

# Deng's daughter 'furious' over theft of her Jeep

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WHOEVER crept into the car park behind Beijing's Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel and made off with the expensive looking Jeep parked there is in for a nasty shock.

The Jeep belongs to Ms Deng Lin, eldest daughter of patriarch Mr Deng Xiaoping, and she wants it back.

Ms Deng was attending a dance party in the hotel's ballroom last Sunday night.

She was furious when she discovered the theft about 10 pm and demanded that

action be taken immediately, according to hotel staff who witnessed the incident.

Hotel security staff informed the local Public Security Bureau straight away but the vehicle has still not been recovered.

The bureau yesterday refused to say how the investigation was going but one officer said the theft was being treated as a "very serious crime".

The hotel is conducting its own investigation into how such an embarrassing incident could have occurred and management has pro-

mised to upgrade security in and around the car park.

"This was the first time a car has been stolen from the car park so it took us all by surprise," one hotel employee said.

"It was very unfortunate that the car belonged to Ms Deng Lin."

The Crowne Plaza is partly owned by a major state-run fine arts institute and Ms Deng, as an artist of some renown, is often the guest of honour at functions organised by the hotel's owners.

She is also said to host

occasional banquets at the hotel, just a short drive from her family's residence in Zhongnanhai.

The Communist Party has issued strict instructions to its members not to engage in extravagant celebrations this holiday season so Ms Deng's presence at a luxury hotel's dance party must come as something of an embarrassment.

It is not known if Ms Deng's father, who is currently in Shanghai, has been informed of the incident.

Ms Deng was unavailable for comment.

