



Teen Detective – Shroud of Mystery

Author: 剑舞神天 Godly Celestial Sword Dance

Genre Tags: Detective, suspense, crime

Synopsis :

A mysterious letter of invitation, triggering the mystery of birth.

A well-known detective agency, the occurrence of countless mysteries.

Solve cases, look for clues to the mysterious organization.

Calm reasoning, to uncover the truth behind the mystery.

All darkness, conspiracy, under his strict reasoning, will have no place to hide.

All truth will eventually come to light!

Info :

<http://www.novelupdates.com/series/teen-detective-shroud-of->

[mystery/](#)

Raws :

<http://www.17k.com/book/595205.html>

Translator :

<http://www.noodletowntranslated.com/teen-detective-shroud-of-mystery/>



Case 1 The Missing Gem

Preface: Invitation from a Figure

Dear Mr. Zheng Hanfei:

I am a private secretary for the manager from the Claudia Reese Group, and we sincerely invite you to the Claudia Reese Group Gem Exhibition at the front lobby on April 5. Our manager is going to have an important talk with you. Please be sure to attend.

Linda

“Who’s this manager from the Claudia Reese Group?” Zheng Hanfei sat on a shiny sandalwood chair, holding the letter in one hand while pinching his chin. After contemplating for a moment, he slowly turned to the butler in front of him and asked.

“Sterling!” The butler was around fifty to sixty years old. He was wearing a black suit and a pair of black shoes. His gray hair was neatly combed without any trace of disorder, which gave off an overall capable and experienced image.

“He’s mixed-blood. His father is a military officer and his mother was a banker. During World War II, his father became a private banker and made a lot of money from the war. After the war ended, he came to China and became the founder of the Claudia Reese Group and expanded his business into many industries. Later on, Claudia Reese became a world-renowned group.”

“He sure is a figure!” Hanfei nodded and said, “Isn’t he in the UK most of the time? Why is he coming to China?”

“I don’t know.” The butler shook his head. “According to what he said, his trip to China is to celebrate his child’s birthday by hosting this gem exhibition.”

“This ah” Hanfei pondered for a moment, and then said, “Why is he inviting me? Does he even know me?”

“Maybe” The butler Bo seemed a little awkward. If he couldn’t make

it clear, his young master would likely not participate in this party, which could be bad for Hanfei's future. Hence, he said, "Maybe this has something to do with your dad. After all, your dad knew many people. I believe Mr. Sterling is one of them."

"Is this related to my father again?!" Hanfei was angry and turned away with a look of indifference, but Bo clearly saw that Hanfei's hands were shaking, and a few crystal clear tears rolled off his face.

It seemed that he still cared about his father. Bo smiled and felt some comfort; he understood his young master. Although he kept cursing his dad, it was just a façade. Whenever he saw or heard some clues about his father, he would become excited. Perhaps he had become a detective in order to look for his father.

"Bo, let's go!" Hanfei wiped his tears. He took a pen on the desk and a silver watch, "Let's go and see why this great man has invited me."

"Yep!"

Zheng Henfei, an ordinary sixteen year-old boy had another identity—a detective. A person's identity was not necessarily proportional to his age. Although there were millions of people who didn't know him, for anyone who'd ever experienced Hanfei's inferencing abilities, they would definitely admit that he had remarkable talent in this field.

Unfortunately, the highly intelligent Hanfei lost his memories of his first five years for some unknown reason. He couldn't remember who his parents were. He only knew that from the age of six, he lived with his butler Bo at this villa in the suburbs. In addition to eating, sleeping, and reading detective novels, every day he would search for clues about his

father and his background.

The only items related to his parents were a pen and watch which he took with him every time he went out. According to Bo, the pen and watch were left there before the previous master had left him. The master told Bo to give them to Hanfei when he turned ten. Hanfei had no trace of any clue, even until now.

No one could predict what the future was going to be like, including Hanfei himself. He would've never expected that this mysterious invitation would lead him to unlocking his past and uncovering the mystery of his life.

Chapter 1: Tears of Hope

The Claudia Reese Group was located in the city center in downtown, which had another landmark—the Laurel Mansion. Hanfei easily found the entrance to the building.

However, it seemed like a number of world-renowned figures in China were invited to this exhibition. This set off an uproar in the country, resulting in many unrelated people gathering at the entrance. Hanfei couldn't even get in.

"Excuse me," said Zheng Hanfei politely. "I was invited to this exhibition. I'm sorry, but you're in my way."

"Who the hell are you?" The man was very angry. He looked Hanfei with disdain and said, "Are you kidding me? You look too shabby to get into this exhibition."

Hanfei was speechless. Although he and Bo were wearing suits to this exhibition, compared with those famous figures, they did seem a bit shabby. No wonder why people didn't believe what he said.

Hanfei thought about showing the man his invitation so he'd let him through, but then he thought that these kinds of people would harass him even if Hanfei showed his invitation, not to mention that the guy might've never even seen the invitation before.

"Hello, are you Mr. Zheng Hanfei?" As Hanfei was wondering what to

do, a gentle female voice was ringing in his ears.

Hanfei saw a blond woman with blue eyes standing beside him. She was wearing a professional office suit and looked tall and slim. She was definitely a beauty.

"Are you Mr. Zheng Hanfei?" Seeing that Hanfei didn't respond, the beauty stared at him in confusion and asked again.

"Oh! I am!" Hanfei blushed and answered. He was ashamed that he'd lost his mind while looking at the beauty.

Speaking of shame, Hanfei inadvertently glanced at the man behind him. His eyes and mouth were wide open, and his saliva dropped to the ground. He was definitely a "gentleman."

"My willpower seems to be pretty good." Hanfei started comforting himself.

"Great! I thought it was the wrong person! My name is Linda." Linda reached out with her right hand and enthusiastically introduced herself. "The person that invited you sent me here; he knew that you would probably have a problem coming in."

"Hello!" Zheng Hanfei shook hands with her. "I've also brought another person to attend. I hope this won't cause you any inconvenience."

"Not at all!" Linda shook her head, then made an inviting gesture. "The manager may still be waiting. Please come with me."

Hanfei nodded and glanced at the man who had a look of surprise. Hanfei smiled with pride and followed Linda into the building.

.....

"Hello!" Hanfei looked at the tall Chinese-like man in the black tuxedo. He recognized that the man was the famous manager at Claudia Reese–Sterling. Hanfei reached out his hand.

"Hello!" Sterling smiled. He held Hanfei's hand and said, "Zheng Hanfei, you look just like your father. The first time I saw you, I thought you were him!"

"Mr. Sterling, do you know where my dad is?" Hanfei was trembling. Bo could see a few tears glistening in his eyes.

"Your father hasn't come back?"

Hanfei was disappointed. After hearing the manager's response, he knew that Sterling didn't have any clues on his father's whereabouts either. Suddenly, he felt very frustrated. He spent ten years, yet had not found even a single trace of a useful clue. Even if he found a clue, would he even be able to meet his parents? Hanfei couldn't even imagine it.

"Don't worry!" Sterling knew that he said something wrong and said, "Don't worry, I'll send someone to look for your father's whereabouts. As long as there's a message, I'll let you know."

"That's true, sir!" Bo also tried to comfort Hanfei, "Everything's going to

be fine; worrying is useless. Let's see if Mr. Sterling wants to tell us anything."

"Alright!" Hanfei exhaled, then stared at Sterling with the look of a detective. "So Mr. Sterling, what exactly is your 'important thing'?"

"...Linda, bring me that thing!"

"Yes! Sir!"

A few minutes later, Linda came back with an envelope in her hands.

"I wanted you to look at this and hear your opinion." Sterling took the envelope and handed it to Hanfei with a worried look.

Hanfei first examined the envelope cover to make sure that it was just a normal envelope. Then, he opened it and took out the yellow card which contained the words:

Those without happiness do not deserve "Tears of Hope". On April 5 at 8 p.m., I will personally take it away so that you can feel pain. If you mortals want to stop me, I recommend that you stop living in pain!

– The Wizard from Acheron

"Is this letter a threat ...?!"

“Yes.” Sterling nodded. “Two days ago, Linda found the letter in my office. She told me the contents of the letter, so I quickly came back from England.”

“So, the celebration for your child’s birthday was just a lie?”

“No! Today really is my child’s birthday, but I just used it as an excuse.” Sterling was frustrated. “I’m too busy, and if it wasn’t a threat, I might’ve still been in the United Kingdom.”

“That isn’t an excuse.” Hanfei put the card back into the envelope and returned it to Linda. He said, “For your work, you even ignored your family. Mr. Sterling, it seems like you’re a joyless person, just like the letter stated.”

“Master” Bo warned on the side, “be careful of your image.”

“Bo, you don’t have to do this!” Sterling said, his eyes fixed on Hanfei with admiration. “What he just said was completely correct. You’re just like your father. Child, I’m impressed by you!”

“Let’s leave that aside first.” Hanfei contemplated for a moment, and then asked, “In the letter, the ‘Tears of Hope’ is.....”

“Oh, it’s this!” Sterling quickly took out a charming little box from his pocket, placed it on the table and opened it. There was a finger-sized emerald in it—clear, bright and shaped like a drop of water. The green surface resembled life in the spring. In the middle of the stone were blue and green seed shaped spots, but they didn’t affect the beauty of this

emerald; in fact, they looked brilliant on the emerald.

“This is so beautiful!” Hanfei couldn’t help but clap. Although he wasn’t an expert in gems, the appearance of the gem—he had to say—was the best he’d ever seen in his life.

“The name of this gem is ‘Tears of Hope,’ weighing 50.3 karats. It was formed after a long time of grinding. Because it’s shaped like drops of water and the emerald blue and green seeds symbolize hope, it was named the ‘Tears of Hope.’”

“Since they also symbolize life, why not call it ‘Tears of Life?’”

“I heard that whoever obtained this gem would get out of any difficult situation, so it was called ‘Tears of Hope.’”

“Well!” Hanfei nodded and smiled, “Acheron seems to from ancient Greek mythology, the river of sorrow, right? However, the emerald’s story is one of happiness. For the wizards of the rivers of sorrow to want to take away the stone of happiness...that’s really interesting! ”

“Master

“It’s okay.” Hanfei interrupted Bo, then turned to Sterling and said, “What time does the exhibition begin?”

“7 p.m., because 8 p.m. is the perfect time to unveil the ‘Tears of Hope.’”

“Well!” Hanfei looked at the time, “It’s 6:30 p.m. right now. Mr. Sterling,

do you mind if we take a look at the place where you are going to exhibit the Tears of Hope?"

"Of course not! Let's go!" Sterling laughed, then took Hanfei to the exhibition with Bo and Linda.

"Acheron wizards?" Hanfei felt a little bit of excitement. "Let's see how you can take away the gem of hope under the eyes of a detective. Don't let me down!"

Chapter 2: Investigation

"This will be the exhibit for the 'Tears of Hope.'" Sterling pointed at the display shelf, turned to Linda and said, "Linda, introduce them to this."

"Sure!" Linda nodded, pointed at the shelf and said, "This is where we will place the gem."

Hanfei carefully observed it for a while. The display shelf was vertical, and the glass shield hanging in the air was probably an anti-theft shield. Looking at the shield from above, there was a large circular hole that looked like the position the gem would be placed.

"What are these things used for?" Hanfei pointed at the circular holes at the edge of the display shelf. From afar, it looked like a huge honeycomb.

"We are about to put micro spotlights there."

"Micro spotlights?"

"Yes. When the 'Tears of Hope' exhibition begins, all the spotlights will be turned on to help create a mysterious and charm feeling for the gem."

Hanfei agreed and then asked, "May I touch it?"

"Of course!"

With Sterling's permission, Hanfei signaled to Bo. The butler took out a pair of white gloves from his pocket and handed them to Hanfei. He put on the gloves and gently swiped around the circular holes, allowing his

brain to quickly analyze the information about these holes. They each had a diameter of about two centimeters and could accommodate the size of a finger. However, stealing the gem through these holes was impossible. It seemed that his suspicions were somewhat unfounded.

Hanfei smiled. He took off his white gloves and returned them to Bo and asked, "Bo, don't you think that something isn't quite right here?"

"Yes, sir." Bo looked around and whispered, "There aren't many security guards here. It's just like they're allowing the wizard to steal the gem."

"You don't need to worry about that." Sterling's voice stunned Bo. "The letter said that ordinary people couldn't stop him, so I cleared the security here."

"You're being too rash!" Hanfei narrowed his eyes, seeming to see through Sterling's cover. "If you get rid of the security guards, there's a higher chance that the gem will be stolen."

"Don't worry!" Sterling laughed and waved to Linda.

Linda nodded and went to the control desk on the other side of the exhibition hall. She entered a number of programs, causing the display glass to quickly close, and some dense red spots emerged on the display shelf.

"Infrared alarm?!"

"Not just that." Sterling pointed to the display shelf with pride, "This is

bullet-proof glass. Normal impacts aren't going to break it."

"These protective measures are very good!" Hanfei agreed, but as he looked around, he frowned. For some reason, from the beginning he had felt something was wrong with this exhibition, but he did not know what the cause was.

Hanfei memorized the general arrangement of the exhibition. The display shelf was on a stage. In front of the stage were stairs connecting to a straight road below with a red carpet. According to Linda, as the exhibition began, Sterling and his family would enter from the door and walk past this straight road. Following, his children would place the "Tears of Hope" on the display shelf while Sterling himself would cover the glass shield with a red cloth. They would then wait until 8 p.m. to open it.

On both sides of the road were identical length tables which held tasty food and iced drinks. After hearing this, Hanfei's stomach growled.

"Have you not eaten?" Sterling asked.

"A little." Hanfei smiled awkwardly. He felt very embarrassed to make such a vulgar noise in public.

"Wait for a little while." Sterling took out an old pocket watch. He smiled and said, "The exhibition is about to start, so you can enjoy the food as much as you want then. No worries, I'm sure the food is absolutely in line with your tastes."

"Then I" Before he finished, several screams came from outside of the exhibition hall, followed by several disheveled security officers rushing into the room.

“Manager!” said an anxious security guard. “There’s a seventeen or eighteen year old teenager who says he’s a friend of your child.”

“Just let them in. I already know that.” Sterling glanced at the security guard with disdain; he was unhappy about all the fuss.

“However, we don’t know.” The security panicked, “he doesn’t have an invitation, so we thought he was a liar and wanted to kick him out, but

“But what?”

“But he used a stick and beat all eight of us up...”

“What?!” Hanfei exclaimed. A teenager the same age as Hanfei beat up eight security guards with a stick? Was he really a teenager?

“No! I have to go and see!” Hanfei immediately left to see the boy.

.....

“I told you! I just want to come in, I don’t want to fight!” Hanfei rushed to the door and saw a young boy standing in the doorway wearing a black tracksuit and silver-gray hair draped over his shoulders. He was holding a wood stick. His pale blue eyes were constantly looking at the guards to prevent them from suddenly attacking.

“This is” Somehow, when Hanfei saw this person’s gesture, he felt

that these guards weren't going to win.

"Go!" The guards rushed forward, but the teenager scorned them and suddenly hit a guard in the abdomen. Then, his body flashed and avoided another guard's attack and attacked his face. The guard was howling in pain, causing the other guards to become stunned and stop moving forward.

This was Japanese Kendo! From the teenager's posture, his Kendo level should've been around a four dan (ranking system for Kendo), but according to Hanfei's knowledge, a level four dan had to train as a level three dan for at least three years. This meant that he could only get to this level at the age of twenty. However, the teenager was eighteen at most, which was impossible.

"You guys wanna fight?" The teenager put the stick behind his back and said, "If you didn't attack me, I wasn't going to attack you either. You've attacked me three times, so I was just giving you a few lessons, if you know what I mean."

What was this moral philosophy about? Hanfei was amused. He had already fought back, so why was he talking about morality now? What he said was no longer meaningful.

"Don't laugh, detective!" Hanfei's smile froze, not because the teenager found himself laughing at him, but because his identity had been found out.

"Surprised?" The teenager smiled and said, "It's said that a detective's identity is best left unknown, and it is indeed difficult to picture you as a detective, but your eyes betrayed you. Plus, you have the three things any

detective should carry, so it's not difficult to deduce that you're a detective."

"Three things?"

"A pen, watch, and the pair of white gloves in your assistant's pocket. The most obvious piece of evidence has to be the pair of white gloves though. After all, no one would normally bring white gloves to this place unless they had that habit." The last sentence attracted the people around them and made them laugh, causing the atmosphere to relax a little.

"What an insightful observation." Hanfei narrowed his eyes. He became even more curious about this teenager. What he of was that the teenager was a detective, like himself.

"Who are you" At this moment, Sterling had also rushed to the scene and saw the boy as he asked.

"Ouyang Hugh." Ouyang friendly reached out his hand, smiled and looked at Sterling, as if his cold face earlier was a disguise. "I am Katy and Diro's friend. They should've told you before."

"Oh! I remember!" Sterling passionately held his hand, "You are Drunken Ghost's child. Haha, I didn't realize how much you've grown. So this time"

"I'm curious to see the letter, as well as the detective you hired. However, now it seems that he's just an ordinary teenager." Hugh said with disdain as he smiled.

“You’ll see!” Hanfei replied. Although the other’s reasoning ability was similar to him, and possibly even surpassed him, he wasn’t worried. He believed that he could win.

“We’d better go in first in case the outsiders hear ‘that thing.’” It was certain if Sterling was worried that the threatening letter would be heard by others, or if he just wanted to ease the atmosphere between the two men. He let both of them enter the exhibition hall.

Chapter 3 The Bet

“Easy! Guys!” Sterling took out a handkerchief and wiped his forehead. “Do not let outsiders hear about the threatening letter, since it is likely to cause panic before the show.”

“I know!” They replied together. After all, this was not their place. The two of them knew very well what to do.

“Well, I will leave first since I have something else to do. If you guys have any questions, just ask Linda.” Sterling smiled and quickly disappeared from their sight.

“Excuse me, is there a dressing room?” Hugh asked Linda: “I want to change.”

“Yo, you actually do know what to wear, huh.” Hanfei said sarcastically: “I thought you would wear that to the exhibition.”

“Don’t worry, I am not so stupid that I don’t even know what to wear for this exhibition. Unlike a certain someone else in some shabby clothes. ”

“You.....!”

“Just kidding.” Ouyang Hugh smiled, then followed Linda to the dressing room and disappeared into the exhibition hall.

“Ouyang Hugh The name sounds familiar, where did I hear it?” Hanfei thought for a while. In addition to the familiar name, when he saw him at first, his heart actually had a sense of familiarity, as if he had known him for a long time.

“Bo, have you heard of the name?” After he thought for a long time, Hanfei had no clue. He had to ask Bo to get some useful clues.

“I remember he seems to be quite famous.” Bo said, “He had solved a few cases in Japan, France, Britain and many other countries. One of the most famous cases that he did was one on the case about the Royal Chamber murder that intrigued a lot of French detectives. ”

“I remember that!” Hanfei patted his head: “No wonder the name sounds so familiar.”

“Ah but over time, many Chinese people have gradually forgotten about this case, so the security officers did not recognize him.”

“Well, I also solved that case, too!” Hanfei felt disdain: “If I wasn’t sick, I would not have let him get all of the credit.”

“You are so confident. Do you want to make a bet?” Hugh slowly walked in, wearing a formal suit for the party. He always had a smile on his face, with sapphire blue eyes giving off a unique charm. His grey and silver hair attracted the young ladies around. People would never relate this look to the boy who had just fought with the security officers at the door.

“A bet? Elaborate please.” Hanfei smiled. Although his clothes were somewhat shabby, he was pretty handsome. Besides his unwillingness to submit, a unique charm gradually radiated from him.

"The case! Let's see who can prevent the occurrence of the threat."

"Oh ~ what about the stakes?"

"If you lose, I'll have your reputation."

"Do you know me?" Hanfei wanted to see through Hugh's thoughts.

"Do not underestimate yourself. You have a great reputation." Ouyang Hugh touched his silver-gray hair: "At least in Japan, there were a lot of people who knew that you cracked the Japanese billionaire kidnapping case. This explains that your reasoning ability is not any poorer than mine."

"Well, I can promise that, but what if I win?"

"If I lose, I'll give you a chance to make all the young people admire you."

"Sounds tempting but, what exactly is this chance about?"

"When you win I'll say it."

"Then I'll wait for it."

"Good!" Hugh smiled, turned around and asked Linda: "Miss Linda, I want to ask you a question. Why isn't there any cameras around the hall?"

Hanfei was slightly shocked. According to Hugh's question he finally knew why he felt there was something wrong before. In such a big hall, there wasn't a single camera. Not even a pinhole camera. It almost seemed as if the manager was waiting for someone to steal.

"That ah, the manager trusted Mr. Zheng Hanfei, so there is no need to install cameras."

"He is really thinking highly of me. We have never even met before." Hanfei felt somewhat helpless, but now it was too late. After all, the exhibition was about to begin. He couldn't delay the exhibition to install cameras.

"Hey, what's wrong with you? You're making mistakes at this critical moment!" An argument could be heard from the display shelf. A middle-aged man was scolding a skinny young man and pointing at the display shelf.

"What happened?" Linda asked.

"Miss Linda," The middle-aged man was annoyed: "This guy was installing these miniature spotlights but he made a mistake somewhere and now all the spotlights are off position."

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry." The young man bowed down to apologize: "I will make the appropriate compensation."

"You cannot afford it!" Shouted the furious middle-aged man: "This exhibition is organized by the manager. Now that you made this mistake,

the manager's reputation will be hurt. You will get fired if that happens!"

"Ah! Don't do that please! I have my family to raise!" He looked very nervous, grabbed Linda's hand and cried: "Miss Linda, please don't let the manager fire me."

"Well, well!" Linda comforted, "It's too late to explain anything now. I'll talk to the manager about it. So you two don't worry."

"Thank you."

.....

"What's wrong?" Seeing that Hanfei didn't look well, Bo was concerned and asked.

"I had always felt that something was not quite right."

"Master, to be honest, I think since you know Ouyang Hugh's identity, you became paranoid. This is not good for you since you have to concentrate."

"No! I'm not!" Hanfei said: "Didn't you notice that from 6 p.m. to now, there were so many accidents going on. It seems like the Acheron Wizard is playing tricks."

"Master....."

"Haha Bo. Don't worry about what I just said." Hanfei scratched his head

and laughed: "Maybe I am really being too paranoid."

"Master, do you need me to go find a hat. Scratching your hair is going to hurt your brain." Bo was worried.

"No!" Hanfei looked angry and shouted, which scared the people around him. Hugh was looking at the two with a doubting face.

"I am going to take a rest. Bo, you can just collect the information I asked you to before." Hanfei went out of the exhibition hall, leaving Bo worried and Hugh contemplating.

"..... Is the letter true? If so, why didn't I feel anything about him"
Ouyang Hugh himself stood for a moment, then looked at Bo and left the hall.

.....

Stop! Stop!

Hanfei's heart was crying, but the effect from shouting was the opposite. His head became more and more painful. Several times, Hanfei almost passed out.

Zheng Hanfei ran all the way. He did not know where to go. He just wanted to run. He did not know how many people he had ran into judging from all the cursing going on behind him.

Eventually, Hanfei ran into the bathroom. He locked the door and sat on the toilet, breathing heavily. His body occasionally twitched, showing that he was suffering great pain.

Why? Why are you doing this?

Hanfei had been repeatedly thinking about this sentence. He liked asking other people, but also liked asking himself.

Time went by fast, but his pain did not get better. Then two figures gradually emerged out of Hanfei's mind. One was slim and the other was skinny. He wanted to see their faces, but it led to further pain.

Just hate him. He turned you into this. You don't need emotions; you don't need sunshine. You are just a dark shadow.

This sentence kept ringing in his head, which made his body twitch even more. It seemed like this sentence was a curse, which Hanfei could never get away from.

"Shut up!" Hanfei said. Then his pain started relieving gradually. He stopped sweating and his body stopped twitching. Everything finally returned to normal.

"Whoo~" After a while, he breathed and opened his eyes. After looking around, he started thinking.

Why am I having a headache? And who were the two figures in my head? And what about the voice?

A lot of questions emerged from his head. No matter how smart Hanfei was, he couldn't find out in a short time.

“Any way, just think about this later. I need to solve the problem I have right now.” He scratched his head and walked out of the bathroom. At this time, he should go hear what information Bo was able to collect for him. Hopefully, the information will provide some clues for the Acheron Wizard.

Chapter 4-The Exhibition Started

"Master, are you okay?" As Hanfei came back into the hall, Bo was worried and asked.

"I'm fine. This time my headache was not like what we thought it was." Hanfei smiled and said: "Bo, so the information I asked you to collect..."

"No worries, master." Bo said: "I have already collected the information. However..."

He took out a black hat and gave it to Hanfei.

"Bo, this is..."

"Master, this time is different. Don't let your persistence lose you the bet. Just take the hat." Bo desperately attempted to persuade Hanfei to wear it. It looked like Hanfei's headache had shocked him.

"Alright. I know." Hanfei took the hat and put it in his pocket, then asked: "Bo, tell me about what you found."

"Yes, master! Sterling has two children, a boy and a girl. The boy's name is Diro. He is about your age. He likes magic and is not interested at all in business. He is currently studying at Quain College."

"Quain College?" Hanfei thought for a while. He was surprised and asked: "Isn't that the school where Xun and Jerry are at?"

"Yes, master."

"Umm...then he is really something. What about the girl?"

"The girl's name is Katie. She is seventeen and is very proficient in English, Japanese, French and over seven other languages. She was once a translator for the Claudia Reese Group, and is skilled with musical instrumentals. Her violin and piano skills are both at level ten."

"Katie...Claudia Reese...Katie!" Hanfei was suddenly shocked: "Is she the one who won the first prize at the International Concert?"

"Yes. That is her. And also, master, there is one thing that is even more surprising."

"What about it?"

"She also studies at Quain College, just like her brother."

"Woo...Who are these children...It's already unbelievable to have such a famous father. Now the two kids are also so intelligent." Hanfei started to admire Sterling.

"How is their relationship?" Hanfei calmed down and asked.

"According to Linda, they don't seem to be close to their father because Sterling doesn't visit them a lot."

"Alright. I see." Hanfei nodded and looked at his watch: "Now it's 6:55 p.m., only five minutes until the start of the exhibition. Bo, let's just wait here."

.....

"Hugh.....Why are you here?" In a room in the back stage, a sixteen-year-old boy was looking at Ouyang Hugh in surprise.

"Diro! Didn't you invite me here?" Hugh looked at the teenager and said. The teenager had blonde hair and was in a nice suit. He was a little bit slim, with widened black eyes.

"When did I invite you...Oh no! No! I invited you. Haha, I almost forget!" Diro was about to say the truth, but looking at Hugh's eyes, he had to correct himself and laughed in embarrassment.

"Hugh, just don't bully Diro." At this moment, a girl older than Diro came. Her waist was slim. She was tall in a gorgeous dress. Her blonde hair had reached down to her hips, and her purple eyes were staring at Diro with care and love. This is Sterling's daughter, Katie.

"I didn't bully him!" Hugh said: "I just wanted to ask why he didn't tell me about this event."

"We didn't want to bother you. After all, you have to spend all your time there. If you do something else, it's not good for you."

"You...Alright, then I'll just leave it." Hugh sighed and then sat on the soft and comfortable couch. He crossed his fingers and asked: "I just wanted to ask you guys. Why did you invite Hanfei here?"

"Him?" Diro was first surprised, then relaxed and said: "I heard from my father that he was a competent detective so we invited him here. He is also pretty well-known. Didn't he solve the case in Japan?"

"Just because he is famous, you are not installing cameras in the hall?"

"This...my father decided that. He said that if it was his request, people will look down on him. So he asked me to take responsibility for the lack of cameras."

"Really? You don't get along with him right? Why are you listening to him this time?"

"He is my father. Why not listen to him?"

"Alright, let's stop the chatting here." Katie said: "Diro, it's getting late now. Go back to get ready. Hugh, we are heading to the hall. Can you leave for a moment?"

"Okay..." Hugh stood up looking at the two, said good luck and left the room.

.....

"Bo, seems like it's time to start. Let's go." Hanfei looked at the crowd coming in from the door, and took Bo to a corner close to the exhibition shelf.

"Let's wait here for the exhibition." Hanfei leaned on the wall, looking at the people coming in. It seemed like he was looking for the Acheron Wizard.

"Master, let's get something to eat." Bo said: "Or you will be starving."

"Alright." Hanfei nodded: "Get me some deserts. If I don't eat something after I overuse my brain, I will become an idiot as the night goes on."

Bo agreed and walked to the dining area.

"Looks like you are working hard. How is it? Do you have any clues?" After Bo left, an annoying voice was ringing. Needless to say, it was Hugh.

"What are you doing here?" Hanfei was annoyed: "You want to get some clues from me? Don't even dream of it! You are not going to find out."

"Oh, how can you say so." Hugh pretended to be sad: "I just wanted to send you a clue."

"A clue?" Hanfei looked at Hugh with a puzzled look: "Are we not having a gamble? Aren't you afraid that you might lose?"

"I am not afraid!" Hugh replied: "Reasoning is not about winning or

losing, or the level. There is only one truth.”

“Are you not ashamed of using Conan’s words?” Hanfei laughed. He suddenly felt friendlier when looking at Hugh. Perhaps, the bet didn’t actually exist in their hearts. After all, the nature of the detective is to reveal the truth.

“Well, what clue do you want to share with me?”

“I always feel that Diro and Katie are not really nice to Sterling.”

“Is this your clue? I felt sorry about you. I have had this clue already.”

“Oh? Then you are very fast, then how about this clue? I asked Diro why there are no cameras. He said that it was his father’s arrangement.”

Hanfei’s eyes brightened. At the moment, he felt like he understood something and then he felt he didn’t.

“Don’t worry about this now.” Hugh patted Hanfei’s head, pointed to the opening door and said: “Look, the show began.”

Suddenly, the hall became dark. All the lights gathered at the entrance. The host’s voice was ringing: “Now, let’s welcome Mr. Sterling.”

Sterling, Diro and Katie entered the room majestically. Sterling was walking on the red carpet with a very steady pace. He had an exquisite box in his hand. Diro and Katie followed Sterling, smiling and looked at

the people in the hall.

In less than a minute, the three had arrived at the display shelf. Sterling put on his gloves, taking out the "Tears of Hope" and handed it to Diro who also had gloves on.

Diro first showed the "Tears of Hope" to the attendees, then place the gem into the display frame. Then came a roaring sound, and people saw that the glass shield slowly closed.

At this time, Katie stepped forward, took the red cloth from Sterling's hand, and covered the glass shield. She turned back and looked at the audience, giving them a sweet smile.

Cheers! Everyone applauded for this exciting moment. Hugh and Hanfei participated in the applause as well in the corner, but the two's eyes were showing a trace of doubt. It seemed as if the present situation was somewhat different from what they thought.

Chapter 5-The Start

"It seems like you noticed it too." Hugh looked at Hanfei with brilliance.

"Yep." Hanfei held his chin and thought: "According to Linda, Sterling should be the one covering the glass shield. Why is Katie doing it right now?"

"Yes! Let's go and ask them later about this. This clue that doesn't look like a clue is not going to disappear from our hands."

"That's right." Hanfei smiled.

.....

"Thank you for those who came to our gem exhibition today." Sterling smiled on stage and said: "My name is Sterling. I believe that everyone already knew that the "Tears of Hope" is an emerald, right?"

"Of course. Who doesn't know about the gem of the Claudia Reese Group?" People in the audience concurred.

"Then do any of you know the meaning of the emerald?"

"It's..." The voice weakened suddenly. Although they were all upper-level people, their knowledge wasn't all rounded, just like this.

“The emerald is the birth stone for May, and also the 55th anniversary stone. It is a symbol of luck and happiness. Westerners often had regarded emeralds as the symbol of love and life, representing the vigor and vitality of spring. In legends, the emerald was Venus’s favorite jewelry, so it was used to bring success and guarantees of love, which can give the one having it honest and beautiful memories. Some people even thought it had magical powers to withstand evil, so people use it as amulets, talisman or religious ornaments, believing that wearing it can resist the invasion of snakes and wild beasts. Is that it, Mr. Sterling? “At this time, a voice attracted everyone’s attention. Hanfei had just blankly recited all his knowledge about emeralds.

“Oh, that’s very good.” Sterling applauded. His eyes were filled with appreciation. “My daughter – Katie was born in May, so today’s gem exhibition is to celebrate my daughter’s birthday held tonight at 8. I’ll show everyone the ‘Tears of Hope’, and give it to my daughter as her birthday present. ”

Cheers! The rounds of applause sounded again. All eyes were focused on tonight’s protagonist – the “Tears of Hope” on Katie and in return, Katie slightly bowed. She then took out a violin, played a piece aptly named as the “Four seasons” for everyone. Everyone was immersed in the wonderful music. All of course, except for two.

“What are you doing!” Hugh whispered to Hanfei, sounding angry, “Well now, everyone noticed us. We are no longer secret surveillance for the ‘Tears of Hope’.”

“I do not think so!” Hanfei shook his finger and argued: “If I were to steal gems, I will first go into the crowd to see if there is any hidden

danger. So, I did that in order for that person who is planning on stealing gems to be less vigilant on us.”

“You’re right, but” Ouyang Hugh took a deep breath, said: “Let’s imagine what the stealer sitting in a corner may be thinking. Unless he is an idiot, he certainly will think that we are security guards lurking in the audience.”

“It’s just you” Hanfei looked at him: “My clothes are so shabby. With so many people wearing beautiful clothes, I will certainly sit in the corner because I am ashamed of it. But, you dressed so...gorgeously, and you had a fight with eight security guards at the entrance. The thief will definitely pay attention to you.”

“So, you are using me as a smoke bomb?!” Hugh said: “So that the one stealing the gem will focus on me, but ignore you hiding in the dark. You plan on taking this opportunity to find out who he is.”

“Bingo, you got it, but there is no award.”

“You” At the moment, Hugh stared at Hanfei angrily, but Hanfei ignored him. He just simply stared at the crowd.

“Hurry up and go. If you stay here for so long, I will be under his attention too.” After a while, Hanfei waved at Ouyang Hugh impatiently.

“I’m not leaving.” Hugh was leaning against the wall. “If I will be discovered, you should too. After all, there is nowhere else this where we look at the situation so clearly.”

“Alright!” Although he said that, Hanfei was thinking: “This guy’s acting..... I have nothing to say.”

“How was it?” After a long time, Ouyang Hugh glanced at Hanfei and asked.

“Nothing.” Hanfei shook his head: “No one has been looking at us until now, and nobody is listening to our conversation. It looks like you already know what I am doing.”

“Of course.” Hugh touched his grey hair: “At the time you are talking about the meaning of the emerald, I noticed. I have to say that a rash person like you can only do those rash things.”

“Haha, I’m sorry then. I am a rash person.” Hanfei suppressed his anger and said: “But you have to admit that the current situation is good.”

“Yes. It is good, but only if there isn’t any problem with your eyes.”

“Hugh! What’s the matter with you!”

“Haha, maybe.” Hugh patted on Hanfei’s shoulder, told him to keep working, and he left to get something to eat.

What a foodie! This was the only comment Hanfei had on Hugh.

“Master!” Bo walked out of the crowd and gave Hanfei a cup of icy juice.

"Thanks! Bo." Hanfei took the juice and asked in doubt: "Why are you coming so late?"

"Master, actually...I went to ask some questions."

"What question?"

"About if Sterling purchased insurance for the 'Tears of Hope'."

"Really? Why did you ask this question?"

"Because I think that Sterling was acting for this whole thing."

"Then what's the result?" Hanfei laughed and looked at Bo.

"He didn't have insurance for the gem at all."

"Haha Bo, don't worry." Hanfei comforted him: "Actually at first I thought that the threatening letter was just made up by Sterling. We have experienced a lot of cases like that, but didn't you hear what Sterling just said to everyone? He wants to give the "Tears of Hope" to his daughter as her birthday present. Now that it's a birthday present, why should he purchase insurance?"

Bo was ashamed and bowed his head down. What he thought was just like what Hanfei told him, self-directed cases were too common so he instinctively thought that Sterling would do the same thing. However, the result was not like what he thought. His efforts were useless.

“Besides, the Claudia Reese Group isn’t having any financial problem these years. Do you really think Sterling will self-direct an accident to get the compensation?” Hanfei drank the juice. The ice made his mind more active.

“People are always greedy.”

“But is Sterling that kind of person?”

“Ahh...”

“You told me from the information that he is a self-motivated business man. So he isn’t likely to do that kind of thing.”

“Master, now I know that my reasoning was wrong. I shouldn’t have thought in that way from the beginning.”

“It’s not your fault. People are weird animals. When they encounter similar problems, they will relate them to their previous answers so that they can’t even see clearly. Although sometimes they can get it correct, but at least once they will be wrong.”

“Then what are we supposed to do now?”

“Monitor the surroundings and wait for the time stated on the letter.” Hanfei was serious and said: “Although the thief is not in the crowd, we cannot relax.”

“Got it!”

“What’s happening on stage?” At this moment, Katie finished her performance and the red carpet on the display shield slid off for an unknown reason, displaying the “Tears of Hope” in the frame.

“I’m sorry. It seems like I didn’t cover it properly.” Katie bowed and picked up the red carpet and again covered it on the shield. In case it fell again, Katie adjusted the carpet.

Bo looked at Hanfei with doubt.

Hanfei waved, which was a signal for “Don’t worry”. Although a detective could not let every detail go, if he needed to pay attention to this kind of accidents, he was being too suspicious.

“What do you think?” Hugh suddenly asked. Hanfei was shocked by this sudden voice and saw Hugh with a glass of wine. The nice smell from the glass made Hanfei relaxed.

“Just an accident.” Hanfei said: “The wine you have now shouldn’t be normal wine.”

“It’s really seems like an accident, but I still feel like something is wrong.” Hugh shook the wine glass and said: “As for the wine, it’s not just a normal one. However, you are not an adult yet, so you can’t have it.”

“Can’t I just get it by myself?” Hanfei was annoyed and was ready to get one for himself.

“Don’t go. They should all have been taken. I was lucky enough to get one.”

“What do you mean!”

“If you want to know which wine is better, except for looking and smelling, you have to taste them. It’s just like clues, except for looking and listening, you have to go find it by yourself. As for those doubtful clues, you need to go find it out by yourself.”

“It’s none of your business.” Hanfei again looked at the wine Hugh tasted, then he looked at Katie onstage and walked to the back stage. It seemed like he still had some doubt about this accident.

Chapter 6: Suspicion

Hanfei walked to the back stage and saw Sterling yelling at the supervisors. It seemed like his question was reasonable, or he should actually say thank you to Hugh.

“Mr Sterling, what happened?” Hanfei walked on stage and asked.

“Oh it’s Hanfei! I’m sorry, I will have to talk to you later.” Sterling gave Hanfei an apologetic smile then turned back to the supervisor and scolded: “What are you doing?! Letting such a stupid mistake happen, do you want to get fired?”

“But...Manager, this is really not our fault.” The person responsible for the stage argued: “We have checked and everything was normal on stage. There weren’t any alerts from the security systems, so the situation should be just an accident.”

“What accident are you talking about!” Sterling was in rage: “Have you seen any unexpected low-level mistake during an exhibition?”

“Manager” The supervisor was speechless. Indeed, as Sterling said, accidents did happen sometimes, but accidents like this was perhaps the first case ever in history.

“Mr. Sterling, what is this about.....” Although he could take a rough guess, Hanfei still wanted to make sure what happened.

“Do not call me Mr., it sounds awkward.” Perhaps he realized that Hanfei was also present, Sterling took a deep breath, calmed down and said: “I told you that your father is a good friend of mine. If you do not mind, you can just call me uncle. ”

“Ah is that proper?”

“What’s wrong with it?”

“Well! Uncle Sterling, are you talking about the accident that just happened on stage?”

“That’s right!” Sterling was chagrined and held his head. From his scrunched up eyebrows, Hanfei could tell that he was in a very bad mood.

“Sterling doesn’t believe that this was a mistake? It was not an accident?”

“I do not think it was an accident, but there are indications that this is indeed an accident.”

“Then have you ever thought that maybe Katie did this on purpose?” Hanfei stated his bold speculation.

“Katie? That’s impossible. What would be her motive to do it?”

Hanfei became silent. Although this might relate to Katie, she did not have a reason. If it was because they hated their father because they didn't get much care from him, this approach was too naïve. Besides, she wouldn't hurt the Claudia Reese Group just due to their bad relationship.

"Well, what do you think is going on? The miniature spotlights suddenly failed, and now another stupid mistake happened. I really feel sorry about it."

"If you mortals want to stop me, I recommend that you stop living in pain" A sweet sound sounded behind Sterling and Hanfei.

"What?" The two looked behind and found Katie smiling, but Hanfei felt that something was not right from her eyes.

"Dad, didn't you remember the last sentence on the threatening letter?" Katie said: "Maybe it was your security system that annoyed the one who wrote the letter—The wizard from the Acheron, so he warned you with some accidents in advance.

"How can you talk like this?" Hanfei felt it was unfair for Sterling: "Just because of this, you guys are not installing security cameras?"

"You are Mr. Zheng Hanfei right? Nice to meet you!" Katie smiled: "Just like you just said, because of that, we suggested to our father to not put any security measures in. However, he only half followed our suggestion, so he finally experienced the misfortune."

"He is your father, how can you talk like that? The "Tears of Hope" is his

birthday present for you. Of course he is going to take care of it!"

"If it wasn't for the threatening letter, he probably wouldn't even come back. Katie ignored Hanfei, glanced at Sterling and said.

"You..."

"Right, Mr. Hanfei." Katie seemed to recall something, then smiled mysteriously: "You are a detective, but detectives are also mortals. Just like the letter, mortals cannot stop it from happening, so I'll recommend you to go back early just not to harm your reputation because you are incapable of protecting the gem."

"I became a detective not because of fame. It's none of your business!" Hanfei looked at her suspiciously: "But you'd better watch your mouth in case I decide to take you in as the one who wrote the letter."

"Me? That's funny. If you think I am the suspect, you'd better keep your eyes on me before 8 p.m." Katie said: "I am just giving you suggestions, not to expect that you are suspecting me."

"Oh." Hanfei didn't take these words seriously. He continued: "As the saying goes: three fools together are better than a smart person. We have two highly intelligent detectives here. I think that even God cannot escape under our eyes."

"Two?"

"Missy, you seem to forget about your friend – Ouyang Hugh."

"Hugh?! Didn't the two of you have a bet? How could you guys work

together?"

"Yo ~ seems like you know a lot. Are you inquiring about us behind our backs?"

"No." Katie looked a little flustered and avoided eye contact with Hanfei: "I just heard it from Linda."

"Oh? Really." Hanfei laughed. Inside his heart, he became more suspicious of her. He speculated that the so-called Acheron Wizard was likely to be Katie, but he had no evidence. As a result he could not jump to conclusions.

"Well, I'm leaving. Bye, Mr. detective." Katie looked at Hanfei before she left the back stage. Who knew where she was going.

"Sorry ah, that's just how she is. Please do not mind her." Sterling said with some regret. He did not expect that his daughter would talk like that. She seemed to really hate him.

"Uncle Sterling, it's alright. I have had more than enough complaints since I came here, so I'm used to it."

Looking at the direction Katie was going, Hanfei thought it necessary to talk about this to Hugh.

.....

"Really?" Ouyang Hugh's reaction was a bit unusual. He had known Katie for a long time. Seeing her completely different side, Hugh could not accept it right away.

Hanfei nodded his head. He told Ouyang about this clue not only to think together with him, but to inquire more information about Katie.

"This isn't like the way she acts." Hugh said: "I can believe it if Diro said that. But Katie? That's too weird."

Diro? After Hanfei heard of this from Hugh, he suddenly realized that he didn't even see Diro back stage. Where did he go?

"Right. Did you see Diro back stage?" Hugh noticed this and asked.

"I don't know." Hanfei looked in another direction and smiled: "But...we can ask related people."

"Related people?"

"Linda!" Hanfei pointed to the slim blond beauty in the crowd and called out.

"Hi. Anything I can help you with?" Linda walked where Hanfei and Hugh were and asked.

"Where did Diro go? I only saw him at the beginning." Hugh asked.

"Oh, Diro. He had a stomachache, so he left early. He said that he would

come back before 8 p.m. and play a magic show for everyone.”

“Oh I see. Thank you Linda!” Hanfei and Hugh said it simultaneously.

“No problem. It’s my pleasure.” Linda bowed and disappeared.

“What do you think?” Hugh asked.

“I don’t know. We can’t make any conclusions because we don’t have any evidence.” Hanfei shook his juice and drank it. Then he looked at his watch and said: “There is half an hour left until 8 o’clock. We have to wait. However, we are deeply troubled by this case. Don’t you want to get some food and recharge your brain?”

“That’s right.” Hugh took a glass of juice from Bo and drank it. “Even if I am an iron man, I can never think for such a long time.”

“Hey...How can you take my juice?”

“I’m okay with it.”

“You really have thick skin.”

“If you want to monitor everything yourself and don’t feel like getting some information about Diro and Katie from me then I can certainly go and get something for my self.”

“Why are you so heartless!”

"Thank you!"

"..." Hanfei was annoyed and said: "Let's get straight to our subject!"

"Sure!" Hugh contemplated for a while and said: "I have to say that although Diro likes magic, his temper is just like what you said about Katie, arrogant. He doesn't have the manners a magician should have. But I have to say that he is really good at it, even better than some masters."

"What about Katie?"

"Katie...well...She cares about her brother very much. When they are together, I always feel like she is a mother. As for the temper you just told me, she sometimes does that, but I had never seen her having a temper at this kind of occasion."

"Maybe it was because she saw me talking with her father."

"Maybe..."

At this time the two became silent. They were both thinking, waiting for the time on the threatening letter and for the arrival of the Acheron Wizard. They were waiting for the time to catch it.

