

## Horrors 1001

### Chapter 1001: Soundless World

The boy was sound asleep in bed. He had no idea about the door's appearance.

"Compared to last time, the door seems to have gotten closer to the boy," Men Nan whispered. "Take a close look at it. There is something inside the door that wishes to come out."

"Could it be the ghost fetus?" This scenario reminded Chen Ge of the door of the School of the Afterlife, but the similarity was limited. For example, the door that appeared by the boy's bed felt unreal, like it would shatter once touched. There were faded blood vessels moving on the door, but it did not give off an unpleasant feeling. This was what confused Chen Ge the most. He had encountered many doors before, including the door from the School of the Afterlife. Once they appeared, the surrounding atmosphere would turn eerie and dark, with the scent of blood permeating the air, but this door was an exception. It did not feel threatening. If anything, its presence felt like a warning to the boy.

"There are too few blood vessels on the door, aren't there?" Chen Ge got closer to the door. He only took few steps when the doorknob started to jiggle. It was not that loud, at least not loud enough to wake the boy. When Chen Ge retreated, the door returned to normal.

"It stops me from approaching it, huh?" Chen Ge put down the backpack and signed something at Men Nan. He moved toward the door alone, and this time, the door did not react. "It's due to the presence of a Red Specter?"

Standing before the door, Chen Ge did something brave. He reached out toward the door. The door was like a lingering spirit. Chen Ge's finger phased through it directly. "I can't even touch it... This is the first time I've met a door like this."

He was not sure whether a door would appear next to all the candidates selected by the ghost fetus after they fell asleep. In any case, he did not hear Fang Yu mention anything about this, so this might be unique to Jiang Ming. If that was the case, Chen Ge should pay more attention because it meant there was a high chance ghost fetus was hiding inside Jiang Ming. His fingers wandered on the surface of the door, but he could not touch it. Just as he was about to give up, a chill came from his fingertips. Chen Ge's fingers at that time were hanging by the doorknob.

"Most of the blood vessels are gathered around the doorknob, so this doorknob is the only thing that's real or closest to the real thing?"

Tong Tong's trick could only be used once, so Chen Ge did not want to waste this opportunity. However, he did not dare to push the door open alone. Even though it did not have many blood vessels on it, he was not confident that he could survive behind the door alone.

"Should I take this risk? The black phone said that I will die if I can't locate the ghost fetus within nine nights. In other words, this period is when the ghost fetus is the least prepared or weakest."

The chance was before his eyes, and Chen Ge was unwilling to give it up. He slowly retreated.

"Men Nan, hand me the bag. You guard outside the door."

"You're going in there like that? Isn't that a bit too rash? Are you not going to think about it further?"

“The doorknob will vibrate once it senses a Red Specter, and the rattling will wake up the boy. Once the boy wakes up, the door will disappear, so I only have one chance.” Chen Ge looked at the boy in bed. “He’s deaf, but he can hear the rattling of the door. The thing that the boy lost is probably behind this door.”

Taking out the recorder, Chen Ge hugged it in his chest and then took out the broken ballpoint pen and placed it inside his pocket. After his previous lesson, he had learned not to put everything inside his backpack.

After he was ready, Chen Ge took a deep breath. He stared at the doorknob as he charged toward it. The blood door sensed the presence of a threat, and it started to rattle with agitation. The lashes of the boy in bed flickered. Just as he was about to open his eyes, Chen Ge broke through the door. Inside the dark bedroom, the boy sat up in bed. He looked around and repeated the word ‘daddy’ stutteringly into the darkness.

...

A horrible stench rushed into his nostrils. Chen Ge carried his backpack and looked around. This was a very old rental apartment. There were seven to eight families living on one floor, and they shared one bathroom and kitchen. The corridor was littered with trash, and dirty water stained the ground. Rotten vegetables floated in the brackish water.

“What is this place?” Chen Ge looked behind him. He was standing before a rusted metal door. There was a large lock on it, and he could not leave that way. “Is this the door that I pushed open?”

Chen Ge took out the ballpoint pen. After realizing that he could still communicate with his employees, and he instantly calmed down. “The scenario behind the door is made from the door pusher’s memories, so this should be where the boy has his deepest memory.”

Dirty, dilapidated, and old, the place stank. The place that Jiang Ming could not forget was a complete contrast to his current home. “Probably because they were staying at a place like this, Jiang Ming’s parents agreed for their boy to be adopted. But there is money that goes around, and the boy’s father even wrote a letter to threaten for more money. That’s disgusting behavior.”

Jiang Ming’s biological parents no longer treated Jiang Ming as their son but as a tool to earn money. They had no idea what their child was going through.

“The scenario behind the door is this apartment. What Jiang Ming can never forget should be here somewhere.” Chen Ge carried his bag and moved forward. Not too long later, he saw a wooden sign hanging on the door of the family that took the corner room. The sign read—‘If you have an emergency, pull on the rope of the lamp next to this repeatedly.’

“Is this where the boy stayed? If he’s deaf, he wouldn’t hear the knocking anyway.” Chen Ge pulled on the rope. The lights in the room lit up. He pulled it repeatedly, but no one showed up to open the door.

“The boy is deaf, but his parents shouldn’t be.” Chen Ge looked at the lit room and knocked on the door. His finger touched the door lightly. Chen Ge did not use much strength, but it echoed so loudly that it even startled Chen Ge a bit.

“Why would that happen?” Chen Ge quickly stopped. He started to notice the uniqueness about this place. It was so quiet; there was no sound.

“Is this what Jiang Ming’s world feels like?”

Those who were born deaf should not have the concept of hearing, but those who lost it later would remember sound. Their mind was not silent; there was just an impenetrable layer that could not be broken between their memory and the real world. It would be a thin layer. In fact, it was probably as thin as the gap between the real world and the ghost world. Still, it was a layer that was strong enough to stop the soundwaves from travelling through.

After the echoes from the knocking stopped, the scenario changed slightly. The stench grew more intense, and it was laced with the smell of alcohol.

Without warning, a man’s face suddenly appeared at the stairwell of the second floor. He was like a blob of boneless mud. His arm was joined to the alcohol bottle as if the bottle grew from his flesh. He slid his bulbous body toward Chen Ge.

### **Chapter 1002: Absurd World Made from Memories**

“He is a literal representation of ‘as drunk as a pile of mud’.” Chen Ge stared at the slowly approaching monster. He pressed on the recorder and called Xu Yin’s name. To his surprise, Xu Yin did not show up, but the whole apartment started to bleed, and small cracks appeared on the wall. After communicating with Xu Yin, Chen Ge found that he was stopped by some unknown force. He was trying to break through it, but he needed some time.

“When I entered the door behind the underground morgue, I ran into the same situation, but this place is no match at all for Doctor Gao’s underground morgue.” Placing the recorder back in his bag, Chen Ge took out the hammer and stood in the corridor. “There is no need to run and hide.”

The scary-looking hammer grated on the peeling wall. When the monster got close enough, he aimed right at the monster’s arm. The bottle that grew out of the arm shattered, the glass shards flew everywhere, and some embedded into the monster’s body.

“Can we communicate?”

The monster could not feel pain. Even though his arm was broken, he moved faster. After he got close to Chen Ge, he reached out his other arm to grab Chen Ge’s head, trying to slam into Chen Ge.

“Looks like the thing is not sentient.”

Holding the hammer with both hands, Chen Ge swung it vertically on the monster’s chin. The already malformed head was almost blown off the rest of its body. It was attached to the neck by a thin layer of flesh. The smell of alcohol thickened. After the monster was injured, it became uglier and more aggressive. While Chen Ge was contemplating how to deal with this monster, he felt a chill coming from behind him. He turned his head slowly.

The rental doors on the side had been opened, and several twisted looking monsters appeared silently behind Chen Ge. They were very close to him!

“The original tenants behind the door will not make any sound no matter what happens. They can hear me, but I can’t hear them.” He thought about it and realized that was exactly what Jiang Ming was experiencing. He was deaf, so no matter what other people said, he could not hear them, but if he made any sound, the people around him would react to him immediately. “So, I am taking Jiang Ming’s perspective in this world?”

This was the first time that Chen Ge had encountered such a strange world behind the door. He felt troubled. The enemies could approach him silently, and they were hard to kill, but if he made the smallest sound, the enemies could hear him.

“I’ll deal with this one before me first.” After the drunkard was injured, his face had become as red as blood, and thick capillaries had puffed up on his face. He became more violent. The arm attached to the bottle waved around, and Chen Ge realized that the arm would join itself to whatever it came in contact with.

“The world behind the door is weaved from Jiang Ming’s memory, so this man should be an important character in his memory. A violent drunkard that exploded when resisted and would grab anything nearby to start attacking.” Chen Ge looked at the drunkard and stared into that ugly face. “This is such a horrible human being!”

Raising the hammer, Chen Ge aimed it heavily at the monster’s head. The hammer sank into the monster’s shoulder, and he gave him another kick. Chen Ge gave no chance for the monster to react. He hit him repeatedly. “If he can still stand up after this, I’ll have to consider something else.”

The drunkard collapsed on the ground. His face became redder like it was about to explode, and his body was still expanding. “If this drunkard is the boy’s father, then in the young boy’s memory, his father was someone unbeatable and unshakeable.”

Chen Ge turned back to look. The neighbors all looked strange with twisted appearances. Their ears and mouths were comically enormous. Depending on the boy’s memory of them, each of them had a special trait that separated them apart from the rest. One reeked of cheap perfume, while another had short limbs and a round belly. These neighbors were distinct from each other, but their reaction when they saw Chen Ge fight with the drunkard was surprisingly similar. They stood at their doors, peeling their ears to listen and whispering to each other. They would only turn Chen Ge’s way when Chen Ge made some noise. If Chen Ge kept quiet, they appeared too lazy to give him any attention.

“I wonder if these neighbors can be killed.” Being stared at by the group of monsters, Chen Ge felt pressure. The scariest part about the scenario was that he could not hear the sound of these monsters approaching. He could turn around to a wall of faces looking at him. “I can’t hear their voices. This world is too quiet for me.”

The drunkard was most likely Jiang Ming’s biological father. He was very hard to kill, but the neighbors might be different. Chen Ge’s plan was to first kill the drunkard and then massacre the rest of the neighbors before he could explore the rest of the place in peace. The plan was simple and direct.

He raised the hammer and entered the room that was closest to him. Inside was a middle-aged man wearing a tank top. His limbs appeared to have atrophied; they were at least half the size of normal limbs. In contrast, his belly was bulging, filled with fat. There was a thin, wiry old woman in the room as

well. The old woman wandered around the room as if possessed, cleaning this and that. There were several plastic tubes that were stuck into her body, and the tubes were joined to some medicine bottles that were collected in a dirty corner of the room.

A kipper[1]?

The memory world of Jiang Ming was different from a real adult world. It was absurd and strange. Chen Ge could not be sure that he had read this situation correctly. The neighbors were monsters born out of his twisted memory, so Chen Ge did not need to hold back. The hammer slammed heavily. The injured middle-aged man crawled into the room. He grabbed the plastic tubes that were originally placed in the medicine bottles and started to suck. The old woman who bustled in the room shrank before Chen Ge's eyes. After a while, the man stood up again. He waved his short limbs as if taunting Chen Ge.

These things can't be killed, or at least, the hammer is not strong enough to kill them.

The drunkard had almost fully recovered, and he was becoming more aggressive than before. Chen Ge hammered the man several more times before he leaped over the drunkard and headed to the second floor. After learning from his previous lesson, this time, he moved quietly and did not make any noise.

I'll hide for now.

Chen Ge entered the toilet on the second floor. He sneaked into it and contacted Xu Yin through the recorder. After communicating, Chen Ge found out that this world behind the door was very unstable. It required the power of five Red Specters to tear down the boy's memory, and then he would be able to escape. However, Chen Ge would not do that unless necessary because the ruination of the memory might cause irreparable damage to the boy.

[1] Kipper is an acronym for "kids in parents' pockets eroding retirement savings".

### **Chapter 1003: I Can Hear Your Voice**

Chen Ge calmed down after knowing how to escape. The door is slowly approaching the boy. When a Red Specter appears, it will make some noise to remind the boy. No matter how you look at it, the door has no malicious intent toward the boy.

Scratching his chin, Chen Ge thought, Something inside the door wishes to come out but I didn't see such a creature when I am inside here, has they gone into hiding?

The thing inside the door didn't want to harm Jiang Ming so it wouldn't be the monsters radiating evil.

Perhaps this is the place Jiang Ming lost his hearing. Chen Ge remembered the mission message on the black phone. The ghost fetus' mission is a life and death game of hide and seek. Am I suppose to enter the door to find the thing the ghost fetus has hidden? This could be my first direct challenge toward the ghost fetus.

That seemed possible. He took out the black phone and wanted to check the mission details again when footsteps came from the second-floor corridor. They were very light footsteps. It sounded like a child walking on their tiptoes. If not for Ghost Ear, Chen Ge would not have heard it.

Someone is passing by? This thought entered Chen Ge's mind, and he widened his eyes. Impossible! The monsters formed from memory will not make any sound—I experimented with that earlier!

Since he was deaf, Jiang Ming could not hear the world, but he could hear the sound in his own heart. The world behind the door was made from his memories. The only person who could make any noise there, other than outsiders like Chen Ge, was Jiang Ming himself!

After Chen Ge opened the cubicle door, he found that there was no one in the toilet. He carried the hammer and the backpack as he left the toilet. He saw a group of children standing in the corridor. The children wore clothes that were much cleaner than the neighbors'. They were holding some toys as if in the middle of some interesting game.

Is Jiang Ming among them?

Chen Ge slowly approached them with the hammer. Before he arrived, the children noticed Chen Ge. The children looked friendly, and their clothes were pretty and clean, but their appearance was something else. They had exceptionally large eyes, and their mouths grew wide like they were all trying to mimic the Joker. The leading boy pointed at Chen Ge and then pulled on his ears. The surrounding children started to laugh. From Chen Ge's perspective, he could not hear any sound, and he could not hear the children's laughter, but he could see their ugly expressions.

These kids are making fun of me.

His eyes narrowed, Chen Ge observed closely. Through the children's moving lips, he got the gist of what they were saying. They were mocking Chen Ge for his stupidity because he was different from them. They said that his deafness was infectious and that those who played with him would become deaf.

Looks like Jiang Ming is not among them. A deaf person would not laugh along to these 'jokes'.

Chen Ge raised the hammer, but he did not attack the children.

It's meaningless to injure these kids. After I leave this world, I will go back to the real life to teach a lesson and have them come to apologize to Jiang Ming.

The neighbors were impossible to communicate with, and Chen Ge believed that it was because Jiang Ming was just a child and did not have that much interaction with adults. However, it would be different with people his age. Jiang Ming clearly remembered the mocking and jabs these kids made at him. They seemed to have played together often, so Chen Ge believed that he could find clues on Jiang Ming from these kids. He squatted down and tried to gesture with his hands, attempting to communicate with the kids without making any noise.

Chen Ge did not wish to make things so complicated, but if he made any noise, the drunkard would chase after him. Chen Ge did not want to deal with him, so he had to do this. Even after gesturing for a long time, the kids did not give Chen Ge any information. It was as if all they could do was humiliate and mock, gaining their reason for existing from that.

Just as Chen Ge prepared to give up, one of the children suggested a game, and Chen Ge volunteered to join. The leading boy was 'kind' enough to gesture at Chen Ge, saying that they wanted to play hide and seek. They would use rock-paper-scissors to decide who the seeker would be. All the children played paper, and only Chen Ge played rock. The children had obviously discussed this beforehand. They wanted to make fun of Chen Ge. They split up and started to hide, leaving Chen Ge alone in the corridor.

“These rascals, after I catch you, I will...” Chen Ge could not stop himself from grumbling, but he quickly caught himself. He looked around, and thankfully, no monster appeared.

I’ve gotten used to talking. It’s so hard to get used to when I need to suddenly keep quiet.

Carrying his backpack, Chen Ge was about to move forward when he heard some movement. It sounded like someone had accidentally knocked into a chair. The sound came from the direction where Chen Ge had heard the footsteps earlier.

Jiang Ming?

Chen Ge slowly walked down the corridor. He realized that one of the rooms was not locked. Pushing the door lightly open, there was a lot of Shui Horsetail Embroidery that was unique to Jiujiang in the room. Horsetail embroidery was a culture heritage going obsolete, so Chen Ge did not expect to run into so much of it there. Many colorful fabrics, knitting needles of varying lengths, and colorful threads were left on the table. The whole apartment building had a dim color palette, but this room was sunny and bright.

The bamboo chair is not by the table. Someone probably knocked into it earlier.

Chen Ge closed the door and looked around. The room was not big; there should be a senior living there because there was a pair of reading glasses among the knitting stuff and a walking stick leaning against the bed. The table was placed in the middle of the room, and there were two bamboo chairs around it, so there should be two people working there. The bedside table had an old man’s black and white picture. Underneath the frame was a eulogy.

“The tenant should be an old lady. This is her living space and her working space.” Chen Ge took a stroll around the room, but he did not see the tenant. “This room is bright and colorful, completely different from the other rooms. This place should be special to Jiang Ming. He feels warmth here.”

The tenant of this place must have been nice to Jiang Ming, but the problem was Chen Ge could not find this mysterious tenant. Chen Ge did not want to give up like that. When he conducted a second search, he heard some noise coming from the bedroom closet. Silently getting close to it, Chen Ge yanked the door open. A faded scent of mildew drifted into his nose. Chen Ge saw a boy about four or five hiding inside the closet. The boy was curled up in the corner. He was different from the others behind the door. The proportions of his face and body were normal.

“Jiang Ming?” Chen Ge asked softly. Hearing Chen Ge’s voice, the boy’s face took on an impossible expression. In this soundless world, someone had called his name!

After a temporarily pause, Jiang Ming recovered, and he nodded heavily!

The boy was not born deaf. In his memory, there is the impression of sound, so what happened to him?

Chen Ge knelt down beside the closet and started to study the young boy before him.

#### **Chapter 1004: Boy Looking for Snail**

Clothes and shoes that were one size bigger than he needed, a dirtied face, and clear eyes that were filled with shock. The child hid behind the old lady’s clothes, showing only half of his face.

“You can hear my voice?” Chen Ge put down the backpack and reached out lightly toward the boy. “Do not be afraid. I will not hurt you.”

The boy who hid at the back of the closet behind the clothes looked at Chen Ge cautiously. He stared at Chen Ge’s hand like it was a foreign object and hesitated for a long time before giving him his hand. The chilling small hand slipped into Chen Ge’s palm. The warmth that he had not felt for a long time caused the boy’s eyes to slowly widen.

“Have you been here for a long time?” Chen Ge pointed at his feet. He wanted to ask whether the small boy had been staying behind the door, but the boy seemed to misunderstand him. He waved his hands and started to gesture wildly. After Chen Ge studied him for a long time, he finally understood that the boy was in the middle of playing hide and seek with the rest of the children. He was hiding there because, well, he was hiding from those who were going to capture him.

Seeing the boy who tried his best to communicate with Chen Ge, the latter shook his head lightly. The other children did not play to find him at all; they were probably pranking him all along. He had been so serious, hiding inside the closet, but in the end, the one who would open the closet doors to find him would most likely not be the other children but the original tenant of this place calling him to come out for food.

“Have you considered making more friends? Have you ever wondered what life’s like beyond the window? Have you ever had the urge to see outside the world?” Chen Ge had found the key person behind the door—Jiang Ming—but there was one question that boggled his mind. What was the relationship between this Jiang Ming and the other Jiang Ming in real life? This Jiang Ming inside the door might represent the hearing that the Jiang Ming outside the door had lost, but the chance of that was not high. Combining all the clues and signs, the door would only show up when Jiang Ming outside the door was soundly asleep, so this Jiang Ming inside the door probably represented the actual consciousness of Jiang Ming.

In this world constructed from his memories, every movement and character somehow correlates to the real life. Jiang Ming wishes to play with his friends, and he hides in the room that gives him the most warmth. This should be the most beautiful and treasured memory that he has.

Chen Ge wanted to say something else, but Jiang Ming’s eyes suddenly changed. They turned from shock to terror in an instant, and tears were practically flowing out of his eyes.

He’s looking behind me!

The smell of alcohol crawled into his nostrils. Without saying a second word, Chen Ge lunged forward, grabbed the boy, and rolled to the side. The alcohol bottle slammed into the closet wall. The glass bottle shattered everywhere, but it did not make a sound. The thick blood vessels bulging on his face, the drunkard monster had entered the room. He had probably heard Chen Ge talking.

This thing sure is stubborn, and the most troublesome thing is that it is impossible to kill.

Chen Ge held the Doctor Skull Cracker’s Hammer with one hand and carried the boy in his other arm. The boy was shocked. He was like a kitten who was tortured, and his body was shaking nonstop from fear.



The fear toward his drunk father is deeply embedded in his heart. It is this fear that keeps on providing power to the drunkard monster, making him stronger and stronger.

A plan started to form in Chen Ge's mind.

If I can help the boy overcome his fear and use actual actions to tell him that his drunk father is not unbeatable, things might look up for the boy.

That was easier said than done. To change a memory that deeply inserted in one's mind was too hard.

"Jiang Ming, please do not be afraid. As long as I am here, I will not allow anyone to hurt you." Chen Ge placed the boy on the chair, and he gripped the hammer with both of his hands tightly.

With the rate at which he is gaining strength, I can kill him with my hammer at least ten more times.

With all the preparation done, Chen Ge was about to make his move when the door of the room was opened from the outside. An old lady with a head of peppery hair walked into the room while holding a bowl of noodles. The old lady had a hunchback, and she looked at least seventy years old. The expression on her face was one of genuine kindness, but when she saw the drunkard monster, her expression shifted immediately. She put down the bowl of noodles, grabbed the cane that was leaning against the bedside, and slammed it repeatedly on the monster.

The scary and horrifying drunkard monster started to panic when he saw the old lady. For some reason, he looked like he was afraid of this fragile-looking senior. The drunkard monster did not feel pain when Chen Ge smashed his head in with the hammer, but after being slapped several times by the old lady's cane, he could not stand it anymore and quickly slithered out of the room. The old lady briefly chased after him, brandishing the cane, before she returned to her room.

She closed the door of her apartment angrily. Then she walked into the bedroom, came to the boy's side, and caressed the side of Jiang Ming's face lovingly. The old lady had Jiang Ming come to the table to have dinner. She served him the noodles that she had just made. They were piping hot, and they looked mouth-wateringly delicious. Jiang Ming ran over to have his dinner. The old lady then turned her focus to Chen Ge. The surprise in her eyes was no less than that of Jiang Ming.

"Granny, can you hear me?"

The old lady nodded.

"You still have your senses with you? We can communicate? It will work even without an actual conversation!" Chen Ge took out the ballpoint pen that was taped together from his pocket and then removed the comic from his backpack. He had all the stationary ready. Studying Chen Ge, the old woman said something, but Chen Ge could not hear her voice at all. She pushed away the ballpoint pen that Chen Ge offered her and turned to walk toward the living room. Staring at her back, Chen Ge suddenly realized. This old lady was different from the other characters behind the door.

Her body was faded like she could disappear at any moment. Most importantly, Chen Ge sensed a chill from her body. Using his Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge realized that this old lady did not appear to be the product of Jiang Ming's memory. She was an actual lingering spirit that was about to disperse at any moment!

Without an object of possession, a lingering spirit could only exist for a limited time in the world. The rule was the same even if one was behind the door. Even though the old lady's memory had overlapped with Jiang Ming's, granting her more time in this world, that was all. It would not allow her to survive forever. One day, she would still disappear. When that happened, the old lady behind the door would be formed from Jiang Ming's memory completely. Perhaps she would still protect Jiang Ming behind the door and make delicious noodles for him, but she would not be the same kind old lady anymore. It would only be a mirage that Jiang Ming had made to console himself.

Chen Ge was getting more and more intrigued by the truth. He walked to the old lady's side. She was taking out a pen and some paper from the drawer, and she started to write on it. With every character that she wrote, her body would become less real. When the old lady finished writing, she handed the paper over to Chen Ge. It had a short sentence written on it.

'Be careful of the snail.'

"The snail?" Chen Ge had entered the door many times, and he could be considered to have gained a great understanding of the world behind the door. The scariest thing in this place was a Red Specter, and something scarier than one of those would be a Demon God, but the old lady warned him of a snail?

"The snail is even scarier than that drunkard that you can't kill no matter what?" Chen Ge asked in a whisper, and the old lady nodded.

"I get it now, but how are we supposed to get out of this place?" Hearing Chen Ge's voice, the old lady placed her finger on her lips, signaling for Chen Ge to lower his voice, and then pointed at the character snail on the paper.

Is the way to leave also on the snail? Is this snail the nickname of some Specter, or does it represent something else completely?

Chen Ge was still thinking when Jiang Ming finished the bowl of noodles. He carried the empty bowl and stood up from the table. It seemed like he was going into the kitchen to wash the dishes. He was stopped by the old lady. The old lady ruffled Jiang Ming's hair kindly and then used her apron to wipe Jiang Ming's lips clean. Then she stood before Jiang Ming and pointed at Chen Ge. Jiang Ming understood her immediately. He grabbed Chen Ge by his hand and very happily pulled him out of the room.

"Where are we going?" Chen Ge knew that the old lady did not mean him harm. From what she did earlier, she had probably told Jiang Ming to take Chen Ge to do something important. When Jiang Ming heard Chen Ge's voice, a very innocent smile appeared on his face. He quietly slid his hand into his pocket like he was eager to share his secret with another person.

Moments later, Jiang Ming took out the shell of a snail from inside his pocket.

He cupped the shell of the snail carefully in his palms like it was the most important treasure to him in this world.

**Chapter 1005: Waking Up from the Nightmare [2 in 1]**

“A snail? The old lady just warned me to be careful of the snail, so why would Jiang Ming have the shell of a snail inside his pocket?” Chen Ge was confused by this development, but he was certain that the old lady would not harm Jiang Ming.

Putting the shell carefully back into his pocket, Jiang Ming led Chen Ge out of the old lady’s room by pulling his hand. The child led Chen Ge all over the rental apartment. They visited the rooftop, the storage room where the tenants kept their barrels of gas, and a toilet cubicle that was filled with trash. Whenever he came across a snail, Jiang Ming would be overjoyed.

Chen Ge had no idea why Jiang Ming was so adamant about searching for snails, but he saw how serious Jiang Ming was, and he did not have the heart to stop him. He accompanied Jiang Ming silently. They ran all over the apartment, but in total, they only found four snails. Jiang Ming placed all of them inside his own pocket, then he grabbed Chen Ge’s hand and ran to the ground floor. As long as they did not make any sound, those strange neighbors would not come out. After being given a beating by the old lady, even Jiang Ming’s father had disappeared from their view.

“Are you going home now?” Jiang Ming nodded happily. He led Chen Ge to the rental room with the wooden sign hanging by the door and reached out to pull on the string that was attached to the lamp. The lights inside the room flickered a few times, and then the door of the room was opened. A slender woman with pale ‘skin’ appeared behind the door.

Seeing Jiang Ming arrive home safely, she had a warm and kind smile on her face. But when she saw Chen Ge, a flash of panic crossed her eyes. She was probably afraid that a stranger had suddenly appeared on her doorstep. The woman used sign language to communicate with Chen Ge. From that, Chen Ge believed she was a deaf and mute person, too. Chen Ge was not familiar with sign language, so all he could do was to smile and ensure that he did not look threatening to the woman.

The house door slowly opened. Jiang Ming excitedly ran into the woman’s embrace. He took out the snails one by one from his pocket like he was showing them off to the woman. The woman touched the boy’s head with a kind smile on her face. She watched quietly as Jiang Ming ran through his findings happily.

This should be Jiang Ming’s mother.

After entering the room, Chen Ge closed the door. Seeing the homely situation before him, Chen Ge felt himself being cordoned off from it. The woman’s face was not different from a normal person’s, but her body was covered with patches. Viewed from a distance, Jiang Ming’s mother was like a rag doll. Of her entire body, only her hands that she needed to work and her face did not have cloth patches on them. The other parts of her body had been patched up by threads and scraps of fabric, and her skin was like a coat that had been patched up many times. Chen Ge could not even begin to fathom what the woman had been through to appear in this manner in Jiang Ming’s memory.

The woman continued to sign, and she appeared to be complimenting Jiang Ming, but the happy atmosphere soon disappeared. The light by the door lit up again. The doll mother and young Jiang Ming turned to the door. Finally, it was Jiang Ming’s mother who walked to the door and pulled the door open. The stinging smell of alcohol drifted into the room, and the ugly grimace of the drunkard monster appeared at the door.

The mud-like body slammed against the door. The arm that had the bottle attached to it pointed at Chen Ge while the monster glared viciously at the rag doll woman. The woman signed, but the drunkard had lost his patience a long time ago and pushed her angrily away.

Seeing the drunkard return home, Jiang Ming took out the snails from his pocket and jogged toward the drunkard. He held the snails in both hands and tried to show them to the drunkard, but before he could even extend his arms, the drunkard monster smacked Jiang Ming on his shoulder and knocked his own son off balance. The snails fell to the ground, and the drunkard monster stomped on them angrily until they disintegrated into dust. These were the snails that Jiang Ming had tried his best to find all over the apartment.

The drunkard monster stared at the shattered shell on the ground, and his face turned redder. The blood capillaries bulged on his face, and he became ever angrier. The anger needed to find a vent to unleash. He flipped over the small table in the living room. The glass cup was about to cut Jiang Ming, but thankfully, the rag doll woman ran to shield Jiang Ming from being injured. The scalding water splashed to the ground, and part of it splashed onto the drunkard monster. His face was burning red. He grabbed the rag doll woman by her hair and pressed her to the ground.

After the woman was slammed into the ground, her first reaction was to wave her hand at Jiang Ming for him to go and hide inside another room. The drunkard monster dragged the woman by her doll legs, and the arm that had the alcohol bottle growing out of it slammed down on her repeatedly. The boy stood frozen in the corner of the living room that now looked like a scene from a battlefield. He had no idea where he had done wrong. The snails lay shattered on the ground, and his rag doll mother had her life beaten out of her. His shoulders were shaking from fear. He had no idea whom he could request help from. He looked at his own mother who was in pain; he wanted to help her, but he was powerless. He did not even know how to speak.

“Don’t be afraid.” Chen Ge patted Jiang Ming’s shoulders that were shivering. “I will help you.”

Chen Ge leaped into the air and kicked at the drunkard monster. After separating the monster from the rag doll woman, he waved the hammer and slammed it right onto the drunkard monster’s shoulder.

BANG!

The drunkard monster slammed into the door. Chen Ge did not give the monster the chance to counter and continued to press on with his aggression.

“Jiang Ming, look at this. He is not invincible. He is just a weak coward. There is no reason for you to be afraid of him!”

The drunkard monster’s body was rapidly recovering. His arm grew to envelope the furniture inside the room, and the expression on his face was getting grimmer and grimmer.

“I will lure him into the next room. After he follows me, you have to run out of here as soon as possible!”

To give Jiang Ming and the rag doll woman more time to escape, Chen Ge could only attack the drunkard monster again and again. Every time he was knocked down, the drunkard monster would turn uglier and uglier. His body kept on expanding. His back was stuck to the wall, and his body slowly joined with the

rest of the room. In Jiang Ming's memory, the keywords 'home' and 'father' were closely joined together, so Chen Ge was not surprised that something like this would happen. The only thing that worried him was that Jiang Ming and the rag doll woman had not escaped from the room.

Cracks appeared on the wall, and the ceiling started to peel down in great pieces. The ground was shaking. The light behind the door flickered several times before it suddenly went off. After the light blinked out, a horrible stench came from the ceiling of the room that was now submerged in darkness. The cracks on the ceiling were getting bigger and bigger. The drunkard monster's body was getting so large that his body was already touching the ceiling. At this moment, the roof of the room started to collapse.

The horrible stench pulled at his nostril like it was palpable. The thing that was crushing the room under its weight had decided to show itself!

Carrying a swirling exoskeletal shell, with a sticky body, a giant blood-red snail was crawling on the top of this home. An endless stream of negative emotions channeled into the drunkard monster's body. One of the smaller antennae of the giant snail peeled back a small opening to show a mouthful of countless teeth. A giant body reached out from inside the shell, and the blood red giant bit at Chen Ge.

A snail? Why would such a scary thing appear in Jiang Ming's dream?

Chen Ge retreated while he fended off the attack from the giant snail. After the latter showed itself, the world behind the door started to change. The walls of the apartment started to bleed, and the whole building shook like it might crumble at any moment.

"Go upstairs and find that old lady!" Chen Ge led Jiang Ming and the rag doll woman up the stairs. The neighbors who were no different from the monster started to become agitated with madness under the influence of the blood red snail. Initially, the feeling that this world gave Chen Ge was one of absurdity, like a picture that was randomly drawn by a very small child. But once the red snail appeared, the world became gorier and more chaotic, or in other words, it became more and more like an actual world behind the door. The trio went to the room where the old lady resided. Chen Ge knocked on the door heavily and repeatedly.

"Granny, I will take you and Jiang Ming away from this place! I already know how to escape!" The door opened soon after. The old lady stood at the door with the support of her cane. She saw the crazed neighbors and the blood red snail that was crawling this way.

"Your spirit is still lingering around, and that means there is something tying you to this world. You should not stay here; come away with us." Chen Ge had already made his decision as he took out the comic. The old lady hesitated. She opened her lips to say something, but Chen Ge could not hear her voice at all.

"I will take that as a yes." Chen Ge turned around to guard the old lady, Jiang Ming, and his mother behind him. He stared at the blood red snail that was slowly crawling toward them. "This snail is the real culprit that has literally crushed Jiang Ming's family under its weight. It is also the representation of all the negative emotions and misfortunes in Jiang Ming's mind. If I can destroy this thing, Jiang Ming might not be confused or scared by it anymore."

Pressing the play button on the recorder, Chen Ge called softly, "Xu Yin!"

Blood red trails started to expand with Chen Ge as the center. The blood red snail sensed the presence of a threat. All the crazed neighbors started to run to gather around it.

“Five Red Specters are enough to destroy this incomplete scenario, so the additional Red Specters can be used to help maintain the basic structure of this scenario.”

Flipping through the comic, more and more blood trails appeared on the walls, ground, and ceiling around Chen Ge. They carried incredibly high hostility, and they spread to cover the entire scenario in record time. The blood red snail had stopped moving. It sensed a threat that it had not faced ever before, but Chen Ge’s hand that was still flipping through the comic did not stop.

More and more blood vessels appeared. They seemed to pull a curtain over the world behind Jiang Ming’s door. Finally, at a tipping point, the threshold was broken through, and the heavy scent of blood rushed forward like a wave of the blood ocean!

One red figure after another appeared beside Chen Ge. Their clothes were as red as blood. Without Chen Ge saying anything, the Red Specters were like sharks that sensed blood in the water. They jumped at the blood red snail. Being cornered by several Red Specters, the snail’s hardy shell was broken, and then Chen Ge was given a view of something ghastly.

At the deepest part of the snail flesh, there was a baby face whose eyes were closed!

The face was similar to the face that he had seen inside the shadow’s body in Li Wan City. It was how the ghost fetus looked when he was an infant!

“The ghost fetus?” The baby’s eyes slowly opened, and pure evil was dancing in his eyes. A shrill laugh echoed throughout the world. The flesh of the giant red snail imploded. The baby’s face dissolved into a puddle of dirty blood, and what remained of the giant snail was a wooden toy.

“Looks like the ghost fetus is not hiding inside Jiang Ming.” Even though he had not found the ghost fetus, at least he had managed to decrease one possibility. Chen Ge walked to the carcass of the blood red snail and picked up the toy off the ground. He had impression of this toy. It was a gift that had been given to him by his father when he was young, but one day, it had suddenly disappeared. “Was it stolen by the shadow?”

After the snail exploded, the world behind Jiang Ming’s door started to vibrate violently. The strange-looking neighbors started to disappear one after another, and the basis of this world was shaken to its core. Chen Ge had the other Red Specters temporarily stabilize this unravelling world while he walked to the old lady and Jiang Ming. “It is time to say goodbye to this pain. I will take you away from here.”

Flipping open the comic, Chen Ge wanted to pull the old lady and Jiang Ming into it, but Jiang Ming held onto the hands of the rag doll woman and refused to let go. The woman that only existed in Jiang Ming’s memory pushed Jiang Ming lightly but firmly away. She waved goodbye to Jiang Ming with a smile as her body became lighter and lighter until she completely disappeared.

“After we leave this place, I will take you to meet her in person. She must miss you greatly.”

Closing the comic, Chen Ge led Jiang Ming by the hand and walked down to the ground floor accompanied by a few Red Specters. The world was crumbling, and they opened the locked steel door. When Chen Ge walked out of the door, Jiang Ming, who was lying in bed in real life, opened his eyes. He

sat up in bed and saw Chen Ge, who was walking out from what appeared to be thin air. The door behind him collapsed completely. Chen Ge held the backpack with one hand and looked at Jiang Ming quietly. Jiang Ming, who sat in bed, did not make a sound. He did not cry or scream. He seemed to recognize Chen Ge.

“Just treat what happened earlier as a bad dream.” After the words slipped from his lips, Chen Ge realized that Jiang Ming would not be able to hear him. He took out a pen and paper and wrote down the word ‘mother’. “Sleep well tonight, and I will take you to find her tomorrow.”

Just in case Jiang Ming was not old enough to recognize Chinese characters, Chen Ge made gesture while he wrote. After some time, it finally sank in for Jiang Ming, and for the first time, he had a genuine smile on his face.

“Have a good sleep, good night.” Touching the boy’s head, Chen Ge flipped through the comic and released the old lady. “Granny, can you hear me now?”

The old lady’s eyes had been following Jiang Ming. Her body was almost transparent.

“There is a question that has been bugging me. Why would there be such a scary snail in the world behind Jiang Ming’s door? Has he been traumatized by a snail before, or was he pranked with a snail by other kids when he was young?” Chen Ge had many speculations, but none of them sounded applicable in this situation.

“The snail was just a symbol of something else. It is not a real snail.” There was a pain in the old lady’s voice. “Jiang Ming’s mother was born deaf and mute, and she was hated by her own family from a young age. After she reached the legal age, she was married off to Jiang Ming’s father for the dowry. Her family never did care about her in the first place. Then Jiang Ming was born. Even though he was not born with muteness and deafness, he had problems with his hearing. The doctor suggested for him to get a cochlear implant, but even the cheapest option costs several dozen thousand RMB, and the more expensive one goes up into the millions.

“The doctor said that the earlier the operation, the better, but Jiang Ming’s mother did not have that much money lying around. One should not even have hopes toward his father. Once Jiang Ming’s father found out that Jiang Ming was hearing-impaired, his attitude toward the mother and son had a huge transformation. He even thought about abandoning Jiang Ming, but thankfully, Jiang Ming’s mother stepped in every time.

“You saw what happened later. Jiang Ming’s mother came to me to learn the art of horsetail embroidery. She wanted to collect money to do the cochlear operation for her son. However, the boy’s father liked to drink and gamble. He would come back home and steal his wife’s hard-earned money, and eventually, he openly asked the money from her. If she refused, he would beat her up until she surrendered.

“Jiang Ming grew up in this kind of environment. Perhaps he was too young to understand what a cochlear implant was, but he knew from his mother and the doctor that the implant looked like a snail, and he probably made the connection in his mind that the snails would represent a hope to gain hearing in his world. He tried his best to collect all the snails that he could find because he was desperate to hear

from the others, but at the same time, it was also an undeniable fact that his family collapsed under the weight of that snail.”

After hearing the old lady’s story, Chen Ge finally understood the world in the boy’s eyes. There was the cruel truth hidden behind the absurdity.

“Granny, do you know where the boy’s parents currently live?”

“What do you plan to do?”

“I plan to teach the boy’s father how to be a man, and I wish to help the boy’s mother.” Chen Ge took out the wallet from his pocket. “If the situation allows it, I also wish to help Jiang Ming gain the ability to hear.”

“You wish to sponsor this boy’s surgery?”

“What’s wrong with that? I might not dress the part, but I am actually an entrepreneur.”

Chen Ge then opened the backpack and slid the hammer inside it.

### **Chapter 1006: Someone’s Been to My House**

“There is no need to prove yourself. A cochlear implant surgery will cost quite a lot for anyone.” The old lady smiled genially. She did not seem to believe Chen Ge. From his appearance, Chen Ge definitely did not look like an entrepreneur. An old backpack, normal clothes, and clothes that came from the night market at that. The most valuable thing that he had on him was probably the Doctor Skull Cracker’s Hammer that had the blood red groove.

“Don’t worry.” Chen Ge flipped through the comic. “Granny, why don’t you come with me for now? If you wish to see Jiang Ming in the future, I will bring you to come see him. Even though the boy still has the hearing impairment, he seems to be able to hear the voices from the other world. I cannot guarantee that he will retain that ability after the surgery, so before that, I’d prefer if you come to accompany him more often.”

“Okay, thank you, young man.” The old lady entered the comic. At the same time, the black phone in Chen Ge’s pocket vibrated. Chen Ge took out the phone, and there were two unread messages.

“You have completed 1/9 of the four-star trial mission, Ghost Fetus. The ghost fetus’ hearing is seriously impaired. Red Specters’ Favored, you do not have much time left!

“Congratulations Red Specters’ Favored for collecting the blessings of one hundred different Specters and spirits! You gained the special title ‘Votive Master’!

“Votive Master (Real salvation is not victory after a massacre but being able to offer peace in the heart and the energy of life within the torrents of despair): When one has this title, completing a Specter’s or spirit’s wishes will tremendously increase their affection toward you. At that same time, it will shear away part of their resentment.”

“I’ve gained a new title? Since when did I collect so many blessings? Could it be the students from the School of the Afterlife and Mu Yang High School?”



Titles were permanent, and their effects were constant. Sometimes, Chen Ge suspected that his constant encounters with the supernatural were due to his initial title of Specters' Favored. Putting the black phone away, Chen Ge waited until Jiang Ming had fallen asleep, then he slipped out from the room.

"I still need to find the mud statuette with Jiang Ming's name. It is probably on Jiang Jiu. The thing is useful to Zhang Ya, so I must get it somehow."

After leaving Jiang Ming's home, Chen Ge removed the gloves and plastic wrap from his feet. He ran down the stairs, avoided all the camera, and retraced his steps back to the streets. After he hopped over the wall, he turned back to look.

"I was not seen on the cameras, and I didn't leave behind any fingerprints or footprints. Even if Jiang Ming accidentally brings me up, they will not find any proof."

Taking out his phone, Chen Ge very openly video-called Jiang Ming, who had not returned home. The call was answered. In the video, Jiang Ming was driving, and he looked pissed. "Chen Ge? I don't think our relationship is close enough for you to call me so late at night."

"I am just outside your house. I have something that I need to discuss with you."

"Why are you at my place at 1 am? Have you lost your mind?" Jiang Ming appeared to be in a bad mood.

"He who is unjust is doomed to destruction. As I told you this morning, by placing the altar at the haunted house, you've attracted too many evil spirits and Specters. The first person they will harm is the one who set up the altar," Chen Ge said. "You have already been targeted. There is something hiding in your shadow, and it has been following you around."

"Stop trying to scare me."

"I am trying to save you."

The call was ended. Jiang Ming had hung up with impatience. Seeing the black screen, Chen Ge was not agitated. He stood at the gate, waiting for Jiang Ming. There was one last opening in this set up that he made, and that was Tong Tong, who was still in Jiang Ming's phone.

"Tong Tong has done a great job. I'll have to reward him." Chen Ge set up a new social account on his phone with a smile on his face. Half an hour later, Jiang Ming drove back to his residential area. Seeing him, Chen Ge carried his backpack and walked to the middle of the road to block his path.

"Are you seeking for death?" Jiang Ming honked several times, deeply annoyed. That night, he had driven from the city to Eastern Jiujiang, then to Western Jiujiang, but for nothing, and in the end, he was scolded unreasonably by Jiang Jiu.

"Remember how you are acting now. After some time, you will come and beg me." Chen Ge took out his phone. "The altar at your haunted house is deeply haunted. It is not housing any good spirits. I will warn you one last time. Remove it now, or you and your family will be drowned in misfortune."

"Move away!" Jiang Ming had had enough.

"I can't just stand here and watch you die. I will give you one last chance." Chen Ge opened his newly created account. The ID was Votive Master. "One night, if something strange happens at your house, contact this person immediately. He will come help you."

Chen Ge refused to budge until Jiang Ming added this account as a friend so that the latter had no choice but to take out his phone.

"Now, are you satisfied?"

Narrowing his gaze, Chen Ge saw Tong Tong crawl back into his own phone and then nodded. "Karma is always watching, take care of yourself."

Putting away the phone, Chen Ge carried the backpack and jogged away because he was afraid that he might start laughing if he stayed there.

"Jiang Ming can be removed from the list, and the ghost fetus's power has been greatly reduced. This is a good night." Chen Ge walked on the quiet street for a few minutes. It was as if he was the only person in the whole city. The feeling was relaxing. "After tonight, I still have six nights left. That should be enough time."

After leaving Jiang Ming's world, Chen Ge was not that worried. He reached into his backpack and took out the wooden toy that he had lost years prior.

"I still remember this toy, so the shadow probably remembers it as well." An image appeared in his mind of the shadow standing behind him, watching while he was playing with the toy. "Has he wanted to kill me since way back then?"

Chen Ge put the toy away. He had a feeling that he might have a use for it later. He had just zipped up his backpack when his phone rang. He saw the caller ID and noticed that it was from Jiang Ming.

### **Chapter 1007: What Goes Up Must Comes Down [2 in 1]**

"How can I help you?" His goal had been achieved, and Tong Tong had returned, so Chen Ge had nothing to worry about.

"It's like this. I've considered what you said, and I feel like you might not be wrong."

"Why did your attitude suddenly change?"

"When I reached home and saw my son, he was reacting very strangely. He gestured for a long time before I understood him." Jiang Ming lowered his voice. "Someone has been to my home."

"See, I told you. Check under your bed, in the closet, and in the bathroom. Perhaps the person hasn't left." Chen Ge sounded serious, but his lips were curled upward.

"I have already taken a quick look around. There's no one in the house, and nothing is missing." Jiang Ming disliked talking to Chen Ge, but he had no other choice now but to ask for his opinion.

"It is not a good sign that you have nothing missing because that can only mean that the person came looking to claim a life." Chen Ge paused for a while like he was seriously considering this.

"Life?" Jiang Ming seemed to remember something. He sank into silence and did not speak.

“Sometimes, children can see things that we adults are not able to. That is all I will say on that topic. If you really run into any difficulty that you cannot solve, I suggest you go and contact that Votive Master. Be nice and ask him for help. He might be able to point you in the right direction.” Chen Ge hung up the call. He hailed a cab and returned to New Century Park.

Entering the underground scenario, Chen Ge summoned the group of doctors. “Are any of you familiar with a good and reputable ear doctor? One who knows how to do cochlear implant surgery?”

“I have a student that is a specialist in this field, but we have not met each other in a very long time.” Doctor Wei had taught many excellent students in his years of service in education. He gave Chen Ge another surprise. “But why would you suddenly want to know something like that?”

Chen Ge told them about Jiang Ming’s story—a drunkard father, a mother that was born mute and deaf. The doctors felt sorry for what had happened to Jiang Ming.

“My student should be working at a hospital somewhere in Xin Hai. He is one of the best in the field. You can call his hospital to book an appointment with him.”

“Elder Wei, with our relationship, do we still need to book an appointment? Can’t you just go to his dreams and ask him for a favor tonight?” Chen Ge knew how to get what he wanted from Doctor Wei, so he quickly added, “The boy is in such a poor condition, and he is being targeted by a Demon God, so I plan to use my own money to help sponsor his surgery. However, I am sure you know how expensive this cochlear implant surgery is. I do not come from a rich family. I am already in my twenties, but I have no car and no house. I still need to sleep every night at the haunted house. If anyone ever heard about this, I’d be the joke of the century.”

Chen Ge rubbed his eyes that were brimming red with tears. “These past few months, I have been saving money because I wanted to buy a motorbike for myself, but due to this sudden accident, my already financially-strained life will be more difficult in the foreseeable future...”

“Enough, enough, I will help you. Are you satisfied now?” Doctor Wei rubbed his temples. “It is not that easy to just jump into someone’s dreams. You can try to contact him first. Tell him my name. It was me who sponsored him during his first two years at medical school, so he will definitely help, but please do not go and scam the poor boy.”

“I promise!” After thanking Doctor Wei, Chen Ge returned to the staff breakroom. As his head landed on the pillow, he drifted off to dreamland. He had no time to waste. There were many important things waiting for him to complete the next day. Chen Ge woke up punctually at 7 am the next morning. After taking a cold shower, he put on an outfit that looked presentable. When his employees came to work, Chen Ge put on make-up for them in the dressing room while conducting a simple morning meeting.

After ensuring every scenario was working fine, Chen Ge grabbed his backpack and left New Century Park again. When he was inside the taxi, Chen Ge used this travelling time to call Lee Zheng to get the latest update on Jia Ming. Lee Zheng had gotten used to getting calls from Chen Ge. It had now become as consistent as him clocking into work. He told Chen Ge that the operation would be conducted that night, but he did not reveal the exact location and time to Chen Ge.

Chen Ge did not press. Actually, he had faith in the law enforcement of Jiujiang. Ten minutes later, Chen Ge arrived at his destination. It was an old, squat looking apartment building. This was the address that

had been given to him by the old lady, the place where Jiang Ming stayed before he was adopted by Jiang Jiu. When he arrived at this place, Chen Ge noticed something very interesting. This was where Fan Yu and his aunt had lived when he first encountered them. Chen Ge had been there several months earlier.

“The government has been intending to renovate the old part of the city, but the demolition was stopped halfway through. Looks like I have to pay attention to this place.”

After entering the alley, there was a faded stench that permeated the air. It was unclear whether it came from the underground sewer or one of the tenants. After walking for some time, Chen Ge came to the center of the old city. Jiang Ming’s family was staying in one of the flats there. He entered the stairwell. It felt as if the world behind the door had overlapped with the real world. Chen Ge felt like he had just visited to this place the previous night. The sound of an argument came from somewhere down the corridor. Chen Ge looked down that direction. He saw two ladies about thirty standing at the entrance of Jiang Ming’s home. They appeared to be workers from the apartment community. They were holding many forms with official-looking stamps on them.

“Ladies, what’s going on?” Chen Ge sidled over. He saw that the two women are wearing their working IDs. The one with curly hair had the surname Mei, and the elder one had the surname Lee.

“We are from the neighbor committee. We have received multiple reports of domestic violence from this family. The mother of the house is covered in bruises. We are here to take the woman away and bring her to the hospital for a medical check-up.” Ms. Lee used her body to block the door and refused to let the owner close the door.

“Is the mother home? Why doesn’t she come out and go away with you?”

“You have no idea how poor this woman is. She was born mute and deaf, and I believe that multiple beatings from her husband have stunted her mind. It was after we took the fact that the woman is unable to care for herself that we made the decision to forcibly take her away with us.” Ms. Mei started to help her partner. These women were truly angels of the society. They blocked the door and refused with brute force to let the man close the door from the inside.

“Looks like I have come to the right place.” Chen Ge reached out to press against the door and push very hard. The door was flung backward. Chen Ge followed behind the two ladies as they entered the room. The smell of alcohol hung in the air, empty bottles littered the room, and there were glass shards that needed to be cleaned up sitting on the ground. The tables and chairs were toppled over. The cushions of the couch were left on the ground. Something awful had just happened here earlier.

“Jiang Dawu! If you dare to stop me again, we will call the cops!” The two ladies were furious.

“Go ahead and call then! Who gave you the right to intervene into my family’s private business?” The man who spoke was bare-chested. He was bald and on the bigger side, tall and imposing.

“Those threats are not going to work on us. The neighborhood committee has gathered more than enough evidence. We are here today to save her. We will not leave until we take her away with us.”

“Take her away with you? That depends on whether she wants to leave with you or not!” The man picked up the cushions from the ground and placed them on the sofa. He grabbed a half-empty bottle of

beer and sat in the middle of the living room. The curtain that led to the kitchen was pulled back. A woman wearing a long-sleeved top, long pants, and an apron stood at the door to the kitchen. She wished to take one step out, but she hesitated. The two ladies walked toward her. They wished to pull her out, but the woman kept shaking her hands as if she was very afraid. Ms. Lee kept persuading her as she nudged the woman out of the kitchen. They were making their way through the living room when the man suddenly slammed the beer bottle against the table.

“What will happen when your son returns if you leave? Do you not want to see him anymore?” The man knew that the woman was deaf, so he tossed a clean little school bag at the woman. He glared at her and said, “I can send him away, so of course, I can bring him back.”

“Jesus, you are one horrible human being.” Chen Ge could not rein in his anger anymore. He walked to the middle of the living room, picked up the small school bag, patted it, and handed it to the woman. “Take her out of here. Let me talk to him.”

“You?” The two ladies accepted the help from Chen Ge, but before they left, they warned him, “The man has violent tendencies. You must be careful.”

“I will.” Chen Ge nodded. Seeing that Jiang Ming’s mother was still unwilling to leave, he knew that she was worried about Jiang Ming, so he took out the letter that he had prepared from his pocket and handed it to her. “Take a look at this.”

Chen Ge had written the letter when he was riding on the taxi. The content of the letter was that he planned to sponsor Jiang Ming’s cochlear implant surgery. After Jiang Ming’s mother read the content of the letter, the tears fell naturally out of her eyes. She wanted to thank Chen Ge, but she was stopped by him. “Leave here first.”

After the three ladies left, Chen Ge closed the door.

“Where the hell did you come from, and what was in the letter that you showed her?” The man grabbed the bottle, but he did not move from his spot.

“It is nothing important. I just persuaded her to divorce you and get away from a horrible man like you as fast as she can.” After Chen Ge said that, the man’s expression changed immediately, and the fire of wrath coursed through him.

“Divorce is impossible! Now get the hell out of my house!”

“There is no need to act so rashly.” Chen Ge took out a credit card from his wallet. “There is 150,000 on this card.”

“150,000 and you wish for me to divorce her? If you like her that much, you will understand that 150,000 is far from enough.” The man’s eyes had been following the card that Chen Ge was holding ever since he took it out.

“Looks like you have really never treated them as your family before. They were just objects for you to sell and trade to make money. In any case, you have misunderstood me. This 150,000 is for Jiang Ming’s cochlear implant surgery. It has nothing to do with you.” Chen Ge put away the card. He saw Jiang Dawu’s eyes trailing greedily along it. “You must be thinking about how you can convince me to give you the money that will help save Jiang Ming, mustn’t you?”

Even though his horrible thoughts had been exposed by Chen Ge, the man did not deny it. He tossed back a mouthful of the beer.

“Do you know? I was giving you one last chance earlier. If you’d shown the slightest bit of love toward Jiang Ming or your wife, this would not have happened.” Chen Ge pressed the play button on the recorder and took out a pair of red high heels and placed them on the table. Instantly, the color of blood filled the whole room. With the cooperation between Xu Yin and the red high heels, they shoved a pile of blood vessels that they had collected from the world behind Jiang Ming’s door right into Jiang Dawu’s mind. The blood vessels were filled with Jiang Ming’s feeling of helplessness and despair. They included his fear and many other negative emotions. The cherry on top was the curse from the red high heel.

“Jiang Dawu, you will experience what your child has been through.” The man who sat on the sofa clamped his hands over his ears like he had been possessed. It appeared like more than a handful of people were currently whispering into his ears. Seeing Jiang Dawu being tortured by this, Chen Ge showed no pity at all. What Jiang Dawu was experiencing was practically what he had put his own son through, so he merely got what he deserved. A tooth for a tooth as they said. “When you have atoned for your sins, perhaps the curse will end on its own.”

Chen Ge unsummoned Xu Yin and the red high heels. He shook his head lightly. “I do not have many days left in my life, and I am still going around helping people. Now that I think about it, I am such a noble person.”

#### **Chapter 1008: Votive Master**

The man hugged his head and screamed while Chen Ge turned around and pushed open the door. “Please come in and help me. I don’t know what came over him!”

The two ladies looked into the room and saw the large Jiang Dawu covering his ears, rolling on the ground.

“He was about to swing the bottle at me, but this suddenly happened. It gave me quite the shock.” Chen Ge walked to hide behind the two ladies. “You know that I was in there for less than a few minutes. Do you think this is some kind of scam to trick medical fees out of me?”

“With this man’s personality, that’s not impossible, but don’t worry, we can be your witnesses. We will not let him scam someone as kind-hearted as you.” Ms. Lee looked down on Jiang Dawu and hated him intensely. The two women stood to the side and observed. This was the first time that they had seen something like this.

“How about we call the ambulance? We can’t just allow him to do this. Everything should be cleared up when the doctor is here,” Chen Ge suggested.

“You are too kind. We should just ignore him and let him experience the pain for a while.” Ms. Mei had a sharp tongue but soft heart. After a while, she still called the emergency number. The ambulance carried Jiang Dawu away. Jiang Ming’s mother sidled up to Chen Ge with the letter. She kept gesturing something like she was trying to say something.

“Don’t worry.” Chen Ge knew that the woman would not hear him even if he spoke, so he asked for help from the ladies next to him. “Ms. Lee, actually, I knew about this family’s situation before I came. Can we find a private place to talk?”

“Sure.” The two ladies led Chen Ge and Jiang Ming’s mother back to the neighborhood watch’s headquarter. They found some stationary and placed them on the table.

“Please calm down. I will help you refresh your memory first.” Chen Ge picked up the pencil from the table and started to write. That was the only way the two could communicate with each other. “I know you are familiar with the art of horsetail embroidery. You can survive independently with this art. In fact, you used to make money using this skill. Do you still remember who taught you this skill?”

Seeing the words on the paper, Jiang Ming’s mother was shocked. She held the pencil, but she did not know what to write.

“You should remember the old lady living on the second floor above your flat. I am her relative. Before the old lady passed away, she worried about Jiang Ming the most. She had a soft place in her heart for that little guy.”

What Chen Ge wrote was the truth. Now that the old lady was inside his comic, she would live in his haunted house in the future, and thus, she was naturally his family. The mention of the old lady caused the mother’s emotions to get more agitated again. This was the second time that she teared up after meeting Chen Ge.

“The time of misfortune has passed. After this, you will enjoy a happy life with Jiang Ming.” Chen Ge turned to the two ladies. “The earlier the cochlear implant surgery is done, the better. I have prepared 150,000 and I will find the doctor as soon as possible. But I will be a bit busy the next few days, and I might need help from the neighborhood committee.”

“Just say the word, and we are ready to help. The neighbor and the women’s committee know about her family’s situation. We will help as much as we can.”

“Understood. At the end of the day, we only want the best for them.”

Chen Ge had no idea how much money was on his card. He had not taken account of his haunted house’s income from the past few months, but it would not be less than 200,000. After a few days, the mission for the ghost fetus would be over. If everything was successful, he would earn more money, but if there was a problem, it would not matter how much money sat in his card. Chen Ge was not a stingy person, but he wished to spend money on the right thing.

“Wait a moment.” Chen Ge took out his phone and called the number for a hospital in Xin Hai. After explaining the situation, he made an online appointment with the doctor recommended by Doctor Wei. The doctor’s name was Fang Zhiming. After getting Doctor Fang’s number, Chen Ge sat in the neighborhood’s committee’s headquarters and made the call several times, but no one answered. Just as he was about to give up, the call was finally pulled through.

“Is this Doctor Fang?” The other side of the phone was unusually quiet. He could not hear any sound. After a long time, a middle-aged man’s voice finally replied. “I am sorry, but I am temporarily not available for any appointments.”

"It's Wei Jiuqin who told me to find you." Chen Ge dropped Doctor Wei's name immediately.

"Who?"

"When you were studying at Jiujiang Medical University..."

"I'm asking who you are. My teacher passed many years ago. I was there to give him the send-off. You'd better not joke about something like this." Doctor Fang was angered, but from this, it showed that he still had a great deal of respect for Wei Jiuqin.

"Actually, Doctor Wei was my relative. He admired you a lot and often mentioned you to me." Chen Ge said something that only Doctor Wei and Fang Zhiming would know, and only then did the latter start to believe Chen Ge.

"I think I get what is going on already, but for now, I am unable to help the boy do the operation." Fang Zhiming sounded increasingly tired. "Lately, I have been spacing out at work, and some time ago, there was a medical incident. Currently, I am in no position to conduct surgery. I still need some time to recuperate."

"What happened to you?" Chen Ge could hear the lethargy in Fang Zhiming's voice like it drained him even to speak.

"Actually, it was nothing serious. Previously, the hospital was renovating an old sector. I found a letter in the old storeroom. I opened it out of curiosity, and the letter told to go to some abandoned hospital in the middle of the night. If I refused, I would have hell to pay. Never mind, why am I telling you this?"

"It's fine. Perhaps I can give you a good suggestion. Even if I can't help you, it is better to share this with others than to have it cooped up inside you." Chen Ge's interest was piqued.

"The letter was probably some prank from a patient. I did not think too much of it, but later, I kept having this recurring nightmare. I dreamed about this smiling person." Fang Zhiming sighed. "The man stood under my building every night at the same position, staring at my window."

"A smiling person?" Instantly the term 'non-smiler' appeared in Chen Ge's mind.

"Initially, I thought it was because of work pressure getting to me. But one night, I woke up in the middle of the night and saw the curtain fluttering. I climbed out of bed, attempting to close the window, and when I was by the window, I saw that there was this man with his giant grin standing under my building, just like the scenario from my dream!"

"Are you being followed by some strange admirer?"

"I have no clue, but that man only appeared once and never showed up after that. But my work and life have both been seriously affected. My mind keeps wander to this issue." Fang Zhiming was in a bad spot. "You are my beloved teacher's relative, but in my condition, I really cannot help you. However, I can recommend other good doctors to you. Bring the boy over as soon as you can. The earlier the cochlear implant surgery is done, the better."

"Doctor Fang, I will bring the boy over as soon as I can, but other than that, I have run into the situation that you mentioned earlier." Chen Ge lowered his voice. "Certain things cannot be explained so openly."



Trust me this time. I will recommend a contact of mine. He is a good friend of Doctor Wei's. If you feel like you have reached your breaking point, you need to contact him."

"My teacher's friend?"

"When you communicate with him, you have to remember one thing. Do not hide anything from him. Only by telling him everything you know will he be able to help you." Chen Ge sent the man his other social account. "I do not know that man's real name, but Doctor Wei called him the Votive Master."

### **Chapter 1009: Wu Jinpeng**

If it was Chen Ge who asked for more details, Fang Zhiming might clam up due to certain reasons, but if the person was Doctor Wei's friend, the situation might be different. Fang Zhiming had true respect for Doctor Wei. When he was truly cornered, he would choose to believe in Doctor Wei's friend. From what Chen Ge heard, Fang Zhiming had probably gotten tied up with that cursed hospital. The appearance of a non-smiler was an obvious clue. But he had no ability and no time to help, so he could only use this kind of method.

Chen Ge gave Fang Zhiming his other social account information, and Fang Zhiming introduced Chen Ge to another doctor and gave him the contact number. Hanging up the phone, Chen Ge looked at Jiang Ming's mother and tried to explain the situation. Jiang Ming's mother wrote many things down on the paper. Other than showing her appreciation, she told Chen Ge that she had been saving up. Currently, she had about 30,000. She planned to use all of that to help Jiang Ming with his surgery. Chen Ge would pay the rest for now, but she promised to return the money.

"You need to take care of Jiang Ming, and you will need that money to survive. Let's not argue on that for now." Chen Ge knew that Jiang Jiu would not let the boy go so easily, and they would not agree to help Jiang Ming with his surgery because once Jiang Ming recovered his hearing, it might ruin the ghost fetus' plan. Thus, they had to stop it the best they could. Chen Ge did not plan to get into that. If Jiang Jiu refused, he would ask for help from the police and the women's association.

"In seven days' time, we will go to Xin Hai City together. If you can't contact me, go straight to the haunted house at New Century Park. Someone will hand you the money." Chen Ge had already set up his plan. He would first deal with the ghost fetus and then focus all of his energy on the cursed hospital. Of course, the premise was that he had to be able to kill the ghost fetus.

The traces of the cursed hospital can be seen everywhere. I feel like if I don't go to them, they will come for me. After all, I have received the invitation to join the cursed game.

After dealing with the issue on this side, Chen Ge left after leaving behind his contact number.

"Later tonight, I will go to Fang Yu's home and see if a door appears after she falls asleep. If everything is successful, I can eliminate three people from the roster, and six children will be left."

Six nights, six children—Chen Ge was not as worried as before. This probably had to do with his personality. After the initial panic, he became unusually calm. Walking out of the dirty alley, Chen Ge took out his phone and looked through his contact list to find the number of Wu Sheng's father.

After the teacher at Pei Zhi Academy gave Chen Ge his number, he had not called it yet. The call rang for a long time, and just as Chen Ge was about to hang up, the call was connected.

“Hello, who is this?” There were many different sounds in the background. Wu Sheng’s father appeared to be on some busy street, and there was a lot of bustle around him.

“My name is Chen Ge. My relative’s child is in the same situation as your son. We plan to send our child to your son’s school, but the tuition is very expensive, so I wanted to ask for your opinion to get your perspective on this.”

“No problem! I am at work now. We will meet up at the gate of Pei Zhi Academy around 5 pm!” The man’s voice was hoarse and stood out.

“Thank you.”

...

At 5 pm, school was over at Pei Zhi Academy. The children walked out from their classrooms accompanied by their teachers. After a while, Chen Ge spotted Wu Sheng. The boy who seemed to lack interest in everything kept turning his head around with anxiety on his face like he was looking for someone.

“Don’t wander about. I’m sure your father will be here soon.”

Before the teacher finished, a man’s voice came from the distance. “Wu Sheng!”

Unlike the other parents who came in cars or motorcycles, the man was riding a rather old-looking bicycle. A bag was slung over his shoulder, and he had a short ponytail. The unkempt beard did not make him appear disheveled but strangely enough gave him a sense of maturity.

“Son! I’m here! I’m sorry, coming through.” Even though he was riding a bicycle whose paint was peeling, the man was very confident and made it feel like he had come in a lavish car. When the man came over, the anxiety in Wu Sheng’s eyes decreased significantly, and he returned to his usual self.

“Teacher, has my son improved today?”

“He did well today. Be careful on the road.” Her job completed, the teacher turned back into the school.

“That’s not bad! The teacher said you have improved today. We should celebrate. How does two dishes for dinner sound?” The man carried Wu Sheng in his arm and then placed the boy on the back of the bicycle. Then he looked around. “Son, wait for daddy a moment. I promised to meet with a friend today.”

He took out his phone and was about to call when Chen Ge walked over. “You are Wu Sheng’s father, right?”

When he got closer, Chen Ge realized that even though the man before him was a bit carefree with his appearance, he had a good presence and was quite handsome.

“Chen Ge?”

“Yes, that’s me. I have some questions that I hope to ask you.”

“We’re blocking up the traffic. Let’s chat while we move.” The man pushed his bicycle and continued to move forward. Chen Ge pushed the bicycle that he had rented from the public service and followed

along. If they walked, it would take too long, and they might finish the chat on the journey, but Chen Ge's real purpose was to get to Wu Sheng's room and stay until midnight.

"Brother, how should I address you?"

"My name is Wu Jinpeng<sup>[1]</sup>, but you can call me Brother Peng." The man had a good personality and was kind to others. He was another extreme from Wu Sheng and formed a great contrast. "You mentioned earlier that your family's child has the same condition as Wu Sheng, right? Where is he now? Am I right in assuming it's a boy? Perhaps we should introduce him to Wu Sheng. They might have a shared language."

"Brother Peng, my boy's situation is worse than Wu Sheng's. Not only does he refuse to speak, he has this tendency to paint pictures that scares adults." Chen Ge pulled down his face.

"Little brother, listen to me. When Wu Sheng was younger, his condition was worse than now. He did not know how to speak, and he had nightmares every night. He would throw things about like he was possessed."

"Possessed?" Chen Ge showed the appropriate shocked look. "That is the same as the child of my relative! This is such a coincidence!"

"What the... Really?"

"Yes, and it is very serious, and that's why I wish to transfer him here. Even though the tuition is a bit expensive, I saw how professional the staff are, and the environment is better than most places." Chen Ge sighed. "I come from a normal family, but for the children, it does not matter if life becomes a bit more difficult for us adults."

"Little Brother, it's not easy on you either, huh?" Wu Jinpeng looked at Chen Ge and felt like he had found a kindred spirit. "Don't worry about it too much, I am sure the boys will get better with time."

"Brother Peng, I really have many things that I wish to ask you. If it's not too much trouble, do you mind if we go to your place so that we can talk about this further?"

"Why not? That's no problem at all!" Wu Jinpeng agreed easily. The three rode the bicycles and came to the area near a small apartment in Western Jiujiang.

[1] Wu Jinpeng can also mean Golden Roc.

## **Chapter 1010: Potential New Employee**

Wu Jinpeng lived at in old apartment. The house was at least thirty years old. The family of three squeezed inside a small room of twenty cubic meters. The toilet was adjacent to the kitchen, and the rooms were separated by curtains.

"The place is a bit cramped. I hope you don't mind it. I plan to move to a bigger place next month." As Wu Jinpeng opened the door, a big yellow dog rushed over, wagging its tail. It was friendly with Wu Jinpeng and Wu Sheng but snarled warningly when it saw Chen Ge. "Down boy! Sorry about that. Ol' Huang is a stray. He has been chased away by many people, so he isn't keen on strangers. Once you get close to him, though, you'll see how friendly and warm he is."

Wu Jinpeng grabbed Ol' Huang by the fur on his head as he invited Chen Ge into the room. The cement floor was not tiled, and a lot of paraphernalia filled the room, but the place was neatly organized. As small as the place was, it did not feel dirty or disorganized.

"Xiao Kun, we have a guest. Please pour us two glasses of tea!" Wu Jinpeng shouted into the room. Moments later, the curtain was pulled open to reveal a dullish young man walking out with an electric fan.

"Fan!"

"I know. You prepare the tea, and I'll fix the fan." Wu Jinpeng tried to take the fan away from the young man, but the young man slid away from him, refusing to let go of the fan.

"Fan!"

"Bloody hell, I promise to buy you a new fan after I get my salary, okay?" Wu Jinpeng was embarrassed as he looked Chen Ge. "This is my younger brother. He got into an accident when he was young and injured his brain. He might look dull, but he is actually very clever. In primary school, he was a very good student. His results were always in the top ten."

His son did not know how to speak and his brother had a brain injury; life had been difficult for Wu Jinpeng, but he still felt proud of his family.

Chen Ge admired a man like that. "Brother Peng, I ordered something on the way here. Later, we can chat over dinner. I have many questions for you."

"You should not have done that! You're my guest. I should have treated you, not the other way round!"

"It's me who has questions for you. Treating you is the least I can do."

The delivery soon arrived. Other than food, Chen Ge had ordered some alcohol. The family sat on the blanket in the middle of the room. As simple of it was, it was very close and warm. Wu Sheng and Wu Jinpeng's brother appeared like they had not had such a feast in a long time, and they wolfed everything. Seeing how happy they were, Wu Jinpeng's eyes softened. He picked up a bottle of beer and took a generous gulp.

"Brother Peng, is that a family picture on the cupboard?" Chen Ge pointed at the picture above the cupboard. It was a picture of three people. A young Wu Jinpeng stood in the middle. On his left was his younger brother, and on his right stood a pregnant woman.

"Yes, the woman is Wu Sheng's mother. She left after giving birth to Wu Sheng. She was one hell of a woman, but I was incapable of convincing her to stay." Wu Jinpeng chuckled as he took another sip. "Brother, you have treated us very nicely tonight. Should you have any questions, please feel free to ask. If I know anything, I will try my best to answer."

"Brother Peng, since you are being so open, I will not hide the truth from you." Chen Ge clinked his bottle against Wu Jinpeng's and whispered, "Actually, my relative's boy is a bit different from normal. He has some unique symptoms. I have been holding this in for a long time, and I don't quite know how to talk about it."

"Take your time. There's no need to rush."

"It's not that. I'm just afraid that you might not believe me." Chen Ge sidled closer to the Wu Jinpeng. "One night, I came home late from work, and I saw a door standing next to his bed."

When he said that, Chen Ge's eyes stared at Wu Jinpeng. When Wu Jinpeng heard that, his body shivered slightly.

"At the time, I was shocked. Why would there be a door that suddenly appeared in the room?" Chen Ge's brows were screwed together, acting the part of a scared family member. "I wanted to get closer, but before I could do that, the child woke up. When he did, the door disappeared. Initially, I thought that I was too tired from work, but the next night, the door appeared again!"

"Have you tried to enter that door before?" Wu Jinpeng's follow up question helped Chen Ge confirm that the man knew about the door. Normally, when a person heard a story as strange as that, they would first question its validity, and the question would be related to the door. They would not ask directly whether he had entered the door or not. The fact that Wu Jinpeng had asked that meant that he not only knew about the door but had quite possibly entered the door before. The two men held the bottles and looked at each other for a while. Chen Ge took a big swig to calm his nerves and shook his head. "I have not."

"Good." Wu Jinpeng sighed in relief.

He took the bottle, but before his lips reached the bottle, he heard Chen Ge ask, "What about you?"

The bottle froze in midair. It took Wu Jinpeng a while to recover. He stood up to close the door and window.

"Brother, come over here." Wu Jinpeng waved at Chen Ge. They pulled open the curtain and came to the other room. There was a single bed in the room and a bare mattress on the ground. "Normally, Wu Sheng sleeps in this bed. My younger brother, Wu Kun, and I sleep in the living room, and the curtain separates the room. A few days ago, Wu Sheng kept turning in bed at night like he had trouble sleeping. Initially, I did not think much of it, but at midnight one night, Wu Sheng started to roll and turn around, so I looked over and saw a black shadow behind the curtain!"

Wu Jinpeng gestured wildly, agitated. "It was just like the movies. I quietly approached, and when I pulled open the curtain, I saw Wu Sheng staring at me with his eyes open. I did this for several nights before I got a clear glimpse of the shadow. It was like what you said. It was a door, a door standing in the dark. Whenever I switch on the light or Wu Sheng wakes up, the door disappears. Anyone would be afraid if this happened. The day before yesterday, I planned to open the door, but I can't push it open no matter what, and that was quite maddening!"

Wu Jinpeng sat on the bed. "I haven't told anyone about this because I'm afraid they might think I'm crazy."

"If you can't push it open alone, how about both of us try it together later tonight?" Chen Ge's brows slowly relaxed. "Since we're facing the same situation, we should consider helping each other."

"That sounds doable, but I'm afraid of putting you in danger."

"It's fine. We'll be on the lookout for each other. It's better than being in danger alone."

“Brother, you’re too kind. I don’t even know what to say.”

“You’re much too welcome.” The world behind the door was very dangerous. Even though Chen Ge promised to go with Wu Jinpeng, at the last moment, he would block Wu Jinpeng and enter alone.

“Let’s return to dinner and prepare ourselves for tonight.”

The issue having been dealt with, Chen Ge’s admiration for Wu Jinpeng grew. He even considered offering him a job at his haunted house if Wu Jinpeng was in real financial trouble.