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**Chinese woman falls for a scammer despite losing US$14,000, helps in fraud so can be together**

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In a twisted Pig Butchering case, a 40-year-old woman from Shanghai, China, fell victim to an online romance scam, losing 100,000 yuan (approximately US$14,000). But the story took an even more surprising turn when the woman, surnamed Hu, continued to pursue a relationship with the scammer and actively assisted him in defrauding others.

The saga began in May 2023 when Hu met a man, identified as Chen, on an online dating platform. Chen, claiming to have a high-yield investment account, persuaded Hu to invest her money. It wasn't long before Hu realized she had been conned, unable to withdraw her funds.

**She Was Blinded By Love And Became His Money Mule**

Rather than cut ties, Hu fell deeper into Chen's web of lies. He spun a tale of being trapped in a scamming ring in northern Myanmar, forced to meet a certain quota before he could return to China. Hu, blinded by love and the promise of a future together, agreed to help Chen reach his goal.

Acting as a money mule, Hu used her personal bank account to receive and launder the proceeds of Chen's scams through cash withdrawals and cryptocurrency conversions. In September 2023, another victim, surnamed Zhao, lost 100,000 yuan to Chen, with the funds landing directly in Hu's account.

**She Was Arrested But The Court Was Leniant**

The law finally caught up with Hu on September 19, 2023, when she was arrested. During her trial, Hu confessed to her crimes, and her family compensated Zhao for the full amount. On May 8, 2024, the Jiading Primary People's Court in Shanghai found Hu guilty of fraud but handed down a surprisingly lenient sentence due to her cooperation and lack of personal financial gain. She received a suspended 2.5-year prison term and a fine of 30,000 yuan.

The case has sparked disbelief and shock across China, with many expressing astonishment at Hu's actions. One online commentator remarked, "People fall in love with teachers when studying, instructors during military training, bosses at work, and even the scammers who deceive them. Why are there so many lovesick women?"