

Crazy 1161

Chapter 1161: We're Becoming a Family

The next morning, it had finally stopped drizzling. The rising sun bathed the Qing Imperial Palace in a warm and pleasant glow. The red walls and the green tiles formed a pleasing juxtaposition.

Pong...

Miao Ying was roused from her slumber by the sound of a door slamming.

"Ah, oh..."

Miao Ying cracked open her eyes and yawned, the sunlight reflected by the walls falling softly on her beautiful countenance.

"Ooh..."

She exhaled, only realizing now that dawn had broken.

Raising her head, she finally sensed some activity from the command vehicle. Although she could make out their silhouettes, the door of the command vehicle was facing the opposite direction. Because of this, she was unable to determine what was going on.

What she could see, though, was the Rolls Royce being quietly driven over. It was then driven away after having picked up a couple of people at the entrance of the command vehicle.

"Eh?" Fearing that she had missed something, Miao Ying frowned and got ready to get out of the car.

Cui Lizhu remained sound asleep on her lap.

"Xiao Cui... Lizhu... hey..." Miao Ying tapped Lizhu lightly on her face, trying to wake her up.

"What's wrong?" Cui Lizhu opened her eyes, then exclaimed in surprise, "Wow! It's already daybreak!"

"C'mon... get up..." Miao Ying pushed Cui Lizhu aside and scrambled out of the car, walking briskly toward the command vehicle.

At the same time, after a flurry of door slamming, quick footsteps were coming from another direction. Li Jing, Xiao Hang, and their team of operatives were all walking quickly toward the command vehicle.

At that moment, the Rolls Royce headed toward the main entrance of the attraction. The passengers did not stop to talk to anyone, and nobody knew who was inside the Rolls Royce.

"What the heck is this?" Li Jing was even more taken aback than Miao Ying was. She hadn't expected the chiefs to be so discreet. They were so secretive that even she had not been informed of their departure.

"D*mn..." Xiao Hang frowned, mumbling, "They... didn't take Zhao Yu with them, did they? Is it that serious?"

"Hahaha..."

Amid the apprehension that everyone was feeling, a sudden burst of laughter came from behind the command vehicle.

However, it sounded nothing like Zhao Yu's maniacal laughter. This laughter was deep and hearty, maybe even charming.

The next moment, everyone saw a handsome middle-aged man walk out from behind the command vehicle with his arm around Zhao Yu.

Although Zhao Yu was also grinning, it was evident from his stiff smile that he was exhausted.

"Dad!?" Miao Ying recognized him right away. The man with his arm around Zhao Yu's shoulder was none other than her father, Miao Kun!

"Miao... erm..." Li Jing stopped short of greeting him, as if she had just realized something.

"Boss! Boss!" Seeing that Zhao Yu was thankfully intact, Cui Lizhu bounded over happily and grabbed his arm. "How was it? How was it? Are you alright? Why did it take so long?"

"Hahaha..." Miao Kun suddenly chuckled. "You must be kidding, girlie! What could possibly happen to your team leader? He earned great merit this time around. If anything, we ought to be commending him instead..."

"Daddy... erm..." Miao Ying furrowed her brows. "What are you doing here? Weren't you supposed to be overseas? How did you get here so quickly?"

"Hahaha..." Miao Kun laughed heartily, slapping Zhao Yu's shoulder. "This time around, my daughter-in-law... no... my son-in-law did well by me, how could I not come over to show face? Ying Ying ah..." Giving a thumbs up to Miao Ying, he continued. "You have great foresight! How did you manage to snag someone with both dash and skill like this?"

"Did you know?" Although they had been up all night, Miao Kun showed no sign of weariness. He spoke enthusiastically, saying, "Zhao Yu did a great job this time around, whether in terms of importance, significance, or influence.

"Mm... let me tell you... he's almost caught up to me! And he will surpass me in no time! This boy has a bright future ahead of him... Hahaha..."

Ptoeey...

Xiao Hang spat out again, despite not having drunk any water this time ...

Li Jing wiped away the cold sweat on her forehead, musing to herself, "These two are indeed thick-skinned! No wonder they're about to become family!"

"I'm flattered, my dear father-in-law!" Zhao Yu made a show of being courteous. "I'm far from surpassing you! How about this – shall we go for some chicken hotpot?"

"Gulu..." At the mention of chicken hotpot, Miao Kun's smile froze. Swallowing his saliva, he said, "My son-in-law, you have no idea, there's no chicken hotpot in Feng Ping! Hehe..."

Both Miao Ying and Cui Lizhu guffawed in response. Not getting the joke, Li Jing and Xiao Hang remained serious with straight faces.

“Xiao Cui!” cackled Zhao Yu, before saying solemnly to Cui Lizhu, “Lunch is gonna be your treat!”

“Hmm?” Cui Lizhu was baffled. “Why?”

“Because...” Zhao Yu broke into a wide grin. “We managed to save your mansion! The higher-ups have decided not to pursue the matter of your mansion because of your contributions toward the case of the hidden treasure!”

“Wah!”

Upon hearing this news, Cui Lizhu was so happy that she leaped into the air! In her excitement, she even hugged Zhao Yu and kissed him on the cheek.

Erm...

Erm...

The atmosphere had become somewhat awkward.

Miao Ying didn't have an issue with it, but Miao Kun shot a look at his daughter, as if asking: My dear, is it not inappropriate for another woman to kiss your fiancé right under your nose?

“Erm...” Zhao Yu was quick to respond. Pointing toward Miao Kun, he told Cui Lizhu, “Don't thank me, thank Uncle Miao instead. If he had not helped you out with the higher-ups, there's no way you would have gotten your mansion back...”

“Wah!” Cui Lizhu, too, realized that her behavior had been slightly inappropriate. So, when Zhao Yu said that to her, she understood right away what needed to be done. She leaped in front of Miao Kun, held his face in her hands, kissed him on his cheeks, then said sweetly, “Thank you, Uncle Miao...”

“Mm... mm...” Satisfied, Miao Kun nodded and said, “That's more like it... that's more like it...”

To say that Xiao Hang was bewildered at what he had just witnessed was an understatement. He was feeling so uncomfortable at the awkward situation in front of him that he was almost cringing.

Li Jing, on the other hand, remained calm and composed. After Cui Lizhu had gone over to Miao Kun, she asked solemnly, “Miao... Captain Miao... Regarding Zhao Yu and the treasure, what are the instructions from the higher-ups? Why did they leave so quickly? This matter is of utmost importance. We need to handle it with caution...”

Upon hearing what Li Jing had just said, Miao Kun and Zhao Yu looked at each other and roared with laughter.

“Captain Li...” Miao Kun stared into Li Jing's eyes and sounding somewhat contemplative, said, “Chill! It's already daybreak, and we rarely get together! Why don't we go get some breakfast? I'll buy!”

“But...” Li Jing pointed at the cabin with the hidden chamber, implying that they shouldn't be leaving when things were just getting started.

“No worries!” Miao Kun understood her concerns. “We’ve been discussing the situation the entire night. Even if I were to tell you about the higher-up’s decision now, it would take more than just a few words.”

“Let’s go...” He grabbed Zhao Yu with one hand, and Miao Ying with the other. “I know a great noodle place in Feng Ping. Come on, let’s go check it out...”

Chapter 1162: Let’s See Who Gets the Short End of the Stick

In a noodle shop in Xin’an District, Feng Ping City, Miao Kun was happily mixing his noodles while chatting with Zhao Yu and company.

“Did you know? During the Japanese Occupation, the Japanese Army built a tower in the southwest corner of the Qing Imperial Palace. It was a memorial for the Empire of Japan!” Miao Kun said earnestly. “That structure was out of place with the rest of the architecture, which greatly affected the beauty of the Qing Imperial Palace!

“This so-called memorial commemorated their invasion of China and signified their ambition to swallow us whole.

“Although our government quickly dismantled this tower after the Japanese surrendered, we mustn’t forget how we were humiliated! We need to work hard and not let anyone take advantage of us ever again...”

“Erm... sir!” Li Jing was obviously not in the mood to listen to Miao Kun’s speech, asking anxiously, “Xiao Hang has checked the surroundings and set up a post outside the cabin. Could we talk shop now?”

“Mm...” Miao Kun put down his chopsticks, and said solemnly to the people present, “Captain Li, Zhao Yu, and Xiao Xiao... now that we’re all here together... I hope you guys can give me face and bury past grievances! [1]

“You know that whatever happened before was merely a misunderstanding... it was all for the sake of work...”

“Hehe, don’t worry, father-in-law!” Zhao Yu was the first to respond. “After having gone through so much together at the secret base, I’m now pals with Captain Li and the rest. We couldn’t possibly still be at odds with each other. Am I right, Captain Li?”

Zhao Yu then proceeded to raise his eyebrow while catching Li Jing’s eye in a flirtatious manner.

“Erm...” Li Jing had difficulty expressing what she was really thinking. She thought to herself, “It’s easy for you. You have nothing to lose, and even gained great merit. Aren’t things just rosy for you?”

However, Li Jing was discerning. She already realized from the outset that Zhao Yu did have his own strengths and that he deserved being referred to as a master sleuth.

After what had happened at the Imperial Qing Palace, both Li Jing and Xiao Hang now looked at Zhao Yu in a different light. It wouldn’t be a stretch to say that they now admired him.

As such, Li Jing nodded agreeably in response to what Zhao Yu had said.

“That’s great, that’s great, haha...” Miao Kun bobbed his head in satisfaction. He then said with a straight face, “Alright, let’s move on to serious business then!”

Upon hearing that, Li Jing and Xiao Hang straightened up and listened intently.

Right now, only Miao Kun, Li Jing, Xiao Hang, Zhao Yu, and Miao Ying were present at the table. Due to the sensitivity of what they were about to discuss, not even Cui Lizhu was allowed to join them.

“Not all of the information is classified, but some of the information you’re about to hear is to be kept confidential!” Miao Kun said. “Especially information regarding the mastermind behind the thugs. With regard to that... both Zhao Yu and I have signed a confidentiality agreement. Your team members aren’t privy to the information! Got it?”

“Got it!” they all responded.

Li Jing and Xiao Hang nodded vigorously, whereas Miao Ying remained nonchalant.

“Of course,” continued Miao Kun, “You’re all elites and could probably figure things out on your own. This is indeed related to commercial warfare, but there is more at stake than just that!

“This is precisely why the discussion took so long last night! Of course, we need further confirmation before proceeding. We need to wait patiently for further instructions.”

“Humph...” Miao Ying put down her chopsticks and crossed her arms. “You might as well not have said anything...”

“Erm...” Miao Kun furrowed his brows. “My dear daughter, this is the main reason I did not want you to transfer to the Secret Service Agency. At any rate, I’m at least a director. Couldn’t you give me some face?”

“Yeah, exactly!” Zhao Yu played along. “It isn’t easy for our father!”

“...”

Miao Kun was speechless, and Miao Ying was chuckling. Li Jing and Xiao Hang were just sitting there awkwardly.

“Okay, okay!” Miao Kun massaged his chest, saying, “Let me get to the point... Under the current circumstances, Captain Li, Captain Xiao, all you guys need to do is to do your job well!

“Firstly, get the experts to examine the secret base at Yishan and the stuff found in the secret chamber at the Imperial Palace. Everything, including the bottles and cans, must be examined carefully and thoroughly!

“The higher-ups have said that they would be liaising with the experts from the relevant departments and would get the best experts in the field to participate.

“Especially the stuff in the hidden chamber, since those things are in such demand. We believe they’re worth more than tens of billions...”

“Yes!” Li Jing nodded.

“Secondly, interrogating the criminals,” Miao Kun continued, “Not much needs to be said about this since you guys are already consummate professionals. Just stick to the standard procedures. However, because of the nature of this case, please ensure that everything is conducted in accordance to the highest standards! It must be done safely!”

“Understood!” Li Jing nodded quickly again.

“Thirdly, you may recall the agents deployed in Feng Ping and the entire Zhao Yun Province! You don’t have to worry about them anymore!” Miao Kun said.

“What!?” Li Jing was greatly surprised and explained hastily, “Sir, there must still be remnants of Seraph. We can’t be sure whether or not they have any bombs left. If we don’t take them out all at once, there may be undesirable consequences in the future!”

“Don’t worry!” Miao Kun said confidently. “They have fallen from grace! Besides, we still need them to bring home a message!”

“Why... is that?” Li Jing was baffled.

“Being magnanimous is better than being ruthless!” Miao Kun said. “Moreover, not everything has to be done by the Secret Service Agency. You get it?”

“Mm...” Li Jing seemed to understand what Miao Kun was hinting. She noted the command given by Miao Kun.

“And fourthly...” continued Miao Kun. “Cooperate with the media when necessary! The higher-ups will hold a press conference when the time is right. When that happens, we will publish news about the hidden chamber in the Imperial Place. You guys just have to make the necessary arrangements!”

“Huh!?” Both Li Jing and Xiao Hang were taken aback, evidently having some difficulty processing what they had just been told.

“Sir... this seems...” Li Jing was on the verge of rebuttal but held back from doing so.

“This was an idea conceived by my son-in-law, haha...” Miao Kun pat Zhao Yu on the shoulder, chortling. “What a sick idea! You guys should have seen their faces after Zhao Yu was done talking. The higher-ups were listening with their jaws dropped!”

“...” Everyone looked at each other, speechless.

“Don’t sing my praises, I was just stating the facts...” Zhao Yu gestured. “Actually, this is similar to what happens in gangland. When people come to our territory to wreak havoc, they get their a**es whooped.

“By the same logic, we try to wreck theirs instead. Too bad, the guy behind this is far too cunning and formidable. They hired a third party so that they could drop them when things go wrong!

“This makes it difficult for us to hit them where it hurts!” Zhao Yu snapped his fingers. “Since we can’t get back at them directly, we might as well piss them off!

“Anyway, no loss to us! In fact, we’ve made a fortune out of it! Since that’s the case, why shouldn’t we show off?”

“We’ll make public the discovery of the secret base, the large quantities of war supplies, the hidden chamber in the Imperial Palace, the huge volume of valuable data related to the anti-Japanese resistance movement, and evidence of the Japanese invasion! We’ll annoy the f*ck out of them!” snickered Zhao Yu. “We’ll also leak information about how we circumvented their conspiracy, captured the thugs, and extracted their confessions!”

“But we’ll stop short of sharing what exactly the thugs confessed so that they’ll start second-guessing each other. Let’s see who gets the short end of the stick! Ha!” Zhao Yu punched the table, shouting, “And let’s see who’ll dare come thrash our territory next time!!!”

Chapter 1163: Teasing the Newlyweds

One week later, in Xinglong District, the capital, at the San Li Tai Long Yu Global Villa.

“C’mon... bottoms up, bottoms up!” Cui Lizhu, who was playing the host, was extremely enthusiastic as she raised her wine glass and downed it all.

At that moment, Zhao Yu, Miao Ying, and the team members of the Special Investigation Group were gathered on the rooftop of the villa. They were enjoying a delicious barbeque and having celebratory drinks.

Unlike the previous cases, the involvement of the Secret Service Agency meant that the Special Investigation Group did not have to worry about tying up loose ends. The Secret Service Agency was managing practically everything.

The case of the treasure required a much higher level of security clearance than regular cases, so it made sense that the Secret Service Agency took over.

At the same time, the Cheng Lingfei case at Gao Lanqi’s end had also concluded. Zeng Ke and Ran Tao were now reunited with their team members.

With all the team members of the Special Investigation Group gathered, it was indeed a rare reunion.

In addition to Wu Xiumin and other senior team members, Xu Hai, Li Zhanbing, Li Beini, and Zhang Jingfeng were present as well. Everyone was in a jovial mood and having fun catching up.

“Come over!” Zhao Yu had already had a few glasses to drink. “Let me share something with you guys. You’ve gotta keep it a secret, ok?”

As soon as they heard that Zhao Yu was going to dish out some gossip, everyone stopped what they were doing and crowded around him instead.

“A reliable source told me,” Zhao Yu paused and checked the detector in his mind to make sure it was safe. “That the lousy Seraph organization has been taken down by Interpol! Their leaders were shot dead by the police, and the local government seized their assets!”

“Wow! They got hit really hard...” remarked Xu Hai. “Is it that serious? I used to hear about how influential this organization was in Southeast Asia. They dallied with many high-ranking government officials! How come this time around... why so fast?”

“Haha... let me tell you guys! We didn’t have to lift a finger,” sniggered Zhao Yu. “All of this... wasn’t done by us either!”

“Huh? It wasn’t us?” Everyone was puzzled.

“Of course.” Miao Ying rested her elbow on Zhao Yu’s shoulder. “Someone was even more anxious than we were! They couldn’t wait to put things in order! All we had to do was to watch from the sidelines as drama ensued!”

“That’s incredible...” Cui Lizhu nodded in approval. “It goes without saying that this was a result of Boss’ tricks. After news about the treasure was released, it became a hot topic, and the real masterminds – the real BOSS – must have panicked.”

“They went out for wool and came home shorn!” Wu Xiumin joked. “Come to think of it, we really ought to thank them! Had they not taken the initiative in provoking us, we wouldn’t have found so many precious treasures!”

“Team Leader is right...” Li Beini said. “Although the items found weren’t gold or precious gems, they’re much more valuable!”

“That’s right!” Miao Ying said. “According to preliminary analysis, the data collected is indeed invaluable. Their theories were so advanced that some of them remain superior even in this day and age. There were also some technologies related to agriculture, which would provide us a framework for new designs. These designs, once realized, would no doubt improve national production by leaps and bounds!”

“Sis Miao, I heard that they also found many manmade viruses, right?” asked Zeng Ke. “Is that also true?”

“That’s right. Back then, the Japanese army discovered the power of microbiological warfare. There were indeed many powerful chemical and biological weapons within,” replied Miao Ying. “These weapons not only prove the irrefutable fact of the Japanese invasion but are also very useful for our research.”

“I heard from a professor at the Capital Medical Academy that, although the biological viruses studied by the Japanese were for the purpose of war, that if put to use in medical science they would greatly benefit humanity!”

“Ah... that’s a double-edged sword...” sighed Zhang Jingfeng. He then raised his glass, saying, “Well then, let’s drink to humanity and world peace!”

“Dang! What a suggestion!” Everyone laughed and toasted.

“Actually, there’s something else which we’ve gained from this! It’s worth a mention!” Zhao Yu said. “We can finally put an end to the legend of the treasure which has been perpetuated for more than 80 years!”

“Hai!” Liu Zhanbing sighed. “After searching for more than 80 years, it turns out that the golden treasure was non-existent. If we had known this would be the case, it wouldn’t have been necessary to waste so much manpower and resources.”

“Yeah! I don’t feel good about the Japanese having used gold for war. More than 100 tons of gold!” Cui Lizhu exclaimed. “They bought planes and cannons with gold to attack the Chinese!”

“The chiefs of the Secret Service Agency mentioned that the other night!” Zhao Yu said solemnly. “They said that, although there isn’t any gold or treasure, we ought to remember how we were humiliated and work hard on surpassing the Japanese!”

“That’s right!” Cui Lizhu raised her hand and issued a call for action. “Let’s toast to hard work and progress!”

Everyone was in high spirits as they drank and made merry. They also continued chatting animatedly.

“Erm...” Li Zhanbing said to Zhao Yu. “Team Leader, our fierce battle at the Qing Imperial Palace; some of the thugs must have gotten away! I think it’s highly probable that they’ve already gotten hold of your information and data, so... shouldn’t we be more careful going forward?”

“Yeah, yeah!” Cui Lizhu added. “If not for Boss’ efforts, the case could have turned out very differently! So why don’t you go away for a few days and have some fun with Sis Miao?”

“Ha...” Zhao Yu smiled and bopped her nose. “Fun? Do you guys not know what day it is? Have you prepared red packets?”

Miao Ying blushed at the mention of red packets.

“Oh... oh...” Some of those gathered realized what Zhao Yu was saying.

“Let me give you a heads-up...” Zhao Yu thumped his chest, saying, “I don’t want to lose face, so make sure you prepare a cash gift of at least \$2000! Even if it’s just an engagement party! Otherwise, don’t blame the mighty Detective Zhao for losing it!”

“No problem, no problem! As much as you like, as long as everyone is happy!” Cui Lizhu jumped in excitement. “How wonderful, Boss and Sis Miao! Your relationship has finally come to fruition! Bros, isn’t that cause for celebration?”

“Yeah!” Everyone cheered and clinked their glasses.

“But... there’s something I don’t quite understand. Are all wealthy families like you guys?” Cui Lizhu asked. “Why go to the trouble of planning something as grand as this for an engagement party and not a wedding? You might as well tie the knot while you’re at it!”

“Yeah man...” Ran Tao finally found an opportunity to speak. Rubbing his hands together, he said gleefully, “When that happens, we’ll be able to tease the newlyweds! Hehehe...”

He cackled wickedly. Upon seeing Zhao Yu and Miao Ying’s expressions, he remembered how intimidating the two of them were. Who would dare tease them on their wedding day?

Hence, he said hastily, “Let’s tease the bridesmaid instead! Hahaha... Sis Miao, make sure you find a pretty one, I’m single and ready to mingle! Hahaha...”

“Hey... Sis Miao already agreed to appoint me as her bridesmaid!” Cui Lizhu jumped out and grabbed Ran Tao by his ear. “How about you do it now? How about it, bro?”

“Ah? You? D*mn...” Ran Tao was frightened. Looking defeated, he quickly dropped to his knees and got ready to receive a beating...

Ran Tao’s screams and everyone’s laughter filled the air...

Chapter 1164: Deep Love

Zhao Yu and Miao Ying were enjoying a morning stroll on a tree-lined path at the Long Yu villa.

Sunlight was filtering through the leaves, forming pretty little patches.

“Pining for someone is torturous, yet I can’t take my mind off of you...” sang Miao Ying, to the tune and lyrics of a famous ballad. “After giving much thought to it, I’ve decided to bear this pain...”

“Mm...” As Miao Ying stopped humming, Zhao Yu nodded in fervor, saying, “Not bad! You weren’t out of tune this time around. Much better than the voice recording you gave me last time!”

“That goes without saying...” Miao Ying chuckled. “How did I feel when I made that recording for you? I was feeling heartbroken. Of course I sounded terrible...”

“Yeah!” Zhao Yu held Miao Ying’s hand tight in his. “If that’s the case, let’s include this song in the playlist for our engagement party...”

“I’ll consider it... haha...” Miao Ying pursed her lips and happily swung their arms as they continued walking.

“What a rare occurrence...” Zhao Yu said as he inhaled the fresh morning air. “It’s been so long since we’ve had a chance to enjoy the peace and quiet!”

“Indeed!” agreed Miao Ying. “You’ve been going at breakneck speed since last year. It’s been a long time since we’ve been able to relax like this!”

“Thinking back to those ground-breaking cases, it feels pretty incredible...” Zhao Yu smiled. “Did we really crack all those mysteries and cold cases?”

“No, not us,” Miao Ying smiled sweetly. “It was you! Our sweeper of cold cases, Master Sleuth Zhao. These cases can’t do without you! Haha...”

“No, no, no. You have a share in the military medal as well!” Zhao Yu said earnestly. “I’m a fair and righteous person who gives credit where it’s due!”

“Pfft!” Miao Ying couldn’t hold back her laughter. “You’re endearing even when you’re being thick-skinned!”

“Miao Miao knows me the best in the whole wide world!” remarked Zhao Yu. He dabbed the corner of his mouth with her hand.

“Haha...”

Miao Ying linked arms with Zhao Yu, and the two of them continued their stroll. They had the whole place to themselves. No one else was around, and all they could hear was the melodious chirping of the birds. It was a beautiful sight.

“Oh yeah...” Miao Ying remembered something. “Zhao Yu, does my dad intend to transfer you to the Secret Service Agency?”

“When we were in Feng Ping, it was obvious that he had the intention...”

“You’re right, but...” Zhao Yu smiled. “You know me. I don’t do things halfway. In the yellow notebook... erm...”

“I know, there’s one last case remaining!” responded Miao Ying. “But what are your plans after cracking this case? Will you accept my dad’s recruitment?”

“I haven’t decided!” Zhao Yu said. “That night at the Qing Imperial Palace, the chiefs of the Secret Service Agency were indeed appreciative of a talent like me. They thought it was a waste that I hadn’t become a special agent!”

“That’s true!” There was a flash of worry in Miao Ying’s eyes, but she still tried to be objective about it. “I understand what my dad is thinking. He’s been looking for a successor for so long! When he realized how outstanding his son-in-law was, he couldn’t help but recommend you to the higher-ups!”

“Well, for the past few days, I did give it some thought!” Zhao Yu said solemnly. “I was wondering what it’d be like to become someone like your dad – rich and powerful.”

“What would it be like?” Miao Ying was curious.

“Well, actually, I’m still a bit lacking!” said Zhao Yu. “After all, I started off as a hooligan. Even if I were tasked with something honorable, I would probably be playing the part of a nouveau rich or country bumpkin. I would never be presentable!” [1]

“Oh? You do know your limitations, huh?” Miao Ying was surprised.

“Of course!” Zhao Yu grinned. “One can only be wild when he’s aware of his strengths and weaknesses! Otherwise, he’d just be an idiot!”

“That makes sense!” Miao Ying responded. “Looks like this hooligan has more than just street smarts! So? Have you decided what you’re going to do?”

“I already made it clear to your dad...” Zhao Yu said. “I still have a long way to go before I reach his level! Just let me be a master sleuth for now....”

“Maybe...” Zhao Yu stared into the distance. “There will be a day when I finally deem myself worthy, be it in terms of ability or demeanor. It wouldn’t be too late to try then!”

“Darling...” Miao Ying suddenly halted her footsteps. Grabbing Zhao Yu’s arm, she gushed, “You’re so lovable! I knew from the start that you weren’t really a rascal, but someone with heart and ability!”

Miao Ying couldn’t help but hug Zhao Yu.

Holding his beautiful fiancée in his arms, Zhao Yu promised, “Miao Miao! I will do better, going forward! Do you still remember our pledge to each other? No matter what dangers or difficulty lie ahead us, we will face them together! And share our burdens! We’ll be together forever, just like Bonnie and Clyde!”

“Sure, we could be like Bonnie and Clyde...” Miao Ying’s eyes were damp with tears. “But let’s not risk our lives like that anymore, ok? If you ever need to jump out of a plane again or encounter a situation like that of Guan Qing Hall, could you please consider how I’d feel?”

“Got it, got it!” Zhao Yu hugged his woman, promising, “Don’t worry! I won’t do anything silly anymore... haha...”

Right after, the lovebirds shared a sweet embrace.

The lovebirds reluctantly let go of each other only after they heard the presence of other visitors.

“Miao Miao, ah...” Zhao Yu pulled Miao Ying along as they continued walking. “What are our plans after the engagement?”

“Humph...” Miao Ying snorted. “What do you think?”

“Me? Erm...” Zhao Yu thought about it earnestly. “How about... we go on our honeymoon?”

“Oh come on, we’re getting engaged, not married. What honeymoon?” Miao Ying admonished Zhao Yu.

“Then... we could at least go on a trip together? Book a room and...” Zhao Yu mused.

“Then how is it any different from a honeymoon?” said Miao Ying with her arms crossed. With an eyebrow raised, she asked, “Where do you think we should go then?”

“Oh... oh, oh...” Zhao Yu sniggered. “I heard Fujian province has lots of nice attractions!”

“Ahem...” Miao Ying coughed. “Now that you mention it, I really haven’t been to Fujian. I heard that the scenery at Huayun Mountain is not bad...”

“Yeah, that’s right!” Zhao Yu nodded earnestly. “I’ve never been either...”

Chapter 1165: Not Drawing Hexagrams Today

A few days later, in the suburbs of the capital, at the Miao Mansion.

Zhao Yu and Miao Ying had their engagement party at the mansion as planned. The mansion was filled with guests, and everything was sparkling and lively.

Unlike a wedding, however, the engagement ceremony itself was relatively simple despite the grand setting and the attendance of VIP guests.

The emcee adhered to standard procedures and protocol, and it wasn’t long before the ceremony was over. They met each other’s parents, betrothal gifts were presented, and engagement rings were exchanged.

All that remained was the massive banquet!

It wasn't Zhao Yu's first time attending a banquet at the Miao's. The only difference was that he was now one of the hosts instead of a guest.

Initially, Zhao Yu was puzzled as to why the banquet wasn't held at the renowned Wanguo Hotel, especially since Miao Kun had already booked it.

It turned out that the hotel was fully occupied and couldn't accommodate Miao Kun's request. In a fit of anger, Miao Kun bought the entire hotel and forcibly altered the bookings.

But after going to these lengths, he still decided to hold the engagement ceremony at his own mansion. It didn't make any sense.

Being the master sleuth he was, it didn't take Zhao Yu long to figure out Miao Kun's intentions.

In addition to being happy for the both of them, Miao Kun must have had other reasons, perhaps political factors, for carrying out the engagement party on such a grand scale.

It was a show not only for friends and family but also for outsiders. That included potential enemies who might be lurking in the background.

As such, as soon as the preparations for the engagement ceremony began, the Secret Service deployed large numbers of special agents to help secure the mansion.

It wasn't enough for the mansion to be as secure as a fortress. Even the formal wear worn by Zhao Yu and Miao Ying for the engagement ceremony was made of bulletproof material.

All the passageways, staircases, and entrances, were equipped with the latest technology for facial recognition to keep out any trespassers.

The banquet servers, cleaners, and even some of the guests were agents in disguise. This was done to ensure the utmost safety.

Oh...

Zhao Yu finally understood why they chose to have the ceremony in the mansion instead of the hotel. The hotel wouldn't be as secure.

Besides, after what had happened with the case of the treasure, a high level of security clearance was now required. Out of security concerns, Miao Kun eventually decided on holding the engagement ceremony in his mansion.

Learning from past experiences, Miao Kun was smart enough not to draw any hexagrams in the few days before his engagement.

Seriously!

This was his engagement ceremony. What was he going to do if he drew a Kun Qian Hexagram or a Qian Kun Hexagram?

He'd rather everything proceed smoothly than begin any fantastical Adventures!

Although he didn't draw any hexagrams, there was something else weighing on him – his family!

After all, the engagement concerned not only him but also his family. Other than his parents, his elder brother and his elder brother's family had to attend the ceremony as well.

Zhao Yu was worried that his family members would be unaccustomed to such a social setting and would perhaps make fools of themselves.

Fortunately, nothing like that had happened. The engagement ceremony proceeded without any hiccups.

At the start, his family was indeed a little overwhelmed. They knew Miao Ying was well-off, but her degree of affluence was beyond their wildest imagination.

His frugal mother's jaws remained open for the entire party. When the in-laws came over to make a toast, she happily downed three glasses in succession, despite not being much of a drinker. Her whole face was flushed from the alcohol.

Miao Ying's mother was very considerate. Setting aside her obligations to socialize with the other guests, she not only kept them company and gave them a guided tour of the mansion, but also gave them exquisite little gifts.

Zhao Yu was relieved to see everyone getting along with each other.

Of course, Miao Kun couldn't just focus on his in-laws as his wife had. This was more than just his daughter's engagement ceremony. He had other purposes and intents.

After Zhao Yu and Miao Ying had made toasts to the guests, Miao Kun pulled Zhao Yu aside and led him to his study, where he introduced Zhao Yu to some of the VIP guests.

Some of them Zhao Yu had already met, while others he was meeting for the first time. They were all notable people who were either business whizzes or high-ranking executives.

Miao Kun was a model father-in-law. He not only introduced Zhao Yu to them but also briefed Zhao Yu about their backgrounds so that Zhao Yu would be able to connect with them in the future.

Ever since he became a detective, Zhao Yu's memory had been very good. Even so, he took extra care to memorize their details and faces.

At that moment, everyone was drinking freely inside the study, and Miao Kun was eliciting laughter from his companions by being his usual witty self.

He had just made a witty remark, when the butler suddenly appeared, saying, "Distinguished guests, the competition will begin shortly. Kindly make your way to the viewing platform!"

"Hmm?" Zhao Yu raised his eyebrows, mumbling to himself, "What competition? Could it be...?"

"Hahaha..." Miao Kun raised his hand and motioned to the crowd, saying, "Everyone, the handicap has doubled. There are many new events this time around. Go, knock yourselves out! Haha..."

Everyone couldn't wait to check out the events upon hearing what Miao Kun had said.

"Wow... this old guy really knows how to have a good time..." said a man who was holding a cigar. "I love checking out new events..."

“Ha!” remarked a sprightly old fellow. “Why bother with the viewing platform? Let’s go down to have a look! I love the sound of fists on flesh! Let’s go, who’s with me?”

A hoard of people followed the old man out of the study and back to the hall via the elevator.

“Woah...”

Seeing an octagonal boxing ring in the hall, Zhao Yu was amazed at his father-in-law’s hobbies. Zhao Yu couldn’t believe that his father-in-law actually set up combat matches at his daughter’s engagement party.

As he watched the participants warm up in the ring, he was glad that he had not drawn any hexagrams today. He would be able to watch the competition leisurely.

“Ladies and gentlemen, you’re so lucky to be here today!” the emcee shouted into the microphone. “For the first round, we have the long-awaited world champion – Thorngrove!! Give him a round of applause!”

The audience went wild at the mention of Thorngrove.

“His opponent is...” said the emcee, “Rookie King, a.k.a. The Beast – Essien!!! Woah, roar! Scream! This match is definitely going to be a decisive battle between the two UFC champions!”

“Wah...”

Miao Kun’s VIP guests and the rest of the audience were super excited. None of them had expected to witness such a heavyweight match today!

By right, the competition should have started off with less significant matches.

“This...” Someone was about to ask Miao Kun something, but was interrupted before they could even open their mouth.

Zhizhi... zhizhi...

Just as everyone was starting to get into the swing of things, the speakers emitted an ear-piercing noise!

Everyone looked up only to see a contestant dressed in red shorts snatching the emcee’s microphone.

“Ah? Isn’t this...?” Zhao Yu recognized him right away – Wasn’t this Thorngrove?

The audience cheered loudly at Thorngrove’s entrance.

However, it was apparent that Thorngrove had no interest in the audience’s reactions. Instead, he pointed toward someone in the audience and shouted angrily “¥##@%¥ ¥ ¥ ...”

Nobody could understand the Russian he was spewing.

However, they were able to follow the direction in which he was pointing, and their gazes eventually landed on Zhao Yu.

D*mn!

It couldn’t be?

Zhao Yu finally noticed that something wasn't quite right, thinking to himself, "This b*stard... couldn't possibly be thinking of revenge?"

"But, I really didn't draw any hexagrams today!?"

Chapter 1166: Grab the Bull by the Horns

"What the heck is this?" Zhao Yu had yet to react, but Miao Kun was already anxious. "Where is his manager? Get him over here so I can reprimand him!"

"Today is my daughter's engagement party. Does he want to cause a commotion? Does he not want the commission anymore?"

"Yes, sir..." One of his men quickly went to get Thorngrove's manager.

At that moment, Thorngrove was still shouting at Zhao Yu, with his finger pointing at him. Although the audience did not understand what he was saying, they could tell from his furious expression that he was trying to provoke Zhao Yu!

"Is this fellow mad?" Miao Kun looked up and down at him, seemingly confounded. Grabbing Zhao Yu, he told him, "Xiao Zhao, ignore him. This must be a residual effect from you beating him up!"

"Thorngrove. Mr. Thorngrove..." The emcee understood Russian and was worried that Miao Kun would blame him if he allowed Thorngrove to continue ranting. He snatched back the microphone and said, "Mr. Thorngrove, please refrain from being so vulgar..."

Wah...

It wasn't certain whether the emcee did it on purpose or if he was simply an idiot. What he had said basically confirmed the fact that Thorngrove was indeed verbally insulting Zhao Yu.

This caused an uproar in the audience, who began to discuss what was happening amongst themselves animatedly. Some of them even looked excited at what was about to happen.

"Erm..."

Miao Kun's expression became sullen. The VIP guests beside him immediately withdrew their smiles, becoming solemn. Who knew what they were thinking?

Thorngrove, on the other hand, became increasingly arrogant. Giving no face to the emcee, he pushed him aside and hogged the microphone.

"Hey! Hey! Thorn... Why!?" A fellow, who was probably his manager, was slapping the side of the boxing cage and shouting at Thorngrove while rushing onstage.

Thorngrove paid the man no heed, merely continuing his tirade at Zhao Yu and even flipping him the middle finger!

Wah...

Thorngrove's egotistical behavior was becoming a little too much, and the situation was getting out of hand.

"F*cking h*ll!" Miao Kun said through gritted teeth. His fingers subconsciously slipped to his gun holster. He was on the verge of withdrawing his gun!

"Lao Miao! Lao Miao!" This did not escape the eyes of the old man next to him, who tried to deter him. "Don't be rash. You can't be rash! Something is up, don't fall into their trap!"

"Wahaha..." Maniacal laughter suddenly wafted out. Zhao Yu finally responded! He pressed down Miao Kun's hand, saying, "Father-in-law! He's right! Don't get angry over something as trivial as this! Hahaha..."

Turning toward Thorngrove, Zhao Yu then held out both of his middle fingers at him!

Wah...

The crowd erupted again. Zhao Yu's act of flipping the bird had added to the crowd's enthusiasm.

"Hmm?" Thorngrove glared at Zhao Yu and smashed his fists together. He then beckoned at Zhao Yu, as if saying: Come up if you dare.

"F*ck you!" Zhao Yu glared back at him, then removed his tuxedo without hesitation.

Miao Kun hurriedly stopped Zhao Yu from going up. "Don't, don't, don't. Don't be rash, Xiao Zhao! How did you hold me back just now? There's obviously something fishy, don't fall for his tricks!"

"That's right..." said someone in the background. "That's the world champion! Don't know how you won last time, but if you go up now, then..."

The person's voice trailed off, not wanting to say anything worse.

"Yeah!" the old man sensibly advised. "Today is Zhao Yu and Miao Ying's big day, how could we let someone like him ruin the mood? Listen to me; just ignore him! Treat him like a mad dog barking! Lao Miao, don't pay him later!"

"Sir..." The butler proposed somewhat tentatively, "How about we let out The Beast – Essien? Let them start the match early?"

"Hm..." Miao Kun seemed apprehensive as he glanced at his watch.

"Hahaha..." At that moment, Thorngrove regained control of the microphone and started cackling maniacally. It was apparent from the sneer on his face that he was mocking Zhao Yu.

"F*cking h*ll!" Zhao Yu scowled. "I owned you! You lost to me, and you dare kick up a big fuss here? Wait and see how I'm going to deal with you!"

After saying that, Zhao Yu rolled up his sleeves and got ready to go into the cage.

The audience watched with bated breath and started another round of applause.

"Zhao Yu, you can't, you're not trained in the same form of martial arts. You can't beat him!" Miao Kun tried to stop him once again.

“Father-in-law!” Zhao Yu was also anxious. Grabbing Miao Kun’s arms, he said boldly, “A real man can be beaten to death but not scared to death! If I were to let a foreigner scare me, then how would I face other people in the future? And how would that reflect on you?”

“That...” Miao Kun was put on the spot.

“I’m going to take the bull by the horns!” boasted Zhao Yu. “Even if it’s a conspiracy, I’ll be resigned to it! We need to fight it out today until a victor is determined! Otherwise, someone might claim that I had an unfair advantage last time!”

“But this...” Although Zhao Yu had succeeded in convincing Miao Kun, it was evident that Miao Kun was still worried.

“Don’t worry, father-in-law!” Zhao Yu said assuredly. “I will not let anyone humiliate our family like this!”

Zhao Yu shed his shirt, revealing a toned and muscular torso, and started walking toward the boxing ring.

As soon as Zhao Yu climbed onstage, Thorngrove relinquished control of the microphone to the emcee. He crossed his arms and taunted Zhao Yu!

Amazed at Zhao Yu’s bravado, the crowd cheered loudly!

However, they weren’t really cheering him on. They just wanted to see how this match, between two men who weren’t equaled, would turn out.

Although Zhao Yu had a narrow win last time, everyone knew what had really happened! Therefore, no one really expected Zhao Yu to win. They were expecting an embarrassment to befall the Miao family.

The emcee was a little shocked at the turn of events and took a few moments before resuming his duties. After regaining composure, he finally announced the groom-to-be, Zhao Yu, as Thorngrove’s opponent instead of The Beast.

A professional referee came forward, wanting Zhao Yu to change into shorts for the match. Pushing him aside, Zhao Yu removed his leather shoes and socks, entering the cage in his pants instead.

Right after, the crowd broke into loud cheers once again. The level of excitement reached a boiling point.

The referee had no choice but to follow him into the cage and got ready to start the match.

Something interesting happened just then.

Having learned his lesson, Thorngrove dismissed his coaching team and cleared the area behind him. He made sure he faced Zhao Yu at all times, in fear that Zhao Yu would ambush him from behind again!

But something surprising happened at that moment!

With Thorngrove still staring angrily at him, Zhao Yu slowly turned toward him, exposing his own back to Thorngrove.

Chapter 1167: A Fall in the Pit Is Not a Gain in Your Wit

“Is... is he mad?” someone from the audience said.

The audience gasped in surprise and started discussing spiritedly amongst themselves as they watched Zhao Yu expose his back to Thorngrove.

“Oh my god, isn’t this Thorngrove’s usual move? Why is it now being used against him instead?”

“That’s crazy, man. The other party is the world champion! Is this a form of psychological warfare?”

Thorngrove was seemingly distracted by the murmurs in the crowd.

He couldn’t help but associate Zhao Yu’s present behavior with the loss he suffered previously. He was also wondering whether this was another trick of Zhao Yu’s.

The referee didn’t share any of Thorngrove’s concerns. With a wave of his hands, he signaled the start of the match!

Hmm...

Facing Zhao Yu’s back, Thorngrove was hesitant to make the first move. He cautiously raised his fists and quietly observed.

But Zhao Yu continued standing in that position even after 10 seconds. He didn’t seem to have any intention of moving.

That...

Beads of sweat started forming on Thorngrove’s forehead. He deliberately made a lot of noise as he moved, in a bid to startle Zhao Yu.

However, Zhao Yu showed no signs of moving. He merely stayed in his original position.

This...

Thorngrove was starting to lose his patience. Thinking of how he was humiliated previously, he wanted nothing more than to bash in Zhao Yu’s brains.

Just as he was about to attack, Zhao Yu suddenly moved, slapping himself on his butt and striking a ridiculous pose.

Argh!!

Thorngrove was infuriated; he couldn’t hold it in anymore and went straight for the back of Zhao Yu’s head.

Thorngrove was a world champion, after all. His fists were incredibly powerful. The audience could feel his overwhelming aura even outside the cage!

However, just as Thorngrove was about to strike, Zhao Yu leaped into the air and launched a move taught to him by Miao Ying – The helicopter kick! It was as if Zhao Yu had eyes in the back of his head and had already anticipated Thorngrove's actions.

Whoosh...

The helicopter kick was as quick as lightning, promptly landing on Thorngrove's face. Thorngrove immediately fell to the ground like an elephant, resulting in a resounding thump as his massive body made contact with the ground.

"Arghhh..."

Thorngrove roared like a beast and attempted to lift himself with his fists.

He managed to get up partially, but a few seconds later, his eyes glazed over and he lost consciousness.

In that instant, the crowd was plunged into a deadly silence. It was so quiet in the hall that one could even hear a pin drop!

This silence lasted for about six to seven seconds. When the audience realized that Thorngrove wouldn't be getting up, they erupted into loud cheers!

Wow...

Of course, many members of the audience were also grabbing their hair in disbelief. They had anticipated various outcomes, but this was beyond their expectations!

The referee, too, was dumbfounded. It took a while for him to remember that he was supposed to check on Thorngrove. Having ascertained that Thorngrove had indeed passed out, he then shook his head at the referee podium.

Wah...

The crowd got even rowdier!

"Humph!" sneered Zhao Yu. Glancing coldly at Thorngrove, he said, "You hadn't learned from past experiences! Last time I gave you face, but you were ungrateful. Don't blame me for being ruthless! Hungh!"

Zhao Yu then bumped his fists together in a loud boom, before laughing raucously.

Wahaha...

His laughter spread throughout the hall, and those standing near the ring couldn't help but shudder.

The VIP guests standing next to Miao Kun stared at Zhao Yu in a daze. No one expected Zhao Yu to defeat the world champion, and with such clean moves!

The referee pulled Zhao Yu to the center of the ring, raised his arm, and announced him as the victor!

Woah...

The hall was finally filled with thunderous applause and boisterous cheers.

Twenty minutes later, in the changing room. A shirtless Zhao Yu was holding his top in one hand and a glass of red wine in the other, from which he was leisurely sipping.

At that moment, the door of the changing room opened with a loud click. Miao Kun strode in with a phone in his hand.

“Yes... yes... transfer the funds to him from your personal account! Why do I have to teach you what to do?” Miao Kun said.

While on the phone, Miao Kun did a quick scan of the changing room before finally settling down in front of Zhao Yu.

“Ok! Ok! I don’t need to pursue this further since my son-in-law has won the match...” said Miao Kun. “Send someone over to check on Miss and Madam. Don’t tell them anything yet. I will explain it to them personally when I get back...”

Beep...

Zhao Yu poured Miao Kun a glass of red wine after the call ended. “Father-in-law, what’s wrong? Is there a problem?” he asked.

“Hai!” sighed Miao Kun. Taking the wine glass from Zhao Yu, he said solemnly, “Zhao Yu! There are so many areas you need to improve on!”

“Yeah?” Zhao Yu was visibly surprised. “It wasn’t alright?”

“Hung!” Miao Kun took a swig of the red wine before raising a finger, saying, “Firstly, the pace could have been better! It was too fast, you get it? The emcee just announced your match against the world champion. More time was needed for calculating the odds, but you had already turned toward him!

“F*ck. It was a good thing that Thorngrove was slow. Otherwise, there wouldn’t have been enough time for people to place their bets!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu nodded earnestly, humbly replying, “It was my oversight! I was indeed too fast! I should have dragged it out a little...”

“Mm!” Acknowledging Zhao Yu’s sincerity, Miao Kun continued. “Secondly, it was too exaggerated!

“Don’t you know? A good special agent need not be showy. Acting naturally and being subtle is what we need!” Miao Kun placed his hand on his own chest. “And your over-confident, self-righteous behavior was a little too much! It might be good enough to hoodwink a layperson, but not the sophisticated people around me!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu nodded again. “Understood! I’m sorry. I’m too used to putting on a false bravado. I’ll keep it in mind and will be more careful next time!”

“However, speaking overall, the outcome wasn’t too bad!” Miao Kun said. “Regardless of whether or not our objective was met, at least we didn’t suffer any losses! In fact, we even made some profit!”

“Oh... how much?” Zhao Yu asked intently.

“Haha... Although we were a little late in setting the handicap, the odds were high! So...” Miao Kun smiled. “After deducting \$5 million for the costs of hiring Thorngrove to put up an act, I still made a net profit of \$8 million-plus. Although it isn’t that much, it is more than sufficient to cover the costs of the engagement party! So that’s great...”

“Wahaha...” Zhao Yu raised his wineglass and clinked glasses with Miao Kun, complimenting him. “You’re indeed older and wiser! My dear father-in-law, I take my hat off to you...”

Chapter 1168: Zhao Yu’s Not Too Bad Either

“Eh?” Sensing that Zhao Yu was implying something, Miao Kun did not clink glasses with him. Instead, he clarified somberly, “Kid, don’t get the wrong idea! It wasn’t a rigged match as you thought! It was a necessary development! Understand?”

“This was an act for the others!” said Miao Kun. “Firstly, I’m trying to establish your reputation, so that they take my son-in-law seriously. I can’t allow them to think that your last victory against Thorngrove was solely based on trickery!

“Secondly, although they appear to be my friends, they have hidden agendas and can’t wait to see me crumble! So, I need you to build up my might! Let them know that I have a son-in-law who could defeat even the world champion!”

“Therefore...” Miao Kun continued as he took another swig of his wine, “This isn’t about the money!”

“You’re right!” said Zhao Yu, who also guzzled a mouthful of the wine. “But... there’s something I don’t quite understand. Thorngrove is the world champion, why would he be willing to do something like this? Five million isn’t that much!”

“Ha!” Miao Kun snickered. “You’re probably not familiar with his current predicament. He’s no longer a well-regarded boxing champion. Back in his hometown, he’s not only riddled with debts but also face the prospects of going to jail! He’s willing to do anything for money!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu nodded. “Father-in-law, you said my performance was too exaggerated, but the script you designed was itself problematic. Wasn’t it too much for the guy to collapse after one kick?”

“We should have gone for at least a few hundred rounds and fought to the death before determining the victor. That would have been more convincing.”

“Well...” Miao Kun furrowed his brows. “That did occur to me... but the more rounds there are, the more likely it is for our cover to be blown. Besides, today is a joyous occasion; there shouldn’t be any bloodshed!

“I was also worried that if it had dragged on, Ying Ying and your parents would have eventually come over. That would have ruined things for us!”

“Right, right, right! You’re so meticulous. Allow me to toast you!” The two of them finally raised their glasses and downed them all.

“Of course...” Miao Kun said, obviously on a roll. “I also wanted you to understand through this, that money is always in the grasp of those who determine the rules!

“So, if you were to encounter a similar situation in the future, remember what I’ve told you. If you’re not the most powerful player making the rules, then don’t participate, no matter how attractive the profits are. There could very well be an ambush waiting for you!”

“This, I understand. Gambling is a vice! I hate betting!” Zhao Yu said as he poured more wine into his glass. “For example, the people who wagered that I would lose the match. They might appear to have a good chance of winning, but who would have known that there was no way Thorngrove was going to win?”

“Yes! All these are considered child’s play.” Miao Kun mused. “It’s nothing compared to commercial warfare. You’ve still got much to learn!”

“Zhao Yu, you’re right. I was a little too impatient. You better acquire more experience in the Criminal Division first, it’ll be useful!” Miao Kun said as he grabbed the wineglass Zhao Yu handed him. “There will be plenty of opportunities in the future! I’ll guide you along!”

“Mm, don’t worry, father-in-law! I will work hard!” Zhao Yu said.

Feeling agreeable, both of them were about to drink to their hearts’ content. However, Miao Ying’s voice was suddenly heard outside the changing room.

“Scram! I know they’re inside...” she said.

“F*ck...” Miao Kun was so startled upon hearing Miao Ying’s voice that he let out a curse.

He put down the wine glass and was about to escape when Miao Ying rushed into the changing room.

“Wow... The two of you... the two of you...” Miao Ying was at a loss for words. She stormed towards them, scolding them. “Why is it always like this? You guys are always up to something as soon as I have my back turned. Have my words fallen on deaf ears?”

“Erm... that...” Sweat formed on Miao Kun’s forehead as he attempted to soothe his daughter. “Ying Ying, it’s not what you think... this matter... he, he, he...”

“What were you thinking, dad?” Miao Ying grumbled. “Why did the same thing happen twice? Don’t you know what the occasion is today? Why did you let Zhao Yu go into the ring? How did he manage to win the match? Do you dare to say that you had no part in it?”

“I... no... no... keep it down, keep it down...” Miao Kun scratched his cheek anxiously. He pushed Zhao Yu in front of him out of desperation.

“Ah, Miao Miao.” Zhao Yu was trying to explain the situation to Miao Ying. “Listen to me, it’s got nothing to do with our dad! That foreigner was bent on seeking revenge, you’ve gotta...”

“Zhao Yu!!” Miao Ying was even angrier at the sight of Zhao Yu. Grabbing him by his arms, she roared, “I haven’t even gotten to you! Was everything you said previously bullsh*t? You’re inhuman! Why did you risk your life again? You forgot what you promised me, huh!?”

Tears threatened to spill from Miao Ying’s eyes. Realizing this, Zhao Yu hurriedly pushed Miao Kun aside, saying with his hand gestures: “You better leave first, I’ll handle this. Let me talk to her, go...”

“Aye! Aye!” Miao Kun snuck out eagerly.

“Zhao Yu! You’ll be the death of me, uwu...” Miao Ying started crying out of exasperation.

One second, two seconds, three seconds...

After Miao Ying had been crying and shouting for more than 10 seconds, Zhao Yu finally snapped his fingers and told her, “Alright, darling. Stop crying. Your dad must have gone far by now. Take a break!”

“Oh...”

Upon hearing this, Miao Ying immediately ceased yelling, reverting from her hysteria.

She then picked up a bottle of wine from the table and poured herself a glass.

“How?” Zhao Yu walked toward Miao Ying, asking expectantly, “Did you bet? How much?”

“Wah!” Miao Ying took a sip of the wine. “I almost didn’t make it! You were already in the ring when the odds were released! Too risky!”

“Huh? Then...” Zhao Yu was visibly anxious.

“Fortunately, I had VIP access to the betting system. I bet \$800,000 on you as instructed. The odds were 8 to 1. After deducting the banker’s commission, I barely made \$6 million in profit!”

“Oh, yeah!” Zhao Yu held Miao Ying in his arms and planted two kisses on her cheek.

“What happened to your morals?” Miao Ying pushed Zhao Yu away. “Look what’ve you done. You and your father-in-law were so opportunistic. And you actually asked me – his daughter – to place a bet? What were your intentions?”

“That wasn’t the case!” Zhao Yu hurriedly clarified. “I didn’t take advantage of my father-in-law. It was those people who were obsessed with profits. It’s not my problem that they looked down on me, and were willing to place huge bets on my loss! Humph!”

“Oh? Is that so? Why didn’t you let me bet more, then?” Miao Ying rolled her eyes.

“No way! Your dad was the banker, and he only made a profit of \$8 million. It would have been wrong of us to have bet more!” Zhao Yu raised his wineglass and clinked glasses with Miao Ying. “I’m a man of integrity!” Zhao Yu boasted.

“Chey!” Miao Ying rolled her eyes again.

“Actually, it’s not about the money. I just wanted your dad to know that he may be older and wiser, but I’m not too bad either!”

“Hahaha... c’mon...” Zhao Yu said as he linked arms with Miao Yu. “Darling... today is our big day, let’s drink wedlock wine.”

Chapter 1169: Falling Pole

Fulai Province was in the southeast coastal area. It was a big province and was close to the mountains and the sea. Mountains and hills made up 90% of the province.

It enjoyed a humid climate and abundant rainfall, and its forest coverage rate had reached more than 70%, ranking first in the country.

Because of its climate, Fulai had many rivers.

Baisha River was one of the five major rivers in Fulai. It ran through the province from the north and finally met the sea in the south.

On the bank of the Baisha River, where it went through Wuqing Mountain, there were cliffs that stretched for tens of kilometers.

At that moment, just above a 70-meter high cliff, two trucks were working.

The two trucks were building wiring poles on the cliff. One was responsible for digging pole pits, and the other was responsible for inserting poles into the holes.

Because the cliff was all hard rocks, the ordinary way of digging pits didn't work. The working trucks were equipped with stone breaking machines.

There was a huge impact drill in the front of the truck that was responsible for digging the pole pits. When the drill started, it produced a massive impact force, which broke the rocks in the pit area.

At that moment, the huge drill was hitting the ground rocks, making a deafening noise, and the cliff was slightly shaking.

"Stop. Stop. Stop..." someone said.

At that time, a motorcycle suddenly came from the bottom of the cliff. Before it stopped, two middle-aged men stepped off of the bike and shouted at the moving trucks to stop.

The drivers of the working trucks saw the motorcycle then stopped. The cliff finally returned to its previous tranquility.

"What's the matter?" The driver put his head out of the window. He didn't know the two men.

"What are you doing?" A middle-aged man on the back seat of the motorcycle jumped down and scolded the driver. "Did you get approval? Do you know where you are? How can you dig a hole here?"

Hearing this, the driver who was responsible for piling the wiring poles got out of the truck and growled, "We were hired by the municipal company. What's the matter with you? Who are you?"

"Municipal company? Impossible. They are not idiots." The middle-aged man on the motorcycle said, "Let me tell you, we are from the County Museum, and I am the president of the county cultural relics protection association. Look at what you did to our natural relics."

"Huh?" The two drivers were confused. "It's just a wiring pole. What's the matter with you?"

The self-proclaimed president pointed to the bottom of the cliff and shouted angrily, "Do you know that the Seven Star Hanging Coffins are below this cliff? Are you out of your mind?"

The motorcyclist added, "The hanging coffins are a key cultural relic. If you dig a hole here, it will destroy the stability of them."

“Yes, the hanging coffins are at least 600 years old. If you were to destroy it today, you couldn’t afford what would happen,” the president said.

“Ah?” The two drivers looked at each other, then one of them said innocently, “The coffins are tens of meters away. They wouldn’t be affected.”

“Hey! You’re not listening, are you?” The president glared at them, then said, “This cliff is formed by a structural diamond. Do you know what a structural diamond is? The vibration on your side will create a huge impact on the far side. If you persist, I can accuse you of destroying our cultural relics, do you understand?”

The two drivers looked at each other again, then one said, “Well, I’ll call our boss right now. I’ll ask him...”

“Your boss is an a**hole.” The president was so angry that he increased his volume. “You think he doesn’t know about such an important cultural relic? How can he ask you to do such a thing? If we hadn’t come to stop you in time...”

Hearing this, the young driver who was in charge of inserting the wiring poles stopped working. He pointed to the president and said, “Can you learn to be a nice guy? We don’t care what the hanging coffins are. We are obeying orders. What do you want from us?”

The president was so angry. He crooked his nose and shouted, “Stubborn a**holes. You are destroying our cultural relics. You are working against the law!”

The young driver was excited. He retorted, “We are digging a hole on the top of the cliff. You accuse me of destroying the cultural relics below. Then if I dig a hole in the ground, do you want to accuse me of destroying your ancestral grave? President? In my eyes, you are a fart.”

“You. You a**hole.” The president had never been insulted like that in his life. He was so angry that he rushed over and tussled with the driver.

“Don’t, don’t, don’t...”

At this time, the motorcyclist and the other truck driver hurriedly came forward to separate them.

However, the two people were outraged. As they were tussling with each other, the other truck driver was hit suddenly.

The driver was pushed away and hit the switch of a working machine on one of the trucks.

At that time, the truck was piling a pole. When the switch was turned on abruptly, the huge and heavy pole fell onto the ground and rolled down.

“Ah!”

Seeing that the huge pole was about to fall, all of them exclaimed in fear and hurried to dodge the falling pole. All of them hid at the far end of the cliff.

The wiring pole fell down horizontally. It hit the ground with a loud sound.

The pole was a cylinder. After falling on the ground, it rolled down along the cliff.

Looking at the rolling wiring pole, the president trembled and cried out. “No...!”

However, the pole wouldn't listen to him. It shortly rolled to the bottom of the cliff.

“Look at what you've done! There are hanging coffins below...” The president collapsed to the ground. After a long time, he stood up, ran to the edge of the cliff in a hurry, and looked down.

A day later.

Zhao Yu was writing a report in the Beijing Criminal Department. He couldn't stop sneezing.

“Who is missing me? It's summer now. Am I catching a cold?” he thought.

Zhao Yu had been in Beijing for more than ten days since the engagement party. He and Miao Ying had not had time to prepare for the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case.

After all, the gold case was critical. Although the Secret Service was entirely responsible for it, it was also necessary for the criminal department to deal with what happened after the case ended.

So, Zhao Yu, like an office worker, spent every day in the criminal department. In addition to reporting work, he had to prepare a lot of materials and deal with social activities with some members of his team.

Miao Ying's situation was pretty much the same. In addition to the treasure case, there were many follow-up tasks dealing with Cheng Lingfei's case, which required cooperation between other departments and the criminal department.

Therefore, their honeymoon plan in Fulai was also ruined, let alone their plan for the Huayun Mountain case.

During that period, Zhao Yu had mentioned investigating the Huayun Mountain Massacre Case with Director Jiao, but Director Jiao didn't approve the request. She told him to first deal with all of his previous cases.

Zhao Yu couldn't stop and sneezed again.

He had to stop what he was doing and went to pick up a tissue to wipe his nose.

Just then, the liaison officer, Chen Zhuo, suddenly appeared.

“Team leader Zhao.” Holding a stack of materials, Chen Zhuo spoke to Zhao Yu with a complicated expression. “I have both good news and bad news. Which one do you want to listen to first?”

“Huh?” Zhao Yu wiped his nose and said, “Both, quick.”

“The good news is that you can go to Fulai.” Chen Zhuo nodded.

“Oh? It was approved?” Zhao Yu took a breath and said excitedly, “Finally, I can leave the office. Haha...”

“But the bad news is,” Chen Zhuo continued, “you are not going to Huayun Mountain. You are going to Wuqing Mountain.”

“Ah? What do you mean?” Zhao Yu asked.

Chen Zhuo frowned and said solemnly, "Have you heard of the hanging coffins? The hanging coffins in Fulai... Leader Zhao, something happened there."

Chapter 1170: Seven Star Hanging Coffins

The Special Investigation Group booked a first-class business room on a high-speed train. All of the group members were in the room.

However, the members who were temporarily recruited for the treasure case were not included. Li Beini and Zhang Jingfeng had returned to the Qinshan Police Station. Any possible collaborations in the future depended on their own decisions.

Zhao Yu had promised them that if they wanted to work in his group, he would definitely welcome them.

As for Xu Hai and Liu Zhanbing, they were special investigators. After the treasure case was closed, they were assigned to work with other groups because of their excellent performance.

They had told Zhao Yu that as long as Zhao Yu needed their help in the future, they would spare no efforts in assisting him at any time.

Therefore, all of the people in the business room of the train were the people who had worked with Zhao Yu for a long time.

However, no one was in the right mood for enjoying the beautiful view along the way. Since they had gotten on the train, everyone was busy with the work related to the case and had not rested.

Wu Xiumin said, "Team leader, Gao Facai's wife is having heart surgery. I'm afraid he can't join us. Chen Zhuo said that Zhang Peipei would come with Gao's team to help us, but they have to fly to the provincial capital of Fulai first so they will be a little late."

"Poor Gao..." Zhao Yu sighed, then took out his phone and said, "He has helped us a lot. I will transfer 2000 yuan to him to say thanks. Um... Anyone with me?"

"Well..." No one answered Zhao Yu.

After a while, Miao Ying said, "Leader Zhao, we are a team. You can do that for us."

"Yes, Leader Miao is right." Everyone clapped at Miao Ying's proposal.

"Well then, that's 2000, and you will give me 400 yuan each later." Zhao Yu completed the transfer with his phone.

Everyone was silent again.

"All right. Ignore him..." Miao Ying stood up and said to the others, "Let's talk about our case. The corpses, did they identify them?"

"Not yet. The hanging coffins are a cultural relic, so the local forensic doctors dare not move the bodies." Zeng Ke replied.

“Why?” Miao Ying asked.

“Although the bodies are well preserved in the hanging coffins, the forensic experts can’t work with them to tell the time of their death. This is because they were dead for a long time. Once the bodies leave the hanging coffins, they will decay rapidly, which will make the forensic dissection more difficult,” Zeng Ke said.

Zhao Yu put down his phone and asked, “Ah? Is it? The hanging coffins are on the cliff. How can the bodies be well preserved? Are the hanging coffins really able to prevent them from rotting, or are the bodies embalmed?”

“No way...” Cui Lizhu shook a little when she heard that. “Why did I suddenly think of Li Fei in the Headless Female Corpses Case?”

“This kind of case is really...” At that time, Zhao Yu stood up and went to the computer screen, looking at the picture of the hanging coffins. He frowned and said, “I’ve never heard of this. The bodies didn’t rot over such a long period, and they were all women. I just want to ask, are they modern people?”

Wu Xiumin immediately replied, saying, “Yes, they are definitely modern people. According to the staff of the local museum, in the 1980s, the seven hanging coffins were all opened for scientific investigation. They found that there was nothing in the hanging coffins. No bodies and no funerary objects.”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu frowned. “In that case, the bodies found now were put in after the 1980s? This is really strange.”

“Um... I...” Cui Lizhu suddenly thought of something and stammered. “Boss, this is not strange at all. You’ve worked on many cases relating to graves. Do you remember the dead, modern people in the ancient tombs of the Ming Dynasty? And you caught the murderer of the hand cutting case in a tomb. And the corpse in ancient clothes...”

Listening to Cui Lizhu, Zhao Yu suddenly felt a cold breeze sweep by, and he couldn’t help but think of the corpse in the ancient princess dress.

Miao Ying hit Zhao Yu with her elbow and said, “Leader Zhao, It seems that you are really satisfied with your previous work and like to share it with Cui Lizhu.”

“Well...” Zhao Yu’s forehead was sweating. He quickly clarified, “Meow, I just like to brag about my previous achievements a little sometimes. That’s my glorious past. When I work with Cui Lizhu, I tell her about it.”

Ran Tao scratched his head. “When we work together, how come you never tell me about your past? Boss?”

Zhao Yu gave Ran Tao a fierce look.

Noticing Zhao Yu’s look, Ran Tao hurriedly hid in a corner.

Wu Xiumin laughed at him and said, “You idiot.”

“All right. We’d better focus on the case now.” Zhao Yu quickly pointed to the screen and said, “This case is obviously different than the tomb of the Ming Dynasty. In that case, the victim was dressed in modern clothes and had obvious fatal wounds. That was a homicide case from the first glance.”

Zhao Yu pressed his finger on the screen and said seriously, “But these hanging coffins are different. Now that we confirmed that the dead are modern people, we need to determine the cause of death.”

“If they were put in the coffins after they died of natural causes, that wouldn’t be a case.” Miao Ying nodded meaningfully, saying, “But if they all were murdered, then the reason they were put in the coffins is crucial.”

Wu Xiumin nodded and said, “Yes, I think the possibility of murder is very high.”

“Why?” Ran Tao asked.

“Because the seven dead were young women. And they seemed like teenage girls when they were killed,” Wu Xiumin explained.

“But maybe this is a local funeral custom. For example, if a young girl dies, they think she should be buried in the hanging coffins,” Zeng Ke retorted.

“The Seven Star Hanging Coffins are a cultural relic. They dared not report it to the government. So, they buried the body in it secretly.” Zeng Ke pointed to the photo and said, “Look, these dead people are all wearing shrouds.”

Hearing Zeng Ke’s analysis, some nodded in agreement.

However, Cui Lizhu sighed with a solemn expression. “No matter how they died, I still think that it’s bizarre. Each of the seven hanging coffins has a dead girl in it. I feel sick thinking about it.”