Be Honest! 571

Chapter 571 Success or Failure?

Little by little, everyone stepped forward and did as were told. But whether they passed or not was a mystery to them.

Some noticed various streaks of color when touching the orbs, and others noticed bold singular colors that engulfed the balls.

But what they didn't know was that if they had no talent for exorcism, the ball would still light up, however, it would show a creamy grayish color. Bear in mind that there was a difference between having the ball light up with a cream-grayish color and having the ball light up with a pure white color. That being said, innate talents were not the only things tested here. The orb assessed over 10 other requirements, digging deep into their very souls, as well as sensing their luck, divine blessings, Soul force, and many other things. Do you know that only by getting a specific soul force number can one actually be able to exorcize any underworld creature?

Soul force can also be improved upon once one starts cultivating. However, the soul force when in their mortal state was a true indicator of whether they could do the job or not. Know that if they aren't at the standard now and actually cast a spell, it could have so much backlash, killing them instantly.

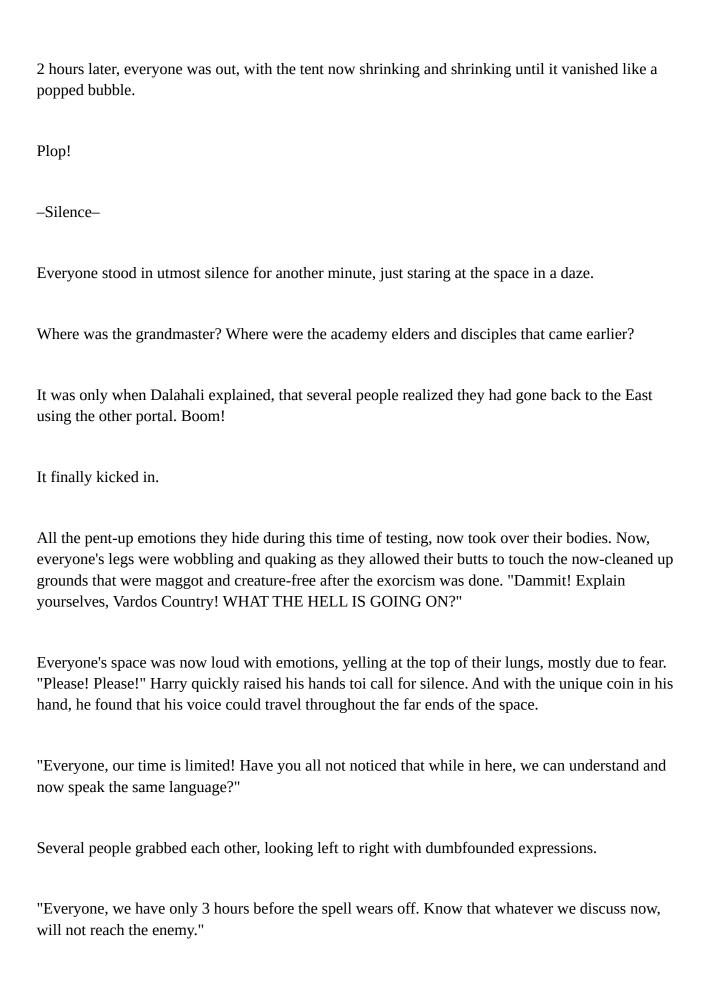
But someone like Khalea who already had a strong soul force, can chant alongside Dorian now and nothing would happen to her. She would only feel dizzy and lightheaded.

Sorry, not everyone can be an exorcist. The world still needs doctors, engineers, fishermen, and whatnot.

That being said, a person must pass all 10 requirements to get into the academy. And the orb accesses everything in a millisecond before emitting its vibrant light.

. . .

From the moment the first 7 finished the tests, they were asked to leave the same way they came. Khalea now found herself standing outside the open military space with many others but didn't feel like moving away from the tint tent they just came out from. Was it all a dream?



Yes, the formation will vanish in 3 hours. So do they want to waste time arguing, or do they want to talk!

Know that once the spell goes done, who can guarantee that even the birds in the skies aren't monsters listening in on them?

Typically, one should be hungry or thirsty by now. But after the disgusting display they witnessed earlier, they honestly felt they might never eat again in their lives!

Breathing heavily, everyone quickly quieted down. And those who still wanted to cause a scene, were now stared at with vicious looks from those around them.

"I dare you to speak! Try it and see what happens next!"

"_"

"Everyone, do you all remember the incident that took place in my Vardos country when several live streamers went missing?"

Yes... yes, they did. Many, including the vardos police officers here nodded deeply. It was a world catastrophe, with everyone in the world shaming the Vardos police and military forces. Other countries came in to help, but were also shamed by the media when they couldn't find a single clue about the perpetrator.

"Good... Everyone, I give you 6 out of 12 of those live streamers who also came to take the test."

Instantly, Jenny, Chris, Emily, Rudolf, and Bianca, now stepped forward, seemingly more mature than how they were before that unfortunate event. And soon, they retold all that they experienced. To say that the onlookers didn't feel stabs of terror in their guts would be a lie.

Mommy... The tale was more chilling, especially when imagining it and taking reference of how those creatures would look after witnessing what they saw today.

Terrible! Terrible!~

Are you saying for decades, centuries and thousands of years, people have gotten lured and trapped in there just for fun? Prey... yes, that's what those monsters said. They were prey and could be eaten anyway these monsters liked.

Following this, Obediah's group, alongside several military people, biologists, archeologists, and explorers, also came out to talk on the recent Horseman incident in Cygypt. At this point, even the Vardos people felt a wave of acid well up in their bellies the more they listened.

The superiors who questioned why Obediah and several others had placed influential people like Bohania and Eldora in military prison, were no longer against the matter.

Dammit!

So just because her father is rich, Eldora feels she can sacrifice people to these monsters at will?

Indeed, such people should be locked up because they might one day sell humanity to these monsters. Imagine if they came out with a plan to secure their victory and then, that said plan gets leaked out in the end by such people.... How do you think they would feel?

1 year and a few months... they just needed to keep her under military house arrest for this time until the war ends. At this point, everyone clenched their fists, not wanting to risk it.

For humanity's sake, failure was not an OPTION!

Chapter 572 Humanity's Last Hope

Like so, the group spent the next 3 hours talking about how deeply the world has been infected by these underworld creatures. What was most terrifying was that once they left this space and headed back to their various police stations, barracks, ships, and corps, they could be working alongside these underworld creatures and would never know it. In a flash, the faces of several leaders turned chilly, as they swept their gazes across the masses. The leader of the secret organization also did the same, his eyes saying: Should anyone here let a single word of what happened out, he would personally grind their bones and feed it to his dog!

Don't let him catch any traitors among them, or else he swore he would shoot them dead. For the sake of humanity, killing one to save the majority was not a hard choice.

"Keep your mouths shut once we leave..."

Bit by bit, everyone came to know just how dark their current world was. And after the 3 hours were almost up, many felt like leaving now to calm themselves down in silence, but knew that what Wiggins, Dalahali, Barry, and several others said was right.

They have only spent a total of 6.5 hours, from the time the battle began till now. Sure, they were exhausted, but they must start the true Golden Military Tournament to avoid suspicion.

Don't forget that the enemy was still among them, so the video of the tournament must still be shot, so the other superiors and even the president of their countries could watch.

At this point, they don't even know if their presidents were human or not, so they must keep acting the same way, taking the tournament seriously.

And when asked why the tournament was delayed, or why Vardos' country had invited so many of them, they all made a convincing tale, deciding to stick to this tale. If asked, this is what everyone must say.

With only 20 minutes left before the formation vanished, they discussed and came up with convincing excuses before agreeing to uphold the competitions.

Vrmmm~

The invisible walls slowly crumbled down, and now, everyone found they could no longer understand each other's languages as before. However, their eyes told different tales of brotherhood, fostered for humanity's sake.

"Bah! You Britannians are so cheeky! We will definitely win this tournament!"

"Hmph! Have you forgotten that our Flower country came 5th last year?... Huh. Just wait until we take 1st and we'll see who's laughing then!"

"Blah, blah, blah..."

"Everyone was acting for the cameras now capturing the evidence on scene."

Phew~
Many wiped their non-existence sweat, hoping they looked convincing enough. But while they kept up with their charade, Dorian was now in his estate in the hidden space within his Tian estate.
···
[Congratulations host, you are so close to completing your 4th Main mission]
[>Main Task: Spread your influence to at least 3 other nations. Among the next batch of incoming students, 80% should come from foreign lands. NOTE THAT the host is to open 3 Portals in each chosen nation when the time comes.
>Deadline: 16 days, 7 hours 2 minutes, 31 seconds. >Punishment: Withdrawal of Protective formation around Academy's sleeping quarters.
>Rewards:
Milky Pond of Hexilian Growth (Can open and expand qi-channels, allowing for faster absorption. Expansion of Island, creating hidden inheritance lands to be open 2 months after the new batch of recruits enter. Finally, 50 random best TYPES from various unknown worlds]

Dorian stared at the rewards deeply.

He had to admit that the system was quite generous with its rewards. Know that after he took down the first Horseman, he was rewarded with an improved Gravity room far superior than what was there earlier. The highest setting in the newly improved Gravity room was now 100-times-Gravity suppression. If all those old seniors in his former world knew this, they would definitely die from many heart attacks.

Know that even in his former world, the highest setting there was 42, and that number alone was seen as heavenly. But now, if someone actually manages to last a single minute under this 100 gravity suppression, do you know how much they would improve in just this minute?

Of course, a newbie could never enter the gravity chamber at that rate just like that. Do you want to die?

Again, due to the many sub-missions he has been doing, the system has also been rewarding him here and there. For example, his stairs of tribulation could now go up to 1000 steps and the 5th floor of the library was also unlocked.

It would be a lie to say that the Milky Pond didn't fascinate Dorian. For now, his main mission will not be considered successful until those chosen actually step into academy grounds after getting their acceptance letters.

He told them they would get the results in 9 days because they finish their tournament in 8 days and will fly back to their countries after that. Note that they will be receiving their letters on day 9, and still have 7 more days to show up at the designated spots where the portals he laid out were in.

Know that in every country, he has already made 3 portals in specific cities. Now, it's either they wait here in Vardos and enter the Vardos portal close to them, or they head home and choose portals there. Just know that if the city where the closest portal is in, is located 12 hours away via vehicle, then that's not his problem. Anyone who misses the entrance date will be automatically disqualified, no questions asked.

As for the portals, Dorian has long laid them out in all these territories the moment he got wind of Vardos' move to invite several people for the tournament. Of course, he didn't do it all for himself, sending elders and and several disciples to head to the spots on the maps he pointed out with good feng shui and gave them pendants to drop in those areas. These pendants came from the system. The moment they were dropped, they attached to the walls of alleyways, public bathroom spaces, walls between platform trainways, and so on. And when the portal gets activated, no mortal or underworld not chosen to join the academy can see it. This was the system's guarantee, bragging it was his super amazing master who made them.

Even then, several police officers who would soon work alongside several people from the Supernatural (SN) department, would soon take up the task of going undercover and ensuring no gangsters or random people stepped into these places. In fact, why not buy the buildings and structures around there? Alas...

In the future so much will change, but for now, the important thing was to get the acceptance letters out in 9 days.

Chapter 573 Michael's Worries

The battle between humanity and the underworld.

That was a war that was soon upon the world that seemed filled with bubbly emotions on the surface. And while some in knowing began preparations, far, far in a realm above, a certain being now arrived with perplexed expression.

In the vast expanse of the Celestial realm, a majestic brilliance and vibrancy cloaked the space. The golden streets were paved with light, the air still hummed soft melodies, the pink, blue and green mystical looking trees and forests moved on their own in dazzling manners.

Figures with wings flying, magical harps pulling their own strings... geese laying golden eggs, nymphs by the street, throwing water at each other with child-like innocence. Some figures paraded the place in full armor, patrolling the scene, others moved in white robes, allowing heaps of paper to float behind them.

Michael nodded to the many who waved and greeted him. He smiled their way, despite his heavy heart. 'Something is wrong. I know it... but what?'

Very quickly, Michael shot through the air like a rocket, soon finding himself flying over the lush gardens of Creafonial. There, he spotted a group of angels gathered. Sure enough, his old buddy and friend Raphael, was now training several others underneath his wing.

Who was Raphael? He was an angel known for his healing powers and wisdom. Apart from Raphael, there were other angels with the same rank as he, who also gathered with their students too.

Then, deciding to seek their counsel, Michael descended gracefully, making his presence immediately known to the group.

"Michael!" Raphael was the first to notice something off. "What brings you here with such urgency?"

Whoosh!

Michael landed softly, folding his majestic wings behind him. "It's my brother," he replied, his voice resonant yet tinged with concern. "He is definitely planning something sinister... Any word on the Almighty yet?"

Several angels exchanged glances, their expressions reflecting both reverence and uncertainty. Archangel Gabriel, stepped forward, shaking his head wryly. "We, too, feel His absence deeply," he admitted. "But His reasons are beyond our understanding. Perhaps He seeks solitude to contemplate the universe or to weave new destinies."

Michael nodded, appreciating Gabriel's insight. However, he felt that if they didn't find the Almighty fast, something truly catastrophic might really happen.

Raphael placed a comforting hand on Michael's shoulder. "We trust in your wisdom, Michael. If anyone can reach Him, it is you. But remember, His plans are often revealed in the fullness of time."

"Yeah." Michael nodded, having utmost faith in the Almighty. But his heart still felt troubled by his twin-brother's actions.

Perhaps it was because Lucifer Morningstar was his twin brother that he felt even more inclined to believing that Lucifer wanted to pull off an ultimate move against the Almighty and the humans. Don't ask him how he knew, but he could feel it deep in his heart. Whether they lived in the heavens or in the underworld, the connection between twins was quite a remarkable thing.

Thanking these angels, Michael soared over the celestial mountains, their peaks shimmering with eternal snow, passing through the valleys where rivers of light flowed endlessly.

'It seems I must find the Almighty myself...' Michael concluded while rushing to visit the Hall of Records, where the chronicles of time were kept.

Of course, he wasn't allowed to peer into the ancient scrolls of time, but could indeed ask one of the divine beings created before any angel was made.

It was this divine being that oversaw and ensured one one stepped into the Halls of time. Of course even if one stepped in, looking at a record without permission could burn the eyes of even the most powerful people in the heavens.

Only the Almighty and 5 others can look without getting affected. They were the first... the Almighty's first true creations.

.

The hall of records was surrounded by a calm lake filled with spiritual water. And the moment Michael approached, the water mirrored the heavens, creating an illusion of infinite depth.

"Michael," a deep voice bellowed. "I know what you seek."

Michael paused, thinning his lips heavily. "Do you have any wisdom to share that might guide me?"

"Michael,... remember, The Creator's presence is not confined to a single place. He is in the harmony of the many universes. He is love, hope, light and everything else that binds and sustains us all."

Michael listened intently. "Then perhaps my search should not be for His physical presence, but for His essence in all things."

"Indeed," The voice agreed. "In seeking Him, you may discover new truths that will shed light to your concerns."

Suddenly, Michael found a sense of peace, now having an inkling of what he must do to find the Almighty. "Thank you, ancient one."

With that, Michael opened his wings and soared back to the heart of heaven, ready to find the Almighty and put an end to his twin brother's plans.

.

Well, with the Almighty still in Hiatus, the show must still go on.

The heavens must continue doing their duties and the order of the cosmos must always be maintained. But back in the human world, several students who lived in their school dormitories,

were now rushed to bed by the aunt and uncle groundskeepers. "Alright, you monkeys better close those eyes and go to sleep. You know the rules. Lights out at 11!"

These groundskeepers had their hands knotted behind their backs, with flashlights and faces that were as stern and hard as rocks.

"You three! Didn't you hear me? Go to your dormitories now!"

The many 14~17 year olds rushed off to their dormitories, not wanting to be punished or being outside after lights out.

It was now 10:35, and the Groundskeepers were going around reminding everyone that when the clock strikes 11 on the dot, they will be taking names for punishment if they see anyone outside the male and female dormitory quarters.

That being said, the male quarters are fenced, with a bathroom/washroom space on the first floor. The female quarters are also the same. At this time, several people were leaving the libraries, cafeteria, or coming outside the school, now rushing towards the dormitories at full speed.

The important thing is that they pass through the dormitory's gates before it closes at 11 sharp.

Tonight followed through like normal, with students being students and school guards and staff, being their usual selves. But what many didn't know was that soon, the darkness would embellish some who disobeyed the law.

Chapter 574 Cruel Prank

"Dammit, just how much longer do we have to wait?" A whispery voice bellowed across the empty space.

The dimly lit bathroom was silent except for the occasional drip of a leaky faucet, and the whispers of anxious teens.

"Hey, Mr. Genius, how long do you think we'll be waiting for?" whispered Brock, his voice barely audible over the pounding of his heart. He huddled close to his friends, his eyes darting nervously at the crack underneath his chin..

Well, he and his friends were all hidden in the bathroom ceiling, a spot they purposefully created for such a mission tonight.

Tch!~ "Relax, Brock," Kong replied, trying to sound braver than he felt. "The groundskeepers will be gone soon. Then... it's freedom till dawn."

His whispery words made many smirk when thinking of the internet cafe they wanted to flee to. That Internet cafe was the only one in the entire city open 24/hrs a day. And tonight was going to be the longest battle in their favorite MMORPG game from Stars of Galactica.

Are you kidding them? They wouldn't miss it for the world, especially when it's said that 'THE KING' and 'Goddess Pixie' will finally reveal his true appearance tonight.

You best believe that no bloody school rules will ever keep them out. For a moment, several people were quite jealous of Day students who came and left after classes or after mandatory Prep/evening reading sessions. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, everyone must sit in their classrooms for 2~3-hour mandatory reading sessions that typically end by 6~7, depending on the day in particular. The term day student, simply means they don't live in the school dormitories. It either means they have homes within the city, so they don't need to stay in school. Of course, some parents who still live in the city, opt to send their children to dormitory life, after knowing they will have little time to take care of their children right now due to upcoming work situations.

At least the day students could watch the live broadcasts in their rooms at home, but for those who live in the dormitories and aren't allowed to bring laptops, how in Science's name were they supposed to watch tonight's battle?

Ah yes...l you say they should watch it on their phones. But did you know that this stupid school had a rule that said all phones for those living in the dormitories must be simple phones that only test and talk?

These were the kind of ancient phones that couldn't even livestream a damn thing!

The school wanted them to be focused, and also didn't want people showing off their expensive phones here and there. Again, thievery becomes real when people bring devices that are too expensive to school.

All in all, they must sneak out to watch tonight's Battle.

...

"Shh!" Litia, a tomboyish girl next to them whispered. "I hear something!"

Din-Din-Din-Din~

Everyone held their breath as footsteps echoed down the hallway.

Soon, the bathroom door of the female bathroom flung open, and Groundskeeper Gwen Xing stepped in, pushing the doors of all stalls. Yes, they were in the female bathroom, which by the way was far cleaner and more tolerable than the male one.

"No one here..." Groundskeeper Gwen Xing nodded in satisfaction before pausing at the mirror, admiring her puffy figure.

Who is the fairest of them all?

'_' [Teens on hiding]

Who knew the famous aunt Gwen was such a narcissistic person?

After admiring her figure for a while, she left the bathroom, but the gang continued staying in silence for another 5 minutes until they were absolutely sure she and anyone else was gone. And then began the ninja work.

"See? They're gone," Kong arrogantly confirmed.

There was relief evident in his voice, as he aided Litia down, followed by Brock.

"Yeah, yeah,... Mr. Genius. Your plan worked... well, part of the plan."

"Yeah. We still need to get out of the school undetected, remember?"

Although Brock and Litia taunted, a big smile was still plastered on their lips when sensing their freedoms near.

But just then, the air seemed to grow thick with the scent of bleach and something else—something cold and unsettling that clung to the walls like a shadow. "Eh? Was it always this cold?"

Litia rubbed her shivering shoulders in thought, as the moon's light peeking through the corner window, now casted eerie reflections on the cracked, grimy tiles.

Who's there?

Everyone subconsciously stepped back when seeing the maze of distorted human shadowy shapes on the ground. Then, a soft, mournful sobbing filled the room, cutting through the silence like a knife. "Wooooooo~"

The sound was ethereal, echoing off the walls, seeming to come from everywhere and nowhere all at once.

"Who... who's there?"

With shoulders hunched towards each other, the gang of 3 hugged with quivering lips, fear evident on their faces.

How can this be? They were certain they were alone in here, so who was it that was crying in here?

"Wooooo~"

The sobbing grew louder and louder, in contrast to the bathroom's temperature that only kept dropping and dropping by the second.

"I believe in Science..."

"I believe in Science"
"I believe in Science"
The trio chanted these words over and over, trying to get their feet to move towards the door to no avail.
That's right, they were so terror-struck that they couldn't even take a single step forward. Indeed, a part of them had long sensed the unnaturalness of the situation. However, the majority of their thinking faculty threw such ridiculous thoughts in their heads.
"I believe in Science"
"I believe in science"
"I—I alright, enough jokes this isn't funny. You hear me? This prank isn't funny anymore, so stop playing this weeping soundtrack you've hidden in here!"
The moment the duo heard Kong's words, they felt it must be so.
Yes!
Someone must have placed a music player or something like this to frighten them silly!
Instantly, part of their fear was converted to fury.
Whoever did this sick joke, better not let them find out who they are, or else-
Heh-heh-heh-heh.
Chapter 575 Who's There?
A prank, that's what they thought deep down in their hearts. But soon, they would all know just how different reality truly was. Huuuu \sim

Their breath misted in the air, and the moon's rays flickered violently, casting long, jittery shadows on the walls, floor and everything else. But you see, the weeping noise was no longer there.

Gulp~

Kong swallowed hard, trying to keep his composure. "See? They must have stopped their weeping tape after realizing they were discovered."

The other two nodded in agreement. "As for the shadows... It's just the wind or something. Let's just—"

CREAKKKKK~

Before Kong could finish, the bathroom door creaked open with an agonizing slowness that made them all throw their heads behind their shoulders in an almost robotic way.

Was it them, or did the bathroom stall doors now seem farther from them than before?

CREAK~

The doors opened in slow motion, as time stood still for a moment. Wuoo-Wuooo-Wuoooo~

The sobbing intensified, but right now, they couldn't care less, especially when seeing a translucent figure drifting into view, hovering just above the floor, with her face facing downwards.

It was a young girl, her face obscured by long, wet hair. Her dress was tattered and stained, and her eyes—when they met theirs—were hollow and filled with an endless sorrow.

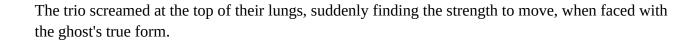
AHHHHHH!

Everyone's heart jumped in disarray, as they now placed their hands over their mouths, struggling to hold back their haunted screams.

They had only gotten a glimpse, however it was enough to etch fear into their hearts.
Mommy What did they just see?
A hologram? A projected image?
Their legs turned to noodles and their bodies shook so much you would think they were experiencing an earthquake right now.
•
"Help me" the ghostly figure whispered, her voice a haunting melody of despair. Only, there was a hint of playfulness wrapped up in this despair, one that made the trio's eyes plead with mercy. This isn't real! This can't be real!
They wished they could convince themselves otherwise, but would a projection know how to open a stall door?
Creak~
The door was finally opened at a full 90 degree angle, and seemed to stay in place, as though some invisible force was holding onto it.
Drip, Drip, DRIP—
The sounds of dripping water grew stronger the closer the translucent girl flew. The moon rays also flickered again, as shadow objects kept obscuring its path over and over again. And with each flickering pulse, her form seemed to grow more solid, and more menacing by the second

"Please... help me..." she repeated, her voice now echoing inside their heads, a relentless plea that clawed at their sanity. "Help me... Help me... HELP MEEE!~"

Ahhhh!



Blugh~

All 3 gagged and puked while fleeing for their lives, but now could it be that simple?

RUN! RUN! RUN!

That was the only thing running in their minds, alongside a truckload of regret. Suddenly, they wished they were in their dormitories, sleeping away and missing the livestream battle.

Suddenly, studying and being a good student didn't seem so bad anymore.

"Cellphone, cell phone.. Quick, call someone!"

"Yes, yes... cellphone!"

After fleeing the bathroom, they ran through the long windy hallways, they quickly took out the phones in their pockets and began pressing away. But what was this?

"Damn! What the hell is going on here?" How can there be no reception at a time like this?

"We're going to die!... we're going to die, aren't we?"

Kong thinned his lips, lashing out in fear. "Enough! We won't die! We just have to leave this building and head back to our dormitories fast!"

Although he said this, his legs were still wobbling like an old man needing a walking stick.

Was this building always this complicated? Why did it seem like they were going around in circles instead?

The footsteps were unhurried, and accompanied by the voice they desperately wished to free themselves of.

"Help me..."

There it was again. They had only stopped to catch their breaths for a second and it had already caught up with them with ease.

RUN!!!!

Once more, they darted with every power left in them. However, this time wasn't the same as the last. GHAHHHH!

The ghost let out a wail—a sound so piercing and filled with anguish that it froze them in place. Their bodies now gave out an oddly primitive warning that made them wet themselves like babies.

And in a blink of an eye, the translucent figure appeared behind them, allowing "Are you all going to leave me?" Her hollowed voice was like chalk screeching on a chalkboard "You can't leave... not yet."

No! No! No!

Everyone screamed internally when their bodies fall on their backs, with invisible forces now dragging them off into the darkness. Help! Help!... Who can help them now?

Bruuuhhhh~

The brutal wind stormed past the scene, prying their hands away from the objects.

Litia grabbed the corner bend of a hallway, but found the wind was prying her fingers off one by one. And with each finger that came undone, her heart continuously fell into her belly, wailing and screaming at the top of her lungs for help.

Soon, they were dragged back into the bathroom stall, where they found over 12 other floating hideous beings smiling at them with saliva spewing from the corners of their grotesque mouths. BLUGH~
IF THEY COUNTED THE NUMBER OF TIMES they puked this night, they felt it would be more than 10. Ugly. Ugly.
Now, after seeing these floating ghosts grow larger and larger the closer they advanced, everyone had an inkling of what these bastards wanted to do with them.
FEAST!
"Help! Help! Aunt GWEN! Uncle HOGGARD!!"
Where the hell are you all when they need you?
Tick-tock.
Tick-Tock.
Time seemed frozen in place when the trio found themselves levitating in the air with their mouths pried open.
Ahh it's not that these things want to feast on them, but that they want to enter into their mouths instead?
NO! NO!!!~
They don't want them in their mouths!
Aiii~

It was Aunt Gwen and Uncle Hoggard.

"Who the hell is making so much noise at this time of the n—"

—silence—

"_" [Gwen and Hoggard]

" [The floating trio]

[The floating trio]

"=" [Ghosts] Who are you?

The creatures were laughing happily, and slowly transforming themselves into smaller clouds of

smoke. But just then, the bathroom door swung open with force.