

## **Crazy 1061**

### **Chapter 1061: Tao Xiang's Name List**

The meeting location was Zhao Yun county's Feng Ping city, the county's capital and one of the core centers. This had been recorded clearly on the notebook from back when Liu Dianchen eavesdropped on the Japanese army officials' conversation.

Since the Japanese officials were going to hold the secret meeting here, that would mean that the treasure back then could possibly have been hidden in the hills near Feng Ping city. Yet, looking at the map only resulted in feeling hopeless. Feng Ping city was surrounded by mountains and dense forests for over a few thousand square kilometers. It was no wonder those Japanese chose this place to build a fort and hide the treasure. Finding it now would be a Sisyphean task!

In the notebook, there were records of Tao Xiang's search progress. As for the investigation of the treasure, there were three main aspects. The first and most important was using historical data as evidence. In the past, Tao Xiang had investigated countless pieces of historical data and interviewed hundreds of residents in his relentless search for news about the treasure.

His thought process made sense: if there was indeed a secret fortress, the Japanese would have employed foreign labor to construct it and then silenced them after it was completed through a massive pit burial. Tao Xiang figured that as long as he was able to determine the location of this pit, he would be able to find the fortress. If he was able to find similar villages that had been exterminated, it would also have brought him closer to determining the fortress' location.

The reason why Tao Xiang had brought Cui Lizhu with him to Huang Jin City was precisely that he had heard that there were many abandoned villages on the outskirts of the city. However, after further investigation, it turned out those abandoned villages were the result of environmental factors rather than the Japanese.

The second aspect was field studies. Following Liu Dianchen's records, Tao Xiang had searched for hints on the site and attempted to find information on the army's activities. For this, he purchased expensive equipment and even learned how to use it from the professionals. Still, the area was too big, and it was like searching for a needle in a haystack. He ultimately gave up. At the back of the notebook were drawings of the mountainous areas, many of which were marked with a big 'X' to indicate they had been ruled out.

The last aspect of the investigation was to ask relevant parties. Tao Xiang figured that Liu Dianchen's notebook alone would not be enough to find out where the treasure was. Thus, he devoted a huge number of hours to making use of his profession and investigating all the people and incidents related to the treasure.

In the following years, he managed to find many leads. For example, the democratic party had lost and fled, but because they were unable to give up the treasure, they had sent many spies back to search. Not only did they return emptyhanded, they even leaked the secret about the handbook's existence. Tao Xiang's copy was merely a photocopy. He had a suspicion that the copy he received was only a small

portion of the entire handbook and only gave him a bit of the full picture. There were definitely more detailed records somewhere.

With a stroke of luck, Tao Xiang realized the treasure could be within the Dong Bei region. There were no witnesses at a national level. Through his investigations, it was confirmed that since the country's independence, many teams had been formed to search for the treasure. Countless times, the government had sent professionals equipped with the best technology in search, but to no avail.

Furthermore, Tao Xiang had heard news from unknown sources that the Russians and Japanese were also searching for the treasure. Regarding this, he figured it seemed credible that the Russians were looking for it. After all, they had suffered greatly, and it was only normal they were still thinking about their lost gold.

Even if the gold had been hidden in China, once they found it, they could get it back to Russia through legal means. More importantly, if someone found the gold at the fortress, they could even prove the Japanese had stolen the gold and seek legal compensation from Japan!

As for the Japanese, Tao Xiang believed it was nonsense. Firstly, the treasure had been buried by the Japanese, which meant they would definitely know the location. Would they still have to look? Secondly, even if they did come to look for the treasure in China and found it, how would they get it back? In the end, they would only be able to give it back, resulting in a loss for them.

Tsch! Cui Lizhu looked at Tao Xiang's notebook and instantly came to her senses. "Boss, this is definitely not going to be easy! Our country has already sent so many professionals to search for this, how are we...?"

"I know, right?" Zhao Yu nodded proudly. "As I've said before, with such a large matter, the country wouldn't simply stand by and watch. The treasure has undoubtedly already been found, but the news is being kept under wraps. It makes sense that they wouldn't announce it due to the potential conflict!"

"Ah..." Cui Lizhu deflated like a balloon. She patted Zhao Yu's shoulders. "Boss, your ranking is by no means low. Why don't you ask somebody? If the treasure is really gone, we should stop wasting our efforts."

"Are you kidding?" Zhao Yu shook his head. "How much is my rank worth? With such a shocking amount of treasure, even the leader of the entire Criminal Investigation Unit wouldn't know, much less me!"

"Ah... in that case, why not find out who has enough power to know the truth?" Cui Lizhu asked.

"Whatever for?" Zhao Yu asked, staring at her. "Don't tell me you want to go back to your old ways?"

"Tsk! Then what are we to do? If we search for the treasure without any information, it's just a meaningless blind search!" she answered.

"Don't you think I know this? How about we do this..." Zhao Yu flipped the notebook and pointed at numerous names. "This is the list of names your dad left behind. The people on this list should be related to the treasure. Look, the first few names are even marked out with a cross. There are only these last few left!"

“Ah...” Cui Lizhu thought about it for a while. “My dad probably already investigated those that have been marked out with a cross. If that’s the case, then those without...”

“See, there are five names here without crosses,” Zhao Yu said, pointing at the list. “It’s either because your dad has yet to investigate them, or those five people are closely linked to the treasure and know more details. So...”

“Ah!” Cui Lizhu said excitedly. “Then let’s investigate those five people now! Let’s see what they know. If the treasure’s already been found, then we can give up. If not... hehe! Then you, genius detective Zhao, will need to expend some energy!”

## **Chapter 1062: Searching for Treasure**

Zzz... zzz...

After a whole night of thinking, Zhao Yu had laid down on the sofa at daybreak and finally fell asleep. Cui Lizhu couldn’t bear the fatigue either and fell asleep leaning on Zhao Yu’s shoulder. It’d be easy to misunderstand the relationship between the two if an outsider had seen them.

As the sun rose to its peak, rays of light filtered in through the small gaps between the trees and rested on Zhao Yu’s face. A warm breeze blew, and the leaves rustled. Birds were alive with song in the trees. It was a crisp, pleasant song that only made their sleep better. However, their dreams were cut short when the phone began to ring.

O’ hero, chase after my dream with me... Zhao Yu’s phone rang with his all too familiar ringtone. With a yawn, he woke up and raised his arm. Cui Lizhu, who had been lying on his shoulder, fell into his arms. He tried to push her but to no avail. She clung onto his neck and continued sleeping.

Zhao Yu pouted and attempted to reach for his phone, but it was too far. With Cui Lizhu in his arms, he couldn’t move. Desperate, he attempted to make use of his flexibility and bent over, exerting a huge amount of effort to reach for the phone. As he had just awoken, he didn’t bother looking at the caller ID and answered the phone.

“Small Zhao!” It was Fengshan’s Zhang Jingfeng. “The people that you asked me to investigate... they’re all dead!”

“Wait, what?!” Zhao Yu asked, shocked. Zhao Yu shot up and Cui Lizhu fell to the floor, rolling a couple of times. Fortunately for her, there was a thick layer of carpet beneath her to break her fall.

“What’s up, man?” Cui Lizhu complained, rubbing her eyes. “Is a little sleep too much to ask for?”

“Say that again?” Zhao Yu asked Zhang Jingfeng. He could not care less about Cui Lizhu at this point. He had asked Zhang Jingfeng to help find any details on the people on Tao Xiang’s list of names. Zhang Jingfeng was an expert at finding people. Besides, everyone in the Special Investigation Team was busy and Zhao Yu didn’t want to trouble them.

When Zhao Yu had sent Zhang Jingfeng the message, it was still dark out and he had not rushed him. Who would have expected that a reformed Zhang Jingfeng was so committed to his job that it took no time at all to find the data Zhao Yu had requested.

"It's true, they're all dead! And..." Zhang Jingfeng said mysteriously. "There's something strange about it..."

"When did they die?" Zhao Yu asked.

"Throughout the past year," Zhang Jingfeng answered. "All of them died from a heart attack!"

"This..." Zhao Yu understood what Zhang Jingfeng was implying. For five people to die in such a short time, and all of the same cause, could not be a mere coincidence!

"What? Who died?" Cui Lizhu asked, hurriedly rubbing her eyes and climbing up from the floor as she realized the intensity of the situation.

"Lil Zhao! Did you stumble upon another huge case again? These five people are not young, so their records stated they died a natural death. There are no case files and no autopsy reports. I checked briefly and it seems all five of them stayed in different cities, had different occupations, and were from different age groups. It seemed like they had no interactions with each other!"

"F\*ck!" Zhao Yu cursed under his breath. He never thought that Tao Xiang's list would include dead people. Five people on the same list dying of heart attack was an obvious problem.

"Eh? Lil Zhao, that's not team leader Miao next to you, right?" Zhang Jingfeng asked out of curiosity after he heard Cui Lizhu speaking.

"Old Zhang!" Zhao Yu said, trying to change the topic. "These five people's data, does it match with the message I sent you?"

"It's a match!" Zhang Jingfeng answered. "All of them were knowledgeable and had a good reputation in the area. Especially the last guy, Yuan Juncheng. He was the previous head of the Dong Bei museum and even the chairman of the Dong Bei historical research society!" Zhao Yu nodded. Tao Xiang had already recorded this in the notebook.

"I'll send you the details now. Lil Zhao, any time you need my help just let me know, I'll be happy to go over and help. With a genius detective like you beside me, I'll never need to go hungry!" Zhang Jingfeng said.

"Don't worry!" Zhao Yu replied. In his heart, he understood now why Zhang was so proactive. "Do you not trust me, the genius Zhao Yu? I will never forget my brothers no matter how famous I get! If I ever need you, I'll let you know!"

"Okay..." Zhang Jingfeng said, happily hanging up. After the phone call, Zhao Yu stared at Cui Lizhu. She quietly stared back at him and a silence fell over the two. It was almost a minute before anyone spoke.

"Is someone else looking for these people? Why are they all dead?" Cui Lizhu asked.

"Maybe... or to be more precise, someone else is looking for the treasure!" Zhao Yu said. "If the five people on the list were murdered, then this has escalated past a simple treasure hunt. I think we should report this to the Special Investigations Team." After saying his piece, Zhao Yu looked at the phrase in the system. The diagram reflected 'Kun Dui'. How accurate! The moment a 'Kun' appeared, someone would die. Except this time, there were five deaths.

"If they were heart attacks, then how can it be murder? Would they kill over a treasure? Do these five people know something?" Cui Lizhu asked, shaking her head.

"Oh sh\*t!" Zhao Yu said. Stumbling into the office, he quickly opened Tao Xiang's notebook and flipped to the page with the list of names.

"Wh... what's wrong?" Cui Lizhu asked as she saw Zhao Yu panicking.

"We investigated the five people who were not crossed out!" Zhao Yu said, panting. "There are also people who are crossed out, don't tell me these people also..."

"It can't be..." Cui Lizhu said, shaking her head. She felt sick. "Don't tell me all the people on this list died from unnatural causes?! This... this went from zero to one hundred really quickly!"

### **Chapter 1063: They're All Dead?**

12:00pm

Ding dong! The doorbell rang. A delivery man was dropping off a sumptuous lunch for Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu. They had ordered lunch from the hall where the food was both delicious and nutritious. Although the meat had cost a thousand yuan, the two ate comfortably as they felt it was a good value for their money.

"It sure must be nice to be rich!" Cui Lizhu said, burping and sighing in bliss. "I hope we can find the treasure!"

"This is not just about the treasure!" Zhao Yu had not eaten as well as Cui Lizhu had. After taking a few bites, he had found a few pieces of mahjong paper and placed them on the table as a makeshift whiteboard. He began to record everything. This was a habit he had cultivated over the years. He felt that only by writing things out personally would he be able to think of more leads.

There were 16 names on Tao Xiang's list. Next to each name was a small note that served as a brief introduction. The first 11 names had been crossed out while the last five had not. Zhang Jingfeng had confirmed that those five people died of a heart attack. Zhao Yu felt that these deaths were not a coincidence. Knowing about Zhao Yu's habit, Cui Lizhu sat quietly beside him in support. Zhao Yu had barely written anything when Zhang Jingfeng called yet again.

"Lil Zhao, why are there so many names? What big case are you investigating? All these people are unrelated!" Zhang Jingfeng said.

"Old Zhang, tell me quickly! Did anything happen to those 11 people?" Zhao Yu asked, desperate to know.

"Uhm... about that..." Zhang Jingfeng hesitated. "Out of the 11 people you asked me to investigate, not a single one is alive! Including the original five, all 16 of them are dead!"

"What?!" Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu were both flabbergasted.

"All of them are... dead?" Cui Lizhu shivered. "Who would do such a thing?"

“Don’t say that!” Zhang Jingfeng said. “Although those 11 are dead, their situation was slightly different from that of the previous five. Hmm, how should I say this? Based on the records, they all died separately over an extended period of time. The first person to die passed away fifteen years ago, while the latest death happened in the latter half of last year. These were all well-educated men who had not committed any crimes and had no past records.”

“Also,” Zhang Jingfeng continued, “their ages are not uniform, although most of them were well into their later years. One of them was even 90! Based on the data, all of them died naturally. Nothing to do with a heart attack! But because some of these deaths happened a long time ago, it will take some time to check each person one by one.”

“Ah...” Zhao Yu said, pouting. “Old Zhang, help me find the detailed information of all 16 of them. Let me ask the higherups, if it’s possible I’ll get you to come over!”

“Oh yes! Just wait!” Zhang Jingfeng hung up excitedly and sent whatever he had to Zhao Yu.

“Boss! You have to think carefully!” Cui Lizhu warned. “Do you really want to report this incident? Aren’t we being a little impulsive? Why don’t we have another look? What if they all died naturally?”

Without answering Cui Lizhu, Zhao Yu picked up his phone and began to write on the paper as he thoroughly looked through the details he had been sent of the people. This whole process lasted about an hour until finally Zhao Yu held his pen still and shook his head. “Mahjong paper is unlike a whiteboard, if I make a mistake, I can’t erase it!” he said.

“Boss, boss! What is it?” Cui Lizhu asked. “Did you find anything? Who is the murderer?”

“What the h\*ll, I’m a detective, not a god! If I could find out who the murderer was just by writing some then I wouldn’t be here!” Zhao Yu replied. Cui Lizhu was left speechless.

“Look,” Zhao Yu said, pointing at the data. “Putting their deaths aside, look at this. Who are they? See, this guy’s a history professor, this guy’s an economist, this guy’s a professional technician, this guy’s a high-tech engineer, and this guy’s an explorer. What does that tell you?”

“Uhm, they’re all knowledgeable and are good in academics?” Cui Lizhu deduced. “And their professions are somehow linked to gold?”

“That’s right! There’s hope for you yet!” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “I suspect that Tao Xiang wrote these names down because they had participated in the treasure hunt. Tao Xiang wanted to find more clues through them!”

“So, after checking each one and realizing they weren’t linked to the treasure he crossed them out!” Cui Lizhu said excitedly. “Did he not have time to check the last five?”

“Hmm, it seems like it’s not that there wasn’t enough time, but more likely that after checking he was unsure. Don’t forget that the box was buried quite deep and the floor had been patched up! He probably wasn’t planning on getting the box any time soon,” Zhao Yu said.

“Ah! As expected of a genius detective! Hearing you say this makes me feel much clearer about the situation. My dad didn’t cross those five people off because those five people knew something about the treasure!” Cui Lizhu stated.

“Now look at this,” Zhao Yu pointed to the people at the top. “These 11 people may be dead, but when they died, they were all old. In their 70s, 80s, and even 90s! Even if some of them were slightly younger, they all died of terminal illnesses and not of a heart attack. Next, look at these five people. Although they are not that young, they were not exactly old either. In today’s day and age, people in their 60s are not considered old!”

“Oh, I think I get what you’re saying,” Cui Lizhu said, beginning to understand. “The people who were murdered were only the last five and not all 16?”

“Bingo!” Zhao Yu said. “The next important question is, if these five people were indeed murdered, then why did the murderer choose to kill them?”

“Oh my god!” Cui Lizhu exclaimed. “Because they knew the secret of the treasure? Then the murderer killed them to find out... or to silence them?”

“Whatever the case...” Zhao Yu said, pointing at the big question mark on the paper. “As long as we can capture the murderer, we might be able to get some leads on the treasure!”

#### **Chapter 1064: Bargain**

Capital, Central Investigations Department meeting room

Zhao Yu and Cui Lizhu sat on the sofa. While Zhao Yu was leisurely sipped his tea, Cui Lizhu looked worried. “Boss?” Cui Lizhu asked. “How do you think the higherups will be? I think this is all happening too quickly! Let’s investigate first and see if those five people really did die of murder? And... what will they think about the treasure?”

“They can think anything they want” Zhao Yu said calmly. Having gone through various huge cases, he could be considered a veteran. “Those five people are in Dong Bei. You can’t seriously expect us to go there? Lil Cui, don’t worry too much. If the higherups won’t let us investigate, then there must be a problem and we don’t need to listen to them blindly!”

“But... what if they do let us investigate? What then?” Cui Lizhu asked, her eyes widened.

“Hehe! Isn’t that even better? What I’m worried about now is all that paperwork!” Zhao Yu answered.

“Ah...” Cui Lizhu said, touching her chest. “My heart is beating so fast, it’s like...”

“Alright, enough. Don’t be so worried. I’m here, what are you afraid of?” Zhao Yu said reassuringly. However, deep down the thought of the hexagram scared him.

Knock knock, knock knock.

After a series of knocks, Chief Jiao Guofeng walked into the meeting room by herself. Due to them having a long history, Zhao Yu had formed a rapport with Chief Jiao and the moment she entered the room they exchanged looks, realizing something was wrong.

Cough, cough. Zhao Yu cleared his throat. “Lil Cui, you should go to the bathroom!” Cui Lizhu wasn’t stupid and knew what Zhao Yu meant, but she stilled obeyed and quickly walked out.

“Eh!” Chief Jiao placed a stack of documents on the table. “Zhao Yu, I really don’t know what to say! I asked you to take a break and you couldn’t even do that?”

“Don’t be a drag sis. What did the higherups say? Tell me!” Zhao Yu asked directly.

“About the treasure... it’s hard to say,” Chief Jiao said awkwardly. “I’ve already reported the matter to the higherups, but whether or not we can get any information is still a mystery. As for you... you should know that even if there is a treasure, it’s not within the scope of our jobs. The country has a special department for this sort of thing, we just need to hand the data over to them!”

“Oh, is that so?” Zhao Yu frowned. “Then if they find the treasure based on our leads, how will they distribute the money?” he asked.

“Please, did you even think this through?” Chief Jiao asked, clasping her hands together. “How can we complete our accounts when all this gold situation doesn’t even have a clear starting point? Let’s talk about things properly!” Chief Jiao said, taking out a document. “Although we have yet to come to a conclusion on the treasure, the murders are our responsibility. If any of these names are linked to murder, the higherups have decided that you will take full charge!”

“Ah, that’s what I’m talking about!” Zhao Yu said, reaching for the files. “As for my break, my training presentations, and my investigation unit...”

“Your break will be on hold, your presentations have been postponed, but we can’t afford to give you your unit,” Chief Jiao said. “As you know, the case in Gao Lanqi is no small task, and Leader Miao Ying has taken charge of your team to resolve the issue. At this time, we can’t let anything stop them! So, I’ll be assigning you a new team!”

“If that’s the case...” Zhao Yu said, contemplating his options. “Why not let me select a few people? It’s easier to work with people I’m familiar with.”

“No!” Chief Jiao said, unexpectedly rejecting him. “Zhao Yu, this case was submitted by you. You should know that if these five people were really murdered, then there could be some external conflicts and international relations involved. The case might get more complicated. The higherups have already chosen some experienced members to help you out. Also...” Chief Jiao paused. “This time you’ll only be the vice leader. There is another leader.”

“What the h\*ll? What sort of joke is this?” Zhao Yu asked, raising his head defiantly. “Sending people to control me? No! I have my own way of working and I don’t like people interfering with that! You should know...”

“I know, this leader is just a leader in name. It’s just for show!” Chief Jiao explained. “In reality, all the investigations will be done by you!”

“That’s still a no!” Zhao Yu said, shaking his head. “I am investigating this case and will not have time to train rookies. What’s more, I’m not familiar with their character, it’ll only be a hassle.”

“Zhao Yu, listen to me!” Chief Jiao said sternly. “Firstly, this case concerns international relations. If it is not handled with care, there will be dire consequences. You need members who are experienced in this area. Secondly, regarding Jiang Ke’s prison break, although the higherups have chosen to look the other



direction, that doesn't mean they aren't angry! On top of all of this, you barely rested a week. If you come back to post so quickly, they'll only be badmouthed by others!"

"I don't care," Zhao Yu whined. "If you don't let me pick my team, I'm not going to work, and I'll take my break!"

"You..." Chief Jiao frowned. "Can you please be more professional? Rest assured, the higherups have chosen the best people for you!"

"Ah!" Zhao Yu sighed and placed the documents back on the table. "This is such a pity. Alright sis, I'll be taking my leave. You better find someone else to take over the job, I'm off to prepare my script for my presentation!" Zhao Yu strode towards the door.

"Zhao Yu! What do you want!" Chief Jiao panicked. "You only think about yourself, but have you ever thought that you're putting me in a tough spot? Assigning you as leader and giving you your team members are not within my control. If I had that power, I'd let you do whatever you want, but I don't!"

"You want to investigate the case? This is the best I can do," she continued. "If you're still not satisfied, what more do you want from me? Do you want to drive me crazy? You can see if I spoil anyone else as much as I spoil you! Aish..." Chief Jiao let out a long sigh. "My effort has all gone to waste!"

"Uhm... why do you say that?" Zhao Yu asked. It was the first time he had seen Chief Jiao show such weakness. "Fine, let's compromise. The leader and members don't matter, but I still want my people. We can meet in the middle, right?"

"You!" Chief Jiao pointed at Zhao Yu angrily. "You fearless b\*stard! Do you actually dare demand your own terms with the Investigations Unit? Fine, I'll go file the application papers. Argh, I don't know why I don't hate you by now!"

"That's because you love me a lot!" Zhao Yu smiled widely. "Relax! I will definitely solve this case well. When this case is cracked, don't forget to assign the Hua Yun Mountain Massacre Case to me!"

"Fine, I'll ask the higherups now. Wait for my news!" Chief Jiao told him. She stood up to leave and Zhao Yu hurriedly sent her off.

Walking out the door, Chief Jiao smirked and whispered under her breath. "Little monkey, you're still too young to play on the same level as me!"

## **Chapter 1065: Death Order**

8:00pm that night

Zhao Yu had just hung up Miao Ying's call as the high-speed train whizzed past.

"How was it?" Cui Lizhu asked nonchalantly. "Did Miss Miao give you an earful again?"

"You must be kidding!" Zhao Yu answered calmly. "You don't know my Miaomiao! As I was explaining this to her she had nothing but compliments for me, saying that I'm a role model detective, an elite of the police team... you get the idea. I'm willing to sacrifice my time and energy to find out the truth and

bring justice to the victims. Not to mention I have exceptionally high IQ and EQ..." Cui Lizhu couldn't stop rolling her eyes as Zhao Yu spoke.

"Fine, you were right, I got an earful. Are you happy now?" Zhao Yu admitted.

"Tsk!" Cui Lizhu lazily picked up a bottle, taking numerous sips from it.

"Actually, Miao Ying scolded me for two reasons. The first was that she was worried about my safety," Zhao Yu reasoned. "The second was because she was mad that I wasn't bringing her along. She wants to be here cracking cases with me but, because of the Gao Lanqi case, she can't leave. What a pity!"

"Hmph, I'll give you two additional reasons!" Cui Lizhu responded. "Reason three, you have created a new investigations unit. How do you think she feels about this newfound independence you have? Lastly, and most importantly, she doesn't want you to be so close to me! You're getting engaged in June. There's no way she's..."

"Don't be ridiculous. I know Miaomiao, she's not that petty!" Zhao Yu said confidently. "If she didn't trust me, we wouldn't have lasted this long. You don't know what we've been through in the past. Our love has transcended life and death, this is nothing! You've never experienced it personally, so you probably don't understand what that feels like. Even if you attempted to seduce me it would be of no use, I will never stray from Miao Ying for you!"

"Go to h\*ll! Don't you think your narcissism is a tad disgusting?" Cui Lizhu asked. "If that was my intention, I would have come for you at the start! I... uh..." Cui Lizhu put her arm around Zhao Yu's shoulders. "I only treat you as a boss!"

"That's right!" Zhao Yu nodded with satisfaction. He felt that Cui Lizhu was hugging him a little too tightly, so he tried to push her away. While doing so, either accidentally or subconsciously on purpose, he touched her chest. An awkward silence fell over them as some crows were flying past. Cui Lizhu's face flushed red and she quickly gulped down the rest of her drink. Awkwardly, Zhao Yu looked away and began to whistle.

As they had passed the peak transportation time, there were not many people left on the train towards Feng Ping. A quick glance showed that almost half the cabin was empty. "Oh right, boss, do you know the people the higherups sent?" Cui Lizhu asked to break the silence. "Why does it feel like I know they'll be difficult to handle before I've even met them?"

"I don't know them at all!" Zhao Yu said. "The leader will be coming from Foreign Affairs. I've already asked Ma Ruinkui and he said that this person is an elite. Apparently, he used to be in charge of events involving Japan and Korea and can speak seven languages!"

"Hmph!" Cui Lizhu snorted. "What's the point of knowing even 100 languages? We're here to crack cases, isn't he just a figurehead? I think he's just here to steal your glory and your money!"

"I'm not too sure about the details, we can only wait till he's here to find out the truth," Zhao Yu sighed. "He's rushing back from overseas now. If all goes well, we might be able to meet him tomorrow! Until then, the rest of the people should have gathered already!"

"I don't get it..." Cui Lizhu shook her head. "Why does this case concern foreign affairs? Don't tell me that these five people were killed by a foreign spy?"

“That’s hard to say!” Zhao Yu said. “Think about it. If these five people’s deaths were linked to the treasure then it’s possible! Russia and Japan could have participated, who knows? The higherups are just preparing for the worst-case scenario.”

“Oh...” Cui Lizhu said. She looked at her surroundings warily and whispered. “If that’s really the case then we have to be especially careful!”

“Of course!” Zhao Yu replied. He looked at the system in his head. Since opening the hexagram, he had kept the Invisible Detector activated to check his surroundings and movements. “But...” Zhao Yu continued. “There is something I’m not clear about. Your dad, Tao Xiang, didn’t indicate how he obtained those 16 names! Did he find them one by one, or did he get them from some other channel? Think about it! If the last five people were murdered, then could the murderer have some relation to your dad?”

“Hmm, about that...” Cui Lizhu frowned. “What you’re saying is that someone else might have the same list of names as my dad?”

“That’s possible, but it’s all just conjecture!” Zhao Yu said. “With no strong evidence we cannot jump to any conclusions right now!”

“Right, for all we know those five deaths were just a coincidence! If it really is a coincidence, then we’ve wasted all our effort!” Cui Lizhu said helplessly. “In the end, not only will we not be able to find the treasure, my house will be gone, and it all will have been for nothing!”

“That’s what we say, but...” Zhao Yu whispered. “Based on my experience, the chance of this kind of coincidence is close to zero!”

“Oh? Why’s that?” Cui Lizhu asked, her eyes widening.

“Because the five deaths happened in the order of the list of names!” Zhao Yu said. “The name at the top died first, while the name at the bottom died last. All the deaths followed along with the list! Plus, all the deaths happened in a short time frame and they all died from the same illness. Such things can’t be a coincidence!”

“Oh! So, from the start, you already figured that their deaths were not a coincidence!” Cui Lizhu said. “Wow, why didn’t you tell me earlier? No wonder you had asked the office for permission before we even started investigating. Deep down you already knew!”

“Yes!” Zhao Yu nodded. “To investigate this case clearly, we need to search in reverse order. Yuan Juncheng is the last name on the list and was also the last to die. Since it was the most recent death, there might be more leads for us to find. So, we’re going to Feng Ping and starting our investigation with him!”

## **Chapter 1066: The Real Thing**

9:00am the next day, a residential area in Feng Ping City, Zhao Yun Province

“Old Yuan left too soon...” Yuan Juncheng’s wife said. She let out a sigh and choked on her tears. “It was the La Ba Festival. He had been fine in the morning. He even had La Ba porridge in the afternoon and some dumplings for dinner! Who could have known, when the night came, he would leave us!”

“Auntie, where were you when Professor Yuan was having difficulties?” Cui Lizhu asked.

“At home!” The old lady said. “I had just come home from dancing at around 9:00pm and he was already half-unconscious on the floor. There was white foam at the edges of his mouth, and he seemed to be in great discomfort. I was so scared! When I asked him what was wrong, he just said his chest hurt. He was gripping his chest, barely able to say a word, and his face was as white as a sheet! I hurriedly called my children, and I even dialed 120, but by the time he reached the hospital it was too late!” The old lady started wiping her tears away again while recalling her painful memories.

“What you’re saying is that Professor Yuan was alone at home when all this began?” Zhao Yu asked her.

“Yes!” The old lady sighed remorsefully. “It’s all my fault! If I had known earlier, I wouldn’t have gone dancing. When I left, he was still okay! As always, he was working on his own stuff and I was doing mine...”

“It was during La Ba!” Zhao Yu said. “Feng Ping’s cold seasons are always subzero, and you still went to dance?”

“Yes. It’s not a public square dance!” The old lady said. “It’s in a culture hall in the community. We have several performances during the lunar new year season, so we were rehearsing on a tight schedule. It’s my fault, if only I had come back earlier, perhaps he wouldn’t...”

“That can’t be...” Cui Lizhu said. What she meant was obvious: if Yuan Juncheng was still able to speak, why didn’t he call his wife when he was in pain? It was rather suspicious.

Before Cui Lizhu could finish her question, Zhao Yu cut in. “After reaching the hospital, what did the doctors say?”

“Uhm... they said it was a case of acute heart disease. Something about cardiac arrest? I can’t really remember!” The old lady said. Her face was remorseful.

“Did Professor Yuan have a history of heart disease?” Zhao Yu asked.

“No!” The old lady replied. “Old Yuan would be 67 this year. Other than slightly higher blood pressure, he was considered very healthy! He paid attention to his health and exercised, so if he had heart problems he would definitely have noticed!”

Cui Lizhu looked at Zhao Yu, understanding why he changed the subject. Even though they had come to investigate the case, some things shouldn’t be made too obvious. “Auntie,” Cui Lizhu asked after some thought. “What does Professor Yuan do usually? On the day of his cardiac arrest, what was he working on?”

“Hmm, well,” the old lady didn’t really seem keen on answering. “Although he had retired, his workload hadn’t decreased. From planning a training seminar here to giving a lecture over there, he was never able to properly rest. Sometimes if a relic was found, they would still call him up! Also, the museum

called him every other day, so he didn't have a single day of rest this year. He was actually busier than he was when he was at work! On that day, he was probably doing the same thing as usual."

"Oh," Cui Lizhu said, glancing at Zhao Yu and waiting for his approval. She then took out photographs of the other four people on the list for the old lady to see. "Auntie, look at these. Do you recognize anyone from the photographs? Do they know Professor Yuan?"

"Oh?" The old lady put on her reading glasses, took a close look at the photographs, and shook her head. "No... I've never met them before. Who are they?"

"It's nothing, we're just asking... uhm..." Cui Lizhu stopped midsentence. "Auntie, so do you know what he was working on?"

"What else would he be studying? Cultural relics of course!" the old woman replied. "He's been working with them his whole life, what else would it have been?"

"Uhm..." Cui Lizhu wanted to ask about the treasure but didn't know how to start.

"Auntie," Zhao Yu said. He had more experience with this and was able to find the right words. "Where did you retire from?"

"I worked in the cultural center!" The old lady replied.

"Oh! No wonder you look so classy!" Zhao Yu complimented. "So, you're a dance artist?"

"Ha, that's a fancy way of putting it!" The old lady smiled. "It was just one dance, I can't be considered an artist!" Her smile eased the tense atmosphere.

"One is into culture and the other is into relics!" Zhao Yu said. "So, did you understand what Professor Yuan did?"

"No way!" she said, waving her hands. "Even though we were a couple, I'm clueless about these things!"

"Ah, if that's the case, can we take a look at his workspace?" Zhao Yu asked politely.

"Since it's you, then sure!" She hurriedly opened the room and invited them in. "Take a look around. After Old Yuan passed away, I only packed up a few of the things here. I'm still not ready to decide what I want to do with all this."

"Wow..." As soon as they entered, Cui Lizhu was drawn in by the African Rosewood furniture on the left that were lined with many antique artifacts. "All this..." Cui Lizhu said as she walked up to take a closer look. It was as if she wanted to say something but couldn't find the words.

"Oh," the old lady said. "These are some of Old Yuan's collections from when he was still around. But since he was the museum's director, he had donated some of the more valuable relics to avoid suspicion. The ones here are not worth much!"

"Was anything thrown away after Professor Yuan passed on?" Zhao Yu asked.

"Probably not," the old woman answered. "The children counted and nothing was missing."

"What about notebooks or documents?" Zhao Yu continued, pointing at the desk.

"I'm not sure about that, I've yet to clean it up," she replied. Zhao Yu nodded. He checked Yuan Juncheng's desk with Cui Lizhu, taking photographs of the documents that were there. Nothing was related to the treasure. They were just about ready to wrap up. "Old lady!" Zhao Yu said, taking out a pen and some paper. "We still want to understand some things, is there any chance you could share the contact information of the people who knew about Professor Yuan's work?"

"No problem!" The old lady wrote a few names down. The names she wrote were friends and colleagues of people close to Yuan Juncheng when he was alive. After that, Zhao Yu left his business card with her and told her if there was anything that she needed help with she could contact him. Calling it a day, they left Yuan's house.

Right after leaving, Cui Lizhu excitedly tugged at Zhao Yu's shirt. "Boss, there's something off about Yuan Juncheng! Those treasures were something else!"

"What?" Zhao Yu was slightly surprised.

"Let's put the porcelain artifacts aside for now," Cui Lizhu said. "Did you see the ghost face on the African Rosewood furniture? That's rare rosewood reserved for royalty! The market price would be over two million! That's the real thing!"

#### **Chapter 1067: Heart Disease**

"What's a ghost face?" Zhao Yu asked, confused.

"Ghost face is the special kind of grain patterning on wood. It looks like the face of a ghost and the more there are, the more valuable it is!" Cui Lizhu explained. "Also, each piece of the porcelain is worth a few hundred thousand yuan! The way I see it, either Yuan Juncheng's wife is not telling us the truth or he didn't tell her the full truth!"

"Oh, you mean to say..." Zhao Yu said. "Yuan Juncheng's collections are all valuable, and while the museum donations sound convincing, as an expert in cultural relics it isn't too much to expect he'd have a few rare collectibles stashed away?"

"Boss," Cui Lizhu said, worried. "I'm a bit confused now. Was Yuan Juncheng murdered? I'm not so sure anymore..."

"Oh? Why do you say that?" Zhao Yu asked.

"Think about it," Cui Lizhu said. "Yuan Juncheng died in his own house. When his wife came home, he could still speak well enough to say his chest hurt. If someone was out to murder him, why didn't he just say the murderer's name? Unless we say that the murderer had poisoned him. But what medication would be that strong? To make a healthy person die of cardiac arrest? If there's any that exist, I haven't heard of it!"

"That's right!" Zhao Yu nodded. He too had never heard about something like this. Were there really such high-grade poisons? If Yuan Juncheng had been poisoned, surely the doctors at the hospital would have found out during the tests they ran.

“On the other hand,” Cui Lizhu said. “If Yuan Juncheng had died of natural causes, then something doesn’t make sense. When he was in pain and still able to speak, why didn’t he call for help? Boss, I’m really confused!”

Sigh. Zhao Yu shook his head. “Unfortunately, there was no autopsy, so we can’t get any information from forensics!”

“The body has already been cremated. Ah, what should we do next?” Cui Lizhu asked.

“There are two options!” Zhao Yu said decisively. “Option one, Yuan Juncheng was treated before he died at the hospital, so we can visit the doctor on duty that day and ask him if he knows anything. Or option two, we can check out the CCTV in the community and see if anyone suspicious appeared by his house on the day of the incident!”

“Alright!” Cui Lizhu said, nodding in agreement. “Say, boss. If there really was a murderer, would it be someone Yuan Juncheng knew well? If not, how did he enter his house?”

“I don’t think so. He never mentioned anything about being framed, so he probably never met the murderer!” Zhao Yu replied.

“This is not as simple as it appears! The murderer was able to break in and kill Yuan without him knowing. Is there really anyone capable of doing that?” Cui Lizhu wondered.

“I know, right?” Zhao Yu sighed. “What I can’t figure out is what motives the murderer had for doing this. If Yuan Juncheng was murdered, why did the murderer choose this specific method? There are other ways of doing it, like faking a car accident. But he chose to secretly poison Yuan at his own house and disguise it as a heart attack...”

“Could it be some sort of slow poisoning?” Cui Lizhu guessed. “Maybe on the day itself, the murderer didn’t even go to the house. Maybe he had been poisoning Yuan Juncheng over some time before finally killing him!”

“I’ve considered that too,” Zhao Yu said. “But if it was over a period of time, why didn’t Yuan Juncheng have any sort of reaction? His physical condition had always been good!”

“Hmm, that’s true,” Cui Lizhu said, nodding.

“What I don’t get is why the murderer wanted him dead,” Zhao Yu said. “Even if it was about the treasure, there was no need to kill anyone.”

“Killing someone would mean silencing them permanently, could it be...” Cui Lizhu trailed off.

“Are you saying Yuan Juncheng knew the secret of the treasure and was murdered because of it?” Zhao Yu shook his head. “He was previously the museum director. If he knew the secret, the treasure would have been discovered a long time ago.”

“This is ridiculous!” Cui Lizhu said, agitated. “Treasure, murder... how is this all related?!”

“You know what?” Zhao Yu said, taking a look at his watch. The two had just arrived at the gate of the city. “Let’s split up! You can check out the CCTV while I head to the hospital. When the rest of the team comes in the afternoon it’ll be easier on us, but for now, we have to handle this personally.”

“Alright then!” Cui Lizhu replied with a thumbs up before turning and heading off to find the residential property manager. Zhao Yu hopped into a taxi and went straight to the hospital.

2:00pm, Feng Ping Central Hospital, corridor outside the Blood Test Laboratory

Zhao Yu was hiding in a secluded corner of the corridor while he called Forensics Gao. Just earlier, he had received an important lead from the doctor that had been on duty on the day of Yuan Juncheng’s incident. The doctor had told Zhao Yu that during operation, he had taken Yuan Juncheng’s blood for a routine test. As the hospital was worried about inaccuracies, there was a policy that required them to keep blood samples for two months to make sure there were no problems before disposal. This meant that although Yuan Juncheng had already passed away, his blood sample was still in the hospital.

This blood sample was very important to Zhao Yu. If the sample could be found, the truth about Yuan Juncheng’s death may be unveiled. Fortunately, it had only been a month and a half since his death, so the sample should still be safe in the laboratory! Zhao Yu couldn’t help but silently celebrate his wise decision. He had made Yuan Juncheng his first target for the investigation. If it had taken a few more days, the blood sample might not exist anymore!

“Hey, Forensics Gao, why are you still in Gao Lanqi?” Zhao Yu asked over the phone.

“I’m writing the report on the barn fire!” Gao Facai said, chuckling. “There’s some evidence that can’t be accurately tracked down, so we have to analyze everything further. Oh right, I saw Officer Miao earlier. Why are the two of you not together?”

“I’m in Zhao Yun province at the moment!” Zhao Yu said, laughing. “Did you see the test results I sent you? I have another case on my hands now, can you help me see if anything is wrong with these results?”

“Wow, you really can’t catch a break!” Gao Facai said. “Alright, let me take a look.”

“By the way, Old Gao!” Zhao Yu checked his surroundings before whispering softly. “Do you know if there’s any drug on Earth that can cause you to die of heart failure and not be detected?”

“Well, that...” Gao Facai said, taking a deep breath. “The answer is rather complicated. It depends on the condition of the victim. If it’s due to allergies, then it’s hard to determine if it’s murder. Did your victim have any visible spots or edema?”

“Uhm, the person’s been dead for a while now and his body was cremated! But I doubt he had any allergic symptoms,” Zhao Yu answered.

“What about any history of heart disease?” Gao Facai asked. “If the deceased had a serious heart problem when he was alive, then an injection of dopamine, potassium, or any drug that increased blood circulation would have been enough to cause heart failure! If the concentration of the injection is controlled, then it’s hard to retrieve any evidence.”

“Nope, the victim was healthy and didn’t have a history of heart problems!” Zhao Yu replied.

“Then that wouldn’t have worked. Injecting high concentrations can easily be detected, and furthermore, it may not be fatal. Other types of poison can be detected easily,” Gao Facai said.



“Ah...” Zhao Yu nodded. It seemed that what Cui Lizhu said was right, it was hard to determine whether Yuan Juncheng had been murdered or not.

### **Chapter 1068: You’re Female?**

“The blood sample cannot be tested again!” Forensics Gao said, giving Zhao Yu the bad news. “The sample the hospital took has already been mixed with other chemical reagents leaving it unable to be tested again!”

“What?” Zhao Yu asked gloomily. “That means the bottle in my hand now is useless?”

“Yup!” Forensics Gao said. “The blood test at the hospital is different from those done during the autopsies performed by police. They just want to check for the cause of the problem, while we look for evidence. So, the sample you have with you now is not useful. But don’t hang up yet, let me take a look at the report...”

“Alright.” Zhao Yu said listlessly. He was disappointed.

“Well, it seems that besides his fat levels, all the other indicators show that he’s healthy and in the normal ranges!” Forensics Gao said. “The deceased’s blood condition was actually better than the average person!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu wasn’t expecting much to come out of the sample.

“Uhm, there’s nothing special judging by these reports,” Gao Facai continued. “No poison, no outliers, except... uhm...”

“Except what?” Zhao Yu asked.

“Wait what’s this... sodium thiopental?” Forensics Gao paused as he read the awkward-sounding word.

“What’s wrong?” Zhao Yu prompted him.

“Sodium thiopental is a therapeutic drug. Hold on, I haven’t seen this for years. Let me check it out!” Gao Facai answered.

Therapeutic drug? Zhao Yu frowned. He had no clue what that meant.

“Ah, I found it! It’s used to treat claustrophobia!” Forensics Gao said. “I nearly forgot about it. This is a rare drug and it’s hard to find on the market. I’ve heard about it before. Claustrophobia is a mental condition and while nothing can cure it completely, sodium thiopental has the potential to relieve some of the symptoms.”

“Claustrophobia?” Zhao Yu asked. “What’s that?”

“It’s a condition where the patient feels unbearably oppressed when he’s in an enclosed space, usually in situations like taking the elevator or an airplane!” Gao Facai explained.

“But the deceased’s house doesn’t have any elevators, nor does his workplace! As for planes, he didn’t really take them, so even if he did have this medication, he wouldn’t have had to take it often, right?” Zhao Yu wondered.

“Well, about that...” Forensics Gao said. “If the deceased has a private doctor you can ask him. But I’m sure that sodium thiopental is used to relieve mental strain and has nothing to do with heart disease. It cannot be used to induce heart failure either!”

“Oh...” Zhao Yu said. Although he was nodding, he felt as though something was amiss.

“How about this, I’ll show my colleagues the report and I’ll contact you again if they spot anything suspicious!” Gao Facai said.

“Alright, thank you!” Zhao Yu said politely before hanging up. Once he hung up, he immediately opened the system and searched for sodium thiopental on the Invisible Browser. Zhao Yu knew that the system’s equipment was more powerful than anything else available, so he wanted to see if there was any explanation of the drug available on the browser. In the end, he found that the explanation from the system was exactly what Forensics Gao had told him – it was a drug used to treat claustrophobia.

There was something else at the end of the article. At the bottom, it said ‘In addition to the above effects, the drug can also be used as a truth serum. It was first used by Foreign Intelligence...’ What?! Zhao Yu was taken aback after reading the explanation. A truth serum? Was it capable of forcing someone to tell the truth? If Yuan Juncheng had taken a truth serum, did the murderer want him to say something?

Zhao Yu continued to read the remaining information, but just as Forensics Gao had said, it was a neurological drug that did not affect the heart. That meant that Yuan Juncheng’s death had nothing to do with it. Still, why was there a truth serum in his system?

O’ hero... Zhao Yu’s phone rang. It was Cui Lizhu.

“Boss! I changed my mind!” Cui Lizhu blurted immediately after the call connected. “I think Yuan Juncheng was murdered! When I tried to retrieve the records from the cameras, I discovered all the cameras near his house were down!”

“What? How could that be?” Zhao Yu was surprised.

“It can’t be a coincidence, right?” Cui Lizhu said. “From what I know, someone had definitely snuck into Yuan Juncheng’s house. I don’t think we should delay this any longer. You should quickly contact Feng Ping’s police station and officially start an investigation!”

Zhao Yu felt uneasy. Before this, he hadn’t contacted the police because he wanted to investigate the case in secret and not make it a big issue. Besides, as the case involved treasure, the fewer people involved the better. But at such a point, if the investigations didn’t start, the murderer might get away and find clues for the treasure themselves! As Zhao Yu thought about this, his phone rang again. It was an unknown number. He hung up Cui Lizhu’s call and answered it.

“Hello, is this Officer Zhao Yu?” A soft and sweet voice said through the phone.

“Yes, speaking. Who’s this?” Zhao Yu asked. This was his work phone. Other than his colleagues nobody knew the number, and this woman’s voice was one he had never heard before.

“Oh, hello!” The woman said uncomfortably. “I’m Li Jing from Foreign Affairs. The Criminal Department sent me as your partner. Uhm, as the leader...”

“Li Jing? Leader? Isn’t it supposed to be Li Xiaoqiang? Also... you’re female?!” Zhao Yu asked.

“Ah, sorry about that! Li Xiaoqiang is what’s written on my ID, but everyone calls me Li Jing!” The woman laughed. “Leader Zhao, it’s an honor to work with you on this, and I hope to learn a lot from you. Please teach me well!”

“Female...?” Zhao Yu pulled his hair, a little confused. “I always thought you were a man. Why didn’t Ma Runkui tell me?”

“Ah, sorry,” Li Jing said politely. “I should have contacted you earlier, but I was on the plane. So sorry about that!”

“Then...” Zhao Yu was still in a daze and didn’t know what to say.

“Uhm... I am already in Feng Ping. Should I go to the provincial bureau or Feng Ping’s police station to meet you?” Just as Li Jing finished her sentence, Zhao Yu’s phone rang again. It was Miao Ying.

“Give me a second, I have an important call. I’ll call you back later!” he told her. Even though the new team leader was a woman and spoke courteously, Zhao Yu felt that he needed to be careful. He didn’t wait for her reply and hung up.

“Hey!” Who would have thought that after the line connected, the person on the other end of the phone would not be Miao Ying? “Officer Zhao, how have you been?” A woman asked, her voice was cold and sharp. Zhao Yu almost threw his phone away when he heard it. It was Cheng Lingfei! Cheng! Ling! Fei! Why would she be calling him with Miao Ying’s phone? Could it be...?

In that instant, Zhao Yu subconsciously glanced at the ‘Kun Dui’ words displayed on the system’s interface...

### **Chapter 1069: Murder, Murder!**

“The drug is called Pitidebin! It’s a drug that triggers hemoglobin and irritates the heart, causing cardiac arrest and death in a short period of time!” Cheng Lingfei said coldly over the phone. “Because the drug has strong hemolytic properties, it cannot be detected at later stages and is easy to conceal. It was developed by a pharmaceutical company in Southeast Asia and in the beginning, was used by a rebel organization exclusively in assassinations! Not long after, the organization was annihilated by the government, after which the drug disappeared altogether! There were rumors that the CIA had tried to reproduce it but failed!”

“If that’s the case then how can you be so sure from just the test results?” Zhao Yu asked, frowning.

“The drug consists of magnesium, which raises the magnesium content in the blood to a critical level,” Cheng Lingfei answered. “Moreover, after the drug dissolves, it dilutes hemoglobin and lowers its levels

to a bare minimum, so the overall red blood cell volume decreases. The test you sent over exhibits these characteristics! You can ask the professionals. Even though the indicators fall within the normal range, a normal person's blood test wouldn't look like this."

"How do you even know this?" Zhao Yu asked again.

"I've asked Yu Fusheng to purchase this before," she explained. "When I had asked, there were some politicians that were messing with my businesses in Thailand and I had wanted to teach them a lesson. Unfortunately, after I received all the documents and instructions, the drug turned out to be a fake and I had to resort to traditional methods. What a waste of time and energy!"

"Oh... that means this drug is really hard to get?" Zhao Yu wondered.

"Yes!" Cheng Lingfei said, still sounding cold. "From what I heard the company was actually developing something else and found Pitidebin by chance. The formula had contained some errors and they were never able to replicate the desired results, so the first batch was the best!"

"How many were there in that batch?" Zhao Yu asked Cheng Lingfei.

"Enough to kill about 100 people. There's a price but no market for it, so it's basically non-existent," she answered. That means whoever got their hand on it isn't your average Joe. Zhao Yu thought to himself.

Hearing Cheng Lingfei's voice through the phone had scared Zhao Yu for no reason, as it turned out. After Zhao Yu and Gao Facai had finished their conversation, Gao Facai had bumped into Miao Ying and told her about Zhao Yu's situation, letting her look at the test results. Coincidentally, when Miao Ying was then interrogating Cheng Lingfei about her crimes abroad, Cheng Lingfei mentioned the number of pharmaceutical companies she owned and how she was rather proficient in the field of pharmaceuticals. She had even tried to assassinate people using different drugs before. So, Miao Ying took the opportunity to show Cheng Lingfei the test results and one thing led to another. Zhao Yu was terrified, as he thought Cheng Lingfei had not only escaped from jail but had kidnapped Miao Ying in the process. Thankfully, it was a false alarm.

"So, detective, is that all?" Cheng Lingfei asked. Miao Ying then took over the phone call.

"That means the five people on the list were all murdered?" Miao Ying asked.

"Yuan Juncheng was, at least," Zhao Yu said, wiping sweat off his brow. "Miaomiao, please don't do that again in the future! When I heard Cheng Lingfei's voice, I nearly went crazy. You definitely did that on purpose, right?"

"Hmph! You can mess around, but I can't even crack a joke?" Miao Ying laughed. "I'm warning you; we're speeding things up here so you better save some of that Treasure Case for me or you'll be dead meat!"

"Well, I can't promise anything. I am a godlike detective after all," Zhao Yu responded. "Who knows, maybe in another couple of hours, I'll have cracked the case!"

"You're doing it again!" Miao Ying lamented. "But in all seriousness, I heard everything just now. If Yuan Juncheng was really killed by some mysterious drug, then you must be careful of this murderer! He is not your average Joe. It might even be more than one person!"

“Understood!” Zhao Yu said, nodding. “I’ll be on my guard. By the way, Miaomiao, have you ever heard of a Li Jing from Foreign Affairs? She’s coming over to be our team leader!”

“What? Another female?” Miao Ying said. “What are the leaders of the criminal office thinking by forcing a woman onto you! Is she pretty?”

“C’mon don’t start this!” Zhao Yu said. “I haven’t met her yet, nor do I have time to care about her looks!”

Miao Ying thought about it. “Isn’t it just Jiang Ke’s prison break that they’re upset about? There isn’t a need to keep such a close eye on you just for that. I’m so angry! But darling, gender aside if they don’t cooperate with you just go against them! In any case, you have your father-in-law backing you so don’t worry!” she told him.

“Uhm... I still know my limits! Don’t worry, I’ll handle everything well,” Zhao Yu answered.

“Alright, I’ll get Cheng Lingfei to write you a detailed report, then you can get another professional to compare,” Miao Ying said. “Don’t get sloppy with your work!”

“I know, I know! Nagging woman,” Zhao Yu said, laughing. “I will apply for permission to investigate this with the superiors and get the blood samples of the other four people to see if their situation is the same as Yuan Juncheng’s before I come to a conclusion.”

“Alright! I can’t stop you from solving the case, but promise me you won’t do things like jumping off of a plane or endangering your life again, alright?” Miao Ying reminded him before she hung up.

After finding out about the truth serum and the mysterious murder drug, Zhao Yu was 99% sure that Yuan Juncheng was murdered. This murder was different from every other case he had seen because the person who killed Yuan Juncheng was definitely more professional and intelligent than usual. Moreover, because it involved great treasures, Zhao Yu felt like more than one person was involved here. It could even be an organization! He had to give 110% of himself for this investigation so as to not miss out on any clues.

O’ hero, chase after my dream with me... Zhao Yu’s phone rang again and he remembered he had forgotten about the new leader, Li Jing. “Hello?” he said as he answered the call.

“Leader Zhao, have you completed your tasks?” Li Jing asked softly. “I’m still at the airport, where should I go next?”

Tsch! Zhao Yu wished the new team leader was a grumpier person so he at least had the chance to justify himself when he argued with her. Yet, Li Jing made him upset. She was like a little girl looking for someone to depend on, she even had to ask for his opinion on simple things like where to meet! As a result, Zhao Yu couldn’t lose his temper. Argh! It’s really hard to play nice!

## **Chapter 1070: One Less Person**

Li Jing was a real beauty. When Zhao Yu first saw her in the conference room of Feng Ping City’s police station, he was taken aback by her looks. She had a model-like figure, delicate skin, and distinctive facial features. Wherever she went, there was probably an 80% chance people would take a second look.

Even though she was pretty and polite, Zhao Yu felt nothing for her. One of the reasons was because of her current position. After all, she had stolen his title away from him. Secondly, from her gestures, it was clear she was a weak person who didn't have the aura of a policewoman. In his eyes, she seemed more like a poised young lady, and to work with someone like this made him feel awkward.

Everyone was present at the conference including Li Jing. Unexpectedly, Zhao Yu knew the two remaining team members that had been sent by the criminal office. One was Liu Zhanbing, and the other was Xu Hai. Both of them were Wu Fangfang's underlings.

They had been sent because they had fulfilled some necessary criteria. Both of them had taken part in investigating the Treasure case with Wu Fangfang before, so they both knew people in the industry. It made sense to assign them to help Zhao Yu. Zhao Yu was friendlier to these two than he was to Li Jing. After the Gao Lanqi case where Zhao Yu had helped clear Wu Fangfang's reputation, the two were thankful to Zhao Yu and were willing to put in their best work for him.

Around the same time, Zhao Yu's own selections had arrived. The higherups had assigned him two slots so he chose to bring in Zhang Jingfeng and Li Beini. Zhang Jingfeng could help find people while Li Beini could do the paperwork. They were two of the people Zhao Yu was closest to and would certainly be of help to him.

Zhao Yu felt much more at ease. It seemed as though Chief Jiao really did treat him well. This new special team was made with Zhao Yu at the center. The leader, Li Jing, was in an awkward position and her authority had been usurped by Zhao Yu. No matter what her background was, she was basically only here for show.

"I hope everyone takes care of me!" Li Jing said enthusiastically, her mood seemingly unaffected. Aware of her position as a figurehead, the rest of the team acted in a friendly manner towards her too.

Li Jing, who had always worked in Foreign Affairs, had been stationed in both Japan and Korea. Her main task was working with the local government to ensure cooperation with the Criminal Department while conducting investigations on foreign fugitives related to the country's citizens. This meant she had no experience on the frontlines and her position as leader was merely a formality. With Li Jing's status, Chief Jiao had intended for her to help Zhao Yu with foreign affair matters.

The Feng Ping police officers were still preparing the office for the team, so they could only use the conference room at the moment. After a brief introduction, Zhao Yu began explaining the case to the others. From Tao Xiang's notes to the traitor's records and the list of names, he made sure to give them the latest updates on the case.

"Currently, our first priority is to confirm whether or not the four other deceased on the list of names were murdered the same way as Yuan Juncheng," Zhao Yu said. "They lived in different cities, so we have to apply for investigation permits alongside the respective local police departments!"

"Beini," he continued, "you will be responsible for the joint investigations. Remember, you are no longer a small-fry from Tai Shan. When speaking to the local police, you should sound tough and give them firm deadlines to adhere to so we can find the information we need as soon as possible!"

"Noted!" Li Beini said. Although this was her first time on such a high-level case, she was not frightened. Picking up her laptop, she began to prepare.

“Old Zhang!” Zhao Yu said facing Zhang Jingfeng. “Your job is still to find any more intelligence on the case that you can. Besides these five people, I need information about everyone on the list. Like Beini, I’ve already applied for special permissions for you, so if you encounter any roadblocks just get the local police to assist you!”

“Understood!” Zhang Jingfeng said. Although he had more experience, he was visibly nervous and his reply was not as loud.

“Zhanbing and Xu Hai!” Zhao Yu said, turning to the other two colleagues. “You have some connections with people who know a thing or two about treasures, so I hope you can focus more on the treasure. I need you two to find out more about this great treasure, whatever it may be. Anything! Whether it’s a small or a big lead, as long as it’s related, I want you to investigate it!”

“No problem!” The two of them saluted.

“Also, I need the two of you to find out more about Tao Xiang’s history. See if you can find out how Tao Xiang got the traitor’s notes and the list of names. Although the people on the list could be related to the treasure, we still don’t know what it is or what their relationship to it was.”

“Okay!” Liu Zhanbing said. “Because the previous treasure theft was solved by Tao Xiang, we have quite a lot of information on him, which could be of great help!”

“Alright Leader Zhao!” Xu Hai said. “What about Tao Xiang’s daughter? I think in order to check out Tao Xiang’s history, his daughter is an important lead!”

“Of course!” Zhao Yu said. When he turned his head, he realized Cui Lizhu was nowhere to be seen. “I’ve asked Cui Lizhu before, Tao Xiang never spoke about any of this to her. Ah, this girl...” After speaking, Zhao Yu realized that Cui Lizhu had yet to return! He had spoken to her before this, but...

“L... Leader Zhao!” Li Jing said weakly. “Excuse me, but could I be of some help? If there’s anything you need, anything at all, please let me know!”

“Well, in that case...” Zhao Yu had momentarily forgotten about Li Jing and had not even thought about assigning anything to her.

“How about this? I have quite a few friends in Japan. Do you need me to go ask them about it?” Li Jing asked.

“Uhm...” Zhao Yu, who had never been involved with foreign affairs, frowned. “I don’t think there’s a need. We don’t need to involve them yet. If the Japanese know about it, it actually would make the situation worse!”

“Uhm, I have other means! Rest assured, my friend isn’t Japanese!” Li Jing continued weakly. Her words reminded Zhao Yu that she was from foreign affairs and probably had many international police and special agents under her. Her friend was most likely someone of status! Even though she looked weak, she could be of some help. Zhao Yu couldn’t help but respect Chief Jiao’s foresight, as she had clearly already considered this!

Zhao Yu thought about it seriously for a moment. It didn’t seem like a bad idea. “Alright, then I’ll trouble you to do that. But remember to keep it a secret!”

“That’s great! Rest assured!” Li Jing said. She seemed happy as long as she could be of some help.

Zhao Yu furrowed his brows. It was not far from Yuan Juncheng’s house to the Feng Ping police station, Cui Lizhu should not have taken this long to return. Could it be there had been a major breakthrough? He quickly took out his phone and gave her a call, but her phone was off.

That can’t be right... The Special Investigations Team had a rule that when carrying out missions, switching off their phones was strictly forbidden. Zhao Yu quickly opened the tracker to check Cui Lizhu’s position. The team’s phones had all been specially made so even when switched off they could be tracked. But after switching on the tracker, Zhao Yu sighed.

Sh\*t! Cui Lizhu’s signal had gone missing!