Eight Uncles 651

Chapter 651 You'll Die if You Try

The first person to give it a try was a male vlogger.

One moment, he was laughing and joking, and the next moment, he let out a groan as he jumped up in terror. He was horrified to see a girl with disheveled hair, wearing white clothes, standing behind the crowd, her body charred black.

The second person who tried it also experienced a sudden jolt of electricity. He was about to tell the others about the electrical leakage when he saw a girl in white clothes floating above the heads of the crowd.

Lilly's expression grew increasingly serious.

What's happening?

The appearance of the female ghost seemed to be triggered by someone receiving an electric shock. However, Lilly had never encountered a ghost that she could not see before. This female ghost was undeniably present, yet she remained invisible to Lilly.

The people around did not notice anything unusual. Upon witnessing the two vloggers flee in terror after being electrocuted, some laughed, some jeered, and some pretended to be frightened.

Lilly warned them not to attempt it, but no one listened.

Before long, two more vloggers let out horrifying screams and ran away, as if chased by a ghost.

Lilly let out a sigh. "See, I told them not to try it. Trying it would only cost your life."

Holding the camera, Josh asked in a hushed voice, "Lils, where will she appear next?"

He had not taken any pictures earlier, but he had heard from Lilly that when the first person got shocked, the girl was standing behind the crowd. When the second person got shocked, the girl was already floating above everyone's heads.

He did not see the third and fourth incidents when they were electrocuted...

Josh felt a chill running down his neck and wanted to pat it, but he hesitated.

Lilly shook her head. "I don't know either."

Josh, frightened, said, "Come here, Zachary!"

In a rare instance, Josh called Zachary in a gentle tone and handed him the camera.

Zachary took the camera and remained silent.

At that moment, a sense of dismay spread through the crowd, and an atmosphere of terror enveloped them despite the broad daylight. The tingling sensation on their scalps was palpable, even though the sun was shining brightly.

"I know that vlogger...he doesn't usually look like this..."

"There can't really be ghosts here, can there?"

For a brief moment, everyone hesitated and turned their surprised gazes toward Lilly.

"I'm going to expose this group of pranksters!" declared a vlogger with a self-righteous expression, as if he had just arrived, he had not even set up his camera.

His live stream was flooded with supportive comments.

"Bob's here! I'll believe anything he says!"

"Others might fake it, but Bob would never!"

Confidently, vlogger Bob stepped forward.

He had grown tired of these people, resorting to cheap tricks just for the sake of attention. In comparison, even a little girl would not stoop to such levels.
Children would never lie. If they said there was an electrical leak, then there must be. Thankfully, when they went to investigate, they left screaming, further emphasizing the severity.
Lilly glanced up at the vlogger, uncertainly speaking, "Sir, I think you shouldn't"
Bob waved his hand dismissively. "You don't need to persuade me!"

He had come from afar to uncover the truth.

An electric shock? Even a dog could not be electrocuted to death, so why should he be afraid?

Lilly interjected, "Um, no, it was just an electrical leak earlier, but the situation is different now. It's real..."

Bob cut her off abruptly. "I don't care, you don't have the right to speak if you're not the one investigating it. If you don't join the battle, you have no right to speak!"

Lilly reluctantly said, "Alright, then you should prepare yourself mentally."

Josh, Hannah, and Zachary exchanged sympathetic glances with one another.

Bob took off his shoes and confidently walked towards the coffee shop's door.

As soon as he stepped on the spot they had mentioned, an electric current surged up through the soles of his feet, causing his face to go numb. He quickly retracted his feet in reflex!

"It's just an electric leakage..."

But before Bob could finish his sentence, his eyes widened in sheer horror!

Meanwhile, Zachary and Josh were tinkering with the camera.

One of them said, "You go," while the other replied, "No, you go!" They were engaged in a back-and-forth when suddenly, a face appeared on the camera.

It was the face of a girl, her features charred black and her pale eyes bulging.

Expressionless, she stared directly at Josh and Zachary through the camera.

Josh screamed, "Ahh! Oh my God!"

Zachary remained silent, his mouth agape.

Hannah leaped up, being the first to grab hold of Lilly's arm, a look of terror etched on his face!

Lilly, Blake, and the blogger witnessed this chilling scene.

A girl, covered in blackened burns and dressed in white, had suddenly materialized, lying in front of Josh's camera...

Her hands dangled limply, while her feet twisted at an unnatural angle.

Blake fixed his gaze on the girl's feet and uttered, "Her feet look like it's been burned..."

Bob took a couple of steps back, his throat feeling constricted as if stuffed with cotton. He wanted to say something but was speechless!

The viewers in the live chat bombarded Bob with questions about what happened and what he had seen, prompting him to end the live broadcast.

The people around were bewildered, but Bob had a reputation for being honest, prompting everyone to ask, "Bob, what did you see?"

"What could frighten you like this? Did you see a ghost or something? Haha!"

The vlogger, who had intentionally been scaring people, chimed in, "I've been telling you all along that there's a female ghost here. If you had a third eye like me, you would have seen her long ago! She's right above you..."

Bob's face turned pale. "I can't confirm things that are uncertain or unclear..."

He had seen that female ghost clearly just moments ago.

But now, she vanished again!

He knew he was not hallucinating as the children in front of him saw it too.

Just as Bob was thinking about this, he noticed that Lilly, Josh, Zachary, Hannah, and even the tall man were all staring behind him.

Filled with fear, he quickly took a few steps backward, inadvertently stepping on the spot where the electrical leakage was, causing him to stumble into Lilly.

There, he saw a girl silently floating behind the vlogger who claimed to have a third eye and was uttering eerie words.

She slowly raised her hand, extending her charred and claw-like fingers—twisted by the electric shock, resembling fried chicken feet—and rested them on the vlogger's shoulder.

Josh and Hannah huddled together, letting out a horrified sound, "Oh..."

Zachary muttered, "Oh my God!"

Lilly took the opportunity and swiftly threw a talisman!

The talisman flew like lightning, landing on the girl's head.

She screamed, and simultaneously, the vlogger who had been boasting about his third eye caught sight of the scorched girl standing behind him.

With a fierce expression, she let out a piercing shriek and forcefully grabbed his face with her blackened hands.

The vlogger felt a sharp pain on his face and he leaped in alarm.

"Mom! Help me!" he cried out.

Overwhelmed with fear, the vlogger continued to back away, stumbling and eventually falling on the spot where the electrical leakage was. Now, his vision became clearer.

As he had claimed, he now had a third eye.

The burning talisman, the scorched girl wailing in pain—it all became vivid to him. Lilly's heart trembled slightly, but she still chased after the ghost...

"Don't run!"

She reached out, intending to grab ahold of the ghost.

However, in the next second, the ghost vanished into thin air.

Lilly grasped at nothing, but she felt a numbing sensation in her palm. Upon opening her hand, she discovered a black mark, resembling a charcoal drawing.

Blake also followed her outside while she was chasing her. Observing Lilly's blackened palms, he quickly rubbed them. "Are you okay?"

Suddenly, a surge of dark energy shot up to Blake's eyebrows.

Chapter 652 Listening to Bettany's Nagging

Blake suddenly felt a sharp pain in his head, as if something had pierced through the space between his eyebrows.

"Lilly?" Blake asked, his voice tinged with uncertainty.

Lilly reassured him, "Daddy, don't be afraid!"

She extended her hand and slapped it.

"Slap!"

Lilly's slap was so strong, it caused Blake to take two steps back.

His vest was made of metal.

Lilly said, "Alright, I got rid of it."

Blake touched his forehead and asked, "What kind of ghost was that?"

The ghost turned out to be harder to catch than they had anticipated.

Lilly shook her head, saying, "I won't speak about things unless I'm certain about it!"

Blake could not help but recognize the familiarity of her words.

Wasn't that exactly what Bob said earlier?

The unexpected turn of events had left everyone flustered. Just then, the police arrived and swiftly cordoned off the area, urging the crowd to disperse.

The influencers who came were all driven away.

A police officer approached Blake and whispered, "Mr. MacNeil.!"

Blake nodded and replied, "Surround the area within a 300-feet radius."

The police officer seemed puzzled. "We've already conducted investigations here before, and it caused disruptions to the nearby businesses. We evacuated just a few days ago..."

Blake's expression was resolute. "Reinvestigate! There is a leakage at the entrance of this coffee shop. Have you found it?"

The police officer was taken aback. "Huh?"

They searched every nook and cranny of the coffee shop but failed to notice the leak at the door they had walked through earlier...

Everyone was scolded and urged to continue the investigation.

At that moment, only the owner of the coffee shop and Bob remained at the scene, both of them were in a state of shock.

The owner finally realized that Blake had an extraordinary identity. He could not believe that a customer

who had come for coffee was actually here for an investigation.

"Thank you!" The owner quickly expressed his gratitude to Lilly and Blake when he was asked to leave.

Lilly waved her hand in acknowledgment.

She watched as the various investigators kept themselves busy, thoroughly re-investigating every nook and cranny of the coffee shop. They located the source of the electrical leakage, opened up the floor, and examined it.

Josh whispered, "Lils, has the female ghost been eliminated?"

Lilly shook her head. "I can't find her right now. We'll have to come back at night."

Josh lamented, "We have to come here at night again?!"

Lilly responded, "Yes!"

Demons and ghosts tend to emerge at night. After all, there was a saying that goes, "If you walk at night, you'll eventually encounter ghosts."



Blake called out to Lilly, "Let's head home."

Josh, Hannah, and Zachary quickly followed suit. Josh clutched the camera tightly, feeling anxious.

"Lils, that female ghost won't follow us home, will she...?" Josh voiced his concern.

"Lils, that female ghost was right in front of my camera. Was she staring at me?"

"Lils, do you have any extra talismans..."

Josh tightly gripped the protective bracelet on his wrist.

Lilly reassured him, saying, "That's a good thing! If she follows you, we won't have to come back again. You should be happy."

Josh was speechless.

How could I be happy if she follows me home? Goodbye!

Just then, someone stopped Lilly.

She turned around and saw Bob was catching up with them.

"Um... excuse me, just now... uh, did you also see what happened earlier?" Bob asked hesitantly, unsure of what happened. The whole incident was incredibly mysterious.

But Lilly was seen using a talisman.

This incident was now viral, and many people believed that Lilly was just acting, collaborating with the person who claimed to have a third eye.

However, Bob had a feeling that there was more to this matter.

Sure enough, Lilly nodded and replied, "Yes, I saw it. Didn't I warn you from the beginning?"

Bob choked up for a moment, then turned to Josh and the others, asking, "Did you all see it too?"

He also asked Blake, "Did you see it as well?"

Blake responded calmly, "Whether you saw it or not, what matters is that you believe it. There are things in this world that we can't understand and are beyond scientific explanation. As descendants of Mount Silver, we have our own ways of perceiving them."

With just a few words, Blake dismissed any potential doubts or conflicts that could arise in the future.

Although Bob appeared righteous, if they were to reveal their own background, they could also claim to be descendants of Mount Silver. After all, the more mysterious, the better.

Bob watched in a daze as Blake led the children into the car and drove away.

Inside the car, Lilly asked curiously, "Daddy, who are the descendants of Mount Silver?"

Blake explained, "Mount Silver is said to be associated with practitioners. It's named after three people, Nicholas, Gurt, and Fynn Silver. These three are renowned deities in the world of gods. Legend has it that they ascended to immortality as they resided at Mount Silver."

"The three are known as the patriarchs of Mount Silver, also known as the Silver Warriors. Mount Silver sect belongs to the Pastoria, which is a realm... Practitioners refer to themselves as descendants of Mount Silver."

Over time, the interpretation of this term became more specific, referring to individuals like practitioners who specialize in dealing with ghosts. They adopted the title of "descendants of Mount Silver" to emphasize their power and mystique.

Lilly suddenly realized something and said, "Oh..."

As the Ruler of Hell, she should know these things, but her knowledge in this area was lacking. She would have to ask her master about it for more information.

Coincidentally, Blake asked, "Where's your master?"

Lilly replied, "He went back to the underworld for a meeting!"

Blake sighed, saying, "Your master is really unreliable. He's always in a meeting whenever we need him the most."

Lilly responded, "Yes, because Mr. Shaw isn't the underworld, so he can't help him with the meetings!"

Blake nodded, understanding the practicality of the situation.

Blake expressed, "Hmm..."

Is this what it's like to be guilt tripped by my daughter?

Lilly did not mean to gaslight her father.

Upon arriving home with a bundle of radish heads, Bettany was already waiting for them at home.

"What took you so long?" Bettany questioned suspiciously.

Lilly ran toward Bettany, exclaiming, "Grandma, I'm starving!"

That phrase was Bettany's weakness.

Bettany swiftly responded, "Hurry up, wash your hands, and eat! What time is it? You haven't come home until past two o'clock in the afternoon. How old are you and still causing trouble..."

Lilly rubbed her nose, swiftly washed her hands, and grabbed a drumstick.

During the meal, Blake pondered and suggested, "Old Mrs. Crawford, I'll take Lilly out for an evening stroll to help with her digestion."

Bettany asked sternly, "Why do you have to go out for a walk at night?"

Lilly chimed in, "I know, because the evening is nice and cool!"

Josh shivered, feeling the eerie chill in the air.

Bettany was momentarily at a loss for words and secretly sighed.

Lilly was destined to be different from other children.

Bettany persistently advised, "Alright then, make sure you return early because most children go to bed by nine o'clock in the evening. Do you know why? It's because the hours between eleven o'clock at night and two o'clock in the morning are when growth factors are highly active and released... the entire night is vital for rapid growth... so, make sure you're in bed by nine o'clock and aim to achieve a deep sleep state by eleven o'clock, as it facilitates height growth... Blah blah blah..."

Blake and Lilly simultaneously perked up their ears, nodding in agreement, "Yes, yes, absolutely."

Chapter 653 Too Many Fools and Not Enough Liars

After eleven o'clock at night,

All the shopping malls had closed down, and the stores facing the street had lowered their shutter doors.

Only a few streets and alleys, along with night snack stalls, bars, and nightclubs, remained open, creating a lively nighttime atmosphere.

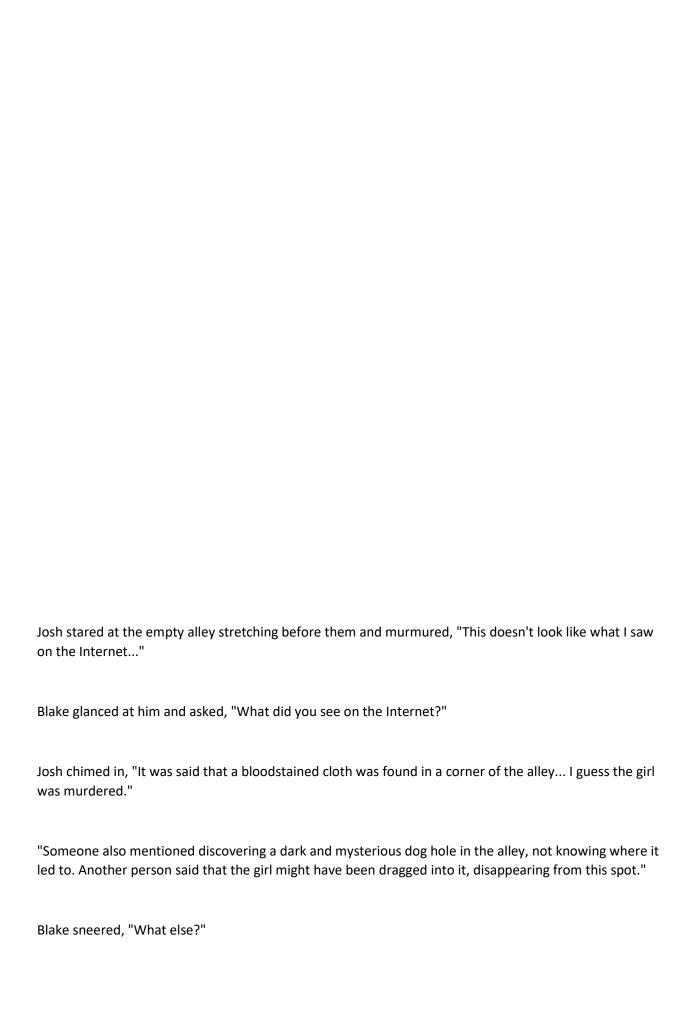
Lilly and the others stood in front of a coffee shop. The ambiance was serene at night, but having encountered the girl that was burned multiple times during the day, Josh and the others felt that the scene before them was even more peculiar now. Josh tightly clung to Lilly's arm. Hannah, too, tightly held onto Lilly's other arm. Zachary could only tag along. Blake asked, "Where are we going?" Lilly squeezed her fingers and finally pointed in a certain direction, saying, "Daddy, where does this direction lead us?" Blake took a glance and replied, "A small alley behind the shopping complex." This area was a bustling commercial center. Recently, the small alley behind the coffee shop had undergone renovation and was intended to be leased to the owner of a food street, transforming it into a charming alley of culinary delights. In big cities, commercial centers often featured such hidden alleys offering delicious yet affordable delicacies, although the hygiene standards might not always be met. Since it was still in the planning stage, the alley remained vacant. Josh asked, "Uncle Blake, did the missing girl enter this alley?"

After returning home, he searched the internet and discovered various rumors. Some claimed that the girl had been taken into a coffee shop to be... dismembered, while others suggested she had walked into the alley and was abducted, or that her organs were being sold.

In any case, panic and anxiety tend to escalate quickly online through forums, attracting the attention of those seeking clout and fueling their intentions.

Blake responded, "I'm not sure, it's difficult to say."

The group proceeded into the alley.



Nervously, Josh added, "Some people claimed there's a back door in this alley leading to the mall's bathroom. They guessed that the girl disappeared from here and was taken away through that door."

Blake responded indifferently, "So, while they were busy filming, did they beg for gifts and likes before dramatically kicking open the door and going in to film the girl?"

Josh nodded, saying, "That's right!"

Lilly asked curiously, "Is something wrong?"

Blake stated, "Nothing seems right."

"If a bloody cloth was found at the crime scene, would the bloggers be the ones taking pictures? How is it possible that investigators failed to notice such a prominent and bloodstained cloth? Moreover, once discovered, the evidence would have been swiftly collected, rather than leaving it in place for others to take pictures of. Lastly, crime scenes are typically cordoned off, preventing non-investigators from entering. How could those bloggers have taken photos?"

"Only a fool would believe such an obvious mistake. If you think about it for a while, you'll realize it's fake," Blake commented with conviction.

Under such comments, numerous anxious internet users would undoubtedly be tempted to ask, "Where is the DNA evidence? Why wasn't DNA testing conducted? Are the investigators incompetent? Is there some hidden agenda?"

Faced with their skepticism towards the official explanation, they opted to place their trust in certain alleged evidence and collectively embarked on their speculative detective work.

Josh's face was red and asked awkwardly, "What about the dog hole?"

Blake could not help but feel speechless. "Are the investigators, who failed to notice such a conspicuous dog hole, all blind? And did the influencers miraculously discover it?"

"In other words, the investigators found no evidence in the dog hole, but the influencers did and flaunted it to the public?" "If passers-by stumble upon clues, they would promptly contact the police. So why do those vloggers film it without reporting it to the police?" Without exception, those influencers claiming to have found the back door and the dog hole all urged their followers to explore it, with promises of rewards and gifts. If they were evidence, it would have long been under official scrutiny. Would their viewers donate money to them? Blake looked meaningfully at Josh and asked, "So how gullible can you be to believe everything you see on the internet?" Josh was silent. Lilly's eyes lit up, exclaiming, "Oh! Oh! Daddy, you're so smart!" Blake could not help but pursed his lips and ruffled Lilly's hair affectionately.

Despite her naivety, Blake could not help but feel powerless in the face of Lilly's gaze. Whenever she looked at him with those starry eyes, his resolve would soften, and he found himself unable to resist her innocence.

Continuing his explanation, Blake stated, "There are numerous so-called pieces of evidence, but why do so many people believe in them? Firstly, everyone is deeply invested in this case, and secondly, a fear propagated on the internet and caused panic. People are naturally cautious and attentive when they are afraid. And then..."

[&]quot;There are too many fools and not enough liars."

Josh was silent.

Hey, Uncle Blake, you've made your point clear enough!

Chapter 654 What Are You?

Blake stopped explaining, as he felt that there was no end to this.

The case was shrouded in fog and mystery, making it a magnet for influencers who thrive on clout. Many of the videos circulating online were obviously fabricated, yet they managed to deceive a significant number of people.

As everyone engaged in their own investigation, they became convinced that their speculations held the truth. It was akin to advising an elderly person at home not to rely on folk remedies and instead seek treatment at a reputable hospital. However, the elderly person stubbornly insists that hospitals were deceitful and doctors were scam artists.

However, weren't those who promote folk remedies deceiving others for their own personal gain?

When faced with a crisis, they could not find anyone to rely on. They would resort to purchasing mysterious remedies passed down through generations, without knowing what ingredients they contained. It was a case of blindly placing faith in unverified products, and they were a prime example.

"Did you find anything?" Blake asked.

Lilly furrowed her brow, staring intently for a while, and then shook her head, saying, "No."

She continued, "But it's okay, I'll take care of it!"

Lilly grabbed a handful of talismans, muttered some words, and threw them into the air with a clatter.

The scattered talismans ignited with a green flame before quickly vanishing. The alley remained silent, and nothing unusual appeared.

Lilly exclaimed, "Oops! Why isn't the magic working?"

Josh interjected, "This can't be..."

He could not understand how his sister, who possessed such great power, could fail.

Hannah pondered, "Was your posture incorrect?"

Zachary furrowed his brow, stating, "Regardless of her posture, Lils is always right. There's absolutely no

reason for her to be wrong."

It seemed that there was truly nothing more to be found in this place.

Blake made a guess, "Perhaps she didn't die here."

Josh shook his head, saying, "No, I saw her outside... when it was bright..."

Suddenly, his eyes widened!

Through the dark alley, they could see a girl floating on the street outside the café.

Her body was scorched black, and she wore pale clothes.

Occasionally, as the wind blew, her curled-up feet would be exposed. She remained motionless as if she could appear right in front of them in the next second.

"Lils!" Josh exclaimed in horror, "What's that?"

Oh my goodness!

Help!

Josh felt like he was being watched.

There was a girl floating on the street.
Lilly stared intently at her, and Blake had a defensive stance, feeling the tension rise.
Zachary and Hannah were confused and anxious, saying, "Where is it? Why can't I see anything?"
Zachary only felt a chilling breeze and looked outside through the alley, sensing that something was amiss.
Although Hannah could not see anything, she was still scared.
"Josh where's your camera?" Hannah asked, "Take take a photo! Show us what you've captured"

Josh, with trembling hands, warned, "I advise you not to look..."

He tried to retrieve his camera, but for some reason, he could not control his hands.

The girl raised her head, emitting a creaking sound... It seemed that her scorched and rigid neck was difficult to lift.

She stared straight at them in the alley.

Lilly ran out immediately.

Blake followed closely behind, ready to shield his daughter at any moment.

Josh struggled to take out his camera but failed, and he was about to reach out and grab Lilly's arm, but instead, he grasped at empty air.

The siblings could not hold their younger sister's hand, so they screamed in shock:

"Lils, wait for me!"

"Lilly, I'm scared! Ahhh!"

Lilly dashed out of the alley and stood at the coffee shop's entrance once again.

The girl they had seen moments ago vanished.

The street was quiet, with nothing unusual, except for the occasional passing of a car on the road.

The wind was strong that night, blowing the uncollected garbage from the alley and causing it to roll to the street corner.

Suddenly, a sound resonated, as something fell to the ground in the alley.

In the stillness of the night, a faint click shattered Josh's nerves.

He turned his head and saw the girl standing right behind him!

The girl raised her scorched hand and placed it on Josh's shoulder. Her eyes bulged from the burns, with white eyeballs contrasting against her charred face, creating a horrifying sight.

With her burnt hand on Joshwen's shoulder, she slowly opened her mouth...

Josh exclaimed, "Oh my God!"

Why was it him again?

"Lils..." Joshwen cried out in terror.

Lilly swiftly turned her head and dashed forward.

With a sudden leap, she jumped up and landed on the walls lining both sides of the alley.

Lilly's small figure was as fast as lightning, rushing straight toward the female ghost.

In mid-air, she raised her hand, a talisman appearing between her index and middle fingers, firmly held in place.

With a flick of her wrist, Lilly, like a streak of lightning, it flew straight toward the female ghost.

Over the heads of Josh and the others, Lilly collided with the ghost, sending her flying with a resounding thud. The talisman was stuck to the ghost's head.

Lilly somersaulted and rolled on the ground before quickly pinching another talisman between her fingers and throwing it out, charging forward like a majestic dragon.

Her presence was commanding and audacious.

"Boohoo..."

In the silence of the night, the female ghost let out a mournful cry.

She transformed into black smoke and disappeared in an instant.

Without wasting a moment, Lilly took out the jar of souls and hurled it out.

"Go, Pikajar!"

Lilly shouted and kicked back the escaping black smoke.

The jar of souls opened its mouth wide and greedily sucked in all the black smoke.

Suddenly, the jar of souls coughed, emitting two puffs of black smoke from its mouth.

The spirits within the gourd, harem spirit, and the others, escaped as they coughed.

"Cough, cough!... Hey, sweety, what were you grabbing onto?"

The harem spirit chimed in, "Yeah, is that smoke?"

All the ghosts were perplexed.

What had been captured seemed quite formidable.

That smoke was so powerful, they were shocked Lilly did not ask for their help.

The cowardly ghost asked anxiously, "Lilly, are you alright? Did you get hurt?"

The memories of catching King Libra still lingered vividly in their minds. The image of Lilly covered in bloodstains and scars over her arms, left the cowardly ghost in a state of terror.

Lilly shook her head in response to Micheal's concern. "I'm fine, Michael."

Josh's legs were still trembling. Hey, what about him?

He let out a frustrated sigh, wondering why it was always him and not Zachary or Hannah.

The harem spirit gazed suspiciously at the jar of souls, expressing his doubts. "You caught it, but I don't think it will stay obedient. What is this thing?"

The unlucky ghost cradled Tinkerbell in his arms and replied, "I have no idea. If I hadn't picked up Tinkerbell, she would have choked to death."

The female ghost in the wedding dress added, "I've never seen such a weird person."

Lilly's gaze remained fixed on the jar of souls as she asked in a hushed voice, "What are you?"

Chapter 655 The Missing Girl's Parents

The Jar of Souls spun around, occasionally spitting out black air, indicating that it was experiencing some indigestion.

The captured black energy remained lifeless and unresponsive.

Josh, poking around nervously, asked, "Is it solved? It won't come out again will it?"

Lilly nodded and reassured him, "Yes, it's fine now. But if the black energy fills up the Jar of Souls, Michael, and the others won't have a way to return home."

The unlucky ghost immediately grew excited, exclaiming, "Yes! Let's take a three-day, two-night trip!"

The harem spirit chimed in, "Well, that sounds good. I'm going to find cute guys."

The cowardly ghost, with a face full of exasperation, retorted, "Can you please take this more seriously?"

The harem spirit blinked innocently and replied, "I am being serious! I am. I'm serious about finding cute guys."

All the ghosts exchanged baffled glances.

Josh asked, "Can't we just let the Jar of Souls consume the black energy? That way, the ghosts can go home."

The Jar of Souls had two functions, to "contain" ghosts and to "consume" them. The former created a small world for the ghosts, while the latter would permanently destroy, eat, and absorb them.

Whether it would consume the black energy depended on Lilly's decision. Currently, it was evident that the jar of souls had absorbed the black energy but had not "consumed" it, indicating that Lilly had no intention of extinguishing the black energy.

Lilly explained, "I haven't figured out what it is yet...and that girl's cry always gives people an unsettling feeling."

When the girl cried earlier, Lilly could not help but feel a tinge of pity.

Josh touched his heart and added, "Indeed, it truly sends shivers down your spine."

Well, it was quite unsettling.

Blake added, "And, as usual, your unreliable master is nowhere to be found at a time like this."

As soon as the words were spoken, Pablo's voice echoed, "Who are you calling unreliable?"

Blake immediately scooped up Lilly and retorted, "Come on, Lilly, if I don't bring you back to Grandma, she's gonna call me unreliable!"

Pablo was speechless.

Blake carried Lilly and led the others into the car, and Josh hurriedly took his seat.

Even though the ghost had been captured, Josh still could not shake off the feeling of standing on that deserted street. It was as if another female ghost would appear ominously by the roadside at any moment.

However...

When they arrived, there were only a few people, but now the car was filled with ghosts.

As Josh glanced up, he caught sight of a female ghost in a red wedding dress standing next to him through the rearview mirror.

In sheer terror, he jolted out of his seat and pressed himself against the car window.

"You, you, you..."

The female ghost in the wedding dress looked at him with a puzzled expression. "Hey there, little handsome guy, what's the matter with you?"
She had recently learned the term "handsome guy" and thought it could be used for anyone. But why was Josh's expression turning ugly?
"What's wrong with me?" The female ghost in the wedding dress touched her face. "Oh, did I scare you?"
She covered her red veil with her hands.
Josh was silent.
That's scarier!
Sometimes, he experiences glimpses of apparitions, as if he suddenly caught sight of the missing girl, and now he saw the ghostly figure in a wedding dress.
When he turned around, he noticed that the car was filled with ghosts. They sat in the back seats, clung to the windshield, and stuck themselves to the windows. He was incredibly scared!
Unaware of Josh's peculiar behavior, Lilly asked, "Master, what is this dark energy?"
Pablo assumes a grave expression and replies, "Do you remember what I told you before, that hell is

Lilly nods, saying, "So, this is also an evil spirit?"

Pablo affirms, "Precisely, it's more accurately described as demonic energy. It can be understood as evil spirits stemming from one person's evil intentions, whereas demonic energy arises from the collective malevolence of many individuals."

"The girl's disappearance is an enigmatic case. Within it, a few individuals indulge in consuming human blood."

Pablo began to ask Lilly what happened, and that was when he became aware of the mystical energy contained in the jar of souls.

"While the majority of people are genuinely concerned about the girl's whereabouts, a small group of individuals view this heart-wrenching and grave matter as entertainment, exploiting it for their own gain."

"Especially on the live streaming platform, prior to today, people even came from all over the country to set up tents on the streets for live broadcasts, treating it as entertainment and engaging in gift exchanges to deceive and receive donations."

Not content with these actions, they began fabricating various "evidence" to confuse the public, using them as props to swindle more donations.

Although many people harbor doubts, there were still those who approach it with a voyeuristic mindset, providing an opportunity for influencers to exploit the situation.

Blake sneered contemptuously and whispered, "How ironic..."

Undeniably, this matter was also intertwined with the ineffectiveness of the official investigation. If the case could be promptly solved, it would not have escalated to this extent. Unfortunately, countless cases around the world remain unsolved. A glimpse into the archives would reveal the staggering number of unsolved cases.

"But let's not dwell on that," Pablo interjects. "Tomorrow, we'll meet the missing girl's parents, and then you'll understand."

Lilly nodded.

On this particular occasion, they arrived home early and found Bettany seated at the desk, flipping through a couple of pages in a book. Overwhelmed with distress, she was unable to continue reading when suddenly she heard the sound of a car engine.

To her surprise, Blake's car returned.

Bettany wondered...

Why are they back so early today? It's only eleven o'clock!

She promptly switched off the room's light.

After a while, she was Lilly and the others discreetly sneaking out of the car and rushing inside.

Bettany listened intently, but could not hear the sound of them going up the stairs. Eventually, she faintly heard the door closing, indicating Lilly and the others returned to their respective rooms.

"They've made some progress, but it's still late," Bettany muttered to herself. "Still, it's better than coming back at four or five in the morning... don't you think?"

Hugh mumbled, "Huh... huh..." in his sleep.

Bettany tossed the book she was holding in frustration and exclaimed, "What good are you for?"

Hugh turned over, unwilling to let Bettany him. Instead, he clung to the pillow, hugging it tightly in his arms.

He continued to sleep soundly.

Bettany stared at him, muttered a few words, and went to bed.

The following day, Blake continued his journey with Lilly and the others to Zoswil, the missing girl's hometown.

It seemed that Blake had become Lilly's full-time chauffeur and a dedicated father figure, bringing him one step closer to his dream of resigning.

They departed in the morning and arrived at Zoswil in the afternoon.

The missing girl's parents resided in the town. Since their daughter's disappearance, they spent their days sitting by the door, unable to concentrate on work. They could only gaze emptily at the door or wash their faces with tears every day.

Blake easily located the missing girl's home, and the sight that greeted him was miserable.

Upon spotting Blake and the others, the girl's mother glanced at them blankly but remained silent.

The girl's father reluctantly entertained them, gesturing toward a few scattered stools nearby and saying, "Please have a seat."

Before Blake and others could ask him, the girl's father mechanically spoke up.

"There is still no news about Tracy, and the police haven't made any significant progress."

"The coffee shop near the scene has been thoroughly investigated, and there are no doubts there."

"Tracy doesn't engage in online dating, nor does she have any internet addiction or clinical depression..."

Presumably, due to the overwhelming number of people who have come to ask them about it, the elderly couple has become numb to it all...

Chapter 656 Devilish Hearts

Blake stated, "We didn't come here today to ask about this."

Softly, Lilly expressed, "Tracy has been missing for such a long time. You must miss her a lot!"

Upon hearing this, the girl's mother burst into tears and said, "Even if she passes away, I hope I can dream of her... I have nothing else to ask for now."

Swiftly, the girl's father intervened to prevent her from saying more.

Lilly inquired suspiciously, "What's the matter?"

The girl's father shook his head and replied with a wry smile, "Since Tracy went missing, we have received numerous calls. Some offered to help us investigate, while others sought more details. Even a practitioner gave us instructions."

"At first, we would share details and our speculations with them. Consequently, her mother cried for a long time."

"To our surprise, these words quickly made their way onto the internet, with the title being Missing girl's parents confirmed..."

The man, whose hair had turned gray due to his daughter's disappearance, sighed, "We genuinely believed they would assist us in finding her. However, we soon realized that the only ones truly helping were our neighbors, relatives, friends, and a few kind strangers."

"When most people called to ask about the situation, they were merely eager to hear if we had any sensational information. If there wasn't, they'd create a headline to shock others."

"People from all over the world offered advice, analyzed the case, and even invited us to do live broadcasts in search of our child."

"It turns out they don't truly care about us. They're more interested in seeking excitement." Wrinkles formed on the girl's father's face as he took a puff from his cigarette and sighed heavily.

Lilly pressed her lips together, choosing not to speak. She assumed those people were merely visiting the coffee shop, but she never expected them to approach the girl's parents.

The girl's father continued, "Initially, her mother and I intended to search for Tracy in Alfornada, but we couldn't stay there any longer. Numerous people would come to us, asking about how we felt."

Tracy's father shook his head and shared, "That's when we decided to come back."

They were forced to go back.

They could not find anyone, and they were physically and mentally exhausted.

They were occupied with numerous interviews, it left them no time to search.

The abundance of the information left them even more bewildered, their hearts in disarray, unable to think straight, yet people kept bombarding them with questions, causing them to keep talking...

After uttering this, the girl's father fell silent, letting out a sigh.

The girl's mother continued to weep, wiping away her tears, her face gaunt and weary.

Lilly suddenly understood what her master said last night about taking advantage of people's misfortune.

"Can you truly accept any news? Even if it's bad news," Lilly asked softly.

The girl's mother continued to sob, stating, "What bad news could be worse than death? Initially, we were determined to find her, but gradually, we grew desperate and exhausted, we wouldn't even mind if we found her dead body."

Even if Tracy is dead... Please let her rest in peace...

She could not bear it any longer.

Lilly felt a heavy discomfort in her heart.

Blake offered support to the girl's mother with a hand and whispered, "We know where she is. Let's go inside."

Both the girl's parents were momentarily taken aback, but their expressions quickly became numb once

again.

The girl's father shook his head and replied, "There's no need to speculate. We'll wait for the official outcome."

Anxiously, Lilly insisted, "That's right."

She could sense the collision of dark energy within the jar of souls.

Although she still did not understand why the demons in others' hearts had merged with the spirit of the missing girl, she knew that Tracy must have been incredibly anxious.

The girl's father shook his head, remarking, "No need, I know what you're trying to say."

Someone had said this to them before, leading them with excitement and fear, only to realize that they did not know what was happening, but their reactions were recorded on a recording pen.

Instances like this happened so frequently that when they heard the news about Tracy, they no longer believed it.

Lilly bit her lip, rising silently and sketching circles around Tracy's house.

Josh quickly followed and asked in a hushed voice, "Lils, what's going on?"

Lilly replied, "If they don't want to enter, they don't have to. I don't want them to cause any trouble."

"So I'm drawing circles around the house, in case the dark energy tries to escape."

While it would be easier to handle the situation once inside the house, with walls and a roof, one could simply raise their hand to seal the structure.

Drawing circles required more effort to seal the sky.

But it was alright...

Lilly was willing to put in the effort as long as they feel less uneasy.

Hannah offered, "I'll help you, Lilly!"

Lilly shook her head and responded, "You can't draw, Hannah."

Hannah immediately protested, "Who said that? I may struggle with my homework, but I can draw circles. What do you think of me?"

Josh interjected and lightly tapped her head, remarking, "Will the circles you draw stop ghosts? You're just drawing aimlessly. You don't know how to draw it!"

Hannah glared at Josh but found herself unable to argue.

She did not know how to draw circles...

Lilly walked around the house, and as she completed each circle, a thin layer of sweat formed on her forehead, dampening the clothes on her back.

Zoswil was scorching hot compared to Alfornada, with the sun at its most intense during July and August

"I'm done!" Lilly exhaled and took a seat on the small bench.

The girl's parents glanced at her, though they had already witnessed her drawing circles around the house, they remained motionless. Their gazes were vacant, devoid of focus.

Some people came to offer them fortune-telling services. They were unfamiliar faces, but their hearts felt as lifeless as ashes, incapable of mustering any interest.

After a brief rest, Lilly spoke up again, saying, "Sir, Ma'am, Tracy has always wanted to see you."

Lilly finally understood why people could see her when they were electrocuted, and why she constantly lingered behind others mischievously.

She was trying to capture their attention.

Yet her efforts were in vain, leaving her disappointed, hopeless, and angry.

Gradually, her essence merged with the malice borne from people's hearts, transforming into a malevolent entity.

The jar of souls on Lilly's wrist trembled, as if it had been constipated for days and finally released a loud, resonant 'fart.'

"Puff!"

Everyone was startled.

Josh looked at Lilly suspiciously, wondering if his sister farted.

Lilly hastily waved her hands and clarified, "It wasn't me!"

Just as Josh was about to assure his sister that it was alright and that he would take the blame for her

farts from now on, a female ghost suddenly appeared before their eyes!

It was the female ghost, charred black, and was wearing white!

"Mom..." her voice was raspy as she cried heavily.

Josh was so frightened that he leaped up and hugged Lilly tightly.

Chapter 657 The Cause of Her Death

Lilly made adjustments to the circles she had drawn.

Within these circles, everyone would be able to encounter the ghost of the missing girl.

The girl's mother was momentarily stunned, her pupils dilating as she stared intently at the girl, afraid to look away.

The girl's father stood up abruptly, his lips trembling as he was unable to utter a word.

Lilly glanced outside.

It was around two or three o'clock in the afternoon, and although there was no one around, it would be best to talk inside the house.

She rose to her feet, took the scorched girl's hand, and led her into the house.

In a panic, the girl's mother hurriedly stood up and called out loudly, "Tracy..."

Blake advised, "Go inside. You'll be able to see Tracy once you're inside."

This time, the girl's parents rushed inside.

Zachary was the last to enter. She stood still for a moment, then turned around and closed the door behind her.

The scorched girl stood in the center of the living room, her body trembling, emitting sharp and mournful cries.

"Mom and Dad..."

The girl's mother rushed over, trying to hug her.

Though charred black, she recognized her immediately—it was her daughter, Tracy!

"Tracy!"

But her efforts were in vain, she could not hold Tracy in her arms like before.

The girl's mother wept bitterly, and Tracy cried out as well, saying, "Mom... I saw you wandering, both you and Dad searching tirelessly for me, I saw everything."

The girl's mother was in a daze, her only response being uncontrollable sobs.

Lilly and the others remained silently by the side, as they needed to sit there quietly.

The girl's father, a man who had experienced many hardships, broke down in tears and asked, "Where did you go, Tracy? Why didn't you come home... Do you know how much your mother and I miss you?"

"Your mother was waiting for you every day..."

Tracy burst into tears, the tracks of her tears cutting through her scorched face.

"I can't come back, I can never come back." She sobbed, "I'm dead."

The girl's mother already knew the truth, but she still could not bear the blow, collapsing onto the ground, crying out, "How could this happen... who killed you? Tell me, and I'll avenge you..."

She was willing to risk her own life.

What was the point of existing if her daughter was not here?

It would be better to seek justice for her daughter's death.

Tracy shook her head, saying, "I died by accident..."

She could never have imagined that on the day of the accident, she was walking home just as she always did.

Having recently graduated and started working, that day the accounting work took longer than usual, and she felt a bit frightened walking alone on the deserted street.

"The wind was so strong. I was a little scared, so I looked back."

However, because of that, she did not pay attention to where she was stepping.

"I stepped on a nail and an electric shock surged through me."

Tracy did not understand what was happening, but for a moment, she lost consciousness. When she regained it, she found herself standing in the same spot, as if it were a dream.

She still looked back and saw that the strong wind had blown away some black smoke and sand. So, she hurriedly went home...

But she soon realized that no matter how she walked, she could not move more than 300 feet away from the café.

It was only at that moment that she realized she was dead.

"I caught sight of myself through the window of the coffee shop... My body was charred black, my hands and feet intertwined with scratches, while only my clothes remained white."

The dress she bought earlier that day turned out to be her funeral attire, a fact she did not expect.

"I died just like that..."

Pablo murmured, "A fleeting surge... how strong was the current?"

Blake responded, "It was high-voltage electricity."

In the narrow alley, which was slated to be transformed into a bustling food street, stood a high-voltage electric pole.

The delay in the completion of Gourmet Alley's construction was also connected to this issue. The presence of high-voltage wires made the area unsafe.

The day of the incident was windy, making it impossible to make sure if the high-voltage line had been toppled.

Only high-voltage electricity could char a person.

"Logically speaking, where did the body go then?"

Lilly chimed in with her analysis, saying, "But Tracy also mentioned that she turned around and saw black smoke dissipating in the wind..."

Blake explained, "When exposed to high-voltage electrical energy, people can be electrocuted to death in an instant. The outer surface can burn and partially vanish, but the whole body would not disappear. Therefore, someone must have taken Tracy's body away."

Lilly nodded earnestly, "Then why doesn't Tracy remember about it?"

Pablo added, "She died too quickly for her to realize it. Did you pay attention to her description earlier? She lost consciousness in an instant, as if in a dream. And after a moment had passed, she found herself

standing there again."

"There was a pause in between regaining her consciousness."

However, this moment should have lasted for a day, or at least half a day, while she was unconscious.

All in all, she was electrocuted and shocked... a state of sluggishness and unconsciousness.

"And what happened next?" Lilly continued to ask.

Josh, Hannah, and Zachary listened anxiously, their tiny feet curled up in nervous anticipation.

Meanwhile, the ghosts wore expressions of astonishment mixed with a sense of indifference, as if saying, "I didn't know something like this could happen." They listened attentively to the judge and Ruler of Hell as they analyzed the situation.

Pablo urged, "Keep listening."

The girl was done talking about how she died and she sobbed, "I was in the same place, moving back and forth. I saw all of you doing the same, repeatedly searching for me, but no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't communicate with you."

She was left with no choice but to attempt to possess people passing by in the middle of the night or unsuspecting individuals entering the alleys.

But all her attempts failed.

Then, with her own eyes, she witnessed influencers holding cameras and speculating endlessly about the cause of her death. They claimed she ran away due to an online relationship, labeled her mentally unstable, and suggested she might have committed suicide.

She watched them surrounding her parents, showing great concern for the progress of the case. However, with every question they asked, their questions carried a sinister undertone.

"Didn't you notice anything unusual about her before she disappeared?"

"There must be a reason. You didn't care enough about your daughter."

"How can we trust the authorities? They're hiding the truth. Your daughter is a victim."

"Maybe she was sold..."

"Perhaps she was abducted by human traffickers..."

Her parents became increasingly anxious and overwhelmed, constantly blaming themselves for not being more attentive to their daughter. They regretted not speaking to her a little longer during their last phone call a few days ago.

The parents cried while the cameras rolled. In a disturbing competition to capture the most heartwrenching expressions from the mother, two influencers even got into a fight.

These people's hearts gradually transformed into demons—deranged demons, maniacal demons, maddened demons...

The fusion of their demonic energy and her lingering resentment gradually made her like that.

Upon hearing this, Tracy's parents cried even harder, and Tracy's mother even fainted several times in distress.

Tracy, with tears streaming down her face, uttered, "It's okay now, I can explain..."

"Mom, Dad... I'm already gone... Please don't search for me anymore." Tracy sobbed, "I've been reduced to ashes, not a single trace of me remains... You both must live well, or I won't rest in peace."

Tracy's mother was overwhelmed with grief, unable to hold Tracy. Instead, she clung tightly to her father's arms, crying, "My daughter, my dear Tracy..."

Chapter 658 Empty Sigh

As Tracy's lingering resentment vanished, the dark energy in her vanished.

Tracy returned to her former state. Despite her tears, she smiled with relief and said, "I always made an effort to appear when they were electrocuted, and finally, they were able to see me..."

Tracy looked at Lilly and expressed her gratitude, saying, "Thank you... thank you so much."

Tracy's mother held onto her father's arm tightly, as if by doing so, she could hold onto Tracy and prevent her from leaving.

However, Tracy's image gradually blurred and became transparent, leaving behind her gentle voice, "Goodbye, Mom and Dad... Take care of yourselves... I wanna be your daughter in my next life..."

Tracy's soul disappeared.

In its place, a burst of black energy erupted, swirling violently. It forcefully crashed through the door, attempting to escape, but was halted by the circle drawn by Lilly. It charged furiously against the barrier.

Lilly raised her hand and struck it.

Her small palm suddenly transformed into a colossal palm, crashing down on the dark energy with a resounding bang.

Pablo's eyes widened in astonishment, exclaiming, "Is that Hades' Palm?!"

Josh exclaimed, "Hades' Palm?!

Hannah cheered, "Incredible, absolutely amazing!"

Zachary quickly retrieved his notebook and wrote something down.

Ability, Hades' Palm, Attack Power... 999999 points!

Blake stared in awe, his mouth agape, silently thinking to himself...

That's my daughter!

Lilly's slap shattered the dark energy into multiple strands, preventing them from reuniting. The strands were then swallowed by the jar of souls.

This time, it was consumed, and the jar emitted a belch, releasing a puff of black smoke from its mouth. The black smoke gradually dissipated, leaving nothing behind.

All the ghosts exclaimed, "Wow!"

The unlucky ghost remarked, "The jar of souls is truly incredible!"

The harem spirit marveled, "The jar of souls... You're so powerful! It seems you're being kind to us most of the time!"

The cowardly ghost smiled slyly, "From now on, anyone who disobeys will be devoured by the jar of souls."

The rebel ghost meekly shrank back.

Lilly stood up and said, "Alright, we have successfully delivered Tracy's soul."

She pointed to the main hall in the living room and suggested, "You can set up a memorial tablet for her, so she'll receive your offerings when she's in the underworld."

Blake nodded in agreement and said, "I won't disturb you any longer. Here's my number, feel free to contact me if you need anything."

At some point, Blake tore a piece of paper, jotted down his number, and placed it on the table.

The note simply read "Blake" followed by a series of numbers.

The girl's parents, overcome with emotion, cried and knelt before Lilly.

With keen eyes and swift reflexes, Blake quickly lifted them from the floor and sat them on the sofa.

The parents' tearful expressions froze for a moment, but they soon resumed sobbing, expressing their gratitude, "Thank you... thank you!"

"We apologize for being rude to you earlier..."

"Thank you for returning Tracy to us. Our poor child, we never expected it to turn out like this..."

Dying in a foreign land, without a body!

Lilly fell silent for a moment, she wanted to say something.

However, Blake shook his head and interjected, "My condolences. We'll leave now, and I will reach out to you later about something else."

"Please make sure to keep this information to yourselves and refrain from disclosing the cause of Tracy's death for the time being," Blake instructed.

Tracy's parents nodded in agreement.

With the realization that their daughter was gone, their hearts sank. The initial anguish, helplessness, and despair transformed into emptiness, leaving only sorrow and bereavement.

Lilly bid farewell to Tracy's parents and left with Blake.

Tracy's parents stood by the door, watching Blake's car drive away until it vanished from sight.

The girl's mother could not stop her tears, her vision was blurry.

The girl's father sighed, his voice filled with sorrow and weariness, "At least we could meet her one last time..."

What more could they ask for?

This past month had been worse than death, filled with countless scenarios they imagined.

Sometimes they wished they could see their daughter's lifeless body, just to have closure.

Other times they entertained thoughts of her being abducted, holding onto the slim hope of finding her alive.

They blamed themselves for not calling her more often and resented their powerlessness in finding any leads.

The fear of their daughter being alone somewhere, facing despair, consumed them.

They dreaded the thought of their daughter dying in an unfamiliar place and her soul being unable to find its way back home.

Now they knew the reason behind her death and had the chance to bid her a final farewell.

Compared to the past month, it was a consolation.

The girl's mother wept uncontrollably, unable to hold on any longer. She clutched her husband's arm and lost consciousness.

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In the car, Lilly asked, "Daddy, why didn't you tell them that Tracy's physical body remains in this world?"

Blake, who was driving the car, focused on the road ahead and explained, "Firstly, It's because we're uncertain if Tracy's body can be located. If we were to tell them about her body still being here, it would only subject them to another round of anxious waiting if we fail to find it."

He continued, "Secondly, they have just come to terms with the fact that Tracy is no longer with us. Introducing the notion of her body still being around could cause them further distress."

Sharing two devastating pieces of news in a single day might be too much for the girl's mother to handle.

Lilly nodded, "I see..."

Josh stroked his chin and contemplated, "Where could the corpse have gone? I've thoroughly reviewed all the available surveillance footage during our investigation, but I found nothing out of the ordinary."

Blake responded, "You're mistaken."

"Previously, we assumed that a person's body size would remain relatively intact after a normal death. However, in Tracy's case, she was electrocuted by high-voltage electricity, causing her body to shrink significantly."

Part of her body was likely carbonized and blown away by the wind, making it nearly impossible to find after over a month. The remaining portion would resemble charcoal.

Blake elaborated, "Let's assume that it shrunk to only half of its original volume and then folded into two pieces. Placing it in a tool bag would make it easy to dispose of without leaving a trace."

Josh was immediately terrified, picturing the scene and feeling a sense of fear.

Pablo nodded in agreement, stating, "This is highly possible, and considering the clues, it appears to be the only possibility."

Blake added, "We'll have a clearer picture once Damian finishes processing the video. He examined all the surveillance footage from the day the girl disappeared."

He recalled that the footage captured blurry images, but some peculiar figures were visible. At the time, he could not make out what they were. The street seemed to show reflections of trees with distorted shadows.

Reflecting on it now, those distorted images were likely Tracy's charred remains.

Chapter 659 Noticing Something Strange in the Surveillance Footage

Damian sent the surveillance video to the group, and upon inspection, it was considerably clearer after the enhancement.

Although the surveillance footage did not capture the girl's body, it did show a small part of her. She was walking while looking at her phone and walked to a wooden board that was laid on the ground at a construction site to protect the floor from scratches.

At that moment, she abruptly froze, and the high-voltage electricity instantly rendered her motionless. A distorted shadow was visible under the street lamp, and shortly thereafter, she fell to the ground, lifeless. The screen displayed only one hand, the source of the electrical contact, while the scorched hand on the ground remained curled up. Over time, it became barely recognizable as a human hand.

Josh's hair stood on end as he exclaimed, "This is too scary..."

Lilly fixed her gaze on the monitor and asked, "That's it?"

Blake replied, "Keep watching."

Approximately five minutes later, another arm entered the frame of the surveillance footage. It appeared as only one arm due to the limited range of the surveillance, which captured only a small part of the incident scene.

The area had been overlooked during the initial investigation because it was too distant, small, and

blurry, blending with the swirling shadow of the trees. Without careful examination, one would assume it was the shadow of branches.

The person in the video appeared to be startled, taking a few steps back before sitting on the ground. However, the electrocuted girl's arm was soon dragged out of the screen, and the surveillance video abruptly ended.

Lilly was taken aback, stating, "I still don't know who that person is..."

Blake clicked on another video and said, "Keep watching."

The next video was from the mall and specifically focused on the first-floor bathroom, which led to the back door mentioned by people on the internet. The footage was taken in the morning when the mall was bustling with people.

In the video, a man wearing an orange vest, resembling a worker, emerged from the back door carrying two tool bags. He seemed to be in a hurry as he swiftly made his way out.

Hannah expressed her confusion, saying, "I don't see anything unusual!"

Blake nodded and explained, "To most people, there doesn't appear to be anything out of the ordinary. Firstly, it's common to have maintenance workers in the mall. Secondly, it's normal for a worker to carry two tool bags. Thirdly, no one would suspect that two bags could contain a corpse, as it wouldn't be feasible to walk so easily with such weight. And finally, the weight of the bags he's carrying is likely similar to that of actual tools."

Thus, during the initial investigation and monitoring, this worker was overlooked.

As the video progressed to around noon, the worker returned to the scene again.

"Take a closer look, although the bags he's carrying this time are bulging, they seem very light," Blake pointed out.

Josh agreed, saying, "They don't seem to weigh much."

Towards the end of the afternoon when work hours were finishing up, the worker reappeared with two bags, and this time, the bags appeared to be heavy.

The footage stopped playing at this point.

Hannah asked, "So what does this mean?"

Zachary, folding her arms, raised her head from her notes and responded sarcastically, "I told you to read more, but you insist on playing instead!"

Hannah looked perplexed.

Huh? I'm not playing!

Blake chimed in, "When the worker first came out with the bag, he lowered his head so we couldn't see his expression. However, there was a slight sense of unease in his behavior."

Hannah said, "Oh ... It's hard to tell."

Lilly nodded and added, "Yes."

Hannah remained doubtful, asking, "Did he appear uneasy?"

Lilly pointed to the monitor and said, "His hand is slightly raised, as if he wanted to lift it but hesitated. His other hand is holding onto something, but the hand gripping his belt is clenched tightly into a fist."

Blake nodded, impressed by his daughter's observation skills. "There's one more video to watch, from a surveillance camera located 0.6 feet away from the incident site."

He clicked on the final surveillance video, which showed a roadside view with several large trash cans. Next to the trash cans, there were piles of construction waste, including a dark red wooden board measuring about 20 by 20 inches.

"Do you see this board?" Blake pointed at the frame, pausing for a moment.

Lilly nodded, recognizing it. "Yes! I've been to Uncle Edward's construction site before, and it looks similar to the wooden boards used in the elevator."

Blake confirmed, "That's right. These boards are thin and small, making them easy to be blown away by the wind."

He rewound the video, and the monitor displayed the entire street in the direction of the trash cans.

That night, the wind was strong, causing the large trees to sway, and several bottles of water to roll on the ground.

In the footage, a wooden board appeared, and, although not as fast as the water bottles, it rolled a few times before quickly reaching the side of the road and getting stuck on the road railing.

In the morning, a cleaner picked up the board and walked toward the trash can. Since the board was slightly larger than the trash can, he placed it next to the bin.

The video fast-forwarded, showing the shopping mall near the trash cans undergoing renovations. Some

foam boards and carrier bags were brought out, and construction waste was piled up next to the trash can.

Then the garbage truck arrived and collected all the garbage.

Hannah asked again, "So, what does this mean?"

Lilly looked at her and let out a sigh, sounding somewhat mature for her age. "Hannah, you have bad eyesight!"

"When the board was flying earlier, there were scorched marks on it!"

Hannah responded with a puzzled expression, "So?"

Zachary patted her on the head with the notebook, saying, "Why don't you play some more."

Hannah scratched her head, feeling confused. She could not understand why the burnt board had any relation to the girl who was electrocuted.

Josh explained, "A discharge occurs when a high-voltage electric shock is generated. The arc's high temperature is caused by both the arc itself and the thermal effect of the current. According to Joule's law, we can assume the voltage to be..."

Hannah was speechless.

I ain't listening to all that!

Blake added, "To put it in simple terms, high-voltage electricity burns people, and when it does, it leaves burn marks."

Suddenly, Hannah had a realization: "So the scorch marks on this board are the burnt marks left by that girl?"

Blake nodded approvingly, "I guess there's still some brain juice in you."

Lilly stifled a laugh, covering her mouth.

Blake paused the video at a particular frame.

When the cleaner picked up the board, the burned side was facing outward. It was evident that the board was almost completely burned through, with a thin strip from the center to the edge.

"This is where the girl's arm was burned."

Hannah thought to herself...

I get it now, how scary!

"So, the girl stepped on this piece of wood and got electrocuted, which caused it to burn. The wooden board was also burnt. Then the wind blew the burnt board to a garbage can 0.6 miles away, and it was collected by the garbage truck..."

Hannah looked somber and suddenly felt scared.

It was only at this moment that Josh realized why she had remained so composed all along. It turned out she was unable to understand anything...

Lilly shook his head and asked, "But I don't understand. Isn't wood an insulator?"

Blake responded, "Didn't Tracy mention that she stepped on something like a nail?"

The probability of stepping on a conductive nail was relatively low.

However, if she stepped on the joint between two boards, especially if there were nails along the edge, the likelihood of being electrocuted by a high-voltage shock would be relatively high.

"It's possible that there were two connected boards with nails along the edge... The situation depends on the worker at that time."

This board ended up flying 0.6 miles away, and the others have probably been dealt with.

There were also several large trash cans near the flower bed at the crime scene, which were blind spots in the surveillance. It was difficult to determine if the other board had been discarded or taken away.

"Now, let's go find this worker."

Chapter 660 The Electrician's Family

Tapu Village was a remnant of a city undergoing urbanization, typically a small village located near the city's outskirts or at its center, often serving as a gathering place for migrant workers.

Amidst the towering high-rise buildings with illuminated windows, urban villages appeared somewhat incongruous within the bustling cities. The buildings were crowded, the roads had potholes, and the environment was poor.

Lilly held her father's hand, gazing up at the buildings and observing the tangled mess of wires. In this place, people barely had time to attend to safety concerns while struggling to survive. The disorderly tangle of wires appeared incredibly hazardous.

Having just watched the surveillance video of the girl being electrocuted by high-voltage electricity, Josh felt an even greater sense of danger as he looked at the chaotic wires.

Blake remained calm and composed, holding Lilly's hand with one hand while casually placing the other in his pocket. He strolled until he reached a narrow alley nestled between two self-built houses.

The proximity of the two self-built houses made the alley extremely small, and when the sun was obstructed, it appeared dim and damp.

"Is this the place?" Lilly asked.

Blake nodded and replied, "Second floor."

Passersby cast curious glances at the unusual sight of the two children and their tall companion. Hannah and Zachary had to stay home as Bettany forced them to finish their homework.

The combination of Blake's towering stature and the strikingly beautiful children, along with their distinctively different clothing styles, made them stand out.

A middle-aged woman swiped the access card to open the door. Seeing that Blake intended to bring the two children inside, she asked cautiously, "Who are you looking for?"

Blake smiled faintly and answered, "We're looking for Barry on the second floor, the electrician. We're his friends."

He believed that the middle-aged woman might not know Barry, but to his surprise, she responded, "You're looking for Mr. Stark! I haven't heard him mention having friends like you."

Blake murmured, "He's not much of a talker, so it's normal that he didn't mention us."

The middle-aged woman nodded, "That makes sense."

Lilly asked curiously, "Ma'am, are you close to Mr. Stark?"

The middle-aged woman smiled and replied, "Yes, he's a very nice person. He's an electrician and always helps the neighbors with any electrical issues they have. He always refused our payment and said that we're neighbors and there was no need to do so."

Most of the residents living here were couples who cannot afford their own homes. They have children, and their extended families came to help take care of them. So, the rent was affordable.

Or they were people who work in the city or run businesses nearby...

"Our building's landlord is very kind, so many of us have been tenants here for a long time. After living

here for a while, everyone gets to know each other. We often greet each other when we go downstairs to buy groceries or take a stroll."

Lilly exclaimed, "That's nice!"

Blake added, "It's quite good. Neighborly relationships in the city are not as strong as in a village. Your community has a good bond."

As they conversed, the middle-aged woman had already reached the second floor. She nodded and said, "Alright, we've arrived, their home is at the end of this corridor."

Lilly thanked the woman, and she continued up the stairs.

"Knock! Knock!"

Blake knocked on the door.

After a moment, someone inside asked, "Who is it?"

Blake replied, "We're here to check on the water meter."

Lilly and Josh were confused.

The door creaked open, and a middle-aged woman poked her head out, looking puzzled. She asked, "Why are you checking the water meter? Didn't we just pay the rent?"

The woman was taken aback by Blake and the two children standing at the door.

"Who are you?" she asked cautiously.

Two children ran out, babbling and tilting their heads curiously at Lilly and the others.

Soon, an elderly voice came from inside, "Keisha, who is it?"

An elderly man appeared, leaning on a cane and trembling slightly.

Blake's gaze dropped slightly as he glanced into the room, where he saw an elderly woman placing food on the table, and a young child sitting on a small dining chair, chewing on vegetables.

There were two elderly people, three children, and one woman.

Mr. Stark was not here.

Lilly spoke politely, "Hello, ma'am, we are looking for Mr. Stark. Is he at home?"

The woman asked, "What do you want with him?"

Blake replied, "We are his employers. He has been working in Diamond Tower in the city center recently. Today, we noticed something strange with the water meter and couldn't reach him, so we came to check."

The elderly woman from inside the room also came out and said, "So you're Barry's boss. Come in, come in, and have a seat!"

The elderly man was very hospitable, and the middle-aged woman hurried to boil water.

Blake led Lilly and Josh into the room and took a seat.

While preparing tea, the woman apologized, saying, "I'm sorry, the house is a bit messy."

"Barry took a job in the surrounding villages and towns these past couple of days. Since the shopping mall over there closed down... he took on some private work..."

It seemed that she was worried that the boss would not be happy about Barry's private work, so she spoke somewhat awkwardly.

Blake reassured her, saying, "That's alright. You're aware of the situation with the shopping mall, right?"

The woman nodded, lowering her voice. "It's been all over the internet, and I've seen a lot about it too. It's really... well, it's so tragic. I asked Barry if he was working there that night and if he saw anything. But he never let us talk about it."

Blake's eyes flickered slightly in response.