

Carefree 521

Chapter 521: The Beginning of an End

In reality, the Paranormal Pawnshop was not weak at all!

Its defences were even stronger inside the pawnshop.

Fang Yuan was constantly under the increasing pressure from the curse of the pawnshop!

If not for the fact that he had already released both ghosts in his body and was resisting the pawnshop's curse with his 'Strange' Level Frosted Ghost, he would've died long ago.

Even if he could survive, he would be tossed out of the dimension, or his memories would be altered, or his soul would be harvested.

But now, Fang Yuan was as courageous as he ever was. He was against the pawnshop's curse head-on and the traders which the pawnshop had strengthened were no match against Fang Yuan!

"I've found it!"

Suddenly, his gold and red eyes glared at a particular wall. Both his hands started to turn light-blue.

"Open... up!"

The pawnshop would surely hide its source in the depths of the alternate dimension. It would be futile to use physical brute force to destroy the wall.

The only thing which could stand a chance against a Strange Level curse would be another Strang Level ghost!

Therefore, Fang Yuan unreservedly used the abilities of his ghost to lock on to the deeper dimension behind the wall!

"Kacha! Kacha!"

The wall turned into ice and the dimension behind it froze as well and could no longer move.

"Bang!"

With that, Fang Yuan struck a simple punch out and a huge hole was indented into the wall.

Behind the hole, there was a larger room.

This hall would never have been visible in the pawnshop's actual building. This was where its real source laid, hidden in the depths of the alternate dimension.

But now, it was being infiltrated by Fang Yuan!

The dark hall was huge and there were black statues which decorated the room. Most of them were ferocious-looking beasts, but some of them resembled fallen angels.

In the middle of all the statues, there was a black-coloured stone platform which seemed to be entirely made out of obsidian. On the platform, there was a scroll of parchment!

"The source of the curse!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glistened. Quickly, he transformed into a shadow and leapt towards the parchment.

"Creaaaak!"

In that instant, the eyes of the statues lit up and looked towards Fang Yuan.

In the surroundings, swarms of ghosts appeared. It was like an army of ghosts which guarded the obsidian fiercely.

"Get lost!"

As he roared, his hands turned into ice and fire. With a casual flick, the wronged souls disappeared.

"Bang!"

A black statue pounced forward. It was a three-headed bat which was emitting a screeching vibration.

"Die!"

With a casual grip, the chilly claws destroyed the heads of the statue effortlessly. Blood gushed out of the statue as though it was a real living thing.

"These statues..... Every single one of them seems like a Murderous Level ghost and a curse in itself!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glistened. As soon as the blood touched Fang Yuan, it evaporated instantly.

There were at least a hundred of these stone statue ghosts in the room! Together with the Strange Level curse on the parchment, Fang Yuan would really be troubled if all of these paranormal beings were to attack him at once!

Even with the Spirit Sealing Body, Fang Yuan had a limit and could not seal so many ghosts at once!

"Get lost!"

Fang Yuan clenched his teeth and the dark purple hue started to spread on his body. With that, he released the ghosts in him to his limit.

"Keke!"

The powerful force of a curse started to spread from Fang Yuan's body. It was a curse of the Strange Level and the swarm of ghosts were easily chased away. Even the statue ghosts of the Murderous Level did not dare to advance any further.

The entire room quietened down. Only the parchment on the obsidian platform was still emitting its evil glow.

"I see... Only a curse of the Strange Level will be able to resist it!"

As Fang Yuan rushed towards the platform, he realised that a new statue was rising up, blocking his way to the platform.

It had the shape of a normal human being. It stretched its hands forward as though it was trying to grab the parchment. He was donned in an archaic attire and had a ponytail as well. His expression of fear and desperateness was extremely lifelike.

"Is this... the first trader who had signed the contract with the pawnshop?"

In an instant, Fang Yuan understood everything. "His agreement to the contract started the curse of the pawnshop. However, he did not have it easy as well. His soul was confiscated from him and his body was being used to spread the curse!"

At this point in time, cracks resembling spiderwebs started to spread on the statues, revealing a human's skin.

The 30-year-old man stood up. Although he had the same appearance as the statue and wore a black religious robe, he was expressionless and his eyes were completely black as though they had become black holes of the universe. His eyes began to absorb light from the surroundings as he stood in front of the obsidian platform.

"The human form of a Strange Level curse?!"

Fang Yuan licked his lips and swung his right hand forward. "Heavenly Eagle Claw!"

"Chirp! Chirp!"

A huge eagle appeared behind him and its feathers had a blue icy hue. It had an icy crown on its head as well as it swung its claws towards the man in black.

Against a strike which could severely injure a Murderous Level ghost, the man in black did not appear fearful. Instead, he merely raised both of his hands.

"Whooo!"

His black-hole-like eyes seemed to sparkle and in an instant, the giant eagle disappeared.

"Pa!"

As Fang Yuan's claws met with the palms before him, he could feel his hairs standing on its ends.

"This human form... is indestructible and will not die. Most importantly, its eyes have the ability to absorb spirits. If I am a normal human, just by looking at its eyes, my soul would've been harvested..."

"Whoosh!"

At this point in time, black chains shot out of the man like spider webs as they attempted to restrain Fang Yuan in the centre.

"Even I will die if I am being absorbed into him!"

Fang Yuan clenched his teeth. "Complete release!"

"Buzz!"

Everything froze for a moment.

If anyone was around, they would see a purple frozen corpse crawling out of Fang Yuan's body.

As soon as it appeared, the chains around it froze into ice.

This was an evil ghost at the Strange Level. Although it still had not restored its full abilities, it was already as powerful as the human form of the pawnshop!

"Shiing!"

It was as though the metal chains had realised something.

The purple corpse disappeared into thin air. Suddenly, it appeared above the man in black and pressed downwards.

"Bang!"

The human form which Fang Yuan had failed to injure the slightest bit was being forcefully pressed down and the two curses were engaged in a fierce fight.

"This is the best chance!"

Fang Yuan transformed into a charred Murderous Level ghost and flew towards the obsidian platform.

On his body, spirits started to appear and stretched their hands towards the parchment as well.

"Whoosh!"

One of the spirits arrived at the obsidian platform. However, a black streak of lightning struck down, disintegrating it.

The second spirit managed to retrieve the parchment but froze on the spot and disintegrated!

"This is the true source of the Strange Level curse... Even ghosts at the Spirit Level will be disintegrated as soon as they come into contact with it!"

A few test subjects had continuously failed. However, this made Fang Yuan even more confident. He leapt towards the obsidian platform and swung his hand out.

"Pa!"

The parchment was held in his hands.

"Seal!"

A swirl started to appear on his palm and the parchment was being absorbed into it.

"Ahhh!"

The pain of being forced into a spirit started to spread across Fang Yuan's body.

"Do I need to experience the power of the curse before I seal it?"

Fang Yuan clenched his teeth. If not for the fact that his physical conditions were at 15 points, he would have died under this curse and his Spirit Sealing Body would do nothing to help him survive!

He seemed to seemingly experience flashbacks as he went back in time to the beginning of the pawnshop.

.....

In an ancient-looking pawnshop.

A man in black was crying before a coffin and a tablet. It was his late wife, Lanxin.

"Why... why wouldn't the heavens let us be together..."

The man shouted as he questioned the heavens. There was no reaction from the heavens, but Hell responded.

The ground beneath him split and a huge black hand stretched out from the depths of hell. It pulled out a piece of parchment and presented it to the man.

"You want my soul and my everything? No problem!"

After the man read the terms, he started to laugh heartily. "As long as I can see my Lanxin... I will agree to any condition!"

In the next moment, the man had bit his thumb and signed the contract.

"Rumble!"

As soon as his blood landed on the parchment, the skies turned dark and thunder roared.

"Whiizzzz!"

The entire pawnshop was being pulled into an alternate dimension and the walls were being covered by a dark liquid. The pawnshop was undergoing an overhaul.

As the owner of the pawnshop, the man lost his vision and the curse started to flow into him. He became the human form which bore the power of the parchment and started to explore the world to harvest souls.

Fang Yuan knew that at the moment of agreeing to the contract, the curse had already confiscated this man's soul.

Hell had kept its promise to allow the man to be reunited with his wife. However, the reunion was in the depths of hell and the both of them were now dead!

...

"For a woman he loved, he recklessly released this harmful curse?"

In his right hand, the parchment was already entirely absorbed into the swirl and had disappeared.

At that instant, the man in black who was pressed towards the ground disintegrated into powder.

The source of the Strange Level curse and the Paranormal Pawnshop was finally sealed up!

In that instant, before Fang Yuan could take another breath, the frozen corpse had already arrived above him!

A completely released ghost would surely attempt to attack its owner!

This time, it was different!

Previously, Fang Yuan was up against a ghost which was severely injured by the Door, only comparable to a ghost at the Murderous Level.

This time, the frozen corpse had partially restored its Strange Level abilities!

"Kacha! Kacha!"

In an instant, Fang Yuan turned into a frozen statue. He could not even twitch his eyelid.

Outside, the entire Paranormal Pawnshop started to self-destruct and all the traders outside were in shock.

Chapter 522: Control

"Is the Paranormal Pawnshop...collapsing?"

The fortunate Lu Bingqi who did not die looked at the surrounding walls and ceiling. On their surfaces, numerous holes appeared and kept on expanding. It was as though they were pieces of paper being burned as they quickly turned into ashes.

The entire body of the pawnshop was rapidly turning into nothingness.

"Is the curse... gone?"

Similarly, Thomas and his female partner looked at the slowly disappearing pawnshop in awe. They could not help but weep tears of joy.

"Woong! Woong!"

At the next moment.

A ball of light appeared. The surviving traders were then kicked out of this alternate dimension as though they were intruders.

The entire plane of black fog collapsed from its edges and into its core.

Inside the dark hall.

An ice statue stood still and emanated a terrifying spiritual aura.

"Crackle!"

The cracks in space quickly extended like a monster's sharp claw as they came for where the statue stood.

Suddenly, large amounts of cracks appeared on the ice as it exploded violently, revealing Fang Yuan.

"What a close shave..."

As Fang Yuan looked at the cracks in the space around him swarming towards him, he let out a long breath and disappeared in an instant.

Back in reality.

"Amitufo!"

Jiese the Monk placed his palms together.

"Fang Yuan, you are finally out! I heard from Lu Bingqi that you managed to break the curse of the pawnshop! What a magnanimous deed!"

"I was just lucky!"

Fang Yuan let out a long breath. What he said was true.

When he sealed the parchment scroll at the very last moment, it was extremely dangerous. Luckily, the ghost he sealed did not disappoint him after all.

However, after sealing the parchment scroll, Fang Yuan never expected to suffer from the backlash of that Strange Level frozen corpse.

Even though Fang Yuan managed to re-seal the ghost at the very last moment, the extreme sense of chilliness still froze and turn him into an ice statue.

Even with Fang Yuan's original stats, he might not even be able to survive from that extremely icy temperature.

'Luckily, after sealing the curse of the pawnshop, my body's physical property increased tremendously. Else, I'm afraid I would have been really trapped there... After all, that is the full power of a 'Strange' Level curse...'

With a lingering fear inside his heart, Fang Yuan then looked at his stats:

"Name: Fang Yuan (Tantai Mieming)

Essence: 25.0 (100)

Spirit: 25.0 (100)

Magic: 25.0 (100)

Profession: Exorcist

Technique: Exorcism (Peak), Pharmacy (Peak), Eagle Claw Grappling Technique (Peak)

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 6)], [Fiery Golden Eyes (Level 1)], [Spirit Sealing Body (3rd Grade)]

Spirit Sealing Body (3rd Grade): Your body is a weapon which is able to seal evil ghosts. You will be able to seal any ghost that you come into contact with into your body! You have activated the 3rd Grade, and the capacity for sealing evil ghosts: 3! You can choose to release the ghost!"

The pawnshop was indeed a Strange Level curse indeed! After sealing it, his stats increased greatly by 10 points!

Such an increase in stats definitely became harder and harder as time passed.

Furthermore, this was also due to the suppression by the higher-dimensional force on this realm.

Hence, this was why a Strange Level curse was so horrifying!

"If not for this little power, I would have most likely been frozen by the ghost's last resistance before it was sealed. I would then be sucked into the space-time turbulence and who knows what would happen next."

Fang Yuan clenched his fists tightly.

Currently, after Fang Yuan sealed his third evil ghost which was a Strange Level one, he felt his body was full of energy. He felt as though his condition was at its peak and could not be any better.

"From now on... Murderous Level evil ghosts would be nothing to me... By stacking and releasing two Strange Level curses, ghosts below Strange Level would definitely retreat. I wouldn't even be afraid of ghost swarms."

After Fang Yuan pondered, he opened his mouth and asked, "Two of you... why don't we return to the detective agency first?"

"I... I have to go too?"

Lu Bingqi was rather surprised and afraid. However, he did not dare to disobey what Fang Yuan said.

After all, this was the powerful person who destroyed the undefeatable pawnshop!

...

The three ravaged looking people entered the detective corporation. Ma Xiaoling was startled and took the first aid box to bandage Lu Bingqi.

After all, the wound on his eye had to be thoroughly dealt with.

As for Fang Yuan, he immediately went into the room and began to experiment with the abilities he received after sealing his third curse.

"Release!"

He first tried to release 10% of the curse and his entire body changed at once.

A black-coloured magnificent missionary-like robe automatically covered Fang Yuan's body. His skin turned pale and his eyes turned as black as the mysterious universe.

"This is... the might of a Strange Level curse at its prime?"

Fang Yuan's thought about it and black chains appeared on his hands. The chains coiled around his whole body closely and were hidden under his black robe. It was like some sort of secret weapon.

"After sealing the strange pawnshop, the abilities I obtained are largely classified into three areas. The first one is the most important one, the ability to propagate the curse!"

The pawnshop would make use of the traders to allow humans to release or create ghosts. In actual fact, this was the process of propagating the curse.

"Although it is unlikely that I can create Strange Level curses, I can produce as many Spirit Level and Murderous Level ghosts as I want! I can even control them!"

In other words, as long as Fang Yuan had the time, he could create a 'ghost swarm'.

"The second ability will be the ability to harvest souls. There are two methods for this ability, one is by forcefully harvesting souls while the more passive way is through contracts."

The source of this soul harvesting ability came from this pair of eyes that were like black holes in the universe.

"And the third ability is regarding the manipulation of information in a large area... Although this ability is listed the last, its effects are definitely unbelievably shocking!"

In simpler words, this so-called manipulation of information would be the alteration of collective memories in a large scope! It could potentially be a deadly killer weapon to human societies.

Furthermore, the manipulation of such Strange Level curse was not limited to such.

"Everything destroyed in reality can be restored by the curse. It can also be turned into an accident to make things appear logical and explicable!"

This was the reason why the phenomena caused by the Strange Level curses were never broadcasted by human media!

Even if it were to destruct a street in reality, it could repair the street back to what it was before in an instant. It could then alter all the witnesses' memories and then insert a bunch of false replacements such as images of gas pipeline explosions, a crossfire between villains et cetera. Anyway, it would hide all sorts of paranormal activity under the guise of reasonable things.

"With this ability, my progress in searching for other strange beings would be greatly increased..."

Fang Yuan let out a long sigh.

In actual fact, after Fang Yuan obtained such an ability to manipulate information in such a large scope, the human society would no longer be any threat to him.

"They are all such practical abilities!"

Fang Yuan walked out of the room and saw Jiese the Monk silently chanting scriptures in the living room whereas Lu Bingqi was gone without a trace.

"That guest... said he wants to look for a doctor himself!"

Ma Xiaoling kept her first aid box and was rather indignant, "I even wanted to use those precious and expensive concoctions! He's not even appreciative at all!"

"He's gone?"

Fang Yuan furrowed his brows. This was unexpected but reasonable.

"Rest assured, he can't be too far off."

At that instant, a cold smile appeared on Fang Yuan's face.

The ability to control was not limited to controlling those ghosts!

As a trader of the pawnshop, how could his body not have any traces of the pawnshop left behind?

Now, Fang Yuan was the new Paranormal Pawnshop. Furthermore, he took over all the previous contracts and held the utmost authority over all these souls!

...

A few streets away.

Lu Bingqi escaped wretchedly and entered a dingy alley.

"That person... after he settled the pawnshop, he would definitely be exhausted and that's why he quickly secluded himself. If I don't run away now, when will I ever get the opportunity to run away again?"

Lu Bingqi placed his hand on the wall as he could not stop panting.

"As long as I run far away again, I will be totally carefree! Haha..."

Unfortunately, he could no longer see his family here.

Lu Bingqi clenched his teeth without caring about the immense pain from his right eye as he prepared to leave.

"Eh?"

Suddenly, as though a joke was being played, he suddenly felt a severe pain from his body. It was as though a knife was slicing around inside his body. He fell onto the ground and retched up a pool of fresh blood.

Also, this pool of blood had its own life as it curled about on the ground and formed bloody words.

After Lu Bingqi saw the words clearly, his face turned ashen at once. The words were, "Return to the detective corporation immediately, or else... death!"

"Impossible... when did he..."

Lu Bingqi was scared out of his wits but could only head back unwillingly.

In such a situation where his life was under someone else's hands, he could only obediently obey what Fang Yuan ordered him.

Not before long, Lu Bingqi reached the detective corporation. However, in his eyes, this detective corporation was even more horrifying than any demon lair.

"Eh? You're back, Mr Lu?"

Ma Xiaoling was carrying a water basin and was rather surprised as she looked at the Lu Bingqi who returned, "Is your eye bandaged already?"

"Eh... not yet..."

Lu Bingqi was rather embarrassed. He then saw Fang Yuan who was sitting down and felt his legs go jelly at once, "Mr Fang... please spare me!"

"Are you very surprised that you are cursed?"

Fang Yuan shook his head as he continued, "In actual fact, this curse is not placed by me, it's the pawnshop's method of controlling.... Of course, the control has already been fully handed over to me."

Fang Yuan was totally qualified to say all these.

Moreover, even if Lu Bingqi were to commit suicide now, after death, his soul could only obediently follow Fang Yuan no matter what path it wanted to follow beforehand.

After all, Lu Bingqi already signed the contract from the start and betrayed his own soul!

"What? You don't believe?"

Fang Yuan looked at Lu Bingqi and smiled. Suddenly, Fang Yuan reached out his hand and grabbed Lu Bingqi's chest.

Lu Bingqi's face changed immediately but felt no pain in his chest at all. However, something even more important than his heart was already in Fang Yuan's hand.

"Bang!"

Lu Bingqi's vision turned black and he collapsed. Suddenly, his vision brightened up again and he saw himself on the ground!

"How's this? Can you get used to your soul's visual perspective?"

Fang Yuan's laughter could be heard.

Lu Bingqi finally realised that he had already become much more illusory-looking and was floating in mid-air. His soul was even coiled by a black chain and the other end was held tightly by Fang Yuan!

Chapter 523: Mr President

"Do you see it now? The chains on your spirit represent the restriction the pawnshop has on you!"

Fang Yuan did not hide the truth. "Since the day you signed the agreement with the pawnshop, your soul was no longer yours. It is now the property of the pawnshop! Of course, it is now my reward!"

"Sir! Let me go, Sir!"

Lu Bingqi in his spirit form cried out loud. If not for the fact that he did not have a body now, he would have probably peed in his pants out of fear.

"You should feel fortunate that I am a compassionate person. Therefore, I shall give you another chance!"

Fang Yuan waved his hands and the spirit returned to its body. In an instant, the black chains around the spirit disappeared.

Everyone knew that the chain was not gone, but merely in another dimension.

"Thank you, Sir! Thank you!"

Lu Bingqi started to kowtow desperately. Fang Yuan's actions had struck fear in him.

By toying around with his spirit, Fang Yuan was no different from the pawnshop.

And this was the truth.

Fang Yuan raised his right hands up. In an instant, he could detect thousands of traders spread out across the world, connected to him by the chain of the agreement.

'Their souls are now mine. I can harvest them anytime... Of course, this is not the most important. More importantly, they are a decent fighting force that I can make use of!'

After being strengthened by the pawnshop, these traders had the ability to exorcist ghosts as well. A minority of them even became elite exorcists!

With them as a considerable fighting force, Fang Yuan could go ahead with many of his own plans and save his own effort.

For instance, he could easily search for Strange Level ghosts and curses.

"Amitufo..."

Witnessing this scene, Jiese the Monk silently chanted his mantra and remained silent as his eyelid twitched.

After all, Fang Yuan was still an exorcist and therefore, they were still on the same side.

More importantly, he knew that even if he were to stand out, he could do nothing to stop Fang Yuan.

"Jiese the Monk!"

After dealing with Lu Bingqi, Fang Yuan turned around and looked at the monk.

"Do you have any instructions?"

Jiese the Monk remained composed. He was an exorcist and a smart one as well.

"I am interested in ghosts and curses. The stronger the better..."

Fang Yuan smiled. "Therefore... Can you contact the Exorcists Alliance on behalf of me and gather some information? I will deal with the troublesome ghosts for you. Of course, I will take some commission as well!"

"No problem!"

Jiese the Monk was all smiles. In his eyes, Fang Yuan was much more powerful than any living exorcist. He was the hope of humanity!

As long as he was willing to help fight against the ghosts which were troubling the Exorcists Alliance, Jiese the Monk would do anything for him.

"Know that I'm not interested in dealing with the petty ghosts..."

Fang Yuan pointed a finger out. "I only want to deal with the powerful ghosts and curses. Hmmm... Ghosts and curses as powerful as the pawnshop!"

"Ssss..."

Even though Jiese the Monk knew of Fang Yuan's weird hobby, he still shuddered in fear. "Yes... I understand."

"Very well, be dismissed, the both of you!"

Fang Yuan waved his hands and chased the both of them away before looking at the nervous Ma Xiaoling. "After finding out that I am such a person, do you fear me now?"

"Not at all..."

Ma Xiaoling shook her head. Ever since she had learnt exorcism from Fang Yuan, she already knew what kind of person Fang Yuan was. "The thing is... are you leaving?"

"You've guessed it?"

Fang Yuan smiled. "That's right... It's time I leave!"

It was fate that Fang Yuan could meet the father and daughter. He had saved them and dealt with the ghost on their behalf and in return, they had taken care of him for the past few years. It was fair.

However, humans had emotions and after living together for such a long period of time, they had developed a bond with one another.

After this, Fang Yuan would actively search for powerful ghosts and curses and his life would be filled with danger. Although he was not afraid, the people around surely would be.

"No... I want to be together with you!"

Ma Xiaoling bit on her lips.

"Girl, be good!"

Seeing as she was about to cry, Fang Yuan felt a little amused. He walked up to her and stroked her hair. "After this, I will explore the entire world and I don't even know where I'm about to go next!"

After a pause, he continued. "I shall hand the garden over to you. You have already learnt about the theory of mixing the concoctions. As long as you treat it seriously and learn it properly, you two will be safe!"

Fang Yuan had long extracted the essence of those mutated plants and turned them into concoctions. It was suitable to leave behind the most basic plants for Ma Xiaoling.

"When... when are you going to leave?"

After hearing how Fang Yuan had already prepared his final words, Ma Xiaoling knew that he had already made up his mind. With that, she felt disappointed.

"I'll wait for news. It might be soon."

Fang Yuan replied casually. Inside, he was worried about how much information regarding Strange Level ghosts and curses could the Exorcists Alliance possibly provide him.

...

In a village in the mountains.

"Whooooo..."

The silhouette of a lady whisked past quickly. "I've discovered that... the ghost is in the well! Anyone who drinks from this well will be cursed!"

She seemed to be in her twenties and was wearing tight clothing. Most of her legs were exposed and she did not seem like a demure village lady at all. Instead, she resembled more of a leader in the city.

"Bloop! Bloop!"

At this point in time, from the ancient-looking well behind her, water started to overflow from the mouth of the well. A white-shirt ghost with long black hair emerged and approached her at a neck breaking speed.

"What a joke... I, Chen Xin, am still a qualified exorcist of The Exorcists Alliance. How will I possibly die here?"

Chen Xin exclaimed and threw a test tube backwards.

"Piang!"

The glass shattered and a thick fog emerged.

The white figure behind froze as though it was afraid.

"Haha... This Exorcist Concoction cost me 20 contribution points! If you are able to follow me, I shall change my name to yours!"

Unfortunately, before she could laugh, the black hair broke through the fog as though darkness was spreading towards her.

"D*mn it... This isn't an average ghost?"

Chen Xin turned around and started to run. "I've been cheated! Cheated by the village head! If I knew about this, I would never have come here!"

"Whoosh!"

At this point in time, the black hair curled towards her like a carpet unrolling itself.

Chen Xin did not avoid it and her ankle was being caught by the hair.

"D*mn it!"

The black hair was soft and sharp. It had already torn through her clothing and started to burn her skin.

Quickly, she took out a dagger and as the runes on the dagger glowed, she swiped it towards her ankle.

"Pa!"

The hair did not break. Chen Xin started to hobble towards the entrance of the village. "Would I really die here? No..."

Looking at the hair which started to stretch above her, she displayed a look of despair.

"Whoosh!"

In that instant, the hair which flew towards her like a tsunami suddenly retreated as though it had just witnessed something scary.

"Eh?"

Looking at a few illusionary silhouettes ahead, she was filled with joy. "President?!"

"Sneaking out to play again?"

A silhouette emerged. It was a young man in his thirties. He walked over and supported Chen Xin. "If not for the fact that Boss is here, you would've died!"

"Mr President, I'm sorry... However, I've investigated that the ghost in the well is not a normal one!"

Chen Xin ignored her brother and looked towards the leader of the group.

He was tall and had smooth skin. However, he wore a ferocious-looking mask on his face, covering half of it.

"I see it!"

The President had a hoarse voice and it was as though his voicebox was injured before. However, his words sounded firm.

Before him, in the middle of the hair, a white lady emerged.

"Return!"

Against this Murderous Level ghost, he sliced his palm and scattered his blood out.

"He's using his strongest move?"

Chen Xin was shocked.

The person who had saved her was the President of the Exorcists Association of Asia - Zhan Tianhu! Although the Exorcists Alliance was merely an organisation to gather and spread information, they would also require a skilled person to become the President of a region!

He must have had dealt with a lot of ghosts before and was strong enough to survive until today!

Chen Xin knew a not-so-confidential secret. The blood of President Zhan had a strong exorcism property which would allow him to even resist against powerful curses, giving many the time to escape to survive!

Now, the ghost was powerful to the extent where he had to use it!

"Hmmm... It seems that the lady ghost from the well is recorded as dangerous by the association..."

Chen Xin thought to herself. Unsurprisingly, the waves of black long hair started to retreat and finally, even the lady ghost retreated back into the well.

Zhang Tianhu walked up. Because of his mask, no one could see his expression. However, his ferocious-looking mask started to change and a sinister vibe started to spread out.

Following which, he took out a grass doll dyed with blood and threw it into the well.

In all of these, the ghost in the well seemed to be under a certain pressure and could not even come out.

"It's done! I've sealed the ghost in the well. We don't have to worry about it for another 10 years..."

Zhan Tianhu spoke calmly.

"You're indeed the capable president to be able to seal even a powerful ghost!"

The rest of them started to sing praises for the president and Chen Xin's eyes glittered in admiration for him.

"Unfortunately... this is not the place!"

Zhan Tianhu sighed and spoke in a soft voice.

"Mr President!"

At this point in time, one of his members appeared stood out and reported with a weird expression.

"We have news that the curse of the pawnshop has been destroyed!"

Chapter 524: Turning into Reality

"It's impossible!"

After hearing this piece of shocking news, Chen Xin and her brother exclaimed.

After all, that was the paranormal pawnshop!

Even the President would avoid it at all costs. He had once warned them that if they were to encounter it, they had to flee from that powerful curse!

How could it be destroyed so easily?

It was impossible! The Exorcists Alliance had made sacrifices and concluded that even the lowest level of ghosts in this world would be impossible to destroy!

"Which elite exorcist is the one who managed to break the curse?"

Chen Xin quickly asked.

Speaking of this, Zhan Tianhu felt that it was weird. "This person has never registered himself in the Exorcists Alliance before. He is also not a known powerful person, but a mere paranormal detective... According to the information, he is only 20."

"How is that possible?!"

In that instant, everyone was in disbelief.

"The person who sent this piece of information is one of the elder disciples of the Golden Mountain Monastery..."

Zhan Tianhu let out a bitter laugh.

The Golden Mountain Monastery was a well-known powerhouse member of the Exorcists Alliance. They would not lie about it!

"Furthermore... This person is willing to deal with other powerful ghosts and curses and is now requesting information from us... The stronger the ghost, the better..."

"Wow..."

Everyone there was stunned.

Even though they were all exorcists, they would stand almost no chance against a curse. They would also hope for weaker ghosts to deal with. Who would be so unwise to go against powerful adversaries?

This person would either be a fool or have the utmost confidence in himself!

"Who would've thought... that there would be such a talented person among us exorcists..."

Zhan Tianhu concluded. "Let's move. I can't wait to see him."

"Yes, President!"

The few of them quickly agreed. Only Chen Xin stood at where she was and appeared unjust.

Before they left the small village, Zhan Tianhu turned around and sighed. 'It's not here... I will surely find the source of all these! For myself, for my family and for mankind!'

...

Ma Paranormal Detective Corporation.

Fang Yuan crossed his legs and sat down as he started to feel the power of the Strange Level curse inside him.

'This seems like the effect of the curse of the pawnshop... After sealing the 3rd ghost, My Spirit Sealing Body not only increased by a level, I can also sense that the first ghost in me is recovering even quicker than before.'

To him, this was not the bad thing. It only meant that he had an additional Strange Level ghost to strengthen himself.

As long as he did not cross the limit in completely releasing the curses, this additional curse would benefit him instead of harm him.

Of course, if he was careless to release two Strange Level ghosts at once, he wouldn't be able to manage it even with his current stats.

'Next time, as I seal more and more ghosts and curses, the Spirit Sealing Body will become an atomic bomb. Not only would I not dare to use it recklessly, the enemy would also hope that I survive. If I were to die, the complete release of so many curses and ghosts would become the most destructive force the world would ever face.'

'However... The curse of a Strange Level paranormal presence is indeed unique... I wonder what type of abilities would the first ghost sealed in me have?'

Fang Yuan thought to himself. Suddenly, he could hear a lady's shriek.

"Hmmm?"

He stood up like a rising sun. "What's this? How dare a ghost trespass the detective corporation right in front of my nose? Or could it be the curse sealed in me being accidentally released?"

He pushed the door open and a corpse laid in the living room. A pool of dark-red blood started to spread from the corpse.

"A curse?"

Fang Yuan frowned. His body turned dark-purple and his eyes turned golden as he scanned his surroundings. He became confused. "This fog... How could it possibly hide even from my Fiery Golden Eyes?"

Such a curse would be as powerful as a Strange Level curse!

"Interesting... This doesn't seem like it's from my Spirit Sealing Body, but a foreign curse!"

Fang Yuan revealed a sinister smile.

His Spirit Sealing Body was not like a sieve. Even if he were to accidentally release a ghost or curse after getting injured, he would be able to immediately seal it back.

Obviously, this wasn't the case now.

"Get... lost!"

In that instant, Fang Yuan had decided to release 50% of the power of the Icy Zombie in him!

Under such pressure, all Murderous Level ghosts would have to retreat and even Strange Level ghosts would be exposed.

"Ding!"

The entire room shook and everything froze.

"Save... save me..."

The lady lying in the pool of blood stretched her hands out and it sounded like Ma Xiaoling.

"I want to see what you actually are..."

Fang Yuan looked on seriously as his right hand began to turn dark purple. It was as though a layer of armour was growing on him as he stretched his arm towards the lady in the pool of blood.

The lady was wearing a dress and laid on the floor. As Fang Yuan reached out to grab her, she flipped around and revealed her face which was half destroyed.

"Save... save me!"

The half-faced lady screamed. Suddenly, she reached out towards Fang Yuan and pulled him into a black hole!

"Bang!"

Fang Yuan landed on the ground and was unharmed. As he examined his surroundings, he appeared stunned.

"Is this... The Tantai Mansion?"

He was in a small backyard and the plants here gave him a sense of familiarity. This was the place which he had lived in for the first 5 years of his life.

Slowly, the patriarchal hall and Hall of Sacrifice slowly appeared in the background.

"You... cannot escape!"

Suddenly, a silhouette appeared before him and a voice echoed from afar.

"Tantai Guijing?!"

Fang Yuan looked at the family head of the Tantai Family. He had an expressionless look and continuously mumbled the same few words over and over again as blood flowed out of his eyes.

"You... cannot escape!"

Suddenly, a few more silhouettes appeared behind him. They were the family heads of the Tantai Family. However, they all appeared pale and were bleeding from their eyes. All of them resembled ghosts!

"Tantai Mieming... Come back!"

"Come back!"

"Come!"

...

The oppressing silhouettes almost overwhelmed Fang Yuan.

In the patriarchal hall, a fearsome spiritual aura filled the skies and the surroundings started to turn into something which resembled a 'Door'.

"It's... it!"

Fang Yuan appeared stunned. Finally, he knew the source of this paranormal presence. It was the curse which had plagued the Tantai Family for years!

Now, it had only displayed a few illusionary silhouettes of ghosts, but it was already enough to invoke a sense of danger into Fang Yuan.

"I cannot allow it to appear!"

A black robe appeared and draped itself of Fang Yuan and his eyes turned into black holes. "Release both at once, combining both curses!"

In that instant, he had released two types of Strange Level curses at once and had released them to the extent of his own limit!

"Rumble!"

The space around him shook and under the pressure from the curses, the silhouettes of ghosts disappeared.

Even the illusionary buildings vanished as though they were part of a dream. Both Strange Level curses started to lash out at the huge door in front of them.

"Gong! Gong!"

The cries of wronged souls filled the air and almost half of the ghosts on the door vanished.

"Kacha! Kacha!"

Cracks started to form on the door and the entire dimension started to crumble.

...

"Phew..."

In the detective corporation.

Fang Yuan in black robes abruptly opened his eyes. "That was close!"

Although he was still in the office and everything felt like an illusion, Fang Yuan was aware that the curse which had plagued the Tantai Family for years had finally come for him!

"To think about it... Although the curse will only strike hard every 20 years, during this 20 years, it will still have to kill someone every few years! Now that the Tantai Mansion is trapped in the Netherworld, it will only follow the bloodline and seek for me!"

As a member of the Tantai Family, Fang Yuan would never be able to erase the curse from himself!

It was already unexpected for Fang Yuan to be able to enjoy 15 years of peace.

"I owe this to the scapegoats of the Tantai Family. Also, because of the fact that I had sealed the first ghost upon my birth, I'm sure the Door must be affected by it..."

Fang Yuan quickly thought about the possibilities.

"The curse had been activated this time, but I had used the power of two Strange Level paranormal presences to resist it. I'm confident that it will not be able to harm me a single bit even when the cycle completes in a few years time."

The true Curse of the Green Bronze Door was the peak of all Strange Level paranormal presences and nothing could compare to it.

However, Fang Yuan was not a weakling too!

As long as Fang Yuan was not against the physical Green Bronze Door or that the Green Bronze Door was not at its maximum potential, Fang Yuan had nothing to be afraid of even if the curse were to attack him from afar.

"Of course... Although I do not fear it, this does not mean that others do not fear it!"

Fang Yuan sighed and walked out of the office.

Two bodies laid on the ground. They were Ma Wencai and Ma Xiaoling.

Ma Xiaoling was still in a good condition. Although she had fainted, she gripped on tightly to a protective talisman and a dim glow covered her and the neighbouring Ma Wencai.

This plump-looking uncle seemed to be almost on the brink of death and was on his final breath.

"Sigh... It seems like I have to leave now!"

Fang Yuan felt a little apologetic for unintentionally causing this mess.

Fortunately, the disaster was contained. With his superior medicinal skills and skills in making concoctions, as long as the two of them were still alive, he would still be able to save them.

"Hmm? It seems like something bad has already happened..."

While he was treating the both of them, he could sense something. As he looked towards the direction of the Tantai Mansion, he sighed.

...

At the same time.

In the deserted mountains where the Tantai Mansion was.

Thunder roared and a layer of black fog appeared.

Slowly, an ancient-looking mansion started to appear.

After Fang Yuan had retaliated against the curse, the survivors of the Tantai Family in the Netherworld took this opportunity to attempt a return to reality!

In that instant, the Netherworld started to converge with reality. However, no matter how hard the Tantai Mansion tried to become real, it was still unable to do so.

Finally, after a few moments, the black fog started to dissipate.

The Tantai Mansion started to become illusory once more.

However, a silhouette had successfully turned into reality!

"The elders have fought for this opportunity for me to return to reality... Tantai Mieming, you cannot escape!"

The silhouette mumbled to itself and seemed to be filled with hatred!

Chapter 525: Family Member

"Amitufo... Master Fang!"

Jiese the Monk was stunned as he saw Fang Yuan who had come to look for a roof over his head.

"Monk... the room that you have rented is a little too... lousy?"

Fang Yuan tossed his luggage on the ground and commented on the room with dissatisfaction.

"For a traveller, I am already satisfied to have a place to stay. Most importantly..."

Jiese the Monk blushed. "I don't have money!"

"That's true... According to you, this is the first time you have ever left your mountain..."

Fang Yuan nodded his head. "Don't worry. Looking at your skills, you will be able to get anything you want if you help any haunted house perform an exorcism..."

"Amitufo, that is what I think too."

Jiese the Monk did not hide his thoughts and spoke the truth.

Even among the Exorcists Alliance, there were only a few exorcists who could really deal with ghosts. The members of the alliance spent most of their time telling the fortune for others or provide blessing services, which were totally unrelated from exorcism.

To any exorcists, it was not as worth it to risk their lives against powerful ghosts and curses in order to earn a living. They would rather do other things to get rich!

"But... Why are you here?"

Jiese the Monk froze on the spot.

He knew that Fang Yuan was ruthless. Although Fang Yuan had the skill to seal ghosts and seemed reliable, if he were to accidentally release the ghosts, Jiese the Monk would be the first to die!

"Recently, I've felt danger all around me. I cannot rely on the both of them at the office, so I've come to look for someone I can rely on to help me!"

Fang Yuan shrugged his shoulders and spoke the truth, which almost choked Jiese the Monk.

Although he had successfully defended himself from the attack of the Door, it was still the strongest curse Fang Yuan had ever seen in his life. He wasn't even sure if Jiese the Monk would be able to help him fight against such a strong curse.

Furthermore, although Fang Yuan's killer moves were the ghosts sealed in him, his Spirit Sealing Body was also a double-edged sword. If he was not careful enough, he might just harm the people around him, especially if he were to release two Strange Level curses at once!

This was the reason why Fang Yuan wanted to move out as soon as possible to look for Jiese the Monk.

"It's alright... Considering your abilities and good karma, you will remain unharmed even if I were to accidentally release the ghosts in me!"

Fang Yuan comforted Jiese the Monk. "If you want me to leave, then feed me with intelligence from the alliance. I will be able to start on my world tour then..."

With the experience of fighting against the Curse of the Door, Fang Yuan had gained a deeper understanding of his own capabilities.

The power of two Strange Level curses would not be enough to fight against the Green Bronze Door.

In order to stand any chance against it, Fang Yuan had to find stronger curses to seal!

In reality, other than the Exorcists Alliance, Fang Yuan also had a few followers under him. They were the traders of the pawnshop.

For instance, Lu Bingqi had been tasked to search for another curse as powerful as the pawnshop.

Fang Yuan had also promised him that if he were to find a Strange Level curse, Fang Yuan would help him remove the seal from his soul. With this, he would not have to worry about the traders not taking their tasks seriously.

'With so much control, I'm sure I will be able to find something, right?'

Just as he was thinking to himself, Jiese the Monk was feeling the pressure from him. At this moment, Jiese the Monk excused himself to pick up a call before returning to Fang Yuan with joy written all over his face. "After the alliance had heard of your story, they are extremely interested in you. The leader of our area is already on a flight and is about to reach us soon!"

"The leader of our area?"

Fang Yuan replied casually. "Alright then, I shall pay him a visit."

He picked his luggage up and walked out towards the door.

"Eh?"

Jiese the Monk appeared confused.

"I've already bought the apartment next to yours. Do you really think I will want to squeeze with you?"

Fang Yuan revealed a disgusted look and turned around. Jiese the Monk was lost as he stared blankly at his simple-looking apartment.

...

"I'm finally... back here!"

The plane gently landed on the runway and a row of passengers walked out of the plane.

Zhan Tianhu looked towards the city and sighed.

"Eh? President, have you been here before?"

Chen Xin immediately became excited and started to pester Zhan Tianhu.

"Alright sister, don't disturb the president!"

Chen Xin's brother held her back.

The weird thing was that although there were a lot of tourists, none of them felt that Zhan Tianhu's mask was out of the norm. Surprisingly, he had safely made it through the customs.

"Hehe... Actually, this is my hometown!"

Zhan Tianhu chuckled.

"Your hometown? If that is so, where is your house?"

Chen Xin's eyes were about to ignite with excitement.

"House?"

Zhan Tianhu was in a daze. "In the depths of the mountains, my house remains sealed there. We rarely interact with the outside world... Furthermore, I..."

He shook his head and paused.

Seeing this, no matter how insensitive Chen Xin was, she was still able to tell that this was a painful memory for the president. Therefore, she kept her mouth shut and did not press on.

"Alright, let's look for a place to stay first. It's best if we can rent an entire apartment. After all, considering who we are, it's not very appropriate to stay with others!"

Zhan Tianhu spoke with an assertive voice.

"Chen He, I'll leave this to you. Chen Xin, contact Master Jiese!"

"Alright!"

As the president, he gave out his orders and his subordinates could only obediently follow his orders. Not long after, they quickly settled down in an apartment on the outskirts of the city.

"President!"

Although Chen Xin was a hopeless romantic, her culinary skills were rather good. She whipped up a meal with vegetables and buns with meat fillings. As they ate, she updated everyone on the current situation. "I have already contacted Mas... Master Jiese. He told me that that person is just beside him and will be able to meet us anytime. Right, his name is Fang Yuan!"

"Fang Yuan? Fang Yuan! I've never heard of him!"

Zhan Tianhu stuffed the last bun into his mouth. "It seems like he is anxious as well. Inform him that we shall meet him here tomorrow!"

As the President, his subordinates were well-trained and he did not have to worry about security.

Even though Fang Yuan could deal with the curse of the pawnshop, the President had nothing to worry about!

After all, the methods which were effective in dealing with curses might not be as effective against humans. Furthermore, all of them had skills of their own and they had nothing to worry about even if Fang Yuan were to turn against them.

Of course, the most expected outcome would be for all of them to combine forces and deal with curses.

This world was already desperate enough and the remaining combat power of the humans should not be wasted on internal conflicts.

...

"The President, Zhan Tianhu! He is an incredible person!"

At the same time, Fang Yuan was discussing with Jiese the Monk about meeting the President.

"This person had become an exorcist 30 years ago and had dealt with countless curses and ghosts. He is well-known and 10 years ago, he was being recommended to take over as the President! It's rumoured that his blood has the ability to repel ghosts and is even more effective than any forms of holy water. However, his most powerful move would still be the half-ghost face mask he wears on his face."

Before Fang Yuan, Jiese the Monk did not hide anything and revealed the entire truth.

"Blood... and mask?"

Fang Yuan remained silent.

Unknowingly, as soon as he heard that the President's blood could be used to repel ghosts, he started to think about the Tantai Family.

He would not know about other families, but he knew best about the Tantai Family.

This seemed to be like an elder awakening a special ability.

"If this is true... Zhan Tianhu might just be a member of the Tantai Family? I wonder what he will think about me as soon as he hears about my parentage!"

Fang Yuan sighed and revealed a weird expression.

After many generations, there were now many forms of mutations and variants.

Considering the size of the Tantai Family, it would only be normal for a few members of the family to turn against the entire family.

Fang Yuan also felt that it was extremely possible for there to be members of the Tantai Family involved in activities in the outside world.

The only thing that would make everything complicated would be their familial ties.

'However... I am now Fang Yuan. Even if he discovers my identity as Tantai Mieming, he can still choose to be a friend or foe. If he wants to report me to the family, I will just kill him!'

After coming to a conclusion, Fang Yuan returned to his own apartment and sat on the floor with his legs crossed.

At this point in time, the silhouette which appeared together with the Tantai Mansion had also arrived at the city.

"By harnessing the power of the curses, I can sense that there are two members of the Tantai Family here!"

The silhouette sniffed the surroundings and sounded confused. "It's that rebel? Or could it be members of our family working in the outside world?"

"I shall go... and look for him!"

With a soft voice, the silhouette mumbled. "I shall bring Tantai Mieming... back!"

"I know... I know..."

The silhouette knelt on the ground and seemed to be in pain. "I will accomplish the task and bring Tantai Mieming back to the Netherworld, I swear I will!"

He gritted his teeth. "He has to pay the price for giving us 15 years of living in the dark!"

...

The sky was clear and the breeze was light.

Fang Yuan followed Jiese the Monk to an apartment in the outskirts of the city.

"You should know that we exorcists don't really like to stay close to other humans. We are naturally like that and it is our habit as well..."

Jiese the Monk sighed.

Some exorcists were incredibly strong and would remain unharmed even after coming in contact with powerful ghosts, but normal humans would never be able to survive if they encountered these ghosts.

If they didn't want to lose their family members, they had to leave them.

"Hi guys, it's me!"

Upon arrival, Jiese the Monk went up and knocked on the door. Very quickly, the red wooden door creaked open and a lady in a white collared shirt poked her head out. "It's Master Jiese! I'm Chen Xin, and the President is already waiting for you guys. Is this Fang Yuan? Please enter!"

She started to examine Fang Yuan but Fang Yuan paid no attention to her. Instead, he walked into the apartment casually.

When he had approached the apartment, he had already sensed a familiar spiritual aura which confirmed his suspicions.

After arriving at the living room, he noticed a person wearing a ghost mask sitting on the sofa. There was a group of people behind this person and this person was equally stunned as he looked towards Fang Yuan.

"Zhan Tianhu?"

Fang Yuan's eyes glistened. He had confirmed that this person was a lost member of the Tantai Family!

Chapter 526: Confrontation

"You... you're Fang Yuan?"

Zhan Tianhu stood up and looked at Fang Yuan. He could not conceal his shock at all.

As a member of Tantai Family, he possessed a secret technique which allowed him to sense bloodlines which were the same as his.

Although the sensing range was very small, under such a situation where he was face to face with Fang Yuan, he would be a fool if he could not discover such.

"Looks like we have a lot to talk about!"

Fang Yuan nonchalantly sat opposite the sofa and opened a can of soda.

"You....."

To outsiders, Fang Yuan was a childish brat; how dared he seat on equal footings with the respected president? This made Chen Xin enraged at once.

"Chen Xin!"

Zhan Tianhu shouted, "Back off!"

After he was done berating his subordinate, he turned around and looked at Fang Yuan.

"At first, I thought it was just a rumour that you stopped the pawnshop. But after seeing you, I totally believe it! Not bad, there are a lot of things that we can discuss between us! Let's go to the side room!"

"President?"

The expression on Chen He and others' faces had changed. Now that they saw the two of them might have some sort of relationship, they could help but to start guessing about Fang Yuan's background.

"Who knows he might be President's bastard child or what. As you all know, President has always been single..."

A yellow-haired person suggested cheekily.

"Scumbag Lin Qi, what are you talking about?"

Chen Xin, who had a crush on the president, immediately retorted as though she was a wild cat with its hair all puffed up. "I dare you to repeat that?"

"Hehe, I'm just joking..."

Lin Qi touched his head.

However, at the next moment, something strange suddenly happened!

"Pak!"

Lin Qi's head just suddenly rolled down. The wound on his neck was gushing with blood like a fountain which almost dyed Chen Xin entirely red.

"Ahhh!"

Under the young girl's shriek, the hairs of everyone in the entire apartment stood on its end as they looked around alertly.

"What happened? A ghost invaded? Could it be that this apartment is cursed before?"

Fang Yuan furrowed his brows.

Whereas Zhan Tianhu felt very helpless at his own luck, "Before moving in, I've already checked through thoroughly. There shouldn't be such a possibility."

'Yet another ghost that can hide from my Fiery Golden Eyes?'

There was some sort of bad omen in Fang Yuan's mind.

'This frequency is way too high! It definitely isn't a coincidence!'

Although invisible killing was a trick all Murderous Level ghosts knew, what kind were of people were here?

Not only were there elites from the Exorcists Association here, Fang Yuan and Zhan Tianhu were here too.

To be able to kill an elite member in such an environment meant that this ghost's strength was already close to the Strange Level!

"Looks like... our discussion has to be delayed!"

Zhan Tianhu went back into the centre of his team members. It was evident that there was a tinge of alertness in his voice.

"Ok, let's settle this sudden enemy first....."

Fang Yuan replied with a slight smile, "You wouldn't mind if I use some tricks to find the ghost, right?"

"Of course I wouldn't mind."

Zhan Tianhu answered.

"Great!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head and reached out his right hand.

At this moment, a gap suddenly emerged from his palm. Streaks of black hair extended out and immediately, an ashen and colourless face with a blank stare appeared.

An evil ghost had just been created by Fang Yuan!

This was an ability Fang Yuan obtained after sealing the Paranormal Pawnshop, the ability to derive curses and control lower-levelled ghosts!

"What... what exactly are you?"

Even though Jiese the Monk was prepared for Fang Yuan antics, this scene caused him and the other exorcists to be horrified.

What did they just saw?

A ghost that just crawled out from a person's palm?

"It must be you!"

Chen Xin screamed, "President, Lin Qi's death must be caused by him! He is not human, he is... the incarnation of a ghost!"

After releasing part of the curse, Fang Yuan's physical property was like that of a ghost. Those exorcists who were skilled in sensing would definitely treat him like a powerful ghost.

"Go and find that ghost!"

Fang Yuan did not care about her and immediately commanded. He then immediately extended his five fingers which turned into ghostly silhouettes.

"Ahh! Don't come over, you evil!"

However, Chen Xin was obviously terrified. Seeing as Fang Yuan was going forward, she immediately whipped out a petite pistol, "Die!"

"Swoosh!"

The silhouette flashed past and Fang Yuan arrived in front of Chen Xin. He kicked away Chen He and grabbed Chen Xin's wrist at once. He then took away her pistol.

"President Zhan, is there something wrong with your subordinate's brain?"

Fang Yuan asked calmly as he looked at Zhan Tianhu who stood there with his palm already sliced open.

"My apologies..."

Zhan Tianhu remained silent for a while before he continued, "This subordinate of mine is still under shock from meeting a long-haired female ghost, she might have fully recovered from it yet!"

"Amitufo, I can testify that while Fang Yuan's tricks are strange, he is really a human!"

Jiese the Monk quickly came forward too.

"I believe the master!"

Zhan Tianhu could only believe. Else, with the moves Fang Yuan revealed just now, he could easily kill everyone here!

Before Zhan Tianhu met Fang Yuan, he would never believe that there was someone with such a fast response speed. But now, he totally believed.

'But... obtaining the abilities of ghosts using a human body... isn't one of Tantai Family's inheritance. Could this be that experiment by the elders?'

With such a thought, Zhan Tianhu looked at Fang Yuan's gaze and was immediately filled with mixed feelings.

"Even with a reason, I hate it when someone points their gun at me. This is just a small lesson, if there's a next time, you will be killed!"

Fang Yuan used his strength slightly and a crisp sound could be heard.

Chen Xin let out a wail. It was evident that her arms were twisted broken.

After such, Fang Yuan turned around and headed towards a certain direction, "Found it!"

The six ghosts disappeared into the void just now as they searched for the powerful ghost. But now, they relayed information back which made Fang Yuan immediately charge outside like a bomb.

"Let's follow!"

Zhan Tianhu immediately tailed behind, "We must avenge Lin Qi's death!"

"In front!"

"Turn left!"

Fang Yuan was like a bolt of lightning. After he charged out the apartment, he dashed towards a small alley.

All the ghosts he created were at the Murderous Level or Spirit level. Although it was difficult for humans to look for ghosts, it was much easier for ghosts to look for ghosts.

At this moment, Fang Yuan could sense that the curse he created was continuously dissipating.

Although ghosts could be re-formed after a period of time, such combat power was already almost at the Strange Level stage.

Thankfully, Fang Yuan created six ghosts. Even if a few of the ghosts were destroyed, there would still be a few that stuck on to the enemy tightly which allowed Fang Yuan to obtain the location of the ghost.

How astonishing was his speed? The surrounding sceneries moved backwards rapidly which made that thing unable to escape at all.

"It discovered me! It purposely ran to the big street!"

Fang Yuan dashed onto a road. His eyes locked onto a bus that was about to drive off.

"Stop!"

Fang Yuan picked up a motorcycle on the roadside and hurled it towards the bus like a rock.

"Crash!"

The windows on the bus cracked and sparks flew.

Met with such a situation, cries and wails could be heard from the bus. The people on the bus could not leave even if they wanted to.

"A Superman!"

At the side, numerous pedestrians stared at Fang Yuan in awe. Some of them even took photographs of him.

"What... the!"

Behind him, Zhan Tianhu, Jiese the Monk and others arrived one by one and surrounded the scene.

Seeing such, Chen He suddenly felt that the kick Fang Yuan gave him just now was definitely not with his full strength. Else, even his intestines would have definitely been punctured.

"That... Jiese the Monk, is Fang Yuan's actions always this rash?"

As Zhan Tianhu looked at the growing crowd surrounding the scene and listened to the approaching police sirens, he felt as though he was collapsing inside.

'After today's battle, will us exorcists be forced to reveal ourselves to the common people?'

'If tons of scary rumours spread, it's not a good thing for humans!'

"I'm not sure about this, perhaps Fang Yuan has his own plans?"

Jiese the Monk was feeling very helpless too, especially after he saw how his bald head was attracting the looks of many. Numerous photographs were taken of him and there were even spectators that came to ask him for autographs.

"Keke! I never imagined that you two betrayers would appear together!"

With no other way to escape, the human silhouette which was being chased stood on the centre of the road and let out a strange laughter.

"Two..."

"Betrayers?"

This piece of information was not huge. Fang Yuan and Zhan Tianhu remained still; however, Jiese the Monk could not help but feel suspicious as he scanned around.

"No need to hide anymore! I should have met you before when I was in the family!"

Fang Yuan said calmly.

With astonishing memory, Fang Yuan instantly remembered this person, "You are... Tantai Juelie?"

In terms of seniority, this person was Tantai Mieming's uncle. However, his exorcism skills were not that good. It was hard to imagine how he could struggle free from the netherworld and was even confidently seeking vengeance.

"That's right, it's me!"

Tantai Juelie took off his face scarf and revealed a face filled with scars. Children who saw such a face would definitely be scared and cry immediately.

"Tantai Mieming! Tantai Guihu! The two of you can't run away anymore!"

"Tantai Guihu?"

Fang Yuan glanced at Zhan Tianhu. He knew that was his real name.

"Sigh... Juelie, why has your face become like this?"

Tantai Guihu sighed as he continued, "Also... the reason why I don't return to the family is not that I betrayed the family. It's just that I want to look for the source of all this! Believe me, I'm already very close to the truth."

"Tantai Family?"

Outside, Chen Xin mumbled, "How come president never told us that he is a member of Tantai Family before?"

"Amitufo!"

Whereas, Jiese the Monk felt that was reasonable. Only such a family would produce monsters like Fang Yuan!

"Looks like you are filled with confidence, is it because of that ghost?"

Fang Yuan looked at Tantai Juelie. His eyes glowed with a cold light, "How many times have I told you all, do not interfere with my decision! When the right time comes, I will definitely return and resolve all this!"

Chapter 527: Keeping a Ghost

"Jerk!"

Tantai Juelie roared and became increasingly ferocious-looking. "Do you know the pain and suffering we have endured in the netherworld? Do you know how much we've sacrificed for me to escape from that hell? Do you think you can deny your wrongdoings so easily? That's impossible! My mission is to capture you and let you get the fate you deserve!"

"The fate... I deserve?"

Tantai Guihu looked towards Fang Yuan and his pupils contracted. 'He is indeed the planned creation! If that is so, is he the one responsible for all that had happened 15 years ago? This is unbelievable.'

"Hmm?"

However, Fang Yuan could detect in this instant that all the ghosts he had created were completely annihilated!

A blurred-face ghost in black robes was wielding a sharp blade behind Tantai Juelie. It slowly crept into his body from behind.

"Oh god!"

"Ghost!"

There were screams all around. The headlines for tomorrow would surely be about this paranormal sighting in the city.

"That ghost!"

Tantai Juelie shrieked. "Was it the one who killed Lin Qi? Are you using your body to breed ghosts?"

"Breeding ghosts?"

Thoughts raced through Fang Yuan's mind as he thought about this restrictive spell exclusive only to the Tantai Family.

It was different from his own Spirit Sealing Body. This restrictive spell would alter one's body, allowing it to become suitable to breed a ghost. However, it had limited control over the ghosts in it!

"Is this all you've got?"

Fang Yuan looked towards Tantai Juelie. "Do you think you stand a chance against me with these few ghosts of yours?"

His Spirit Sealing Body was a secret only known to himself. To the people of the Tantai Family, Fang Yuan was merely an incarnation from a Strange Level curse, but he was already strong enough on his own. Together with another top-notch exorcist, their collective combat power was powerful enough to the extent where only the most powerful group of elders in the Tantai Family would stand a chance in taking them down.

"A few?"

Hearing Fang Yuan's comment, Tantai Juelie was a little confused. However, Tantai Guihu was utterly shocked. "Juelie..... How many ghosts... did you keep in you? Are you crazy?"

"Hehe... I've been crazy all along! I am willing to do anything to escape that hell for our family!"

Tantai Juelie was frenzied. "You can never imagine all that I've suffered... the horror of it!"

"Rippppp!"

As he spoke, he tore his shirt apart.

"Ah!"

Screams were heard. Even Jiese the Monk could not bear to look as he shut his eyes and chanted his mantra silently.

"One, two, three, four... Five! Hehe... You're indeed ruthless to keep 5 ghosts in you. Have you not suffered the backlash of it? Could it be because you share the same bloodline with these ghosts, or is it their intention not to harm you?"

A hint of gold flashed in Fang Yuan's eyes as he examined Tantai Juelie.

He noticed mysterious faces on his heart, shoulders, legs and even on his back. These faces were full of life and their eyeballs could even dart around.

Most importantly, Fang Yuan recognised all 5 of these faces!

"The elders of the Tantai Family!"

Tantai Guihu held his head with both of his hands and almost teared as though he was looking at someone familiar. "Did you turn your own family members into ghosts?"

If one was not careful, one would suffer the backlash of keeping so many ghosts in one's body. Therefore, the best strategy would be for one to keep ghosts with the same bloodline as himself, gaining protection and immunity from the fact that they were once family!

"I'm afraid that... they are all willing ghosts!"

Fang Yuan looked deeper into Tantai Guijing. He knew that Tantai Guijing alone could not do anything to force these 5 elders into himself.

Furthermore, if Tantai Guijing were to forcefully kill them to turn them into ghosts, these ghosts would only be filled with vengeance and would not hold back in dealing with whoever killed them. If Tantai Guijing were to kill his own relatives, these elders would surely deal with him in retaliation.

Now that Fang Yuan understood the situation, he knew that all of these would only be possible if the 5 elders of the Tantai Family were willing.

"Hehe... What a huge sacrifice to give up 5 elders of the Tantai Family!"

Fang Yuan knew that these elders had long turned into ghosts and might even lose their memories. All that was left of them were hatred and vengeance!

Hatred and vengeance towards Fang Yuan!

At this point in time, these 5 elders were staring intently at Fang Yuan and their eyes turned bloodshot.

"Phew..."

Fang Yuan lightly exhaled and could feel the pressure from a certain being descending upon them. Surprisingly, he smiled. "This is merely the combined power of 5 powerful Murderous Level ghosts, it's not enough! Not enough!"

A black robe slowly appeared on Fang Yuan and the power of its curse started to spread out. Jiese the Monk and the rest started to feel fear in their hearts and were dizzy, as though a terrorizing presence had arrived.

"Indeed... you are not human, but an evil ghost!"

Witnessing this scene, Tantai Juelie's pupils shrank.

He had already expected that something like that would happen. However, this new ghost was very different from the ghost which he had seen 50 years ago and therefore, he was a little confused.

'No worries... As long as I use my killer move, I will be able to win!'

A chilly look appeared in Tantai Juelie's eyes. With a cunning smile, he took out a ceramic doll.

This doll was only as large as a human's palm. It was red and vein-like structures covered the doll. These veins were trembling.

As soon as he took out the doll, Fang Yuan felt a sense of restriction and the original restriction seal appeared on him once again.

"Haha... how do you feel?"

Tantai Juelie laughed. "This is a curse doll refined by your blood once a month, years ago when you were younger!"

With this curse doll, Tantai Juelie would be capable of dealing with even a Strange Level curse.

Needless to say, this doll was covered in large amounts of Tantai Mieming's blood years ago. If Fang Yuan was indeed a ghost, he would undoubtedly be controlled by this doll!

This was Tantai Family's last resort in case Fang Yuan went out of control!

"Kill Tantai Guihu and capture Tantai Mieming!"

Tantai Juelie started to laugh heartily as a face protruded out of his chest. Evil ghosts started to climb out of his body one by one.

"We have to go all out!"

Tantai Guihu slit his palm and scattered his blood all around. The mask on his face started to change and the power of a curse started to spread from him.

This mask was the source of a curse, and it was obtained by Tantai Guihu in a small village after much effort.

In the mask, there resides an evil ghost which loved to steal a human's... face!

If he could periodically feed the mask with what it wanted, he could temporarily harness its power!

'It's a little troublesome for me to deal with 5 of them... Once I surpass the limit, the evil ghost in the mask will first come out and consume me!'

Tantai Guihu felt fearful as he looked at the 5 ghosts casually crossing the protective boundary created by his own blood.

These elders of the Tantai Family had unique powers in them and were powerful exorcists when they were alive. Now that they were dead, naturally, they would become powerful ghosts!

Furthermore, because of their blood, the blood scattered by Tantai Guihu could do nothing to repel them.

To the people of the Tantai Family, such powerful ghosts were only weaker if compared to the Green Bronze Door!

"This cannot go on... When the time is up, I shall abandon the mask and run!"

Tantai Guihu examined his surroundings and came to a decision.

However, in that instant, he was dumbfounded as he witnessed something unbelievable.

Fang Yuan, who was originally frozen in his spot, started to move.

"Whoosh!"

He was extremely quick. It was as though he was a stream of an air current. In an instant, he arrived before Tantai Juelie and grabbed at the ceramic doll.

"Do you really think you can control me with this little toy made from my blood?"

Fang Yuan snickered and applied a little force in his hands. In that instant, the ceramic doll was crushed into powder.

"What about this!"

Tantai Juelie flipped his wrist and held Fang Yuan's hand firmly.

With that, his palm started to turn purple and black runes started to cover his arm.

This was no longer a human's hand, but a ghost's hand!

Only such a palm would be able to make contact with Fang Yuan in his current state!

"Idi*t!"

Fang Yuan shook his wrist and held his fingers together, forming the shape of an eagle's beak.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The illusionary figure of a giant eagle appeared and ruthlessly pecked at Tantai Juelie's wrist.

"Pa!"

His palm and wrist fell to the ground and he was stunned.

"Oh, so you've been hiding your martial arts in you all along. You've also replaced your arm with that of a ghost's. Do you think this is enough to deal with me?"

Fang Yuan could not hide his mocking expression. Even though Tantai Juelie could conceal this ghost to the point where Fang Yuan could not detect it using his Golden Fiery Eyes, it was still not powerful enough to defeat Fang Yuan.

"Buzz! Buzz!"

The purple hand which landed on the ground started to buzz loudly and split open, revealing a ghostly face which leapt towards Fang Yuan.

"It's useless! Useless!"

Beneath Fang Yuan's black robes, chains flew out and restricted the ghost in an instant.

Of course, this was not the power of the Spirit Sealing Body.

He was making use of the power of the curse of the pawnshop.

This was how he could previously create ghost swarms by making use of the curse of the pawnshop. With this ability, he could take in ghosts and curses and release them at appropriate times.

A Strange Level curse could be this powerful!

"You... you..."

Tantai Juelie was shocked and slowly retreated.

The 5 originally-ferocious ghosts turned around teleported themselves to surround Fang Yuan. With that, they swung their claws at him.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The chains swung around. Like spider webs, they swirled around Fang Yuan and captured the 5 ghosts in an instant before pulling them into Fang Yuan's black robe.

"Too... Too much! That's too much!"

Even Tantai Guihu was stunned at this scene and was speechless. "Who's the human and who's the ghost here?"

The ferocious ghosts which pushed him to the brink of fleeing were so simply captured. He could never imagine this.

"This person... He might really be able to remove the curse on the Tantai Family!"

Tantai Guihu looked towards Fang Yuan and was filled with confidence.

"Don't... don't kill me!"

Tantai Juelie, with one of his arms severed, realised that even his strongest move was being countered. Looking at the advancing Fang Yuan, he broke into tears and was about to mentally break down.

"Don't worry, I won't kill you!"

A golden hue flashed in Fang Yuan's eyes.

However, in this instant, something which even Fang Yuan did not expect happened!

Chapter 528: A Conversation

Boom!

The encompassing light rays fell through into another plane of existence.

The power of the curse had been activated, and the surrounding buildings were covered in blood-red light. It seemed like a thousand years had passed at that moment and the city was in a state of ruin and decay.

In the dimension, there were only the colours of black and white. The crowd had their mouths open in a perpetual state of horror. They had become statues.

Only Jiese and the other exorcists could move.

"Amitufo...our Lord Buddha. This is a terrible curse indeed..."

Jiese stared at the scene and he could not help but mutter a prayer.

"This..."

The present members of the Tantai Family felt a sense of fear creeping up their veins.

"The family curse..."

"No...this is the netherworld pulling us in. I don't want to go back there..."

Tantai Juelie crawled towards Fang Yuan.

"Save...me!"

Swop!

He had disappeared in a flash.

"Has he been sucked into the netherworld?"

Fang Yuan was bewildered. He did not feel any form of pulling force. It was as if the curse had given up on him and was focusing its efforts on the Tantai family members.

"Tantai Guihu...can you hang in there?"

He went over to Tantai Guihu and tied a chain around his waist.

"Yes, I can!"

Tantai Guihu's face was pale.

"This is the convergent point between the real world and the netherworld. If you cannot deal with the attractive force, you will be pulled down into the netherworld! Why are you not affected?"

"Who knows? Maybe it's because I'm still young!"

Fang Yuan did not, in fact, know what he was saying but Tantai Guihu nodded.

"That's right...the Tantai family curse only comes into play on a twenty-year cycle. For now, It is mostly the older ones who are targeted. Now it seems like I'll be in danger....."

Swop!

Tantai Guihu had barely finished speaking before a black hole suddenly appeared behind him and swallowed him up.

"Tsk..."

Fang Yuan pulled the chain back towards himself.

Ping!

Two powerful forces were now in direct conflict with each other, and the chain was pulled taut.

"You cannot beat me, nor hope to take away those under my protection!"

An evil spirit resembling a frozen corpse materialised behind Fang Yuan. It took one side of the black hole while the formidable Paranormal Pawnshop took the other. Combining their forces, they inflicted curses on it.

Buzz!

The combined force of the two Strange Level curses caused a disturbance in the void and reduced the surrounding blood-red structures into ashes.

"Come...back!"

Following Fang Yuan's roar, a bedraggled figure was dragged out of the black hole. It was Tantai Guihu.

Ping!

The alternate dimension tore apart and the rays on the sun fell upon them. They were back in the real world.

"Finally...has it ended?"

Tantai Guihu was sweating profusely. He knew that if it was not for Fang Yuan, he would be dead by now. He was sincerely grateful.

"Mieming, thank you so much!"

"It was nothing. By the way, you should call me Fang Yuan!"

Fang Yuan shook his head and said.

"Amitufo...should we discuss how we should go about clearing up the place?"

Jiese walked forward and pointed at the devastation around them as the people around were taking photos. He laughed bitterly.

"Even though the Exorcists Alliance is secretly powerful, we cannot suppress news of such a calamitous event!"

"You don't have to worry about this!"

Fang Yuan shifted his gaze and began his large-scale operation to obliterate information.

He had already thought of this before he embarked on the rescue, or he would not have made such a high profile news-grabbing move.

It was thanks to this technique that the paranormal activity happening in the world remain largely unknown.

The surrounding people had begun to disperse under the influence of invisible oscillating waves. It was as if the huge mess around them were nothing out of the blue. They also ignored Fang Yuan and company entirely.

"Normal cameras are unable to capture spirits on photographs...don't worry, any intact photographs will disintegrate and everyone who was present will leave this place with no memory of the things we did. As for this place, it is but the scene of a terrible traffic accident!"

Fang Yuan shrugged.

"This...is the Mist? Only the Killer type of curses can influence society on such a large scale."

Tantai Guihu was dumbfounded.

Chen He and the rest were equally shocked. They had realised that this young man had power beyond their imagination.

"Alright! Let's go!"

Fang Yuan glanced at Tantai Guihu.

"It seems like there are many things we need to talk about, isn't that so?"

When they had all returned to their apartment, Tantai Guihu led Fang Yuan to the living room.

"All right, we need to speak frankly to each other!"

Tantai Guihu took down his mask and revealed a face that did not look that old.

"My name is Tantai Guihu. Although I belong to the 'Gui' generation, I am not yet forty years of age..."

"I am not interested in your age. Also, I am no longer Tantai Mieming!"

Fang Yuan leaned on the couch and clasped his hands.

"So, could you tell me everything regarding your betrayal of the family?"

"The truth is, I did not betray the family. I just did not return when they summoned me!"

Tantai Guihu's face had turned red.

To the Tantai family, a reasonably skilled family member who dared to defy a decree from the family was no different from a traitor, no matter how indignant Tantai Guihu might feel.

Also, Fang Yuan was well aware of the methods used by the Tantai family to control its members. They had their unpleasant ways of guaranteeing the loyalties of their members.

That Tantai Guihu could free himself from these bonds was a testament to his abilities.

"Then why not go back? The tribulation that comes about every twenty years can only be overcome by working together with the family and by relying on the defences of the Tantai residence. Everyone would then have a higher chance of survival..."

Fang Yuan was curious.

"Because my research had reached a vital stage!"

Tantai Guihu did not want to beat around the bush any longer.

"You know it. Tantai family members are afflicted by a blood curse. It is like a leech and we all want to get rid of it for the sake of future generations."

"Isn't the origin of the curse that door? Shouldn't you go into the netherworld if you want to investigate..."

Fang Yuan asked.

"No! I think that door isn't in the netherworld, but in the real world!"

Tantau Guihu went on confidently.

"After all...the ancestors of the Tantai family was mortal. How could they have gone deep into the netherworld and gotten cursed by a door in there?"

"You make sense!"

Fang Yuan somewhat remembered the things he saw when he first crossed through the worlds. Although his memories were blurry, the surrounding area of the door did seem like the real world rather than the netherworld.

"I've read through everything about the Tantai family, travelled the world and investigated all sorts of paranormal phenomena and curses. Now, I have come to a conclusion!"

Tantai Guihu's eyes gleamed.

"Our world...was once free of spirits and curses!"

"Oh?"

He was intelligent to be able to figure this out.

"Curses and spirits just suddenly appeared out of nowhere one day, and they have been spreading like a disease over the past few hundred years....Not only that, I have made a shocking discovery!"

Tantai Guihu became even more serious.

"The curse that afflicts the Tantai family, is probably from the earliest batch!"

"The earliest batch?"

Fang Yuan believed him instantly.

After all, he was much more well-informed than Tantai Guihu.

Additionally, he knew that the appearance of that door was the key and source as to how the whole world got cursed!

"That's right. I've been working hard to find out the location where our ancestor received the curse, and now, I do have a better idea where it is..."

The Tantai family did not use to stay in their current residence but had migrated from a place far away.

These events were ancient and the records were no longer complete. Tantai Guihu could only try his best to piece together the disembodied information and verify them one by one.

"I now know that our ancestor came from a little village in the mountains and was cursed over there!"

Tantai Guihu radiated self-belief.

"If we deal with the source of the troubles over there, we might be able to release the family from the curse..."

'You're too naive!'

Fang Yuan looked upon Tantai Guihu with pity but was unwilling to tell him the truth.

Even though the curse had an origin, once it had been activated, how could it still have chinks in its armour? How could it be stopped?

This was Tantai Guihu's last hope, and Fang Yuan did not want to destroy it.

However, Fang Yuan's interest had been aroused.

"This village...interesting. Where is it?"

"I have already travelled all over our country and marked out some potential spots. Now, I have already narrowed them down to a few."

Tantai Guihu went on.

"Before meeting you, I had just eliminated one spot and was going towards another."

"Interesting!"

Fang Yuan was silent for a moment before he spoke again.

"I want to join your team. Let's go look for the origin of the Tantai family together!"

"It'll be great if you are willing to join us!"

Tantai Guihu could barely conceal his excitement and continued to explain.

"Based on my conjecture, the village might contain some kind of threat...after all, why would our ancestors leave the place if a disaster had not happened?"

"That is true. But to me, the greater the threat, the better!"

Fang Yuan spoke with nonchalance. He went on to ask a question.

"Right, so what is the name of this village?"

"Ghost Sealing Village!"

Tantai Guihu shivered involuntarily.

Chapter 529: The Village

The Village

Three months later.

Fang Yuan, Tantai Guihu and their men first travelled by car, then rented donkeys and equipment before venturing deep into the mountains.

"Old Tan, I hope you know your way."

Fang Yuan was rather happy with Tantai Guihu.

Although Tantai Guihu was knowledgeable and well-versed in the arts of exorcism, he was hopeless at navigation. After being led down the wrong paths several times, even Fang Yuan had become annoyed.

As for why Fang Yuan addressed Tantai Guihu as Old Tan, it was because he did not want to acknowledge their 'generational gap'.

"It's definitely here. It can't be wrong!"

Tantai Guihu was assertive.

"Of all the spots I have identified, it has come down to this one last place."

As he spoke, he noticed how dishevelled everyone looked and could not help but feel a pang of guilt.

"After all...it's been a few hundred years. Time would have changed everything. The village would most probably have a different name by now."

"The name Ghost Sealing Village sounds very inauspicious. It deserves to be renamed."

Fang Yuan had to agree.

"Amitufo..."

Jiese was in the crew as well. His head, originally bald, was covered in a grey fuzz.

"I did not expect a village in the mountains to be so hard to find, with not a person to guide us in sight."

"This can't be helped. This place is known for being barren and has a toxic atmosphere. Experienced hunters avoid this place. Only the natives who have adapted to the environment inhabit this place. If any trading is to occur at all, it will usually be done at the town on the natives' initiative..."

Tantai Guihu sounded helpless.

"It still isn't too bad over here. However, we might have to ditch our donkeys and walk on foot for the road ahead..."

It was fortunate that all present were exorcists and were physically fit. They were all able to protect themselves through all sorts of spiritual means and were not worried about this small inconvenience.

Fang Yuan, especially, had an inhuman level of physical fitness. Even though he was carrying a load worth hundreds of catties, he climbed the mountains as though they weighed nothing. It was truly an eye-opening sight for the other exorcists.

"Ehh?"

They had ditched their donkeys and scaled another hill before Fang Yuan gave an exclamation.

"What is it?"

Tantai Guihu did not dare to underestimate this junior of his.

"The layout of this mountain range is kind of...strange!"

Fang Yuan's eyes gleamed and he voiced out blandly.

"The layout of the mountain range...are you talking about geomancy[1]?"

There was a glint in Tantai's Guihu's gaze.

"Mmhm. The mountain range stretches out for miles and diverges into two at a fork like a dragon. There also happens to be a protected spot in the middle of the range. If it isn't a prosperous land, then it would have to be a perilous land!"

Fang Yuan took out the map and compared it to the view. He then understood.

"I have a rough idea of the village's exact location. It should be at the protected spot, the geomantic 'eye'..."

All roads lead to Rome indeed.

Even in a different world, basic geomantic knowledge still held true.

"Come with me!"

Fang Yuan could not help but feel a surge of excitement. He led the way ahead.

"Ah...wait for us!"

It was tough on some in the crew. Tantai Guihu was largely alright, but the Chen siblings had it worse. Jiese the monk, on the other hand, maintained his position at the front serenely.

"The cycles going on between Heaven and Earth are perpetual. In places where wind and water congregate, there would be differences in whether the location is prosperous or perilous. In this case, where the dragon diverges, it is perilous!"

Fang Yuan had his doubts about finding this geomantic 'eye' and they trudged on for two days before they could see a village in the distance.

"Wow...there actually is a village nestled among the mountains. Unbelievable!"

Chen He climbed up to a higher point for a better view. He noticed that the village was surrounded by a circular band of peaks with an opening. That opening was the only way into the village.

It was a quaint little village with a paved road and a water intake structure. It was oddly attractive.

"How did they manage to bring building materials into this place?"

Zhan Tianhu was quite astonished.

"Won't you find out when you explore the place?"

As Fang Yuan stared at the village, he became less doubtful.

The village was built within the geomantic 'eye', a point where Yin and Yang clashed with each other. If utilised well, it would serve as a land more prosperous than any other prosperous lands. If not, it would be catastrophic.

"Amitufo...the builder of the village is a careful person. Look at the arrangement of the buildings. They blend well with nature and possess a hidden energy. Its perimeter is protected by an octagonal formation..."

Although Jiese was a monk, he was surprisingly well-versed in the Taoist arts as well. He then explained his understanding of the location to the crew.

Chen Xin and company were elated.

"If the village is so well-designed, it has to be the Ghost Sealing Village!"

The crew climbed down from the mountains and walked towards the village.

A large man carrying an axe and firewood on his back happened to pass by. He flashed a smile at them when he noticed them.

"You are...visitors from the outside world?"

Although the man had a strong accent, Fang Yuan and the rest could understand him.

"Yes...we are people that have come together from all over the country so as to embark on this expedition!"

Chen Xin stepped forward to converse with the man. She usually handled the human relations aspect of things for the group.

"Sir, do you know of any nearby inn that we could stay at? We have travelled for many days and are exhausted..."

"This village is so poor and out of the way, how could there be any inns here!"

The large man smiled on.

"But if you people want to stay on, I could bring you all to see the village chief. He will help you all to settle your accommodation."

"Ah, thank you so much!"

Chen Xin beamed and gave him a few banknotes.

"Sir, please lead the way."

"This woman is actually pretty useful."

Fang Yuan observed this scene with interest.

The big man led the five of them into the village and to an audience with the village chief.

"Wow, there are actually people who managed to find their way in?"

The village chief was a man who looked to be in his fifties or sixties. He wore a Zhongshan suit with a blue cap. He smoked a cigarette and had a sly look in his eyes.

"Looking for an accommodation? No problem, the Donghua family has an empty house. Tidy up the place and bring them some fresh food. Get a pot too..."

"No need for all that trouble. We brought our own rations!"

Chen Xin declined their offers politely.

"We'll pay too. A thousand per night, how does it sound?"

"Great, great!"

The village chief broke out into the widest grin, which made Chen Xin wonder if she had made an excessively generous offer.

"Right, what is the name of this village?"

Tantai Guihu asked.

"The entrance sign seems to say Five Ghosts Village? Was it changed from an older name?"

"Eh? Lad, how do you know about this?"

The village chief squatted on the floor and lit up another cigarette with a matchstick. He inhaled and exhaled contentedly.

"It seems like you people did not just come here for a tour. Haha...relax, we won't interfere in your affairs. In fact, we want to do business with you!"

"Hmm?"

Tantai Guihu was worried that the village chief might have misunderstood them, but a sudden thought rushed through his mind.

"Are there many graves in the mountains?"

"There are many. Many officials of days long past were buried here. Sometimes, when the rains are heavy, mud would slide off the mountains to reveal bones..."

The village chief was slightly baffled.

"Are you...grave robbers?"

"Of course not!"

Fang Yuan replied coldly.

They were professional exorcists, with absolutely no ties with those petty graverobbers.

"Oh!"

The village chief nodded, but he did not look convinced.

"Alright, we have climbed the mountains for the whole day and are tired. Could we retire to our lodgings?"

Tantai Guihu had listened enough.

"No problem. I'll get Madam Donghua to come!"

The village chief grinned, revealing his yellow teeth.

"Oh, by the way, was the Five Ghosts Village previously named...Ghost Sealing Village?"

As he prepared to leave, Tantai Guihu asked his question casually.

"Lad...you ask too many questions!"

The village chief had dropped his friendly countenance and regarded them coldly for a moment. He gave a dry laugh.

"The village was renamed hundreds of years ago. How can you expect anyone to remember? Haha..."

'Something isn't right!'

Even the most superficial Chen Xin had noticed that there was a problem.

"How is it? What do you think of this village?"

Madam Donghua was a woman in her thirties with wrinkles at the corner of her eyes. She wore a flowery dress and was still a good-looking lady despite the test of time. She did not bother with the niceties and left after preparing the rooms and food.

After she had left, Tantai Guihu gathered the rest to discuss all that they had seen.

"Do you all think that there is anything wrong with this village?"

"Amitufo..."

Jiese began to speak.

"I just feel that this village conceals many secrets, with meaning to be found in every corner. The array expertise displayed over here is too profound even for me. I don't know where to start."

"Mm, ever since we entered this place, I feel like we are in constant danger. It gives me the chills!"

Tantai Guihu creased his brows.

"It seems like this village is haunted."

"Alright, let's eat first!"

He looked at the dishes laid out on the table and smile.

"This may be a little village, but this is good food."

Because the preparation was rushed, there were only two vegetable dishes and one meat dish. There was also a hotpot that gave off a pleasant and mouth-watering aroma.

The Chen siblings prepared to dig in at the mention of food. However, Fang Yuan continued to sit there with an amused look on his face.

"Is there something else?"

Tantai Guihu asked gingerly.

"Yes!"

Fang Yuan had no intention of picking up his chopsticks.

"There is something very wrong with this village indeed. Have you all not realised...everyone here is dead!"

...

[1] Geomancy, also known as Feng Shui, is the art of using energy forces to harmonize individuals and buildings with their surrounding environment.

Chapter 530: Bizarre

"These villagers...aren't human?"

Chen Xin broke out in cold sweat. She replayed the happenings of the day in her mind, meeting the woodcutter, the village chief and Madam Donghua. She could not help but feel faint.

"How could they all be ghosts?"

"Amitufo...I don't feel any ghostly aura emanating from them either. Could it be that all of them are malevolent spirits?"

Jiese was confused as well.

"Fang Yuan's opinion might sound ridiculous, but the unease I feel in my heart right now tells me that this may very well be the case!"

Tantai Guihu continued to speak in a calm manner.

"Ghost Sealing Village...it is now a ghost village inhabited only by ghosts!"

"My god...we have fallen into a trap."

Chen He spat out the chunk of meat he was chewing on and retched. He was cross.

"Since we are aware that this place has a problem, why did we still come here?"

"Wait up!"

Fang Yuan shook his head.

"I only said that they were dead. I didn't say that they were ghosts."

"My head hurts..."

Chen He looked very distressed.

"If they are dead, and can move about, what else can they be other than ghosts?"

"I can't say for sure..."

Fang Yuan had gone silent. The people in the village were very strange indeed.

All of them seemed like they were enveloped in a mist as if their days were numbered. At the same time, they looked active and not at all like ghosts.

"We have a situation!"

They had realised that something was up.

"It is too quiet outside!"

A mountain village like this would have no lack of livestock. But now, night had fallen and there was a deathly silence outside.

It did not seem like it meant anything, but right now, they were feeling extremely uncomfortable.

Whoosh!

The oil lamps in the house flickered even though the flames were encased in glass. They all went out one by one.

"Strange indeed. This is worth an investigation!"

Tantai Guihu rubbed the mask he was wearing on his face.

"What do you all think?"

"No matter what, let's look for this person before anything else."

Fang Yuan got to his feet and walked out of the house.

Dark clouds swam about in the night sky. A full moon was out and threw a cold light upon the landscape.

"Ah!"

As they inspected their surroundings, a piercing scream cut through the silence. It sounded like it was from a woman.

"It came from Madam Donghua's house!"

Fang Yuan and Tantai Guihu rushed forward to the house and barged the door open.

Ping!

The few of them entered the house, holding an oil lamp between themselves and the darkness within.

"Madam Donghua?"

Chen Xin called out hesitantly, but no reply came.

"What is going on? She was here just now..."

She walked a few steps forward before the light from the oil lamp fell upon a figure. It was a little figure that hung above the ground.

"A corpse? It looks like her son, Goudan!"

Chen Xin could feel her voice begin to quiver.

"Tsktsk...this is sorcery!"

From the light of the oil lamp, Fang Yuan could clearly see that the child wearing red was hanging from the beam. He had been dead for some time and there was a pin stuck deep into his head.

"Amitufo, I've seen this set up before. The South Sea Sorcerer once used this method to acquire souls!"

Jiese rubbed his bald head.

"Could this be...the origin of the curse?"

Chen He was shocked.

"A sorcerer harming an entire village. What could his motive be? To acquire souls, or to derive a curse?"

Hey!

Chen He suddenly felt himself go numb. The hanging dead child had opened its eyes and was smiling at him.

"Ghost!"

Although Chen He was afraid, he was after all an elite exorcist and quickly sprayed amulet water upwards.

Ping!

The rope broke and this body fell to the ground with a thud.

"Boss, this child came alive for a moment!"

Chen He took a few steps back tentatively.

"I can't sense anything..."

Tantai Guihu had an awful look on his face. He proceeded to cut open his palm and let his blood drip over the area.

"Go examine the boy's body for clues."

"Alright!"

Chen He was confident in Tantai Guihu's abilities and strode forward. He then turned the corpse over.

"Uhm...the corpse is cold. It has been dead for a while. The red clothes were put on it after its death. The pin on its head was hammered in by a person with experience."

He had some serious doubts. The killer must be human. If a spirit wanted to kill, it would not be such a sucker for details.

"Still...the most important concern is whether this sorcery was successful..."

Chen He stood up and dusted his hands.

"This is indeed a corpse and not a ghost in disguise. Even if there were ghosts around, they would have run away when Boss decided to use his blood, am I right? Haha..."

He had barely finished speaking when a stunned look came over his face. It was as if he had seen something incredible. Without any warning, he disappeared.

"Chen He?"

"Brother!"

...

Jiese and Chen Xin has looks of disbelief on their faces while Tantai Guihu could only stare at his hands blankly.

Blood continued to flow from the wound on his palm.

"I have been careless...I have underestimated the 'ghosts' here. They do not even look like they are affected in the least by my measures!"

Tantai Guihu sighed deeply.

"I didn't manage to find any clues either..."

Fang Yuan had lost the gleam in his eyes, but his excitement had not diminished.

'Another curse of the Strange Level?'

"The boy...the boy is gone!"

Chen Xin screamed.

At this point, Jiese and the rest suddenly realised that the corpse on the floor had disappeared.

"Brother..."

Chen Xin fell to the floor, tears streaming down her cheeks.

Everyone, especially Tantai Guihu, was aware of Chen He's abilities. In the face of such a powerful curse, he had little or no chance of survival.

"Sigh..."

He thought for a moment before pulling Chen Xin's palm closer to him. He then drew a talismanic symbol on it with his blood.

'Chen He is most probably dead. I cannot let his sister suffer the same fate.'

"The most important thing to do right now is to seek out other people, or ghosts. We can barely make sense of all that is happening and we need to get to the heart of the matter!"

Just as he got to his feet, his sharp ears picked out a muted sound.

"Come with me!"

Ping!

In the next moment, Fang Yuan had rushed out of the room with Tantai Guihu and Jiese following close behind. Chen Xin also dried her tears and ran after the rest.

Behind the stove in the kitchen, among the firewood, Fang Yuan noticed a trembling figure in the dark.

"Madam Donghua?"

"Goudan is dead...I caused his death..."

Madam Donghua looked at them with unseeing eyes and muttered to herself.

"Back then...I should not have told him about that place and let him find out about that 'thing'!"

"What 'thing'?"

Chen Xin grabbed Madam Donghua's wrist.

"Tell us! Don't you want to avenge your son?"

"We can't...hehe..."

Madam Donghua peered at Chen Xin in a frightening manner, then reverted back to her dreamy state.

"You will die! Everyone who knows about that 'thing' will die!"

"If we find out...we'll die?"

Tantai Guihu was alarmed. This was a Killer curse. It had far-reaching effects and was highly destructive. There was no way to counter it.

"Interesting. Now...tell me. Let it curse me!"

Fang Yuan stepped forward, warm blood surging through his veins. His gaze was tranquil and had a soothing effect.

"Tell me..."

"N...no!"

Madam Donghua went through an internal struggle before her expression went slack once more.

"...Don't go...to the temple!"

"Temple? Seems like that 'thing' is being worshipped?"

Having acquired this valuable piece of information, Fang Yuan attempted to ask for the location of the temple, but Madam Donghua would not speak anymore.

"This is a small village. Looking for a temple shouldn't be too hard."

Tantai Guihu assured the rest.

"Really? I don't think it'll be that easy..."

Fang Yuan leapt onto the roof and began to scan the entire village. Every house in sight was enshrouded in darkness.

The buildings all looked similar and there were not any places that merited a second look.

"Be careful!"

As Fang Yuan descended from the roof, he issued a warning to the rest.

"It would be dangerous to split up now. Let's go look around for that temple together...by the way, where is Madam Donghua?"

"She...she was just here. She just suddenly disappeared."

Chen Xin was palpitating.

"President...boss, will I die here?"

"No way, we'll all be fine! And we'll deactivate the curse too!"

Tantai Guihu tried his best to be encouraging.

"I've spent too much time and effort preparing for this. I won't waste it all on dying."

"Amitufo, me neither!"

Jiese had a saintly air about him, and his body glowed.

The four of them exited the Donghua house and walked about aimlessly in the village.

It was disturbing that there was no one in sight. It was as if the entire village was devoid of life save for the four of them.

"Ehh?"

Jiese suddenly came to a halt. He had discovered something.

"That is..."

A building hidden behind the trees appeared before his eyes. Although it looked like most of the buildings in the area, there was no ignoring the chills it gave him.

"Here...so this is the temple?"

Jiese was so happy that he forgot himself and was poised to step forward before a cool hand pulled him back.

"This..."

Jiese then realised that the building ahead of him was but an illusion. If he had gone any further, he would have fallen into a ditch.

This village was a nightmare. It would be a miracle if they could get out alive.

"Thank you for saving me!"

Jiese shuddered as he thought about the fate awaiting him if Fang Yuan had not held him back in time.