

Chen Shu - Perfect Crime

I. Deceiving the Heavens to Cross the Sea

Background: This is a crime simulation reality television show where actors play the roles of criminals executing a scripted crime, while the investigation team uses modern professional techniques and technology to track and capture them. The goal is to promote legal awareness and prove that no crime can escape justice. In this episode, the theme is "Manslaughter".

- The script tells the story of a girl who is stalked by a pervert who then attempts to rape her. While fighting back, she accidentally kills him. Upon learning about the incident, her older brother decides to conceal the crime, doing everything possible to erase tracks and mislead the investigation team so his younger sister will not be convicted within 15 days.
- However, right when the show begins, an unexpected accident occurs: Su Xiaoxiao enters the wrong room and meets Chen Shu instead of the scheduled actor Liang Wei. The director decides not to stop the program but lets Chen Shu continue playing the role of the older brother, turning the entire progression from then on into a variable completely outside the script.

Key Characters:

- Chen Shu – The main character of the story, a transmigrator who took over this body, accidentally becoming the "older brother" in the show.
- Su Xiaoxiao – An actress playing the younger sister who accidentally kills someone.
- Liang Wei – A movie king arranged to play the older brother, but has not had the chance to appear yet.
- Zhang Bingbing – The show's host (MC).
- Zhang Sheng – The director.
- Liu Liang – The victim, the stalker who attempted to assault Su Xiaoxiao.

Main Progression: Facing Liu Liang's corpse, Chen Shu remains calm. Thanks to having watched many detective movies in his past life, he quickly analyzes the situation and begins constructing a plan to conceal the crime.

- After comforting Su Xiaoxiao, Chen Shu takes Liu Liang's phone and car keys but does not turn off the phone. He reasons that if the phone is suddenly turned off, the family will immediately become suspicious; keeping it active will help buy time before they report to the police. However, he also estimates that it will take at most about two days for Liu Liang's family to report him missing, so he must rush to handle all traces before that time.
- He instructs Su Xiaoxiao to wash away the bloodstains, lock the doors tightly, and absolutely not reveal the incident to anyone, while he begins cleaning the scene. Since the camera is still attached to Su Xiaoxiao, when she leaves, Chen Shu buries Liu Liang's body right in the backyard of the house, then flattens the ground to erase all traces.
- After disposing of the body, Chen Shu discovers that Liu Liang's car is still parked near the house. He carefully observes the surroundings, confirming that the suburban area lacks surveillance cameras, making it difficult for the police to prove that Liu Liang ever got out of the car here. He then drives the car away from the scene, heading toward a more remote location for further disposal.

At 10 PM, at the Haicheng Police Bureau, the show's special investigation task force gathers, consisting of three experts: Wang Zheng – a criminal investigation captain with forty years of experience and over a hundred major cases solved; Qin Min – a top forensic expert; along with Su Haoran – a famous detective. Due to the show's rules, they are not allowed to watch the livestream to ensure fairness.

- Meanwhile, Chen Shu continues his plan. He drives Liu Liang's car to a remote area, then throws Liu Liang's phone onto a passing dump truck carrying sand and stones. He intentionally keeps the phone powered on, because if the signal suddenly drops, it would cause the victim's family to suspect early. Letting the phone move with the truck creates a false signal, buying time before the police can determine the direction of the investigation.

- Next, Chen Shu drives the car to an old stone bridge located in a deserted area. He breaks the rotten railing and pushes the car into the river. He understands clearly that the car will eventually be found, but the goal is not to eliminate evidence completely but to buy time. Throughout his entire plan, time is the most crucial factor.
- Upon returning home, the show's camera system has been fully installed. Chen Shu realizes that Su Xiaoxiao is the most dangerous link. Even though the scene has been handled, if the police interrogate her, her panicked mental state could easily reveal loopholes.
- Therefore, he continuously guides her psychologically and plants a single concept into her subconscious regarding who Liu Liang is. He tells her to gradually accept that she does not know or have any connection with Liu Liang at all. Although slightly skeptical, she still agrees.

After completing the first steps of the plan, Chen Shu suddenly tells Su Xiaoxiao that the next morning he will take her out to see rapeseed flowers in Jinfu Village. Su Xiaoxiao finds it incredibly baffling because she just "killed someone," yet he calmly invites her to go traveling. Despite her doubts, she continues to cooperate in acting because the director has not called a stop.

- On the bus, a female ticket seller mistakes them for a couple, but Chen Shu smiles and explains they are siblings. After that, he proactively asks where they should stay if they want to remain in Jinfu Village for a few days, thereby leading the ticket seller to introduce the local farm stays in the village (priced around 100–200 yuan/night), the rapeseed flower fields, and the ancient temple on the mountain. Through the conversation, he gathers information about the terrain, accommodation, and prominent spots while subtly creating an impression on the ticket seller that the siblings are just visiting for sightseeing and intend to stay for a few days.
- When the bus stops at the village entrance, Chen Shu has gathered more information about the terrain and surrounding environment. Although it outwardly looks like he is taking his sister to relax, in reality, he is secretly surveying the location, preparing for the next step in his concealment plan.

After arriving at Jinfu Village, Chen Shu and Su Xiaoxiao rent a farm stay and spend the whole day visiting the rapeseed flower fields. He continuously takes photos, chats with the farm stay owners, buys a whole goat for a roast goat dinner that night, and even proactively helps with the slaughtering, making Su Xiaoxiao gradually believe that he is truly just traveling, with absolutely no intention of dealing with the case.

- When Su Xiaoxiao mentions returning because she is worried about the body being discovered, Chen Shu immediately stops her from talking about the murder, telling her to just enjoy the trip. Although appearing very leisure-focused on the surface, he silently observes and notices that the number of people who have interacted with the siblings is still too small. His goal is not only to hypnotize Su Xiaoxiao but also to create an impression on more witnesses to serve his later plan of fabricating evidence and alibis.

Therefore, as evening falls, Chen Shu decides to take Su Xiaoxiao up to the ancient temple on the mountain under the pretext of praying for Buddha's blessings for her safety, while in reality, this is the next step to expand their range of contact and prepare for the plan.

- On the police side, while Wang Zheng, Su Haoran, and Qin Min wait for a report, they speculate it is a missing person case, meaning the perpetrator will have about two days to prepare before the police officially step in.
- On Chen Shu's side, after the whole-roast goat dinner, he takes Su Xiaoxiao to the ancient temple, sincerely praying for his sister and then proactively getting to know the abbot, Master Bei Ku (Bitter Sea). He uses the pretext of worrying about his sister's college entrance exam to start a conversation, patiently listens to two rounds of chanting, and even proactively requests to listen to more. Despite being very sleepy, he forces himself to look attentive to leave a deep impression on the abbot, preparing to hypnotize him later and turn him into a favorable witness. At the end of the meeting, Bei Ku assesses that Chen Shu has an innate understanding of Buddhist dharma and vividly remembers the two siblings.

The next morning, upon leaving Jinfu Village, Chen Shu continues chatting with the bus ticket seller, intentionally mentioning that the siblings arrived at the village on April 2nd and are only returning now because his sister has to go to school. Repeating this timeline aims to engrave the memory into the ticket seller's mind, step by step building witness testimony and alibi evidence for the plan.

- After returning from Jinfu Village, Chen Shu immediately shifts into preparation mode to counter the investigation. He continuously demands that Su Xiaoxiao remember exactly: "The siblings left home on April 2nd, went to Jinfu Village to see rapeseed flowers, ate a whole roast goat, went up to the temple to pray to Buddha, and only returned at noon on April 3rd." At the same time, he warns her to act as if she never knew Liu Liang, doesn't know who he is, and that there was never any connection between them.

That very evening, after two days of missing status, Liu Liang's father officially reports to the police. The task force consisting of Wang Zheng, Su Haoran, and Qin Min quickly confirms that this is the show's case. From the files, they know Liu Liang drove away from home on April 2nd and then lost contact. All three deduce this is not just a missing person case but highly likely a murder, and the two-day window before the report was the time the killer used to dispose of the body and erase tracks. They plan the investigation sequence: find the vehicle, determine the final route, narrow down people connected to the victim, and eliminate them one by one to find the killer.

- Not long after, the police receive another report about a car submerged in the river in the Xigiao (West Outskirts) area. Arriving at the scene, they confirm it is indeed Liu Liang's car. However, the car has been submerged for too long, all fingerprints have been washed away, the body is not inside, and the surrounding area has almost no surveillance cameras. Despite losing much evidence, Wang Zheng and Su Haoran still

consider this a small setback and continue to track using the traffic system and the victim's relationships.
- On Chen Shu's side, he continues the final step of the preparation process. Knowing the police will soon arrive, he applies psychological pressure to have Su Xiaoxiao practice answering interrogations. Chen Shu not only forces her to memorize dates but also adjusts the way she remembers according to a student's habit: instead of remembering "April 2nd", she must remember it was "Saturday", since students usually remember by the day of the week rather than the solar calendar date. Then he repeatedly conducts a Q&A like a real interrogation session: where were you that day, who were you with, what did you do, and what was your relationship with Liu Liang. By repeating these questions over and over, Chen Shu is hypnotizing and deeply embedding the testimony into Su Xiaoxiao's memory, preparing for the upcoming confrontation with the police.

After completing the interrogation rehearsal, Chen Shu continues to teach Su Xiaoxiao how to deal with the police. He emphasizes that the police will intentionally lie to make her waver, so she must absolutely never hesitate or doubt her own testimony. When simulating the police asking why Liu Liang's phone had her number, Chen Shu immediately explains this is just a psychological trick, because he already checked Liu Liang's phone and there was no number or photo of Su Xiaoxiao in it. He also instructs her to maintain naturalness when answering, not to remember times too precisely but only answer according to vague memories like a normal person. Finally, Chen Shu repeatedly emphasizes a concept: "You didn't kill anyone, you didn't commit a crime." The purpose is to engrave this perception so that when interrogated, she can answer naturally without showing any vulnerability.

Meanwhile, the task force moves to the traffic surveillance center. With extraordinary observation skills, Su Haoran reviews the city's entire camera system at eight times speed and quickly determines the route of Liu Liang's car. From the data, they conclude Liu Liang was still safe on the morning of April 2nd, but around 19:10 on April 2nd, the car entered the Xigiao area and completely vanished. On April 3rd, the car no longer appeared on any cameras, thereby determining that the victim met with foul play on the night of April 2nd in the Xigiao area.

- Based on the car's journey, Wang Zheng and Su Haoran discover that before the school picnic, Liu Liang had never been to Xigiao. Only after the picnic did he continuously travel back and forth to this area. From this, they deduce that the reason Liu Liang came to Xigiao was directly related to the people who participated in the school picnic.
- Following that line of investigation, the task force requests the school to provide a list of students who participated in the picnic along with their home addresses. After filtering students living in the Xigiao area, they quickly lock onto their first suspect: Su Xiaoxiao. However, all three judge that she is not yet the true target. According to them, Su Xiaoxiao is only the person involved in the initial stage of the case, while their main opponent whom they are about to face is Chen Shu, who is believed to be the mastermind behind the entire plan.

After seeing Su Xiaoxiao off to school, Chen Shu continues to remind her to stay calm when interrogated by the police, only answer exactly what is asked, and absolutely not panic. To

reinforce the plan, he returns to Jinfu Village alone under the pretext of buying another roast goat because his sister really liked the dish from the other day.

- On the trip, Chen Shu intentionally sits next to the ticket seller, chatting intimately so she once again clearly remembers that the two siblings came to Jinfu Village on April 2nd to see flowers and that he is returning now just to buy a goat. Arriving at the farm stay, he also repeats to the owner couple that his sister still remembered the roast goat after returning home, so he came back to buy more, and then proactively helps the owner slaughter a goat identical to the last one. Every action aims to engrave the witnesses' memories of him and create additional alibi evidence.
- After that, Chen Shu goes up to the temple to meet abbot Bei Ku again. He says that after listening to the chanting on April 2nd, distress arose in his heart again, so he wants to listen to the sutra one more time. He even tells a metaphorical story about "accidentally killing a goat, hands covered in blood," asking whether the goat's owner would forgive. Bei Ku only advises that as long as one is not ashamed before one's conscience, it is enough. Chen Shu requests to hear one more round of the Qingxin Mantra (Heart-Clearing Mantra), both to continue building goodwill and to make the monk remember him more deeply, serving the plan to hypnotize and exploit testimony later.
- Meanwhile, the investigation team officially goes to Su Xiaoxiao's school. Wang Zheng meets her privately in the hallway, introduces his identity, and begins the interrogation. He asks in turn about Liu Liang, their relationship, and whether they ever met after the picnic. When Su Xiaoxiao answers that they only knew each other through the picnic, Wang Zheng does not let her reply immediately but places Liu Liang's photo in front of her, requesting her to think for three minutes before answering again. This is a tactic to apply psychological pressure, forcing the suspect to expose loopholes on her own.
- Those three minutes make Su Xiaoxiao nearly collapse. Wang Zheng's sharp gaze and the tense atmosphere make her want to confess the whole truth multiple times. But right at that moment, she recalls the words Chen Shu had repeatedly trained her with: no matter how the police ask, she must remain firm with her testimony and consider herself completely unrelated to Liu Liang. It is precisely this repeated autosuggestion that helps her regain composure and prepare to face Wang Zheng's next round of interrogation.

During the interrogation, thanks to Chen Shu's psychological suggestions and reminders, Su Xiaoxiao overcomes the pressure from Wang Zheng, firmly asserting that she only met Liu Liang once during the picnic and knows absolutely nothing about the case.

- Unable to exploit her by direct questioning, Wang Zheng uses a psychological deception trick: pretending to call Su Haoran, claiming the accomplice has been arrested and has confessed everything, then pressuring Su Xiaoxiao to confess. Initially, she is startled, but quickly remembers Chen Shu's words that the police would use deceptive tactics. Realizing the police cannot yet know who the accomplice is and therefore couldn't have arrested Chen Shu, she immediately regains her composure, continues to pretend innocence, and reveals no loopholes.

Although he fails to make Su Xiaoxiao confess, Wang Zheng's plan is still successful as her initial reaction confirmed that the accomplice is indeed her older brother. At the same time, her rapid recovery of confidence makes the investigation team realize that Chen Shu is by no means ordinary, but a highly intelligent opponent who is much harder to deal with than initially anticipated.

- After identifying Chen Shu as the primary target, Wang Zheng pieces the entire case together. Relying on traffic cameras, he determines that Liu Liang disappeared on the night of April 2nd in Xigiao, then cross-references the list of students participating in the picnic and narrows it down to Su Xiaoxiao. However, he believes that the show crew letting her trail be exposed so easily proves she is only the initial link, while the person truly standing behind her is the main target. Through the interrogation session and the psychological trick, Wang Zheng confirms the accomplice is her brother – Chen Shu, and realizes he is smarter than expected. He deduces that Chen Shu utilized the two days before the missing person report was filed to erase traces and prepare to counter the police. Therefore, the investigation team requests an arrest warrant.
- That night, the police surround and arrest the two siblings, bringing them to the bureau. In the interrogation room, Wang Zheng uses psychological ploys, trapping Chen Shu into letting slip a mention of "killing someone". However, Chen Shu immediately explains that he knows Liu Liang's name because Su Xiaoxiao recounted the content of her interrogation. Seeing that the psychological tactic is ineffective, Wang Zheng understands that bringing Chen Shu down will require relying on hard evidence and actual mistakes.

After establishing April 2nd as the time of Liu Liang's death, Wang Zheng directly asks Chen Shu where the siblings were that day. Chen Shu calmly testifies that they went to Jinfu Village to see rapeseed flowers, took a bus since morning, stayed at a farm stay overnight, bought a goat in the evening for the owner to make barbecue, and went up to the temple to pray. He even proactively requests the police to verify this with the ticket seller, the farm stay owner, and Master Bei Ku.

- Chen Shu's testimony is extremely detailed, and Su Xiaoxiao in the adjacent room gives a completely identical statement. Nonetheless, Wang Zheng still believes this is a pre-arranged alibi, so he splits the investigation forces. Su Haoran goes to check cameras and search Chen Shu's house to find the body, while Qin Min brings all the witnesses to the bureau for interrogation.
- Consequently, Jinfu Village has almost no cameras, and the bus line does not use named tickets, making it impossible for the police to verify the journey. Wang Zheng realizes Chen Shu intentionally chose a place where it is very difficult to leave traces, but still believes that the more witnesses there are, the easier it is to expose loopholes.
- However, all witnesses confirm Chen Shu's testimony. The ticket seller clearly remembers carrying the two siblings on April 2nd, and the farm stay owners confirm they stayed overnight, ate exactly the dishes Chen Shu stated, and helped slaughter a goat in the evening. Even when pressed on small details, their testimonies remain fully unified.

- In addition to witnesses, Chen Shu also presents bus tickets and photos taken at Jinfu Village as physical evidence. Facing a mountain of alibis, even the Viewers begin to doubt if the investigation team identified the wrong suspect or the wrong time of the crime.
- Only Wang Zheng remains steadfast in his intuition. He believes Su Xiaoxiao's previous reaction could not be fake, so Chen Shu must definitely be an accomplice. When returning to the interrogation room, Chen Shu asks a question that silences the entire room: "I have witnesses, and I have physical evidence. Where is your evidence?"

After being questioned by Chen Shu, Wang Zheng does not waver at all. He admits that Chen Shu took advantage of the two-day gap to construct a nearly perfect alibi system, but believes it is all fabricated.

- Wang Zheng presents his core deduction: after Liu Liang died, Chen Shu had to handle the car, instruct Su Xiaoxiao on her testimony, and prepare the alibi, so the remaining time to dispose of the body was very little. Meanwhile, city cameras did not record Chen Shu appearing anywhere other than the Xigiao area. From this, he concludes the body could not have been taken far but must be buried around Chen Shu's house, highly likely right in the yard.
- Confident in this deduction, Wang Zheng orders a comprehensive search of Chen Shu's house and its surroundings using police forces and police dogs. He declares he will no longer listen to defense arguments; as long as the body is found, Chen Shu's entire alibi system will collapse.
- Meanwhile, everyone from the audience to the production crew believes the case has reached its end and Chen Shu is about to be exposed. Yet, when the search takes place, the scene remains unusually quiet. The police dogs detect no traces, and the search force finds neither the body nor any evidence.

This result surprises the police leader. He is certain his deduction is correct, but failing to find the body causes all evidence to fall apart. Ultimately, due to insufficient evidence to indict, Chen Shu and Su Xiaoxiao are released.

Su Xiaoxiao is extremely astonished. She knows very well that the body is still in the yard, so she cannot understand why neither the police nor the police dogs detected it.

- After returning home, Su Xiaoxiao asks Chen Shu for the reason. He leads her to the middle of the yard and asserts that the body still lies exactly beneath the ground.
- Chen Shu explains that the heavy rain the night before washed away most of the corpse odor and erased almost all traces of digging. Before that, when going to the countryside to buy goat meat, he secretly took some chemical fertilizer from the seller's house to scatter around the burial area. The amount of fertilizer was very small, so humans wouldn't notice it, but it was enough to create an odor that disrupted the police dogs' sense of smell. Therefore, combining the heavy rain and the chemical fertilizer, the police dogs could not accurately determine the position of the body.

- However, Chen Shu admits that this was not a guaranteed plan. He was just gambling. If the police dogs still smelled the corpse, everything would end immediately. He originally learned this method from the movie *Manslaughter* (Ngộ Sát) and applied it to the real situation.
- Su Xiaoxiao suggests immediately digging up the body and moving it elsewhere before the police return. But Chen Shu refuses. He argues that they are still being watched; moving the body now would truly expose a vulnerability. Letting the body continue to lie peacefully under the yard is safer. Su Xiaoxiao breathes a sigh of relief, thinking they were too lucky this time: having heavy rain, deceiving the police dogs, and hitting the exact moment the police misidentified the time of death so that the siblings had an alibi.
- Hearing this, Chen Shu only smiles and asks back: "Think carefully. Did we really go to the countryside on April 2nd?" Su Xiaoxiao asserts it with certainty. She recalls the entire sequence of events in turn:
- April 2nd: went to the countryside, looked at flowers, ate roast goat, prayed to Buddha.
- April 3rd: returned, Chen Shu rehearsed the interrogation.
- April 4th: she was interrogated by the police, then the siblings were arrested.
- Released after midnight, so now it must be April 5th. But Chen Shu tells her to open her phone and check. The result displayed is 00:30 on April 6th.
- Su Xiaoxiao and the entire audience are stunned because there is an extra day. Chen Shu continues to ask: "On which day did Liu Liang die?" Su Xiaoxiao recalls the show's shooting schedule. She suddenly realizes that the show started broadcasting on the evening of April 2nd, which was also the day she accidentally killed Liu Liang. This means April 2nd could not be the day the siblings went to the countryside; it must have been April 3rd.

She understands immediately. The police did not misjudge the time of death at all. The person who misremembered the time was her and everyone else.

This discovery leaves both the audience and the director dumbfounded. However, a new question arises: If Chen Shu really went to the countryside on April 3rd, why did all the witnesses in the village assert it was April 2nd? They didn't lie, nor were they bribed.

Meanwhile, at the investigation team, after discussing, everyone figures out Chen Shu's method with the witnesses, unfortunately, there is no evidence to prove or do anything about it.

Time quickly passes. Only 3 days are left until the end of the show. The entire internet begins to believe that Chen Shu is about to pull off a "perfect crime".

- In the final days, the siblings live normally as if no case had occurred. Su Xiaoxiao remains constantly anxious because the body is still buried in the yard, repeatedly suggesting moving the corpse elsewhere. But Chen Shu firmly refuses. He analyzes that the police already searched the entire area but found nothing. After that failure, they will not continue to suspect that the body still lies right in the yard. Therefore, maintaining the status quo is the safest choice. According to him, time will eventually make everyone forget everything.

- Su Xiaoxiao by now fully trusts Chen Shu. She realizes that throughout the entire case she contributed almost nothing; every plan was calculated by Chen Shu from beginning to end. She herself was just guided by him and carried to victory ("nằm thắng").

On a rainy night, dozens of police cars surround Chen Shu's house. Su Xiaoxiao steps out to confess, stating that she accidentally killed Liu Liang, and points out the body buried in the yard. She also reveals that Chen Shu used chemical fertilizer combined with the heavy rain to deceive the police dogs, preventing the police from discovering the body in the previous search. The audience is instantly outraged, thinking the show crew "can't play fair"; because they couldn't break the case, they had to force the character to confess to end it.

- Under Su Xiaoxiao's guidance, the police dig at the exact burial position. Su Haoran also takes the opportunity to explain why the previous investigation failed: the chemical fertilizer disrupted the police dogs' sense of smell, and the heavy rain washed away the corpse odor. The three comfort themselves that as long as a crime is committed, it will definitely leave traces, and Chen Shu's final trace was Su Xiaoxiao – the person who knew the whole truth. As long as she exists, the truth will be exposed sooner or later.
- However, when the sack under the pit is opened, the entire scene instantly goes dead silent. Inside is not Liu Liang's corpse, but only the corpse of a goat.
- Even Su Xiaoxiao is completely stunned. She witnessed with her own eyes the body being buried there, and even repeatedly suggested that Chen Shu move the corpse but was always refused. This precisely made her firmly believe that the body had never been touched.
- In reality, Chen Shu had secretly swapped the body a long time ago without letting anyone notice. He didn't gamble on chemical fertilizer or luck at all. Even if the police found the exact burial position, what they dug up would only be a goat. This proves he prepared a countermeasure even if the burial site was discovered.
- Right from the moment he realized he was participating in a crime simulation show, Chen Shu anticipated that if the police couldn't find evidence, the show crew would definitely have Su Xiaoxiao confess to close the case. Therefore, he considered the accomplice to be the most dangerous evidence. He intentionally let Su Xiaoxiao believe the body was still under the yard, then silently swapped the corpse. By the time she confessed and led the police to dig, all testimony instantly lost value because there was absolutely no physical evidence to prove it.
- Facing Wang Zheng, Chen Shu calmly denies everything. He asserts he never knew Liu Liang, and that sack only contained the corpse of the goat slaughtered for meat. Afterward, he counterattacks, accusing the police of extracting confessions from Su Xiaoxiao under duress and intentionally framing the siblings to hide the true killer. Finally, he turns to comfort Su Xiaoxiao, saying she is not guilty at all, they did nothing wrong, and the law will return justice.
- Only at that moment does everyone realize Chen Shu not only wiped out all evidence but also anticipated his accomplice's betrayal. The final card the show crew prepared to end the case had already been in his plan for a long time. Simply by swapping the body, he turned Su Xiaoxiao's confession into testimony without any evidentiary value, while once again pushing the police into a dead end.

After the plan to force Chen Shu to confess fails. With no reason to continue detaining him, Wang Zheng is forced to release Chen Shu. Before leaving, Wang Zheng declares that as long as the body is found, he will immediately arrest him, while Chen Shu only smiles and wishes them luck, reminding them that the show only has three days left.

- Chen Shu's escape causes public opinion to explode. Fearing the show ending with a "perfect crime" would cause the program to get investigated/shut down, Station Director Wu Hong requests to launch a "Nationwide Body Hunt" campaign, calling on netizens to join in deducing where the victim's body is hidden, both to increase the show's heat and assist the task force in finding clues.

A series of hypotheses appear on the internet to help. Nevertheless, many days pass and they still obtain no results.

In contrast to everyone's busyness, Chen Shu remains extremely calm. When Su Xiaoxiao apologizes for confessing at the show crew's request and asks whether everyone can find the body, he only replies that except for himself, nobody knows where the body is.

- On the final day, both the task force and millions of netizens are still at a dead end. Right at that moment, Liang Wei – the person who was originally chosen to participate in the show – after reviewing the entire progression, puts forward an analytical post. He believes that Chen Shu dismembered the victim's body, used conversations on the bus to distract attention, enthusiastically went to help process the goat to utilize the smell of goat blood in Jinfu Village to mask the scent of the corpse, and took advantage of the time he went to Jinfu Temple to listen to chanting to secretly hide the body in the temple.
- Taking advantage of everyone's reverent mindset, not believing anyone would dare hide a body in such sacred places.
- Liang Wei's analysis quickly becomes the most prominent hypothesis and catches the task force's attention. Wang Zheng admits he hadn't checked Jinfu Temple before because he thought Chen Shu wouldn't dare hide a body at the gates of Buddha. However, Su Haoran notes that Chen Shu is someone who cannot be predicted by common sense; the more it is a place nobody thinks of, the more likely it is. With not much time left, Wang Zheng immediately leads the entire force to Jinfu Temple to launch the final investigation.
- After Liang Wei's assessment causes the task force to shift their investigation direction, Wang Zheng immediately leads the entire force to Jinfu Temple. As soon as he meets Master Bei Ku, he asks again about every detail of the night Chen Shu came up to the temple. The master confirms that after listening to the chanting, Chen Shu went down the mountain immediately and did not stay in the temple, but due to the dark night and poor eyesight, he doesn't remember if he was carrying any object.
- Initially, this testimony makes Wang Zheng think Chen Shu didn't have time to hide the body in the temple. However, when searching the woodshed, the police unexpectedly find the victim's clothes. Qin Min immediately speculates that after dismembering the body, Chen Shu couldn't dispose of the clothes without leaving a trace, so he threw them into the woodshed, intending to exploit Master Bei Ku accidentally burning them. The

fact that the clothes are still intact proves the body is highly likely still hidden somewhere in Jinfu Temple.

- This discovery makes the entire task force extremely excited, and on social networks, Liang Wei is instantly praised for guessing the right direction of the investigation. Many people believe he is the one who found the breakthrough of the case.
- At Jinfu Temple, the police search the entire temple yard, the woodshed, and the master's rest room, but apart from the victim's clothes, they discover no further clues. Right when everyone falls into a dead end, Su Haoran recalls Su Xiaoxiao's previous testimony that she had dozed off while Master Bei Ku was chanting, while Chen Shu intentionally requested to chant another section. The three immediately realize that this exact period of time was Chen Shu's only opportunity to act. Because he couldn't go too far, the hiding place of the body could only be right inside the main hall.
- From there, they simultaneously turn their eyes toward the Buddha statue. Wang Zheng immediately orders a search of the entire statue. Just a few minutes later, a policeman loudly reports discovering a black bag hidden behind the Buddha statue. The black bag is placed in front of Wang Zheng. A faint smell of blood emanates from inside, making everyone believe even more that this is the dismembered body. With only about ten minutes left before the show ends, he tasks Qin Min with opening the bag directly. Amid the suspense of tens of millions of viewers, Qin Min cially unwrapped each layer. Inside there are indeed white bones, making everyone believe the case is closed and Chen Shu has finally failed.
- However, right after a careful inspection, Qin Min's expression suddenly changes completely. He announces with a trembling voice that these are absolutely not human bones, but only a goat skeleton. At the same time, he takes a piece of paper left by Chen Shu out of the bag, proving that the task force and the entire audience have once again been led and fooled by Chen Shu.

- So the question here is: where is the body? How did Chen Shu's entire plan take place?

II. The Truth

1. Time Discrepancy First, Chen Shu and his sister went to Jinfu Village. Since the two were not actually real siblings, and both were good-looking, the ticket collector would misunderstand them as a couple, through which Chen Shu could explain to the ticket collector and talk about Jinfu Village, thereby leaving a deep impression on her. (Of course, if the above could not be applied, Chen Shu could still strike up a conversation to make an impression...)

Chen Shu continued to perform the actions as mentioned in the Progression, leaving an impression on the host and the village chief.

By the next morning, when boarding the bus back to the city, Chen Shu communicated with the female ticket seller, thereby suggesting to her that the day he arrived was April 2nd.

-> Step 1: Creating an impression on the locals was incredibly successful.

Next, Chen Shu used the pretext of buying goat meat for his sister because she liked it so much previously to return to Jinfu Village.

On the bus, Chen Shu met the female ticket seller again. The ticket seller still remembered Chen Shu because she remembered Chen Shu and his sister coming to Jinfu Village to see rapeseed flowers on April 2nd, mistaking them for lovers… Seeing that the ticket seller still remembered clearly, Chen Shu did not need to do anything further.

Next, Chen Shu returned to the house of the couple where he stayed previously, saying that on the night of April 2nd his sister found the goat meat so delicious that she wanted to eat it again.

When the uncle pulled the goat out, Chen Shu offered to help to make it faster, since he had worked with the uncle on April 2nd and thus had experience.

After finishing the slaughter of the goat with the uncle, Chen Shu went to meet the Monk. Chen Shu explained that on the night of April 2nd he had received answers from the Monk but he still had questions and asked for guidance. After receiving guidance, he requested to listen more to the Qingxin Mantra (Heart-Clearing Mantra) that the Monk chanted on April 2nd.

-> Step 2: Continuous psychological suggestions about April 2nd were incredibly successful, thereby causing the memories of Chen Shu in everyone's minds to be attached to April 2nd.

The main reason is that Chen Shu manipulated the perception of the timeline, similar to a filmmaking technique (montage), stitching events that occurred on April 3rd into April 2nd, causing all witnesses to tell the truth but accidentally creating a fake alibi. Chen Shu swapped everyone's perception of the timeline.

To use a simple example: if a person does not clearly remember whether they ate noodles on Monday or Tuesday, but is continuously reminded by others that it was Monday, over time the memory will automatically stitch that event into the exact day that was suggested. And Chen Shu exploited this very psychological mechanism.

The ticket sellers, the host, the monk, and the other witnesses were not lying at all. They truly met Chen Shu, truly remembered the things he did because he intentionally created a very deep impression: buying the goat, helping to slaughter the goat, going to pray, chatting... But the only thing they remembered incorrectly was the timeline. Chen Shu continuously suggested and repeated that everything took place on April 2nd, causing everyone's memories to automatically stitch the event over to that day.

That is precisely the "montage" technique: not changing the events, only changing the chronological arrangement of the events to create a completely different "story".

Chen Shu did not fabricate witnesses at all, nor did he bribe anyone, but he caused everyone to accidentally become witnesses creating an alibi for him.

Meanwhile, the investigation team fell into a dead end. Even though they knew clearly that Chen Shu had swapped the witnesses' time perception, they could not use that as evidence. If they tried to explain to the witnesses now that they remembered the wrong date, the new statements would be viewed as being led by the police, losing all legal value.

In other words, even though they saw the entire magic trick, they still could not prove Chen Shu committed the crime.

-> Chen Shu and his sister entered an invincible position with an incredibly solid alibi and witnesses; the police would never be able to convict the two siblings if everything continued as normal.

The Corpse Mystery

Chen Shu first buried Liu Liang's corpse in the ground in front of his sister. Afterward, he immediately went to Jinfu Village under the pretext of going on a trip.

In reality, there were two layers of hidden purposes here.

Layer of Purpose	**Purpose**
Layer 1	Execute the time-deception trick, while simultaneously taking goat bones and goat feces to swap the body and scatter them over the burial site. If the house is searched by the police, it will be exposed to make the sister truly believe the body was buried there.

	This way, when pointed out by the "witness," it can trap the pointing out into failure, and can even counter-accuse the police of intentionally extracting confessions under duress to force the sister to plead guilty.
Layer 2	Create the illusion that he actually went to Jinfu Village to dispose of the body inside the temple (as Liang Wei deduced). Pretending that he exploited the reverent mindset so he could hide the body without anyone checking, thereby smoothly executing the body concealment and making everyone fully convinced.

However, the things above were not yet everything.

Chen Shu knew in advance that his sister would expose loopholes, causing himself to be suspected and then arrested and brought to the station. Therefore, Chen Shu chopped Liu Liang's body into small pieces and taped them to his own body.

(As for parts like the ribcage, Chen Shu chopped them up, mixing them into the goat skeletons because Chen Shu understood that if they only looked from the outside, they would only see that it was goat bones and judge it immediately rather than checking DNA or doing anything else.)

When released due to the time-deceived locals testifying, Chen Shu asked to use the restroom and hid the body there. It had the disinfectant smell to mask it, and it was a safe place that no one would suspect.

=> Through this, Chen Shu successfully executed the strategy of "Deceiving the Heavens to Cross the Sea" in a flawless manner.