’s big eyes showed tremendous panic as she asked, “If that’s the case, how many people have been killed by this shadow killer?” Cui Lizhu’s words made the atmosphere instantly ice-cold.

“Shut up!” Zhao Yu shouted at Cui Lizhu.



He then calmly said to Wu Xiumin, “Wu, first send me the video of your interrogation last night! Then, check to see if there are any similar cases in Golden City. After you do that, write a detailed report about Han Kuan and the Devil Case, then send it to the Criminal Division to apply for an official arrest warrant. According to what we know now, we can definitely detain Han Kuan in the police station, as he’s now the biggest suspect in the Devil Case!”

#### **Chapter 894: Zhao Yu Is Going to Use His Magic**

Yaoming’s First People’s Hospital, 9 a.m., sunny weather outside...

Zhao Yu, who had been fast asleep, suddenly felt something strange in his palm. Before he opened his eyes, he instinctively grasped it. It was smooth and soft.

After hearing a woman scream, Zhao Yu had awakened completely to find that he was holding the hand of a female nurse. The nurse was taking the transfusion tube out of him.

“Boss... Hey...” Suddenly, Zhao Yu heard Cui Lizhu’s voice.

Zhao Yu then realized his impoliteness and immediately released the nurse’s hand from his vice grip. The nurse was clearly embarrassed, and she immediately threw Zhao Yu’s hand away.

Cui Lizhu stared at Zhao Yu, not knowing what to say.

“Oh, sorry!” Zhao Yu hastily apologized, then scratched his head in embarrassment and asked, “When did I fall asleep?”

“Um... You...” Cui Lizhu had a strange look as she tried to answer him.

Then, Zhao Yu suddenly thought of something, and he grabbed Cui Lizhu’s hand and asked, “Cui, Jiang Ke... Did he really escape from prison?”

Cui Lizhu was shocked by his words. “Boss, what are you talking about? If this is true, then why didn’t I know about it?”

“Oh...” Only then did Zhao Yu wake up completely from his sleepy trance. He wiped the sweat from his forehead, then swallowed hard and said, “Wow. Okay then... It must have been a nightmare!”

“Alright boss, you really should get some rest!” Cui Lizhu was relieved to hear this, and she said quickly, “Your doctor just scolded us, saying that although it was only ankle surgery, you must still get adequate rest. Also, you can’t get too anxious... Or angry!”

Zhao Yu took a deep breath. When he looked out the window and saw the sunshine, he finally felt better. Also, his head wasn’t as swollen or painful as it was last night.

Oh, I see... As Zhao Yu recalled what had happened last night, he finally figured out why he had been so tired.

Besides the side effects of the anesthetics, there was one other very important factor that had played into it... The side effects of the Energy Booster! At this moment, although he had recovered most of his energy, he still felt sore and exhausted.

“Boss, I know what you’re so worried about!” Cui Lizhu quickly poured a glass of water for Zhao Yu as she gently advised him, “Last night in the interrogation room, I could see that the relationship between Jiang Ke and Cui Xiaolong was strong! After Jiang Ke robbed the van, he had a chance to escape, but he went back to where the second tank truck was. Apparently, he went there to pick up Cui Xiaolong, not knowing that you had already killed him. In fact, he still doesn’t appear to know that!”

Cui Lizhu then bit her lip, took a breath, and continued, “If Jiang Ke finds the truth out later, he will surely seek revenge! But, you can rest assured that reality is different from the movies. Jiang Ke has been caught, and as far as I know, criminals like Jiang Ke have never escaped from prison. So, you don’t have to worry about him coming after you.”

At this time, Officer Wang came in, wheeling in a white board to use for case analysis. He looked cheerful as he said, “After you left last night, Jiang Ke confessed to everything and told us all about the murders that he committed. Even if he hadn’t admitted his guilt, the van driver’s death alone would have been enough to get the death penalty for him! So, you don’t have to worry about him seeking revenge on you ever again!”

Officer Wang smiled, then added, “What you should pay attention to is your speech. After all, you will need to give a speech when you receive your commendation! Congratulations, group leader Zhao, you have made a great contribution, and our city is safer now because of you!”

After that, he winked at Cui Lizhu, then pointed to the white board and whispered, “Right?”

“Yes!” After Cui Lizhu nodded at Officer Wang, she turned to Zhao Yu and said, “Boss, I was wrong last night. You scolded me with good reason. I shouldn’t have been making random guesses. I apologize, and I hope that you can forgive me, as I was just trying to help you!”

“Huh?” Zhao Yu tried hard to recall what in the world she was talking about, and he asked doubtfully, “What do you mean? When did I scold you?”

Cui Lizhu was suddenly speechless, and she looked at Zhao Yu in blank amazement.

“Hmm...” Officer Wang thought for a moment, then explained, “It’s true. You really gave her a good scolding last night! You blamed her for making strange and random guesses, which you said were causing you trouble! Then, you became so angry that you passed out! We even called the doctor, who said that you were too tired and would recover after a good rest. We were so worried about you!”

“Da\*n! Are you serious?” Zhao Yu scratched his head, but still could not remember scolding Cui Lizhu, much less fainting! All he could think was... It must have been the side effects of the Energy Booster!

“Hey, don’t play games with me! I am sincerely apologizing here! Don’t say that you don’t remember!” Cui Lizhu stared at him in disbelief. Then, she ran over to Officer Wang and pointed at another white board that was covered with notes.

As Cui Lizhu pointed to the whiteboard, she said, “Look! It took me hours to finish this! I used your method! You see, there’s not a single guess on it! It’s all based on all of the valid clues that we have at present!”

Zhao Yu waved his hand, and Officer Wang immediately helped Cui Lizhu pull the white board over in front of him. The notes written on the whiteboard were indeed very similar to his style.

Moreover, it could be seen from the lines that Cui Lizhu had really put a lot of thought into it. She had carefully connected every relevant clue with a red line. For those clues that she had doubts about, she had placed question marks beside them.

“Wow... Good job! I see that you are worthy of being my mentee!” Zhao Yu nodded and laughed. “It seems that I was too kind to you in the past. I should scold you more often in the future, especially if it yields results like this! That’s why people often say that talent is forced rather than coaxed!”

“Hey! You are carrying this too far.” Cui Lizhu rolled her eyes at Zhao Yu, then reluctantly smiled and said, “Okay! This time, I won’t spew any more nonsense. Are you satisfied with that compromise?”

Zhao Yu waved at Officer Wang, then said, “Both of you better watch out. I’m going to use some magic now, and I don’t want you to get hurt.”

Zhao Yu then drew a circle in the air with one hand, while repeating like a mad man, “Mi ma mi ma mi ma...”

Officer Wang didn’t have the slightest idea what Zhao Yu was doing, so he just stared at him with eyes that were as wide as saucers! Zhao Yu continued to recite his strange incantation, but suddenly looked up to see a group of people standing at the door of the ward. These people were all dressed in bright clothes and were holding flowers and gifts in their hands!

It turned out that they were local officials, who had come to visit Zhao Yu. But, their timing couldn’t have been worse, as they had just happened to show up right as Zhao Yu was doing such a strange thing!

One of the female officials was so shocked by his strange behavior upon entering his room, that she dropped the entire carton of eggs that she had brought for Zhao Yu!

### **Chapter 895: Why Did You Scold Me?**

These officials were not familiar with Zhao Yu, and because they happened to witness Zhao Yu’s abnormal behavior, they stayed for no more than 10 minutes before leaving in a hurry.

Those who came to visit Zhao Yu all expressed their condolences, praised Zhao Yu’s heroic deeds and achievements, then left. After their departures, only the head of the Yaoming Police Station, Bureau Chief Guan, remained behind.

Bureau Chief Guan expressed his dedication to his work to Zhao Yu. He then said that he would do his best to coordinate his team to help deal with Jiang Ke’s case, and that he would also fully cooperate with Zhao Yu’s investigation in terms of lending human or financial resources. To quote him exactly, he said, “Zhao Yu, as long as you ask for my help, I will give you my full support.”

In the end, Bureau Chief Guan instructed Officer Wang to do as Zhao Yu said in the future. When Bureau Chief Guan left, Zhao Yu finally had some time to himself, which he used to read the information on the whiteboard more carefully.

This time, Cui Lizhu had obviously learned her lesson, so as Zhao Yu pondered over the case, she stopped talking and just looked at him silently. After nearly 20 minutes, Zhao Yu knocked on the

whiteboard with his hand, then said, "I'm hungry now. But, I don't want porridge this time. Can I have some meat instead?"

Cui Lizhu nodded, but did not know what to say.

"How about steak or a hamburger?" Officer Wang replied quickly with a suggestion, then said, "There's a restaurant that's right across the street from the hospital. The food there tastes really good!"

"Don't forget to get me a cup of coffee!" Zhao Yu yelled as he snapped his fingers and kept staring at the whiteboard, without even raising his head to look up at Officer Wang.

"No problem!" Officer Wang shouted back before immediately calling his colleagues.

At this time, Zhao Yu pointed to one clue on the whiteboard and said, "Last night, I found Han Kuan's confession to be very strange! He was so calm and direct! He didn't attempt to hide anything about his experience in Beiqian. If he really had something to do with the Devil Case, he wouldn't have done that!"

Zhao Yu then added, "And... The most questionable thing about his confession is that he brought up the SARS outbreak at the very beginning. As we all know, the Devil Case happened during that time period. So... I think that he mentioned the SARS outbreak on purpose! I feel that he knew the facts of the Devil Case, but is not necessarily the murderer, which would explain why he was not scared of telling us those things."

"Um... Um..." Cui Lizhu wanted to say something, but she recalled Zhao Yu's behavior last night, so she didn't say anything in the end.

"Did you mention a shadow killer last night?" Zhao Yu thought for a moment, then asked.

Cui Lizhu nodded, but there was doubt in her eyes. She was wondering what Zhao Yu was thinking.

"You see... We can make two assumptions based on that hypothesis..." Zhao Yu pointed to the whiteboard and said, "The first is that Han Kuan is the real murderer in the Devil Case! After killing Laogua, he found out that the police did not suspect him, so he got prideful and became addicted to killing. He then decided to kill people who bullied others in the same way that he killed Laogua!"

Zhao Yu then said, "So, when he was in Beiqian, he looked for suitable targets while he was working. That's how he committed the murders in the famous Devil Case!"

Having said this, Zhao Yu paused for a long time, then continued, "But, there are still many things that do not make sense to me. On the one hand, Han Kuan's psychological characteristics are inconsistent with this murderer. On the other hand, he didn't hide the fact that he had studied in Yaoming and had worked in Beiqian, which I feel is very strange."

Zhao Yu then said, "So, I have a feeling that the reason why Han Kuan told us these things is either that he is not involved in the Devil Case at all, or that he is trying to protect someone else! Either way, he's not very likely to be the murderer in the Devil Case."

"Protect... Protect someone?" Although Cui Lizhu tried hard to suppress her curiosity, she could not help but ask, "Do you think that there is an entire killer team or something? Who would he want to protect?"

“Well... Let’s look at the second assumption...” Zhao Yu said as he pointed to the whiteboard again. “This time, let’s assume that Han Kuan is not the murderer, and that there is a shadow killer instead. This man must know Han Kuan very well, as in Yaoming, he killed Laogua to protect Han Kuan! Later, when Han Kuan went to Beiqian, he committed the murders in the Devil Case. So, the shadow killer probably went to Beiqian with Han Kuan!”

Zhao Yu paused to take a deep breath, then said, “The victims in Beiqian did not bully Han Kuan, so this shadow killer must have chosen his targets from all kinds of bullies that he came across on a daily basis. And... This killer must have a close relationship with Han Kuan.”

As she was listening to him explain this theory, Cui Lizhu suddenly look scared stiff as she said, “I see! What you mean to say is that one of those students who went to Beiqian with Han Kuan could be the murderer! The shadow killer could be one of Han Kuan’s classmates!”

“Yes!” Zhao Yu nodded, then said, “So, this shadow killer came to the same place with Han Kuan! Because they did the same work, this person also had the opportunity to meet the same people Han Kuan met!”

Cui Lizhu suddenly sat straight up and patted Zhao Yu on the shoulder. She then exclaimed, “Boss, you basta\*d! I guessed right last night! So... Why did you scold me?”

Zhao Yu quickly made up an excuse, “You were wrong about some important details. See... Now, with my guidance, you can understand everything quickly.”

Cui Lizhu pouted her lips, then asked earnestly, “In that case, don’t we need to focus on the people who went to Beiqian with Han Kuan?”

“Yes! This person likely returned home after the SARS outbreak, like Han Kuan did. So, the Beiqian Devil Case ended at that time,” Zhao Yu said.

Cui Lizhu couldn’t help wondering again. “That’s terrible. This shadow killer is a real devil! If he went back to his hometown... Or somewhere else...”

Cui Lizhu was still mumbling in shock when her cell phone rang suddenly. When she saw that Miao Ying was calling, she immediately handed the phone to Zhao Yu.

After the call went through, Miao Ying told Zhao Yu that they had found several new clues: Firstly, Zhang Jingru did return home to escape the SARS outbreak, which meant that she was not in Beiqian when the Devil Case happened.

Secondly, Zhang Jingru had not been bullied in school. In fact, all of her teachers and fellow classmates had said that she was a very popular, lively, and outgoing girl. Thirdly, Zhang Jingru did not know Lei Ting, who was the Devil Case victim who went to the school that was right next to hers.

Fourthly, and most importantly, the victim named Lei Ting was indeed a campus bully. She and a group of bad students often bullied other girls, and even charged them protection fees!

Those who refused to pay these fees and dared to report her bad deeds suffered greatly from her extremely inhumane revenge plots! The school girls were really scared of her!

After hearing Miao Ying's report, Zhao Yu exchanged shared his latest findings with her. As Miao Ying attached great importance to Zhao Yu's contributions, she immediately adjusted her investigation to focus on two things.

The first one was to find out whether all of the victims in the Devil Case were bullies. The other regarded Han Kuan's work during that year, specifically finding out exact details about it, such as his company, where he had been, and who his colleagues were.

Miao Ying had just hung up the phone when she received some new information from Wu Xiumin. She said that they did not find similar cases like the Devil Case in Golden City. Although there were people who died from falling from a building, they either committed suicide or suffered from illnesses, neither of which scenario was consistent with the Devil Case.

This news undoubtedly confirmed Zhao Yu's hypothese, and Zhao Yu immediately asked Officer Wang to send some people to go and find out who went to Beiqian with Han Kuan. This was because he secretly wondered if the real murderer was among those classmates who went to Beiqian with Han Kuan.

### **Chapter 896: Is It Him?**

After a while, several police officers bought delicious Western style food for Zhao Yu and the others, including steak, hamburger, pizza and so on, all of which were hearty dishes that Zhao Yu liked. Lately, Zhao Yu had only been eating plain porridge, so he totally forgot his doctor's orders and finished all of what the officers had bought for him!

Because they were pressed for time in this case, he kept working even during the meal, watching the video that Wu Xiumin had recorded when she was interrogating Han Kuan last night for the second time. It turned out that during the interrogation, Wu Xiumin had asked Han Kuan the names of his classmates from Beiqian.

Han Kuan had said that five classmates, including him, went to Beiqian. They were four males and one female, all of whom were invited there by Lang Xiangyang.

However, because it was long time ago and Han Kuan was not close with these classmates, he couldn't remember their names. Other than Lang Xiangyang, he only remembered a girl named Li Yan. This was because when they had first arrived at Beiqian, the SARS epidemic was at its climax.

At that time, Li Yan was afraid that she would get infected if she stayed in Beiqian, so she went home early. When they had all started working, they were assigned to different places, so there was not much communication between them. This explained clearly why he could not remember their names.

Zhao Yu carefully observed Han Kuan's reaction. It was just like Wu Xiumin had said... Except for his evident tiredness, he displayed no signs of nervousness or excitement. In fact, when he spoke, he was so emotionless and calm that it almost seemed as if he was telling someone else's story.

But, when Zhao Yu thought about Han Kuan's reaction when his wife had died, which he also thought was way too calm, Han Kuan appeared to be reacting in a truly abnormal way.

This was especially true when Zhao Yu recalled Han Kuan's astonishing reaction in the restroom. As Zhao Yu pondered all of these things, he was convinced that Han Kuan must know something, even if he was not the murderer from the Devil Case.

Just as Zhao Yu was watching the video, Miao Ying got some new information. Through visiting witnesses, she had learned that one of the victims from the Devil Case, a teacher at the Guang'an Special education School, was known for bullying students.

Rumors even said that he had actually sexually assaulted some female students! And... The shop owner in Yingping was involved in a scandal, where he apparently forced female employees to take off their clothes in front of him!

When he heard this, Zhao Yu instantly remembered that Captain Jin's yellow notebook also mentioned this fact about the shop owner's past transgressions. However, because the persecuted female employees denied being assaulted by the shop owner, the police did not end up charging the shop owner.

Now, it seemed that the rumors might be true, and either the owner paid the employees to silence them, or the employees were unwilling to admit being assaulted to the public. After learning about this, Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu felt that there were striking similarities between the Devil Case and the Headless Female Corpses Case.

All of the victims in the Devil Case seem to have bullied others before they were killed, and the murderer's motive was to punish these people by using extreme methods. As he thought of this, Zhao Yu wondered... Is Han Kuan a victim of bullying... Or is he a terrible murderer?

Although Han Kuan was a major suspect, Zhao Yu felt that Han Kuan and Li Fei were two completely different people. If Han Kuan was really the murderer from the Devil Case, he should not be behaving so calmly.

The Special Investigation Group worked very hard, as did the Yaoming Police Station, in order to help Zhao Yu, and thanks to their joined efforts, it only took a single morning for them to find the information about the students who had gone with Han Kuan to Beiqian.

What they found confirmed that Han Kuan was telling the truth. He did go to Beiqian with four males and one female, a total of five people. And... The girl, Li Yan, did indeed return home because of the SARS outbreak.

So, the focus of the investigation shifted to the three boys. They learned that the three boys, just like Han Kuan, had only stayed at Beiqian for half a year, earned a big sum of money with the teacher, Lang Xiangyang, then returned to their hometowns to work.

At present, the Yaoming police had contacted their local police stations and were investigating the three people's hometowns in order to see if there were any similar cases to the Devil Case that had occurred in their jurisdictions before. If there were any similar cases, this might help them to catch the real murderer, as once there was a suspect, they would know what to do next!

Because Li Yan had been ruled out as a suspect, Zhao Yu immediately asked Cui Lizhu to call Li Yan, so that they could question her further in hopes of finding out more about the situation that specific year.

But, after the call went through, Li Yan refused to cooperate because she thought that it was a prank call. So, she promptly hung up!

Zhao Yu and others then had to contact the local police, who contacted Li Yan's manager at her workplace and confirmed that they were indeed the calling on official police business. Finally, Li Yan believed them.

Once that she was convinced that it was indeed the Criminal Division that was calling, Li Yan agreed to cooperate. Fortunately, Li Yan had a good memory, and she was immediately able to name all of the other students, including Han Kuan.

Li Yan said that the reason she had followed Lang Xiangguo to Beiqian to work was that she was from Nanjiang, which was not far from Beiqian. At that time, she was mainly responsible for delivering goods and bookkeeping. What she did was simple, but she earned a lot for it.

However, money was not as important to her as her life. So, when SARS suddenly broke out, she chose to resign from her position and go home. Although Lang Xiangguo was somewhat reluctant to see her go, he could not stop her. So, she went back to her hometown in Nanjiang after having worked there for less than half a month.

At Zhao Yu's suggestion, Cui Lizhu requested over the phone, "Please tell me more about the other students."

"The others? Okay..." Li Yan recalled for a moment, then said, "Liu Haoran was responsible for deliveries with me, Sang Wenliang was in charge of transportation, and Li Qiang and Han Kuan were technicians, who were responsible for equipment installation and maintenance..."

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu's eyes lit up as he wrote down Li Qiang's name. Of all of the three people, only Li Qiang and Han Kuang did the same job! So, in Zhao Yu's mind, Li Qiang was now under the greatest suspicion!

Li Yan thought for a moment, then said, "Among those boys, only Han Kuan was a stranger to me. The other three boys were my classmates! Mr. Lang was the head teacher of our class, while Han Kuan was in Class 11. I didn't ever understand why Mr. Lang wanted him, but I figured that maybe he was really skilled..."

Not in the same class? And... Not his head teacher? While Zhao Yu was pondering this with a puzzled look in his face, Officer Wang gently pulled him aside and showed him a piece of information.

This information was that Li Qiang was from Zhao County, which was under the governance of Yingping. That was to say, Li Qiang's hometown was in the vicinity of Beiqian.

As Beiqian was the location of the Devil Case, if Li Qiang was the murderer, and any of the same types of murders had happened later in that area, it would have inevitably attracted the police's attention. Therefore, Zhao Yu began to suspect Li Qiang less and less, as no similar cases had been reported.

Zhao Yu thought... If Li Qiang is not the murderer, then...

At this time, Li Yan was still talking on the phone. While Zhao Yu was putting all of the materials that he had just obtained on his bed, he suddenly found another problem.



Among the five students, only Han Kuan was from Golden City, which was very far from Beiqian. The other four people all lived within the vicinity of Beiqian!

As Han Kuan was not in their same class and his hometown was far away from Beiqian, it was strange for Han Kuan to have come to work in Beiqian. Equally as strange, Lang Xiangyang was not Han Kuan's head teacher!

Suddenly, Zhao Yu noticed something important, which left him stunned. He suddenly wondered... Lang Xiangyang, why did you choose Han Kuan? So... The issue is not with the students, but the teacher!

### **Chapter 897: I'm Your Leader**

"Mr. Lang?" After hearing Cui Lizhu's question about Lang Xiangyang, Li Yan thought carefully about it.

She then said, "When Mr. Lang retired, he was around 50... Um... Both Mr. and Mrs. Lang were from Beiqian. Mr. Lang's wife had also taught in Yaoming. I remember that she used to be a middle school teacher. But, since she had already been retired for two years at that time, she moved back to Beiqian."

She then added, "Mr. Lang retired early so that he could also return home with his wife. Um... I can't say which it is for sure, but I recall that either Mr. Lang's younger brother or Mrs. Lang's younger brother runs a company that sells teaching materials, so he invited Mr. Lang and Mrs. Lang to join the company soon after the move."

Li Yan took a breath, then said, "At that time, the company was in its infancy and was badly in need of manpower, so Mr. Lang invited several suitable students from our school to come work there as well. Since we all knew that Mr. Lang treats people well, we thought that since this place was close to home and the job was well-paid, it was a great opportunity. So, we went with him!"

Li Yan recalled that time as she smiled and said, "Although I left after working less than half a month, Mr. Lang still paid me a full month's pay. He was really a good man! However..."

"What happened then?" Cui Lizhu interrupted her with an eager question. She felt that this usage of the word "however" could be very important.

Li Yan replied, "Well... That year, just after the Spring Festival, we received the bad news that Mr. Lang had died after suffering from a serious illness!"

While she was speaking of this, Li Yan became very emotional and her voice sounded strangled. Upon hearing what she had just said, Zhao Yu and the others were shocked. This was because Mr. Lang's death coincided with the end of the Devil Case!

"How did he die?" Cui Lizhu asked, then immediately followed with another question, "Was it from SARS?"

Li Yan shook her head, then said, "No. At first, we thought it was SARS, but when Mr. Lang got sick, the SARS outbreak had already been contained and eradicated. It was only when we went to his funeral that we learned that Mr. Lang had acute encephalitis, which caused him to die suddenly. It really surprised everyone."

Seeing Zhao Yu wink at her, Cui Lizhu quickly asked, "Oh... Then, how was he before he got so sick?"

"Um... He was in really good health!" Li Yan said. "In school, he never asked his students to help him carry heavy equipment, as he did all of the heavy lifting himself! Later, when he went back to Beiqian, he was still quite energetic. At that time, he was around 50. If he was not in good health, he wouldn't have wanted to continue doing business!"

Cui Lizhu thought for a moment, then asked, "When he was in Beiqian, did he work a lot of hours?"

"Of course! Although the company was a start-up, it was doing really well! Sometimes, when we were short of staff, Mr. Lang would even deliver the goods himself, going from door to door. He even helped with machinery repairs sometimes," she replied.

Cui Lizhu then asked, "Oh... Well... What was the relationship between Mr. Lang and Han Kuan like?"

Li Yan thought for a moment, then said, "Not bad. After all, Mr. Lang only chose those people that he thought very highly to come and work with him. Also, if they had disliked each other, Han Kuan wouldn't have agreed to go and work with him, right? Although Han Kuan was not a big talker, he was very clever, so he learned things fast, much faster than the rest of us!"

After that, Cui Lizhu asked some other standard questions before she ended her phone call with Li Yan. Zhao Yu then asked her to report this information to Miao Ying so that Miao Ying's team could investigate these matters further.

After Cui Lizhu called Miao Ying and gave her report, the ward fell into complete silence. After a long time, Officer Wang broke the silence and reported to Zhao Yu, "Officer Zhao, the local police stations have confirmed that there were no similar cases to the Devil Case reported in the vicinity where the three boys lived. This means that Han Kuan's classmates have basically been ruled out as suspects!"

"So..." Cui Lizhu could not help but point to Lang Xiangyang's name on the whiteboard as she said, "That means that this man is our biggest suspect now! Unfortunately... This man is dead! Could he possibly have been the murderer from the Devil Case?"

Zhao Yu took a deep breath. His instincts told him that Lang Xiangyang was not the real murderer. However, various clues did point to Lang Xiangyang, as his location, the timeframe of his movements, and his possible motive all seemed that they could coincide with the murderer's from the Devil Case.

When he was in Yaoming, maybe he couldn't bear to see Laogua bullying Han Kuan, so he killed Laogua! Later, out of sympathy for Han Kuan, he possibly took him back to Beiqian to make some money! Then, killing Laogua might have caused him to become addicted to committing crimes, so when he returned to Beiqian, he lost control and committed the Devil Case murders! Then, a sudden illness took his life, so the Devil Case ended!

Could this be the truth? Zhao Yu wondered. Devil Case... It's no wonder that you are one of China's most notorious unsolved cases!

As he thought of this, Zhao Yu couldn't help but shake his head and sigh. Even though they had obtained so much information, they still didn't know the whole truth.

Because he had a full breakfast that morning, at noon, Zhao Yu skipped lunch in order to focus on analyzing the case in front of the whiteboard. Last night, Cui Lizhu was busy working all night, so she was exhausted now and fell asleep on the bed beside Zhao Yu's. At the same time, Officer Wang was snoring on the sofa, fast asleep as well!

As Zhao Yu carefully analyzed the case, he found that there were a shocking amount of people involved in the case. Moreover, there were also many other cases that coincided with it, such as Zhang Jingru's death, Jiang Ke's case, and so on. This Devil Case was truly complicated!

However, when he carefully analyzed the clues, he found that there were many things that could be removed from his whiteboard! At this critical moment, he knew that he must eliminate the small details and focus on the most important parts.

But... What are the most important parts? Thinking about this, Zhao Yu tried to simplify the information that he had in front of him, then circled key points, highlighted all of the clues that were related to the Devil Case, and looked for insight and inspiration.

However, every time he simplified a clue, it would only lead to more new information and leads! For example, in Zhang Jingru's case, what they found proved that Zhang Jingru had nothing to do with the Devil Case. But, this only made Zhao Yu wonder about many more things... Where did she get that devil picture? Why did she search for information about the Devil Case online?

Could my guess be right? Was Zhang Jingru killed by Han Kuan because she found Han Kuan's relation with the Devil Case? But, if Han Kuan was not the real murderer of the Devil Case, why would he kill Zhang Jingru?

Up until now, no one had ever discovered the Devil Case murderer's method. This was because neither the crime scenes nor the victims' bodies had revealed any pieces of valuable evidence or clues. So, in the end, the police couldn't confirm whether the victims were killed by others or if they had killed themselves.

If the Devil Case involved all murders instead of suicides, what method did the murderer use for the killings? As he was thinking hard about this, Zhao Yu suddenly realized that it was five o'clock in the afternoon.

As he looked at his watch, he realized that he had another problem. His side adventure today was set to happen at six o'clock in the evening, so it was right around the corner. And, the location for the side adventure was far away from where he was now. If he didn't leave soon, he would be late!

If it had been in the past, he could have made up an excuse and drove to the location by himself. Today, however, his right foot was in a plaster cast and he had to use either a wheelchair or crutches in order to move an inch. Without the help of others, there was no way that he could get to the side adventure.

But, if Officer Wang and Cui Lizhu drove him over, he didn't know how he could explain it to them. Even if he wanted to tell them about the side adventure, they wouldn't believe him.

What should I do? Zhao Yu wondered.

With the clock ticking, Zhao Yu became anxious. At this time, the side adventure was particularly important. Even if it couldn't provide him with new case clues, he still mustn't miss it!

Zhao Yu carefully checked the location of the side adventure and sighed. It seemed that he could only use his leader's privileges in order to get things done this time!

### **Chapter 898: I Can't Tell You**

Thirty minutes before the side adventure, Zhao Yu was dressed up and sitting in a police car. Officer Wang was driving, and Cui Lizhu was also there.

"Officer Zhao, I don't understand. You have already caught Jiang Ke. Why do you want to go to the scene again?" As Officer Wang stepped on the accelerator as he raised this question.

Cui Lizhu bit her lip and asked, "Obviously, Jiang Ke's case has nothing to do with the Devil Case, so why would you want to waste time on him?"

Officer Wang then said, with a look of deep concern on his face, "You should rest more. I can record a video for you if you want. You don't need to go there in person."

Zhao Yu pulled a long face and said, "A super detective is not trained in a day. I must learn from every case! When I was dealing with the Headless Female Corpses Case, I paid attention to every detail. That's why I..."

"Ah, hero, please accompany me in pursuit of my dream..." Zhao Yu didn't have time to finish his sentence before he was disturbed by his phone ringing.

His cell phone was badly damaged when Jiang Ke hit him with the stun gun, so local technicians had spent the entire night repairing it. Although many parts had been replaced, his ringtone was the same as before.

"Hello..." As soon as the call went through, Miao Ying's voice suddenly was heard on the other end of the line. "Team leader, we found out that it's Lang Xiangyang's younger brother... No... Younger male cousin!"

"What?" Zhao Yu couldn't understand what Miao Ying was trying to tell him.

"The one who invited Lang Xiangyang and his wife to sell teaching materials is named Lang Xiangqian. He was Lang Xiangyang's younger male cousin!" Miao Ying explained.

"Oh..." Only then did Zhao Yu understand.

"Surprisingly, that small company did not disappear, but expanded its scale and became a limited company!" Miao Ying said. "Lang Xiangqian is now the chairman of the company, and they currently produce and sell teaching materials, teaching software, and so on. Their business now has locations throughout the whole country!"

"Oh... Then..." Zhao Yu pondered this for a moment, then asked, "Does Lang Xiangqian know something?"

Miao Ying replied, "Following your theory, I just talked to Lang Xiangqian. He said that Lang Xiangyang did die of acute encephalitis. Because the initial symptoms of encephalitis are similar to SARS, the

hospital isolated Lang Xiangyang as a SARS patient, which delayed this necessary treatment for his actual illness! In the end, his family sued the hospital, and later, the hospital compensated them with a generous sum for this mishap!”

Miao Ying then said, “I just calculated the dates. When Lang Xiangyang was hospitalized, the last Devil Case victim had already died. So, he can’t be ruled out of as a suspect!”

Zhao Yu then asked, “Can you tell me about the days before his death? Were his activities consistent with the timeline and crime scene locations in the Devil Case?”

“Team Leader...” Miao Ying paused, then asked, “How about applying for a search warrant? Lang Xiangqian said that when Lang Xiangyang planned to retire, the couple went to Beiqian and bought a three-bedroom apartment. Ever since Lang Xiangyang died, his wife has been living alone in that apartment. So, Lang Xiangyang’s things should still be in the apartment!”

Miao Ying then said with a serious look, “Lang Xiangyang died suddenly, so if he is the murderer from the Devil Case, he should have left something behind. I think we’d better go to his apartment directly. That way, if we are suspecting the wrong person, we can correct ourselves in time. We can’t afford to waste any time!”

“Hmm...” Zhao Yu agreed with Miao Ying, so he immediately nodded and said, “Okay, I’ll call Mr. Chen and apply for a search warrant. But, he is just our suspect at this time, as we have not yet declared him to be the murderer. So, when you are searching his apartment, you’d better explain this to his wife.”

Miao Ying was surprised by this, so she asked, “Zhao Yu, did you just say that out of care for the old woman? When do you start to care about others?”

“Um... I’ve always been an honest and kind man!” Zhao Yu answered her without hesitation.

Miao Ying smiled, then said, “Okay! I know how to do it properly. I’ll wait for the warrant.”

After hanging up, Zhao Yu called Chen Zhuo and asked him to apply for a search warrant. After all, the Special Investigation Group had the privilege that the ordinary police forces didn’t have. So, in less than five minutes, Chen Zhuo got the warrant.

Miao Ying could now go and search Lang Xiangyang’s home. At this time, Officer Wang, who was still driving, seemed a little anxious. He sped up, heading for the place where Jiang Ke had stolen the cigarettes yesterday.

“Hmm...” Zhao Yu looked at the map on his phone, then told Officer Wang where to turn as he said, “You don’t need to drive so fast...”

Officer Wang did not know Zhao Yu’s real purpose, so he said anxiously, “If we don’t get to the scene soon, it will be dark! Leader Zhao, why didn’t you tell us about this earlier?”

Zhao Yu then ordered him in a louder voice now, “Slow down. To tell you the truth, I am waiting for it to get dark!”

Officer Wang slowed down and asked in surprise, “I... I don’t understand why we have to wait until it’s dark. Do you think we’ve missed something?”

Zhao Yu shook his head and said with a mysterious look, "Sorry, I can't tell you. Keep your eyes on the road."

"Oh..." Officer Wang misread Zhao Yu's mysterious look, and he suddenly thought that Zhao Yu must have noticed something that he had missed earlier.

However, this mysterious feeling lasted for only five minutes before the police car drove through a commercial street and Zhao Yu suddenly covered his stomach and said, "Ouch! It's almost six o'clock. Have you forgotten that I didn't have lunch today?"

"Ah!" Officer Wang was surprised by his outburst and slowed down immediately.

"Boss, what's wrong with you?" Cui Lizhu was also confused. "Don't you want to go to the crime scene? It's going to be dark soon. And... If you're hungry, I'll get you some takeout!"

Zhao Yu looked dissatisfied as he said, "Takeout again? I had takeout this whole week! How can you treat your leader like this?" Then, he patted Officer Wang on the shoulder and said, "Hurry up! Go find a restaurant. This meal is on me."

Officer Wang didn't know what to do, but since Zhao Yu was the boss, he decided that he must do as he said, so he immediately started looking for a restaurant.

"Hot pot!" Cui Lizhu pointed to the first restaurant that she saw and said excitedly, "I haven't had hot pot mutton for a long time!"

Zhao Yu yelled, "Shut up! Didn't you know? My doctor told me not to eat mutton!"

"Oh..." Cui Lizhu shrank back and stopped talking immediately.

As the car continued to drive forward, Zhao Yu checked their location on his phone, then pointed at a restaurant and shouted, "Okay... This one!"

The other two looked toward the direction that Zhao Yu had just pointed and saw the restaurant's name, "Hot Pot Mutton." Zhao Yu was embarrassed, as he had just said that he couldn't have such cuisine!

"Boss..." Cui Lizhu was so angry that her nose wrinkled as she asked, "Boss, are you taking the wrong medicine? What exactly do you want? Didn't you just say that you can't eat mutton?"

Zhao Yu explained with a bitter smile, "Whatever! I can order beef as a replacement, it's no big deal."

"Um... Group Leader Zhao..." At this time, Officer Wang parked the car and said, "I've been here before. This restaurant only serves mutton, not beef..."

Zhao Yu was clearly embarrassed as he said, "Alright, I... I'll just have vegetables then."

## **Chapter 899: A Sudden End**

The reality of the situation was that checking the robbery scene was a ruse, while going to Hot Pot Mutton was Zhao Yu's real purpose. This was because today's side adventure would take place in this very restaurant!

Zhao Yu couldn't think of any other excuses, and since he couldn't ask Officer Wang and Cui Lizhu to drive him here for no reason, he could only use the excuse of checking the crime scene. However, because he didn't check the restaurant's name before now, Zhao Yu almost made a fool of himself and could have even exposed his real purpose for this visit!

Therefore, after entering the restaurant, Zhao Yu was more careful than ever. As he checked the exact location of the side adventure, he realized that it was set to take place in a private room on the second floor, which was already occupied.

Zhao Yu came over to the entryway of the private room in his wheelchair. He wanted to find out who was inside the room. However, although the door was slightly open, he could only hear people talking, but couldn't see anyone inside. Judging from the voices, it seemed that there were only a few people inside.

Zhao Yu looked at his watch. It was 10 minutes before the side adventure was set to take place. As it was a little early and his past experience had taught him that it was better not to make bold moves before it was time, he had no choice but to wait patiently.

Coincidentally, Cui Lizhu and Officer Wang had just chosen a table that was very close to the private room. So, Zhao Yu joined them and ordered some food.

Zhao Yu's attention was completely focused on today's side adventure as he thought to himself... I wonder if it will be related to the Devil Case? He couldn't imagine how the private room could relate to the Devil Case.

It was approaching six o'clock, so Zhao Yu raised his head and quickly said to Cui Lizhu and Officer Wang, "I need to go to the restroom."

Officer Wang stood up quickly and said, "Your leg hasn't recovered. Here, let me help you..."

"Why? How can you help me in the restroom?" Zhao Yu gave him an angry look. "Don't worry. I just need to wash my hands."

After that, Zhao Yu rolled away in his wheelchair. When he got to the door of the private room, he saw that he was just in time.

The door of the private room was closed, and as Zhao Yu could not go open it in public, he used a Master Tapping Device. This was a new device, which allowed him to hear what was happening in the room.

This device was very useful. He just activated it, and he could hear even the slightest sound in the room.

Currently, he heard a slightly hoarse man's voice, "You... Tell me... How did you do it? It's impossible! How on earth did you learn the magic that my master did not even teach me?"

Zhao Yu didn't have the slightest idea about what was happening in the room. However, the voice didn't sound like a total stranger to Zhao Yu.

“Ha ha ha ha...” Then, a woman’s laugh, followed by her soft voice drifted out of the private room, “Master taught us the secret! Did you forget it already? If you can’t see how I did it, you are not a qualified student!”

Zhao Yu was really confused. What are they talking about? And... This woman’s voice really sounds familiar!

The man then said, “Now that you have learned the master’s ultimate magic, tell me the secret! Otherwise, don’t blame me for being cruel to you!”

“Ha ha ha ha...” The woman laughed again, then said, “It’s all an illusion. Master knew you were not loyal to him, so he has already thought about this! If you still insist on your willful thoughts, I can’t save you either.”

Unexpectedly, Cui Lizhu’s shouted at Zhao Yu as Zhao Yu was struggling to listen carefully to the conversation inside the private room. “Hey! Boss! What are you doing? Didn’t you need to go wash your hands?”

Zhao Yu was so startled that he almost fell out of his wheelchair.

“What’s wrong with you today?” Cui Lizhu came over to stand beside his wheelchair and asked with a confused look, “Are you still angry with me, or are you struggling with the case? I didn’t offend you in any way, did I? Or, are you jealous of Officer Wang?”

“What nonsense!” Zhao Yu could think of nothing else to say at the moment, so he thought of a random excuse. “I lost some money right around here! Help me find it!”

Cui Lizhu doubted this, and as she stood right in front of the door of the private room, she asked, “How much did you lose?”

Before Cui Lizhu’s voice fell, the door of the private room opened!

Dam\*! Zhao Yu felt threatened at once, and he reached his hand to touch his gun.

At that moment, a small man came out of the room, and he could not help but step back suddenly when he saw Cui Lizhu standing at the door. Cui Lizhu was also surprised when she saw this man.

Huh? What is happening? It was now Zhao Yu’s turn to be confused. He didn’t expect that the man in the room and Cui Lizhu would know each other.

While Zhao Yu was still in shock, Cui Lizhu suddenly picked up a beer bottle from the next table, then rushed into the private room like a flying arrow. Before Zhao Yu could come into the room, he heard the sound of a bottle hitting a person’s head inside the private room!

“She’s crazy!” the woman in the room screamed.

Only then did Zhao Yu see that Cui Lizhu had hit the man with the bottle. Now, blood was running down the man’s forehead.

“It’s okay. I’m alright!” The man said. He did not fight back, but covered his head, while shouting, “Cui Lizhu, are you satisfied now? If this is not enough for you, try me again! If I frown even once...”



The man was shouting indignantly, but when he saw Zhao Yu, his eyes opened wide and he immediately said hello to Zhao Yu excitedly, "Hey, Leader Zhao, what's up? What are you doing here in Tongjiang, and what happened to your legs?"

Zhao Yu finally recognized the man, and as he quietly put his pistol back into its holster, he greeted him, "Ma Laodan, what are you doing here?"

It turned out that this man was Ma Laodan, who Zhao Yu had met in Jin'an. Later, because of the Hasty Murder Case, Ma Laodan had been shot in the nursing home where Tao Xiang was staying.

"Yes... It's me!" Ma Laodan patted the woman beside him in a hurry and said, "Meili, let me introduce you to Leader Zhao. Do you remember him? This is the policeman who saved us! If it hadn't been for him, we wouldn't be here today!"

"Oh!" The woman immediately recognized Zhao Yu and bowed to him as she said, "You are Zhao Yu! You saved us!"

Only then did Zhao Yu realize that he had met the woman before. She was Ma Laodan's girlfriend, and her name was Song Meili.

Once, Zhao Yu had accidentally rescued the naked Ma Laodan and Song Mei from a car. When he had loosened Song Meili's ropes, he had a good look at her body. So, he surely hadn't forgotten her!

"Wonderful! We owe you a big one, and I was wondering when I would get to repay my debt of gratitude!" Ma Laodan said before he burst out laughing.

He then said, "Now that we have bumped into each other today, I must take advantage of this opportunity. This meal is on me!"

Ma Laodan laughed, while acting as if nothing had happened to his head. Upon seeing this, Cui Lizhu threw away the remaining half of the bottle, her face still full of rage.

Zhao Yu remembered that Ma Laodan had told him that he used to fancy Cui Lizhu and wanted to take her down using his money, but had never succeeded in doing so. So, Zhao Yu thought that Ma Laodan must have used some other terrible means, which would explain why Cui Lizhu threw the bottle at him just now!

But, Zhao Yu still couldn't understand today's side adventure, and he wondered... Is it just about a wine bottle?

Suddenly, Zhao Yu remembered another thing... The hexagram that he opened today was a Gen Li hexagram. Li represented friends or friendship. However, it seemed that the system's definition of Li was quite different.

As Zhao Yu thought about the hexagram, he suddenly remembered what Ma Laodan and Song Mei had said just now. There were only two of them in the room, so what did they mean by that just now?

"Ah, hero, please accompany me in pursuit of my dream..." At that moment, Zhao Yu's mobile phone rang suddenly. It was Miao Ying.

As Zhao Yu was in a wheelchair, it was not convenient for him to leave now. So, he just answered the phone in front of them.

“Zhao Yu...” Over the phone, Miao Ying’s voice seemed surprisingly calm. “You can take a rest now because the Devil Case is over! In Lang Xiangyang’s home, we found conclusive evidence to prove that Lang Xiangyang is the real murderer from the Devil Case!”

### **Chapter 900: Accomplice or Real Murderer?**

“You are bleeding heavily! You should go to the hospital!” Song Meili exclaimed as she wiped Ma Laodan’s head with a wet towel. “And... You still want to drink, even now!”

Ma Laodan then said casually, “It’s not a big deal. After all, it’s not the first time that someone has done this to my head. I’m okay!”

He then pointed to Cui Lizhu with his hand and said with a ruthless look, “Cui Lizhu, I know that I caused you trouble before, but you have to admit that my father is good to you, and you haven’t suffered because of him! So, we are even. Today, if it weren’t for the sake of Leader Zhao... What?”

Cui Lizhu raised her middle finger at Ma Laodan, causing him to react in shock. She then said, “Don’t look at me that way! Don’t you know that I’m now a...”

Cui Lizhu wanted to say that she was a special investigator or a policewoman, but when she raised her hand, she suddenly saw her broken finger, which reminded her of her sad past, and stopped her speech abruptly. Ma Laodan’s sharp eyes also saw Cui Lizhu’s little finger, so he stopped talking too.

“Would you like more soup?” At this time, a waiter with a tin pot suddenly came to the door. Because Zhao Yu’s wheelchair was blocking the door, he could not enter the room.

“What happened?” Officer Wang then came over to the door and stood behind the waiter.

Zhao Yu, while holding the phone in his right hand, looked around the room. He then gestured to Officer Wang and said, “Come in and close the door! No one else can come in without my approval!”

“Okay...” Officer Wang immediately pulled the waiter away, pushed Zhao Yu’s wheelchair into the private room, then closed the door.

Although Cui Lizhu was still feeling sad, after seeing Zhao Yu’s serious look, she quickly turned off the hot pot.

“From now on... Shut your mouth! Otherwise, don’t blame me for not being kind to you!” Zhao Yu said coldly, causing the room to immediately fall silent.

“Miao Ying, go on!” Zhao Yu put his phone up to his ear, then said, “You were saying... Lang Xiangyang is the real murderer from the Devil Case?”

When they heard Zhao Yu’s words, Cui Lizhu and Officer Wang were shocked. In order to allow them to hear clearly, Zhao Yu put the phone on speaker mode.

Miao Ying then said from the other end of the line, “Yes! I just sent you a video and photos of all of the evidence! It’s a bit surprising. Now, I’ll tell you about it again... After we got the search warrant, we went to Lang Xiangyang’s home and began to collect evidence. As you said, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, we communicated with his family beforehand about what exactly was going on.”

Miao Ying then said, “Mr. and Mrs. Lang have no children, and Mrs. Lang is old and suffers from Alzheimer’s. So, she can’t remember anything! Lang XiangQian treated his sister-in-law well and hired a nurse and two nannies to take care of her daily. Therefore, our search did not encounter any resistance, and we were quickly able to examine all of the stuff that Lang Xiangyang left behind. But, we did not find anything valuable.”

Miao Ying then said calmly, “To be honest, by that time, we already wanted to give up! So, I didn’t participate in searching the basement. Ran Tao took that responsibility! Unexpectedly, when the basement search was just coming to an end, Ran Tao found a dusty cardboard box.”

She then paused for a moment before continuing, “When we opened it, there was a devil mask in it. That mask was exactly the same as the devil the witness described in the Devil Case, and was the same one that was found in Zhang Jingru’s documents!”

“Ah!” Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu and the others were all stunned. Even Ma Laodan and Song Meili did not know why, but they also had shocked looks on their faces.

Miao Ying continued, “Later, I’ll send it to you. When you see it with your own eyes, you’ll see that it looks even more terrible than you can imagine! In addition to the devil mask, we found several pieces of black clothes and plastic bags that were packed with chemicals.”

Miao Ying then said, “The Forensics Department suspects that these chemicals were phosphorus! Phosphorus has a very low ignition point and is highly flammable when it is exposed to air. So, the ghost that was witnessed at the scene was probably just the phosphorus being ignited! And... If there were some copper-containing compounds in it, it would have turned green when it was burned!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu said. “It seems that we were making things too complicated before! It turned out to be so simple!”

Miao Ying then said, “Yes! And... Since all of the victims in the Devil Case died in the middle of the night, the murderer must have brought the unconscious victims to the crime scene, then made his arrangements at the scene, while waiting for the victims to wake up. When the victims woke up, he immediately ignited the phosphorus, which looked like a ghost... Or devil.”

She then said, “The victims would have just come to their senses, and their minds couldn’t work properly, so when they saw such a horrible scene, they would definitely choose to run in the opposite direction! The opposite direction in this case was the edge of the abandoned building!”

Zhao Yu then said in astonishment, “So... All of the victims jumped out of the buildings by themselves!”

Miao Ying nodded and said, “Yes! Fifteen years ago, investigative technology was not as developed as it is today, and dandruff tissue extraction technology was not current. So, the police couldn’t know whether the victim had been unconscious before he died, and extracting the residual phosphorus after it was burned was not easy for the police.”

Miao Ying continued, "The police can only rely on the footprints and traces that were left at the scene. But, the murderer must have also thought about this, so he put sand around the victim so that it would be the victim's footprints that were found at the scene instead. In this way, the police would think that the victim had jumped out of the building himself, forcing them to close the case as a suicide!"

Zhao Yu exhaled heavily, then sighed before he said in a deep voice, "So, the Devil Case, which is one of China's five unsolved cases and one that the police have struggled to solve for 15 years, turned out to be that simple..."

Miao Ying then said, "The devil mask basically confirms that Lang Xiangyang is the murderer from the Devil Case! But... We still don't know what role Han Kuan played in this case. And, did he kill Zhang Jingru?"

"This shouldn't be very difficult to find out, should it?" Zhao Yu asked.

He then said, "As long as you check the evidence carefully, the truth will come out in the end. Fifteen years ago, they did not know that there was a way to extract dandruff tissue. Now, if we can extract Han Kuan's dandruff tissue from the evidence, it can prove that Han Kuan is involved. If not, it means that he is innocent, and we only need to deal with his wife's case!"

Miao Ying then said, "All of the evidence has been sent to the Beiqian Police Station, so the results will be out soon!"

"Good job!" Zhao Yu nodded and said. "As soon as the results come out, tell me immediately!"

"Okay, um..." After that, Miao Ying seemed to have something to say. However, after several seconds, she simply hung up the phone.

In fact, although Miao Ying did not say it, Zhao Yu knew what she was worried about. Although they had found clear evidence from Lang Xiangyang's home, which could convict Lang Xiangyang, there were no other supporting evidence. So, if Lang Xiangyang was really the murderer from the Devil Case, then they should be able to find more evidence in his stuff.

Zhao Yu still felt that Lang Xiangyang's personal characteristics did not match those of the real murderer from the Devil Case. Also, it was not like the Headless Female Corpses Case, so Zhao Yu knew at a glance that Li Fei was the murderer!

As he thought about this, Zhao Yu had a bad feeling, and he wondered... What if Lang Xiangyang is only an accomplice in the Devil Case, while the real murderer is someone else?