

## Daily Life 1031

### Chapter 1031: Murder Through The Screen

Gao Tian couldn't help gritting his teeth. The murderer really had guts, striking in broad daylight! Most importantly, he actually dared to commit the crime even when the police were already camping out in the apartment? He was completely looking down on them.

Little Silver rushed up with Gao Tian. At Unit 605, which was a suite, Little Silver could smell the strong scent of blood inside. He kicked the door open with one bare foot. He didn't use a lot of strength, but the entire door was sent flying into the living room wall.

Gao Tian hurriedly summoned his police sword and rushed in. The police sword was standard issue for a first rank superintendent. The hilt was shaped just like the grip of a gun, and the sword could be used as a gun or as a close combat weapon. Once a person was used to it, the sword could even transform into an anti-explosion spirit shield, and had a variety of other uses.

Worried that the murderer was still around, Gao Tian was on high alert as he moved forward slowly, his spirit sword in hand. Gao Tian and Little Silver then saw a young man lying back in a computer chair, his neck at a crooked angle – it had been cut, and the blood had sprayed onto the computer screen. Although his windpipe had been cut, it wasn't completely severed.

Hearing them come in, the young man began to struggle desperately. He couldn't speak, and there was utter panic on his face.

“Don't be scared, I'm a police officer!” Gao Tian pressed down on the young man's shoulder. He took out all his equipment and began to give the latter first aid. Until now, no one knew what the murderer looked like or how he was killing people – if they could save this young man, it would be a major breakthrough for this case!

It had to be said that Gao Tian was still very calm as he didn't lose his head. However, Little Silver looked at the bottles and jars scattered on the ground and frowned. “Are these things useful?”

“His windpipe has been cut open and I’ve already called an ambulance. This is just basic first aid.” To be honest, even Gao Tian himself didn’t know if the young man would survive.

Little Silver’s eyelids dropped slightly. After thinking for a while, he bit his finger and squeezed out two drops of holy beast blood, one for the young man’s neck and the other for the corner of his mouth. With a burst of spirit power, the blood turned into vapor, and the young man’s wound began to heal at a visible rate.

“This is...” Gao Tian was astonished.

“Don’t tell anyone.” Little Silver looked at Gao Tian.

He didn’t know whether he had done the right thing.

After all, by treating an outsider with his blood, he risked exposing his identity.

“Thanks.” Gao Tian nodded and didn’t say anything more.

The two drops of holy beast blood brought the young man back from the brink of death. He was petrified, but grateful at the same time. Thankfully, he hadn’t seen how he had been saved; he only felt that this brother with silver hair behind him seemed to have dropped something on his wound. It then felt like he had come back to life and his breathing started to smooth out.

He must have used some sort of secret medicine, right?

That was what the young man thought.

As someone who had walked on the edge of hell, the young man wouldn’t think too much and didn’t care at all how he had been saved – all he knew was that he was incredibly lucky to still be alive!

Gao Tian then began questioning this young man who had been in distress. He turned on the recording function on the police sword, and a red light started to blink on it.

Little Silver’s lips twitched. This sword... was so omnipotent!

“What’s your name? Age? Job?”

“My name is Shen Guangrong. I’m graduating from a Golden Core university this year, and I’m currently working on my graduation project at home.”

“What’s your major?”

“Spirit sword modeling and design; I’m in the department of magic treasure design, and I specialize in designing the appearance of a magic treasure.”

“Mm.” Gao Tian nodded. “You don’t have to be afraid. Since we’re here, the murderer won’t do anything to you again. Can you tell us what happened?”

The young man clenched his fists and sweat started to appear on his forehead.

To be honest, the attack had been so quick. It happened practically in the blink of an eye, and he had no idea what was going on.

“I’m sorry, officer, I didn’t see what the murderer looked like...” said Shen Guangrong. He then looked at the laptop in front of him with lingering fear. “A pair of hands suddenly stretched out from the computer. Before I could react, they started attacking me with a knife and my throat was cut...”

“Screen murder?”

Gao Tian was shocked. “What did the hands look like?”

“They were hairy and a little dark... They looked like the hands of a middle-aged man. The fingernails were very long and had some blood under them.”

“It looks like it has to be the same murderer.” Based on the details provided by this Student Shen Guangrong, Gao Tian determined that the person who had attacked the former was the suspect in the serial murders.

From the detailed description of the hands, the suspect should be a dark-skinned man who was 1.7 meters in height, of medium build, and about 130 jin in weight. The murderer hadn't cleaned off the bloodstains under his fingernails – he probably regarded them as a “badge” of sorts, and couldn't bear to wash them off. From this, Gao Tian determined that the murderer was one hundred percent mentally ill.

But killing people through the screen...

Gao Tian had never encountered this technique before.

There were a lot of techniques in the cultivation world. To kill someone through the screen, you had to convert your body into spirit fiber... Such spells weren't unheard of. A lot of cultivation delivery companies provided this service of transmitting express deliveries through the screen, but the problem was that the items transmitted were all non-living things; a person's body had to be broken down into something as insubstantial as spirit fiber before it recombined on the other side of the screen. In Gao Tian's view, this was playing with fire.

In addition, if living bodies really could be transmitted through the screen, the network police would be able to detect it instantly, given the level of Songhai's cultivation technology

Gao Tian knew what the murderer's MO was now. It was true that killing people through a screen could be done quietly and would leave no traces behind, but the murders still didn't make sense.

Take university student Shen Guangrong for example, who had just been attacked. The murderer cut his throat, which was very similar to how the programmer on the fifth floor had died.

However, this didn't match the alchemist and the female live streamer who had died earlier. The alchemist's place was designed in a classic style and didn't have anything like a computer screen – the murderer must have broken in some other way.

As for the female live streamer, if she really had been killed through the screen, she should have died right in front of her audience. However, it was confirmed that she was killed when she opened the door.

One murderer, using two completely different killing methods. Was this really possible? Was the murderer trying to mislead them? Or was it in fact two murderers from the very beginning?

## Chapter 1032: Literary Homework's Thought-Provoking Questions

There were two murderers?

Gao Tian felt that he wasn't far from the truth now.

To be honest, if Little Silver wasn't here, the suspect might still be leading them around by the nose. But now that they knew the suspect's MO, everything seemed to make a lot more sense, and it was time for the police to get busy.

The next thing they had to do was set a trap for the suspect.

Thanks to Little Silver, Gao Tian could deliver a report on the first stage of the investigation that very day after returning to the police station. The person who followed him back to the station was university student Shen Guangrong, who had narrowly escaped death.

Worried that Shen Guangrong would be targeted again, Gao Tian immediately decided to take him back to the police station and protect him as an important witness. For Shen Guangrong, however, this was bad luck; at such a critical point in his graduation project, who would have thought that something like this would happen.

"I will now report the current situation."

In the conference hall, dozens of high-ranking police officers sat upright below the dais while Gao Tian as the commander of this operation stood at the very front. "With the help of Team Leader Little Silver from the Office of Strategic Deception, we've found out that the murderer kills people through electronic screens."

There was an uproar under the dais.

"Silence."

Gao Tian cleared his throat. “This technique is very risky as well as difficult to use. Thus, we’re guessing that the suspect’s realm should be above the Soul Formation stage. We will request the higher-ups to dispatch high-ranking immortal police from the Immortal Patrol Division to work with us in the next arrest operation. At the same time, based on an investigation of the crime scenes, our initial suspicion is that there are two murderers, and they are likely accomplices.”

“Accomplices? Is there any proof?” someone raised a hand and asked under the dais.

“First of all, they chose the same kind of target: male and female shut-ins. Of course, the most important evidence is...” At this point, Gao Tian took out a report. Pressing on the police sword in his hand, the PPT on the screen immediately changed. “According to the bureau’s intelligence division, the three deceased victims – an alchemist, a female live streamer, a programmer – and Student Shen who was almost murdered, are all from the same university: Songhai Magic Treasure Development University.”

From the same university?

The high-ranking police officers started to murmur to each other as they discussed the matter.

It was obvious that they found the results of this investigation unexpected. They had thought at first that the suspect was a twisted homicidal maniac who was indiscriminate with his kills, but looking at the connection between the victims, this serial murder tragedy might be a meticulously planned revenge operation.

As for why students of Songhai Magic Treasure Development University were targeted, some of whom had even graduated years ago, Gao Tian was still looking into this. But one thing was certain – if the murderers struck again, they would still pick students from this university.

That was why Gao Tian brought Shen Guangrong back with him.

From his investigation, after the last three deaths, Shen Guangrong was the last student from his university in Divine Leisure Apartments.

Because the rent was low and it was very close to Songhai Magic Treasure Development University, it wasn’t strange for students of this university to live here. But there were in fact quite a lot of student apartments near Songhai Magic Treasure Development University, and Gao Tian suspected that there had to be a reason the murderers chose Divine Leisure Apartments.

“I will now talk about what our next step is.”

After thinking it over, Gao Tian gave new instructions. “Thoroughly investigate the relationship between the three victims and Student Shen as well as their learning and living conditions, and look for points in common. At the same time, notify the university that before we crack this murder case, the transmission of express deliveries through electronic screens must be shut down and an Internet firewall activated! That way, if unidentified objects are transmitted through the screen, the university can report it to the police station at once! In three days, before midnight on September 18th, no matter what happens, let us bring these murderers to justice together!”

Saying that, Gao Tian bowed deeply to the high-ranking police officers below the dais.

...

September 18th, seventeen days before the end of the summer break.

After figuring out the murderers’ MO with Little Silver’s help, Gao Tian started further investigation into Divine Leisure Apartments. At the same time, Little Silver and Loopy Toad were carrying out the task which Wang Ling had assigned them: to search for the remaining fragments of the Jade Scroll of School History as well as ferret out the black shadow army’s hidden base.

The “Fate Dao” which this bunch had mastered was quite extraordinary. As Divine Dao Star’s Star Lord had explained, Fate Dao was a power that could be shared. In other words, the black shadow soldiers currently had symbiotic relationships with each other. They were as annoying as weeds: Wildfires burn but do not exhaust; Spring winds blow and they live once more 1.

If they didn’t ferret out the mastermind behind the scenes, eradicating the black shadow soldiers would be hard, since they would be resurrected as soon as they died.

Little Silver and Loopy Toad wandered along the streets. Their priority was to collect the fragments of the Jade Scroll of School History, and there wasn’t much time left before the summer break ended. When the person and the dog passed a park, Dog Two smelled a fragment nearby. They rushed over and saw a senior high school student doing literary exercises. This wasn’t a kid who had come out to copy homework, but the son of a boss who ran a shop in the park. This student was watching the shop and doing his homework at the same time.

Glancing at the youngster's uniform, Dog Two realized that he was from No. 59 High.

"Hello, student." Little Silver went over. "Which question can't you work out?"

"You are?" The youngster raised his head.

"Actually, I'm a remedial teacher." Little Silver made up a random identity. Eyeing the exercise scroll in the youngster's hands, he took out a burlap pouch from his pocket and produced an identical scroll.

Inside the burlap pouch were close to one thousand copies of the summer holiday homework which the two gremlins, Pen and Eraser, spent a whole night completing. They contained all kinds of exercises that high school students would come across during the summer break. As for their ultimate purpose, that was obvious: an exchange.

To exchange finished homework with the student's incomplete one.

The condition was that the homework scroll had to contain a fragment of the Jade Scroll of School History which Little Silver and Loopy Toad were looking for.

"I have a completed one. Do you want to swap with me?" Little Silver took out the exercise scroll and handed it over.

The youngster opened it and took a look: the handwriting was neat and the answers were correct. His heart jumped, but at the same time, he was a little hesitant. "Is this alright..."

"Teachers don't usually check the summer holiday homework; it's fine as long as it's completed. Also, regular script is used in the homework; as long as I write seriously, it's easy to imitate." Little Silver duped him. "Look, you took so long to solve one question."

He then glanced at the paper that the youngster was doing: it was a matching question.

The question was: Match the following eight thought-provoking questions with the corresponding occupations.



The eight occupations were: key maker, canteen lady, fortune teller, courier little brother, trash sorter, express driver, hairdresser and neighborhood watch.

The thought-provoking questions were: Do you deserve it 1? Do you want rice? What are you calculating? What manner of thing are you? What sort of trash are you? Do you actually know your position? Look at yourself in the mirror; who do you think you are? And: Who are you, where are you from, where are you headed?

Mm...

Actually, the youngster had already finished the matching.

But he was lost in thought after that as he pondered the meaning of life, right up until Little Silver and Dog Two showed up.

Chapter 1033: The Female University Student Who Ghostwrites Homework

Little Silver and Loopy Toad believed that anyone who saw these “Eight Thought-Provoking Questions” would ponder their lives deeply. For Little Silver, this question was actually pretty much keeping with the times, since beginning with Songhai city in recent months, citizens were moving toward separating their trash. Anyone who didn’t do so would be fined! Your spirit sword might even be seized on the spot and you would have to help collect at least five kilos of trash in your city area.

And so, if you saw a person sneaking around in the dead of night with a black burlap sack in their hands... it might not be a thief, but someone coming out to throw trash!

If you didn’t throw out the trash at this time, a row of aunties responsible for sorting out the trash would be standing outside the trash disposal room in the morning with smiles on their faces as they waited for you, each one asking, “What kind of trash are you 1?”

“Thank you for your cooperation.” Little Silver successfully swapped literary papers with No. 59 High’s Student Shen Guangrong.

Student Shen was ecstatic. “Can I also swap other homework with you?”

Little Silver shot him a glance. “Do the rest yourself! Didn’t your mom teach you not to be conniving or fish in troubled waters?!”

Student Shen: “???”

Little Silver: “How can you make progress if you don’t do your homework? How can you enter a top university without making progress? How can reach the pinnacle of your life and win your Miss Perfect without entering a top university?”

Student Shen was then lost in deep thought once more.

Little Silver didn’t think he was going too far in this regard; in any case, they had already gotten what they wanted. Being conniving was a bad thing to begin with!

At the entrance to the little shop in the park, Dog Two drew a transmission magic array in a covert location. The array led to Headmaster Chen’s office. After collecting the homework, they wouldn’t take it with them since it would very likely draw the attention of No. 60 High teachers who were lurking nearby.

Thus, when they were mapping out their strategy, Little Silver and Loopy Toad had discussed it and decided to transmit the homework over as soon as they collected it. In any case, the array for delivering items wasn’t a complicated one; you just needed to know the coordinates.

Stretching out a claw, Loopy Toad injected spiritual energy into its nail, then drew a pretty round circular array on the ground before using its nail to directly write out some characters.

As everyone knew, the hardest thing about drawing an array wasn’t writing the characters, but drawing the circle.

If the circle wasn’t round enough, the magic array wouldn’t activate.

Hence, drawing circles was a fundamental skill for an array master, and tested how steady his hand was to the extreme. The strength of an array master was reflected in how well he could draw a circle. A formidable array master would have a lot of ways to draw a circle; not only were the circles round enough, he could also draw them quickly.

As one of the few clans in the demon world widely known as a formidable tank support Demon King clan, arrays were actually compulsory learning for the Sky-Swallowing Toad clan.

Hence, Loopy Toad was in fact exceedingly proficient at drawing magic arrays.

It took less than two minutes to draw the array, and Loopy Toad placed the swapped literary papers in the center. It recited a magic spell and made a seal with its paws. In a streak of golden light, the literary papers were delivered straight to Headmaster Chen's office.

After that, Loopy Toad pawed at the ground and got rid of the magic array. After confirming the array had been dealt with, Loopy Toad turned to Little Silver and said, "Let's move on."

...

At noon, Loopy Toad led Little Silver to a university. A few courier brothers were fretting outside the school entrance. They didn't have time and still had other deliveries to make after this, but they couldn't contact the delivery recipients inside the university.

Going over for a look, Little Silver saw the words on the school's stele: Songhai Magic Treasure Development University.

"So this is the place..." Little Silver sighed.

"What's up?" asked Loopy Toad.

"This is the university I told you about yesterday, targeted by a serial killer," Little Silver answered in a low voice.

Loopy Toad nodded and understood immediately.

The murderer had killed through a screen, and before he was caught, the convenient express delivery transmission function had been cut off throughout the school to ensure the students' safety. Students who wanted to get their packages could only rely on the old method of getting the couriers to lay out the things at the school entrance at noon and wait for the students to come and collect them.

Naturally, the biggest headache was that the names on these express items weren't the real ones... For the sake of their privacy, some students used their online pseudonyms.

Thus, when Little Silver and Loopy Toad drew near, they saw several courier brothers at the school entrance shouting themselves hoarse: "I Am The Father You Can Never Have! I Am The Father You Can Never Have! Come get your express delivery!"

"Crossdressing Big Shot! Crossdressing Big Shot! I have your express delivery! Come get it ASAP! I'm leaving soon!"

"Oniichan! I have your express delivery!"

...

In a few short minutes, all kinds of fancy names were called out.

Everyone: "..."

"Are you sure the fragment is in there? This is a university." Standing at the entrance, Little Silver looked around. He was hesitant about going in, and wondered if Loopy Toad might be mistaken.

"There's no mistake, it's here." Loopy Toad shook its head; it was very confident in its sense of smell.

Little Silver followed Dog Two inside. The security guard uncle was about to stop them, but immediately paused when he saw the medal on Little Silver's chest.

It was the custom-made medal for team leaders of the Office of Strategic Deception. The sect was now the number one light force in Huaxiu nation in terms of overall strength, and the entire country

was aware of its prestige. The security guard didn't know how high up Little Silver was in the Office of Strategic Deception, but after recognizing the medal, he didn't block their way.

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had given Little Silver this medal to prevent the latter from being taken to the police station yet again when he was out by himself on the streets; reality now proved that the medal was more useful than Little Silver had imagined.

"The canteen up ahead." Loopy Toad led Little Silver forward. When they approached the entrance to the canteen, Little Silver's gaze focused on a university student who was writing at a tremendous speed.

There was no doubt that this was a female student of Magic Treasure Development University, but next to her seat was a thick pile of high school exercises...

"What is this?" Loopy Toad was bewildered at this scene.

A university student doing high school homework — Little Silver could only think of one possibility.

He slowly walked over, his gaze fixed on the long-haired girl who was absorbed in her writing. Her meal card was on the table, and with one look, Little Silver saw her name: Lin Shiyao.

"Are you helping other people write their homework?" asked Little Silver.

Pulling her long hair back, Lin Shiyao raised her head and shot Little Silver a casual glance. "Regular school exercises are 100 yuan per book, school exercises in an exact copy of your handwriting are 200 yuan a book, test papers are 100 yuan a set."

After saying this, she fished out a card with a QR code on it from around her neck and placed it on the table. "Swipe the code to pay, and I'll finish all your homework today."

Little Silver and Loopy Toad: "..."

Chapter 1034: An Era Which Emphasizes Looks

It was very clear... that this wasn't Lin Shiyao's first time doing this. She was very open about it, though – helping other people with their homework was originally a job behind the scenes, but the girl was unexpectedly not shy at all about taking orders in the canteen.

Actually, Lin Shiyao would have holed up in her own dorm room as usual, had it not been for the serial murders this time, which had led to the express deliveries needing to be physically sent to the campus. She took this job extremely seriously, because the number of orders she took every summer and winter holiday helped her earn sixty to seventy times more money than her school scholarships. Not only could she cover her tuition fees and even some of her living expenses herself, she was able to reap in a huge amount of additional funds through this winter and summer holiday homework ghostwriting business.

Helping to do someone else's homework by mutual consent and with the prices clearly stated wasn't against the law. Even if the police knew about it, they couldn't do anything. Usually, even parents would come over themselves to pay Lin Shiyao to do their children's homework when the latter couldn't complete it... In the business of ghostwriting holiday homework, Lin Shiyao could be said to be a big boss.

As for why she was the boss, this was very obvious...

Lin Shiyao took out the QR code. Seeing that Little Silver and Loopy Toad were still hesitating, she placed it on the table casually. She never stopped working, and instead spoke to someone behind her as she wrote. "I'm busy right now. Help me entertain these guests."

"Yes!" someone behind her quickly replied.

Only then did Little Silver realize that Lin Shiyao actually had helpers... There were ten tables full of university students doing homework behind her.

So, this ghostwriting homework gang was actually pretty big?

Little Silver was stupefied when he saw this.

This was a team which Lin Shiyao had specially hired. She came up with this business idea since ordinary university students didn't have her sort of reputation and couldn't draw in as many orders. Using her own work foundation every year, she would take on additional orders and divide them up other university students. She would just sign share agreements with them, and only take thirty percent of the cost of the homework task as a broker fee.

Thus, in this way, Lin Shiyao's team continued to expand.

There were four people to a table in the canteen, and as many as ten tables, so fully forty people were working under Lin Shiyao.

Furthermore, to ensure the homework's quality, Lin Shiyao even divided it up so that some people would be responsible for doing the literary homework in particular, and some for the Dao talismans course. Those who were proficient in alchemy skills or spirit sword techniques were responsible for doing the supplementary homework – there was even an outdoor film crew that could cosplay to look like employers and which specialized in filming videos to complete the extra-curricular practicums which some schools had.

"How many fragments?" Little Silver gave Loopy Toad a meaningful glance and asked telepathically.

"There are at least six fragments here..." Loopy Toad replied.

A lot of people hired Lin Shiyao. Since a large amount of homework in the city was concentrated around Lin Shiyao, this saved Little Silver and Loopy Toad a lot of hassle.

"There's something we hope you can help us with."

Little Silver crouched down and smiled gently.

Dog Two jumped onto a canteen chair and sat down obediently, wagging its tail as it gazed at Lin Shiyao.

Miss Lin glanced at Little Silver and Loopy Toad, but didn't stop working. The person behind her who had initially put his work aside to receive guests saw that Little Silver had come looking for Lin Shiyao specifically, so he sat back down silently.

“Unfortunately, I’m very busy now. If you’re asking about the serial murders, I have no comment. A police officer with the surname Gao already questioned me; I don’t want to repeat myself.” Lin Shiyao was someone who liked being efficient.

A police officer with the surname Gao? Little Silver was blank.

It appeared that Gao Tian had been here to question the students about the murders.

But that wasn’t what Little Silver and Loopy Toad were here for. Little Silver sat down patiently in front of Miss Lin.

What Little Silver had was time, and he could wait. There were as many as six fragments here, when their job today initially was to collect five.

As a result, when Little Silver sat down, Lin Shiyao felt uncomfortable.

She was an innocent, single woman from a good family, helping people to ghostwrite homework in the clear light of day, and a handsome guy had actually sat down opposite her to watch her write... This was something Lin Shiyao had never experienced before.

She was somewhat a celebrity at Magic Treasure Development University. When Little Silver sat down in front of her and watched her do homework, the atmosphere felt strange.

“Wow, who’s that silver-haired young man? He’s very handsome... and has a green-furred dog?”

“He isn’t Lin Shiyao’s boyfriend, is he? I always thought she was abstinent.”

“Holy shit, big news! Lin Shiyao actually has a boyfriend...”

(The above are all Lin Shiyao’s delusions...)

Lin Shiyao shook her head hard. She felt that if this went on, she would end up hearing things that weren’t there.



“What are you doing?” After a few minutes, Lin Shiyao finally stopped working under Little Silver’s bright and innocent smile.

Quality customer service always came first. Little Silver sitting here and staring at her already made Lin Shiyao feel that she couldn’t work normally. However, she just couldn’t get angry with Little Silver. Actually, most female university students liked the “little milk dog 1 ” type, and Little Silver just so happened to fit the bill. His smile made one feel refreshed, and could even erase most of the shadows in one’s heart.

When Lin Shiyao raised her head to look at Little Silver, she felt as if she was sitting in front of a small sun: it was warm and gentle, and wasn’t glaring. It made people want to reach out and touch it, and they wouldn’t be burned.

“Are you finally willing to talk to me?” Little Silver continued to smile.

“Don’t say such misleading things... Just say what you want...” Lin Shiyao blushed and immediately lowered her head.

This scene made Dog Two very envious. Sure enough, it was good to look attractive! Who knew when it would be able to take on a human form... Loopy Toad stared at Little Silver’s human form and pondered. It was constantly worried that its human form would be ugly; it had even dreamt countless times that when it took on a human form, its skin and even its hair were green, the type that was fluorescent at night... It was a green color that would give even the Hulk a run for his money.

If it was too ugly, Loopy Toad didn’t think it would be able to accept it.

After adapting to life in the human world, Loopy Toad actually realized that it, too, had an idol burden, and moreover, it understood the importance of looks.

This was an era which emphasized looks!

If you had a very attractive face, you could rid yourself of a lot of worries...

Chapter 1035: Founder of Flow of Two Pens

It was human nature to love beauty. Although a person was born with their looks, spells, pills and medicine for changing one's appearance based on each individual's aesthetic requirements popped up all the time in the cultivation world; cultivators could get plastic surgery without needing to go under the knife, and it was very safe.

Youth-retaining pills could optimize your original features to a certain degree, improve the condition of your skin, and give you a youthful appearance. Huaguo Water Curtain Group's youth-retaining pill was the most famous.

Of course, if you wanted a completely different appearance, you could use face-molding pills. Within half an hour of eating one, your face would become as malleable as plasticine. However, face-molding pills usually weren't sold over the counter. This was something that had to be arranged by a hospital's cosmetic surgery department, and the doctor responsible for molding the face also had to have passed a face-molding evaluation and obtained the relevant qualification certificate.

Actually, Loopy Toad wasn't worried about how ugly it would be when it took on a human form – it was worried that its hair would look strange in a human form... There were a lot of men with green hair in comics and cartoons, but it really would look very strange in real life!!

Of course, not everyone had this fear of looking ugly.

For example, Little Master Ling was someone who worried that he was too handsome, and had forcibly pulled his looks down to the average level...

Your face was something you were born with.

Loopy Toad stared at Lin Shiyao. Although it had only been a few minutes since encountering her, Loopy Toad could already sense this attractive curve wrecker's charisma. A group of university students ghostwriting homework, and grandiosely taking orders in the school canteen – this was absolutely a beautiful scene.

Letting Little Silver hang around would interfere with Lin Shiyao's work, so she listened patiently to Little Silver's request. Little Silver didn't go into detail, and just told the girl that due to some reason, they needed to swap out some of the workbooks and test papers.

Lin Shiyao accepted the workbooks Little Silver planned to use for the exchange, and she was stunned by the neat and utterly beautiful handwriting in them.

Furthermore, it was in a calligraphy style that Lin Shiyao had actually never seen before.

And so, Lin Shiyao agreed to Little Silver's request. "You can swap out as many as you want."

She then buried her head in the homework.

"Thank you!"

The exchange was a success! Little Silver and Loopy Toad were pleasantly surprised to be able to obtain six fragments all at once.

Out of the corner of her eye, Lin Shiyao sized up the homework from Little Silver: it was four test papers and two workbooks. As she brooded over the beautiful characters, she was abruptly seized by the desire to see what the person with such beautiful handwriting looked like.

"Who wrote this homework?" Lin Shiyao asked without looking up.

"To be exact, it was my Master," Little Silver answered. He knew very well that the two gremlins, Pen and Eraser, ultimately acted in accordance with Little Master Ling's will. While they helped Little Master Ling finish the homework, there were still some fixed rules:

1: The homework content had to be something that Wang Ling had already mastered.

2: The two gremlins Eraser and Pen were unable to help with essay topics that involved expressing emotions.

Aside from the two inflexible conditions above, Wang Ling could do whatever he liked.

Wang Ling could even fix what handwriting style to use in the workbooks. Most of the workbooks were written in the "regular square" style. However, some of the topics had to do with expressing emotions and Pen and Eraser had no way of completing them, so Wang Ling would write these sections himself.

Although there weren't many of these topics, Wang Ling's handwriting caught Lin Shiyao's attention.

When one Silver and one dog figured out Miss Lin's thoughts, they couldn't help sighing in their hearts.

It could only be said that as expected of Little Master Ling: he could casually snare a female university student without even leaving the house... Moreover, it was a very beautiful and ascetic female curve wrecker...

The fact that they could see through Lin Shiyao's thoughts wasn't strange. Little Silver was a holy beast while Loopy Toad was a quasi-holy beast. In addition, this Silver and dog chatted with each other privately every day, and had comprehended the Bright Holy Heart ability long ago.

Although this ability wasn't as powerful as Wang Ling's "Mind-Reading Ability," which could cover an unlimited distance, one could still read a person's inner thoughts when in close range.

Actually, Loopy Toad felt that it wasn't even necessary to use Bright Holy Heart when it came to Lin Shiyao – all the thoughts of this young lady, who was still in her teens, was written on her face.

"I don't know what you're looking for, but it seems to be inside these kids' high school summer homework, right?" Her chin in her hands, Lin Shiyao tried to come up with a possible action plan.

Finally, she grit her teeth. "How about this, I'll make you a deal. I'll increase our orders and help gather as much homework as possible. That way, you might find whatever you're looking for more quickly."

"So it can be done like this..." Little Silver pondered, but at the same time was worried whether Lin Shiyao would be able to accomplish the task as promised, since it would be an excessive workload.

"You don't have to worry about me. Since I've promised to increase the orders, I'm quite certain I can handle it." Lin Shiyao stopped writing and smiled confidently. "Have you heard of Flow of Two Pens?"

Loopy Toad was stunned. "???"

Of course it knew Flow of Two Pens... This was the trick Dopey Guo had used to copy homework in No. 60 High before... Furthermore, Dopey Guo had even upgraded this move, and unleashed Flow of Five Pens to increase his copying speed.

“To tell you the truth, I’m the founder of Flow of Two Pens Sect.” Lin Shiyao steepled her fingers and formally introduced herself to Little Silver and Loopy Toad.

“When you join my sect, learning Flow of Two Pens is the basic requirement. I just need to mobilize all my sect disciples and have them use Flow of Two Pens in their ghostwriting, so we can double the original workload.”

Lin Shiyao added, “Of course, Flow of Two Pens is not my biggest strength as sect leader.”

Saying that, she took out all the pens in her stationery pouch, and held them in-between her fingers on both hands... Eight pens in total.

F\*\*k! Flow of Eight Pens...

Loopy Toad was now utterly convinced of Lin Shiyao’s identity as sect leader.

It could only be said that as the founder of Flow of Two Pens Sect, Lin Shiyao was indeed qualified to undertake this huge task. Doing homework with eight pens... This speed was simply unimaginable. In Lin Shiyao’s eyes, these high school exercises were as easy as eating and drinking.

Using eight pens at the same time, she had already become a human typewriter...

Then, like a swordsman, she slipped all the pens in her hand back into her stationery pouch. Her movements were like a refined dance performance, so smooth they made one’s hair stand on end.

And so, after this jaw-dropping operation, Lin Shiyao looked at the Silver and the dog in front of her. “I’ll help you, but you have to promise me that you’ll let me meet the person who has this handwriting. So... do we have a deal?”

Chapter 1036: The Hostage Situation at Magic Treasure Development University

Actually, it wasn't as difficult to meet Wang Ling as some might imagine... Those familiar with him knew that as long as you made sure to prepare crispy noodle snacks beforehand, you could even video chat with your beloved Ling Zhenren! Of course, he wouldn't say a word during the video chat, and would stare at you with those cute, round dead fish eyes of his, firmly capturing your heart.

To look into a person's heart, there were a lot of times when you just needed to look into their eyes. The eyes were the window to the soul, and even Wang Ling was no different. Actually, his eyes were a little special because of the King's Eye, and his pupils could appear red. But there were plenty of cases in the cultivation world of eyes changing color as a result of cultivating different Foundation Establishment kungfu, so eye color wasn't considered a problem.

Of course, there were those who deliberately wore contacts to change their eye color; it was just that this wasn't allowed in school.

There was a huge difference between natural eye color and color contacts; after years of experience, the teachers who carried out checks at the school entrance could tell which was which with one glance.

Secretly taking a deep breath, Little Silver straightened out his thoughts before discussing the next part of their cooperation with this Miss Lin. He thought that her proposal was reasonable, but in order not to annoy Little Master Ling, Little Silver put forward another requirement: he hoped that Lin Shiyao would just observe Wang Ling from afar and not get too close.

Lin Shiyao had no objections to this.

She was truly only curious to know what the person with this beautiful handwriting looked like, and never planned to talk to him. She had been in a relationship once before, but after the breakup, she completely gave up on love and didn't think she would fall for someone ever again.

To Lin Shiyao, being in a relationship was simply torture.

She could recite a hundred different benefits of staying single: freedom, no restrictions, no need to routinely fake affection daily, and being able to live true to herself, more than anyone else.

How great was that?

And so they officially came to an agreement just like that.

“So it’s a deal.”

Lin Shiyao started to take deep breaths to hide her happiness and anticipation. She had several of her assistants behind her open up a new round of orders online, and Little Silver and Loopy Toad heard them start to bustle around as the Taobao app on their phones started to beep non-stop.

Where there was demand, there was a market...

Ghostwriting homework was a job that had emerged in keeping with the times, like the recent trend of trash sorting; Loopy Toad believed that it wouldn’t be long before some company introduced a door-to-door trash sorting service: it wouldn’t just be disposing trash, the trash sorters could be called out at any time like the food delivery boys...

Loopy Toad didn’t expect Lin Shiyao’s business to actually be so good; it wasn’t an exaggeration to describe the scene as “the clamor of drums and gongs filling the air, firecrackers bursting with loud bangs, red flags fluttering in the sky, and a sea of people” – in this situation, they would absolutely be able to collect all the fragments of the Jade Scroll of School History before the start of school!

But right at that moment, there was suddenly a deafening “bang” outside the canteen, and a number of students rushed inside with panicked expressions, some of whom were even screaming.

“What’s going on?” Lin Shiyao got up and grabbed a flustered boy to ask.

“Sis Lin... it seems like there was an explosion at the auditorium!”

“An explosion? From what?”

“I don’t know, either...” The boy was also bewildered. “I went out to collect my express delivery when I heard an explosion coming from the auditorium.”

“Was anyone hurt?”

“I don’t know... But I remember that a teacher has an open lecture in the auditorium at this time, and there are about fifty students inside.”

“All of you stay here; I’ll go take a look,” Lin Shiyao instructed the people behind her. She then turned and made for the auditorium. Lin Shiyao was also the president of the student union at Magic Treasure Development University, and she couldn’t turn a blind eye when something like this happened; at the very least, she had to figure out the cause of the explosion.

This incident also caught Little Silver and Loopy Toad’s attention. After discussion, one Silver and one dog hurried out with Lin Shiyao. Magic Treasure Development University hadn’t been very peaceful recently because of that serial killer who had yet to be brought to justice.

Was it possible that this explosion had something to do with the murderer?

As they approached the auditorium, they saw that a group of university teachers had already rushed over at the news, while some gutsy students were being pests nearby. Teachers wielding all kinds of magic treasures prevented the students from getting closer and broke up the crowd, while some of them were already preparing to go in and rescue people.

Little Silver examined the auditorium’s location. It had been built in one corner of the campus. Flanked by tall walls, a high-pressure barrier over it prevented outsiders from climbing over the walls to get in. The auditorium had two exits, but both of them had collapsed after the explosion and were completely blocked by the broken bricks and tiles that had fallen.

Seeing this, Little Silver already sensed that something wasn’t right — this was clearly a premeditated explosion.

If it was an accident, it was impossible that both exits would just so happen to be blocked after the explosion.



And it was at that very moment when an unfamiliar voice rang out from inside the auditorium.  
“Teachers, remain calm – put down your magic weapons and step back, otherwise I won’t be able to guarantee the safety of the teacher and fifty students inside the auditorium.”

The cold, utterly emotionless voice sounded in the air; it was a warning issued from the broadcast room inside the auditorium to the people outside.

“Who are you?” a teacher asked.

“You seem to have been looking for me for a very long time, and you’ve used all sorts of ways to prevent me from harming other students. But in fact, I’ve run out of patience. I think those dead students died too easily; I should have tortured them to death... And so, it’s in fact because of your Magic Treasure Development University’s non-compliance that I’m hijacking this place today.”

When the man said this, sweat covered the backs of all the teachers and students – this was the serial killer!

“Tell us what you want! Please don’t hurt the kids inside!” At that moment, a middle-aged man with his hair swept back and who was a little out of shape stepped forward: he was the principal of Magic Treasure Development University, Zhou Dongye. Little Silver had previously seen some of the information which Gao Tian had on the police station’s investigation into Magic Treasure Development University, and he recognized this man at first glance.

“This voice – is that Principal Zhou Dongye’s voice?” The man inside laughed coldly. “I didn’t want to do this, but the truth is that if I don’t blow up this matter here, you won’t pay any attention to it at all. Do all of you still remember the kid, Zheng Jingxuan?”

When the man said this, the faces of Zhou Dongye and all the teachers present turned dark. Little Silver turned his head and saw that Lin Shiyao had already clenched her small fists, which trembled slightly.

Chapter 1037: The Case Back Then

Gao Tian had dashed to the university after receiving the news. In order not to aggravate the criminal, he changed into plain clothes and rushed over in the police chief's private car. Only three police officers followed him.

The Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron had already been deployed, and was hiding nearby around the school. For the time being, they wouldn't reveal themselves, but as long as Gao Tian gave the order, they would burst in and rescue the students.

But in the end, storming the auditorium would be a poor strategy – this serial killer had already murdered several people, and wouldn't scruple to kill a few more.

"What's the situation?" Gao Tian asked his assistant when they were on the road.

"The teachers are currently maintaining order at the scene. By the way, Chief Gao, the suspect mentioned a person called Zheng Jingxuan. Our colleagues in the intelligence department dug up information on him. Have a look." The assistance passed his phone to Gao Tian.

The information on Zheng Jingxuan was detailed: he was part of Magic Treasure Development University's graduating batch number 4393 three years ago. His grades were excellent, and he even represented the university at a magic treasure design competition.

Gao Tian read the relevant information which the intelligence department had gathered from the Internet. "Because of suspected plagiarism in this international competition, he was permanently banned from participating ever again, which tarnished the reputation of his alma mater Magic Treasure Development University. After discussion among the university higher-ups, Zheng Jingxuan was ordered to issue a public apology to the entire university and to the magic treasure design circle. If not, he had to withdraw from school or accept punishment. Zheng Jingxuan refused to apologize, and after several talks came to nothing, the school issued a notice of disciplinary action. When the courier delivered it to Zheng Jingxuan's rental, Zheng Jingxuan had already committed suicide by exploding his golden core."

Reading this, Gao Tian rubbed his chin. "So it's this matter..." This incident had actually caused quite a stir back then. Gao Tian vaguely remembered how Zheng Jingxuan was universally condemned in the news, with people itching to press his head down and force him to apologize.

This matter didn't settle down after Zheng Jingxuan's death. WeMedia articles were published online which expressed the universal view that Zheng Jingxuan had felt ashamed and committed suicide because he couldn't take the pressure.

But after that, online users started to change their tune: these people, who had made a fuss before about wanting Zheng Jingxuan to be brought to justice, and who had itched to crucify and flay him on the pillar of disgrace, started to sympathize with him, and wondered if there was some inside story to this matter.

But just a week later, all the voices online subsided and vanished...

No matter how hot a topic was, it wouldn't last more than seven days – this was Gao Tian's understanding of the modern Internet.

"I remember this case; I also knew about it three years ago, but I didn't have the authority to get involved. The ultimate findings of the police investigation was that Zheng Jingxuan had indeed committed suicide; a suicide note was found at his place, and after it was examined, it was indeed Zheng Jingxuan's writing." Gao Tian sighed ruefully – he never expected to run into this case again several years later.

Could it be that there really was an inside story behind this incident back then?

Gao Tian speculated in his heart.

But this was only conjecture, and he had no evidence. He would have to find more proof to put together as much of the truth as possible of what happened back then.

But even if Gao Tian wanted to carry out an investigation, it wouldn't be easy. It had already been three years since it happened, and a lot of the lines of evidence had been cut. Even the rental where Zheng Jingxuan had committed suicide had been converted by the landlord into a games room, since no one wanted to live in a place where someone had died.

After going through the information, Gao Tian gave the phone back to the assistant next to him and listened as the latter said, "In short, this is a student who tarnished Magic Treasure Development University's reputation. Our initial speculation is that it might be Zheng Jingxuan's parents behind the serial murders and this hostage situation, doing this for revenge.

"A preliminary investigation shows that Zheng Jingxuan's parents divorced before his death because they couldn't take the online abuse. We've already contacted his mother, who is in a relationship with a new boyfriend in another part of the country. We've already entrusted some of

our local colleagues to drop by and confirm this, but it should be the case. Currently, we're still investigating Zheng Jingxuan's father, and we can't exclude him from the list of suspects yet."

"Mm, be sure to find his father."

Gao Tian nodded. Zheng Jingxuan's parents had the biggest motive in this case. Of course, Gao Tian didn't completely agree with his assistant's view.

Zheng Jingxuan was undoubtedly a disgrace now in the magic treasure design circle, but who actually knew the truth of what happened back then?

"When we arrive at the scene, don't provoke the criminal by insulting Student Zheng. Is that understood?" Gao Tian gave the instruction.

"Yes, sir." The officers accompanying him all nodded.

"What demands has the criminal made so far?"

"First, he wants three million in ransom."

"He abducted so many hostages, but he wants just three million?" Gao Tian felt that there was something wrong with this criminal's brain. But it suddenly struck him – the first prize for that magic treasure design competition which Zheng Jingxuan took part in that year was three million.

Was the criminal was giving them a hint?

Gao Tian felt that things were becoming more interesting. If this criminal was really here because of that competition back then, he might be trying to uphold justice himself by revealing some inside story.

But in Gao Tian's opinion, this was very foolish behavior.

Regardless of whether there was some secret behind the competition that year, even if there really was some inside story, this wasn't a reason to kill so many people. The cultivation world was now ruled by law, and such a nation would naturally uphold law and justice. Blowing the cover off an

inside story was absolutely within the bounds of the law, and not a case of using public office to avenge private wrongs.

Gao Tian would do whatever it took to clearly investigate what happened that year, but he would also catch this heinous criminal who had killed several people, and have him brought to justice.

“His second demand is for the principal of Magic Treasure Development University, Zhou Dongye, to publicly release the unedited video recording of the entire magic treasure design competition that year. Since it was a while ago, Principal Zhou said that he couldn’t fulfill this demand at the moment as he has to first contact the organizing committee for their approval before he can bring the video over... However, the criminal didn’t accept Principal Zhou Dongye’s objection, and has demanded that Principal Zhou make the video public in half an hour, otherwise he would start killing one hostage every half an hour after that.”

“Anything else?” Gao Tian’s face darkened.

“His third and final demand is that, except for university personnel, all cultivators above the Golden Core stage within a ten-kilometer radius has to leave. If they’re not gone in an hour, he’ll blow up the auditorium...”

#### Chapter 1038: A Case Of Magic Treasure Design Plagiarism

There was no doubt that this was an extremely vicious criminal. However, judging from the other side’s three demands, it wasn’t hard for Gao Tian to guess that he wanted to use this incident to reopen the case from back then. Without this big a ruckus, the truth of that case might always be buried in the dark and never see the light of day again.

And so, after thinking it over, Gao Tian gave the first instruction. “Arrange for the Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron lying in wait nearby to retreat ten kilometers away.”

“Yes...” Gao Tian was in command, and while the police officers behind him didn’t understand the reason for this withdrawal, they could only obey.

In fact, just three minutes earlier, the Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron had already come up with a kill plan. They were going to use a long-range flying sword and an infrared sensor magic treasure to target and kill the suspect inside the auditorium. Even in this situation, the success rate of this

method was as high as eighty percent, and everything else would work out once the criminal was taken down.

But it was clear that Gao Tian's aim wasn't just to arrest the criminal. As a rule of thumb, a long-range sniper could indeed be used to take out the murderous hostage-taker, but the success rate wasn't a hundred percent at present. If they failed, and provoked the murderer instead, all the students in the auditorium would suffer.

And one of the most important things was the criminal's method.

This criminal had previously killed via Internet screen transmission. Such a bizarre method proved that the other side had a high realm, and he wasn't an ordinary person. That was why they had to be more careful; there might be unimaginable risks if the other party sensed that they were deceiving him.

The scene could be considered pretty orderly by the time Gao Tian arrived. He gave Principal Zhou a storage pouch which he had brought with him from the police station. It contained three million yuan in cash; upon receiving the criminal's demands, Gao Tian had immediately ordered a nearby bank to cooperate and come up with three million yuan at once.

The other party had a bigger plan; this cash extortion was nothing more than a formality, so Gao Tian estimated that the risk of the bank losing three million yuan was very small. Of course, even if they did ultimately lose the money, they would be compensated by the insurance company.

After moving past the police cordon, Gao Tian suddenly noticed that Little Silver and a green-furred dog which he had seen before were also here, and he was instantly astonished. "Why are the both of you here?"

The police and teachers on the side were also very helpless. They already had people withdraw according to Gao Tian's instruction so that no one above the Golden Core stage remained, but Little Silver was a group leader of the Office of Strategic Deception and they couldn't order him to leave at all.

"I was just passing by, and happened upon this commotion," Little Silver said, before lowering his voice to say to Gao Tian, "Don't worry. The green-furred dog and I have hidden our auras. The other side won't be able to tell."

Gao Tian: "..."

Actually, Little Silver wasn't worried about the murderer being particular about this. The other side had demanded that people above the Golden Core stage withdraw... But Little Silver was a holy beast and Loopy Toad was a quasi-holy beast.

The ones to withdraw were human – what did it have to do with them as holy beasts?

Principal Zhou Dongye relaxed a little at Gao Tian's arrival, but the current situation was still very tense.

“Can the video recording be delivered in half an hour?” Gao Tian asked.

Principal Zhou Dongye was blank, before he broke out in a cold sweat and nodded. “It should be alright...”

“Principal Zhou, I need an exact answer.”

“It can!”

After Principal Zhou Dongye said this, Gao Tian turned to look at the auditorium. “Sir, did you heard what Principal Zhou Dongye said? So we might as well have a chat about why you're doing this.”

For a long time, there wasn't any response from inside. In the next moment, however, an image was projected on an LCD screen outside the auditorium for everyone to see.

It was a design drawing of a pill furnace magic treasure.

The entire pill furnace was greenish gray in color, and its exterior was inlaid with jade and silver pearls. The pill furnace sat on spiral legs, each of which had 128 invisible air vents which could optimally minimize the internal pressure generated in the pill furnace during the refining process. Lastly, a ventilator was installed at the bottom of the pill furnace, reflecting its remarkable environmentally friendly concept.

This was the masterpiece which won the magic treasure design competition three years ago. In the lower right corner of the work was the name of the designer, “Raven.”

Actually, Raven wasn’t a person, but a code name for a well-known studio.

The founder and head of Raven Studio was none other than Fu Fusheng, a graduate of Magic Treasure Development University who was in the same year as Zheng Jingxuan.

The signature in the lower right corner of this “clean green spiral furnace” design blueprint was Student Fu Fusheng’s way of promoting the studio after he won the competition.

“Fu Fusheng,” Gao Tian muttered.

“Who is Fu Fusheng?” Little Silver asked.

“The founder of Raven Studio. It’s a famous magic treasure design studio in the industry. Student Fu Fusheng was in the same year as Student Zheng Jingxuan, and they were both outstanding talents in the same class,” Gao Tian said.

“So, the work Student Zheng Jingxuan plagiarized was Fu Fusheng’s?”

“That’s right.” Gao Tian nodded. “Back then, it was this Student Fu who first expressed doubts via public channels. It was because of this that all the media ultimately joined the crusade against the plagiarist, which led to that tragedy.”

Principal Zhou Dongye’s face turned increasingly unsightly as Gao Tian spoke. After mulling it over, Principal Zhou said, “Captain Gao, you should be thinking of ways to save my students, not flipping through old files. The school and society already settled on what happened back then. There were witness statements and material evidence for Zheng Jingxuan plagiarizing, and the verdict is irreversible. Bringing this old matter up again is nothing more than giving Student Zheng’s family new wounds, and Student Zheng’s spirit may not be able to rest in peace.”

“So is the truth truly what Principal Zhou Dongye says it is?”

“Captain, what do you mean?” Principal Zhou’s face darkened.



Gao Tian snorted and said to the man inside, “Mr Zheng, I know what your objective is. But what’s done is done. I hope you won’t make any more mistakes. You must have done a lot of research all these years; you might as well take this opportunity to voice out all the suspicions your investigation has uncovered, and all the people here will be witnesses.”

When Gao Tian said this, the man inside lapsed into a long silence.

“Mr Zheng?”

Zhou Dongye’s face paled at Gao Tian’s words; he didn’t expect the man inside to actually be Zheng Jingxuan’s father!

“Captain Gao is a capable person – you were actually able to guess my identity...” The man inside sighed.

“How did you know who the person inside is?” Little Silver asked in a low voice.

Gao Tian also whispered in reply, “I was just bluffing; I didn’t think he would be a wolf 1...”

Little Silver: “...”

...

Zheng Tianqiang, Zheng Jingxuan’s father, was behind this hostage situation as well as the serial murders.

What kind of new evidence did he have with regards to the irrefutable facts presented back then? A lot of the teachers had faint doubts in their hearts.

After a few minutes, Zheng Jingxuan’s father said from inside the auditorium, “I now want to ask a person some questions.”

“Who?” Gao Tian asked.

“Student Lin Shiyao should be here, right... Ask her to come forward for my first question...”

Footnotes:

Ch 1038 Footnote 1

Reference to “The Werewolves of Millers Hollow” card game.

Chapter 1039: The Truth From Three Years Ago

Gao Tian had brought some people over to interrogate Lin Shiyao before, but he hadn’t expected that she would actually be linked to this case. He glanced meaningfully at his assistant next to him, and the latter rushed off to contact the intelligence department for information on Lin Shiyao.

Clenching her fists, Lin Shiyao appeared unusually nervous after Zheng Tianqiang asked her the question, and even her breathing became heavier. Under the gazes of the many teachers and nosy students at the scene, she slowly walked forward with Gao Tian’s help.

“Student Lin Shiyao, do you know why I asked you to step forward?” Father Zheng lowered his voice as he did his best to keep it as gentle as possible. Whether it was Little Silver, Loopy Toad or Gao Tian, however, they could sense the tremor in Father Zheng’s throat which he couldn’t suppress.

As if he had already waited for a very long time, Father Zheng was now extremely emotional. He was restraining himself and doing his best to hold back his emotions so that they wouldn’t burst out.

The moment a person released their emotions was when they were the weakest. Hence, Father Zheng could only restrain himself.

Before the truth officially came to light, he didn’t want to leave anyone an opening.

Lin Shiyao was obviously reluctant to answer Father Zheng's question.

In the last few years, she had buried herself in study to avoid the matter between her and Zheng Jingxuan, and she had always lived in fear and on edge – she hadn't expected the day the matter was uncovered to come so soon.

"Student Lin, you can refuse to answer this criminal's question!" Principal Zhou Dongye stepped out once more.

"Principal Zhou, if you interfere one more time, I'll have you arrested for disorderly conduct." Gao Tian glanced at Principal Zhou, whose face darkened before he stepped back.

Lin Shiyao could be considered a star in Magic Treasure Development University, and for such an outstanding, beautiful student, who was president of the student union, to actually be involved with that "school disgrace" stirred the curiosity of all the teachers and spectating students present.

After a moment of silence, Lin Shiyao finally seemed to pluck up her courage as she raised her head. "That's right, Zheng Jingxuan was my ex."

This answer wasn't unexpected to Gao Tian, but the teachers and students present were surprised.

Father Zheng: "Can you tell everyone, when did you break up?"

Lin Shiyao: "After the magic treasure design competition, Jingxuan broke up with me."

"Very good, Student Lin Shiyao, you're very honest. At least until now, you haven't lied to me." Father Zheng nodded. "Then, Student Lin is used to copying beautiful handwriting."

Lin Shiyao's eyes were already red. "Yes... it's an interest of mine..."

Father Zheng: "Next, Lin Shiyao, please answer my final question: was it you who wrote Jingxuan's suicide note for him?"

"What?"

All the teachers and students at the scene were stunned.

“Student Lin, you... why didn’t you say anything back then...” Principal Zhou Dongye’s voice shook.

Lin Shiyao’s heart was already on the verge of collapse, and she cried as she spoke. “After that case of plagiarism during the competition came out, someone lashed out at Jingxuan, and his arms were broken. After that, he came to me and wanted me to help him write a letter of apology. I never thought it would become his suicide note.”

“Very good.”

Father Zheng was very satisfied with her answer.

He had already investigated this fact earlier on, and getting Lin Shiyao to say it herself corroborated the proof for everyone here. “Student Lin, I will remember your affection for Jingxuan! I thank you!”

“Zheng Tianqiang, what on earth are you trying to do?” Principal Zhou roared.

“Relax, Principal Zhou Dongye, the next question is for you. I hope you will also answer truthfully. If you answer any questions incorrectly, I can’t guarantee the safety of the hostages.”

“You...”

The corner of Principal Zhou’s mouth twitched. As the principal of a cultivation institution of higher education, no one in school had ever dared to challenge him. Gao Tian gazed at Principal Zhou’s clouded expression. Principal Zhou’s philosophy in the pursuit of higher learning was “to be impartial and incorruptible”; he was a very cautious person in his daily life. After the disturbance stirred up by the plagiarism of a magic treasure design plan three years ago, Principal Zhou was the first person to step out and apologize to the public on behalf of Zheng Jingxuan.

It was for this very reason that Principal Zhou wasn’t affected by the case after it happened; conversely, he came across as an upright and good principal.

But since this matter had stirred up quite the fuss today, Gao Tian was well aware that the truth behind this wasn't as simple as it had appeared back then.

Father Zheng laughed coldly on the broadcast and asked, "Principal Zhou, I ask you, after this incident, did you personally verify the facts?"

"It's the cultivation police who do the Investigating and verify the evidence; I don't have the qualifications to interfere."

"Very good, I understand your meaning, Principal Zhou." Father Zheng paused for a second before he continued, "That is to say, Principal Zhou, you didn't watch the complete video of the competition even once?"

"The police made all the evidence public. Is there any difference if I investigated it or not? It would just be a waste of time..."

"So Principal Zhou didn't personally look into any of it, and just because of public condemnation, you pressured an outstanding student into publicly apologizing for something he didn't do. May I ask, Principal Zhou, is this something that a principal should do?"

"You..."

"Principal Zhou, you don't have to rush to refute my words. I have sufficient evidence to prove Jingxuan's innocence." Saying this, Father Zheng displayed a chart of a company's corporate representatives on the LCD screen in the school's public square.

It was a chart of the corporate representatives and principal staff of the well-known magic treasure design studio called Raven Studio, and Father Zheng had highlighted a person called Liu Yi.

"Principal Zhou, do you remember this name?"

"Liu Yi is my disciple. So? What's wrong with him?"

"Principal Zhou's disciple is of course capable. Back then, Liu Yi took first prize in the design competition on behalf of Magic Treasure Development College. Principal Zhou took a shine to Student Liu Yi's talent when the latter was a sophomore, and took him in as an inner disciple. Then,

Fu Fusheng showed up, and Liu Yi planned to cooperate with him to establish a studio and create their own brand. Thus, during Student Liu's time in university, he recruited people from all over the place and gathered together all kinds of magic treasure design talents. Student Fu Fusheng and my son Zheng Jingxuan both received Student Liu Yi's invitation..."

Father Zheng slowly recounted, "Student Liu made a big name for himself and established Raven Studio. After recruiting Student Fu, he made him executive director, and then stepped back himself to serve as a corporate representatives and the company's PR. Principal Zhou, don't you think it's strange?"

"What do you want to say?" Principal Zhou grit his teeth.

"What I want to say is actually very simple."

Zheng Tianqiang said coldly, "I want to say that Student Liu Yi actually has no abilities at all. All his magic treasure designs in university, including the design entry for the competition, were nothing more than the works of my son Zheng Jingxuan in senior high... including the work in the plagiarism case three years ago!"

#### Chapter 1040: A Thought-Provoking Interrogation

Zheng Tianqiang's words caused an uproar among the teachers and students present. The truth was that this might just be the tip of the iceberg when it came to the dark secrets of the design industry. If there was conclusive evidence from three years ago that could successfully overturn this case, no one dared to imagine how it would affect this "upright principal."

Hence, a lot more people were like Principal Zhou and didn't believe it. It had already been three years, and Raven Studio was no longer that small studio from back then, but one which now enjoyed a flourishing, global reputation and which had completed preparations toward becoming listed. If anything incriminating leaked in this period, it was unlikely that Raven Studio would be able to turn things around.

"Father Zheng, since you say that, do you have any proof?" A university lecturer stepped forward of his own accord.

Zheng Tianqiang curled his lip — he had been waiting for this question for so long.

Now that things had come to this point, it was self-evident how important the facts were. At the very beginning, Zheng Tianqiang had wanted to somehow draw attention to this incident. The point, however, was that he hadn't killed anyone — those dead Magic Treasure Development University students had already been murdered by the time he rushed over.

The dead alchemist was the witness who had blown open the plagiarism case back then.

Although Father Zheng had yet to obtain any direct proof, that programmer was the person who had directed the public opinion online back then. When the truth of the situation was still unclear, this student from the same year as Zheng Jingxuan in university was a bystander who spread all kinds of rumors online. In the end, he had directed the violence on the Internet at Zheng Jinxuan.

As for the female live streamer, she was Student Fu Fusheng's ex-girlfriend from university.

These three people were key witnesses who had died just before Father Zheng arrived.

Of course, the most unlucky one was Student Shen Guangrong.

Just as the suspect had been about to kill Student Shen Guangrong, Father Zheng had used his own strength to help hold the murderer back through the screen.

Father Zheng determined that this Student Shen Guangrong was very likely a red herring, randomly chosen so that the police wouldn't make the connection between this case and the magic treasure plagiarism case from three years ago.

As for who the criminal was, Father Zheng actually already a rough idea.

He sensed that a deep and impenetrable abyss was waiting for him somewhere up ahead, and he didn't know what he would face if he continued to probe deeper.

But what Father Zheng understood very well was that he was a father!

As a father, he would do what he was supposed to — clear his son's name!

Father Zheng walked out of the broadcast room. The students and the teacher who had been giving a lecture in the auditorium earlier had already calmed down after the initial panic. So far, they really couldn't link everything that Father Zheng had done to that savage serial killer.

Most of them were observing the situation.

During the public lecture in the auditorium, a shadow had suddenly streaked out of the screen and ultimately coalesced into Father Zheng in front of them.

Father Zheng was very strong; in the split second that he appeared, everyone in the auditorium had been tied up and immobilized with the shadow's power.

Father Zheng then had the female teacher who had been giving the lecture confiscate all the students' phones, and he activated the barrier inside the auditorium to block messages from being possibly sent out with aural spells.

Which led to the current scene.

Father Zheng walked slowly out of the broadcast room and went up to the podium. He straightened and saluted, before bowing deeply to everyone.

"This teacher and all students, I've startled you. I'll have to trouble you to accompany for a little while longer, until I've accomplished what a father should do." Father Zheng bowed again.

The students and teacher in the auditorium were unusually cooperative. They were freshmen, and while they had heard about that plagiarism case from back then, they hadn't personally experienced it themselves. At that time, they were so busy for the college entrance exam and hadn't had the time to concern themselves with online comments.

It was for this very reason that Father Zheng chose to hold this group of students hostage.

They were a relatively neutral party, who viewed the rights and wrongs of this incident more from the standpoint of onlookers.



On the other hand, Father Zheng also needed direct witnesses.

All the witnesses he had been looking for were dead. Since there were no longer any witnesses from back then, he had to think about finding new ones.

“Things have already come to this point, but you’re still hiding? I still have a lot of evidence. If I leak all of them, wouldn’t you be locked up for the rest of your life?” Father Zheng stood with his hands behind his back. He was wearing pitch black traditional attire, and when he released his aura, his clothes fluttered despite the lack of a breeze as he automatically assumed the air of a master.

Father Zheng had been searching for evidence all this time after the plagiarism case, and it had been extremely difficult. The person behind the scenes had been gradually erasing all the evidence bit by bit — all of the results of Father Zheng’s years of painstaking effort had already been released just now.

The witnesses had disappeared, so he had to produce new witnesses.

The evidence had disappeared, so he also had to produce new evidence.

As Father Zheng was speaking, he had already sensed that the person he was looking for had already slipped into the auditorium without being noticed. This soundless infiltration was also the main method used in the serial killings at the apartments.

“Student Liu Yi, isn’t it time for you to come out?”

“Liu Yi? Senior Liu Yi is here?” Everyone inside the auditorium was shocked.

All the teachers and students, plus the police, also clearly heard the words via broadcast.

“No way! Liu Yi wouldn’t kill anyone! He wouldn’t do something like that! Zheng Tianqiang, don’t talk rubbish!” Principal Zhou Dongye stepped forward, an extremely agitated expression on his face.

“Principal Zhou, do you have any evidence to back up your words?” Gao Tian looked askance at him.

“Liu Yi... Liu Yi... He couldn’t have done this! His entire golden core was removed in his first year of university because of a tumor! That’s to say, he can’t use any magic! He’s a lot weaker than even an ordinary cultivator! Those three dead students were all at the Golden Core stage; Liu Yi wouldn’t be able to defeat them at all! So it’s impossible for him to be the murderer!” Principal Zhou said anxiously.

“He can’t be the murderer just because he can’t use spiritual energy?” Father Zheng laughed.

“Principal Zhou Dongye, until now you’re still lying to yourself — how pathetic. He might not be able to use spiritual energy, but as long as he has a powerful enough rechargeable magic treasure, he can still do violence. Among my son Jingxuan’s high school works, there was a design drawing for a magic treasure which could kill people through a screen without leaving a trace. Student Liu Yi stole this drawing and developed it... I want to ask Student Liu Yi, after stealing so many of my son’s designs, have you paid the copyright fees for them?”