

Crazy 931

Chapter 931: New Year Upgrade

Zhao Yu finally had a break before New Year's Day came around. Together with Miao Ying and Tycoon, he returned to Qinshan via the Criminal Division's special car.

Zhao Yu did not break his promise to Cui Lizhu. Before leaving, he applied for a pass for her, which allowed her to go and see Tao Xiang in a psychiatric institution, where she could accompany him for a long visit.

As Tao Xiang was a criminal with heavy charges against him, as well as a man with serious diseases, regular hospitals were not suitable for him to be kept within. Hence, he was being imprisoned in a special medical institution, where he received treatment under surveillance and was prevented from harming others.

There were few such special medical institutions that were affiliated with the judicial department. Their patients were people who had been convicted of serious crimes. Applications for visiting them were hardly approved, let alone accompanying them within the institutions for long periods of time!

Therefore, Cui Lizhu was very grateful to Zhao Yu. She promised to Zhao Yu that she wouldn't cause him any trouble in the New Year.

Not knowing why, whenever he looked at her, Zhao Yu always saw himself as he was during his early days within Cui Lizhu. All of the changes that had happened to this unruly little girl were just the same things that had taken place within himself in the past.

Of course, this was not only the case with Cui Lizhu, but with other members as well, such as Ran Tao, who always made Zhao Yu feel gratified in seeing the great strides that he had made.

These two individuals both continued to make progress in solving several major cases with Zhao Yu. So, Zhao Yu was full of confidence in their future work.

The day he returned to Qinshan was December 29. Since he and Miao Ying had not been back for a long time, they wanted to meet with many old colleagues and share a meal together.

Zhao Yu was quite popular now, so he didn't want to notify the leaders of his return and cause a ruckus. Instead, he just called some of his best friends, such as Li Beni, Zhang Yaohui, Zhang Jingfeng, Liang Huan and Lan Bo, then went to a restaurant for a small gathering.

Seeing that Miao Ying had returned safely, his old colleagues felt relieved. However, Zhao Yu and Miao Ying didn't want them to know about Miao Ying's real identity, so they avoided bringing up the topic altogether.

Since Zhao Yu had left Qinshan, the Rongyang Branch had been peaceful. Apart from several injuries, there had been no difficult cases or serious homicides. Therefore, at the table, the old colleagues made jokes that Zhao Yu's cases were all intentionally prepared for Zhao Yu's promotion!

The well-informed Lan Bo said that Zhao Yu's promotion was a definite thing. In January, at the latest, he predicted that Zhao Yu would become an official member of the Central Criminal Division, thus no longer being under the control of the Qinshan or Longxi Provinces.

The Central Criminal Division leadership thought highly of Zhao Yu and couldn't wait to have him join them. Zhao Yu's rapid promotion was rare in China. It was like riding on a rocket and soaring up into the sky!

However, Zhao Yu didn't care that much about the promotion. He still showed a calm look upon hearing this news.

For him, whether it was in Qinshan or as the special investigation group leader, the nature of his work didn't change! After all, Zhao Yu only cared about one thing, which was solving cases!

Miao Ying said that she was addicted to solving cases, but in fact, Zhao Yu's addiction was greater than hers. His addiction to investigating was far more of a pull for him than any satisfaction that money and position could bring.

He enjoyed finding out the truth and getting justice for others. Nothing excited him more than solving a case. Sometimes, he even had a feeling that he was born specifically to solve cases!

After lunch, Zhao Yu bought some stuff and visited his landlord Jiang Dafeng. Although Zhao Yu hadn't been to Qinshan in a long time, he liked his house on Shunfeng Street very much. So, whether he lived there or not, he always paid the rent on time and never wanted to end his lease.

Now, Jiang Dafeng's wife's condition had greatly improved and Jiang Xiaoqing was attending a top high school. The family lived a happy life.

Jiang Dafeng was clever, and after he learned that Zhao Yu was famous now and had been placed in a high position, he immediately discarded his past unpleasant memories about Zhao Yu and told everyone that Zhao Yu was his relative. He even gifted Zhao Yu with several boxes of fruits!

When Zhao Yu arrived at the rented house, he felt slightly disappointed that Yang Hong and Huahua no longer lived opposite it. A new family had moved in there.

Because Zhao Yu had changed his phone and Wechat numbers several times since he had lived here, he had not been in touch with them for a long time. Thus, he had no clue as to their current situation.

Thinking about what had happened to them in the past, Zhao Yu had a special feeling about them. However, now that he was with Miao Ying, he no longer looked back nostalgically, as his past now seemed to have drifted away like passing clouds.

Zhao Yu wanted to go to the gym where he used to meet his old friends like Zhou Yang. But, after he called over there, he learned that it was closed today and would only open again after the holiday.

So, Zhao Yu gave up this idea. Instead, he went and bought some holiday items with Miao Ying. The pair then drove Miao Ying's Land Rover to his parents' house.

The Spring Festival was very important to the people in his village. When Zhao Yu's parents saw their son returning with a girl, they were overwhelmed by happiness and rushed to prepare a good meal.

The village was a small place, and Zhao Yu's legendary story had spread across it. So, everyone knew about him.

Because of this, everyone treated Zhao Yu's parents differently from before. Doggy Li and Zhao Jinsheng dared not do bad things to his family now. Moreover, even the village leadership had to respect them.

In particular, the police station sent their family valuable gifts before Zhao Yu came back, which made the neighbors envy them a great deal! If it was in the past, Zhao Yu would have definitely wanted to show off. This was because he used to think that not only the police station, but the Provincial Office should respect him.

However, Zhao Yu was different now. He did not feel the need to show off any longer. Instead, he politely asked his family to keep a low profile. As he said, he was an honest and humble man now, so his family members should be honest and humble, too.

Zhao Yu's mother nodded, then asked him with a serious look, "So, what do you mean by us being honest?"

Zhao Yu felt quite embarrassed and Miao Ying laughed upon hearing the question.

In the blink of an eye, it was New Year's day. Zhao Yu had a good time at home. Of course, this was also because he had Miao Ying's company.

Zhao Yu recalled how he came to this moment in his life. He came to this new life in May of last year, and in less than a year, he'd already had so many wonderful experiences. For this reason, he almost felt like he'd been living in this world for many decades.

He remembered every case clearly. As he was thinking about his past experiences, he suddenly got emotional. He had changed from an arrogant and rude man into a calm and reliable Unsolved Cases Master, which was an amazing transformation!

No matter what, he felt that it was necessary to thank the Miracle System for its help in his being able to have made such achievements. If it wasn't for the system, he would not know what he would be at this moment.

Just as he was thinking about the system, Zhao Yu found that the system was sending him a notice! He opened the system and was surprised to find that his adventure points were enough for a new upgrade!

Chapter 932: Meticulous Miao Ying

The sudden upgrade was a bit strange. Zhao Yu didn't plan to open any new hexagrams over the holiday, as he wanted to have a peaceful New Year. So, without new hexagrams, his adventure points shouldn't have grown.

This made him wonder... Why did the system upgrade automatically? Did the system give me extra points because of the New Year holiday?

He took a good look at the upgraded system interface. It had turned into a 3D interface and looked beautiful.

However, the system functions remained the same. It showed that he had only 400 points left at present, and the next upgrade required 10,000 points.

Zhao Yu clicked the device bar and found several new functions. One function enabled him to replace the devices that he didn't need with what he might find useful. However, each time that this device replacement was used, it would require a certain amount of points, which was not a good deal in Zhao Yu's opinion.

There was also a function that allowed Zhao Yu to sell the devices that he didn't like for points. However, after Zhao Yu tried this function, he found that the points he could get for selling his devices were very limited. Thus, this new function was essentially useless to him.

Then, he went back to the main interface to check the other functions. The hexagram fonts looked more beautiful than before, but this seemed to be the only change.

However, when he clicked on the side adventure bar, strangely, he couldn't open the function tab. He was surprised, and immediately wondered... Hey? What's this? Why can't I open it?

Zhao Yu hurriedly opened a new hexagram, which was a Sun Li. Then, he clicked on the side adventure again, only to find that he still couldn't open it!

What's this? Is the system undergoing maintenance? Why is there no side adventure? Zhao Yu shook his head, clearly frustrated.

He then thought... That's just great. The upgrade made my system even worse to work with. Brilliant! So, you don't want me to use side adventures next time? That means I will lose an important source of help...

Zhao Yu was disappointed with the upgrade. If he couldn't open a new side adventure, he couldn't get adventure points.

This meant that he could not earn a next upgrade either! It seemed like a dead-end.

Thinking about this, he studied the new interface for a long time, but did not find anything useful in the end. Finally, Zhao Yu could only comfort himself, saying to himself that the system was trying to challenge him by increasing the difficulty of solving cases. But, he was a little bit worried about whether or not he could solve cases successfully without the help of side adventures in the future.

The second day of the first lunar month was the day that had been set for the family reunion to take place, but Miao Ying had nowhere to go. So, Zhao Yu played cards with Miao Ying in the morning, then walked with her and Tycoon along the river. This New Year was quite late this year, and they could feel spring all around them as they walked.

Miao Ying took Zhao Yu's arm and said softly, "You don't have to say anything. I'm used to being left out! My parents always have a special political task every New Year's. In the past, I spent every New Year's with my parents' old comrades, either in the Aegean Sea or in Havana. I've gotten used to it."

"Oh..." Zhao Yu nodded and said, "It's no wonder your father appeared so guilty when he was having a drink with me. You are the one he thought that he owed the most in the world. Not being able to stay with you during the New Year festivities is hard for them, too."

Tycoon seemed to be able to understand them, as the dog chose that exact moment to bark at Zhao Yu and Miao Ying.

Miao Ying laughed and said, "I understand their difficulties! Besides, I feel much better now that I am with you! It's so good to stay with you over the holiday. Also, because of you, my parents won't worry that much about me."

Zhao Yu smiled as he held Miao Ying's waist. "Now I understand why you were such a workaholic when I first met you!"

"Yes, at that time, work and fighting were all I had in my life." Miao Ying nodded, her eyes lighting up as she spoke. "By the way, Zhao Yu, we haven't had a good battle for a long time, have we? I feel like I have become a bit lazy!"

Miao Ying puffed up her chest and made a gesture like she was going to fight him. Zhao Yu quickly stopped her, then pointed to his leg and said, "Don't make trouble for me. My leg is not healed yet. Are you not afraid of making your husband disabled permanently?"

Miao Ying was confused. "But, your leg is really weird. Where is the plaster cast? And, if it's so badly injured, how did you kick Han Kuan's lawyer in Golden City?"

Zhao Yu didn't want Miao Ying to find out his secret, so he changed the subject quickly. "Is that lawyer suing me?"

"Don't try to change the subject!" Unexpectedly, Miao Ying realized his purpose immediately.

She then asked, "When you were at Yaoming, you had two gunfights and pursued those robbers! Then, you drove that yellow truck and collided with the robbers' truck. Next, you punched a big guy to death. Finally, you ran with your injured leg and chased after Jiang Ke. Were you filming an action movie? Regardless, right now, I think that you are filming a science fiction, right?"

Zhao Yu burst out laughing, then said with great pride, "When the lawyer heard Han Kuan's confession, he didn't want to sue me anymore! Isn't that funny?"

Miao Ying replied without any expression on her face, "Of course it's funny! But, trying to avoid answering my question is useless. These are Jiang Ke's accomplices' testimonies. Do you remember them?"

Zhao Yu patted his right leg. "I'm not ignoring your question. The doctor deliberately exaggerated my situation to make more money from my medical bills! My situation is actually not that serious at all!"

"Is a fracture an exaggeration?" Miao Ying shook her head. "Please, I'm not stupid, okay? Are you hiding something from me? I haven't heard you talking about your amazing friends for a long time."

"Then... Alright..." Zhao Yu stretched out his hands, made a fighting pose, then said, "I'll satisfy your wishes! Beat me, and I'll tell you! If you lose, you can never ask me about this again!"

"Well..." Miao Ying nodded happily, "Okay! But, in order to be fair, I'll only use leg!"

Miao Ying suddenly lifted one leg and supported herself with the other leg. Tycoon seemed to feel the tension and began barking at them wildly.

“Remember, I killed a big man with one blow, so you must be careful!” Zhao Yu let go of the dog’s chain that he had been holding and got ready for a fight.

Miao Ying’s eyes flashed excitedly, and she rushed forward and took a punch at Zhao Yu! Zhao Yu did not dodge it, but punched right back. Miao Ying quickly changed her attack to come at him from another angle, while throwing a Thai boxing hook at him!

“That big man was killed by a broken rearview mirror! It was just a coincidence!” Zhao Yu defended himself from Miao Ying’s hook with his shoulder, and in turn, he caught her neck. Since Miao Ying’s neck couldn’t move, she kicked Zhao Yu in the head with her left leg.

“When I was chasing Jiang Ke on skates...” Zhao Yu covered his forehead with his hands and jumped at Miao Ying, like a wolf aiming at its prey. “My leg injury was not that serious! But, when I strangled his neck, I fell. That’s when my leg injury became more serious.”

Miao Ying cried out and sent a spin kick toward Zhao Yu, which almost struck him in the face. Zhao Yu ducked his head and shouted, “Didn’t you just say that you would just use one leg?”

“I meant my left leg!” Miao Ying said, while she sent another spin kick his way.

When Zhao Yu saw an opportunity, he jumped up and made an unconventional side-forward attack in the air, thus avoiding Miao Ying’s spin kick. He then came in front of Miao Ying before she was able to react.

At that time, as long as he threw a punch, Miao Ying would fall to the ground. However, of course, Zhao Yu could not do that to Miao Ying. So, he just relaxed his arms and took Miao Ying into his embrace.

Miao Ying struggled several times, but couldn’t get free from Zhao Yu’s embrace. When she was thoroughly annoyed, she suddenly felt that the strength behind her was weakening. She then took the opportunity and did a shoulder throw!

Tycoon saw that its master was beaten, so the dog started barking nonstop and nipping at Miao Ying’s ankles. After Miao Ying finally shooed Tycoon away, she gasped and sat down next to Zhao Yu.

“That lawyer is purely an unexpected...” As Zhao Yu lay on the ground, he wanted to explain, but Miao Ying stopped him with an affectionate kiss!

Of course, Zhao Yu couldn’t say anything! After the kiss, Miao Ying lay down beside Zhao Yu and said softly, “Okay, you won! I have to admit that I really can’t beat you any longer! You’ve gotten too strong!!”

Zhao Yu quickly comforted her, “Can’t you see why? It’s just that I know you too well!”

“Come on, no sweet talking me now!” Miao Ying said affectionately. “Can’t you see that I’m worried about you? Jiang Ke is not just a robber. You must be safe! I can’t let anything happen to you! Wherever you go, you must be safe.”

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu was deeply moved. He could only use a crazy kiss to repay Miss Miao for her sweet care and concern.

Tycoon seemed to understand them, and after barking a few more times, he seemed to have calmed and felt the harmony among the group once more.

Chapter 933: Disturbed Plan

During the Spring Festival, Zhao Yu finally had a good rest and got rid of the exhaustion that had resulted from the grueling process of solving the Devil Case. Although others thought that his leg was still recovering, his leg injury actually had no impact on his daily activities.

In his spare time, he carefully studied the upgraded system and the many new devices. He found that among the devices that he had acquired, the most powerful one was a Top Grade Device called the Emergency Evacuation Ball.

This device could be automatically activated when its owner's life was threatened, preventing any danger from harming him. However, so far, Zhao Yu had not had any occasion to use it.

Through his efforts in solving the previous major cases, he now had three Emergency Evacuation Balls, which were enough for him to deal with any unexpected accidents. Therefore, he decided to use one on Miao Ying. In this way, Miao Ying also has a source of vital protection!

Just before he was going to do that, he found that using an automatically activated device for others required extra points. For a Top Grade Device like an Emergency Evacuation Ball, the amount required was 450 points. Zhao Yu now had 460 points, which was just enough!

He couldn't open a new side adventure at this moment, so nothing was more important than using these points to protect Miao Ying's life. Therefore, he did not hesitate to use the rest of his points on Miao Ying.

This device was invisible, so Miao Ying wouldn't be able to notice any differences versus her usual self. Moreover, since it was invisible, Miao Ying could not see anything, even when the Emergency Evacuation Ball was activated.

After Zhao Yu used this device on Miao Ying, he only had 10 points left, which was the lowest amount of points he had ever had. However, knowing that Miao Ying was safe was all that matter, and it made him feel very relieved.

Zhao Yu thought that he could no longer get adventure points after the side adventures stopped. But, surprisingly, when he opened a hexagram the next day, his adventure points had increased! His completion score was 78% on that day, which caused his points to increase by exactly 78!

At this point, Zhao Yu finally understood that, although he couldn't have new side adventures at this time, the rule of getting points had changed. The completion score would now directly transfer over to the adventure points. In this way, he could still get new points, which actually seemed to be a much fairer measuring scale than before.

Zhao Yu shook his head as he thought... In this case, if I want to get more points, I must open a new hexagram every single day. But... It's New Year. Can't I just have a good rest first? Alright, forget it... Let me see what's new for today...

Zhao Yu quickly made his decision. He figured that in order to make the best use of his devices in the future, he must accumulate as many points as possible now. Therefore, starting from the second day of the New Year, Zhao Yu began opening new hexagrams daily, never missing a single day.

His most recent hexagrams were just average ones. For example, he had gotten the Xun for family, the Zhen for positions and ranks, or the Li and Kan hexagrams.

Also, because of the suspension of the side adventures, he no longer had to study the locations and times of the side adventures every day, which spared him much more time to get the proper rest that he needed.

Although it was now the New Year's holiday, Zhao Yu didn't forget his work. According to the Criminal Division's arrangements, Zhao Yu's schedule from the seventh day of the Lunar January to the end of January was already completely full!

The biggest part of his tasks involved training at the criminal investigation units in various places, followed by meetings, press interviews, and even magazine shoots, as well as working on books to publish! Zhao Yu felt like a big star now. At present, it seemed that he actually needed an agent!

This was, of course, a joke to Zhao Yu. He didn't want this kind of life. Except for some necessary appointments, he had actually cancelled all of the other things that had been lined up for him!

This was because, after the New Year, he still had important things to do, which was to solve the two remaining cases in the yellow notebook! Although the impact of these two cases was no greater than that of the Headless Female Corpses Case and the Devil Case, solving the five pending major cases had become Zhao Yu and Miao Ying's main purpose in life. So, they naturally did not want to be distracted by other things at this moment.

Apart from that, in June of this year, Zhao Yu had an important ceremony to attend at the invitation of Miao Ying's father, Miao Kun. Miao Kun had booked the famous Wanguo Hotel as the venue. This was where Zhao Yu and Miao Ying would have their grand engagement celebration!

Zhao Yu used to feel proud about the 10 million yuan he had cheated from Miao Kun. But, after he learned how Miao Kun had booked the Wanguo Hotel for them, his pride turned into more of a complacent feeling.

It turned out that when Miao Kun wanted to book the Wanguo Hotel, the hotel refused him because they had no available slots. This made Miao Kun so angry that he actually bought the Wanguo Hotel at quite a high price! Now, not only did the Wanguo Hotel belong to Miao Kun, but he owned the whole Wanguo Group as well!

Zhao Yu really couldn't imagine how it felt when people had more money than they could spend. He just thought that he'd better complete the two remaining two cases before his engagement.

In this way, he could fulfill his long-cherished wish and also present his beloved goddess with the best gift! At the same time, others would know that his new name, Unsolved Cases Master, had been given to him for a good reason!

Therefore, Zhao Yu's ultimate goal was to solve the last two remaining cases from the notebook. Although Division Chief Jiao wanted him to do it following the arrangement of the Criminal Division, she knew that she couldn't force Zhao Yu to give up investigating the two cases on his own.

So, she could only negotiate with the leadership and approve Zhao Yu's application to do so. In fact, although the two cases weren't as famous as the Headless Female Corpses Case and the Devil Case, they were old cases from many years ago and were both vicious homicides.

The leaders of the Criminal Division were smart. They naturally wouldn't stop Zhao Yu from investigating the two cases.

After all, if Zhao Yu succeeded, it would only benefit the Criminal Division's, as the criminals at large would be decrease exponentially. This would definitely be a good thing to them!

After getting their approval, Zhao Yu and Miao Ying began to prepare for their coming investigations by studying the yellow notebook. This time, they both decided to start with the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case.

In terms of time span, the Ziliu Town Rural Cooperatives Homicide Case came first and already had a suspect, so it seemed like they would pick that one first. However, the suspect, Yang Zebiao, had been on the run for 13 years, without anyone knowing his whereabouts.

Zhao Yu thought that having his team to prioritize case this first would be a waste of talent. Therefore, Zhao Yu and Miao Ying decided that it would be better to start with the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case.

They made a detailed investigation plan. On the seventh day of the lunar calendar in January, they would first go to the Criminal Division in Beijing to meet their team members. They would then go to the remote Fulai Province to start investigating the case.

However, at this time, the past seemed to be repeating itself, as just as Zhao Yu was preparing for the case investigation, an unexpected accident disrupted his plan!

On the fifth day of the lunar calendar in January, Zhao Yu was woken up by the sound of firecrackers in the morning, then he unexpectedly opened a Kun Kan hexagram. This made him realize that something that he most certainly wouldn't like must be coming for him!

Around noon, Chen Zhuo, the liaison officer, called him and informed him of some unfortunate news. Wu Fangfang, the leader of the 015 special investigation group, was killed in Martyrs Memorial Park in Changming City in the Jizhou Province at about 9 a.m. this morning.

Chapter 934: Is It a Coincidence this Time?

On the sixth day of the first lunar month, at 8:15 a.m., right outside the high-speed railway station of Changming City in the Jizhou Province.

"Alright then..." Zhao Yu said into the phone, "In that case, you will not return to the team for the time being. If you need money, just let me know! It's okay... Don't cry... Don't be so emotional. You know, I am an honest man..."

Before Zhao Yu hung up the phone, he and Miao Ying had already seen Ran Tao coming to pick them up at the station. Ran Tao lived in Beijing, and his house was less than two hours away from Changming. So, he had come to the scene yesterday to learn the details of the case.

At this moment, he came to meet Zhao Yu and Miao Ying, driving the car that was designated for use by the Criminal Division only. Due to Zhao Yu's current popularity, the Changming Police Station had wanted to welcome him with a motorcade, but Zhao Yu had asked Ran Tao in advance to pick up him and Miao Ying at the station alone, without letting anyone else know about their arrival.

"What happened?" When Miao Ying saw that Zhao Yu had ended the call, she couldn't help but ask, "Is it about the burglar?"

Zhao Yu smacked his lips. "Come on, she's a member of our special investigation group, not a burglar anymore, okay? She just called to say that Tao Xiang suddenly got worse. The doctors are going to perform a craniotomy on him, so she's not coming to meet us."

"Oh..." Miao Ying nodded. "Do you want to verify that?"

"No! I have no doubt about our members!" Zhao Yu shook his head. "Can't you see that she has changed? Don't worry, there's no problem with her! It's just... I don't know if Tao Xiang will make it through the operations this time..."

Miao Ying sighed. "The king of thieves has finally come to such an end. It sounds like quite a sad story."

Zhao Yu said, "I hope that Tao Xiang can get through it this time. He has many untold secrets that I'm curious to know about."

"Boss, Leader Miao!" Ran Tao hurried to greet them and took their luggage. "Happy New Year!"

Because he was just discussing his old colleague's death, Zhao Yu did not feel in the mood to pay New Year's greetings to Ran Tao.

Before he got in the car, he asked anxiously, "Well, you went to the scene yesterday, right? What's the latest on the situation there?"

Ran Tao put the luggage into the car, then sat in the driver's seat and said, "Yes, I have been to the scene. Wu Fangfang is the head of her special investigation group, so the Criminal Division attaches great importance to her accident, and even Gao Facai has come with his team to help look for answers!"

Ran Tao then said, "At present, they are going through the routine procedures. Yesterday, the Changming Crime Investigation's Captain took charge. They are waiting for you to come so that they can hand over the leadership role to you."

Zhao Yu sat next to Ran Tao and asked, "Why did she go to visit graves on the fifth day of the New Year? And... Why did she go to Martyrs Memorial Park in particular?"

Ran Tao started the car, then said with a solemn expression, "Wu Fangfang is not a Changming local! She went to Changming Martyrs Memorial Park to pay her respects at her fiancé's grave! The reason why she chose that day was because it was her fiancé's birthday. However, she was killed in front of her fiancé's grave!"

Ran Tao then said with a heavy heart, "When I went to the crime scene yesterday, I saw that the bunch of lilies that she had placed on the grave had been dyed red by her blood!"

After hearing this, Miao Ying asked, "Oh dear! How did she die? From what I heard, she might have been struck over the head with a blunt object... Is that true?"

Ran Tao said, "Yes. She was hit on the back of the head, more than once! The scene is very bloody, so the killer must be very cruel! The weapon may have been a hammer! Oh... And... Last night... I heard from Gao Facai that there were wounds on her neck and traces of her being strangled, but they were not the actual cause of her death!"

Zhao Yu frowned, then suddenly had a bad feeling and started to say, "This case..."

"What?" Miao Ying noticed Zhao Yu's abnormal behavior, and when his sentence trailed off, she asked, "What are you trying to say?"

"The strangling and the striking marks conflict with one another!" Zhao Yu finally pointed out the key point that had been causing him trouble. "If I wanted to use a hammer to kill Huo Fangfang, why would I strangle her as well? Don't you think that's simply needless extra effort?"

Miao Ying understood what Zhao Yu meant immediately. "If the killer could have strangled her to death, he wouldn't have needed to use the weapon as well! Or, the killer must really hate her. Zhao Yu, didn't you use to work with her?"

"Wu Fangfang, nicknamed 'Hot potato,' had a very short temper," Zhao Yu shook his head. "She offended many people, including me! It's just... I find it hard to believe that an enemy at work could have killed her so cruelly."

Ran Tao suddenly shouted loudly to Zhao Yu, "Boss, I remember hearing from you that Wu Fangfang's fiance was an undercover agent in a drug gang! As Wu Fangfang was killed in front of her fiance's grave, do you think that it could be related to those drug dealers?"

Zhao Yu shook his head. "I don't know. It may also be because of her work! Division Chief Jiao said that she had made great contributions to the Criminal Division and had solved many major cases for them. So, it's possible that she offended some very bad guys in the process."

He then asked, "Ran Tao, did you find anything at the scene?"

"The Martyrs Memorial Park is a public park, so on the fifth day of the New Year, no one was on duty. Most of those visiting their families' graves went there before the New Year. So, we haven't found any witnesses yet!" Ran Tao said.

He then added, "Also, the park only has cameras at the main entrance and in the memorial hall, and even then, we haven't found anything on those surveillance tapes. We could only see Wu Fangfang holding a bunch of lilies in her hand in the footage!"

Ran Tao thought about it a bit longer, then said, "But... I don't think this case should be very difficult to solve! It's like the local criminal investigation captain said, Changming was among the first cities to install Skynet, which means that there are many security cameras near Martyrs Memorial Park. So, it is only a matter of time before they capture the murderer."

After hearing this, Miao Ying said, "Maybe there will have been some new findings when we arrive at the police station. Ran Tao, what about Wu Xiumin and Zeng Ke?"

Ran Tao answered, "Oh... They're on their way! They are flying here together. In fact, they should be at the airport now!"

Ran Tao then said, "Zeng Ke will be very happy to learn that the beautiful forensic doctor, Zhang Peipei, has come along with Gao Facai on this case! The last time we went to Beiqian, Zeng Ke had made some progress with her with my help. By the time this case is solved, I suppose the relationship between the two of them will almost be settled!"

During the conversation, Ran Tao had driven the police car onto the highway, and it would take another 10 minutes for them to reach the Changming Police Station. Unexpectedly, Zhao Yu's mobile phone suddenly rang. It was Gao Facai calling.

"Mr. Gao, happy New Year!" Zhao Yu said.

But, Gao Facai was in no mood for pleasantries, so he said with a trembling and excited voice to Zhao Yu, "Leader Zhao... This is serious! I'm placing you on speaker mode..."

Gao Fangfang, who was beside him, then swallowed hard and said, "We found the skin tissue of the suspected murderer from under the victim's nails. After conducting DNA testing, we have a suspect! But..."

Zhao Yu was also excited now, so he urged her impatiently, "But what?"

"The DNA matches perfectly with a man named Yang Zebiao!"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yu almost jumped out of the car seat. "Isn't Yang Zebiao the suspect from the Ziliu Case from 13 years ago? No way! How could he..."

Upon hearing the news, Miao Ying and Ran Tao were also shocked. But, Zhao Yu's reaction was different from Miao Ying's and Ran Tao's. He suddenly had a feeling that what had happened to him before might be repeating itself once again!

At the Jinping Nursing Home, he had met Tao Xiang unexpectedly, which got him get involved in the Headless Female Corpses Case! Then, when he was investigating Han Kuan's wife's death in Golden City, he had found the clue that was related to the Devil Case. Now, he was investigating Wu Fangfang's death, but the Ziliu Case's suspect's DNA had suddenly appeared!

Suddenly, Zhao Yu's heart started to beat wildly in his chest. He was very clear that this was definitely not a coincidence! There must be an important secret in this case!

Chapter 935: Chain Reaction

Ran Tao was with Zhao Yu when they solved the Headless Female Corpses Case and the Devil Case. At this moment, he was trying to control the car and converse with the others at the same time.

Suddenly, he exclaimed, "This is crazy! When we wanted to investigate the yellow notebook cases, we were always distracted by other tasks. But now, an important clue has emerged from a non-notebook case again! What an unbelievable thing!"

Miao Ying smacked her lips, then asked, "So... Wu Fangfang's death is related to the Ziliu Case? That's strange... Yang Zebiao has been missing for 13 years, but came out of hiding now? Why? Did he have some deep hatred for her?"

"Yes... What a coincidence! Zhao Yu frowned, then said with a confused look, "The winter is cold in Jizhou, so the murderer must have been wearing layers of clothes. So, how could he have left DNA under Wu Fangfang's nails?"

Miao Ying immediately said, "It's possible! I've investigated similar cases before."

She then pressed on Zhao Yu's neck and pointed to his face. "It would have been left on these places! Don't forget that the murderer strangled Wu Fangfang's neck before he killed her!"

Miao Ying then analyzed the situation, saying, "When the murderer was behind her, Wu Fangfang must have struggled out of a survival instinct. She might have grabbed the murderer's cheek or neck, which would explain the DNA evidence!"

"That makes sense," Zhao Yu said.

But, he soon shook his head and said, "But, if the murderer had planned to kill her, he wouldn't have made such a mistake, where the police could identify him so easily! That just doesn't make sense!"

Miao Ying agreed with him and raised a question, "If it was a murder on the grounds of provocation, why would the killer strike her head with a hammer? The murderer's behavior is really very strange!"

Zhao Yu placed his fingers on his temple. He had a raging headache! He didn't expect that Wu Fangfang's case would bring them such confusion from the very beginning!

Although the DNA came as a pleasant surprise to him, and he had almost the same experience in some cases before, Zhao Yu still had deep doubts about this case.

He looked at his system interface and saw the Kun Kan hexagram that he had opened yesterday morning still hadn't ended yet! This meant that this hexagram was still in effect!

Undoubtedly, the Kan represented the dead Wu Fangfang. But, Zhao Yu wasn't sure what the Kun represented yet. Judging from the present situation, the Kun might not only refer to the unexpected death of Wu Fangfang, but also to the Ziliu Case.

Although the hexagram was clear, Zhao Yu was still unwilling to believe that the DNA was really just a coincidence! As he shook his head, he carefully recalled the first two major cases.

Whether it was the clue from the Headless Female Corpses Case that he got from Tao Xiang or the clue from the Devil Case that he had received from Han Kuan, Zhao Yu could see that there was a logic to it all, even though the instances looked like coincidences.

But, the DNA that they had found under Wu Fangfang nails really threw him for a loop. In Zhao Yu's current opinion, a simple coincidence alone couldn't explain it.

Zhao Yu pressed his temple and thought carefully, but his thoughts were not clear. Although he thought of many things, he could not come up with a suitable explanation.

Before Zhao Yu could think of anything useful, Ran Tao had driven the police car into the courtyard of the Changming Police Station. Knowing that Zhao Yu was coming, the local police leaders and many policemen had been waiting at the entrance for a long time.

As they all met, they exchanged greetings. Although Zhao Yu was a casual person, his experience as the special investigation group leader had taught him a lot of official courtesies, so he could handle such social events quite well now.

After their initial pleasantries were exchanged, Zhao Yu immediately wanted to discuss the case with them. The Changming criminal police captain took Zhao Yu to the forensics department and introduced the case and their investigation progress in detail to Zhao Yu.

The criminal police captain was a female, and her name was Wang Yongxia. Although she was tall and a bit older than Zhao Yu, she was well dressed and had a special charm about her.

Captain Wang said, "Officer Zhao, thanks to last night's effort, we have found some suspected targets from the cameras near the park! Now, we are checking them one by one, and we should have some results for you soon!"

She smiled as she continued, "Also, we have learned what Leader Wu had done just before she was killed. She came here by high-speed rail from Jinghai on the morning of the incident. She carried the lilies with her all the way. When she left the high-speed railway station, she took a taxi directly to Changming Martyrs Memorial Park."

She paused for a moment, then continued, "We have checked all of the footage of her travel from our various surveillance cameras in the district, but we found nothing suspicious. Um... And... We also contacted the Jinghai side and asked them to assist in the investigation."

Zhao Yu nodded a bit absentmindedly. He was still thinking about the Ziliu Case.

"And..." Captain Wang added, "We have arranged a special office for your special investigation group to work within, and the case materials have been placed there according to your request!"

"Good job!" Zhao Yu nodded and smiled.

He then said earnestly, "Remember that I am cooperating with you, not commanding you. So, you can continue to investigate the case following your routine procedures. Just remember to inform us of any changes in the situation at any time!"

"Oh... Of course." Captain Wang nodded repeatedly.

During the conversation, they had arrived at the forensics department's office. Unexpectedly, Gao Facai was pacing back and forth in the doorway. He had clearly been waiting anxiously for Zhao Yu to arrive!

The minute he saw Zhao Yu and the others, he rushed everyone into the office. Because there had been a major change in the case, Zhao Yu did not let Captain Wang and the other Changming police officers come in.

“There’s blood under her nails!” As soon as Zhao Yu entered the office, Gao Facai said eagerly, “I have tested everything twice! It is definitely Yang Zebiao’s blood under the victim’s nails! Zhao Yu, it’s time to report these findings to your leaders! This is a big deal!”

“Yes, I’ll definitely report this. Calm down now, and just tell me more about it.” Zhao Yu was obviously much calmer than Gao Facai because he had gone through many big cases already.

“The cause of death for Leader Wu was that her occipital bone was struck by a blunt object!” Gao Facai picked up the test report on the table as he spoke. “Based on the fracture marks, the murderer struck her head at least six times, quite ferociously!”

He then pointed to the photo on the report and said, “And... Judging by the marks on her neck, the murderer first attacked her from behind, then strangled the leader’s neck, this rendering her unconsciousness. And only then did he strike her with a heavy object!”

Gao Facai then said, “Judging from the marks on the ground, although there was a short struggle, it did not last long. This shows that the murderer must be a very strong person!”

Zhao Yu shook his head, then said, “I once had a fight with Leader Wu. Although she was not necessarily robust, she was no weakling either! It was a difficult thing to beat her, and I am quite strong!”

Gao Facai nodded, then said, “It is precisely because Leader Wu knew how to fight and knew the importance of DNA evidence that she scratched the murderer’s skin, thus leaving us the evidence we need! So, you must catch the murderer!”

Ran Tao suddenly scratched his head as asked, “Do you think that Leader Wu might have known the person who attacked her? Did she and Yang Zebiao have a history?”

“Well... Wu Fangfang is a special investigation group leader... And Yang Zebiao is a wanted criminal...” Miao Ying muttered.

Then, her eyes suddenly lit up. “Hey? Wu Fangfang has been in the special investigation group for many years. Has she ever investigated the Ziliu Case before? Or, maybe she had already obtained some evidence pertaining to it?”

Upon hearing this, Ran Tao took out his phone and said, “I’ll call Chen Ke to check on this!”

However, someone knocked on the office door before Ran Tao had time to make the call.

“Come in!” Gao Facai said.

Then, Captain Wang pushed opened the door and reported to Zhao Yu and the others with an anxious look, “Leader Zhao, I just received news from the Jinghai police station. There was a break-in at Leader Wu’s house!”

Chapter 936: Striking Murder

“Leader Wu and her family live in Jinghai City!” Captain Wang reported to Zhao Yu and the others.

Captain Wang then said, "Leader Wu has her own house and lives alone. The police who went to her house found that her door had been pried open, and when they went inside the house, it was a total mess!"

Miao Ying quickly said to Zhao Yu, "Leader, it seems that our guess was right! Wu Fangfang must have investigated the Ziliu case before. And... She must have found something, which is why she was killed and her house was robbed!"

Ran Tao picked up his cell phone and said excitedly, "Boss, in that case, I must call Mr. Chen at once. I'll ask him to..."

After getting Zhao Yu's approval, Ran Tao did not hesitate and rushed to the next room to make a phone call.

"Leader Miao, don't jump to a conclusion too early! But..." Zhao Yu shook his head and nodded repeatedly as he spoke.

It seemed like he was not sure about his thoughts at the moment. "If a robbery and a murder occurred at the same time, the suspect may have had an accomplice. I'm afraid that this case is much more complicated than it at first seemed."

Miao Ying then said, "But, the robbery may tell us more about her death. This might have been a mistake that the murderer regretted making. After all, Wu Fangfang was a special investigation group leader, so she is very connected. This means that it won't be a hard thing for the police to catch the thief."

"Yes! Since the Jinghai police know it's regarding an important person, they're doing their best to catch the thief!" Wang Yongxia replied.

Then, doubts appeared on her face as she asked, "But... What you just said about the Ziliu case... What does that mean?"

At such a time, Zhao Yu thought that there was no need to hide it from Captain Wang. So, together with Gao Facai, he told her about the Ziliu Town Rural Cooperative Homicide Case and the wanted criminal Yang Zebiao.

Captain Wang looked panicked after Zhao Yu had finished speaking. She then rubbed her hands and feet excitedly as she asked, "Then... Shall I inform the Bureau Chief and apply for a warrant for arresting him?"

Zhao Yu quickly waved his hand, "No. That's not necessary. It's been a day since leader Wu was killed, so surely the killer must have left by now!"

Miao Ying agreed, "Yes. Besides, we shouldn't let many people know about this for the time being. Otherwise, it will cause a lot of unnecessary trouble!"

Captain Wang stammered excitedly, "Then... What shall we do? He's the most wanted criminal in the entire region! I can't let him disappear again!"

Zhao Yu sighed, then said, "What worries me more is that this case is not just about catching the wanted criminal!"

At this time, Ran Tao had finished his call, and he quickly reported, "I told Chen Zhuo the latest update about the situation. He is going to check that for me. And... Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai will be here soon! Both of them used to be in Wu Fangfang's group for many years. So, they would know her situation best."

Ran Tao then added, "Also, the 015 group will gather here soon. Now that they have lost their head leader, the Criminal Division has decided to temporarily transfer them to our group. So, they're under your command!"

Zhao Yu nodded, turned to Captain Wang and said, "Take us to the office!"

He then turned to Gao Facai and said, "Zeng Ke hasn't arrived yet. There is no time for the autopsy report now. Let's go together!"

Gao Facai nodded, picked up the report, and went to the temporary office with Zhao Yu and the others. When they got there, they saw that the Changming police had everything ready for Zhao Yu.

The office was a spacious case analysis room that had all of the necessary equipment within it. Because Ran Tao had told them in advance that they were usually his favored means of investigation, they had also prepared white boards for Zhao Yu's specific use.

A special investigation group had a distinct division of labor, and presiding over the case analysis meeting was generally the deputy team leader's responsibility. Therefore, after putting down her stuff, Miao Ying rolled a white board over to the center of the room.

She then said, "Wu Fangfang's death is now associated with other two cases... Her house's robbery and the Ziliu case. Based on the evidence that we currently have, the three cases appear to be very closely related to each other. For example, we think that Yang Zebiao might have killed Wu Fangfang, and he is also the major suspect in the Ziliu case."

Miao Ying then said solemnly, "What we are trying to do now is to catch Yang Zebiao. He has been missing for 13 years, and now that he finally appears, such a big case happened. This can't be a mere coincidence! There must be some important reasons for this!"

Unexpectedly, Ran Tao brought two people in from outside. "Come on! This way..."

Zhao Yu looked up and realized that he knew the two people! And... He not only knew them, but he had also had a fight with them! They were the liaison officers, Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai!

When he was investigating the Gem Theft Case in Jinping, Zhao Yu's and Leader Wu's groups had a big argument. At that time, Liu Zhanbing, who was a big and tall man, was beaten black and blue in the face by Zhao Yu.

However, the two liaison officers didn't take the past feud personally, and now that they had become a part of Zhao Yu's group, Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai dared not bring up the past argument. After entering the door, they simply greeted Zhao Yu and Miao Ying respectfully.

Ran Tao then said, "Boss, this case is really weird! I just asked them about it, and they said that the 015 group had never participated in the investigation of the Ziliu case or any cases related to it!"

Liu Zhanbing then said with a solemn expression, "Yes! Xu Hai and I have been with Leader Wu for six years, ever since the day we entered the group! Hence, we are very sure that our group has never investigated the Ziliu case!"

Xu Hai nodded. "Yes! Our group has never touched a pending case. Moreover, we never even heard our leader mention the Ziliu case!"

Then, Liu Zhanbing asked earnestly, "But... I wonder if Leader Zhao knows about this?"

Zhao Yu quickly asked, "What?"

Liu Zhanbing replied, "Leader Wu was born in Gaolanqi in the Mengxiang Province, and the Ziliu Town Rural Cooperative Homicide Case was also in Gaolanqi."

This new information shocked Zhao Yu and his team members.

Ran Tao pondered this for a moment, then asked, "Would it be possible that before Wu Fangfang became the special investigation group leader, she was a criminal police officer in Gaolanqi, which would explain how she might have worked on the Ziliu case?"

Xu Hai thought for a moment, then said, "That's impossible. Gaolanqi is her hometown! After she became a police officer, her family moved to Jinghai. So, she had been working in Jinghai before she joined the special investigation group!"

What the two liaison officers had just said only increased Zhao Yu's confusion. However, just when Xu Hai finished speaking, Miao Ying suddenly thought of something and murmured, "Why haven't I ever thought about this?"

"Um... What's on your mind?" Zhao Yu asked.

"Well... Just think about it... If Yang Zebiao killed Wu Fangfang because of the evidence that she had, then wouldn't murdering the head of the special investigation group from the Central Criminal Division invite more suspicion for the killer? It just doesn't make any sense."

What Miao Ying said stunned Zhao Yu for a moment, as that was the exact same important thing that he had thought about just now! But, he didn't see it as clearly as Miao Ying had.

Ran Tao then asked, "Oh... So... That is to say, Wu Fangfang didn't have evidence about him? But... Then why did Yang Zebiao take such a big risk?"

"My God..." Captain Wang had never worked on such a complicated case before, and he was suddenly too confused to speak.

Wu Fangfang... Yang Zebiao... The residue under Wu Fangfang's nails... The house robbery... The Ziliu case from thirteen years ago... And Gaolanqi. What is the secret behind all of these things? What's the secret behind the Ziliu case? Does the case have anything to do with Wu Fangfang? As Zhao Yu thought hard, a question occurred to him...

He found that there was another important element missing from the case. However, he couldn't figure out what exactly it was.

At this time, seeing Zhao Yu's serious look, no one dared to speak. After all, Zhao Yu was famous now, and everyone knew that he was a super detective. So, whenever the detective was thinking deeply about something, no one dared to disturb him!

Amid the silence, Zhao Yu concentrated on thinking about the missing element. What confused him the most was wondering why, at this critical point, they had gotten a clue about the Ziliu case? He couldn't find any other reason than mere coincidence to explain this.

Suddenly, Zhao Yu opened his mouth wide in surprise and his body quaked with terror. He then took out his phone and called Division Chief Jiao.

"Division Chief Jiao!" As soon as the call went through, Zhao Yu started speaking excitedly and loudly, "Listen to me! I need a professional security team from the Criminal Division to protect my family in my hometown! You must promise me that you will make this happen!"

Chapter 937: A Total Mess

As soon as Zhao Yu hung up the phone, Miao Ying rushed over and asked, "What happened? You think that this case is about you?"

Zhao Yu frowned as he said with great concern, "I'm not sure, but this is all too sudden. Anyway, it's an evil omen, so I should be careful."

Miao Ying was worried, so she suggested, "Let me ask my father to have a professional team come and protect them!"

Zhao Yu lowered his head and said, "Don't bother your father with that. Division Chief Jiao has issued an alert, and the Qinshan Police Station will take my family to a safe house and protect them! So, there should be no problem!"

Zhao Yu then took out his cell phone and said, "It's just... I need to explain this to my parents and my brother."

Miao Ying nodded, then said solemnly, "Yes. During this time especially, it's best to be careful. Just go. I'm going to call Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin now. They should also take precautions!"

When Captain Wang saw how Zhao Yu's group was planning to take precautions, as if they were anticipating a fierce enemy attack, she also felt the pressure to do the same. So, she said in a hurry, "I... I'm going to contact my leaders and ask for some security support! Do not worry! I won't let anyone get hurt in Changming."

"Ok, let's all be cautious." After Zhao Yu said this, he called his family, while Captain Wang left the office to go and report to her leaders.

"Mrs. Miao..." Ran Tao quickly realized that he was using the wrong title, so he paused, then said, "Leader Miao, how did I not see that this was coming?"

Miao Ying shook her head, then said, "Well... You can't beat yourself up. But, from now on, just be extra cautious. This is all because of the 'unsolved cases master' title. The Criminal Division threw the public spotlight on Zhao Yu, which made him a target."

She sighed, then continued, "This could be a threat. Think about it. Yang Zebiao has been gone for so many years. But now, he suddenly surfaces and exposes himself to the police? What's his purpose in doing so?"

Ran Tao thought for a moment, then asked, "So, do you think that he is worried that our leader will catch him, so he is taking action in advance? But... If that is the case, then why didn't he come straight for our boss?"

"Well... Maybe this is just a beginning..." Miao Ying took a deep breath, then said, "There must be an important reason for him to have killed Wu Fangfang!"

At this time, Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai, who had been listening to them for a while, nodded. Then, Xu Hai suddenly said, "We... Um... We want to see her. Is that okay?"

"Oh..." Miao Ying nodded. The two people had been following Leader Wu for many years, so they naturally had deep feelings for her.

Gao Facai said, "You can go to the anatomy room! Just tell my students that she was your leader. As you are professionals, I know that you can contain your grief."

"Thank you." Liu Zhanbing's voice choked when he spoke, "Although she had a short temper, she was very good to us!"

Xu Hai said sadly, "No one expected that during this festival time, she would suddenly suffer such a tragedy! I was truly hoping that nothing had actually happened, and that this was only a terrible dream."

Liu Zhanbing then said, "Ever since her fiancé died, these past few years have been very difficult for her! Pressure came at her from all sides, from her leaders and peers. But, she got through that hardship, and I really thought that she could finally have a good rest after the Indian gem case. But... I didn't expect that..."

Liu Zhanbing couldn't finish the sentence before descending into a fit of sobs.

Xu Hai suddenly thought of something and said hastily, "Leader Miao, please let leader Zhao know that the 015 Special Investigation Group has only three members besides Leader Wu. Besides the two of us, there is Investigator Liang, who is currently on vacation in Thailand. The liaison officer hasn't informed him of Leader Wu's death yet."

Xu Hai then said, "So, only the two of us are here to help now. As such, we are fully under leader Zhao's command. If you need any help with anything, just let us know!"

Liu Zhanbing wiped his tears away, then gave a salute as he said, "We will do our best to help you find the guy who killed Leader Wu!"

At this time, Zhao Yu just finished his call and heard what Liu Zhanbing had just said. He came over and said to the two new members, "I have a tough job for you to do right now, in fact!"

“You can rest assured that we will complete the task!” Liu Zhanbing said, while the two men stood straight and saluted Zhao Yu.

Zhao Yu then said, “The Criminal Division has not told the public about Leader Wu’s death yet, and even her family doesn’t know about it yet. As you know, we don’t have the right to hide it from her family, and because you two are leader Wu’s colleagues, I think it’s best for you to tell her family.”

Zhao Yu then said with great seriousness, “But, you must only tell her family. This must not become public knowledge yet. Of course, please understand that you are not only going there to express your condolences...”

Zhao Yu paused for a moment, then said, “I want you to talk with her family to see if there are maybe some important clues that you can get from them... Anything related to the Ziliu case and Yang Zebiao! Do you understand?”

Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai realized the importance of their task and nodded.

Zhao Yu then said, “Oh, and one more thing! When you go to Jinghai, I will send someone to inform the local police station and have them help you! If possible, you should also investigate the robbery and arrest the thief as soon as possible!”

Zhao Yu then added, “By the way, you must protect Leader Wu’s family as well. If the murderer didn’t find what he wanted from Leader Wu, he might go after her family! So, you must arrange for our people to keep watch over them in order to make sure that they are safe!”

Liu Zhanbing and Xu Hai saluted him again and promised him in unison, “Leader Zhao, rest assured that we will accomplish our task!”

Zhao Yu nodded with satisfaction and said, “After you see her and pay your respects, you can go immediately to begin carrying out your task! I’m giving Jinhai to you!”

“No problem!” they said at the same time, then turned and left the office together.

“Meow...” As soon as they left, Zhao Yu waved to Miao Ying and said, “I just thought about it carefully... It’s so urgent. Maybe... Somebody wants to disturb our plan! Therefore, we must calm down and think about everything carefully!”

“Yes. We must remain calm and be patient.” Miao Ying nodded. “I’ve never experienced such a fast-paced case before!”

Ran Tao then said, “Fortunately, it’s not our first time handling such a case. I remember one, the pharmacy case, where a serial killer had one victim each day. It was really scary!”

“Well... It’s different this time! The pharmacy case had one victim a day, but after all, that was still only one case!” Zhao Yu said earnestly. “But... This time, the information is too vast for us to absorb all at once. So, we must have a clear focus as we move forward!”

Zhao Yu then pointed to the white board and said, “The Changming Police Station is investigating Wu Fangfang’s death, and now, her two team members are going to Jinghai! So, our main task now is to investigate the Ziliu case information from 13 years ago!”

“Oh...” Ran Tao nodded his head, then raised his thumb in approval and said, “Leader, you are brilliant! Now I know what I should do!”

“Humph...” Zhao Yu snorted proudly, then said, “Look, the Ziliu case must be closely related to the recent murder and robbery! And... I think that it must be the most important piece of this puzzle among the three. So... As long as we...”

Zhao Yu had not finished speaking yet, when his mobile phone suddenly buzzed. Chen Zhuo had just sent him a message.

When Zhao Yu looked at it, he exclaimed, “Are you kidding me? Chen Zhuo just told me that Wu Fangfang’s group actually participated in the investigation of the Ziliu case 13 years ago!”

Miao Ying and Ran Tao were equally shocked when they heard this unexpected piece of news. While Zhao Yu and his team members were still in shock, Captain Wang pushed the door open and reported, “We found the footage of the suspect! Let’s have a quick look at it!”

“Ah!” The three men were shocked all over again, and they gasped in unison!

Zhao Yu then shook his head and sighed, while thinking... This really is a fast-paced case!

Chapter 938: The Suspect

“Captain Jin, you must have met her. She was Leader Wu. Do you remember her? She was quite good-looking.” Zhao Yu said to Jin Zhenbang over the phone. “Wu Fangfang? After all, it hasn’t been such a long time, so you shouldn’t have forgotten her entirely...”

Captain Jin’s helpless voice came from the other end of the line, “No... I remember all of the people in the 03 Special Investigation Group, but there was a different team for the Ziliu case! Such a big case had shocked the country at that time, and the local police station sent in other police task forces to investigate as well.”

He then said, “Every one said that he or she was a special investigator, and I could only remember a few of their names and faces. There were so many! Besides, Mengxiang is so big. My main task at that time was to catch the suspect. So, how could I spend time paying attention to such things as who was beautiful and who wasn’t?”

Captain Jin thought for a moment, then suggested, “Um... How about this? If you can send me a photo of her, I can see if I remember her. Or, I’ll ask some of my colleagues if they can remember her.”

“Okay... But you know the rules...” Zhao Yu said.

Captain Jin nodded. “Absolutely! We must keep everything a secret! I know that!”

He then said, “Zhao Yu, you have completely convinced me of your skills now! If you can really catch the murderer of the Ziliu case...”

Zhao Yu hung up without even waiting for him to finish speaking. At this time, Ran Tao ran over and reported to him, "Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin have arrived at Changming and will join us soon! Don't worry! Captain Wang has sent some armed police to pick them up."

Zhao Yu nodded, while also sending the requested photo to Captain Jin.

Suddenly, Miao Ying said, "Hey! I found it! She used guanxi!"

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

"In that year that the case occurred, Wu Fangfang was only 21 years old. She was a talented student at the local police academy and had a strong background. So, before graduation, she was specially recruited by the local police to join the 03 Special investigation Group and participate in the Ziliu case investigation."

Zhao Yu shook his head, then asked, "How could Captain Jin not remember Wu Fangfang? They must have been in the same group at that time!"

Miao Ying then added, "Wu Fangfang was only involved in supporting work in the special investigation group. Because she was a local person, she was only responsible for contacting police forces from different regions... So, do you understand what I mean by 'Guanxi?'"

Zhao Yu put down his cell phone as he replied, "Wu Fangfang participated in the special investigation group's work before her graduation. This is such a good starting point! She also had a strong background. So... It's no wonder that she could become a special investigator and even the leader later!"

Ah, hero, please accompany me in pursuit of my dream... During the conversation, Zhao Yu's mobile phone rang again. It was Liao Jingxian, the Qinshan Bureau Chief.

The Qinshan Police Station had received a notice from the Criminal Division, and now, they were responsible for protecting Zhao Yu's family. Liao Jingxian did not know what had happened, so he called to learn the details of the situation from Zhao Yu, as well as to ask him for his suggestions. Once he understood the current situation, Liao Jingxian immediately promised that he would take good care of Zhao Yu's family.

"Chief Liao, thank you so much for your help! By the way, please find a spacious and comfortable safe house for them! Also, my parents like Sun's steamed buns. Please buy some for them! If they want anything else, just let them have it! If you can't get financial support from your leaders in order to provide them with what they want, just ask me for it, alright?" Zhao Yu was clearly concerned about his parents comfort.

Zhao Yu then said, "Also, I know my brother is a little difficult. Never mind that, okay? I'll talk to him. His child will start school on the eighteenth of January, so don't worry. If I can't solve the case before then, my nickname, 'unsolved cases master,' will become a joke!"

After finishing the call, Zhao Yu exhaled heavily, but he still felt that his brain had an insufficient supply of oxygen! The investigation was quite a mess at this point, and although he had tried his best, the new information that was emerging constantly inevitably had disturbed his original plan.

At this moment, Miao Ying advised, "This case may not be as difficult as you think! It's like you just said... We just need to be patient!"

Zhao Yu nodded, then reached out and held Miao Ying's hand out of instinct, which made him feel much more secure.

"Leaders, the video connection is successful. You can now have a look!" At this time, Captain Wang clicked on a remote control, and a man wearing a black leather jacket and a motorcycle helmet appeared on the big screen. He was riding a motorcycle.

"Through our screening and comparison of the footage, we finally found our suspect! Here..." Captain Wang paused the video, pointed to the suspect, and said, "At 9:48 a.m. on the day of the crime, a camera captured this man on Red Star Road on the east side of Martyrs Memorial Park."

Captain Wang then added, "By using trajectory tracking, we found that he was heading for Red Star Road an hour before the crime, but we couldn't find him on other cameras. So, we suspect that he might have parked his motorcycle in a small wooded area on the east side of the park. Red Star Road is not a busy area, and there are few shops near it. There is a small park in that wooded area, but because it was next to the cemetery, few people ever go there."

Captain Wang then said, "There are only railings that act as barriers around the park, so people can easily get into the park by climbing over them. So, this motorcyclist is really under any big suspicion at the moment."

"A motorcyclist? But, there are so many motorcyclists in this city..." Ran Tao said doubtfully.

Captain Wang then said, "Yes. Although this man rode an electric motorcycle, this kind of electric motorcycle is not a popular model. It is special! And, although it's common to wear a helmet while riding an electric motorcycle here..." Captain Wang then pointed to the suspect on the big screen and continued, "It's rare to put down the helmet's windshield and cover one's face like he did!"

Miao Ying nodded, then said, "The temperature on the day of the crime was 14 degrees, so you wouldn't have to cover all of your face like that. So, did you find out the suspect's route that he took to the park?"

"We only know that he came from Jiangxin Road, then disappeared toward the east of Jiangxin Road..." Captain Wang shook her head, then added, "There is a 10-kilometer blind spot area under construction just east of that. We searched all of the cameras in that area, but we never saw the suspect again. We have dispatched all our branches there, as well as some of the local police and patrol officers!"

Captain Wang paused, then added, "However, we haven't received any news yet."

"Why hasn't Zeng Ke arrived yet?" Ran Tao rubbed his hands, then said, "Can we compare this man and Yang Zebiao to see if this fellow is the murderer who has been missing for 13 years?"

Miao Ying shook her head and said, "After so many years, his appearance might have changed."

Unexpectedly, Zhao Yu suddenly grabbed Captain Wang's remote control, resumed playing the video, then asked the others, "Are you kidding me... Or, do you really not know? This motorcyclist is clearly a woman!"

Chapter 939: Similar Doubts

Captain Wang then said, "Leader Zhao, the technical team said that from the figure alone, it is impossible to confirm the sex."

"Well... If it's not a woman, then it must be a transsexual!" Zhao Yu said. "Look at the way the figure is riding the motorcycle. This says it all! And... Look at the chest! Obviously, there is a protuberance..."

Ran Tao then said to Zhao Yu, "Boss, this figure is not wearing a tight suit. And... That motorcycle seat is depressed. So, even if a man sits on it, his chest would also be raised!"

Zhao Yu shook his head, then asked, "Are you sure about that? I just don't think that's the reason..."

Miao Ying pretended to be curious and asked, "I don't know... I just don't think any of us can know for sure by just that..."

Miao Ying then turned to Captain Wang and said, "You should go and search the woods. If anyone parked a motorcycle in the woods, there must be tire marks!"

"Oh... Yes... I'll arrange that!" Captain Wang nodded vigorously.

"Remember to visit the nearby residences and look for witnesses!" Miao Ying added.

She then turned to Zhao Yu and said, "Although what you said doesn't make me feel good, I have to agree that this motorcyclist seems more likely to be a woman!"

Ran Tao shook his head, then asked, "If this is a woman, it's definitely not Yang Zebiao! So... Are we looking for the wrong person?"

"Not necessarily..." Zhao Yu joked. "What if Yang Zebiao is a transsexual?"

"What the heck?" Ran Tao almost fell over when he heard this. "Boss, this is too much for me..."

Zhao Yu then asked earnestly, "So, what do you think is the reason that Yang Zebiao disappeared for 13 years? For a long while, the police even thought that he might be dead!"

Ran Tao bit his lip and said, "Well... I still can't believe that the reason why the police couldn't find him is that he changed his sex! If that's true, it should be written in the Guinness Book of World Records!"

Zhao Yu then said, "In 2005, sex change surgeries were just really starting to get popular, but they were expensive! Yang Zebiao had just robbed 800,000 cash from a rural cooperative, and... Um..." Zhao Yu couldn't proceed with the story, and he suddenly shook his head and said, "Yes, well... I guess that you have a point here. He had the money and could just go abroad to escape arrest. There would be no need for him to give up being a male..."

Miao Ying pretended to cough as she interrupted them. She then said, "Well... There is no need to waste more time on this. We need to think about how to catch this suspect!"

She then pointed to the motorcyclist on the big screen and said, "This figure... Whether male or female... Is under great suspicion now! This is because, during the time of the murder, he disappeared for an hour! Such a coincidence is not something that we can overlook."

"Leaders!" Suddenly, the office door was pushed open, and Zeng Ke and Wu Xiumin, who looked travel-worn, came in from outside.

Ran Tao hugged Zeng Ke with excitement, but when he opened his arms to hug Wu Xiumin, she threw her baggage to him instead.

Zhao Yu noticed that after Zeng Ke put down the luggage, he waved at the door. Then, Zhang Peipei, Gao Facai's student came in as well.

Zhao Yu laughed, but didn't let the others see him. It seemed that Ran Tao was not lying, and Zeng Ke and Zhang Peipei really had hooked up with each other.

"Team leader," Wu Xiumin said eagerly to Zhao Yu, while throwing her coat at Ran Tao's head. "On the way here, Zeng Ke and I learned about the general situation of the case. Is there anything new since then?"

Zhao Yu nodded as he said, "We've been waiting for you to have a meeting about the current situation! Normally, we should go to the crime scene first. However, I feel that this case is unusually strange, so I decided to focus on the Ziliu case first! After all, the two cases might be closely related to one another."

"Okay! Let's start at once!" Zeng Ke quickly took out his computer and greeted Gao Facai. After all, if he wanted to be with Zhang Peipei, it was necessary for him to please Gao Facai and gain his favor.

Zhao Yu had made the investigation plan early on, so he already had prepared materials on hand. But, because of his long time habit, he still wrote all of the information on the white board carefully. Miao Ying, as deputy leader of the group, was going to tell the members in detail about the Ziliu case as Zhao Yu was writing the information on the board for all of them to see.

"Thirteen years ago, at about 9 a.m. on April 15 in a rural cooperative in Ziliu Town, a horrifying and bloody crime occurred. Five victims, including a 6-year-old girl, were brutally shot and killed!" Miao Ying said.

She then explained, "After the crime, the police found that the bank's monitoring system had been forcibly shut down, so there was no video footage during the time that the crime occurred. The two anti-theft doors that were behind the counter, as well as the door to the safe were opened, and more than 800,000 yuan in cash was stolen!"

She then added, "According to the employees, their branch seldom kept much cash in the safe. The only reason that they had so much in it that day was because a dairy factory had made an appointment to withdraw money and had just transferred 800,000 yuan from the treasury! The evidence showed that the thief must be the employee that worked in the rural branch. That suspect's name was Yang Zebiao!" Miao Ying said.

When Miao Ying had finished giving her report of the facts, Zeng Ke set up the projector and put Yang Zebiao's photo on the big screen.

Miao Ying then said, “Yang Zebiao was 26 years old when the case was first opened, which means that he is now 39 years old. He is from Wen Erhuqi in the Mengxiang Province. After graduating from Gaolanqi Finance and Accounting School, he had been working as a cashier in the rural branch in Ziliu Town.”

Miao Ying continued, “At the time when the case occurred, he had been working there for nearly five years, so he was very familiar with the internal operations of the branch. On the day of the incident, Yang Zebiao and Wang Xuejun, the director of the branch, were on duty. But, after the incident, Yang Zebiao disappeared.”

Miao Ying then said, “The hard drive of the cooperative’s monitoring system was not damaged, so this revealed to the police that the monitoring system must have been shut down by Yang Zebiao! Therefore, the police identified Yang Zebiao as the major suspect and issues an order for his arrest.”

Miao Ying paused to take a breath, then continued, “However, Yang Zebiao seemed to drop off the face of the earth, as he disappeared from that moment on and has never been seen since. The branch was located on the only concrete road in Ziliu Town, and at that time, there were many gatherings and markets taking place, yet nobody saw Yang Zebiao at all that day!”

Miao Ying then said, “The Criminal Division attached a great deal of importance to this case, so it assigned the 03 Special Investigation Group to investigate it. Almost all of the police force in Mengxiang participated in the investigation, but ultimately, they found nothing!”

At this point, Miao Ying paused for a moment before saying, “Actually, on top of not knowing the whereabouts of the suspect, there are many other questionable things in this case. That is why the Ziliu case was listed among the five major unsolved cases.”

Miao Ying continued, “Let’s review the five major doubts that the 03 group had pointed out before. First, up to now, although the police identified Yang Zebiao as the number one suspect, they still do not know whether he had an accomplice. Second, Yang Zebiao, despite his poor family background and financial constraints, had no debts or bad habits like gambling. So, he had no clear motive that we can see to have caused him to commit the crime!”

Miao Ying then said, “Third, according to what the other employees said, Yang Zebiao was an honest and loyal colleague, who had no psychological problems. Hence, it seems incomprehensible for him to commit such a terrible crime! Fourth, why did Yang Zebiao suddenly disappear for so many years? Could he have been killed by someone too? Last, and also the biggest doubtful point in this case, is the question as to why he killed these people?”

Miao Ying shook her head, then said, “As far as we can tell, Yang Zebiao had no grievances with the five victims. And... If he only wanted the money, even though he had a gun, there would be no reason for him to kill the people at the scene, especially a six-year-old child! By the way...”

Miao Ying wanted to continue, but Zhao Yu suddenly stopped writing and gasped inexplicably. In the past, when Zhao Yu made such a strange noise, it revealed to his team that he had thought of something important.

Apparently, this time was no exception, and Zhao Yu turned to Miao Ying and asked, "Do you remember when Jin wrote in the notebook that the forensic doctor had detected ether in the dead cooperative director's mouth?"

"Yes!" Miao Ying nodded.

Zhao Yu frowned, then asked, "So... Why would he kill an unconscious man? And, do you think that this man's death is somewhat similar to Wu Fangfang's?"

Chapter 940: The Beginning and End of the Ziliu Case

"This is the sketched map of the scene from that year..." After Zhao Yu had raised his question, Miao Ying showed a plan of the rural branch's blueprints and introduced it in detail to the others.

"Look... Here... The internal structure of the branch was just like any other regular bank at that time. The outside part is the customer area, and here... Inside the counter... Is where staff work," she said.

Miao Ying then explained, "For security reasons, the entrance to the counter had two doors. You have to open both of them before you can go into the counter area."

She continued, "When the police came to the scene to investigate, they found Wang Xuejun, the director of the branch, laying between the two doors, both of which were open."

She shook her head, then said, "Wang Xuejun was shot in the head and died on the spot, but after the forensic examination was conducted, ether residues were found in his mouth and nose. This led the police to suspect that he had been in a comatose state before he died."

Ran Tao thought about this for a while, then said, "That's strange! If Yang Zebiao got the money and Wang Xuejun was already unconscious, then why did Yang Zebiao still shoot Wang Xuejun? Were they enemies?"

Miao Ying answered firmly, "They were not enemies, but were actually casual friends. Wang Xuejun had even recommended Yang Zebiao to work for the municipal units before."

"I understand what you were getting at, though!" Gao Facai nodded as he said, "Leader Wu was already in a comatose state before she was brutally murdered, and it doesn't make sense why the killer would do that!"

Wu Xiumin then chimed in and said, "But this shows that the two cases are of great relevance and directly tied to one another! Since Yang Zebiao's DNA was found under Wu Fangfang's fingernails, Yang Zebiao has to be our biggest suspect!"

"Wu, let me finish with the Ziliu case first!" Miao Ying said.

Zhao Yu nodded at Miao Ying, and Miao Ying continued her introduction about the branch, "According to the branch employees, their daily duties were not rigorous, and they had very few access privileges with their limited statuses. Basically, the staff on duty could open those two doors, but the safe needed both the password and the key in order to be opened."

She continued, "These were each kept by one of the two staff members on duty. It just so happened that Yang Zebiao knew the password, so he only needed to knock out Wang Xuejun and get his key in order to open the safe that day!"

Miao Ying then pointed to the screen and said, "Now that that's settled, we need to go through and organize chronologically what happened on the day of the case. We can use the footage before the system was shut down in order to help us establish a clear timeline."

She then said, "First of all, we must remember that, just like ordinary banks, this cooperative branch did not keep money on hand. Thus, every morning, the armed escort team would deliver the money, and at night, the money would be sent to the treasury."

Miao Ying paused for a breath, then said, "According to the escort team that was responsible for delivering the money that day, they delivered the 800,000 yuan in cash to the cooperative at 8:45 a.m. Upon their arrival, Wang Xuejun and Yang Zebiao were there to receive the money."

She then said, "Because Ziliu Town is located quite a distance from the treasury, it is often the last stop on the delivery route. So, the money arrives later there than it does at the other stops. By the time the money arrived, it was almost time for the bank to open, so the customers were already waiting outside the entrance. They were the victims!"

Miao Ying shook her head, then said, "From the monitoring footage, we can see that Wang Xuejun and Yang Zebiao did put the cash into the safe. Then, they began carrying out their daily duties."

She then said, "However, when Wang Xuejun went out to open the door, Yang Zebiao suddenly went over to the monitor controller, and then, a complete blank! There is no footage after that! The monitoring system has a standby power supply, but Yang Zebiao must have disconnected it!"

Miao Ying explained, "The monitoring systems back then were not as developed as ours today. So, this one was controlled by the bank staff members themselves, which means that it could not have been controlled remotely."

She paused to catch her breath, then continued, "And... There was no security alarm, so nobody knew that Yang Zebiao had shut down the monitoring at that time. And... No one knew what happened inside the branch after that!"

Miao Ying then said, "Later, when the police received the report and rushed to the branch, they saw a tragic scene, where five victims had been shot dead! And... The 800,000 yuan in cash from the safe had disappeared!"

At this point, Miao Ying projected some of the crime scene photos on the screen and said, "Except for Wang Xuejun, who died between the two doors, the other four died inside the counter area. Among them, Zhao Meng, a 38-year-old dairy farm owner, was the customer who made an appointment with the cooperative to withdraw the money."

Miao Ying then introduced two of the other victims, "One other victim, 32-year-old Xie Mengqin, was the owner of a local private agricultural company. She had gone to the branch that day to make a big transfer with her daughter, who wasn't even 6 years old. As you all know, that little one was also killed."

Miao Ying shook her head, then said, "The last victim was a security guard named Wang Zhongcai, who died at the entrance of the branch. Strictly speaking, none of the branches in Ziliu Town were equipped with professional security teams. As such, Wang Zhongcai, who was 54, was more like a cleaner than a guard in terms of what he did at the branch.

Miao Ying then added, "All of these victims, except for the little girl, who was shot in the chest, were shot in the head and killed in one shot! This means that the killer is skilled, quick, and extremely fierce!"

After Miao Ying finished giving her introduction, the entire office fell silent. They were all thinking about that awful, bloody scene. Such a tragedy was horrible, and obviously, many doubts remained in their hearts and minds regarding all of its details.

Miao Ying then said, "The 03 group thought that since Yang Zebiao's social circle was very limited, the probability of him being able to get his hands on a gun was not very high. Moreover, from how the victims were shot, it was clear the murderer must have used guns before. However, Yang Zebiao had not been a soldier, nor did he have any chances to use a gun before that time. This is why they thought that Yang Zebiao must have had at least one accomplice!"

She then added, "This would mean that the reason that he shut down the monitoring system was that he didn't want to expose his accomplice. After he shut down the monitoring system, his accomplice would then be able to join him in committing this terrible crime! So, the real shooter may not be Yang Zebiao at all! And, since Yang Zebiao has been missing for so many years, they thought that, after the crime was committed, he might have been killed!"

Ran Tao shook his head as he said, "But, it now seems that Yang Zebiao is not dead at all. Moreover, he appears to have killed again!"

"I've talked to Captain Jin about this case before..." Zhao Yu said slowly, "He thinks that the key point in this case lies in the fifth question, which is... Why on earth did the murderer kill in the first place?"

He then said, "Just think about it... Yang Zebiao knocked out the director inside the counter area, then opened the safe and took out the 800,000 yuan in cash. Whether or not he had an accomplice, since he had already gotten the money, why would he have still killed those people? If his motive was just the money, he could have simply run away right then and there and not hurting a soul!"

He then added, "If he was worried that the several customers would call the police, he could have just tied them up and taken their phones. He didn't have to kill them, right?"

Wu Xiumin thought about this for a moment, then made a guess, "Is it possible that the killer was coming specifically for the victims? That, perhaps, his main purpose was not to get the money, but to kill a particular victim?"

Zhao Yu pondered this for a moment, then said, "The 03 Special Investigation Group has already investigated all of the victims. Although they had several suspects at first, finally, all of them were cleared from any foul play! Hence, this line of thinking just doesn't make sense."

Ran Tao then guessed, "Those customers might have noticed Yang Zebiao's strange behavior and tried to stop him, which would then explain Yang Zebiao's feeling as if he had to kill them, right?"

Miao Ying quickly chimed in in reply, "There were no signs of a struggle or fighting at the scene! Judging from the death scene evidence alone, the murderer was very decisive, as if he had made a detailed plan to murder the victims in advance!"

Ran Tao shrugged his shoulders and said helplessly, while wearing a bitter face, "That's interesting. Now, I finally understand why this case was listed among the five big cases!"