

## Horrors 1011

### Chapter 1011: Wu Sheng's World

The door represented different things to Chen Ge and Wu Jinpeng. When night fell, Wu Jinpeng had drunk a lot, and in his drunken state, his 'armor' slowly fell away. Tiredness appeared in his eyes. He hid it well behind a cheerful front normally and never showed it before even his family.

"Wu Sheng, it's time for bed. Tomorrow morning, I'll take you to school." Wu Jinpeng carried Wu Sheng to his bed. "Good night, buddy."

After taking care of the young one, he needed to deal with the older one. He pulled back the curtain and sat next to his younger brother. "Kun Er, stop playing with the electric fan. If you feel hot, I'll bring you the fan."

"Fan!" Wu Kun raised the electric fan with both hands. He jogged around the room, refusing to surrender it Wu Jinpeng.

"Slow down, or you'll going to wake the neighbors." Wu Jinpeng appeared quite helpless. He sat back by the table. "I'm sorry for the trouble my brother is causing."

"Brother Peng, I've fixed a broken fan at my workplace before. How about I help you fix this?" When Chen Ge first took over the haunted house, he had been forced to learn many things, including installing the cameras and familiarizing himself with the wiring.

"I don't actually want to fix the fan." Wu Jinpeng took another sip of the alcohol. "Look at my brother's left finger. He once stuck his hand into the fan..."

"Oh, understood."

"My biggest wish now is for Wu Sheng to grow up like a normal child, and my second wish is to buy an air-conditioner. My younger brother hasn't experienced that before. If he knew how good an air-conditioner is, he would definitely abandon that broken electric fan." The rental place was small. Wu Jinpeng leaned against the wall, held the bottle with one hand, and scratched the dog behind his ears with his other hand.

"Brother Peng, you sound like a person with a story. There's still some time before midnight. Mind telling me about your past?" Chen Ge wanted to offer Wu Jinpeng a job, so he needed to know everything that he could about Wu Jinpeng.

"What story can I have? My whole life is a trail of interesting incidents." Wu Jinpeng was slightly drunk. "Brother, can you have a guess at the most expensive item in this place?"

"How am I supposed to guess that?" The place did not even have a television set. Chen Ge looked around and the most expensive thing appeared to be the broken electric fan Wu Jinpeng's brother was hugging.

"I'll show it to you." Wu Jinpeng opened the wooden box in the corner. A guitar sat inside. "This is not the practice kind. It's very expensive."

“You know how to play the guitar?” Chen Ge had a new appreciation for Wu Jinpeng, and his admiration for this man grew another level.

“I used to study music and was a street musician for many years. It was then that I met Wu Sheng’s mother.” Wu Jinpeng picked up the guitar, but probably afraid of waking the neighbors, he did not play. He merely moved his fingers over the strings, plucking it several times in the air. “Wu Sheng’s mother was my fan. She was eight years younger than me. She was a very nice person, so even when she abandoned us, I did not blame her one bit. I mean, take a look around, who can blame her?”

With the alcohol on the table, a stray lying next to them, and an old guitar in his embrace, the two men sat inside the small room, discussing the past and life.

“Do you still play on the street?”

“I gave that up a long time ago. I used to dream about writing my own song. Even if I couldn’t become a singer, I wanted to be in the music industry. But as you know, life has a way of throwing you curve balls. Between the choice of my dream and bread, I chose the latter.” Wu Jinpeng closed his eyes, and his fingers caressed the strings gently. “I was such a rebellious child. I only saw the world from my perspective. There was a period when I thought the name my parents gave me was too old-fashioned, so I had my name changed quietly. Oh man, that angered the old man.”

Opening his eyes, Wu Jinpeng took another swig. “Thinking back to the way the old man glared at me for those few days, I still get the giggles. Unfortunately, I can’t even see him anymore.”

“What happened to him?”

“During the year Wu Sheng was born, my parents went to Xin Hai to have their medical check up, but they got caught in a car accident.” Wu Jinpeng emptied the bottle. “Actually, I wonder if it was a car accident. They probably got some bad news from the report and felt like they should not add to my burden.”

The room became so quiet. Wu Kun was getting tired from all the running. He hugged the electric fan and leaned against the wall.

“So, are you the one looking after the whole family now?” Chen Ge could sense the lethargy radiating from Wu Jinpeng. He needed to take care of his mentally stunted younger brother and had to earn enough for Wu Sheng’s tuition. He was the center of this family.

“Yes, but you get used to it after a while.” Wu Jinpeng put down the guitar. “Someone once told me, life is nothing but a struggle to continue living. I think that was a rather pessimistic look on life. We cannot guarantee what kind of life we will be born into, but the type of attitude we use to view our life, that is completely on us. I often tell Wu Sheng how beautiful and wonderful this world is because I hope he will grow up with those dreams in his mind. One day, I promise I will take him to witness those beauties and wonders of the world in person.”

“Brother Peng, you are a good father.” Chen Ge raised the glass to Wu Jinpeng.

“I think so too, but the teachers at the school keep telling me not to input such impossible dreams in the boy’s mind, and I have to focus on teaching him practical living skills.” Wu Jinpeng’s unusual grouse about the teachers caused Chen Ge to laugh. He had a good chat with Wu Jinpeng. Actually, when Chen

Ge first met Wu Jinpeng, he had felt that the man was unique. The despair and difficulty in life did not knock him down but polished and highlighted in the beauty in his soul. Chen Ge did not expect this; even the ghost fetus could not have foreseen this.

Chen Ge did not know what standard the ghost fetus used to choose the children, but most of the candidates had a shared quality. They were lacking something in life, and they were extremely depressed or isolated. Based on Jiang Ming's situation, one could see that the greater the despair and pain the child was feeling, the scarier the world behind the door, and the better they could relate to the ghost fetus.

If considered from this perspective, the chance of Wu Sheng being possessed by the ghost fetus was low because he had such a wonderful father. The two chatted for a while. When it was 11 pm, they cleared away the dining utensils, closed the lights, and waited beside the curtain. At midnight, a shadow appeared behind the curtain. Chen Ge signaled at Wu Jinpeng. There were many Red Specters in his backpack. Once he got close, the door would rattle noisily to wake Wu Sheng, and the door would disappear.

Chen Ge grabbed his backpack, and as he moved forward with Wu Jinpeng, he suddenly lunged forward and slammed the door open. The door lock rattled. When Wu Jinpeng recovered, Chen Ge and the door had both disappeared.

"What the... Brother, where are you?"

...

Opening his eyes, Chen Ge was standing inside a dark alley. A light blood mist hung in the air, and the sound of teeth grinding could be heard in his ears.

"This is the world behind Wu Sheng's door? This place looks like the old city."

### **Chapter 1012: Sewn Lips**

Chen Ge had been to the old city that the morning, and the place looked familiar. "Wu Sheng used to leave in the old city? They didn't move from Western Jiujiang to Eastern Jiujiang?"

Rather than hurrying, Chen Ge turned to look behind him. He saw a large iron door that blocked the alley.

"This door is similar to the iron door in Jiang Ming's world." He noticed one detail. "When I visited Jiang Ming's old apartment, I didn't encounter such a door at the apartment. It wasn't part of his memory. Now that I'm in Wu Sheng's world, this iron door has appeared again."

He studied it closer. Chen Ge did not notice anything off about the door. "This means that the iron door, which is the entrance and exit, probably has nothing to do with the children but everything to do with the ghost fetus."

With this in mind, Chen Ge studied the door closer. It did not have any writing or symbols on it, but once he leaned in, he could smell a very light scent of blood and disinfectant.

“The world behind the door is made up from the children’s memories. This door carries the smell of blood and disinfectant in someone’s memory. Could the owner of this memory have once been locked up in a hospital? But even a normal hospital shouldn’t have a black iron door like this!”

Chen Ge had visited two of the children’s worlds, and there were many things that he could not confirm. He looked at the door further before moving his eyes away.

“I’d better find Wu Sheng behind the door first. This world is different from what I anticipated.” Chen Ge had chatted with Wu Jinpeng for a long time. The father was like an umbrella that shielded Wu Sheng. Theoretically speaking, Wu Sheng’s world should not be too dark, but after Chen Ge entered this place, he realized how wrong he was. The streets were permanently dark, and many scary voices came from the corner.

“Looks like the ghost fetus has done something. That crazed man will not let his candidates live in happiness. He envies love and warmth the most.” Chen Ge communicated with the Pen Spirit and Xu Yin. They were unable to materialize quickly; this world was rejecting them. To Chen Ge’s consternation, compared to Jiang Ming’s world, Wu Sheng’s world rejected them even more. The resistance that the employees felt was harder.

“I need to buy some time for them.” Chen Ge did not think that the ghost fetus would hide in this world, but he could not be careless. If ghost fetus was really there, he might lose his life due to his carelessness. “The doors next to the children’s beds are all flickering. They are far from real doors. I suspect that only one of them is real, and the other eight are made by the ghost fetus to fool others.”

Taking out the hammer, Chen Ge walked down the street. Wu Sheng’s world was much bigger than Jiang Ming’s world; it included a whole street. Chen Ge took several steps when he frowned. The noises around him grew louder. They crawled into his ears like dancing bugs, and it unsettled him.

“Sometimes it’s not a good thing to have overly sensitive senses.”

Chen Ge held his breath and used his Yin Yang Vision. The darkness did not affect him too much.

“I can’t even see a shadow, so where is the sound coming from?”

He did not rush down the street. The place was complicated and windy; he could easily get lost if he was not careful. In any case, before Xu Yin and the rest could appear, Chen Ge’s goal was to survive. Pushing open the door of one of the nearest buildings, Chen Ge realized that the noises in his ears grew louder, and one of them became clear enough to be identified as crying.

“The crying is coming from this place?”

Chen Ge looked into the house. The houses in the old city were not big. Normally, they only had one to three rooms, and he soon found the source of the crying. There was a girl washing her hair in the bathroom. She was facing away from Chen Ge, and she looked to be in her teens.

“Crying while washing her hair?”

The girl collected a basin of water and placed it at the edge of the sink. She plunged her whole head into the water, and her hair was soaked in the water. The sound of water and crying were mixed together,

giving off a chilling feeling. This was the first person whom Chen Ge had encountered in Wu Sheng's world. For the sake of safety, Chen Ge gripped the hammer and slowly approached.

"This girl is alone in the room. There's no need to be afraid of an ambush. I should make use of this chance to get to know her."

Chen Ge moved lightly, but even so, he was discovered when he was halfway toward to the girl. The girl stopped washing her hair. Her hands were stuck in her hair as her whole person froze beside the sink. The hair was pulled back, and a pair of black eyes peeped through the gap in the curtain of hair. The girl turned around to look at Chen Ge. The head that was soaked in the basin slowly broke the surface of the water. The hair that floated in the basin was crusted with dried blood. Chen Ge only then noticed that the basin was not filled with water but blood that was drying. The blood slid down her hair and onto her clothes. The clean pink pajamas were dyed red by the blood.

"Even in Jiang Ming's twisted world, there was no sign of fresh blood. What is going on in Wu Sheng's world? Why's it so gory even at the beginning?"

The girl's face fully appeared. She had beautiful eyes, and her nose was small and cute, one that garnered a sense of protectiveness in others. Below it was her mouth. She had pretty lips, but her lips were sewn together by black threads. Chen Ge confirmed that the crying came from the girl, but the girl did not look like she was crying.

"Can you hear my voice?" It was hard to imagine what had happened to the girl from her appearance and why she would appear behind the door in this state. Chen Ge tried to communicate with her, but the girl reacted strangely. The girl's fair hands plunged into the water and picked up a dirty cat from inside the basin. Then, like she was wringing a towel dry, she gripped the cat's head with one hand and its body with the other and started to twist with all her might.

Tons of fresh blood squeezed out from the cat. Once the cat was dry, the girl picked up the dirty cat carcass and used it to dry her blood-soaked hair. When she was done, the girl tossed the mangled cat back into the water basin and turned to look at Chen Ge. She stared Chen Ge's mouth. Her hands entered her pockets to pull out a long bronze needle and thick black thread.

"What is she planning to do?" The girl's eyes had not left Chen Ge's lips. Holding the needle and thread, she walked toward Chen Ge. She walked faster and faster before she lunged at Chen Ge. The needle aimed at Chen Ge's mouth like she was going to sew it shut!

"You started this first!" Chen Ge was ready. He swung the hammer at the girl. The girl's shoulder caved in, but it did not affect her mobility at all. In self-defense, Chen Ge kept slamming the hammer against the girl while he tried to evade. After nine consecutive smashes, the girl temporarily lost the ability to move. She crawled on the ground, still holding onto the needle and thread.

"I haven't done anything to her—why would she suddenly attack me and want to sew up my mouth?"

Chen Ge put down the hammer. He looked at the girl on the ground and the mangled cat in the water basin, and a possibility occurred to him.

"The girl was torturing the cat and was accidentally spotted by Wu Sheng—that's why she wanted to sew up Wu Sheng's mouth so that he would not be able to reveal her secrets to anyone else."

Since he had no idea what had happened in real life, he could only make predictions based on his observation of this absurd world.

### **Chapter 1013: Faceless Woman with a Red Hairclip**

A cute girl using blood to wash her hair—Chen Ge did not expect to see something like that inside Wu Sheng's world.

“Even though Wu Jinpeng has been trying his best to protect Wu Sheng, it looks like the boy has still seen many things that he shouldn't. The pressure on them was far greater than described by Wu Jinpeng.”

The girl's body was slowly recovering. Chen Ge knew that it would be difficult for him to kill her. He took away the girl's needle and thread. He closed the door and used things to block the door. He did not know whether that was useful or not, but it was worth a try. After leaving the first house, Chen Ge knew that he could not let his guard down inside Wu Sheng's world. This boy had been through a lot more than Jiang Ming; the world in his eyes was bigger and more complicated. Chen Ge had a feeling that every building on this street hid a secret. Once he entered them, he would see other secrets, and then he would be chased by others to have his lips sewn together. He did not want to enter them, but if he did not, how was he going to find Wu Sheng?

“Calm yourself. When Xu Yin can appear, I can explore the place further. For now, I should keep a low profile.” Chen Ge was very careful, and he was not going to take unnecessary risk. This was his experience showing after completing so many Trial Missions. Hugging the hammer, Chen Ge hid in the next alley. That way, if there was an accident, he had two exits to escape from. The plan was good, but he did not need to wait for too long for a tragedy to happen.

A woman wearing a red hairpin appeared on the other side of the street. She wandered along the street aimlessly. Occasionally, she would slip into one of the buildings, as if looking for something. Before the woman got close, Chen Ge got the warning from Xu Yin; this woman was very dangerous. She was not a Red Specter, but she gave off a dangerous presence that threatened Xu Yin, so Chen Ge had to be careful. He moved away from the woman, but the woman seemed to have targeted him because she soon appeared again.

This repeated several times until Chen Ge had no choice but to hide in one of the buildings. He rushed up to the second floor. Chen Ge leaned against the window and looked down; he was finally given a closer view of the woman. Her long, luscious black hair hid a faceless face. The woman wandered the streets for a while before leaving. She appeared to have trouble harming anyone inside the 'houses'.

Chen Ge's attention was pulled by the faceless woman when a noise grew in his ears. It was hard to describe. It sounded like a couple kissing wetly. Footsteps then came from inside the house. It was too late for Chen Ge to leave. The door was opened, and a monster with two heads appeared at the door. The monster was impeccably dressed in a western suit. It looked normal below the neck, but above the shoulders, it had two heads, one male and one female. The two heads were stuck together like they were unwilling to part.

Chen Ge glanced into the room and saw a large wedding picture placed on the headboard. The man in the picture had the same face as the monster, but the monster's female head was different from the bride in the picture.

"An extra-marital affair?" The monster's lips were also sewn tight by black thread. After they saw Chen Ge, they reacted the same way as the girl washing her hair. They took out a needle and thread from their suit pockets and charged at Chen Ge to sew his lips.

"Sewing the lips mean to keep a secret—are they afraid that I might expose them?"

The sound of wet kisses grew in his ears, and it aggravated Chen Ge. He did not mind the expression of love, but people should mind themselves when they were in public.

"Seeing how clingingly sweet you two are, for some reason, I feel the urge to smash the cr\*p out of you." Chen Ge did not waste time and charged at them with the hammer.

At that moment, the door from the opposite side opened. A large man who was at least a head taller than Chen Ge ran out and grabbed Chen Ge. "Come with me!"

"Who are you?" The large man did not explain. He grabbed Chen Ge's arm and started to run downstairs. They ran down the street and hid inside another old building. The man looked buff but had strangely low stamina. They did not run for that long, but he was already dying from lack of oxygen. While the man held the wall to catch his breath, Chen Ge studied the man.

"You are... Wu Jinpeng?" When Chen Ge saw the man's face, he was shocked. "Why are you here?"

"Do you know me?" When the man heard Chen Ge call him by his name, he was also baffled. "Have we met each other before?"

Seeing the man's reaction, it slowly dawned on Chen Ge. This Wu Jinpeng was not the Wu Jinpeng in real life; it was one from Wu Sheng's memory. That explained why this Wu Jinpeng was much larger and taller than the real Wu Jinpeng. In Wu Sheng's eyes, his father was large, protective, kind, and wonderful. Jiang Ming's father had also made an appearance in his world, but in comparison, while they were both first-time fathers, in the eyes of their children, the character of a father could not have been more different.

"Brother, what is going on in this world? Why does everyone want to sew up my lips?" Chen Ge had been in the world behind Wu Sheng's door for some time already, and Wu Jinpeng was the first normal person that he had met and probably the only normal person that he would meet.

"I don't know what happened to them. I went to sleep very early last night, and when I woke up, the sky was dark, and the monsters were everywhere!" Wu Jinpeng looked afraid.

"Other than monsters, have you seen anyone else?"

"No, only monsters! If you stay anywhere too long, they will come after you to sew your lips, bite your body, suck your blood, and crush you." Wu Jinpeng's large body was filled with wounds, and the fear in his eyes could not be hidden.

"Only monsters? Has even your family turned into monsters?" Chen Ge was confused. This was Wu Sheng's world, but he still had not seen Wu Sheng.

When Chen Ge said that, Wu Jinpeng was stunned slightly. His mouth was hanging half open. He paused for a moment before nodding. "Yes."

"Brother, don't lie to me. We only have a chance of escaping this place if we are being honest with each other." Chen Ge could see that Wu Jinpeng was lying; he definitely knew where Wu Sheng was.

"Let's not talk about this anymore. We can't stay here for too long." Wu Jinpeng looked out the window. "Not good, she's after me again!"

Chen Ge followed Wu Jinpeng's gaze, and the faceless woman with the red hairclip had materialized out of nowhere again.

### **Chapter 1014: Daddy Is Playing a Game with Them [2 in 1]**

"After you? Why would that woman be after you?" Chen Ge also walked to the window. The faceless woman with the red hairclip, Chen Ge noticed, had been purposely following them.

"How should I know? I don't even know her!" Wu Jinpeng did not look like he was lying. The eyes when he saw the woman only spoke of fear—there were no other emotions mixed within.

"Why are you so afraid of this woman?" Chen Ge asked another question that he had no answer to. "Is she going to kill you? What will happen to you if she manages to catch up to you?"

After hearing Chen Ge's question, it was Wu Jinpeng's turn to use a strange gaze to study Chen Ge. "Isn't it scary enough to be chased by a faceless woman? Brother, if she'd managed to catch up to me, do you think I'd still be able to stand here to have this conversation with you?"

"I mean, perhaps we do not need to keep avoiding her. If we do not try to understand her, we will never beat her, and being caught is just a matter of time."

Before Chen Ge could convince Wu Jinpeng, the faceless woman had already reached the downstairs of the building that they were in. Her head that was dangling downward slowly lifted as she looked upward. The face that was devoid of all the feature seemed to be staring at Wu Jinpeng; the woman completely ignored Chen Ge who was standing next to him. The red hairclip appeared to be dripping blood. The pregnancy dress that did not fit her body dragged on the ground.

"Why are you standing there spacing out? We need to leave!" Wu Jinpeng dragged Chen Ge into the room next door. "After she comes up here, we will jump down from the window of the second floor! As long as we can disappear from her line of sight, we will be able to get a brief period of peace."

This was not the first time that Wu Jinpeng had done something like that. His movement was practiced and familiar. The physique that was much stronger and bigger than his actual body in real life enabled him to do many high difficulty activities. It was a piece of cake for him to jump down from a second story window.

"Quick, come down now!"

Standing next to the window, Chen Ge hesitated for a small moment. But within that brief second, the door behind him suddenly started to vibrate like something was hammering against the door. He had no better idea. Chen Ge hugged the backpack and leaped out the window. He landed on both of his feet and rolled to neutralize the falling impact. Chen Ge did not have time to check the condition of the items



inside the backpack to see whether they had survived the fall because he could hear Wu Jinpeng urging him to move on already. The two guys crawled up from the ground and raced toward the other side of the street as fast as they could.

“Where are we going now?”

“I really have no clue. No matter where you go, you will be chased by that monster. The only thing we can do is run as far away from her as we can. And then we will repeat this whole process when she reappears.” Wu Jinpeng answered without turning his head around. The words slipped out between hungry mouthfuls of air. He had no idea when he would be able to escape from danger. It was as if the whole world was his enemy; everywhere he turned, there was a monster, and he was being constantly chased by a faceless woman that he could not shake loose. Taking a break had become something of a luxury.

Chen Ge studied Wu Jinpeng, who had not stopped running since they met each other. Slowly but surely, Chen Ge could see this man’s encounter overlapping with what had happened to the Wu Jinpeng in real life. The man should have been through this period of helplessness and hopelessness before. Every day, he woke up in panic, but with the burden of responsibility pressing on his shoulders, he was forced by life to keep on moving forward. Perhaps Wu Jinpeng in real life had all forgotten about this period of this life, but it was remembered clearly and with extreme detail by Wu Sheng.

The child was a precocious little young man. He knew many things that he should not for his age, but it did not mean that he could understand all of them. During the crucial period where his worldview was being constructed and built, he was given a false perspective by the ghost fetus, and something within him changed. There was a connection between then world behind the children’s doors and the real life; one could find incidents or actual people behind their doors that corresponded to real life. This should be the unifying factor that was unique to all the worlds behind the doors of the nine children.

If Chen Ge had to guess, the doors of the nine children had all been influenced by the ghost fetus. Following behind Wu Jinpeng, carrying the backpack, Chen Ge’s mind was clocking in overtime. With the evidence that he had collected so far, it was basically a confirmed fact that every child corresponded to a door, and the door would only appear after the child had fallen asleep. But of the nine children, Chen Ge was the only exception because if there was a door that appeared beside his bed after he fell asleep, Xiaoxiao and the white cat would have reacted to it a long time ago.

However, the lack of a door by his bed did not mean that one could exclude Chen Ge from the nine children because he had a real blood door within his vicinity. Compared to the other children’s flickering doors, the door in the toilet of Chen Ge’s haunted house was an actual blood door.

“Does this mean I will have to go into that door to take a look?” Chen Ge thought back to a moment in time when he believed he was confronted with three different doors. “One of them should belong to the ghost fetus, the second probably belongs to the version of myself who is being killed again and again by the doctor, and who does the last door belong to?”

“Hasn’t it already been proven that the door will only appear and be pushed open when one is at the deepest point of their despair? Is it possible that I have pushed open the third door myself? Am I the door pusher for the door inside the toilet of the haunted house?”

Even though he had multiple Red Specters with him, Chen Ge did not have the courage to enter that door. He still remembered what Doctor Gao had told him at the underground morgue.

“It has to be hiding something extremely scary to be able to scare Doctor Gao.” Chen Ge decided to reserve the door at his haunted house for the last night. If the ghost fetus was not hiding inside the other eight candidates, this was the only possibility that remained. He knew that the chance of the ghost fetus hiding behind the door at this haunted house was very low. After all, the ghost fetus’ main territory was Eastern Jiujiang, and all the spirits and ghosts that had interacted with the ghost fetus before had said that he had treated Western Jiujiang as some kind of restricted area. Chen Ge did not believe that the ghost fetus would take the risk to sneak behind the door at his haunted house.

“There are no clues, and nothing appears to help bring me closer to the truth.” Chen Ge sighed under his breath. “Just what were the emotions of the person who first pushed open that door?”

To chase these thoughts that currently had no answer, Chen Ge turned to look behind him. The faceless woman was still chasing after them, but she was not moving fast. In fact, from the way she looked, it did not look like she was determined to kill Wu Jinpeng; she did not seem to even bear a grudge against him. With Wu Jinpeng leading the way, Chen Ge ran through all the nearby streets, and he became more and more confident that this was the old city.

“Wu Sheng must have spent a part of his childhood in the old city. Something that he refused to remember once happened here, and because of that incident, his whole family moved to Western Jiujiang.”

Wu Sheng’s world behind the door comprised several streets; it was probably one-fifth the size of the actual old city. There were limited locations where they could hide themselves. To avoid the faceless woman, they would have to enter the rooms on both side of the street, but entering the house might push them into encounters with the monsters inside the houses. They kept moving and running. Eventually, some of the monsters came out from their houses and joined the chase.

“Just what do we have to do to escape this place?” The terror in Wu Jinpeng’s eyes was practicing overflowing. When his large body turned and saw the horde of monsters chasing after them, he started to shiver.

“We have already run all over these few streets on the eastern side. How about we move to the western side? Perhaps we can find a place to hide there.”

After following Wu Jinpeng for some time, Chen Ge had noticed that no matter what kind of danger they were in, Wu Jinpeng would not head toward the western side. He had been avoiding the streets on the western side on purpose.

“No way!” Wu Jinpeng denied it directly. The swiftness with which he answered the question added to Chen Ge’s suspicion.

“It’s okay then, I will follow your instruction.” Chen Ge had a fairly good guess as to why the man refused to go that way. He could empathize with what the man was trying to do.

“As long as we can hold on until dawn, there should be no more problems. I am sure by then everyone will return to normal,” Wu Jinpeng said to convince and console Chen Ge, or perhaps it was for his own benefit. “After the night passes, the sun will rise.”

“Yes, you are right. Eventually, the sun will rise.” Chen Ge patted Wu Jinpeng on his shoulder. “Since we can’t go to the western side, I suggest we try to find an exit on the eastern side.”

“Okay.” Wu Jinpeng just gave his promise when a string of urgent dog barking came from the western streets. Hearing that sound, Wu Jinpeng’s face shifted dramatically. Pushing away all the warnings that he had made earlier, he immediately rushed toward the western streets.

“What happened?” Chen Ge quickly moved to follow the man. With his Yin Yang Vision, even over that much distance, he could see several figures standing on the western streets. “Do not go there!”

Chen Ge reacted as fast as he could, but he still failed to stop Wu Jinpeng. Without a care for the world, he charged into an alley on the western streets. There was an old, dilapidated looking storage room at the end of the small alley. Wearing a pair of shirt that did not fit him, a pair of beautiful eyes blinked continuously. They seemed to take in everything that they saw curiously. Seeing the child unharmed, Wu Jinpeng sighed greatly in relief. He signaled for Chen Ge, and with the child, they went to hide inside the small house.

“Daddy, Big Huang has run out,” the boy said in a small whisper. It appeared like he was normally quite a reticent child.

“You stay at home. I promise that I will bring Big Huang back.” Wu Jinpeng touched the boy on his head. The terror and fear that characterized the man earlier had completely disappeared. His eyes were warm and kind; the only thing out of place was the quick breathing.

“Okay.” The boy nodded obediently. When the father and son spoke, the whimpering of the dog appeared again, and this time, it sounded very close to them. Other than the sound of the dog barking, the sound of a crowd started to gather. Various unsettling and uncomfortable noises drilled into Chen Ge’s ears.

“Where does this stray come from? What if it bites someone? Is no one going to look after it!”

“My family still has a small child. What if he is harmed by the stray! Who will be responsible?”

“Get the hell away, you blasted dog! I do not have time for you!”

“Beat it! My mom said that all strays carry disease with them! We need to chase it away!”

Initially, Chen Ge thought that only he could hear these voices, but when he turned around, he realized that both Wu Jinpeng and the boy were able to hear them as well because Wu Jinpeng had used his hands to cover both of the boy’s ears. The smile still lingered on his face as he pulled the boy into his light embrace.

“Daddy, they are beating Big Huang. They said that Big Huang is a stray, but he is not.”

“Don’t you worry about that. I will go and rescue Big Huang now. You just stay here and do not move.” Wu Jinpeng then gripped Wu Sheng’s hands to have the latter cover his own ears. “Close your eyes, and I promise, when you open your eyes, Big Huang will be here with you again.”

“Really?”

“Of course, when have I lied to you before?”

After Wu Sheng shut his ears and closed his eyes, Wu Jinpeng finally stood up.

“You are not seriously considering going there, are you?” With his Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge saw clearly that there were around ten figures standing on the street.

“I have made the promise to my son.” Wu Jinpeng pushed open the wooden board that acted as the door. “Brother, can you do me a favor?”

“What kind of favor?”

“I will go and distract their attention, and after I have lured all of them away, I need you sneak in to rescue Big Huang.”

“No problem.”

Wu Jinpeng and Chen Ge jogged out of the small house one after another. Wu Jinpeng, who led the way, did not turn back. However, behind him, Chen Ge turned back to look into the small house. The boy was still following his father’s instructions. He had his hands over his eyes and his eyes clamped shut. The sound of cursing and scolding became louder and louder. Big Huang was whimpering for help. It was being surrounded by a mob of people. They planned to beat Big Huang to its death right there on the street.

“Don’t let it get away!”

“Go after it!”

“This stray sure runs fast for what it is!”

“Where are you going now that we have already broken your leg?”

“Rummaging through the trash every day to look for food, the strays are all carriers of disease! Stop playing around. Quick, go ahead and kill it!”

Many voices crawled into Chen Ge’s ears. They sounded extremely grating. They were not human noises; they were more like knives.

“Stop!” The disfigured shadows moved out of the way, and Wu Jinpeng saw Big Huang, who was covered in threads, cowering on the ground. His eyes turned red immediately. “Big Huang is not a stray! He is my dog! He has never injured anyone, and he would never go through the trash to look for food!”

After they heard Wu Jinpeng, the shadows turned around to look at him. The cold and lifeless eyes fell on Wu Jinpeng, but they did not seem to care what he had to say. The threads continued to sew through Big Huang’s body. “I swear I will look after him! My son always plays with him. He has never been injured by the dog before. Big Huang is the most obedient pet you could have ever wanted. Please return him to me.”

From the intensity to the tone of the voice, everything he said sounded real and authentic. It was as if Wu Jinpeng had said something similar in real life and Wu Sheng had memorized it word for word.

“Give it back to you? How could a homeless man like yourself guarantee that this b\*stard will not injure other people? If you are so free, you’d better take better care of yourself first before you come to mind other people’s business.”

“This has to be a joke. You said this is your dog. Well, if the pet of a homeless man is not a stray, what is it?”

“Yes, the man himself probably rummages through the trash to look for food, much less his dog.”

The voices became sharper and ruder. Wu Jinpeng’s body kept shaking, but he tried to reason as rationally as he could. “My boy is not in a good condition. The dog is his only companion. For us, the dog is more than a pet—he is part of our family.”

“This can’t be real. You have a son? What, bringing a child around will garner more pity when you go begging for money?”

“By the way, listen to this. If the dog of a homeless man is a stray, what is the child of a homeless man? Could it be a street child? That’s just too much!”

“My boy is not a street child!” Both of Wu Jinpeng’s arms were shaking. His eyes were burning with fire as he picked up the random objects around him and threw them at the group of people. “As long as I am alive, the dog that I own is not a stray, and my child will never end up as a street child!”

The figures turned to focus their hatred on Wu Jinpeng. All the monsters’ lips were sewn shut, but for some reason, even though their mouths were unable to make any noise, the grating voices did not disappear. After they were attacked, the monsters collectively took out the large needles and black threads from their pockets and rushed at Wu Jinpeng like a wave. According to the plan, Wu Jinpeng would lure the mob away, and that was the time for Chen Ge to sneak out from the other side to come and rescue Big Huang.

Big Huang’s body was sewn with threads. Blood leaked out from the wounds on various parts of his body. The dog had been beaten to death while he was alive. This Big Huang was slightly different from the dog that Chen Ge had seen at Wu Jinpeng’s house in real life. If this was all real, or at least had really happened in the past, then the Big Huang in real life was probably the second pet that Wu Jinpeng had taken in. Carrying the dog that had already passed away in his arms, Chen Ge lifted his head to look at the small house. The boy inside the house was still holding his hands over his ears, but both of his eyes were wide open. He had witnessed everything. The pair of eyes that seemed to be curious about everything lingered persistently on the dog within Chen Ge’s embrace.

“This is too traumatic for a child his age to witness.” Chen Ge did not know what to do. It would be too cruel for the boy if he returned with the mangled carcass of the dog. Even though this was the world behind the door, he did not wish for the boy to relive that trauma and despair one more time. “A boy who is still too young to really comprehend the meaning of death had to witness one before his eyes in this kind of manner?”

Chen Ge placed Big Huang’s body inside his backpack and then carried the backpack in both hands into the small house.

“Where is Big Huang?” The boy lifted his head to look up at Chen Ge.

“He was getting a little bit sleepy, so he went down for a rest.”

Several seconds later, rushed footsteps came from the alley. Wu Jinpeng pushed open the wooden door. “I have temporarily lost them. In a minute, I will lure all of them to the eastern streets.”

“I will go with you. I worry that you need to deal with so many of them alone.”

“That would be immensely helpful, thankful.” Wu Jinpeng tossed an appreciative gaze at Chen Ge. As he was about to leave, the boy reached forward to grab at the corner of his shirt.

“Daddy, why are those people chasing after you?” The boy looked at Wu Jinpeng with his pair of innocent eyes.

“Daddy is playing hide and seek with them. Would you like to play with us as well?” Wu Jinpeng ruffled the boy’s hair lovingly.

“Yes!”

“Then you should hide inside that wooden box and try to not make any noise. You will win if you stay put and don’t come out of the box. Do you understand me?”

“Understood.” The small boy jumped into the box and curled up inside the corner of the box.

Wu Jinpeng pinched the boy on the tip of his nose. “You cheeky little thing, make sure that you are not spotted by the other people. Wait until I come back to get you.”

#### **Chapter 1015: Private Hospital on the Street Corner**

“You’re going to leave him like that and make him stay here alone?” Chen Ge did not think letting Wu Sheng stay inside the small house alone was a good idea.

“This is my doing. I will lead them away. The child is innocent. I can’t put him through this pain.” Wu Jinpeng closed the lid of the wooden box and ran out. Chen Ge watched Wu Jinpeng run out and turned back to look at Wu Sheng. The boy stayed inside the box with his hands over his mouth. He did not say a word, only staring quietly at his father’s receding figure.

“Has the boy not said a word because his father told him so?” Chen Ge felt like he had missed something. “Never mind, as long as I follow Wu Jinpeng, the problems will be solved.”

In Wu Sheng’s eyes, he was a child under his father’s protection. He noticed the problems faced by the family, but he was just a child; he was powerless to change anything. He could only see his father shoulder the whole ginormous pressure. Chen Ge worried that if he stayed there for too long, he might expose Wu Sheng’s location, so he closed the door and hurried after Wu Jinpeng.

The night sky had no moon. The buildings on both sides of the street gave off a light stench, and the atmosphere was suffocating. Wu Jinpeng rushed ahead; he had no idea what awaited him, but he had no other choice. To prevent his dog from being treated as a stray, to protect his son from the monsters, he could only keep moving forward.

“Other than the neighbors, the monsters who had their lips sewn should represent the various difficulties that this family has faced.” There were more monsters chasing behind Wu Jinpeng. They

were dressed differently; there were well-dressed office workers and the homeless in tattered shirts. There were thieves with knives and others who were dressed normally like passersby that you would meet on the road.

Under the influence of ghost fetus, the condescension, bullying, and derision was maliciously amplified. Chen Ge did not dare to imagine what would have happened to Wu Sheng if Wu Jinpeng did not exist in this world. If such a small child had been forced to face so many scary monsters alone, Chen Ge suspected that Wu Sheng would have submerged fully into this despairing world and become the ghost fetus' top candidate. "Thankfully, he has such a great father. Wu Jinpeng is the only light in this dark world."

Racing down the dark, endless street, being chased with monsters with sewn lips, with no exit in sight, Wu Jinpeng still tried his best to come up with a solution.

"I suppose this is the resilience of human nature." The children selected by the ghost fetus had been lured into despair for them to open the fake doors, but the worlds behind those doors were different from real life. As despairing as the children were, there would be some source of light.

In Jiang Ming's world, the light was his mother and the old lady, and in Wu Sheng's world, there was Wu Jinpeng. In their memories, there was always a temporary sanctuary. Running behind Wu Jinpeng, Chen Ge gained a new understanding of certain things. When he first got the black phone, he discovered the door in his haunted house. At the time, he had only feared the door; it was normal for humans to be afraid of the unknown. But as his understanding grew, Chen Ge's perspective of the door changed.

The doors were pushed open by people in despair. The other side of the door was not salvation but an abyss of deeper despair. The doors were sinful. Chen Ge initially refused to get close to the door, but after being forced by the Ghost Stories Society, when his life was threatened, he had been left with no other choice. After multiple interactions, he had realized that the doors themselves did not represent fear, and they could not be equated to despair.

He would not follow the Ghost Stories Society's footsteps of controlling the doors and gaining benefit from them. But subconsciously, his negative impression of the doors had slowly dissipated.

During the School of the Afterlife, Chen Ge had met the painter behind the door. That madman wanted to create a heaven behind the door, constructing a place of heaven in a land of hell. Ultimately, the painter failed, but what he did once again shook Chen Ge's impression of the doors and the worlds behind it. However, the thing that really changed Chen Ge's mind was the incident at Jiang Yuan Apartments. When he saw his young self being pushed off the roof by the man in the doctor's outfit, when he heard the words that he had once said, his perspective of the door really started to change.

"Perhaps the worlds behind the doors for the children were not so different from real life. There might be light in the worlds behind the doors..." Chen Ge watched Wu Jinpeng and the various monsters who chased after him. "The light in the child's world is being chased by many monsters. If there's light behind a real door, they get chased by something darker and scarier. What would the light look like inside an actual door?"

His parents' image crossed his mind. Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of something that happened a long time ago. He took out the wooden toy that had been stolen by the ghost fetus from his backpack.

“My father gave me this when I was in bed. He wished me happy birthday. But that morning, he had already presented me with the present and wished me happy birthday. There was no reason for him to repeat it, and he did not exactly give me the present; he merely placed it next to the bed.” More details came to Chen Ge. “Was the present originally meant for the shadow?”

Looking at the bloodied toy in his hand, Chen Ge slowed down. “Was this the shadow’s birthday present? The second happy birthday was meant for the shadow? Could it be that he’d already noticed something by then but neither me nor the shadow had noticed it?”

“Don’t just stand there! Run!” Wu Jinpeng was running out of air, but seeing that Chen Ge had slowed down, he still returned to pull on his sleeves. “Do not stop! I know where we can shake them off!”

Wu Jinpeng led Chen Ge to an alley on western street; there was a private hospital there. It was not that big, and the decor was old fashioned. But as small as it was, it had everything it needed to serve the public.

“The hospital has a backdoor. I ran through this place to shake them off last time. Those things do not dare come in here.”

“Doesn’t that mean that there is something scarier than them inside this hospital?”

“We’ll go in first.”

Without saying anything else, Wu Jinpeng led Chen Ge into the hospital. After the monsters saw that, they really stopped in the alley. After entering the hospital, the many different voices in Chen Ge’s ears disappeared, and what was left was the sound of children crying.

### **Chapter 1016: Do You Still Hate Me?**

The children’s crying came from all directions, making it impossible to locate the source.

“Brother Peng, don’t you think this crying is a bit familiar?”

With his Ghost Ear, Chen Ge held his breath and listened closely. After a while, he discovered with some shock that one of the children’s crying was similar to Wu Sheng.

But isn’t he hiding back in the small house?

Chen Ge did not get it. He turned to Wu Jinpeng. The large man’s body was shaking. He was pushed by the monsters to his limit. Be it physically or mentally, he was about to collapse. His chest rising and falling violently, Wu Jinpeng leaned against the hospital wall. His eyes were bloodshot, and they were horribly swollen.

“Are you okay?” When they were running earlier, Chen Ge did not notice this. He subconsciously thought that Wu Jinpeng was as fit as he was in reality, but that was of course not the case.

“Come, we’ll go to the backdoor.”

Scared of staying any longer, after entering the hospital, Wu Jinpeng acted rather strangely. It was as if something had happened to him the last time he was there, and he was seriously traumatized by it. If not for the lack of choice, he probably would not have returned there.



The crying grew louder, and the voice that sounded like Wu Sheng's was slowly overwhelmed by other voices. Chen Ge noted that as he followed behind Wu Jinpeng silently. The hospital was small, but it had all the necessary medical rooms. From the appearance, the place looked normal. It was a common small city hospital. There was nothing scary about it. Walking down the deserted corridor, Wu Jinpeng led Chen Ge to the corner of the stair. By then, the crying had reached a level that was uncomfortable to one's ears.

"Do you see the window at the corner up the stairs? If you jump through it, you'll end up on the western street. That way, we can shake the monsters loose."

However, Wu Jinpeng did not move. His eyes were filled with terror. This made Chen Ge realize that things were not that simple.

"Brother, pay attention to me. When we go up the stairs, no matter what you hear or see, do not stop. Rush all the way to the window, understood?" Wu Jinpeng warned. "If the backpack is weighing you down, I can carry it for you. After we get to the stairs, we have to run as fast as we can to the window!"

"It's alright. I've been known as a fast runner since I was small." Wu Jinpeng and Chen Ge stood before the stairs. They were ready. After exchanging a look, they moved together toward the window. Footsteps echoed on the stairs. When he took the first step, Chen Ge still had not felt anything, but as he continued to move forward, the children's crying was like a waterfall crashing into his eyes. His brain was swamped by the crying, dazing him in the process.

"Do not stop!" Obviously, Wu Jinpeng had experienced this before. At this crucial moment, the man still cared about Chen Ge and shouted to warn him. The crying grew louder, and the ground under his feet wobbled like he was not stepping on concrete steps. Chen Ge lowered his head to look and saw many small hands reaching out from the ground to grab his feet. The empty stairwell was suddenly crawling with faceless babies.

As experienced as Chen Ge was with the supernatural, he hesitated for a moment. He instinctually avoided the babies and chose the empty spaces to place his feet. The sound of a door opening came from the second floor. When Chen Ge looked up, a red wave rushed out from the second floor, rushing at Chen Ge and Wu Jinpeng.

"Jump out the window! Do not stop!"

Chen Ge was the first to reach the window. By the time he pushed the window open, the blood wave had reached them. At that moment, he could jump out, but if he did, Wu Jinpeng would definitely be swept away by the wave.

"Grab my hand!" When Chen Ge said that, the wave was cresting. Soon, it swallowed both Chen Ge and Wu Jinpeng. The blood rushed into this nose and blocked his breathing. Pain erupted all over his body.

Chen Ge forced his eyes open, and at the last moment, Wu Jinpeng grabbed at Chen Ge's backpack. The blood surged endlessly from the second floor. Other than the sound of children crying, there was a second voice that appeared. It was the whispering of a woman.

"Run while you can! Don't mind me!" Wu Jinpeng was swept by the wave until he could barely stand. He knew that this was probably his end.

“There is still chance. Think of your son!”

When Chen Ge turned around to speak, a woman with a red hairclip appeared at the corner of the second floor. She wore a loose-fitted pregnancy gown, and her faceless face was staring at Wu Jinpeng. The woman’s whispers became clearer. Like a curse or a venomous snake, they crawled into the two men’s heads.

“Jin Peng, don’t you recognize me anymore?”

“Am I a bad mother?”

“Do you hate me?”

“The boy didn’t even know how to cry when he was born, but is that my fault?”

“If he was a normal child, I would never do that, but you heard the doctor. The boy was too special. We won’t be able to take care of him. If he is given the chance to grow, he will only become a monster that everyone hates.”

“If he was a normal child, I would really stay to take care of him with you.”

“But he is not a normal child. I can’t do this anymore. My life has just started. I do not want such a baggage to ruin my life.”

“Wu Jinpeng, why don’t you come with me? We should run away together.”

“Don’t think I’m being selfish. We have been through so much. Is what I am asking too much?”

“Even if he grows up, do you think he will really find happiness?”

“Do you want him to end up like your little brother?”

“You know that you will one day grow old, and then who will take care of your brother? Who will take care of this child?”

“Instead of trapping yourself with all these responsibilities, why not come with me and live for yourself for once?”

“The man in my eyes is a bird that flies freely in the air, so... come fly with me.”

The woman’s empty face was slowly changing. She waded through the blood and suddenly appeared before Wu Jinpeng. The pale hands broke through the blood as they moved to caress Wu Jinpeng’s face.

“Bliss, happiness, desire, freedom, I am everything you seek, so why do you refuse to give me your hand?”

The woman leaned lightly next to Wu Jinpeng and had Wu Jinpeng lean his head on her. “I have never asked for anything from you. This is the first time. Promise me that we will leave together.”

Wu Jinpeng turned to the woman, and the featureless face became blurrier and blurrier. His eyes slowly lost their shine, and he stopped struggling as if he was being hypnotized by the woman’s words. The hands that grabbed Chen Ge’s backpack slowly loosened. Wu Jinpeng’s body was slowly swallowed by

the blood. Just as Chen Ge thought that Wu Jinpeng was a lost cause, the father who was almost two meters tall in Wu Sheng's eyes reached out to grab the faceless woman's shoulders.

"Quick, go get Wu Sheng and run!"

### **Chapter 1017: Let the World Hear Your Voice**

Wu Jinpeng ignored the blood that might choke him. He screamed loudly like this was his last chance. Realizing that Wu Jinpeng had not been influenced by her words, the faceless woman was incensed. Black blood capillaries bulged on the woman's pale arms as she reached out to strangle Wu Jinpeng.

"Why? Why do you still wish to protect him? I have given you everything you could ask for! Why do you volunteer to stay with despair!"

A face slowly appeared on the woman. It was not a woman's face but the face of a baby boy.

"The ghost fetus?"

"Why can't I kill you! I am the only one who really wants to help you! Why do you all insist on lying to yourselves! Why do you all believe those things that do not exist!"

The woman snapped Wu Jinpeng's neck, but she could not kill him. Wu Jinpeng, who was dying, waved anxiously at Chen Ge. He could not make a voice, but he tried to open his lips, attempting to speak. The woman's face had taken on the form of a baby. Her mouth was wide open, but her eyes were closed, like it was a ginormous effort to open them. Her dress was dyed red by blood. This monster was obviously more powerful than the snail behind Jiang Ming's door.

Chen Ge finally understood everything.

"Wu Sheng was born with a disability. He was abandoned by his mother because of it. That was the hurdle that the boy couldn't get over. The ghost fetus used this to his advantage to spread his malice, trying to trap the boy within the abyss of despair.

"However, the ghost fetus miscalculated. Wu Sheng has a very good father. No matter what happens, Wu Sheng will be protected by his father. From Wu Jinpeng, Wu Sheng understood that the world was not as despairing as depicted by the ghost fetus. The ghost fetus couldn't kill Wu Sheng's father because he was unable to change Wu Sheng's impression of Wu Jinpeng."

Chen Ge did not run. He looked at the crazed woman.

"It's rather surprising that a demon god has been pushed to such lengths by a normal human father."

After understanding everything, Chen Ge understood the knot in Wu Sheng's heart and the key was he had found the ghost that the ghost fetus chose to possess.

"There is no need for this world to exist anymore. After killing this woman, I should be able to decrease the ghost fetus' power further."

Clicking on the recorder, Chen Ge took several steps back.

"Compared to the snail, this woman is much scarier. Wu Sheng's world behind the world was also more stable than Jiang Ming's. Looks like there are differences between the nine doors."

Standing in the pool of blood, Chen Ge took out the comic. The crying and whispering gradually weakened, replaced by shrill screams and heart-breaking wails.

Red cracks spread through the walls and floor. The woman standing in the blood finally noticed Chen Ge. She put down the mangled Wu Jinpeng, the poor man who had been tortured but still had a breath in him, and walked toward Chen Ge. An adult woman with a baby's face, it was quite scary, but Chen Ge felt no fear. As more Red Specters appeared, the woman stopped.

"Brother Peng! Wake up, this place is going to the dumps. The sun will rise soon!"

Xu Yin, Ol' Bai, and the Stench had appeared first and jumped at the woman. The woman fought evenly with the three Red Specters. To Chen Ge's surprise, the woman had an exception control over the blood. She seemed to be able to multitask very well.

"Get her!" More and more Red Specters appeared. After the red high heels joined the fray, the woman finally reached her limits. She kept cursing, but the battle was decided. The blood under her control was spread thin, and the baby's eyes opened a slit at the last moment. "I will kill you! No matter who you are, I will kill you!"

The woman dissolved into blood mist. The blood disappeared, and what remained was a child's tooth covered in black blood.

"Killing is illegal. To stop you from straying from the good path, I could only try my best to stop you." Chen Ge walked over to the tooth and realized that the tooth had words carved into it—"Is this my tooth?"

He was about to pick it up when the tooth suddenly disappeared into his shadow. His hand hung in the air, leaving Chen Ge startled. "Zhang Ya?"

The world behind Wu Sheng's door was about to collapse. Chen Ge could not stay for long. Carrying the backpack and Wu Jinpeng, they ran to the small house where Wu Sheng was hiding.

"Brother, put me down, I was just reminded of many things."

"We'll talk after we leave this place."

They rushed to the small house, and Chen Ge and Wu Jinpeng entered the room.

"Wu Sheng?" Wu Jinpeng smoothed down his clothes and opened the wooden box. Wu Sheng was still inside, covering his mouth with his hands. "The game is over. You don't need to be afraid of your voice attracting the monsters or bad people anymore. From now on, you can say anything you want. I want the world to hear your voice, okay?"

He picked up Wu Sheng from the box. "Today, we're finally moving."

With the protection of the Red Specters, the group reached the end of the western streets. Many cracks appeared on the sealed iron door.

"It's time for us to leave." Chen Ge looked at Wu Jinpeng. The large and muscular man put Wu Sheng down and then bent down to pull Wu Sheng into a tight hug. "The thing I am proudest of in my life is having you as my son. Go now. You do not belong here. This place shouldn't hold you back."

The broken iron door was pushed open. Wu Jinpeng nudged Wu Sheng toward Chen Ge. As the world started to collapse, so did Wu Jinpeng's body. Summoning back the Red Specters, Chen Ge held Wu Sheng's hand and stepped through the black door.

Bang!

His knees knocked against the side of the bed. Chen Ge, who carried the backpack, tripped over, and he collapsed onto the single bed. The flickering door disappeared, and a familiar voice came from the darkness.

"Brother? You, huh? Where did you come from?"

The lamp was turned around. Feeling the light on him, Wu Jinpeng was staring at Chen Ge in bed with his mouth open. Wu Sheng, who had been sound asleep, also opened his eyes. Perhaps because he was being pressed down by Chen Ge or he was reminded of something, when he saw Wu Jinpeng, he started to cry. The crying was loud, so loud that the neighbors could hear him clearly.

"Oh, don't cry. The uncle did not mean to collapse on you..." Wu Jinpeng was confounded. Wu Sheng had been born with problematic voice chords. He would not cry when he was born. His face was often green, supposedly from all the words that he held in. Wu Jinpeng did not expect the child that could not cry since he was young, the child who was declared abnormal by the doctors, would suddenly cry that day, and he was crying so loudly.

"Go give your boy a hug. He has seen too many things, and those things have been corroding his heart." Chen Ge hugged his knees and sat at the corner. He did not interrupt Wu Jinpeng and Wu Sheng.

### **Chapter 1018: Fifth Living Employee**

Wu Sheng sat next to Wu Jinpeng and kept crying as if he was making up for the tears that he had been holding in all these years. His small hands gripped Wu Jinpeng's clothes, and his face was scrunched up in pain. He wanted to say something, but his voice was overwhelmed by his crying.

"It's only a nightmare. Everything's fine now. I am here." Wu Jinpeng hugged Wu Sheng and patted him lightly on his back. The father and son embraced each other, and Chen Ge sighed in relief. He rubbed his knees and slowly walked out. When he pulled back the curtain, the black phone vibrated. Chen Ge took it out to read the latest message.

"You have completed 2/9 of the Ghost Fetus Trial Mission. The ghost fetus can no longer curse you through your voice. Red Specters' Favored, you do not have much time left!"

"A curse can be inflicted through my voice? Meaning he only needs to hear me speak to curse me? That is such a powerful ability!"

In Chen Ge's experience, curses needed a medium. To curse a person, one needed their hair, fingernails, or clothes, but the message on the black phone corrected his misunderstanding. The ghost fetus only needed to hear his voice to curse him. However, this must only be the tip of the iceberg. As a demon god, the ghost fetus must have more power than this. Even with the protection of the Red Specters, Chen Ge felt not so safe.

“The ghost fetus has too many ways to hurt me. I might get harmed without even knowing it. No wonder the black phone claims that once the ghost fetus is born, I will definitely die.”

The crying inside the bedroom woke up Wu Kun, who was sleeping in the living room. He hugged the broken fan and looked at Chen Ge with fear. Initially, Chen Ge did not mind it, but the man did not stop staring at him, to the point Chen Ge felt quite unsettled.

“Why are you looking at me like this? Do you see something on me?”

Hearing Chen Ge’s voice, Wu Jinpeng’s brother grabbed the thin blanket to cover his head. He was at the verge of tears. Wu Kun was eight years younger than Wu Jinpeng. Being treated like this by a man over thirty, Chen Ge felt quite uncomfortable.

“Are you afraid of me?” Chen Ge walked toward Wu Kun.

Before he got near, Wu Kun extended his two shaking hands. “The fan, the fan...”

Wu Kun held the broken fan with both hands, as he knelt on the ground with his shaking body.

“You want to give me the fan?” Chen Ge sat down before Wu Kun. When he was about to take the fan, he saw the wounds on Wu Kun’s arms. “Something does not feel right. Why does he keep mentioning fan? What is he trying to express? Now that I think about it, I did not encounter Wu Kun behind Wu Sheng’s door. As his father’s younger brother, it’s impossible that Wu Sheng has no impression of him.”

Chen Ge returned the fan to Wu Kun. After a long time, Wu Kun finally calmed down.

“Tell me, what are you so afraid of?”

Before Wu Kun could answer, the curtain was pulled back. Wu Jinpeng switched the bedside lamp off.

“How is Wu Sheng?”

“He fell asleep after he tired himself out crying.” Wu Jinpeng’s eyes were puffy, too. He stood before Chen Ge. “Brother, the biggest wish in my life is that Wu Sheng can grow up like a normal child, and I have already prepared to take care of him forever... thank you.”

“Brother Peng, to be honest, you’re the reason Wu Sheng could make this recovery.” Chen Ge planned to employ Wu Jinpeng, so he did not hide too many things. “What I’m going to say next, you can choose to not believe me, but I ask that you do not tell anyone else.”

“Don’t worry, you have my word.”

“Behind that door is a despairing, gory, and eerie world. After Wu Sheng falls asleep every night, he is trapped inside that world. Such a small child has to face all sorts of monsters alone.” Chen Ge lowered his voice. “As a self-defense mechanism, he conjured up a version of you in his dream. The dream version of yourself is no different from you in real life; you have been trying your best to protect him. It is because of you that he did not lose himself and his soul to the demon.”

“Wait, you’re suddenly giving me too much information. Let me process it first.” After a moment’s silence, Wu Jinpeng suddenly pinched himself. “Then, doesn’t that mean that if I went into the door sooner, Wu Sheng would have been spared from the torture earlier?”

“Not anyone can enter that door. If a normal person enters it, they will most likely unable to return.”

When Chen Ge turned to Wu Jinpeng, he narrowed his pupils as he used Yin Yang Vision. Wu Jinpeng wilted under Chen Ge’s gaze. He felt like he was staring at a dead person’s eyes.

“Are you afraid?”

“A little bit.” Wu Jinpeng nodded honestly. This handsome man was obedient like a child before Chen Ge.

“I lied to you earlier. I told you that there was a child of my relative that was like Wu Sheng, but that was a lie to get close to you.” Chen Ge put down the backpack and sighed. “In reality, there is no relative in this story. The child that has the same condition as Wu Sheng is me.”

“You?” Wu Jinpeng was baffled. “But you look so normal.”

“I grew up normally like other children because I have parents that love me dearly. They’ve entered a door for me.” Chen Ge slowly lowered his head. “But they have not returned from that door. I haven’t been unable to find them.”

“Is that why you have been looking for doors? To see if you can find them behind the doors?” Wu Jinpeng’s eyes became red again. He could empathize with Chen Ge. “Brother, if you don’t mind, let me help you in your endeavor! I’m sure you’ll need a hand. And you helped me save Wu Sheng. I have to repay you somehow!”

“That’s unnecessary. I came here due to my selfish reason. I just wanted to see whether my parents might be behind Wu Sheng’s door.”

“No matter what, it’s the truth that you’ve saved Wu Sheng! Brother, don’t make me beg you!” Wu Jinpeng pleaded.

“Fine, looks like I can’t win this argument.” Chen Ge raised his head. “My real occupation is the owner of a haunted house. Do you know what that is?”

“I used to visit them when I was a child. Now that I think about it, I’ve visited quite a number of them.” Wu Jinpeng appeared quite interested.

“Brother Peng, where do you work now, and how much you earn a month?”

“If you include the overtime, I get paid about four thousand a month, but with the current economy, I don’t know how long that’ll last. I’ve been hearing rumors of an imminent culling.”

“How about this? Come and work for me at my haunted house. I’ll pay you four thousand as a basic salary and a bonus at the end of the month.” Chen Ge’s haunted house desperately needed living employees, and most of the time, one employee had to take on more than one role. Chen Ge had no choice. His haunted house was too unique, and he would only hire actual people that he had one hundred percent confidence in.

“That is too much. I was planning to help you, but now you’ve turned around and helped me with my work problem. You’re being too kind to me.” Wu Jinpeng shook his head.

“After all, you have seen the ‘door’, that makes communication of certain things much easier. Other than that, you have a wonderful personality. I’m sure you’ll mix well with the other employees.” Chen Ge admired Wu Jinpeng greatly. This father who had been through who knew how much had a loving heart and a tough soul.

### **Chapter 1019: Bad Neighbour From the Old City**

“You don’t need to worry about me making friends. I’ve always been friendly with my colleagues, but you can pay me according to how you’d pay an intern. At least let me prove myself before you hire me officially,” Wu Jinpeng said sincerely.

“I do not hire interns, or rather, the internship period is very short. Normally, I can tell whether a person is suitable for the job or not with one glance.” Chen Ge’s haunted house only had one new employee ceremony, and that was to go through all the scenarios with the visitors once. If they could come out with their consciousness somewhat still intact, they could stay and work.

“Okay, then after I send Wu Sheng to school tomorrow, I’ll quit my current job. Due to this economy, I doubt they will ask me to stay. I’ll head to our haunted house in the afternoon. By the way, where is it?”

“Western Jiujiang’s New Century Park.” Chen Ge looked at Wu Jinpeng. This was the fifth living employee that he had hired. Whether he expanded into Xin Hai or anything else, Wu Jinpeng should come in handy. The shadows would be handled by the ghosts, and the living would work under the sunlight; a good haunted house had to function on both fronts. Now that Wu Jinpeng was officially a part of the haunted house, he was Chen Ge’s family, and Chen Ge always had time for his family.

“Brother Peng, I have one last thing to ask you.” Chen Ge stood up and walked to Wu Kun. “Has your little brother always been like this? Did your parents try to send him to get some treatment?”

“They did try when he was young, but the effect was not so good. Even though he was unable to live independently or work, he could do some simple housework. My brother is very kind. He often surprises me by helping me with the chores.” Wu Jinpeng sat down next to his brother. “Sometimes, when I was working in the day and singing in bars at night, it was my little brother who looked after Wu Sheng. Even though they both have some problems, they’re good friends.”

“Good friends? Then that’s strange.” Chen Ge did not want to hide anything. “There was a lot of symbolism behind Wu Sheng’s door, and all the symbols could be related back to the reality, but I did not see anything that could represent Wu Kun in Wu Sheng’s door. It is as if Wu Kun does not exist in Wu Sheng’s mind.”

“That’s impossible. They stay together every day.”

“That is the first point that struck me as strange. The second point is the fan that Wu Kun is holding. Why does he insist on the fan?” Chen Ge looked at Wu Kun’s mangled fingers. “Your little brother might be mentally challenged, but he showed no sign of being a self-harming person. There are many different kinds of mental illnesses, and he does not appear to have the kind where he would push his hands into a fan voluntarily. So, I suspect someone else was there when the accident happened!”

“You mean someone pushed my brother’s hands into the fan?” Wu Jinpeng’s jaw tightened.



“Why else would he keep on mentioning the fan? He might be warning you.” Chen Ge had just finished when Wu Jinpeng woke Wu Kun up. Wu Kun, who knew nothing, hugged the fan and curled up in the corner. He was both angry and afraid.

“Xiao Kun, your big brother is here. Tell me, did someone bully you? Don’t be afraid. Have you forgotten? I always helped you fight those people who bullied you when we were small. I will go and punch those who dares bully you, so will you tell me who did this?”

Wu Jinpeng spoke very fast on the account of his anger, and that spooked his younger brother. Wu Kun hugged the fan, grabbed the blanket, and crawled all over the floor, screaming.

“Do you know what time it is? You might not want to sleep, but I do!”

The house had a horrible soundproof wall. The neighbors started to complain, so Chen Ge helped Wu Jinpeng detain Wu Kun.

“Xiao Kun, don’t be afraid. I am here with you.” Wu Jinpeng pulled Wu Kun’s head into his embrace, but his eyes was looking at Chen Ge. “Now that you mention it, I was reminded of something. My brother’s condition has been steadily improving for some time, but ever since his hands were injured by the fan, his condition suddenly deteriorated greatly.”

“Did your little brother act strangely at all after that accident?”

Wu Jinpeng thought about it. “Actually, yes. There were several times when I got home and saw my brother staring at his own shadow in the corner. He even used his hand to slap at it occasionally.”

“Was it the shadow from Li Wan City that harmed Wu Kun? But according to the shadow’s personality, if Wu Kun stood in his way, he would have just killed Wu Kun. He would not let him live, so why was that?” Chen Ge was surprised that he would be able to get more clues from Wu Jinpeng’s brother. “Other than the fan, did Wu Kun mention anything else that was out of place?”

“Let me think.” Wu Jinpeng’s brows were scrunched up in thought. “Yes. At the time, we were still living at our old house. Wu Kun would run away so fast whenever we needed to go out, it was as if he refused to stay too long on our floor. One time I asked him why, he pointed at the door of our neighbor, shouting again and again ghost, ghost!”

“The old house? Where did you live when you stayed in the old city?”

“We were staying at Jiujiang old city’s Blissful East Street, then we moved to Eastern Jiujiang, and finally due to work, we moved again to Western Jiujiang.” Wu Jinpeng told Chen Ge all the addresses of his former rental homes.

“Your family has stayed in the old city before. Jiang Ming has stayed in the old city. Fan Yu has spent his childhood in the old city. Something must be wrong with the old city.” Chen Ge marked down Wu Jinpeng’s former address. He planned to visit it the following day.

“Wait, I am reminded of something else.” Wu Jinpeng opened the wooden box that had his guitar and took out a mud statuette with Wu Sheng’s name on it. The statuette was dark like it was made from mud and blood. “When we were staying at the old city, that strange neighbor gifted us an altar. He said that by placing it at home, Wu Sheng would definitely speak within nine years.”

“Where is that altar now?”

“The altar was too big to carry it with us when we moved for the second time, so we left it at the rental house in Eastern Jiujiang. The new tenant thought it was quite taboo to have an unknown altar in the house, so he moved it to the basement.” Wu Jinpeng handed the mud statuette to Chen Ge. “But we have been keeping the mud statuette from inside the altar with us.”

Everything now matched. Chen Ge accepted the statuette and placed it on his shadow. “Brother Peng, that altar is not for good fortune. It’s a home for a demon. You have been tricked by that neighbor.”

“Could it be that neighbor who stuck Wu Kun’s hands into the fan?”

“For now, we can’t be sure, but I will investigate this further. You should get a good rest, so I shall not disturb you anymore.” Chen Ge picked up the statuette from the shadow and returned it to Wu Jinpeng. “See you at work tomorrow.”

Strangely enough, the statuette did not stay on Chen Ge’s shadow for that long, but all the black blood stains had disappeared.

### **Chapter 1020: A Person Made From Curses [2 in 1]**

The people in the rental house did not notice that Chen Ge’s shadow started to slowly change its shape after consuming the blood stains on the mud statuette. It appeared like a young woman who was turning lightly in her sleep.

“You guys should get a good rest. I will see you tomorrow.” Chen Ge took a look at the clock on the wall. It was already 2 am. After he left Wu Jinpeng’s rental house, Chen Ge did not return to New Century Park but got into a cab to head to the old city. The weak light from the streetlamps filtered through the taxi window and fell on his body. Chen Ge watched as the quiet city went by and pulled his collar tighter to his body.

The old city at night was very different from how it looked in the day. The government did not spend money to fix most of the broken streetlamps, so the roads were dark and dim. The place was as quiet and as dark as a ghost town. As Jiujiang continued to grow, more and more people moved away from the old city to seek a new fortune at the newer part of the town.

Passing through the dark streets, Chen Ge took only about ten minutes to find Wu Jinpeng’s previous rental home. The place was about two streets away from where Fan Yu once lived. But the condition here was much worse and the stench in the air was also much thicker.

“How did they manage to stay here for so long? Or is it only me who can smell the horrible stench?” Chen Ge thought back to the morning when he had gone to find Jiang Ming’s mother at that area of the city. Both the ladies from the neighborhood committee and Jiang Ming’s mother did not comment on the strange smell in the air. As Chen Ge was reminded of it, he realized that it was strange indeed. He wondered if that meant they had gotten used to it or something else completely. Walking through the alley, Chen Ge finally reached his destination. Chen Ge held the rusted banister of an old staircase to get up to the second floor of one of the buildings. He looked around him. He was not at the oldest and most dilapidated part of the old city.

“Room 204, Room 204... Found it, this one.” Chen Ge stopped his footsteps. Before him was a wooden door that was painted red. A rusted iron chain was tied around the doorknob. “After Wu Jinpeng’s family moved away, has no one rented this room?”

Flipping through the comic, Chen Ge summoned out Men Nan. “Brother Nan, I need your help. I need you to go into this room and scout out the place for me, but be careful of the room next door. Do not go in there no matter what.”

Room 205, which was the innermost room on the second floor, was the room that Wu Kun said was haunted. It was also the tenant of that room who had given Wu Jinpeng the altar and the mud statuette, masquerading them as a blessing and gift. For the sake of security, Chen Ge only told Men Nan to enter Room 204. If he came back with nothing, then he would summon a few more Red Specters, and they would barge into Room 205 together. Droplets of fresh blood slid through the wooden gap. Men Nan reappeared one minute later after he slipped into the room. “Everything in the room looks normal. There is nothing that appears out of place, but it feels strangely uncomfortable staying inside the room even though I cannot give you an exact reason why.”

“Then, I need you to take Xu Yin along with this pair of red high heels into Room 205.”

The three Red Specters entered Room 205. Several seconds later, a strange sound came out from inside the room. It sounded like a knife piercing balloons that were filled with water. And then Chen Ge heard bones being dislocated and shirts being torn. “What is going on?”

Blood vessels crawled on the door, and a thick stench of blood started to spread all over the place. From that, Chen Ge knew for sure that Men Nan’s group had run into something behind the door. He wasted no time to summon Xiao Bu and the red raincoat from the comic. On this side, it was hell on earth, but suddenly, the light on the corridor about five to six meters away was switched on, and a man’s annoyed grumbling and footsteps could be heard. Just as the man was about to arrive, the door of Room 205 before Chen Ge was suddenly pushed open from the inside.

“Chen Ge, quick come in and take a look!”

Darting into the room, Chen Ge held his nostrils out of habit. There was a heavy stink collecting inside the room. He closed the door behind him as light as he could and then used Yin Yang Vision to study the apartment. The place was not big. It was only about thirty cubic meters in size. There were many faded newspaper cuttings on the wall, and dust had settled on every surface. It appeared like the place had been deserted for a long time.

“Did you guys fight something earlier? Did anyone get injured or hurt?” Chen Ge was both curious and concerned.

“It was not a thing that we fought; it was a curse.” Men Nan pulled down the newspaper cuttings that were stuck to the wall. Behind the newspaper cuttings, torn out hair and patches of black blood were clumped together on the walls. They looked like an eerie piece of art.

“These are the curse?”

“Yes, the hair pieces and the blood came from different people. When we first got in, the black threads of curse started intertwining and spread all over the room. If you had entered carelessly, you would

have been cursed without even knowing it.” Men Nan signaled for Chen Ge to retreat. He did not want the man to stay too close to the walls.

“Is the curse here similar to the curse in Li Wan City?”

“They are two different kinds of curses.” Only Men Nan, who was holding the pair of red high heels and reached Chen Ge’s knees, was answering his question seriously. “Based on what this big sister told me, the curse in the room was merely a byproduct of another curse when it was being processed and completed.”

“In other words, someone once used this room to create a very scary curse when they were living here?”

“You could see it that way, yes. After all, the curse formed from the negative emotions that lingered in this place are a mere taste of the actual curse. They were only a very small and insignificant part of the actual and original curse.” Men Nan nodded. He had this kind of serious and cautious personality.

“A very small and insignificant part of the curse is already powerful enough to distort the room to such a dangerous state, so how scary is the actual curse itself? How dangerous will it be?”

“It is unimaginable. At least this big sister said she has not encountered such a powerful and scary curse before.” Men Nan raised the pair of red high heels toward Chen Ge. “Can you please take her away from me? I am not really afraid of her, but it feels rather awkward for me to carry her around by her shoes.”

Chen Ge ignored Men Nan’s request and continued with his questioning. “Is it possible for any of you to tell what the original curse is about based on what’s currently in the room? Can you tell me who the original curse is meant for?”

“We cannot tell who the target of the curse is, but we managed to wrangle some information from the wall. This curse is made up from nine distinct parts.” Men Nan tore down all the newspaper cuttings from the innermost wall of the room. The wall that was covered in torn out hair and blood stains carved out the shape of a small figure. There were many statements written within the shadow of the figure with untidy handwriting.

‘What is a human being?’

‘What constitutes a human being? What are they made up from?’

‘A pair of eyes that can see the world, a pair of ears that can hear the world, a mouth that can communicate the world, a body that can host the soul...’

‘Human beings also need memories, layers of their past.’

‘What is light?’

‘Warmth, yes, human bodies give off heat and warmth.’

‘They also say human beings should have love, but what is love?’

‘I seem to be missing something very important. Think. What does he have that I don’t?’

The rows of statements cut up the small figure neatly into nine pieces, and each piece was painted a different color.

“The painting itself is the curse?” Chen Ge was rather confounded by this discovery.

“Instead of calling it a curse, it is more accurate to refer to it as the tenant’s Dream Whisperings. These were the things that he was thinking about the most when he was working on the curse,” Men Nan said. “This curse gave us a very strange feeling. It is like underneath the heavy coat of death, there hides a young sapling that is growing amid the darkness.”

“The nine parts should correspond to the nine children. So, it is most likely that it was the ghost fetus who left behind this curse. This means that he has once stayed in the old city.”

Those were all the clues they could find in the room. Chen Ge summoned back the few Red Specters and walked out from the apartment.

“Something horrible will happen should someone accidentally walk into this place.” Chen Ge locked the door securely. He planned to return when he had more time on his hands to give this place a good ‘cleaning’.

“Sounds like someone was coming out from this room earlier. Since he is still awake, I might as well use this opportunity to ask him some questions.” Chen Ge walked to the other end of the second floor. This room was different from the other room. The door had an additional anti-theft steel door on top of the normal wooden door. This set itself apart from the other tenants.

“Is anyone home?” Chen Ge knocked on the door lightly.

Moments later, the agitated voice of a middle-aged man echoed out from inside the room. “Stop f\*cking knocking on the door!”

The wooden door inside the rental house was pulled open. An unkempt, middle-aged man who was radiating an uncomfortable smell of sweat stood at the door. “Was it you who created such a loud commotion outside the door earlier? Did you just move here? Why aren’t you in bed when it is already so late at night. If you continue to make such a big ruckus, I am going to call the cops on you!”

“There is no need to trouble the police for such a small thing. I just wish to ask you a few questions.” Chen Ge smiled very politely. “Of course, I do not expect you to help me for no reason. If you can answer my questions nicely, I will give you one hundred RMB for each question that you have answered.”

“Are you sleep walking, or is this some kind of prank? You came to my door at two thirty in the early morning to give me a quiz?” The middle-aged man looked around cautiously like a possibility just dawned on him. “There is a camera hidden somewhere, isn’t there? Where’s the camera crew?”

“First, who is the landlord of this building?”

“I am the landlord of this place. What’s the problem? Are you here to rent a room? Then I have to ask you to leave. I will not rent to troublemaker like you.” As unsightly as the middle-aged man was, the way he looked at Chen Ge was still filled with derision and condescension.

“Second, have you rented out Room 205 at the end of this corridor to someone recently?” Chen Ge did not want to waste time on nonsense with the man. If not for his generosity, he would have barged into the room, released the Red Specters, and slammed the exit shut already.

“Room 205 has been rented out since about six years ago. The tenant sends me money every year punctually. The man does not stay here often, but he asks that I keep the room available for him. Since he is paying me money, I don’t see the harm in following his instructions.” The middle-aged man scratched at his hair that was clumped together from a lacking of washing.

“You have not rented it to anyone else during this past six years?”

“No, the tenant always gives me the money about six months before the deadline every year, and he often slips me extra, paying me more than the required rental. Why would I chase away such a good tenant?”

“What does that tenant look like? Do you know what kind of career he is in?” Chen Ge had a feeling that this tenant was the ghost fetus that he was looking for.

“Why should I tell you about that private information? Who are you? Are you a police officer? Why do you think I will leak my tenant’s valuable information to you?” The middle-aged man crossed his arms.

“If you tell me the specifics about the man’s appearance and what he does for a living, I will give you another five hundred RMB.”

“He is a student. He first moved here about five years ago. I believe it was because he got into a serious argument with his family, and he had run away from home. At the time, he had just gotten into secondary school, and he did not have much money on him.” The middle-aged man exposed the details of the tenant of Room 205. “He did not stand out in terms of appearance. He had long hair and a weak constitution. I could hear him very often, and he had the tendency to mumble in his sleep.”

“Is that all you can give me? That is a bit too general. Kids like that litter the street. How do you expect me to go and find him?” Chen Ge did not hold out much hope based on the clues that had been given him by the middle-aged man.

“You want to go and find him?” The middle-aged man gave Chen Ge a once-over and then extended his index finger. “Give me another one thousand RMB, and I will tell you a way that you will be able to find him.”

“No problem, you have a deal.”

“After he ran away from home, his mother came here to look for him. At the time, he was not home, so his mother came to talk to me instead. She left me with a message for the boy. When he came back, I was to inform him that his mother had come, and she wanted him to go to the Eastern Jiujiang’s Huai Ai Hospital to find her. She seemed to be the head nurse for that hospital.” The middle-aged man was not as sleepy as when Chen Ge first knocked on his door. Even though it was fast approaching 3 am, at the thought that he was about to get at least two thousand RMB from answering a few easy questions, his eyes were practically glowing.

“This information is very valuable. Of course, that is if you are not lying to me.” Chen Ge pulled open the zipper of his backpack.

“Why would I lie to you? Now stop wasting my time and give me the money. Don’t think you can cheat me. I have been counting. I have answered more than enough of your questions to earn at least two thousand RMB!” The middle-aged man saw Chen Ge open his backpack, so his greedy gaze involuntarily wandered to look inside it. He noticed the bulging backpack had a human spine lying inside it.

Rubbing his eyes, the middle-aged man glanced deeper into the backpack. Other than the real human spine, there was a pair of bloody red high heels inside the backpack!

A madman? Pervert? Murderer? Serial Killer?

Cold sweat covered and slid down the middle-aged man’s face. Without even realizing it, he took a cautionary step backward.

“My phone is running out of power, so I can’t do a bank transfer. Why don’t you open the door. I will hand you the cash instead.” Chen Ge leaned closer to the steel door, and his lips were slowly curling upward. “You just need to open a small gap for my hand to squeeze through...”

“There is no need. That is unnecessary. I... I only answered a few questions. Why should I expect to be paid for that?” The middle-aged man took another step back. “I have already shared everything that I know. I do not know any more than that. The kid has not been back here for a long time. I believe he will not return any time soon. So, you’d better go look for him somewhere else.”

“Okay. You are probably right about that.” Chen Ge nodded. With a sense of responsibility weighing him down, he turned to ask the landlord again, “Do you really not want the money?”

“No, no, I really don’t!” The middle-aged man waved his hands repeatedly and then quickly slammed the wooden door shut.

“Looks like there are still good people in this world.” Chen Ge carried his backpack and walked down the stairs. “I have not heard of this Huai Ai Hospital before. It should be a private hospital. I’ll go and visit the place tomorrow.”

Stretching his back lazily, Chen Ge left the old city without turning back. “When the sun rises, I’ll only have five nights left.”

When Chen Ge returned to his own haunted house’s staff breakroom, the sun was already rising. He had just crawled into bed when he received a message from Lee Zheng on the phone that he had just plunged into the socket to charge.

“This is an emergency! Reply to me if you see this message!”

“Chen Ge, call me immediately when you see this message!”

There were many similar messages. Chen Ge could hear the urgency in the messages, so he quickly called Lee Zheng’s number. The phone rang only once before it was picked up. Lee Zheng’s voice came from the other side of the line. “Chen Ge, are you alright?”

“Why wouldn’t I be?” Chen Ge was as confused as he could be.

“Yesterday, we closed in on the location of Jia Ming’s group, and the capture operation was scheduled to be done at night. The boy’s father, Zhen Chun, was killed by the suspect Bei Ye, while the boy’s

mother, Yu Wangqing, is in ICU due to serious injuries. The suspect, Bei Ye, was shot and died on the spot. However, both Jia Ming and the boy were not at the crime scene. We have blocked all the roads, but no one has seen any sign of them.”

“How did Jia Ming manage to escape with a child?”

“From the very beginning, Jia Ming planned to use Bei Ye and the boy’s parents as bait. He purposely exposed himself, and when we were busy with his partners, he used the opening to escape. He used his partners’ life to buy time for himself. The man is so awful. How can a man be so heartless?”

“He is no longer a normal man, but Inspector Lee, why are you telling me all this?” Lee Zheng normally would not reveal this inside information to a member of the public. Since he had chosen to share the information with Chen Ge, it could only mean that what happened next would be related to Chen Ge.

“Jia Ming’s group did not leave Jiujiang because they were looking for something. For now, we do not know what that is, but we found a lot of information that’s related to you at their hiding place. I suspect that their next target might be you!”

“They are trying to come for me? Then that... is really so scary.” Chen Ge almost let slip the words... ‘would be perfect’.