

Horrors 1031

Chapter 1031: First Time Conversing With It

The fading world had its color seeping out. Chen Ge could see his hands turning gray. He noticed that this door was more complicated than he had expected. “My brain is getting duller by the minute. This can’t go on any longer.”

Fang Yu’s world was much bigger than Wu Sheng’s world. Other than the orphanage, most of the other buildings looked the same, so it was easy to get lost in the city. Chen Ge looked for a long time before he found a way to exit the city. It was a small path hidden among a gray forest. There was no smell of flowers, no chirping of birds—everywhere he looked, there was gray foliage and white trunks. His limbs were turning white. Chen Ge could sense his movement slowing down. He had no idea why that was happening.

“No matter what, I need to find Fang Yu soon!”

The forest went deeper than he thought. The road was winding, and it appeared to go on endlessly. Chen Ge trekked forward because he had no other choice. The longer he stayed in Fang Yu’s world, the more he would forget. Therefore, he could not repeat what he had done in Wu Sheng’s world; he could not wait at a stop for Xu Yin and the rest to come before he made his move. Every second was precious, just like Fang Yu’s life. From the moment she opened her eyes in the morning and wrote down her memory, her life entered a countdown. She had to find the people in her memory before midnight because she knew that once she lay down, it would be a clean slate the next morning.

After a very long walk, until Chen Ge became numb to the surroundings, the scenery suddenly opened up. There was a wooden house at the end of the road. It was surrounded by fresh flowers and littered with toys. Pushing open the door, Chen Ge’s hands that grabbed the backpack tightened. He saw a little girl sitting in the middle of the house. She wore pure white clothes and had long gray hair. She was carrying a small fishbowl, in which a blood red goldfish was swimming. The fish moved agitatedly, but the fish bowl was only so big.

“Fang Yu?” Hearing him, the girl in the white dress turned to look at Chen Ge. She looked just like Fang Yu, but her eyes were like lifeless as if she was a puppet.

“I finally found you. It’s time to go home.” The girl’s body shivered. Her lips moved, but she made no sound. It appeared like she was repeating the term ‘home’ soundlessly. Chen Ge looked at the girl before his eyes wandered to the fishbowl. The only thing that had color in this world was that goldfish. Entering the room, Chen Ge pulled up the girl from the floor. The girl did not resist, like a shell that had no self.

“There are many people missing you back at home. They have not forgotten you.” The girl hugged the fishbowl while Chen Ge put his hands around her as they walked out from the wooden house. Once they stepped out, the goldfish became more agitated like it was trying to jump out from its small enclosure.

“Why are you hugging that fishbowl? Is the goldfish that important to you?”

“Yes.” A simple word, but that was the first voice that Chen Ge had heard in the world behind Fang Yu’s door. Realizing that he could communicate with her, Chen Ge smiled. “You must be lonely, staying here alone, right? Do you remember a boy who always stay by your side, a boy who is a chatterbox?”

The girl shook her head, but her eyes stayed glued to the goldfish. It was hard to tell what she was thinking.

“He helped you at the most dangerous moment. For you, he gave his life.” Chen Ge carried the girl, but he was also studying the goldfish. “Do you know what it means by the end of one’s life?”

The girl did not answer.

“The opposite of life is death. After we die, we cannot hear his voice, see his face, or touch his palms anymore.” Chen Ge was not just chatting with the girl. He was testing her out. Fang Yu only had one day of memory, but that did not mean that she had forgotten everything. There was one person that she had not forgotten, and that was Zhang Yi. Chen Ge knew what Zhang Yi represented for Fang Yu. Before entering this world, he predicted that Zhang Yi would be the only light in Fang Yu’s world. But after meeting Fang Yu, Chen Ge realized that things were not that simple. The only color and light in this gray and white world was a goldfish, a blood red goldfish.

“In this world, has anyone spoken to you, other than myself?” Chen Ge carried the backpack and walked next to the girl. They walked side by side, but neither of them was looking at each other. Their eyes were focused elsewhere.

After a long time, the girl replied, “No.”

There was no expression on her face, and her gray eyes carried no hope. There was no despair, either, only a still silence.

“Then, am I your only friend?” Chen Ge spoke very slowly like he needed to think for a long time before he could construct the sentence in his mind.

“Friend?” The girl stopped moving. Her gray eyes looked at Chen Ge, the latter reflecting in her eyes. For some reason, the world in her eyes appeared to become more barren. “You, no.”

“Fine, perhaps I got the wrong person.” Chen Ge’s hand landed on the girl’s shoulder lightly. “I used to have a friend like you. He is very lonely and always alone. I forgot how we met, but I knew we were always seen together.”

Pa!

The clear fishbowl started to crack, but the girl continued to walk slowly ahead like nothing had happened.

“Why would such good friends end up like strangers?” Chen Ge looked at the winding road as he summoned Xu Yin’s name in his heart. The employees were trying hard to break through. They were trying to cooperate to break down this world.

“I have forgotten many things, all the pain, despair, and experiences that I have enjoyed with my friend. When I came to, the friend had already left.”

“What is the name of your friend?” The girl’s voice was soft. She kept her head lowered.

“I can’t remember anymore, but I believe it is Chen Ge.” Chen Ge stopped moving. “He wants to have the same name as mine.”

The girl did not stop, and she moved along without waiting for Chen Ge. The cracks on the fishbowl became more obvious. The goldfish swam about in anxiety, and the clear water became muddled.

“I also know someone with that name.” The girl’s voice was slightly different from before. “He has no friends. No one is willing to be his friend, including me.”

“Is the child that repellent?”

“No, it’s the opposite. He is a very good kid.” The girl kept her head lowered. The voice did not seem to come from her lips but somewhere else inside this world.

“Why would such a good kid have trouble making friends?” Chen Ge spoke slower and slower. Half of his body was now gray.

“Because he carries a deep secret.” The girl slowly lifted her head that had gotten blurry. “He is a child that refuses to die. No matter how you kill him, he will always return. Would you befriend someone like that?”

Chapter 1032: Shadow Playing Alone

Translator: Lonelytree **Editor:** Millman97

“A child that you can’t kill no matter what?” Chen Ge lifted his head, and his gaze passed through the gray foliage to look at the pale sky. Even if he was willing to be that kid’s friend, the kid would still have no friends because he was most likely that kid himself.

“I do not believe there is such a kid in this world. If he really exists, I will be his friend,” Chen Ge answered affirmatively. Then he turned to the girl. “By the way, how do you know he is unable to die no matter how he is killed?”

When Chen Ge asked that question, a very long crack appeared on the clear fishbowl, and the water inside started to leak out. It was worth noting that the clear water inside the fishbowl turned a murky gray color once it leaked out from the crack. The water level lowered, and the blood red goldfish struggled harder. Wounds started to appear on its body, dyeing the water in the bowl red.

“I have tried to kill him before.” The girl’s voice had completely changed. “I wanted to be him, but once I woke up from my dream, he once again returned.”

“Then, do you know how he managed to do that?” Chen Ge’s heart was racing, but his mind was getting blurry like he was forgetting something very important. However, the most dangerous thing was, he had no idea what he had forgotten.

“Yes...” The girl turned her head to look at Chen Ge.

By then, her face had completely faded away, and a new face was coming to replace it. “How did he manage to do that?”

The icy light fell on them. The two stood at the exit of the woods. The buildings around them were bleeding. On the left side where the girl was standing, the buildings were crawling with black threads that spoke of bad news, while on the right side where Chen Ge was standing, the buildings were dyed red as they crumbled. Fang Yu's world was almost similar to a world behind a real door, but it still could not resist the destruction from more than ten Red Specters.

After he entered the door, Chen Ge had noticed how different this world was, so he ordered his employees to make their move as swiftly as they could. He knew about Fang Yu's past, so he had no reason to take things slow. Reality had proved that he had made a wise decision.

"You are the lingering object the ghost fetus left behind this door, aren't you?"

When Chen Ge first spotted Fang Yu, he had been suspicious of that. If Fang Yu behind the door had really given up all hope, like how this girl was reacting, then the Fang Yu outside the door would not have tattooed Zhang Yi's name all over her body and waited in the park every night. The real Fang Yu had not given up. To test his suspicion further, Chen Ge had kept asking crucial questions, and his conclusion was that the girl before him was not Fang Yu.

In Fang Yu's world, other than herself, the only 'person' that could speak and had a memory would be the ghost fetus. The girl probably knew that her disguise had been exposed a long time ago, but she did not care. "How can you be so sure that I am not the ghost fetus himself?"

"Even though this world is far more stable than the other worlds, it is still too fragile for a Demon God. It is similar to how you wouldn't place a shark inside a normal fishbowl."

Before Chen Ge entered Fang Yu's world, he believed that he would not find the ghost fetus there. Zhang Yi had given him plenty of hints regarding that. Other than that, if he was the ghost fetus, he would find a normal person who did not have obvious deformity to possess.

The other eight children were all smoke bombs. Even if their worlds behind the door were destroyed, the ghost fetus had only lost part of his power. Only when the time of his birth arrived would the situation change. The girl's original face had been wiped away, and a baby's face slowly surfaced. His eyes were closed. His lips, ears, and nose were bleeding, but he did not seem to mind them, as if he could not feel pain.

This 'ghost fetus' was different from the 'ghost fetus' in the other worlds. He had his own consciousness. After he was discovered, he did not do much. His shirt did not even turn red. He stood quietly next to Chen Ge at the entrance of the woods, looking at the city that was being ravaged by black and red.

Slowly, the red overwhelmed the black. The black threads that represented the curse were being oppressed. The gray and white world was being cut with bloody wounds like the whole city was bleeding. With ten Red Specters working at their maximum power, they only managed to control the curse hidden behind the door. But seeing this, Chen Ge did not feel any energy to smile at all. Counting the door that Jia Ming and Bei Ye had entered, this was only the fourth door, but it already needed more than ten Red Specters to take it down.

When he entered the fifth door, he would need the help of all the Red Specters. If this reasoning was correct, he might not be safe with his entourage of Red Specters when he entered the sixth door. The

gray and white city was covered in red. Chen Ge did not use any tricks but used the simplest and most direct method, which was brute force. This was the simplest, most effective, and safest method.

Bloody shadows appeared. The mirrors that littered the streets were shattered, and the city turned red.

“Just a little more, give me a little more time, and I will be able to keep you here forever.” The girl with baby face looked at Chen Ge. “I can’t kill you, but I can make you forget yourself and have them repeat what they did to you again and again.”

Both sides were buying time. Chen Ge was waiting for his Red Specters to break through the limitation this world had on them. The girl though knew some secrets, and she wished to use another method to ‘kill’ Chen Ge.

“What they did to me? Who are they?” Chen Ge asked.

“Why do you insist on looking for them? You already have everything I could ever wish for. Why do you want to give that up?” The girl’s body was turning blurry, like the color was leaking out from her. She was assimilating into this world. “Stay where you are and let me become you. Is that so hard?”

“Looking for them? Are you talking about my parents?” Chen Ge’s voice took on an urgent edge.

When he heard the word ‘parents’, the baby’s expression changed. Chen Ge seemed to hit the sore spot. He stopped conversing with Chen Ge. Suddenly, he reached into the fishbowl to grab at the goldfish inside it. “You are very lucky to have entered this most dangerous door before I have fully awakened. But certain things have already been written on the wall. You will never change it no matter how hard you try.”

“Fang Yu!” Chen Ge took out the hammer and swung at the girl. The girl’s finger touched the surface of the water, but the goldfish slipped through her fingers. The glass bowl slipped and shattered against the ground. The baby’s face grimaced. Her body was dissolving and spreading like the water from inside the fishbowl.

“I will wait for you behind the door, Chen Ge.”

The girl’s body and the water seeped into the gray and white world and disappeared. The only thing that left on the ground was a blood red goldfish and a normal looking glass marble. Chen Ge placed the goldfish on a larger piece of the broken glass where some muddied water still pooled inside. Then he reached toward the normal looking marble. When his finger touched the marble, a strange memory appeared in his mind.

At the third floor of the haunted house at midnight, a single bed was placed inside a warm-looking room. There was a handmade bedside lamp sitting on the table. The faded light shone on the bed. The young boy was already asleep when his shadow crawled out from the bed and started to play with the toys in the room.

The thin shadow sat among the many toys. He played with himself for a long time until midnight arrived, and he suddenly heard someone calling a name. The shadow turned to look at the sleeping boy, and then he slipped out from the room.

Chapter 1033: Bad Kid

Translator: Lonelytree **Editor:** Millman97

The shadow walked out from the room on the third floor. He spotted a glass marble sliding down the steps. He followed it and came to the ground floor. There was no one around. The shadow carried on alone. He saw the marble enter the toilet and stop before the cubicle. The clock for midnight stopped chiming. The shadow moved to the cubicle. He bent down to pick up the marble but noticed that the door of the cubicle was not closed tightly.

He leaned on the door and looked inside. Everything he saw was red. Holding the marble with both hands, the shadow entered the door. He walked among the redness. Perhaps because of some memory loss, the buildings were blurry. It looked like the mirage of a red city. The shadow lost his way. He wandered aimlessly with the marble until a hand fell on his shoulder. It was a child's hand, and the fingers were dirtied with black blood. The shadow was jolted from the shock. He slowly turned around, but the image in Chen Ge's mind ended then.

"The door in the haunted house is connected to the red city? Does the door lead to the center of the red city itself?" Chen Ge was confused. At least now he could confirm that the shadow had entered the world behind the door, and the corruption had probably started after he entered that door. Based on this memory, at least before he entered the door, the shadow was normal. Even though he would leave his host and go play alone at night, it was within an acceptable range. "The shadow ran into a child with bloody hands behind the door. The child is the key to the change in the shadow."

To turn a normal shadow into a Demon God, just the thought of it was mind-boggling. "Thankfully, I didn't enter the door when I found out about its problem, or else I'd probably be dead already."

Fang Yu's world was collapsing. Chen Ge summoned his employees and picked up the largest fishbowl fragment from the ground.

"Fang Yu?" Chen Ge looked at the red goldfish, and he frowned with consternation. This was his first time dealing with something like this. The world behind the door was a reflection of the door pusher's memory. If the door pusher had forgotten all her memories and even herself, then what kind of form would she take behind the door? Hearing Chen Ge's voice, the goldfish wagged its tail anxiously. Its body was covered with wounds.

"I'll bring you with me for now. If you are really Fang Yu, it can prove something else. There are not only human-shaped Specters behind the door, there are other things too that once might have been human beings."

With the aid from the Red Specters, Chen Ge held the broken fishbowl and pushed open the black iron door.

"AH!" A scream shattered the peace of the night. As Chen Ge opened his eyes, he saw something flying at him, and he quickly moved to the side to avoid it. The table lamp knocked against the wall. The glass cover cracked into pieces. If that thing had landed on his head, Chen Ge would have been bleeding profusely.

"Calm down!" Chen Ge switched on the light and then opened the bedroom door. The kind auntie had been leaning against the door, eavesdropping. The sudden opening of the door caused her to trip into the bedroom.

“Both of you please calm down! The treatment is already over! The effect is great!” Chen Ge looked at the two confused faces in the room. He walked to Fang Yu’s bedside. “Did you dream about turning into a blood red goldfish in a gray and white city? Did you see me there?”

Fang Yu, who finally calmed down, looked Chen Ge up and down. She nodded rather blankly. “I think you appeared in my nightmare.”

“That was the power of hypnosis,” Chen Ge said seriously. “This is the solution that I came up with after giving it much thought.”

“Was it useful?”

“We will find out now.” Chen Ge turned to Fang Yu. “Do you still remember the name Zhang Yi?”

Fang Yu’s expression slowly froze. She grabbed his head with her hands and started to scream like she was going through serious mental trauma. Chen Ge did not expect this to happen. With the help from the auntie, they tried to console Fang Yu. After half an hour of comforting, Fang Yu collapsed on the bed and slept from extreme tiredness.

“She used to suffer from memory loss, but now she has completely lost her mind.” The aunties did not look too happy about this.

“She has managed to remember some details from the past, but she needs some time to readjust to what she has remembered. She needs to slowly accept her past.”

Chen Ge looked at the clock on the wall. It was already 3:30 am. The time he had spent behind Fang Yu’s door was much longer than he had anticipated. It was too late to hurry to the Coffin Village that night. “Time moves much faster inside the door than it appears, it is hard to tell whether that is a good or bad thing.”

After leaving the auntie’s place, Chen Ge quickly took out the black phone. As he expected, there was an unread message.

“Completed 4/9 of the four-star Trial Mission, Ghost Fetus. The ghost fetus has lost an important part of his memory. Red Specters’ Favored, you do not have much time left!”

“I wonder how important that piece of lost memory is to the ghost fetus. Is it possible for me to make use of this point to create some trouble for him? Like tricking him into entering a door again?”

After reading the message, Chen Ge returned to the haunted house to rest.

A new day had begun. Chen Ge put on the makeup for his employees and took his backpack to find the child with the heart problem. But the child was still not home, and more bizarrely, the child’s neighbors had all moved away. The whole apartment block was empty. With no other option, Chen Ge called a cab to head toward Huai Ai Hospital in Eastern Jiujiang. This was the clue that he had gotten from the old city, someone who appeared to be the ghost fetus’ ‘mother’ seemed to be employed there. It was only 9:30 in the morning, but Chen Ge had visited three locations already, moving from Western Jiujiang to Eastern Jiujiang.

“I’m sorry, but is the Nurse Yu in?” Chen Ge stood at the registration counter. This was a private hospital, so there was not that many patients.

“Please go and swipe your ID at the machine over there to get your number first.”

“I am not here to see the doctor. There is some problem with Nurse Yu’s child, and I wish to have a chat with her.”

“Sister Yu’s child?” The nurse on duty studied Chen Ge with half belief. Then she pulled up the phone and made a call. Then a female nurse about forty bustled over.

“You are Madam Yu Jie, aren’t you?” Chen Ge walked over to meet her. He used Yin Yang Vision and did not notice anything too out of place on Yu Jie.

“I am so sorry. What trouble has my son gotten into this time?” Nurse Yu did not inquire about the reason Chen Ge was there. The first thing that came out of her mouth was an apology as if this was something often that she had to do.

“Do you mind if we go somewhere more private to talk? This place is not that suitable.” Chen Ge led Nurse Yu out of the private hospital. He did not beat about the bush and came out with the question directly. “Did your son run away from home several years ago? He was living on the second floor of an apartment building in the old city, right?”

“How do you know that? At the time, he was still in school.” Nurse Yu was getting more confused by Chen Ge’s presence by the moment.

“Let me first introduce myself. My name is Chen Ge. I often help the police with their cases. These are all news articles about me on the internet.” Chen Ge took out the news articles that he had searched about himself on the internet and showed them to Nurse Yu.

“An aid to the law enforcement?” Nurse Yu’s expression changed immediately. “Then why are you looking for my son?”

“Please calm down first. What I am going to tell you next is very important.” Chen Ge paused for a moment. “Your son might be related to a murder case. He is not the killer, but I need your cooperation.”

“Impossible! My son would not get involved in a murder case! You must be mistaken!” Probably due to the shock and indignation, Nurse Yu shouted out her claim directly.

“You can choose to not believe me, or you can call the police. However, I am telling you now, the only person who can help him is me.”

Chapter 1034: From the Beginning

Translator: Lonelytree **Editor:** Millman97

Chen Ge was serious. Normally, when a parent heard that their child might be involved in a murder, they would be firm that it would not be the case, but more than that, the main concern on Nurse Yu’s face was worry and fear. In other words, in Nurse Yu’s mind, it was not outside the realm of possibility that her son had done something like that.

1The first few children that the ghost fetus had chosen were harmless. In fact, they could be seen as kind and friendly. They resisted the ghost fetus, believing in the light in their heart. But not everyone preferred light in this world. Some did not need the seduction from the ghost fetus, and they would be

heading toward the abyss. If the ghost fetus had possessed such a person, it would be difficult to deal with. In the previous worlds, Chen Ge found a source of light to aid him, but in these kinds of darker worlds, he would be targeted by everything, and there would be no help for him.

1 “I will give you time to think about it. I’ll wait for you outside the hospital.” Chen Ge looked into Nurse Yu’s eyes. “Evading the problem is not solving the problem. This is not an official police visit, so don’t feel too much pressure.”

“I still don’t think my son would be involved in any murder cases. There has to be some misunderstanding.” Nurse Yu slowly calmed down.

“Don’t worry, I also don’t think he is the killer. I just have some questions to ask him.” Chen Ge tried to get Nurse Yu to relax. “Please bring me to him as early as you can. We don’t have much time left.”

Nurse Yu did not quite believe Chen Ge, but after seeing so many news articles about Chen Ge, her impression of him started to change.

“I will ask for the rest of the day off. Wait here for a moment.” Nurse Yu ran back into the hospital. Ten minutes later, she came out in a casual outfit from the side door. “I’ll bring you to meet him, so you can talk to him in person. If you can see him now, you should understand why I am so confident he is not involved in a murder case.”

The two took a cab to a residential area at Eastern Jiujiang. The environment looked quite nice, if a little isolated. There was almost no one around, and the parking lot was quite empty.

“There are many such residences in Eastern Jiujiang. During the economic boom, they built too many apartments, but most of them aren’t even filled these days.” Nurse Yu did not feel like chatting. Her voice was tired and weak, her eyes filled with worry. “I live on the twenty-third floor. Sorry, the elevator is a bit slow.”

Ten minutes later, Chen Ge arrived at Nurse Yu’s home. When the door opened, a faded stench drifted out. The stench was not that of food going old, trash molding or flesh decaying. It was a very unique smell like a person had started to rot from inside their soul.

1 “Sorry, the place is a bit messy.” Nurse Yu stepped into the room. She took the dirty clothes on the sofa into the bathroom before inviting Chen Ge in.

“Your place is quite big.”

“It looks big, but the layout is not that normal.” Nurse Yu did not even take her shoes off and started to walk toward the room at the back. “Yu Jian? Are you inside?”

While Nurse Yu went to call her son, Chen Ge studied the house. Even though the house was big, it was pitifully sparse. There were two pairs of slippers on the shoe rack, one female, one male. “Only Nurse Yu and her son live here in such a big house? Where’s the father? Earlier, the nurse called her son Yu Jian. She has the same surname as her son. Could it be that the child has no father?”

Nurse Yu knocked for a long time, but there was no response from the son.

“Is he not home?” Chen Ge walked toward Nurse Yu. He saw a tray placed before the room’s door. On it sat a bread and a glass of fresh milk.

“He didn’t even touch the breakfast, this child...” Nurse Yu picked up the tray and headed back to the living room. “Ever since he dropped out of high school in his second year, he has been like this. I have no idea when he will come out of his shell.”

“Refusal to communicate, hiding within himself, this is not a good sign. When a person is trapped with their own thoughts and no others, they are more prone to doing some extreme actions.” Chen Ge sat next to Nurse Yu. “I am not scaring you, but after taking a look around your house, I feel like things are more serious than I expected.”

“I’ve done everything I can. I did take him to a psychologist before, and he had taken some medication, but it did not seem to help.” Nurse Yu sighed helplessly.

“Can you tell me in detail how things reached this state?” Chen Ge knew that only by understanding the backstory could he know what he was dealing with. “If possible, don’t hide anything. I guarantee in the name of the state’s crime unit that I will not leak the information of your family to a second person.”

“Yu Jian was just like a normal child when he was young. He was healthy, cute, and very bright. He was a very fast learner, but from a moment, I realized the kid...” Nurse Yu’s face was twisted in concern. “How shall I put this? He doesn’t seem to understand the concept of repaying people’s kindness. For example, the neighbor’s kid would give him a candy, and he would throw it on the ground. The kids were building a sand castle by the beach, and they invited him to join them, but he went over to trample the sand castle.”

“That is more than not understanding how to repay kindness. It’s a show of malice.”

“It’s not that.” Nurse Yu shook her head. Like most parents, they did not like others to talk bad of their child. “Yu Jian is a very gentle kid. He just does not know how to express love. Or rather, the way he expresses it is very different from others. I have asked a psychologist about this before. He said that he could not see the concept of love in Yu Jian’s mind. He has a normal temperature, and his heart is pumping warm blood, but his consciousness of self is icy and cold.”

“He is lacking the concept of love?” Chen Ge was reminded of the words in the rental home at the old city. Love was something that the ghost fetus needed. He believed that one of the main reasons a human being was a human being because they knew how to love and gain love.

“The doctor said he suffers from a rare illness called Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). Even though it manifests itself as a psychological problem, in reality, it is a biological sickness. My son is not abnormal. It’s just that his brain is sick.”

“I didn’t say that your son is abnormal. Other than that, I have to inform you that you’ll not find a better psychologist in Jiujiang other than myself.” Chen Ge did not know much about psychology, but he remembered clearly how Doctor Gao acted. The confidence seemed to come from within.

“You’re a psychologist too?”

“Many adult psychological deficiencies are related to their childhood growth. In their understanding of the world, there was a small accident.” Chen Ge sat up and looked into Nurse Yu’s eyes. “I still say the same thing. Please do not hold back. Only by telling me everything that Yu Jian has encountered can I really help him.”

Chapter 1035: The Child Chosen by the Ghost Fetus

Nurse Yu gave this serious consideration as she glanced at her son's room before she came clean on the thing that had happened to Yu Jian. "Yu Jian has not met his father. I raised him alone. The child was a very precocious one; he never made me worried. As a nurse, I have a busy work schedule, so I had to leave him alone for most of the time.

"One day, he started to refuse to communicate with me. Out of guilt, I bought him many things to compensate and encouraged him to go on play dates. The first accident happened when he was seven. I got a call from a neighbor when I was at work. He said that Yu Jian had gotten into a fight with his kid and almost blinded the kid's eyes. I was so angry when I heard that. I came back and gave Yu Jian a good smacking, but when I was doing that, he was glaring at me with this out of body gaze filled with hatred.

"He was crying but soundlessly. He did not plead but kept on glaring at me with that unsettling gaze as if questioning why I was beating him.

"But that was only the beginning. The kid seems to hate communicating with others. When he was in the presence of other kids, he would change into another person with the goal of destroying other people's happiness. It got slightly better after he got to school, but still, no one was willing to be his friend. His personality became more agitated, isolated. He would say fewer than five sentences to me a day. After he got into high school, he barely spoke to me. In fact, whenever I appeared in his sight, his gaze would glaze over with annoyance."

At this point, Nurse Yu choked on her words. She felt like she had failed as a mother.

"Your son is easily-angered and solitary. He also wanted to blind others during a play date. He seemed to be hating everyone around him, including you." Chen Ge frowned. He felt like Yu Jian was so far the person who acted the most similarly to the ghost fetus that he had encountered. They would be maddened by other people's happiness and indulge in destroying other people's joy. This was extremely psychotic, but it was not unheard of. For example, if two kids found a beautiful butterfly at the same time, one of them would gasp in its beauty while the other would reach out to tear off its wings.

Chen Ge had no idea when the ghost fetus encountered Yu Jian. From the décor at the place in the old city, Yu Jian was probably the child who cooperated the most with the ghost fetus, so the latter had probably been hibernating in Yu Jian while completing the curse in the old city.

"After Yu Jian got into high school, that was the darkest moment of my life. He refused to talk to me at all, but he spent his time doing something alone. When I hit him or scolded him, he never retaliated, only staring at me coldly. It was not how one would view one's family. Perhaps from a certain moment, he had stopped viewing me like that. It was also then that he started to stay out late and eventually ran away from home. For him, I've searched Jiujiang who knows how many times already.

"Perhaps he hated me from his core. No matter how many times I found him, he would still leave me the next day. During that period, he got into a lot of trouble, some incidents even involving the police. After the school day ended, he stopped coming home at all. I knew this couldn't continue any longer. I contacted a private academy famous for their strict rules and enrolled him in it even though it cost me a lot.

“In a new environment, Yu Jian’s situation seemed to improve, and that gave me a renewed hope in life. But that only lasted for a few months before the school called me in. The parents of the kids in his class had petitioned for Yu Jian to be expelled. At the time, I was flustered. I tried to ask why, but Yu Jian refused to say anything.

“In the end, I found out from the headmaster that the students all said that Yu Jian was mentally unstable. They exaggerated his supposedly insane actions, and of everyone in his vicinity, only his class teacher was on his side. I burnt through my savings at the time and used a lot of time and money before I finally persuaded the headmaster to allow Yu Jian to stay.

“But things just did not work out. During the second year, Yu Jian’s class teacher was fired due to certain reason, and that very same afternoon, Yu Jian left the academy. He came back home, shut himself in his room, and sheltered himself from the world.

“When I went to school to help him finish the suspension procedure, I found out what had happened. The class teacher was the only person who treated Yu Jian well, but someone started a nasty rumor that it was because she was seducing him. Then part of the parents started a rumor, and thus, the teacher was forced to find a new job.” Nurse Yu looked at the closed bedroom door. After a long silence, she said, “After hearing the real reason, I was not mad. If anything, all I felt was tired. I stopped struggling and surrendered. I admitted that Yu Jian is different from normal kids and stopped forcing him to fit the common mold.”

“Has he stayed at home since he ran away from school?” Chen Ge memorized everything that Nurse Yu had said. It might prove useful behind the door.

“At least every time I come home, he’s in his room, so I don’t think he would be connected to any murder case.”

“Okay, I believe I have everything I need.” Chen Ge stood up to walk toward the room. “Do you have a key? I wish to meet him.”

“That’s fine, but I hope you won’t say anything to agitate him.” Nurse Yu took out a ring of keys from her handbag. She kept a spare key for Yu Jian’s bedroom on her. The two came to the door, and Nurse Yu opened it. When the door was pushed open a gap, Chen Ge was hit was a stinging smell. He held his hand over his nose out of instinct, but Nurse Yu beside him did not seem to smell anything strange.

So far, this is the smelliest room that I’ve been in outside of the door.

Chen Ge used Yin Yang Vision to look into the room. Outside his expectations, there was no pile of garbage or overthrown clothes, only many piles of used manuscripts. The paper covered the floor, the bed, and the table. They were filled with unfinished sentences, and most of them made no sense. Amid the sea of paper stood a barefooted man. He did not wear anything and was as thin as a rail.

Seeing someone come in, the man did not respond. He raised his two hands, which were just skin and bone, and continued to write on his script.

“I’m so sorry.” Nurse Yu seemed to be used to this. She picked up the blanket and draped it over the man. It was then that the man finally reacted. His muddy eyes moved to the door. He scanned Chen Ge before turning back to his paper.

“Do not step on his manuscript,” Nurse Yu told Chen Ge.

Then Chen Ge requested, “Do you mind giving us some privacy? I have some questions to ask him.”

Chapter 1036: A Demon in His Heart

Translator: Lonelytree **Editor:** Millman97

“I’m sorry, but I can’t let you do that. The child is too mentally fragile, any careless words might traumatize him.” Nurse Yu rejected him outright. Even in this state, she still loved Yu Jian deeply and tried her best to protect him. Chen Ge’s original plan was to summon the Red Specters to conduct a further inspection on Yu Jian after his mother left. But Nurse Yu refused to leave, and Chen Ge did not want to expose Zhang Yi’s power, so he gave up the plan. He picked up a random manuscript. The sentences written on it made no sense, and what it all meant was pure guesswork.

“He gave her a present because of love. Roses are red; blood is red. Roses pricked her neck; blood leaked from her neck.

“She embraced the children because of love. The embrace was so tight that she refused to let him go. I was once held in such a tight lock that I couldn’t breathe. My fingers went numb like they were encased in cement.

“Perhaps I have experienced that. No, I must have.”

The content on each page was different. Chen Ge read a few of them and realized that they were made up from pieces of different stories, cataloguing a child’s growth process. Of course, this was how Chen Ge saw it. To borrow the words from one of the scripts, it was a seed planted on a grave. The roots stuck into the bones and blossomed in flowers. The man used such words to describe himself. He no longer saw himself as human. He was trapped in his own world, a world that was a different version of the world that he inhabited.

No matter what Chen Ge said, the man had no intention of answering. He just kept on writing. With each pen stroke, he seemed to dwindle before their eyes. The room was very quiet. Chen Ge had given up on conversation. He picked up the manuscripts to read. His eyes glowed with interest like he was the man’s biggest fan. One was writing, and the other was reading—Nurse Yu was left out.

“I think I get it now.” Chen Ge tidied up the manuscript that he had read. “It’s a good story, but it’s sad that the protagonist is a living person, and the plot is inspired by real life.”

Laying the thick manuscript on the table, Chen Ge flipped through the comic in his backpack and then left the bedroom with Nurse Yu. When he closed the door, he dropped his backpack at the door and returned to the living room with Nurse Yu barehanded.

“You saw the condition of my son. He has not left this place for a long time, so he wouldn’t be involved in any murder case. If you insist on making that claim, I’ll have to call the police.”

“Before going to primary school, Yu Jian was a complete terror among his peers. He hated seeing other people happy, and he did not know how to respond to other people’s kindness. The biggest change happened during his second year in the academy. After he was suspended, he closed himself up and

stopped going out. He did not want to harm others anymore. As his mother, have you ever wondered why?" Chen Ge sat before Nurse Yu. His eyes staring at the cloudy tea on the table.

"He was trying his best to change, to become a good kid, but no one gave him a chance. Everyone was bullying him, and eventually, his mind snapped." Nurse Yu's explanation was clearly biased in favor of her son.

"A person with a demon living inside him will not crumble so easily from bullying. Something really special must have happened to him to give him a renewed appreciation of this world." Chen Ge leaned against the couch. "Yu Jian's class teacher was the only person who cared about him. Have you tried to communicate with her since what happened to Yu Jian?"

"The teacher left Jiujiang after that. I have no idea where she's gone."

"You had time to find a psychologist but couldn't spare a moment to talk to that teacher," Chen Ge said accusingly, but Nurse Yu reacted strangely like she refused to talk about that teacher.

"The truth is before your eyes. You can't evade it forever. The deeper you try to hide it, the scarier the wound will be when it is exposed." Chen Ge stood up. "This is my phone number. I'll come back tonight. I hope by then you will have changed your mind. If Yu Jian continues to be like this, his whole life will be ruined."

Walking to the bedroom, Chen Ge picked up his backpack. He stood at the door for some time, but he left without saying a word. Leaving the area, Chen Ge found a spot shielded from the sunlight and summoned Men Nan. "So, what did you find?"

"A lot of curses have been left on that guy! The reason he became like this is because he has been through too many curses." Men Nan's first words gave Chen Ge a surprise.

"Does that mean the ghost fetus once possessed his body?"

"Yes."

"Ask Zhang Yi. What are the chances that the ghost fetus is still hiding in Yu Jian?" Chen Ge was excited. Yu Jian was just like the ghost fetus, so he was the ghost fetus' best chance.

"He said that it's impossible to tell, but something happened that broke the bond between Yu Jian and the ghost fetus, so Yu Jian locked himself away from the world." Men Nan relayed the information from Zhang Yi. "He was trying to resist the curse the ghost fetus left in him."

"Yu Jian's change was due to his encounter with his class teacher. That teacher will know what happened to him, but unfortunately, I don't have the time to leave the city to find her."

After leaving Yu Jian, Chen Ge went to the police station. With Lee Zheng's help, he met up with Zhen Zhen. The boy had recovered nicely. There was still no concept of death in his mind. He just thought that his mother was asleep and often asked the officers when his mother would wake up. The boy was very cute, and everyone at the station loved him. When they tried to get information from him, they would bring him snacks and candy.

1Based on Zhen Zhen's appearance, one would not tie him to the ghost fetus. Jiang Long, Bei Ye, Zhen Chun, and the mentally ill mother were unconscious. Other than the ghost fetus, only Chen Ge knew

about Zhen Zhen's past. But Chen Ge did not plan to share that secret with others yet. He also hoped that the child would grow up without any childhood trauma.

After asking Zhen Zhen some questions, Chen Ge asked the police to help investigate the child with the heart problem and badmouthed the 'non-smilers' before the police so that they would pay attention to this bunch of monsters who kept up a smile at all times.

The police helped Chen Ge save a lot of time, so he could focus on his investigation into Yu Jian. After visiting the school and interviewing some of the students there, Chen Ge realized that the problem was much serious than painted by his mother. The police had records on Yu Jian. Before he went to the high school, the man had been a total madman with extremely high intelligence, which was a dangerous mix.

After finishing his preparation, Chen Ge visited Yu Jian again that night.

Chapter 1037: The New Teacher

Translator: Lonelytree **Editor:** Millman97

The visit to Yu Jian's home was no different from how it went in the morning. The room reeked of a smell that was only recognizable to Chen Ge, and cold food was left on the table. To further convince Nurse Yu, Chen Ge brought with him some documents, including Yu Jian's case files from the police station. "Tomorrow, the police will come, but tonight, I wish to conduct some simple treatment with Yu Jian. You can stand outside the door to observe, but please don't interrupt."

Chen Ge had only four nights left. He had to deal with Yu Jian that night.

"Okay." Nurse Yu nodded with worry in her eyes. "Will the police come to take Yu Jian away tomorrow? He is too fragile. I'm afraid he won't survive a trip to the station."

"Don't worry, the police will not mistreat him." Chen Ge glanced toward the bedroom. The food on the tray was still untouched. It meant that Yu Jian had not left his room. "The treatment will start at midnight after he goes to sleep."

"Why must it start so late?" Nurse Yu had met Chen Ge less than twenty-four hours ago. Even though she did not think that Chen Ge would scam her, asking her to place her complete trust in a stranger was asking for too much.

"Because the treatment can only be done after he is asleep." To ensure that Yu Jian would sleep soundly, Chen Ge had even prepared a bottle of sleeping pills. They chatted until 11:30 pm. Chen Ge got the key from Nurse Yu and stopped when he was at the door.

"Aren't you going in?"

"Please stay quiet." Chen Ge silently summoned Men Nan and had him check the room first. After getting the green light from Men Nan, he sighed. Yu Jian was asleep. Now, they only needed to wait for midnight. Yu Jian was most compatible with the ghost fetus personality-wise and was so far the only child who had voluntarily interacted with the ghost fetus. Thus, he should be the best candidate. However, the one thing that troubled Chen Ge was their falling out.

Fang Yu had lost her memory. The other children lost their sense of smell, hearing, or sight. The deficiencies that they had were observable, but Yu Jian was different. The boy did not seem to be

lacking in anything. What had been taken from him by the ghost fetus should be something very important to a human being. It could be an emotion like humanity or love.

At midnight, Chen Ge opened the bedroom door and saw Yu Jian leaning against the wall with the covers wrapped around him. His head was lowered, and a blood red door stood next to his bed. The door was completely dominated by blood vessels. They pulsed violently on the door like they were alive. The door looked much scarier than an actual door.

“What is that?” Nurse Yu let slip a gasp. Even though it was not loud, it still disturbed Yu Jian. Chen Ge did not hesitate; he knew that the door would disappear if Yu Jian woke up so he rushed toward it. Carrying the backpack, he pushed open the door with the aid from the Red Specters. The thick layer of blood enveloped him like he was stepping into a blood pool. Chen Ge was deprived of his breath, and he struggled with both hands as he started to fall.

His eyes failed to see, and the sound of a book flipping echoed in his ears. It felt like many creatures were crawling all over him. He could not see what they were. They appeared to be congealed blood droplets, and they were congregating behind him.

“Why did you come to find me?” A strange voice rang beside his ear. Chen Ge felt a pair of hands on his shoulders. The falling sensation was slowly disappearing, and he flipped open his eyes.

“Who are you?” he shouted. The surroundings were quiet, and the atmosphere was strange. His eyes slowly focused. He looked around and realized that he was standing inside a school’s equipment room. Behind him was a pure black iron door, and there were many students giving him a strange look.

“Another school?” Chen Ge frowned. He reached into his backpack and looked at the students alertly. If anyone dared come for him, they would be rewarded with a hammer to the head.

“Chen Ge, what are you doing?” There was a fatty with a round face in the corridor carrying a stack of exercise books. He looked at Chen Ge with a sigh. “People are normally late by a few minutes, but you missed an entire class. That’s quite an achievement.”

“You know my name?” Chen Ge slowly realized that something was wrong. He was familiar with his surroundings. This was where he had gone to school, and the fatty was their monitor for math class. “Yu Jian might have gone to the same school as me, but how could he have the same classmates? Or is this not Yu Jian’s memory but my own?”

Of the passing students, the majority of them were unrecognizable. This was too complicated for Chen Ge to act rashly. He stood where he was and tried to call after the Red Specters. The only soft reply came from Xu Yin. For some reason, this door was much more stable than an actual door. It was resistant to the interruption of other Red Specters. They were unable to come out from their items of possession, not even to make simple communication.

“This is a big issue.”

Yu Jian’s world behind the door was too stable. In fact, it was the perfect bed for a sleeping Demon God.

“I can’t be so lucky, right? There are only nine doors, and I already found the ghost fetus by door number five?” Chen Ge’s emotions then were hard to describe. He was both happy and worried. “If I’d

known this sooner, I would have gone to convince the tunnel lady's son and the woman from the well in Coffin Village first."

The school bell rang, and the students slowly returned to their classrooms. Only Chen Ge stood where he was.

"Aren't you going to class? I hear we are going to get a new teacher. Are you going to give her trouble on her first day?" The round-faced kid was a chatterbox, but he was a kind person at heart. In Chen Ge's mind, even though he was not a close friend of the kid, they had copied homework off each other before.

"I'll be going now." Chen Ge did not dare stand out before he found out what was happening. He carried his backpack and ran to the classroom. Stepping into the familiar scenario, Chen Ge's memory was evoked again. "This was my classroom in the first year of high school."

Sitting at his seat, Chen Ge looked out the window. The sky was covered with rain clouds, blocking out the sun. The school was not big, and it was surrounded by blocks of old buildings. "Wait, we're in Li Wan City?"

His eyes kept looking out the window. Chen Ge realized the scale of this scenario, and the key problem was that all the buildings appeared to have come directly from his own memory.

"Why would something like this happen? Shouldn't the door reflect the experience of the door pusher? Is this a trap set by the ghost fetus?" Chen Ge gripped his hands, and his brain was churning in overdrive, coming up with all kinds of possibilities.

"Teacher Lee is on maternity leave. This will be your new English teacher. Please give her a warm welcome." A middle-aged man's voice came from the front door of the classroom. It was followed by footsteps as a young woman wearing a black pantsuit moved to the podium. Her black hair reached her shoulders. She wore very light make up, and she was dressed casually. When she smiled, her face lit up with kindness and friendliness like a caressing wind in the summer.

"Good morning students. I am your new English teacher. My name is Zhang Ya..."

Chen Ge could not remember what the female teacher said next because his mind was blown to smithereens when he heard Zhang Ya's name.

He slowly raised his head to look at the podium. Without realizing it, Chen Ge had jumped up from his seat.

Chapter 1038: You Really Treat Me Like a Child

Translator: Lonelytree **Editor:** Millman97

"Hey, student! You, why you are standing up? Sit down!" The middle-aged man glared at Chen Ge, but the later did not respond. He coughed twice before he caught Chen Ge's attention, and Chen Ge quickly returned to his seat.

"Bro, what was that?" the round-faced kid whispered to Chen Ge, but he did not reply as he kept his eyes glued to Zhang Ya on the podium.

Western Jiujiang Private Academy was closed down six years ago. Zhang Ya died one year before that. If the timeline is correct and if that tragedy didn't happen, she would look like this at twenty-five.

Being stared at by Chen Ge, the female teacher smiled at him before turning to other students. Taking a deep breath, Chen Ge forced himself to calm down. He hid the backpack under the table and opened it to inspect the item inside. Nothing had changed, but Zhang Ya's bedtime story had once again 'run' out from the compartment and placed itself atop everything else.

The middle-aged man left, and Zhang Ya started her first lesson. Chen Ge, who sat by the window, was reading Zhang Ya's bedtime story. The blood red book was filled with empty pages. All the gory stories had disappeared as if they had never been there in the first place.

After entering Fang Yu's world, the words seemed to have disappeared as well. What is the actual use of this book? Why do the words disappear every time I enter the world behind the door? Where have they gone? When I first pushed the door open, it felt like I was dropped inside a sea of blood. I might have died from asphyxiation if not for a pair of hands that gripped me. I remembered hearing a strange man's voice, asking me why I came to find him. Could that man be Yu Jian?

Chen Ge's mind was a muddled mess. He collapsed on the table, leaning against the book that even Red Specters were afraid of.

I need to arrange my thoughts. This world is too unique. The chance of the ghost fetus hiding here is too high.

Picking up the pen from the table, Chen Ge started to write in the book.

"The school and the buildings outside the school are all from my memory. So far, of the people that have appeared, two of them are from my memory. I have no recollection of the rest of the student body. This is the first time I've seen that middle-aged man that brought Zhang Ya into the classroom. Therefore, the world was probably built on the framework of my memory, but it was mixed with the memories of another person."

Chen Ge had encountered different memories creating a similar world before; it was the School of the Afterlife, a normal three-star scenario that turned into a four-star scenario after it kept on absorbing the students' memories and combining the scenarios. But the world behind Yu Jian's door was different in the sense that it did not feel oppressive. If Chen Ge was not certain that he had pushed open the door, he might have thought that he was still somewhere outside the door. Everything was too real, just like in reality.

"I seem to have missed something crucial. Currently, I lack too much information. I need to get more clues from Zhang Ya and the math class monitor..." Chen Ge listed down the known details in the notebook and planned what to do next when he suddenly realized that all the students had quieted down and were looking at him. Hands, on which his head rested, slowly moved down. Chen Ge looked to the side, and a flowery scent tickled his nose.

"Do pay attention during class." Zhang Ya stood behind Chen Ge and used her book to knock Chen Ge lightly on his head before she walked away. Watching Zhang Ya walk away, Chen Ge touched the spot where she had hit him earlier. The woman before him overlapped with that woman in his mind, and a mixed feeling was born in his heart.

The class soon ended. Chen Ge had done nothing but stared at the teacher. "If Zhang Ya really was my teacher in high school, I would have scored at least another one hundred marks in my test."

"Stop kidding yourself, bro. The class is already over, and you didn't even take out the textbook." The round face boy held his chin. "It's time to wake up, bro. Stop dreaming. You should pay attention to your studies once in a while."

"You don't get it. It's not me who's dreaming." Chen Ge grabbed his backpack and left to chase after the teacher. He knew that it was rude to call her name out in the corridor, so he purposely sidled up to the new teacher before asking, "Zhang Ya?"

Hearing his voice, Zhang Ya was startled before smiling at Chen Ge. "You have to call me Miss Zhang Ya. How can I help you?"

"You really don't remember me anymore?" Chen Ge asked probingly. The world behind the door was made from the door pusher's memories. Therefore, the people in it would remember the door pusher.

"Of course I remember you." Zhang Ya looked at Chen Ge seriously, and her expression changed. "You were that kid who was not paying attention in class earlier and was too busy doodling."

"Doodling?" Chen Ge looked at Zhang Ya before him. He had no idea what kind of impression he presented to Zhang Ya at that moment. Perhaps she had really forgotten all about him. "I was actually jotting down notes."

Taking the storybook out from the backpack, Chen Ge showed it to Zhang Ya. "What do you think about it?"

"Is this a plan for the story that you're working on?" Zhang Ya was surprised.

"When did I say that?" No matter what Chen Ge said, Zhang Ya treated him as a teacher would a student. She kept a smile on her face.

"Quick, head back to class. I support your novel writing hobby as long as it doesn't affect your schooling." The Zhang Ya before him had lost the shyness of youth and took on the maturity and gentleness that came with age.

"You really treat me like a child." Chen Ge took back with storybook.

"But aren't you a child?" Zhang Ya unintentionally revealed a cute expression.

"Since you're the teacher, I'll listen to you and go back to class." Chen Ge carried the backpack and ran back to the classroom. Halfway through, he turned back to look and saw Zhang Ya enter the teacher's lounge. "So, that is how Zhang Ya looks like when she smiles. It completely transforms her, and she is a bit ridiculously beautiful."

1Looking at his shadow, Chen Ge sighed. "It's not often that I get to bully Zhang Ya, but she came as a teacher this time, and that is a bit of challenge."

2Returning to the classroom, Chen Ge spaced out during class. He used Yin Yang Vision to observe the small town from his seat. This was definitely Li Wan City, but it was different from the chaotic and

maddening Li Wan City that he remembered. The people were kind, and the atmosphere was friendly. He could not sense a trace of negative emotions, much less the ghost fetus.

Is this place like School of the Afterlife? Will it change after midnight?

“You by the window, please come and solve this problem on the blackboard.” A man’s voice came from the podium.

Chen Ge respected the teacher. He stood up, glanced at the blackboard, and loudly declared, “I don’t know how to do that.”

Chapter 1039: This Is Probably Happiness

Translator: Lonelytree **Editor:** Millman97

The math teacher was stumped. He stared at Chen Ge for a while before slamming the ruler on the podium. “Sit down and stop looking out the window. Du Ming, come and solve this.”

3The round-faced kid walked to the board while Chen Ge reached into his backpack. “Everything here feels too normal... so normal that something must be wrong.”

It felt like a lifetime before class was finally over. Chen Ge accosted the round-faced kid and led him to a corner.

“What are you doing? You’re being too obvious if you want to borrow my homework to copy.”

“I want to ask you something. You have to answer me honestly.” Chen Ge pointed at himself. “What kind of person am I in your eyes?”

“A lonely, sarcastic, and unpopular student with horrible attitude in class.” The round-faced kid did not hold back and let Chen Ge have it.

1“Have you always had such a low opinion of me?” Chen Ge looked at that familiar round face. Even though he knew that the boy was telling the truth, it was hard to be happy to hear that.

“I suppose so.” The round-faced kid did not seem to realize the dangerous situation that he was in.

“Fine, I’ll ask another question. Have any strange things happened at our school lately? Like noises coming out from a supposedly empty classroom or moving specimens in the lab.” Chen Ge’s openly curious face softened the kid’s heart. He took out a result booklet from his schoolbag and handed it to Chen Ge.

“Why are you showing me this?” Chen Ge accepted the booklet and saw that Du Ming was second in class.

“I’m a top ten student across the grade and the second in class, and you come to me to ask about ghost stories in our school?”

“What do your good results have to do with ghost stories? Will a good student not run into a ghost story?”

“The reason my results are good is because I spend the time others waste on meaningless ordeals studying.”

“That’s enough. If you weren’t such a nice guy, I would introduce you to a ghost story right this moment.” Chen Ge was rather speechless, but considering the age of the person he was dealing with, he could understand why. “I’m not going to lower myself to your level. Next question, did anything bad happen at our school, like school bullying or accidents among the student body?”

“What is in that head of yours really?” The kid shook his head and took back his result booklet. “Have you been under too much pressure lately? Then again, your results are fourth from the bottom, and they’re getting worse. It will be hard to answer to your family. My suggestion is for you to focus on your studies and forget about all other nonsense.”

Putting the booklet back into his schoolbag, the kid left.

“The kid has the same attitude as I remember.” Chen Ge had not been that good a friend with Du Ming; they had gotten close because they were both isolated from the rest of the class due to different reasons. They were like victims found in the same boat. There was no camaraderie.

Soon, the school became quite deserted, and the place quieted down. Chen Ge did not leave. He decided to stay and explore the school. With this place as the center, he would then widen his exploration to the rest of the town. “I have to be careful. The sun has almost set.”

The sky darkened, and the atmosphere became more sinister.

“The night will not be as warm as the day. The town will tear off its disguise and reveal its fangs, biting into every innocent person.” Chen Ge turned back into the education block. He carried the backpack and looked into every classroom. He checked many rooms but spotted nothing out of place. He walked all the way to the roof, where he heard footsteps. “It’s already after school hours. Who would be at the roof?”

Holding the hammer, Chen Ge entered the corridor. The door to the roof was not locked, and he squeezed it open slightly. The roof of the school was the place closest to the sky. If he lifted his head, it would feel like the heavy rain clouds were falling on him.

“Is no one here?” The chilly wind bit into his skin, and raindrops fell on his face. The rain came very suddenly. Pulling his gaze back, Chen Ge walked back down the stairs. As he planned to leave the education block, the rain started to pour.

“This should be normal rain, right?”

The rain behind the door might contain a curse or resentment. Chen Ge extended his palm outward to the rain. The raindrop gathered in his palm, and chills seeped into his skin.

“This might not be the first rainy day I’ve encountered in the world behind the door. I should pay attention to any ghosts that possess an umbrella. There should be plenty of them. After all, haven’t they always been a good hiding place for spirits in modern culture?” Chen Ge was spacing out when a shadow loomed over him. “Who is it?”

2Whipping his body around, Chen Ge saw a startled Zhang Ya.

“Why are you still here? Did you forget to bring an umbrella?” Zhang Ya stood behind Chen Ge holding an umbrella. The shadow was from the umbrella that she held over his head. They were the only people left at the education block. Chen Ge looked at Zhang Ya, and his lips opened. But his heart suddenly raced, and he stumbled a step back.

Seeing how flustered Chen Ge was, an amused smile appeared on Zhang Ya’s face. “Are you afraid of me?”

“No.”

“Okay then. Who knows when the rain will stop? I’ll walk you to the bus stop.” Zhang Ya walked to Chen Ge’s side with the umbrella. “Come on then.”

Chen Ge, who always took the lead, somehow found himself following Zhang Ya’s instruction, and the thought of his investigation was abandoned. The smell of shampoo drifted into his nose. Chen Ge’s eyes kept wandering to Zhang Ya. This was probably what happiness felt like. The rain continued to pour. The pedestrians hurried to find a cover. The streetlights blurred through the curtain of rain, and the whole world was swallowed by the sound of rain pattering.

“Zhang Ya...”

“Hmm? Did you say something?” Zhang Ya heard Chen Ge say something, but it was blocked out by the heavy rain.

“It’s nothing. You should walk on the other side of me. The cars might splash water on your clothes. We don’t want that.” Chen Ge carried his backpack and scurried to the other side. They then noticed each other’s wet shoulders. Neither of them wanted the other to get wet, so both of them got wet from the rain. Walking down the raining street, neither of them spoke until they reached the bus stop nearest to the school.

1“Which bus are you taking?”

“Route 104.” Chen Ge gave a random answer and stood quietly next to Zhang Ya. He did not wish to speak. He just wanted to steal glances at her. The world behind the door was created from his memory. Even though it had its absurdities, the majority was a reflection of reality. The reason Zhang Ya appeared in this form had something to do with Chen Ge’s own memory.

“My bus is coming. You’d better head home soon and stop loitering about.” Zhang Ya took out her phone. “This is my number. Message me when you’re home so that I know you’re safe.”

After exchanging phone numbers, Zhang Ya got on the bus on Route 4 and waved at Zhang Ya through the bus window.

The bus disappeared in the rain, but Chen Ge still stood where he was.

Chapter 1040: Why Didn’t You Come Home?

“The Zhang Ya behind Yu Jian’s door likes to smile, and she is pretty when she smiles, but somehow, I sense a trace of sadness hidden behind it. And does she recognize me or not? Is the appearance of this Zhang Ya a coincidence, or was it influenced by that story book? The turning point in Yu Jian’s life was when his own class teacher resigned. It was during that period that he turned on the ghost fetus. In

other words, one of the most important people in the world behind Yu Jian's door is his 'teacher', the only person who lent him aid during the most difficult period of his life.

"Is his intention for me to go through what he went through, using my memories to replicate his past?"

Leaning against the advertisement board, Chen Ge looked into the rain that somehow felt appropriate.

"Regardless of the reason, perhaps this is a good chance for me to get to know Zhang Ya."

Patting his face lightly, Chen Ge made himself snap out of it.

"This might look and sound like a high school romance drama, but in essence, it is still a ghost story, I must not let my guard down." The rain did not seem like it would stop any time soon. Chen Ge 'borrowed' an umbrella from a passing stranger and returned to school. The sky was already dark. This world did not seem to have a good concept of time. Everything happened in a moment and changed very fast. Holding the hammer, Chen Ge wandered around the school.

"Even when night falls, there is still no sign of any ghosts or Specters. Is this still the Li Wan City that I remember?"

There was no murderer or Red Specter; it was just a typical normal small town.

"Wu Sheng had his voice taken, so everyone behind his door had their lips sewn. Jiang Ming had his hearing taken, so his world was exceptionally quiet. Fang Yu had her memory stolen, so her world was gray and white. The similarity between these children chosen by the ghost fetus is that there is something lacking in the worlds behind their doors. The thing that they were deprived of was reflected in the pedestrians behind the door, but this world is obviously different. Everyone looks normal. They do not look like they are disformed in any way."

Chen Ge stood in the corridor holding the umbrella when his phone suddenly vibrated.

"Zhang Ya? Why is she calling me?" Chen Ge glanced at the caller ID and then answered the call.

"Where are you now? Why aren't you home yet?" Zhang Ya's rather angry voice came through the phone.

"How do you know I'm not home?" Chen Ge was shocked, and the question slipped out instinctually.

"Your father is worried sick about you! He's looking for you everywhere! Do you know how many people he's called?"

"My father?" Well, that was another character Chen Ge did not expect to show up. His eyes widened immediately. "Where is he? I'll go find him now!"

His blood was rushing through his body. Chen Ge took the umbrella and ran out the school. A fire seemed to light up inside him. It won't be my real father, will it? Could it be a trap laid down by the ghost fetus?

"He's hurrying toward the school. A student said that he saw you return to school."

“Thank you.” Hanging up, Chen Ge carried his small bowl of hope like a candle in his arm and charged into the heavy rain. He ran out the school gates, past the bus stop, and beyond the convenient store before stopping at a junction. The traffic was heavy, and different roads led to different destinations.

“Chen Ge!” A familiar voice came from the opposite side of the street. Chen Ge turned to the voice, and a man wearing an old jacket was running over the zebra crossing. He was slightly shorter than Chen Ge. The man who was normally so sunny had his wrinkles creased up in worry. The rain drenched his jacket, and the man ran to Chen Ge’s side, still catching his breath. Suddenly, he closed the umbrella and smacked Chen Ge on his arm. The sound was loud, but it was not painful; it was more for show.

“Why didn’t you come home after school? If you have something to attend, you should inform me. I wouldn’t have stopped you! Do you know how worried your sister and I were?”

Looking at the familiar face, even though they had not met for more than a year, the man appeared to be much slimmer, and there was more white in his hair. Chen Ge did not speak. The candle in his heart was slowly overwhelmed by the rain. When he first laid his eyes on the man, Chen Ge knew this was not his father. It was just a figment of his memory, a part that would disappear eventually.

“You are not him.” Holding up the umbrella, Chen Ge walked to the man and raised the umbrella above both of their heads. The voice was familiar, and it was filled with discipline, concern, and disappointment. All these things weaved together to complete the perfect image of a father. They did not take the bus and walked home. The man was initially quite angry, but after some stern words, he stopped talking. The father and son walked silently in the rain.

When they were almost home, the man suddenly signaled for Chen Ge to wait. He went to the nearby shop to buy two braised pork trotters. When he came out, he saw an old man selling vegetables on a pushcart. He was standing close to the shop to avoid the rain. Probably due to the rain, the wares were not selling so well, and after a whole day in the rain, part of the vegetables looked quite rotten already. The man took out his wallet and walked to the old man. Then he came back with two large bags of vegetables. He helped the old man clean up his cart before returning to join Chen Ge.

“Can we finish so much food?” Chen Ge slowly lowered his head, mumbling the next sentence from his memory. “It’s fine. We have a fridge that can store them for a long time...”

“It’s fine.” The man shrugged. “We have a fridge that can store them. We can ration them out.”

The two walked into the hall. Before they reached their home, the door of one of the houses opened. A girl about thirteen poked her head out. When she heard the footsteps from inside the room, she was too excited to wait for them to get to the door, so she hurried to come open it first.

“Did... did you find... find my big brother?” the girl stammered, and her hands were shaking uncontrollably. She hung by the door, and her lips were slightly uneven. The gap between her teeth was wider than normal, but she carried an angelic smile on her face.

“Ruoyu, quickly go back in, and be careful not to trip.” The man carried the bags and two trotters into the room. Chen Ge trailed behind him silently. The room was sparsely furnished, but the feeling was warm.

“Big... big brother...” The girl looked thirteen, but she acted like a five-year-old. When she saw Chen Ge come in, she lay on her side like a doll.

“Ruoyu? Luo Ruoyu?” That was the name of Director Luo’s daughter. She suffered from Angelman Syndrome. After she passed away, Director Duo had placed her ashes at the theme park. In fact, New Century Park had been built for her.