

## Horrors 1051

### Chapter 1051: Seven Children [2 in 1]

The whole book was filled with entries of cruel and gory stories, but the last page consisted of a warm, sweet dream. His fingers caressed the handwriting on the page. Fatigue overwhelmed him like waves. Chen Ge hugged the book, closed his bloodshot eyes, and collapsed to the ground. He was under enormous strain and pressure after spending ten sleepless days and nights in the world behind the door. It was little wonder that he was at his limit already.

After leaving Yu Jian's world, he finally snapped, and his last layer of defense was broken. The backpack dropped beside him, and Chen Ge fell asleep just like that. Next to him, on the single bed, Yu Jian slowly awakened from his slumber. Hugging the thin blanket, Yu Jian took a glance at Chen Ge before slowly burying his head into his chest. Yu Jian's mother, who stood at the door, took in everything. She had no idea what had happened in the room and what to make of it. Chen Ge had promised that he would help cure her son, but from her perspective, before Chen Ge got involved, only Yu Jian was the one that needed treatment; however, after their interaction, it appeared that both Chen Ge and Yu Jian needed some kind of intervention.

"Jesus, what am I supposed to do now?" Yu Jian's mother walked into the room, attempting to drag Chen Ge out. She gave the young man a tug and tried to drag him out, but she realized that she was too weak to move Chen Ge by even an inch, so in the end, she surrendered. With a deep frown, she walked out from the bedroom without noticing the many blood red shadows that appeared behind her. If she had done something to harm Chen Ge earlier, perhaps the whole building would have been awash with blood as a result.

At eight o'clock in the morning, Chen Ge was woken up by the alarm that he had set on his phone. His eyes flickered blurrily open, but his eyes were still slightly bloodshot. Holding his head that was still pulsing, Chen Ge looked out the window. The sun filtered through the curtains into the bedroom. A well-dressed Yu Jian was sitting at the study table.

"You are finally awake?" Hearing the movement from Chen Ge, Yu Jian turned around. He was impeccably groomed like he was ready to leave and go somewhere.

"I am still suffering from a bit of a headache." Chen Ge picked up the backpack and placed everything inside it. "You should still remember the dream from last night, right?"

Yu Jian shook his head. "I can't say that I remember every detail clearly, but I have not forgotten the words that you told me."

He grabbed the several pieces of paper from the table, collected them in a stack, and handed them over to Chen Ge. "This is the list of crimes that I have committed. I will go and see Miss Zhang one last time before going to the police to surrender."

The content on the white paper was shocking. It was filled with horrible thoughts and despicable curses. Three of them jumped out as being the most serious. The first incident happened when he was still very young. Under the influence of the ghost fetus, he had almost poked his neighbor's child blind. The

second incident was when he ran away from home during secondary school. It was during this period that he had surrendered himself completely to the ghost fetus and allowed the ghost fetus to make use of his blood to help complete the setup of the nine children. During this period, the ghost fetus had harmed many different innocent people, including Wu Jinpeng's younger brother. It was him who shoved his hand into the fan.

At the time, the ghost fetus wanted to take away the sense of sound from Wu Sheng, but Wu Kun, whose mental acumen was much lower than a normal person's, was not afraid of the ghost fetus. He tried his best to stop him, but the man was unfortunately no match for the ghost fetus, and thus, he had to suffer because of it.

The third incident was related to Yu Jian's own biological father. If not for his fateful encounter with that teacher, Yu Jian would probably have been pushed down the road of no return by the ghost fetus.

"I knew he was merely using me. From the very beginning, I knew that he would not have chosen me," Yu Jian said as Chen Ge pored over the pages of confession. "I am the same kind of person as him. He hated people like us from the bottom of his heart. The source of his hatred came from the innate disgust at himself."

Yu Jian was the living person who had spent the longest time with the ghost fetus. In a way, he could be considered the person who knew the ghost fetus the best.

"Since you knew that you were just being used by the ghost fetus, why did you still choose to help him?" This was something that Chen Ge did not understand.

"Like I said, we were kindred spirits. In that fleeting moment, it felt like he was my only friend, the only person who understood me in this world." Yu Jian's body was weak and feeble. He took back the pieces of papers and pulled back the curtain of the bedroom. The room was flooded by sunlight, something that had not happened for a long time. Yu Jian looked out the scenery from the window. "Actually, this world is quite beautiful."

Stuffing the paper inside his school bag, Yu Jian turned away from the sun, opened the bedroom door, and walked out from the small room that had been his hiding hole for so many years. In the corridor, when Yu Jian's mother saw her son walk out from his bedroom so well-dressed, her face was filled with disbelief.

"Son..."

"I wish to go for a walk."

"Of... of course. Sure!"

The door was pushed open, and Yu Jian left with his schoolbag. At the same moment, Yu Jian's mother rushed into the bedroom, and she looked at Chen Ge with awe and shock on her face. "How did you manage to do it? Yu Jian appears to have gotten much better! He volunteered to go out on his own to go for a walk. I feel like it is going to rain red today!"

1"Yu Jian was never sick to begin with. He merely did not know how to love this world and how to love the people around him." Chen Ge stared at Yu Jian's mother. "If you do not wish for Yu Jian to revert to

his former state, then sit down and have a talk with me. And this time, I beg you to stop with the lies and deceit.”

After a deep conversation, what the ghost fetus had revealed behind the door was confirmed. Yu Jian was indeed a child born out of wedlock. His biological father wanted nothing to do with his mistress and his illegitimate son while Yu Jian’s mother used him constantly as bargaining chip to get something from his father. From a very young age, Yu Jian never knew what love was, and that gave the ghost fetus the opening to enter his life. The hatred and ugliness of the world was specifically amplified, and his mind and psyche became more and more twisted.

Yu Jian’s mother felt guilty toward Yu Jian, so she did the best she could to take care of him, but at the same time, she wanted to cultivate Yu Jian into someone who was better than his father, so she was also very strict with him. Banned from any kind of entertainment and social life, Yu Jian’s mother demanded only two things from him. One was to have good grades, and two was to have a valuable skill so that he could take care of himself in the future.

After the deep conversation, Chen Ge discovered a much deeper layer of problems. Yu Jian’s mother actually noticed the problems with Yu Jian at a very early age, but even after Yu Jian had done more than a handful dangerous actions toward others, which should have raised a red flag for the mother, Yu Jian’s mother chose to blind herself to the severity of the problem. Her love and guilt toward her son blinded her eyes. All she ever did was provide excuses for her son, and that caused her to miss the chance to really educate her son again and again.

“It is not entirely his fault that Yu Jian ended up in this state.” Chen Ge picked up his backpack. “If there is a chance in the future, I suggest you go and meet the teacher that was fired due to Yu Jian. She was the real hero who had entered Yu Jian’s life to save him.”

After getting down to the bottom of everything, Chen Ge prepared to leave.

“Wait a minute.” Yu Jian’s mother stopped Chen Ge. “Even though I have no idea what kind of method you have used, you have indeed helped Yu Jian solve the problem in his heart. How much do you need for this session? How should I contact you if Yu Jian locks himself up in his bedroom again in the future?”

“I do not do this for the money.” Chen Ge stood inside the bedroom and looked around. In the end, he picked up a mud statuette from Yu Jian’s study table. “In terms of payment, I shall take this statuette as compensation.” He took the mud statuette with Yu Jian’s name carved on it, stuffed it into his backpack, and left Yu Jian’s home. He took the elevator to the ground. Chen Ge walked into the safety corridor, and he knelt down to look at his own shadow. “When will you be able to wake up? I have many questions that I wish to ask you.”

Taking out the mud statuette with Yu Jian’s name from his backpack, Chen Ge placed it on his own shadow. The black red blood leaked out from the mud statuette and seeped into his shadow. An oppressive presence was slowly waking up. “After I find the rest of the mud statuettes, it’ll be about time for you to wake up, right?”

1Chen Ge had not forgotten about what had happened behind Yu Jian’s door. He felt like he had gained a new understanding of the girl who was living in his shadow. Picking up his backpack, Chen Ge hurried back to New Century Park before it was open for business. Without saying a word to explain himself, he

hurried to the dressing room to help his employees with their make-up and prepared to start the business. The haunted house opened its gate to the visitors ten minutes late, and Chen Ge felt quite apologetic about it. He personally walked to the queue of visitors and presented them with some bottles of water and knickknacks from New Century Park for making them wait.

Chen Ge had high popularity on the internet. When many visitors saw him, they took out their phones and started to snap pictures. It even caused a small commotion.

“One day, if the haunted house really cannot operate anymore, perhaps I can consider changing my career path to become an online personality.”

The haunted house ran smoothly. The visitors entered the haunted house orderly, and Chen Ge sighed in relief. He greeted Uncle Xu and then carried his backpack and left New Century Park alone.

“I feel like I am the one who is the least invested in the business even though I am the boss.” Chen Ge did not have much time left before the birth of the ghost fetus. Chen Ge called Lee Zheng, and after asking for the location of Zhen Zhen, he called a cab and headed to his destination. Inside the cab, Chen Ge took out the black phone, and as he expected, there were unread messages on it.

“This message probably arrived the moment I stepped out from inside Yu Jian’s door.” Chen Ge clicked on the screen and opened the unread message.

“Congratulations, Red Specter’s Favored, you have completed 5/9 of the Trial Mission, Ghost Fetus. The ghost fetus has lost living human emotions. He can no longer curse you through the people that you love the most! You do not have much time left!”

“Congratulations, Red Specter’s Favored, you have completed 6/9 of the Trial Mission, Ghost Fetus. The ghost fetus has lost his heart! His most precious thing has been taken away, and that has depleted his power greatly! Warning, Red Specter’s Favored, you do not have much time left!”

1Seeing the two messages on the black phone, Chen Ge was stumped.

“How is this possible? Last night, I only entered Yu Jian’s door and helped Yu Jian regain the love that he lost. I only completed one mission! How did the ghost fetus lose its heart?” His brows dipped into a crease as Chen Ge wrecked his mind, and suddenly, a brilliant flash crossed his eyes as a possibility came to him. “It was the non-smiler from the hospital that stole the ghost fetus’ heart!”

Chen Ge still had an impression of the child whose heart had been stolen by the ghost fetus. At the time, Chen Ge had run into the non-smiler at his home, but he did not get into an altercation with the non-smiler during that time.

“The non-smiler belongs to the party of the cursed hospital. They have also targeted the ghost fetus. After all, the child with the heart deficiency was one of the children selected by the ghost fetus!”

Last night, Chen Ge had entered Yu Jian’s world behind the door to take away the love that had been snatched by the ghost fetus. But on the same night, the non-smiler had reached out toward the child with the heart problem, and they had walked away with the ghost fetus’ heart. “Is the cursed hospital also going after the ghost fetus? What is their connection to the ghost fetus?”

Chen Ge was reminded of something else. Whenever he entered the door of the children selected by the ghost fetus, there would be a black, iron door that appeared behind him. The door appeared to be the door of a quarantine room. It was splattered with faded blood stain and lingered with the smell of disinfectant. The world behind the door was weaved from the children's own memories, but the black door was quite possibly part of the ghost fetus' own memory.

"Could the black iron door be a part of the cursed hospital? Was the ghost fetus once trapped at the cursed hospital?"

In his mind, Chen Ge used to separate the ghost fetus and the cursed hospital, but now, he realized that there might be a connection between these two that he had not chanced upon yet.

"Evil is something like a disease, so the question is, who is the patient zero?"

Chen Ge did not have a good impression of that cursed hospital. His greatest wish was for the ghost fetus and the cursed hospital to butt heads and kill each other, but the problem was that the cursed hospital was probably after the same thing as Chen Ge. They wanted Chen Ge to cross swords with the ghost fetus while they stayed out of it to reap the benefits.

"Other than the ghost fetus, I have to be cautious of that hospital." Chen Ge was very calm. "I needed almost ten Red Specters to take down Du Ming's mother, who was actually disguised by the ghost fetus. The cursed hospital managed to get away with the ghost fetus' heart, which means that they are no less powerful than I am! They might even have a Top Red Specter among them!"

His heart rose with agitation. Chen Ge kept on urging the taxi driver, and ten minutes later, he arrived at the police station.

"Inspector Lee, where is Zhen Zhen? Can I please meet him? After all, it was me who saved him."

"He is at the duty room. The child is a very quiet and obedient kid. He has gained quite a following at the station." Lee Zheng was originally busy with something else, but when he saw Chen Ge, he put down all his work immediately. "I will take you to meet him now."

"There is no need to hurry. There is one other thing that I wish to ask you." Chen Ge walked up to Lee Zheng. "About the child with the heart disease that I asked you guys to investigate earlier..."

"He died last night at the hospital." Lee Zheng pulled out a document from his drawer. "The boy's name was Se Xin. With his heart problem, the doctor said that it was already a miracle that he had lived so long."

"He died? Last night?" Chen Ge's jaw tightened. He was pretty sure that this was the non-smiler's doing. A human life was lost just like that. He was just a child. He did not even have the chance to see and experience what the world had to offer just yet.

"I should have gone to him earlier." Chen Ge felt some responsibility and guilt. The children chosen by the ghost fetus came from a pitiable background, so Chen Ge had been trying his best to help them as well. After Chen Ge entered the door, he would help the children find the power that had been taken away by the ghost fetus and then hand the power back to the children so that they would become complete again. But the others, be it Jia Ming or the non-smilers, did not care about the children's lives. They would stop at nothing to destroy the ghost fetus' lingering spirit. They had no bottom line.

“What about Se Xin’s parents?”

“They’re taking it as well as they could. But strangely enough, something has happened to the main surgeon who conducted the surgery. He had been unconscious since the surgery last night. He still had not woken up.”

Chen Ge asked for and memorized the physician’s name, and then with Lee Zheng leading the way, they headed to the police station’s duty room. Before they arrived, Chen Ge could hear the sound of laughter coming from inside the duty room. Pushing open the door, they saw a female officer playing with Zhen Zhen. When Zhen Zhen saw Chen Ge walk in, he jumped down from the bed and hid behind the female officer. He seemed to be afraid of Chen Ge, which was something that no one expected.

Putting down his backpack, Chen Ge walked toward Zhen Zhen. “You do not recognize me anymore?”

Zhen Zhen nodded and then quickly shook his head. He seemed to see another person on Chen Ge’s body. The second person made him feel familiar yet anxious. After a while, Zhen Zhen slowly returned to normal. He took Chen Ge by his hand and handed him a candy that was left on the table.

“Zhen Zhen, I’m here today to ask you some questions.” Chen Ge accepted the candy given to him by Zhen Zhen. “When you are being held by Jia Ming, other than Liu Wen and Se Xin, did you manage to sense the presence of the other children?”

### **Chapter 1052: Cats [2 in 1]**

Chen Ge had to explain for a very long time before he got his message across to Zhen Zhen, but the boy did not appear to be in the mood to talk about that topic. This was clearly demonstrated when he went into hiding behind the female officer again.

“Chen Ge, he is still a boy, and he is going through a lot of counselling to help mend his internal trauma. I must ask you to not make him remember those unhappy incidents so soon.” This was the first time that Chen Ge had met the female officer, but she managed to call him by his name as if they had known each other for a very long time already.

“To stop the tragedy from its source, Zhen Zhen is the only one who can provide me with the answer. I also have no other choice.” Chen Ge knelt before the boy. “Zhen Zhen, if you sense the location of the other children, you have to tell me. I am only trying my best to go and protect them.”

The cursed hospital was also looking for the ghost fetus’ candidates. If they got to them before Chen Ge did, the child would most likely end up dead.

After about ten minutes, Zhen Zhen finally spoke. He still hid behind the female officer, but the small face started to lose its smile. He said shyly and softly, “That strange uncle told me these strange stories before I went to sleep at night, and after hearing him, I had dreams that have nothing to do with me. It is like I am using another person’s eyes to live their lives.”

As a young boy, Zhen Zhen tried his best to express what he was trying to say, and Chen Ge got the message clearly.

The child shared a bond of sorts with the ghost fetus, and he possessed the presence of the ghost fetus within him. With the aid from Jia Ming, he was able to take a glimpse into the dreams of the other children chosen by the ghost fetus. Jia Ming and Bei Ye had made use of this power to find Liu Wen earlier.

“Other than Liu Wen and Se Xin, I have had one more dream. It was complete darkness inside that dream. I was unable to see anything.” Zhen Zhen tried his best to remember and recollect his memory.

“Complete darkness in the dream, and you could not see anything?”

“Yes, it was a very horrible feeling. I was surrounded by darkness, and my whole body itched. I wanted to scratch at it until the skin fell off.”

Just from Zhen Zhen’s description, Chen Ge was feeling slightly uncomfortable.

“Even if the eyes can’t see, the nose and ears should be working fine. Did you smell anything strange or hear any strange voices when you were in this dream?” Chen Ge was slowly prompting Zhen Zhen.

After giving it some thought, the boy finally said, “I believe I smelled a very horrible stench, and I heard the meowing of some cats. Yes! There were many cats in the room with me.”

“Many cats? A blind person who took in stray cats?” This was the first image that popped into Chen Ge’s mind. “Is there anything else other than that? There was no one talking? Only the cats?”

“I think that was the sound of a man. He seemed to call me his little brother. He said something else, but he seemed to be standing very far away, so I could not hear him clearly.” Zhen Zhen had told Chen Ge everything he could remember.

“I think I get it.” Chen Ge walked out from the duty room. He took out his phone and recorded all the useful information. “In Zhen Zhen’s dream, the men made an appearance. They should be siblings. The younger brother is blind, and he is surrounded by cats. From the smell, they live in a less than satisfactory environment, and the big brother stays away from his brother even when he is trying to talk to him...”

Lee Zheng stood next to Chen Ge and watched the man talk to himself as he jotted down the notes and arranged the information in his mind. Without even realizing it, a bitter smile appeared on the inspector’s face. “It is such a shame that you are not a part of the force.”

“Brother Zheng, can you do me another favor?” After arranging his notes, Chen Ge turned to Lee Zheng. “If we do not locate that blind person as soon as possible, I am afraid he might in mortal danger.”

The minute earlier, they had been chatting with a young boy, and now, they were suddenly talking about a murder. The topic changed so quickly that even an experienced police officer like Lee Zheng needed some time to get used to it. “Mortal danger? How did you come to that conclusion based on the dream of a child? Don’t get me wrong. It’s not that I am suspecting you, but I think that is rather hard to believe.”

“You can say it’s my instinct.” Chen Ge had difficulty going into details. “My instinct has always been accurate.”

“There is no denying that, but we are currently very short-staffed. I am afraid we are unable to provide you with much help.” Even though that was what Lee Zheng said, after they returned to his office, he still entered the database that was only accessible to the police. “Let me check if there are any pet shops or stray cat centers that are run by two brothers. Based on what you said, the younger brother should be blind, and some kind of tragedy has befallen the family before this...”

Even with the many clues that they had, sifting through all the information that was available still required plenty of time, and it might not even amount to anything. At around 2 pm, Lee Zheng finally called with good news. He had found a person that matched the description given by Chen Ge.

“The name is Ying Chen. He is twenty-three years old. He is the operator of Jiujiang’s Heart Kitty Rescue Center’s website. He is a serious cat lover and has volunteered many times in Jiujiang’s voluntary activities. He was a perfect student during his schooling years and did not have any run-ins with the police.” Lee Zheng pointed at the computer screen. “This is all the information that’s readily available on the website, so I am not violating any rules by sharing it with you.”

Chen Ge hopped onto the internet and searched for this website. The Heart Kitty Rescue Center’s website’s main page was filled with cat pictures and comments from different cat lovers. The most popular feature on this website was a stray cat rescue plan, urging the public not to abandon their pet so easily. As Lee Zheng said, there was a brief introduction on Ying Chen on the website. Other than that, there was a picture of the man as well. The man looked talented and had very fair skin. At least for Chen Ge, he gave a good first impression.

“The man is quite impressive. His parents died when he was very young. He and his younger brother then moved to stay with their relative, but it turns out the relative only took them in because they wanted to lay claim to the house that Ying Chen’s parents left behind.

“The relative treated the brothers badly. Ying Chen did not complain about it. He threw himself into his studies. When he was old enough and capable enough to look after them both, he chased the relative out. This sounds like a young man with a sunny and hardworking disposition.”

Lee Zheng collected the report of his investigation.

“The other users all leave shining reviews for the man. They feel like he’s a man who has the light shining from within him. In fact, many single female users have shown public interest in him, but because he had to take care of his younger brother, he kindly rejects all of their advances because he does not want to burden them with his younger brother.”

“Based on what you said, he sounds like a perfect young man and citizen of society.” Chen Ge looked through the website. He did not know anything was wrong, and then he clicked into Ying Chen’s own main page. Inside that main page, there were videos, pictures, and blog posts written by Ying Chen himself. Most of them recorded the lives of him and his younger brother and their lives together with the stray cats. All his videos and blogs had very high views. He even had his own account on a certain popular video-sharing platform. He had a respectable number of followers, not too many but just enough to be called popular and influential.



“The big brother is such a kind and loving person. Even though the younger brother might have some eye problem, I am sure he will be taken care of.” Chen Ge clicked on one of the videos and watched it silently.

“Yes, with a brother like that, it is quite fortunate that his younger brother has him considering the other things that have happened to them.”

“Brother Zheng, I do not think that you have understood me.” Chen Ge turned back to look at Lee Zheng. “Do you still remember how Zhen Zhen described that dream? It was surrounded in complete darkness, and it reeked of horrible smell. He could not see anything, and his body was incredibly itchy. If the big brother really took such good care of his younger brother, this kind of situation would not have happened.”

“But that was merely just a dream made up by Zhen Zhen.” For Lee Zheng, police detective work required actual evidence to back it up, and a dream could not be considered proper evidence.

“Dreams are the manifestation of a person’s subconscious. The majority of people will choose the response of flight when they run into a scary situation in their dreams, but a small portion of people will choose to fight. Their different choices can reflect a person’s mental and psychological health and condition.” Chen Ge did not lift his eyes off the video and provided his theory.

“Does the operator of a haunted house nowadays need to know so many things?” Lee Zheng had noticed that Chen Ge was still going through the list of videos. “Are you trying to find evidence to back up what you are suggesting through the videos? The fact that Ying Chen is not the man that he has made himself out to be?”

“On the surface, the videos appear to be perfectly normal, but...” Chen Ge took out his phone and searched for the official website for the local Jiujiang weather report. It contained the weather data over the entire year for Jiujiang. He compared the weather data, and his expression slowly became more and more severe. “Brother Zheng, I think I have found the evidence you need.”

“What do you mean?” Lee Zheng was an experienced detective. He had seen parts of the videos himself, but he did not spot any big problems with them.

“When I clicked on Ying Chen’s main page, I realized that most of his videos were centered around rescuing stray cats. The cats in the videos looked so devastated, and they were so fearful around human beings. But after Ying Chen’s rescue and treatment, the cats turned out to be healthier and prettier, and they were less scared around strangers.”

“That proves that his methods are effective, and that is exactly what their website is promoting—rescuing the stray cats and giving them a new chance at life.”

“But did you realize one thing? Most of the stray cats rescued by Ying Chen were already adult cats, and their body frames have already matured.”

“What are you trying to say?” Years of detective experience gave Lee Zheng a very bad feeling in his heart.

“I suspect that part of his videos are doctored and shot in reverse.” Chen Ge stood before the computer and spoke in a low voice. “He will first take pictures and videos of healthy cats, and when he has enough

material to post on his website, he will start to torture them. The poor cats that were featured at the start of the videos are exactly how they ended up in the end. Now, isn't that a scary thought?"

"The fact that you could even come up with a speculation like that is even scarier." Lee Zheng realized that Chen Ge was able to picture everything from the perspective of the criminal. He was thankful that Chen Ge had not strayed from the good path, or else he would be a very difficult criminal to deal with.

"After I had this suspicion, I tried to figure out a way to prove it. But most of his videos were taken in this same room. There were no signs of any calendars or clocks inside the room. And the curtain were drawn. The change of the lighting was too small to notice any difference. The man is a very cautious and careful thinker. He has thought of all the possibilities that might cause him to slip up," Chen Ge said as he clicked open the video that he had last seen. "But in this video, he missed something. If you listen very closely, at the start of the video, you can hear the sound of rain and thunder in the background. At this part, the cat looked horrible. It could barely stand on one leg, its wounds were heavily infected, and it could not even open its eyes from the scab on its face.

"The video was uploaded on the twenty-sixth of last month. He said in the video that he found this cat at the start of the month, and when he first saw the cat, he was shocked by the horrible condition that it was in. At the start of the video, he even lambasted the people who had cruelly abandoned such a cute animal. But I just logged into our Jiujiang's local weather data website to check. For the whole of last month, we only had one day with heavy rain, and it was on the twenty-fourth.

"In other word, if he was telling the truth, he shot the video about the cat in its horrible condition on the twenty-fourth, but on the twenty-sixth, when he uploaded the video, the cat in the video had supposedly recovered to its optimum condition. In fact, at the end of the video, it showed the cat making a full recovery, without a sign of physical wounds on its body. Do you think that's possible?"

Ying Chen was a cautious and deliberate thinker, but he was still far less dedicated than Chen Ge.

"But why would he go through so much trouble to come up with such a big operation? He not only tormented the cats—he even uploaded these videos to share them with the rest of the cat lovers?"

"I believe that it's similar to the psychology of a serial killer returning to their crime scenes to witness their handiwork. It is a kind of rush that they get from seeing their work being admired by others." Chen Ge continued to look at the video. Honestly, if not for the coincidental weather pattern, it would have been impossible to find anything wrong with Ying Chen's videos. "Brother Zheng, I believe that this person is a maniac with an extremely dark disposition. He is good at disguising himself and is a very clever person. If we let him be, he will eventually push himself further to commit a bigger crime."

"Indeed, but now I am more worried about his younger brother." Lee Zheng's expression turned serious. "Living with such a brother, he might be in serious danger. That's why you said that he might be in mortal danger in the first place, isn't it?"

"Yes, in any case, we should locate them as soon as possible." Chen Ge read the introduction that the website had on Ying Chen. The man had a younger brother who was blind, and his name was Ying Tong.

...

Chen Ge found Ying Chen's contact number on the website. He told Lee Zheng that they would go to investigate Ying Chen together tomorrow morning. But after leaving the police station, Chen Ge thought about it again. Lee Zheng was already so busy. He felt like he should not burden him with any more work. He got into the cab and called the number that he had found on the website.

The call rang about three times before it was picked up. The man's voice came from the other side of the line. "Hello, this is Ying Chen. How can I help you?"

The number left on the website was for business purposes, so Ying Chen had a fair and kind attitude.

"Mister Ying, I am a haunted house owner at New Century Park. I wish to place an advertisement banner on your website. I wonder, would you be interested in that?" Chen Ge started to lie the moment he opened his mouth. "We can negotiate the price further. I am sure you will be satisfied in the end."

"Okay, I always see a connection between cats and theme parks. Furthermore, the users of our websites are mostly young people, and I am sure that's also a theme park's target audience."

The two formed a consensus on the spot. To make Ying Chen lower his guard, Chen Ge did not ask to meet him at the man's home but had Ying Chen choose a restaurant that was close to his home so that they could meet up and discuss the business in person. Half an hour later, Chen Ge arrived at the restaurant, and he gave Ying Chen another call.

"Boss Chen! I have already booked the private room!" A young man walked out from the restaurant. He was casually dressed, and he gave off a very clean and sunny feeling.

"Ying Chen?" Chen Ge was carrying his backpack. "You know me?"

"When I heard the name New Century Park and the haunted house, I knew it was you. I just did not expect that you would come in person." Ying Chen was a well-rounded businessman. He heaped on the praise, saying that he was Chen Ge's fan, and then segued into admiring Chen Ge for his business acumen. He was so good at this business talk that he did not appear to be a young man of only twenty-two. Chen Ge did not intend to post an advertisement on his website from the beginning, so to show his 'sincerity', he offered a price that was three times the market price.

The two had a jovial discussion. Wine flowed like water. Just as the waiter came to serve the last dish, Chen Ge accidentally knocked into the man and caused the water to splash on his shoulder. Ying Chen quickly came over to dab the shoulder with the paper towel, but Chen Ge's face darkened immediately. "I have another meeting to get to. What should I do now?"

The waiter kept apologizing. Chen Ge sighed in seeming helplessness. He turned to Ying Chen. "Brother, do you mind if you go to your place to borrow a shirt from you? I have already scheduled a meeting with a client this afternoon. I do not think it will be polite to show up in a stained shirt."

Ying Chen hesitated for a while before agreeing. "Of course, there's no problem."

The two paid for their dinner and entered the residential area nearby. This place was very close to the old city, and it was quite isolated. The residential area was practically deserted.

**Chapter 1053: Everlasting Night [2 in 1]**

The residential area that Ying Chen lived in was called Ming Yuan. It was once a famously middle-class area in the old city. It was primarily occupied by the rich and successful. However, following the economic boom and the fast development of Jiujiang, the population moved away from the old city, and the place became more and more deserted. The once high-end apartments looked dilapidated and old. Gone were the security and the efforts to greenify and beautify the area. In fact, walking down the streets of the area, one would be assaulted by this strange smell.

“It was my parents who initially bought the house here. They were businessmen. If the accident did not happen, I might have ended up as the typical rich second generation you read about in web novels,” Ying Chen joked, but Chen Ge noticed the well-hidden hint of bitterness under his jibe. There was more than an ounce of truth behind his joke. With Ying Chen leading the way, they came to the deepest part of the residential area.

“My house is on the seventh floor. Why don’t you wait down here while I go up there and grab a change of clothes for you?” It was quite obvious that Ying Chen did not wish for Chen Ge to come to his home, and he came up with many excuses.

“It’s fine. I do not want you to go upstairs and then have to come down for me again. I wouldn’t dare impose on you so much.” Chen Ge walked into the building without waiting for Ying Chen to reply. His nose twitched, and the faded stench seemed to get a little more intense. Looking around, Chen Ge noticed that the building came with an elevator, but it was an old-style elevator that had been used many years ago.

“Ming Yuan is the only residential area in the old city that came with an indoor elevator at the time. The place has seen its ups and downs. Currently, it is going through the down. Most who are capable of doing so have already moved away.” Ying Chen pointed at the elevator. “Do not take that elevator no matter what. It is prone to accidents, and it occasionally makes this awful grinding sound. It’s particularly scary at night.”

With Ying Chen’s surprising insistence, he and Chen Ge used the stairs and climbed all the way up to the seventh floor. The whole building gave Chen Ge a very bad vibe. It was old with horrible sanitary conditions. There was no sense of living, and it would be depressing to live in a place like this.

“My home is a bit of a mess. I hope you don’t mind.” Ying Chen’s home was closest to the stairs. He took out the key and fiddled with it for a while before opening the door. The stench in the air became more intense. Chen Ge looked into the room. Ying Chen’s place was huge, but the décor was tattered, and many items had been horribly scratched.

“I am a cat lover, and I have a few pet cats at home. This is all their doing,” Ying Chen said with a helpless sigh. “Make yourself comfortable. I will go and find a change of clothes for you.”

After entering the house, Chen Ge subconsciously used his finger to brush against his nose. The sofa, floor, and dining table were covered in cat fur, but strangely, there was not a single cat to be seen in the house. There was not even meowing coming from one of them.

“The stench does not come from the cats. The smell is very similar to the horrible smell at the old city. I smelled the same thing when I entered Yu Jian’s room, but after I came out of Yu Jian’s door, the horrible smell disappeared.” Chen Ge had encountered this strange smell in many places before. He

could not tell what exactly gave off the smell, but one thing was for sure, he knew that the smell had something to do with the 'door'.

When Ying Chen was busy finding him some clothes, Chen Ge made use of the time to do his investigation. There was little furniture in the house. There were five rooms in total, and other than the living room, the doors to the four remaining rooms were tightly locked. Soon, Ying Chen walked out from the bedroom, holding a set of his own clothes. "What do you think about this? It is quite formal, but it matches what you are wearing at the moment."

"You are such a life savior. You have helped me tremendously this time." Chen Ge appeared to be over the moon. "Do you mind if I borrow your bathroom?"

"The first door next to the entrance." Ying Chen was quite happy to be of help to Chen Ge. In his mind, the business was about ninety percent already completed. After entering the bathroom, Chen Ge closed the door and took out the comic from his backpack to summon Men Nan.

"I need you and Tong Tong to hide here for now. Find a chance for Tong Tong to possess his phone. Then I will return here before midnight, and I need you to help me unlock the door when that happens," Chen Ge whispered.

"So, you want me to be the insider?"

"Of all the Red Specters, you are the smartest, and only you are capable of something like this." Chen Ge heaped on the praise before the boy gave his promise. After giving his face a wash, Chen Ge walked out from the bathroom. "Ying Chen, thank you so much for your help this time. I will go back to prepare the contract, and we will sign it tomorrow. Is that okay with you?"

"Of course!" Ying Chen was surprisingly greedy with money, but it was unclear whether this was another front or he was serious about his love of money.

"It is a joy to work with people who are such good people. Since I am already here, do you mind I ask you a few more questions?" Chen Ge peppered Ying Chen with many different questions. Many of them were business related, and they revolved around the website. At the very end, Chen Ge sneaked in, as if as an afterthought, a mention of Ying Chen's younger brother. "I hear you are still looking after your younger brother. How are the man's eyes recovering? I know several good optometrists. If you need it, I can make the introduction for you."

"My younger brother was not born blind. He got an eye illness when he was about three or four, and his situation has only deteriorated since then. One of the major reasons I am eager to earn money is to collect the funds to help cure his blindness."

"The relationship between you brothers sure is touching." Chen Ge placed the backpack down. "The earlier the eyes are healed, the better. Do you mind if I meet your little brother?"

Chen Ge's request was rather sudden, but Ying Chen did not think too much of it. After some brief hesitation, he walked to the door that was next to the bathroom. "Ying Tong? What are you doing?"

"Sleeping." A very soft voice drifted out from inside the room.

“Then you should go back to sleep. Sorry for disturbing you.” Ying Chen shrugged and turned to Chen Ge with apology on his face. “The child is sleeping. I am so sorry, but I do not wish to disturb him unless it’s truly necessary.”

“It’s fine, I totally get it.” Even though that was what Chen Ge said, the seed of suspicion was already buried inside his heart. When Ying Chen asked Ying Tong what he was doing, the answer ‘sleeping’ had come almost instantaneously like it was already rehearsed. If Ying Tong was really sleeping, there would have been a pause for him to wake up from his sleep before the reply came. Furthermore, Chen Ge could not hear any drowsiness from the reply that came from Ying Tong. Ying Tong appeared to be very afraid of his elder brother; there was some kind of secret hidden between this pair of brothers.

“In that case, I am not going to interrupt you guys anymore. I will come back with the contract tomorrow morning at around 9 am.”

“Brother Chen, thank you and take care.”

After the front door was closed, Ying Chen and Chen Ge’s expressions chilled almost instantly. Chen Ge stood at the door and did not leave. Instead, he leaned his ear on the door to eavesdrop. Soon, the bedroom door was opened, and then a child’s crying came from within. “This man is truly the worst.”

Without any concrete evidence, Chen Ge did not act recklessly. Tong Tong and Men Nan were both inside the room. If something really bad was to happen, they would definitely stop it. Standing in the corridor alone, Chen Ge glanced at the stairs and the elevator next to him. In the end, he decided to leave using the stairs.

“If Ying Tong is really one of the candidates chosen by the ghost fetus, the world behind his door will be nightmare difficulty. Jing Ming lost his sense of hearing, and I could not hear the sound of the ghosts behind his door. Fang Yu has a poor memory, and my memory was constantly being wiped out and interrupted when I was behind her door. With all these as the basis for comparison, my power of sight will be limited when I am inside the world behind Ying Tong’s door. The biggest danger will be the ghosts surrounding me, but I will be unable to see them.”

Sight was very important for a normal person. For someone who was used to seeing the world to suddenly be thrown inside a blind maze, it would be very disorientating.

“Zhang Ya is still hibernating. This door poses a very high danger level for me. To be safe, I’d better bring the Tunnel Woman’s son with me.”

If not for the lack of time, Chen Ge might have considered bringing the Well Lady from Coffin Village with him.

After leaving Ming Yuan, Chen Ge waited until sundown before he went to White Dragon Tunnel. He found the boy at the deepest part of the tunnel. They had already made their promise beforehand, and the boy did not go back on his word. However, when Chen Ge wanted to pull the Tunnel Woman’s son into the comic, something unexpected happened.

Probably because there was a door inside his body, Yan Danian’s comic was unable to accommodate the boy. This was the first time that Chen Ge had encountered a situation like this. The two negotiated for a

long time. Initially, the Tunnel Woman's son proposed to hide inside Chen Ge's shadow. He stood for a long time next to Chen Ge's shadow, but in the end, he voluntarily gave up that idea.

1They had tried many different methods. Eventually, the Tunnel Woman's son opened his appendages that were about two meters long and enveloped Chen Ge from behind. It did not feel comfortable being trapped like that by a Red Specter. Chen Ge felt chills run all over his body, and his body temperature continued to drop.

This whole process lasted for about a minute before the Tunnel Woman's son disappeared. In his place was a giant scary spider tattoo with a human face that covered Chen Ge's entire back and arm. This tattoo would only appear in the shadows, and it looked enough to scare one's soul out of one's body.

1It felt like Chen Ge's body had sunk into icy water. He hated this kind of feeling, but the key mission now was to search for the ghost fetus, so he tried to not mind it that much. At about 11 pm, Chen Ge returned to Ming Yuan in the old city. But even at 11:30 pm, he did not receive any messages from Tong Tong.

"There won't be any problems, will there? With the protection from a Red Specter like Men Nan and only dealing with a normal human being, nothing will happen to them, right? Or have they encountered the non-smilers from the cursed hospital?"

Chen Ge and Lee Zheng's investigation had led them to Ying Tong. Chen Ge still believed that the chance of the non-smiler showing up was very low, but for caution's sake, Chen Ge moved stealthily. Chen Ge entered the stairwell, and when he reached the fourth floor, his phone started to vibrate. 'Ying Chen' had just sent him a message—"He is packing his tools and planning to leave the house!"

It should be Men Nan and Tong Tong controlling Ying Chen's phone. With the experience from last time, their cooperation this time was flawless. Ying Chen should not notice anything out of place at all.

"Is the man going out to work so late at night? Why is he carrying so many tools with him?"

After he got the message, Chen Ge quickly went down on the corridor to hide to prevent himself from running straight into Ying Chen. He paid his attention to the stairwell. Soon, he saw Ying Chen hurry down the stairs, carrying a large black plastic bag with a cap pressed very low down his face.

"It is probably not a human body inside that bag. Based on the size, it felt more like a cat."

Ying Chen's unusual actions once again increased Chen Ge's suspicion of the man. The ghost fetus' door would appear punctually at midnight. Now was not the time to do other investigative work. After Ying Chen left the building, he hurried toward Ying Chen's house. Chen Ge summoned Ol' Zhou and had him open the door from the inside. He sneaked into the house successfully. The lights in the room were not on, and the place appeared cold and deserted. Chen Ge stood by the window and looked down. Ying Chen carried the black bag and walked out of the residential area. He walked toward an abandoned building spot that was nearby.

"Is he going to bury the body and evidence?"

Ying Chen would not be gone for long, and Chen Ge did not waste any time. He and Ol' Zhou gave the place a quick rundown. The kitchen and the bathroom appeared normal, but the lower compartment of the fridge was filled with a lot of minced meat. The other rooms appeared normal on the surface. Ying

Chen's own bedroom was clean and neat. There was not even a single cat hair in it. This room was unique from the rest of the place. Next to Ying Chen's bedroom was the studio. Chen Ge had seen this room from the videos before. Most of the videos were shot inside this room.

1Next to the studio was a room that was locked. Chen Ge had Ol' Zhou entered it. The latter came back with the report that there were several stray cats that were tied with ropes inside the room, and about two of them were dying already. The last room should be Ying Tong's bedroom. Similar to before, Chen Ge had Ol' Zhou slip through the door to conduct recon first.

After knowing that Ying Tong was already asleep, Chen Ge had Ol' Zhou open the door from inside. The moment the bedroom door was opened, the horrible smell hit them like a wave. The stench in this room was even more intense than the smell inside Yu Jian's bedroom. Covering his nose with his hand, Chen Ge looked inside the room.

Ying Tong's bedroom was very small. The windows were boarded up, and the lamps were not even fixed with bulbs. There were many finger paintings on the walls, and many bloodied cotton balls littered the ground. There was a music box, a radio, and many strange-looking dolls that lined the table. Even from the standpoint of an adult like Chen Ge, the dolls looked creepy and scary. They were definitely not meant for children. They would be more fitting inside a haunted house.

#### COMMENT

Ying Tong did not realize there was another person in the room with him. He was fast asleep. He appeared to have had a tiring day. Chen Ge used Yin Yang Vision and noticed that there were bruises all over Ying Tong's body, but the injuries were nothing serious. "The boy does not seem to have any sense of security at all. Even when he sleeps, he curls his body up toward the wall as if seeking comfort from it."

It was a very uncomfortable posture to sleep in, but Ying Tong appeared to have gotten used to it. He curled his body up in a fetal position, and there was a picture frame that was cradled in his arms. Inside the frame was a picture of Ying Chen. "The two share such a good relationship? Even in his sleep, Ying Tong is hugging the picture of his own elder brother?"

Chen Ge was suspicious and had many questions inside his mind. From his perspective, all Ying Tong had toward his elder brother was fear; there was no love between a normal family. He looked closer and discovered that the size of the picture did not fit the frame that well. The picture appeared to have been shoved in later. Regarding the location and the identity of the original picture, probably only Ying Chen himself would now.

The bedroom was closed and secluded from the rest of the world. On the surface, other than the creepy dolls, it did not feel so different from anywhere else.

Ying Chen would be returning soon, but Chen Ge did not leave. He stood inside Ying Tong's bedroom, waiting for the door to appear. At midnight, a door that was covered fully in red appeared silently next to Ying Tong's bed. The lock jiggled softly, and black patterns crawled on the door. Even without anyone touching it, the door appeared like it was about to open on its own.



The sound of footsteps came from the living room. The front door was opened. It meant that Ying Chen had returned from whatever he was doing. Carrying the backpack, Chen Ge did not hesitate as he pushed open the blood door and stepped through it.

...

It felt like his body was sinking into quicksand, and it was slowly swallowing him up. Chen Ge struggled to the best of his ability. The oxygen was being squeezed out of his lungs, and the feeling of being asphyxiated was getting stronger and stronger. Just as he thought he was about to die, his eyes flickered open.

#### COMMENT

Every time he entered the ghost fetus' door, it felt like he had taken a stroll right before the edge of life and death. Before Chen Ge had the time or chance to collect himself, his surroundings started to change again.

“What... is this?”

There was an inky darkness around him, a darkness that light was unable to pierce. This world behind the door felt as if it was covered behind a thick curtain. Chen Ge felt like he was in a world of everlasting night.

Chen Ge stood where he was and did not move an inch. The more he visited the ghost fetus' door, the stranger the world became. He could not allow himself to be too careless.

#### **Chapter 1054: Me in the Darkness [2 in 1]**

A veil of darkness, one could not even see anything. There did not seem to be any light in the world behind this door. Chen Ge made sure to stay where he was as he slowly squatted down. He gripped his backpack tightly for support and pulled his attention to his ears to listen closely. There was the sound of breathing, the sound of a heartbeat, and the sound of the ticking of the clock.

“I seem to be inside someone's room.” Ying Tong was a blind man, so his world was enveloped in darkness. He was unable to see anything, but the other people in his world were able to see him, and that was why this world was so dangerous. Pulling open the zipper of his backpack, Chen Ge rummaged about before his fingers curled around the tattered ballpoint pen. He pulled out the pen and placed it inside his shirt pocket. After that, he took out the comic and held it close to his side.

In this world that was completely covered in darkness, he might lose his backpack if he accidentally tripped or some other accident happened. It seemed unwise to place everything he had inside the backpack. That felt like something too dangerous to do.

1“I will leave the Doctor Skull Cracker's Hammer, the pair of red high heels, and Zhang Ya's bedtime stories inside the backpack. If the person discovers that there is nothing inside the bag, they will definitely get suspicious.”

Unable to see anything, unable to tell his own location, unable to identify his enemies, he was not even able to tell what he looked like. This was definitely the strangest and creepiest door that Chen Ge had

ever entered. He called his employees' names at the bottom of his heart, but he waited for a long time and got no reply.

"The limitation on the Red Specters in the world behind this door is even more intense than the one inside Yu Jian's world. Will I be able to hold on until the awakening of my employees?"

Having lived his life in the light, after Chen Ge lost the ability to see, he was extremely anxious. That was something to be expected. Adjusting his breath, Chen Ge slowly stood up again. He had been behind this door for about ten minutes already, and for those ten minutes, he had stayed put.

"My body has kept its original shape, and from my touch, there is no change to my clothes and appearance."

Chen Ge's nostrils twitched, and in the air, he caught the sniff of the faded scent of disinfectant and blood. Underneath all that, there was a subtle smell that was unique to cats. He followed the trail of the disinfectant smell and reached out behind him. The feeling of sturdiness and chill came from the tip of his fingers.

"The black iron door is right behind me. What I need to do now is confirm my current location, look for a safe place to hide, and wait for my employees to break through."

However, that was easier said than done. Finding a safe location to hide was extremely difficult in his condition. After all, he was unable to see anything.

"The black door usually appears at the location most important in the door pusher's memory and places like that are usually the most dangerous. It is the location that is most often visited by the ghost fetus and other negative emotions."

After being behind the door for about fifteen minutes, Chen Ge finally took his first step. Carrying his backpack, Chen Ge placed one of his hands on the wall and waved his other hand before him. After the initial threshold of nervousness, he slowly calmed down.

"Even Yin Yang Vision is unable to pierce through this darkness, but Ghost Ear and Spirit Sniff do not appear to be affected. I can still rely on my super hearing and sense of smell to decide where I am."

Unable to see the enemy's location and tell the appearance and identity of the enemy was what worried Chen Ge the most.

Bang!

He had just taken the second step when Chen Ge knocked into something. The dull sense of pain came from his knees. He clamped his mouth shut and resisted the urge to scream. Instead, he squatted down again. This was the first time that he had made such a loud noise since he entered the door. It might have attracted the attention of certain Specters. For the sake of security, Chen Ge felt that it would be better if he stopped moving for a little while. He stopped to listen. There were no strange noises, and the smell in the air did not change. Chen Ge appeared to be alone inside the room.

"I need to be as light as I can with my movement and actions." Chen Ge reached out to feel the thing that he had just knocked into. It was a rather squat bedside table. "This table is about the same height as the one that I saw in Ying Tong's bedroom. Does this mean I am currently inside his bedroom?"

Pulling open the drawer, Chen Ge found a photo frame with his hands. "When Ying Tong was asleep, he was hugging a photo frame."

What he discovered next confirmed Chen Ge's speculation even further. He first found the radio inside the room, then his fingers went up and down the dolls with uneven body proportions, and finally, he got to a music box. Those were the exact items that he had seen in Ying Tong's bedroom before. His fingers moved on the surface of the table. Chen Ge found something that he had not encountered before next to the music box.

"There are keys? This appears to be a phone designed for the blind." The phone had exceptionally large keys, and the numbers on each key were protruding upward so that the user could tell the numbers easily by their touch. "Should I bring this phone along with me?"

The phone probably belonged to Ying Tong. Carrying it with him might mean that he could gain contact with Ying Tong in the future, or he might gain more information from it, but at the same time, it would be a huge risk to carry it on his body as well. This was because Chen Ge could not predict when the phone would ring. What if he was in hiding from some enemy and the phone rang? Then it would expose his hiding spot.

"I don't think I should take it. The clues are not that important now. The most important thing is to survive until the end." Chen Ge thought about it and abandoned the idea of taking the phone with him. The risk was just too high. Chen Ge placed the phone and the photo frame back where he had found them and continued his search inside the bedroom. The closet, dresser, bed...

The layout of the furniture was identical to the layout of Ying Tong's bedroom in real life, but unfortunately, Ying Tong was not lying in bed. "Where could a blind man have gone?"

Chen Ge tried to use his previous experience to come up with an analysis. "The world behind Ying Tong's door should be a reflection of his own home. In other words, something extremely painful and traumatic has happened to the man inside this old building. Ying Tong's elder brother is a psycho that is very good at disguising himself, so this painful memory has a very high chance of having come from his own brother. The brothers were adopted by their relative. Based on what Ying Chen said, they were treated very badly during that period, so the relative will not have been a force of good in this world."

1Chen Ge was building the thoughts in his mind when the phone that was placed on the table suddenly rang. The shrill ringing drilled into his mind, and it shattered the silence inside the small room instantly.

"Damn it!" At that moment, Chen Ge thought of using the Doctor Skull Cracker's hammer to give the phone a good whack. He desperately wanted to leave, but he felt it was too dangerous to move about without any preparation. The phone rang eight times before it quieted down again. It was then that Chen Ge sighed in relief. "I am unable to see anything. I cannot even set this phone to vibrate."

There were no more clues to be found inside Ying Tong's bedroom. Chen Ge took out the hammer and slowly opened the bedroom door. The chilling wind touched his cheeks, and it caused Chen Ge to shiver. Beyond the bedroom, there was still a pool of darkness.

"Hopefully, this world behind the door will not be that large, or else I might just get lost here, and I might not even be able to find my way back."

He had only journeyed across a room that was several cubic meters wide, but that took Chen Ge almost half an hour. He felt like a man walking on tight rope, his heart was greatly unsettled.

“I should currently be standing inside Ying Tong’s family’s living room. Ying Tong is not in his own bedroom. As his elder brother, Ying Chen probably won’t allow his younger brother to wander off alone, so he is probably by his side at this moment.”

For Chen Ge, the best outcome was both Ying Tong and Ying Chen not being home. That way, he would have plenty of time to conduct his search and find a safe space to hide. The layout of Ying Chen’s house appeared in his mind. Chen Ge moved carefully along the wall. He walked very slowly, and his body was gradually getting used to the world without light.

Darkness represented the unknown, and the unknown often signified danger, amplifying the sense of fear in one’s head. Chen Ge’s grip on the hammer was taut as he slowly nudged his body forward. His fingers found themselves wrapped around a doorknob. Chen Ge gave it a firm twist, and the door swung open easily.

“The room next to Ying Tong’s bedroom should be the room where Ying Chen kept the cats. When I had Ol’ Zhou check it in real life, he saw two dying strays inside it.”

The stench in the air intensified. A horrible smell drifted into his nose. Chen Ge was about to step into the room when he felt something brush against his leg.

Chen Ge’s body froze. *Is it a cat or a person?*

There were other ‘things’ inside this room. There was a very high chance that they were cats, but that did not preclude the chance of them being ‘humans’. He trained the focus of his hearing. He could not hear any strange noises. He appeared to be standing before an empty room. Chen Ge took another gingerly step forward. His left foot stepped on something. Chen Ge knelt down to see, and his fingertips felt matted ‘fur’ on the ground.

“It’s very soft, and it’s all stuck together by some kind of adhesive. It is rather moist. It feels like meat, like a ball of meat covered in fur.”

Chen Ge gave it a good old squeeze, and it caused his whole body to become covered in goosebumps. It might have been better if he could see what he was holding, but he was unable to see anything. All he could see was darkness. “Is the whole room filled with this?”

Chen Ge opened his palm and allowed the thing to fall. He wanted to enter the room to investigate further, but psychologically, he was feeling rather reluctant. After losing their sight, a person would become more fragile. The feeling of anxiety would be rooted more deeply in one’s heart, and it would crawl all over one’s mind like a poisonous briar.

“Ying Tong and Ying Chen are probably not home at this moment. This is the perfect opportunity. I must not let it go so easily.”

After a moment of hesitation, Chen Ge entered the room. The feeling that came from his feet was very uncomfortable. It felt like he was stepping on a patch of muddy sand. The smell of blood and stench mingled in the air. Chen Ge worried that he might be enveloped in this smell should he stay there for too

long, so after finding no new clues, he prepared to leave. Chen Ge walked to the door, but he did not walk out directly.

“If the room is indeed filled with blood and fur, the soles of my shoes must be coated in blood. They will leave a trail of bloody footprints wherever I go, and that is literally telling others how to find me.” Chen Ge found a pair of shoe covers from inside his backpack. This was something that he had grabbed when he was in Jiang Ming’s home a few days ago.

To not leave behind any fingerprints at Jiang Ming’s place, Chen Ge had prepared these gloves and shoe covers for the occasion. He stood at the door and put the covers over his shoes. He walked along the wall, and Chen Ge found the third doorknob. This should be the room that Ying Chen used to prepare all his videos. Chen Ge was not that interested in the room, but once he pushed the door open, he was hit in the face by the smell of air freshener and perfume.

“This place is different from how I remember it.” Finding his way around, Chen Ge’s finger closed around a mirror and a vanity table. On the table’s surface, there were cosmetic items like lipstick and something that appeared to be a music box. “This feels like a woman’s room. Has there been a female tenant at Ying Chen’s house? Does Ying Chen have a girlfriend? How come I didn’t hear Lee Zheng mention that before?”

The world behind the door started to differ from the real world, and the unknown started to expand. After he left the woman’s room, Chen Ge found the fourth doorknob, and he pushed the door open. The layout of the room was similar to Ying Chen’s bedroom. The man seemed to be an extremely neat person. Everything was placed in an orderly manner. “I have looked through the few rooms already, and I have found nothing useful. The main problem is that I cannot see anything. Just feeling it with my fingers, that means that I am bound to have missed some important details.”

This was the first time that Chen Ge had encountered such a strange door. His past experience was unable to provide him with much help. “Oh well, I should probably leave. If I run into the man that is possessed by the ghost fetus now, I will probably meet my end here.”

Once Chen Ge was reminded of the room filled with fur and sticky substance, he felt icky. He was just about to leave when his feet kicked into something. “Who is it?”

Initially, Chen Ge suspected that it was a cat. However, because the thing brushed against the back of his calf, somewhere a cat would not randomly brush against him, he changed his mind and realized that he had probably bumped into a person who was lying on the ground!

The room was exceptionally quiet. Chen Ge stood frozen for a while, and then without any warning, he raised the hammer and swung it behind him. The hammer did not connect to anything. There was only air behind him. “Is no one there?”

Chen Ge did not wish to stay in this room any longer. He planned to retrace his step, but he had just taken his first step when he stepped on something else, and he almost tripped and fell to the ground. “Was there something on the ground earlier?”

His heartbeat hastened. Chen Ge reached out to touch the thing that he had stepped on earlier. When his fingertips touched the thing, Chen Ge’s hand flew back instantly. Chill, with some suppleness and moisture on the surface. It brought back memories of examining and studying the human carcass when

Chen Ge first visited the underground morgue. Resisting the urge to recoil, Chen Ge reached out again to grab at the thing and slowly moved around the subject.

“This here is an arm.” The fear was slowly growing. Chen Ge found the five fingers and the person’s shoulder, but he failed to find the person’s head. The headless body was strapped underneath the bed, and it was basically taped to the board of the bed. One of its arms was bent inward, and the other arm seemed to have been knocked out from underneath the bed when Chen Ge was rummaging through the room earlier. It fell out, and Chen Ge accidentally stepped on it.

“There is a human body hidden inside Ying Chen’s bedroom? Why does this exist in the door behind Ying Tong’s door? Did he personally witness Ying Chen commit a murder?”

Chen Ge crawled out from under the bed. A very horrible sight was starting to appear in his mind. The blind younger brother was living next door, unable to see anything. One day, he heard a strange sound and hurried out of the bedroom to ask. At that moment, his elder brother was covered in blood and holding a cleaver. The body was dragged behind him, but Ying Chen answered him with a smile, telling him that everything was fine. Just the image of something like that caused Chen Ge to feel uncomfortable. “I should leave as soon as possible. If Ying Chen returns, I will not even have a chance to escape.”

Exiting the room, Chen Ge searched for the entrance in the living room. Before he could find the location of the entrance, the landline in the living room suddenly rang.

“Who would call at this moment?” The ringing unsettled Chen Ge. He was afraid that the ringing might attract something bad. “Should I answer it or not?”

Different choices would lead to different results. One wrong step, and he might lose his life. The phone rang for about twelve seconds, and it continued to ring. Chen Ge took a deep breath before he picked up the phone. He held his breath and did not say a word.

“Oh? You’re already home.” Ying Chen’s voice came through the line. “You did not drop the football that you took away with you, right? I’ve told you so many times that the things on the left side of the cupboard are mine, and the ones on the right are your toys. Why can’t you remember a simple fact like that?”

## **Chapter 1055: Duel with the Unknown [2 in 1]**

*Football that I have carried? The cupboard?*

The information revealed by Ying Chen in his words caused Chen Ge’s brows to crease. He had just been to Ying Chen’s bedroom earlier, and he knew that there was a headless carcass strapped to the underside of his bed.

*The football that this man is talking about is not the head of that body, is it?*

1A human head was wildly different from a football, even a blind person would not mistake them, but the premise here was that his own elder brother was not a normal person. The man was a full-on psycho. Ying Chen was a crazy man and one that had a streak of exhibitionism in him. He uploaded the

videos of the tortured cats in reverse chronological order onto the website to ask for aid from cat lovers. Most of his audience members were people who loved cats. Perhaps every night, he would sit inside the room filled with fur and blood, stare at the phone screen, and read through the well wishes that he had received from these innocent people who did not know better.

This kind of unique experience would probably be able to provide the man with some kind of rush and satisfaction, so there was a very high possibility that he would hide a human head inside a normal ball and watch his own younger brother play with it. As that thought crossed his mind, Chen Ge suddenly realized that the twisted dolls and disproportionate bodies on Ying Tong's table might carry a deeper meaning than he had previously believed.

Chen Ge had been staying quiet all this while. The man was silent for a few seconds before Ying Chen on the other side of the line realized that something was wrong.

"You... are not Ying Tong!" Chen Ge had no idea how the man was able to come to the conclusion that he was not Ying Tong within three seconds of non-conservation. In any case, this sharp observation and analytical skill caused Chen Ge to become even more unsettled. In Ying Tong's memory, his elder brother, Ying Chen, must be a very clever and scary person, and that would be manifested in the same way behind the door. "What are you doing in my home?"

Ying Chen's voice did not undergo any change, but through the background echo, Chen Ge managed to pick up the increased pace of the man's walking. The man was trying to use a level tone to trick Chen Ge, to hide the fact that he was hurrying home. Chen Ge did not hesitate for even a moment; he hung up the phone immediately. He was no longer able to get any useful information from the man. In fact, now that his cover was blown, anything that the man might say could be some kind of vicious trap.

"I need to leave this place as soon as possible."

Both parties were quick thinkers and fast movers. Chen Ge's mind still had a blurry memory of the location of the front door. He did not stop anywhere. He grabbed his backpack and moved to the door. The door that felt strangely cold to his touch was not locked. Chen Ge pushed open the door and walked out. The temperature around him decreased even further; the air outside the house seemed to be even chillier.

"I can't see anything, and I still cannot form a link with any of my employees. How am I supposed to deal with that madman in such a condition?" Ying Tong's door was the third door from the last. Since Chen Ge had directly skipped over the door that represented the ghost fetus' heart, the difficulty of the world behind the door had reached an incredibly crazy level. In a way, this went to show the horror of a four-star Trial Mission. This ghost fetus mission was not that simple. The horrors were layered upon each other, and it deepened with each layer. This long night was just beginning.

"Ying Tong lives in a building that was built many years ago. He grew up here, so his main memory will be around the Ming Yuan area." Chen Ge knew the layout of the nearby buildings, but to play hide and seek with a madman when he was unable to see anything, even Chen Ge felt the enormous pressure. Walking out of the front door, Chen Ge had not moved too far away from Ying Chen's house when he felt something brush against his ankle. It appeared like one of the cats had followed him and escaped from the house as well.

“Just how many cats are inside Ying Chen’s house?” Chen Ge leaned against the wall and slowly walked down the corridor. “The stairwell bookends the corridor on both sides, and there is an elevator in the middle, provided this world behind the door is a true reflection of the situation in real life.”

Chen Ge was not that familiar with Ying Tong. He did not know what the man’s biggest fear was, and thus, he could not prepare to handle it. The only thing he could do was take one step at a time. Caution and taking it slow would be his saving grace.

“The old-fashioned elevator will make too much noise, and that will inadvertently expose my location. I am unable to see anything now. If I press the wrong button, I might end up on the wrong floor, and the elevator doors could open to Ying Chen waiting for me outside.”

With that in mind, Chen Ge rejected the idea of taking the elevator. Then he was faced with a second choice. Should he take the stairs on the left or the right?

Ying Chen’s home was closer to the stairs on the left. In fact, the house was right next to the staircase. Chen Ge felt that if Ying Chen wanted to get home in the shortest time possible, there was a very high chance that he would take the stairs on the left.

“In that case, I will take the stairs on the right.”

In this world behind the door, every seemingly unimportant choice could be a matter of life and death.

If Chen Ge made the wrong choice and encountered Ying Chen in the stairwell, the madman might decide to trail behind him noiselessly while he came up with an idea to torture and kill him. After all, Chen Ge had found out about his secret, and the safest way was to kill Chen Ge to guarantee his silence.

Keeping his hands on the wall, Chen Ge slowly overcame his fear of the darkness, and he started to jog. There was no trash littering the corridor, so Chen Ge did not trip over anything. When Chen Ge was about to reach the right stairwell, a cat’s meow suddenly came from the direction before him. It was a very soft meow, and Chen Ge was certain that it came from the mouth of the right hand stairs.

“There’s a cat there?” If this was in real life, Chen Ge would not have been so nervous to have run into a cat, but this was the world behind the door. A cat was a contradictory creature. It had been a symbol of many things through the history of mankind. In different people’s eyes, cats represented different meanings, so Chen Ge had a hard time telling what the cat’s intention was by meowing to him.

Ying Chen had adopted many stray cats, but the reason for that was for him to satisfy his twisted and pathological desire. If the cats had the power to resist, the first thing they would have done would be to kill Ying Chen. Alas, in both real life and the world behind the door, Ying Chen was perfectly fine. In other words, it meant that even behind the door, he had the power to easily dispose of the ‘cats’.

While Chen Ge was contemplating, there was another cat’s meow coming from the right staircase, and this time, it was slightly louder than before. Something seemed to bounce against his ankle. Before Chen Ge could react to it, the third meow occurred, and this time, the cat was calling from right beside him. The cat’s meowing became more and more insistent, and the sound became shriller and shriller. It sounded like the cries of a small baby.

“Are they warning me?”



Ying Chen was a cat torturer. The cats had no reason to help him, so if that was the case, the chance of Ying Chen being on the right staircase was incredibly high!

To trust the cats or to trust his own instincts, Chen Ge was faced with another choice. After a moment's hesitation, Chen Ge gritted his teeth and turned around. He ran as fast as he could to the left staircase. The cat's call from behind him became sharper and shriller. They sounded at once like both crying and laughter. It was quite spine-tingling.

Knocking and bouncing against the wall, after losing his sight, Chen Ge had trouble even running without bumping into anything. He tried his best to get to the staircase on the left, and he hid himself on the landing between the two floors. Kneeling on the ground, Chen Ge grabbed onto the railing and lowered his center of gravity as low as possible. This way, even if someone tried to push him from behind, he would not roll down the stairs that easily. Chen Ge did not dare move aimlessly. He stayed motionlessly because he wanted to confirm something very important.

"If the door is pushed open, then it will prove that Ying Chen has come home. He came from the staircase on the right, and that will indirectly prove that the cats were helping me! The louder the cats were, the closer Ying Chen was to me!"

Chen Ge was very courageous. Then again, it was not like he had much choice. To gain the little initiative that he could, he hid on the landing inside the left stairwell. Ying Chen's house was just right next to his hiding place. If he was not careful, he would be discovered easily. As the time moved forward, Chen Ge's palms started to get slick with sweat. He had not been so nervous for such a long time. After about a minute, Ying Chen's house door clicked without warning. It appeared that someone had opened the front door and walked in. Hearing that click, Chen Ge's hands that gripped around the railing slowly relaxed.

"That should be Ying Chen coming home."

He slipped quietly down the stairs. Even though Chen Ge had made the right choice and had managed to confirm his hypothesis, his brows were still deeply screwed together. From that brief encounter, he had come to a few conclusions.

The first one and also the most important one was that he could use the cat's calls to determine Ying Chen's location.

The second one was that Ying Chen moved as silently as a shade. Chen Ge had been using his Ghost Ear power when he was hiding in the staircase, but he did not hear the echo of footsteps at all. He had only heard the door being opened. It was as if Ying Chen had teleported to the front door of his house.

The third conclusion was that Ying Chen should use the stairs on the left if he wanted to return to his house the fastest way possible, but he had opted for the opposite direction. He had chosen the staircase on the right. If this was not a coincidence, it meant that this Ying Chen was a very cunning person, and he was predicting and counteracting to the choice that Chen Ge might have made.

"Without the power of sight, how am I supposed to find Ying Tong?"

He understood that he should not stay at that place for long. After Ying Chen returned to his house and took a look around, he would soon realize that someone had just been in his room and found the dead

body. He would give chase soon enough. Using the railing as a guide, Chen Ge moved down the stairs step by step. He planned to temporarily leave this building. In fact, if possible, he wanted to leave this residential area for the moment.

Chen Ge memorized the route that he had taken. A normal person would be in full panic mode at this moment, but Chen Ge was still trying his best to find the way out. After walking down three floors, Chen Ge heard the door from Ying Chen's house being opened again. That signified that Ying Chen had come out from the house.

"This is not good." Chen Ge had to make sure that he made as little noise as possible and had to be careful so that he would not trip on the stairs. Both of these limitations impeded him from moving fast. If Ying Chen chased after him, he would be captured quite easily. "The man does not move with any sound. After he returned home, he probably went to grab a knife and some other tools."

Not long after that, the sound of the old elevator echoed through the building. Someone had taken the elevator and moved down the floors.

"Ying Chen probably believes that he missed me because I chose the staircase on the left. He must believe that I have already left the building. That's why he took the elevator. That's the fastest way to catch up to me if I am on the way out of the building." Chen Ge was blind in the world behind the door, but Ying Chen did not appear to know that. He was predicting Chen Ge's movement and actions based on the hypothesis that Chen Ge was a person with normal sight. "I must not let the man know that I am blind, or else he will toy with me like he did with Ying Tong. Who knows what this crazy man might do in that scenario? He is one sick b\*stard."

Chen Ge had encountered many crazy murderers in his life, and Ying Chen was not the most cunning nor the most dangerous of them all, but he was the one with the greatest desire to show off his work. Chen Ge's key issue was, in the world behind the door, this was a world made from Ying Tong's memories. His elder brother, Ying Chen, should represent some kind of inner fear that he could never escape or shake loose. The noise from the old elevator soon halted. It seemed to have stopped on the ground floor. "I am unable to confirm his exact location. This places me in such a disadvantaged position."

Chen Ge slowly approached the corner of the staircase. When he was about to continue downward, he suddenly heard the echoes of footsteps coming from the corridor. "There are people running in the corridor, and there's more than one, huh?"

Ying Chen's movement was completely silent, so these people should not be Ying Chen. Chen Ge froze like a statue. Honestly, in that moment, he could feel the helplessness that was probably part of daily life for a blind person. They were living in the same world as everyone else, but because they were deprived of their sight. Sometimes, they could not even put up the simplest of resistance. The footsteps approached at a rapid speed, and they soon gathered before Chen Ge.

Chen Ge grabbed Doctor Skull-cracker's hammer, which was hidden inside his backpack. He pressed his back against the wall and took the most defensive stance he could in that moment. The footsteps stopped not far away from Chen Ge.

A moment later, a boy's voice entered Chen Ge's ears. "What are you doing on the stairs?"

The child's voice appeared to be normal. One would assume that it came from a very young boy. The tone was laced with open curiosity and confusion.

Chen Ge thought for a long time, but he did not know how to respond. His instincts told him that this was a chance. He could ask one of the children to lead him to their home to provide him with a temporary sanctuary. He could lock the door behind him and wait for Ying Chen to pass. However, his rationality told him that he should not place his trust so easily in the 'people' behind the door. These children might sound entirely innocent and harmless, but they might have the scariest appearance. Perhaps they were monsters who had the voices of children. Like many dark fairy tales, if he followed them believing their innocence, he would eventually end up in their stomachs.

"This is such a strange man. We'd better stay away from him," one of the other boys said. "Let's go and find Ying Tong. I like to play hide and seek with him the most. We will never need to worry about him cheating in the game."

1 "That is true, but he is so dumb. I was just hiding behind him last time we played, but he did not notice me at all."

"Every time he is supposed to come catch us, in the end, it will become a game of us trying to go and find him. I really don't understand why you guys insist on playing with him."

The children joked and laughed. Chen Ge heard the mention of Ying Tong's name. With his head lowered, he memorized the words that the children had said.

*Yet another game of hide and seek. There is often such a game in the world behind the door. This really coincides with the description of the black phone in regards to the ghost fetus' Trial Mission. This is a hide and seek of life and death.*

The few children were also looking for Ying Tong, so they probably did not know his exact location. Thus, Chen Ge did not ask them for any information. The children probably lost interest in Chen Ge after they got no response from him. They slowly wandered away. The footsteps disappeared down the corridor. Touching the wall, Chen Ge slowly stood up. His instinct from many instances behind the door told him that this building was very dangerous, and he needed to leave this place as soon as possible. He took his first step downward. But when he first raised his left right, someone suddenly shoved him heavily from behind!

He lost his hold on the backpack, and Chen Ge careened down the steps with the backpack cushioning part of his fall. Jolts of pain came from all parts of his body. Chen Ge shielded his head and gritted his teeth as the pain slowly passed. Ignoring everything else, he quickly climbed up from the ground and held onto his backpack for dear life.

"No wonder he kept his eyes closed all the time. He is a blind man." A young boy's voice came from the top of the stairs. Chen Ge could recognize this boy. The person who had pushed him was one of the children from earlier.

1The footsteps slowly moved away from Chen Ge. After pushing Chen Ge down the stairs, the boy walked off.

“That shove was much stronger than what a normal boy should be able to muster. Has Ying Tong experienced something similar?”

Working his wrist, Chen Ge did not chase after the boy, but he was thinking over what the boy just said earlier.

“No wonder he keeps his eyes closed? In the eyes of these people behind the door, I have been keeping my eyes closed, huh? If that is the case, what am I supposed to do to open them?”

### **Chapter 1056: Shrill Cat’s Call [2 in 1]**

Even though the boy had maliciously pushed Chen Ge down the stairs, he had also revealed an important piece of information to Chen Ge. For the ‘people’ in this world behind the door, Chen Ge had the appearance of a strange man who kept his eyes closed.

“So, there is a possibility that I am not blind. I simply have not peeled my eyes open.”

With his back against the wall, Chen Ge reached out his hands to touch his eyes, and he confirmed that both of his eyes were open, mumbling, “How can this be? What is the reason behind this discrepancy of what I feel and what I am told?”

There was nothing blocking Chen Ge’s eyes. He used his fingers to dig into the corner of his eyes, he worked slowly and meticulously, but he still could not see anything but darkness. He could not even see the blood that had leaked out from the corners of his eyelids.

“There is only darkness. Perhaps it is not that I am blind but black is the only color that exists in this world.”

The corridor had returned to silence. The group of children had already gone away.

“Perhaps from another person’s perspective, Ying Tong has always appeared to have his eyes closed, which created the impression that all blind people in the world behind his world have their eyes shut.

“Or is there a possibility that even though Ying Tong has always kept his eyes closed, he has not completely lost his sight. He knew what his elder brother was doing, and to protect his own life, there was nothing he could do but pretend not to see anything. There is color in his world, but he is prevented from opening his eyes to enjoy it. If Ying Chen really has killed someone in real life, if he knew his younger brother Ying Tong is not really blind, he would create some kind of ‘accident’ to get rid of Ying Tong!

“Nothing is beyond the realm of possibility for a madman. The logical delineation of good versus evil cannot be applied here. The concept of morality does not work like normal when applied to a person with mental problems. For Ying Chen, his blood relative might not represent anything more than a tool for his own person entertainment.”

Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of something. In real life, he had peered into the fridge at Ying Chen’s home. He had noticed that the bottom compartment of the fridge was stuffed to the brim with minced meat. The meat had all been deboned, and the meat had been given a good chop, so from the appearance, it was hard to tell what kind of meat it was.

“If that meat is animal meat, then it’s fine. It’s just that I have a feeling that it might not be animal meat.” Chen Ge had encountered many crazed murderers before, and in his mind, there were many different levels of crazy murderers. To be able to debone, mince, and disguise the flesh of their victim and store them inside the fridge of their own kitchen, that was definitely not something a normal crazy murderer could do.

“When he was drinking with me, Ying Chen acted just like a normal person. In fact, he was more sociable than many normal people. If my prediction turns out to be true, then this is one hell of a disgusting and scary monster. Ying Chen has been living with a mask before all the living person, and he only sheds his disguise when he is around his younger brother. The kid was exposed to so many horrible scenarios since he was small, so even without the influence from the ghost fetus, Ying Tong might have become an actual door pusher.”

The degree of eeriness and absurdity of the world behind the door was proportional to the level of despair the door pusher had the misfortune of experiencing in real life. Even though Chen Ge had not discovered anything particularly unique about this world through his sense of touch and smell, perhaps once he opened his eyes, he would be able to see how scary this world actually was.

“There’s no point spending so much time of speculation. I need to go and find a place to hide for now. Among the group of children, only one of the kids pushed me, so that means that there’s a chance to communicate and interact with the rest of the children. If I am really cornered, perhaps I should go and persuade one of them.” Chen Ge was not feeling all that confident in his plan. He had been paying close attention to his surrounding so that he would be able to react on time should any accident happen.

Earlier, he had been unable to stop himself from being pushed down the stairs for two reasons. One, it indeed did not cross his mind that the boy had not left with the rest of his friends because the sound of the footsteps had been mixed together. Two, the shove from the boy was surprisingly strong; it was not on the level of strength a normal boy would have. After losing his sight, confirming the identity of the other person through the voice alone was something extremely risky, so unless he was truly out of other ideas, Chen Ge would not trust anyone too easily in this world behind the door.

“If this place corresponds to real life, Ying Chen’s house is on the seventh floor. I can listen closely to the movement of the elevator to determine the total number of floors in this building, and perhaps I can even take the elevator if necessary.”

Once the old elevator moved, it would creak noisily and loudly. It was definitely a source of danger, but it also represented a third path. When Ying Chen realized that Chen Ge had been going up and down the stairs, the elevator would become his only hope of escaping.

Of course, that was something that Chen Ge did not hope to happen; he still did not want to accost Ying Chen at this moment.

“For now, assuming this place is just like real life, Ying Chen’s home is on the seventh floor. I am on the landing between the third and fourth floor, and Ying Chen should currently be on the ground floor. He might be waiting at the stairs of the first floor, or perhaps he has already left and run out from this building.”

Unable to see anything, Chen Ge could only rely on his instincts to choose his path forward.

“Ying Chen probably does not know that I am blind. Earlier, he came up from the stairs on the right side. If he noticed something was wrong, he might rush down the stairs on the left to check. After all, if he believed the person who sneaked into his house left from the left staircase, then there is a chance that he might leave behind some clues inside the stairwell.”

With that in mind, Chen Ge made the swift decision to leave the left staircase, enter the corridor, and walk toward the staircase on the right.

“Hopefully, this is me overthinking it, but it never hurts to be extra careful.”

The best scenario for Chen Ge was Ying Chen hearing the commotion on the left staircase from the ground floor and hurrying up the stairs to corner the intruder while Chen Ge moved to the stairs on the right and perfectly avoided encountering Ying Chen and successfully escaping this building. Chen Ge was desperate to leave this building because there would be more options for him after leaving this place and more hiding spots.

That was the plan, but reality always proved that one could never plan for everything. Once Chen Ge stepped into the third-floor corridor, he heard a door creak open. The sound was very close to him. It was just about two to three meters away from him. With his hands on the door, Chen Ge froze and stopped moving. Even though he was inside a building, a draft suddenly picked up, and it carried a heady smell of something horrible.

It was dangerous for Chen Ge to stand exposed in the corridor. After a moment of hesitation, he started to move his legs and take one step forward. He felt like he had stepped on something. It made a crunchy sound like he had stepped on some dead bugs. It was a very unsettling feeling. Chen Ge did not dare stay too long. When he was about to take a second step, he felt someone press on his shoulders.

“Are you a new tenant who just moved here?” A middle-aged man’s voice travelled to Chen Ge’s ears. It should be this person who had suddenly opened his door.

“Yes.” Chen Ge’s brain was spinning as fast as he could. The stench in the air was a mix of stale food, dried sweat on unwashed laundry, and horrible body odor. The middle-aged man required a good deal of cleaning and washing. It felt like he had not cleaned his room for a very long time.

“Why is your body burning up if you are a new tenant? I thought you were one of the delivery people here to deliver stuff.” The middle-aged man gave this comment that seemed to appear out of nowhere.

*Body burning up?* Chen Ge felt that his body temperature was already incredibly low. It was a problem that he had been facing ever since his encounter with the Specters. The old woman at Coffin Village had even said that his body temperature would continue to drop if he did not find a solution, so it was strange to hear someone say that his body was burning up. In any case, Chen Ge did not respond to the comment. From the perspective of a living person, his body temperature was not only not high, it was on the low side. But from the perspective of the dead, he would indeed be different from other ‘people’. He was an anomaly.

Chen Ge was considering how to answer this middle-aged man when suddenly a cat’s meow echoed in his ears. Sucking in a cold breath, Chen Ge focused his ears to determine the source of the meowing. It was from the left staircase!

Before he could say anything, the second meow appeared, and it sounded more urgent and desperate than before. "Ying Chen is coming this way!"

It was already too late to run to the stairs on the right, there was only one option that was presented to Chen Ge. He lowered his voice and said to the middle-aged man, "Brother, I have something very important that I need to discuss with you."

Grabbing his backpack tightly, Chen Ge's hands searched along the wall until he found the frame of the door, "We will go inside and talk. Just give me three minutes. That is all I need!"

Then, without waiting for the middle-aged man to respond, Chen Ge stepped over the threshold and entered his house.

"Hey, who said that you can come in here?"

"Quickly, close to the door!" Chen Ge was unable to see anything. All he could hear was the horrible screeching from the cats. However, it appeared that he was the only person who could hear them.

"What are you trying to do? Who are you?" The middle-aged man moved very slowly and sluggishly. The cats called like they were being slaughtered. It was spine-tingling to hear them. Chen Ge followed the sound and gripped the middle-aged man by his elbow and dragged him into the room. "Close the door!"

The door clicked shut. Chen Ge signaled for the middle-aged man to stay quiet. Even then, the cats did not stop meowing. If anything, the calls had become shriller and sharper. Ying Chen appeared to have heard the door close, and he was heading their way!

"You..."

"If you do not want to die, don't say anything!" Chen Ge squeezed the command out through gritted teeth, and that finally managed to shut the middle-aged man up. Chen Ge stood frozen at the door, but the middle-aged man had wandered away from him. He seemed to have walked into the living room. The sound of footsteps exposed the presence of someone inside the house, but it was not the time for Chen Ge to worry about that.

The sharp and painful screams of the cats drilled into his ears. It was impossible to determine their location. It was as if Ying Chen was standing right before Chen Ge. The latter did not dare breathe too loudly. All he could do now was wait because Ying Chen was probably standing just outside the door. Between him and Ying Chen, there was only a door in the way. Chen Ge clamped his hands over his lips, thinking, *Ying Chen knows that someone entered his house, but he does not know that the intruder was me. If I see this from his perspective, there is a good chance that he might mistake the intruder as the owner of this house. With Ying Chen's personality, he might just decide to kill this middle-aged man.*

*Assuming the middle-aged man only shares a normal neighborly relationship with Ying Chen, if Ying Chen wants to kill the middle-aged man, that will place me and the middle-aged man in the same boat. So, what I need to do now is wait for Ying Chen to leave and then test the middle-aged man by slowly revealing the truth to him and seeing how he reacts.*

The cats kept on meowing for a full minute before they stopped, which meant that Ying Chen had probably left. Wiping away the cold sweat from his forehead and the blood stain from the corner of his eyes, Chen Ge turned around and called into the room, "Brother, are you still there?"

Ying Chen probably went home to grab some equipment before returning to kill the middle-aged man. This was an apartment, so a brutal killing would attract too much attention. Chen Ge believed that Ying Chen would start with some kind of drug, and after the middle-aged man fell unconscious, Ying Chen would make his move. The horrible stench assaulted his nostrils, but at that moment, Chen Ge did not care that much about it. In his mind, as long as the place did not stink of death, it was already better than most places.

“Brother, I know it was rude of me to suddenly barge into your home, but I hope that you will listen to my side of the story.” Chen Ge took a deep breath. He knew that once he said those things, the situation might turn even more complicated because he would be introducing even more extenuating factors into the situation. “There are two siblings living on the seventh floor. The younger brother is blind, and the elder brother likes to adopt stray cats. Do you have any impression of them?”

There was no sound that came from the room. It was as if the middle-aged man had disappeared into thin air.

“When I passed by his house this afternoon, I noticed the door to their house was not closed. After I entered it, I discovered a dead body hidden under the elder brother’s bed. He is a murderer!”

After Chen Ge dropped that bomb, there was finally a reaction from inside the room. The middle-aged man’s voice came from a corner of the living room. “Impossible, I know that man. His name is Ying Chen. He is a naïve and innocent person. He can always be found doing things that are not worthwhile if you ask my honest opinion, like volunteering to take care of the building’s surrounding garden and taking in those stray cats.”

“Naïve and innocent? Is that how you see Ying Chen?”

“Yes, you cannot find a kinder, more naïve person in this world. Based on what he told me, he just wants to do more good things in the world to gather some good karma in the hopes that his good deeds will touch the heavens above to help recover his younger brother’s sight. Tell me, if that is not naivete, what is?”

The middle-aged man did not believe Chen Ge at all. From his point of view, the term murderer could not be linked to Ying Chen.

“Never judge a book by its cover. What you are shown is a front that he has put a lot of effort into. It is all part of his disguise.” Chen Ge did not expect that when he had placed the truth so openly before the man, the man would still think that he was joking.

“I do not understand why you are saying things like, but if you are not lying, let me gather some of the neighbors, and we will all go together to his house to look.”

“That is a definite no.” Chen Ge did not wish to expose his existence. Once Ying Chen had him in his crosshairs, he would be exceptionally vulnerable considering the fact that he was unable to see anything at the moment.

“Actually, what are you doing here?” The middle-aged man grabbed Chen Ge by his hair. “And why are you keeping your eyes closed? Is there a medical problem with your eyes?”



"I am not lying to you. Ying Chen has killed someone, and there is probably more than one victim. He is a madman."

"If there is someone that is mad, it is you. You are blind, so how did you see the dead body in his room?" The middle-aged man started to believe that Chen Ge was lying to him. After all, Ying Chen was a neighbor whom he had known quite some time, and Chen Ge was a stranger whom he had just met that day.

"I touched it with my hands. The dead body was strapped under his bed. It was a headless body!"

"You touched a dead body with your hands? That sounds quite unbelievable." The middle-aged man pulled harder. He was not welcoming to Chen Ge. He dragged Chen Ge by his hair to the front door. "Compared to a suspected murderer, I feel in more danger around someone like you who sneaks into other people's homes without their permission."

His hair was yanked out from his scalp. Chen Ge felt pain jolt through his body. In response, Chen Ge grabbed the middle-aged man's arm. He wanted to fling the man's arm away, but when his finger touched the middle-aged man's skin, his expression changed. The middle-aged man's body was devoid of any body warmth, and more importantly, there were bumps on the man's skin along with something that felt like muscular lividity.

*Livor mortis?* This medical term appeared in Chen Ge's mind, and he instantly let go. *This uncle is dead?*

"Get out of my house now. If I see you around loitering around the area, there will be consequences. Do you understand me?" Chen Ge was hauled out of the room by the middle-aged man. Standing in the corridor, a chill crawled all over his heart.

"In Ying Tong's memory, the middle-aged man appeared in the form of a dead person. That means that he is probably already dead in real life. What is the reason behind his death? Was it because he had discovered Ying Chen's secret? Or had Ying Tong once told him something, but he did not believe him, and that caused Ying Chen to place a target on his back?"

Many things behind the door were connected. Chen Ge stood for a while at the door when suddenly he heard the old elevator moving. At the same time, the cats started to meow again.

"Ying Chen is coming this way in the elevator."

### **Chapter 1057: Aichmophobia [2 in 1]**

Chen Ge wished to go to warn the middle-aged man, but it was already too late. The cats' meowing grew louder and louder. He hurriedly went to hide in the nearby stairwell. The elevator stopped on this floor. There were no footsteps or the even sound of breathing. Moments later, there came the sound of knocking on the door. The knocking appeared to happen out of thin air. There was no precursor to it at all. It was like the person teleported to the middle-aged man's house and tapped on his door.

"The middle-aged man might reveal my presence to him."

The knocking was incredibly loud, but it did not seem that no one came to open the door. Chen Ge was currently standing on the steps. Even without his power of sight, he was exceptionally calm. In those circumstances, he had chosen not to run but to stay and observe. Ying Chen did not know the situation

that he was in, so the situation was temporarily still beneficial to him. The knocking continued for quite some time before the door finally opened. The middle-aged man's voice came from down the corridor.

"Ying Chen? Why have you come to knock on my door? Is it because it's time to pay the building maintenance fee again?" There was a trace of barely hidden annoyance in the middle-aged man's tone. It was clear that he did not take Chen Ge's warning to heart.

"My younger brother, Ying Tong, has sneaked out from home. He still has not come home yet, so I'm very worried. When I came up the stairs earlier, I heard there was someone moving on the floor, so I thought about coming here to ask. Have you seen my younger brother?" Ying Chen's voice sounded incredibly young. He appeared to be much younger in this world behind the door compared to the real Ying Chen in real life.

The world behind the door was built based on the door pusher's memory. In other words, a deduction could be made that this younger version of Ying Chen had left the deepest impression on Ying Tong. Therefore, Ying Chen had done something to Ying Tong when they were both very young, and that incident had been a traumatic experience for Ying Tong. It seared a part of his mind, and he would always remember his elder brother's voice from when that incident happened.

"You have to be more careful since he is a blind kid. It is your fault that you did not close the door and watch over him carefully, and now that he is missing, why have you come to bother me?" The middle-aged man's attitude could not have been worse. From the way he treated Chen Ge, one could see that he was not a friendly guy.

"I'm so sorry. Here are some date cakes that my relative from my hometown sent me. I hope you will accept them. If you happen to see my younger brother, would you please come and tell me? He has extremely poor eyesight, and I am so afraid that some accident might happen to him."

"Date cakes? Why are they so red? Have they been stuffed with food dye?"

"No, they are made from pure natural ingredient, and the taste is exquisite. Please do give them a try. If you think they taste good, I still have some back at my home." Ying Chen was very passionate. So far, he had acted as the middle-aged man had described him to be, a perfectly kind and innocent young man.

"The taste is indeed not bad, although it is quite different from the ones I bought from the street. Okay, if I ever see your little brother, I will be sure to notify you." The middle-aged man spoke with his mouth full. It sounded like he was munching on something. Then, the door closed.

"The middle-aged man did not mention anything about me, but the problem is, Ying Chen did not enter his home, so he should be standing right outside his door right at this moment." The sound of the elevator opening came from the corridor. Chen Ge planned to leave, but at that moment, he heard the meowing of the cats. The sound came from the middle of the corridor. "Ying Chen did not get on the elevator!"

He leaned against the wall, and Chen Ge hurried down the stairs. He did not dare make too loud a noise, but because he was blind, he was unable to move as fast as he wished. If he accidentally tripped or made any noise, he would certainly be captured by Ying Chen. For now, he was unable to predict where Ying Chen was. The cats kept on meowing, so that could only mean that the madman was coming toward the staircase.

“Hey!” The front door was opened again, and the middle-aged man’s voice came out from the corridor. “Why are there so many letters inside this bag of date cakes?”

“Those were addressed to me from my relative. I am so sorry. I forgot to take them out from the bag.” Ying Chen’s voice came from directly above Chen Ge. He had already entered the stairwell, but he was on the fourth floor, while Chen Ge had just slithered to the third floor. Chen Ge was covered in a sheen of cold sweat. He held his breath and froze where he was. “I will take the letters with me. Remember, if you see my little brother, please do come and tell me.”

The cats had stopped meowing. When Ying Chen’s voice began again, he had already left the staircase and walked to the middle-aged man’s door.

“Okay.” After saying that, the middle-aged man added not long after that, “Why do you keep trying to peer into my house? Are you suspecting that I am hiding your little brother?”

“It’s not that. I merely thought that...” The voices from the corridor suddenly stopped, but they were quickly followed by the sound of a heavy object hitting the ground.

“Ying Chen has made his move on the middle-aged man?” Chen Ge gritted his teeth. The man was swift and cruel with his actions. He did not hesitate for even a second. This kind of enemy was very scary and dangerous. “I have to leave this building as soon as I can. I’d better stay away from him before I recover my power of sight.” Chen Ge did not know what kind of power Ying Chen possessed, and he had no idea what kind of world this place was. His understanding and conception of the world was not complete just based on his senses of hearing, smell, and touch. He did not dare stay in the same place for too long. Chen Ge picked up his pace and hurried down the stairs.

“The middle-aged man is definitely a dead man. If Ying Chen mistakes him as the intruder, it’ll be perfect. But with Ying Chen’s intellect, he will have more suspicion. I must be prepared for the worst. It is not yet time to lower my guard.”

With his hands on the wall, Chen Ge walked down the stairs while counting in his mind the number of floors that he had already descended. “Assuming it’s like real life, Ying Chen’s family lives on the seventh floor, so I should have reached the ground floor now.”

There was a landing between the stairs connecting the two floors. It had been consistent so far as Chen Ge went down the building. But once Chen Ge moved to the assumed ground floor, he did not step on a level land, but instead, there were more stairs!

“Is there a basement in the building where Ying Chen’s family live?” Chen Ge rummaged through his mind, and he came to a horrifying conclusion. He remembered very clearly that the building that Ying Chen showed him definitely did not have a basement. “This world behind the door is not the same as the one in real life! Damn it!”

Chen Ge was unable to see anything. But Chen Ge had not been discovered by Ying Chen. Other than the help of the cats, there was another reason behind this, and that was because he had been to this building before, and there was a basic layout of its location formed in his mind. By comparing the map with the one in his mind, Chen Ge would not be completely lost. But now that he realized the map in his mind was not one hundred percent identical to this building behind the door, the fear that he had toward the unknown was instantly amplified.

“Should I continue to move down the stairs or knock on the doors of the tenants to ask for help? Another issue is that this building does not have a basement in its real life counterpart, but this staircase continues to move down, so one cannot help but wonder, where does this lead?”

He should have been on the ground floor, but the staircase kept on going. Chen Ge did not know wherein the problem lay. Why would there be an extra basement in this building behind the door?

“Could there be a reflection of the upper seven floors and lower seven floors? Just like how the world behind the door is the reflection of the world outside the door? The top seven floors are filled with normal tenants, but the lower seven floors are inhabited by Specters and ghosts?”

Standing in the stairwell, Chen Ge moved several steps down into the basement. He did not feel any discomfort or feel as if anything around him had changed. The surroundings appeared to have remained the same as well.

“This should not be a reflection of the seven floors aboveground, so is there a possibility that this is an endless loop, Penrose stairs so to speak? The ground floor of the building leads to the top floor of the building, and the top floor of the building is connected to the ground floor. For a blind person, repeating the action of going up and down the stairs will evoke an especially strong sense of despair in one’s mind. It will seem like there is no end, and one was just making a futile struggle.”

Normally, a person would not have this kind of experience, but it was different for Chen Ge. After all, not that long ago, he had done a nightmare mission at Jiang Yuan Apartments that required him to blindfold himself to get up the building. That had given him a taste of how a blind man would ascend the stairs of a building. Darkness, loneliness, and a fear of the unknown festered at the bottom of a person’s heart. They would combine to form a demon that represented fear, and the demon would slowly swallow one whole.

“I cannot keep going. This world behind the door is different from its layout in real life. This means that I need to be extra careful.” Chen Ge retreated to the place that he believed was the ‘ground floor’. With his hands on the wall, he moved down the corridor. He searched the whole floor and, he came to a very despairing conclusion.

“There is no exit. I cannot leave this place.”

Despair started to grow inside his heart. Chen Ge realized that he had seriously underestimated the difficulty of this world behind the door.

“Am I experiencing what Ying Tong once experienced? There is an exit to this building, but for him, the building is akin to his prison. Or rather, it’s as if the building is essentially his whole world. He is unable to escape from this place.”

Biting the tip of his tongue, Chen Ge used pain to force himself to calm down.

“Looks like, if there is any hope to break this endless cycle, it will be with Ying Tong. He is the door pusher of this door, so he should know how to ‘open one’s eyes’. Therefore, I need to find Ying Tong before Ying Chen manages to catch up to me!”

Without any clue and deprived of any aid, inside a sealed building, a blind person needed to find another blind person while the former was being chased by a crazed murderer. Chen Ge had not experienced a mission of this kind of difficulty before.

“From now on, I will have to memorize each step that I have taken, every location, and every direction that I am facing.”

The world behind the door differed from the real world. Chen Ge could not use that as a basis of comparison anymore, so Chen Ge needed to come up with a new map in his mind. This was something that was incredibly difficult, but Chen Ge had to try to increase the chance of his survival.

Since he could not see, so he had to memorize all the routes that he had taken before. Only by familiarizing himself with the layout of the building would he be able to run without the fear of tripping over something unknown. He might even be able to set down trap to deal with Ying Chen.

Constantly going into hiding was not Chen Ge’s style. He wished to use everything within his surroundings to resolve the danger once and for all. Even though he had lost his sight, if Ying Chen merely treated him as a normal blind man and was playing with Chen Ge like how a cat would toy with a weak mouse, then Ying Chen would be in big trouble. The one person that he should definitely not underestimate was Chen Ge.

“The middle-aged man that I met earlier had something akin to livor mortis settling on his body already, and his body temperature was practically non-existent, so the chance of him being a living person is zero. If I look at it from this perspective, is there a chance that the entire tenants of this building are filled with dead people?”

“Some of their deaths might be related to Ying Chen while others might have been caused by the ghost fetus. In their eyes, Ying Chen is a very good and kind person. Now what I need to do is try my best to correct their misunderstanding of Ying Chen and have them see the real Ying Chen. That way, hopefully, I will be able to get them to lend me their aid and give me their trust.”

The cats had not started to call, so Ying Chen should be quite far away from him. Chen Ge walked to the corner of the ‘ground floor’ and knocked lightly on the door that was closest to the staircase. In this dark and quiet world, the sound of knocking echoed hollowly. Even Chen Ge himself felt unsettled. It felt like someone was watching him from the door.

“Is the apartment empty?”

Chen Ge moved down to the next door. He knocked for a long time, but no one came to open the door. In fact, he did not hear any movement from inside any of the apartments. He knocked on five consecutive doors, but none of them opened, and this caused Chen Ge to become quite desperate.

“After Ying Chen deals with the body, he will continue his search throughout the building to look for Ying Tong. If he hears the knocking, he will definitely come to check, so this is the best window of opportunity that I have.”

Chen Ge moved faster. He kept on knocking until he reached the seventh door when the iron door at the other end of the corridor was suddenly pulled open.

“Are you looking for someone? Why are you knocking on so many doors?” A woman’s voice came from behind Chen Ge, and it gave him quite a jolt.

After he adjusted himself, Chen Ge turned around. “Yes, I am looking for a child. His name is Ying Tong.”

“Ying Tong?”

“He is the boy that lives on the seventh floor. He has lost his sight...”

“I know who he is. But why are you looking for him here? This is not even the seventh floor.” The woman was conversing with Chen Ge when a child’s painful cry suddenly came from inside her house. The wail was rather similar to how Ying Tong sounded in Chen Ge’s memory. But he could not be confident that the child in the woman’s house was Ying Tong. After all, he had only heard Ying Tong say one sentence when he was outside the door.

The sound of footsteps clicked across the floor. The woman was returning to her own home while Chen Ge trailed behind her. The woman appeared to be in a hurry. After she entered her house, she did not close the door. Chen Ge almost tripped on the threshold of the door as he followed behind her.

It is that strange smell again! The horrible stench!

The woman’s room smelled the same as the middle-aged man’s room. It reeked of a stench that was a mix of many different things that had gone wrong. The smell was very pungent. The sound of a child crying and wailing kept coming from inside the house. Chen Ge was worried that the loud commotion might attract Ying Chen’s attention, so he reached over to the door and clicked it shut.

“What is wrong now? Weren’t you being fine earlier? Did you see something that scared you?” The woman sounded urgent and anxious. Then came the sound of drawers and cupboards being thrown open. It sounded like the woman was desperately looking for something. Even though Chen Ge previously thought the child’s voice sounded similar to Ying Tong’s, he had changed his mind because of something the woman said—‘Did you see something that scared you?’

Ying Tong was a blind boy, but the child in the woman’s room was not blind.

“Stay in there and do not move! I will go and find the medicine for you!” The footsteps echoed around the small room as they came toward the front door. Chen Ge stood back to let the woman pass, but he accidentally bumped into the woman because he could not see where he was standing and where she was moving.

“I am so sorry. I did not mean to do that.”

In the dark, Chen Ge wanted to hold the woman to stop herself from falling, and in his panic, he accidentally grabbed the woman by her elbow. The woman had exceptionally thin arms, and her elbow was twisted at an unnatural angle. Chen Ge was quickly flung away by the woman. She seemed to be rather incensed as the tone changed to her voice.

“I am sorry, but I cannot deal with you now. I need to go upstairs to borrow some medicine.”

The front door was open, and the woman walked out. Then the door was slammed shut again.

“Medicine?”

The child's crying slowly died down, and a veil of silence fell over the room.

"The woman's body is unnatural twisted. In fact, it is quite similar to those twisted dolls in Ying Tong's bedroom. Other than that, she has a very low body temperature..."

Ten minutes later, the front door was thrown open again, and the woman returned to the room.

Chen Ge heard a liquid being poured and someone swallowing. After the child had stopped crying, he moved deeper into the door. "Do you mind telling me what kind of disease your child suffers from? Don't be afraid, I am actually a doctor."

"A normal doctor cannot cure his illness anyway." The woman walked out from the inner room and strode to stand before Chen Ge. "Have you heard of aichmophobia?"

"Is it a kind of fear toward a specific object?"

"Yes, once the kid sees anything sharp or pointed, he will act up. Anxious, desperate, despairing, and noisy, he keeps on imagining that people will use those sharp objects to poke into his eyes."

#### **Chapter 1058: Miss Dress, Mr. Wood, and Miss Red [2 in 1]**

"Why would something like this happen? Most psychological problems can be traced back to a source. He would not suffer from this kind of illness for no reason. One is not born like this. Something must have happened to trigger this."

Many people had phobias in their lives, but they could often get it under control so that it would not affect their everyday life. However, the child inside the room had reached the stage of being unable to cope with this trauma without the use of drugs to shake off the fear. This was a very dangerous situation.

"You are not wrong, but I have no idea how the child got this illness. I suppose you can consider me his nanny." The woman spoke in a very slow and drawn out voice. After the boy inside the room had his medicine, his situation seemed to turn for the better, and the woman gave an audible sigh of relief.

"He is ailing from a psychological problem, and to cure this problem, we have to go to its source." Chen Ge took several steps toward where the woman was standing. Since he was unable to see anything, he could only use the wall as his guide.

"I wish I can find the source of the problem as well, and I want the best for him, but no matter how hard I try to ask, the child does not seem to have an answer. If anything, it feels like he is not aware of the source of the problem himself." The woman sounded helpless and weak. "So, in the end, I had no choice but to give up."

"Do you mind if I have a few words with him? I am a doctor that specializes in psychology and psychiatry." Chen Ge was in a way thankful that he had met Doctor Gao before. The doctor, despite everything, had taught him many things, especially those related to the human psyche. Chen Ge sounded like Doctor Gao before he had become all unhinged. A psychologist first must have the ability for the patients to put their guard down around him before he was given access to the patient's world. In terms of his appearance and presence, Chen Ge fitted this condition perfectly.

“You are a psychologist? I do not remember anyone from our building who works in this field. Are you a new tenant who just moved here?”

“I suppose you can say that. I can swear on my life that I only want what is the best for the child.” Chen Ge pointed toward his eyes with a bitter smile. “I have trouble seeing with my eyes. I am unable to do anything harmful. If you think I have done anything that is unsatisfactory, you can chase me out any time you want.”

The blindness turned Chen Ge into one of the more vulnerable party, but that did not mean that he would not use that to his advantage to earn some pity points.

“The child is rather fragile. It is fine as long as you watch the words that you use.” The woman reached out voluntarily to grab Chen Ge by his elbow. “Be careful. The sofa is in front of us. At this point, we have to turn left...”

Chen Ge noticed something. In this world, the adult tenants of this building did not appear to be as evil as the adults in the other worlds. Of course, they were not saints. If anything, they felt like normal living human beings to Chen Ge.

I really hate to associate them with dead bodies.

With the woman leading the way, Chen Ge entered deeper into the house. The smell in the air intensified, and to make things worse, there was a smell of rotting meat mixed into the air. This was something that was not present in the middle-aged man’s house. “By the way, do you mind telling me what your relationship with the boy is?”

“Our relationship?” The woman was silent for a while before she gave an answer that Chen Ge did not expect at all. “I suppose you can consider the two of us as friends. He has nowhere else to go, so I am temporarily looking after him.”

The woman’s answer was too ambiguous. After she said that, she left the room, leaving Chen Ge together with the boy inside the room. Tracing his steps by the cupboard and closet, Chen Ge walked until his leg bumped into the edge of the bed. He sat down slowly. “Can you hear my voice? I am so sorry that I am unable to see you. If you are by my side, can you please say something or pat me lightly on the palm of my hand.”

Chen Ge opened his palm, and he waited for quite some time before he felt a chilly jolt coming from the center of his palm. The chill was different from the lifelessness of a dead body. The touch felt soft. If anything, it did not feel like he was touched by a person. Rather, it felt like his palm was brushed by a gust of wind.

“Ying Tong?” Chen Ge subconsciously called out the name, but he did not get any response.

Moments later, about one meter away from Chen Ge, a boy’s voice said, “My name is Ah Mu.”

The boy’s voice was about sixty percent similar to Ying Tong’s voice in real life, but it was exceptionally young. Chen Ge had seen the information on both Ying Chen and Ying Tong at the police station. In real life, Ying Tong should be ten years old already, but the boy before him sounded more like a boy about four or five.



“Ah Mu, can you please tell me how you got to know the big sister outside the door?” Chen Ge first wanted to get to know the identity of the adults. If the woman was trustworthy, he would try everything within his power to get her to be his ally. Staying alone in this building was much too dangerous.

“You mean Miss Dress?” the boy asked in a surprisingly frightened voice.

“Miss Dress?” The boy had a strange way of addressing the woman. It felt like the name a child would give his toy. “Do you call her that normally?”

“Yes, Miss Dress and Mr. Wood have always been taking care of me. They are very nice people. They play games with me and often include me in different activities.” The boy sounded innocent and bright, but what he said caused Chen Ge to break out in goosebumps.

From his perspective, all the tenants in this building, other than Ying Tong and Ying Chen, were dead bodies. It was clear that the names Miss Dress and Mr. Wood were names given to them by the boy himself. There was a speculation that appeared in his mind, but it was too cruel of an assumption, so Chen Ge did not dare voice it lest it triggered the boy.

“Are Miss Dress and Mr. Wood husband and wife?” Chen Ge asked a random question to break the tension.

“No, Miss Dress has a very bad temper, and she pops off very easily. That’s why Mr. Wood does not like her very much,” the boy said in a scared voice. “Mr. Wood and I are both a bit afraid of Miss Dress.”

“Don’t think that I didn’t hear that!” The woman’s voice came from the living room. “Who taught you to say those horrible things?”

Well, in that moment, the woman did sound like she had a temper.

“But even though Miss Red has a bad temper, she has a gentle side to her as well. Whenever I am sick, she will always appear to take care of me. She sits down to chat with me and tell me stories.” The boy painted a very beautiful picture. When he said these things, he should have had a big smile on his face. Even though Chen Ge could not see it, he could hear the smile in the boy’s voice.

“She will always appear whenever you are sick, huh? Is she here because your father and mother ask her to?” Chen Ge tried to probe around with the boy’s memory.

“Yes, my father and mother went to somewhere very far away. When they left, they asked Miss Dress, Mr. Wood, and Miss Red to help look after me.”

“There are three of them?” The boy made it sound like they were three living caretakers, but Chen Ge was thinking about three dead zombies.

“Ah Mu, do you mind describing what the three of them look like?” Chen Ge did not reach into the boy’s painful memory. He did not bring up acrophobia or ask how did the boy get an illness like that, but he followed along with the fairy tale that was made up by the boy like a loyal listener who had submerged himself fully into the boy’s story.

“Miss Dress always dresses herself in a long dress, and the dress is embroidered with many flowers. Each flower feels different to the touch. Mr. Wood does not like to speak. His skin feels hard to the

touch like the bark of a tree. Miss Red is a very clean person, but her hair is always wet. She has a special preference for the color red, and everything she owns is red in color.”

The boy did not have an introverted personality. He seemed to like chatting with other people. Like someone who was showing off his toys, he rattled off the names and the properties of the three ‘people’.

Chen Ge did not pay much attention to the introduction to Miss Dress and Mr. Wood, but when the boy talked about the last person, Miss Red, his interest was piqued. Miss Dress and Mr. Wood’s properties could be felt from the sense of touch, but Miss Red was different. There was the word ‘Red’ in her name, but theoretically speaking, a blind kid should not be able to tell the difference in color.

The boy before him referred to himself as Ah Mu, and Miss Dress had mentioned earlier that the boy had perfect sight, so he should not be Ying Tong. However, after hearing the boy’s voice, Chen Ge felt like the boy sounded very similar to Ying Tong. Such a coincidence could not exist in the world. He believed that the boy must be connected to Ying Tong somehow, but he just had not figured out what that connection was.

Chen Ge asked the boy more questions about his parents. From what the boy said, Chen Ge could determine that the boy missed his parents very much. In the boy’s memory, his parents always cared about him. They lavished him with unconditional love. The boy’s parents were like a pair of a gentle hands that cupped the boy within them to shield him from the rest of the world.

At this point, Chen Ge noticed something out of place. Based on what the boy had told him, he had had a wonderful childhood. There was nothing traumatic about it, so where did the source of his phobia come from? It made no sense at all. Why would a child living in such a warm and healthy environment end up with aichmophobia?

Based on what Miss Dress said, once the boy saw something with a sharp edge, he would imagine people using that to poke his eyes blind. What kind of experience had he been through to have an impression like that? What was the moment that caused this change in his life?

After getting a brief impression of the boy’s life, Chen Ge asked the next question cautiously, “Ah Mu, do you know Ying Chen and Ying Tong who live on the seventh floor?”

“I do not know them. I have been staying put in my room. I have never left this room.”

“You do not know them?” To seek a second opinion, Chen Ge turned to the living room to shout the question at Miss Dress, “Has Ah Mu never walked out of this room before?”

“Naturally, with his aichmophobia, he acts up whenever he hears the word sharp or pointed, much less seeing a sharp object in person. In the state that he is in, how could I allow him to leave the room? I’d worry too much about him.” Miss Dress’ voice drifted in from the living room. Then Chen Ge heard the sound of water being poured. After a while, the footsteps came to the room. “Do you want something to drink?”

“It’s fine.” Chen Ge was not brave enough to accept a drink from a stranger, especially when he was in the world behind the door and unable to tell what the drink actually was. “Ah Mu does not know Ying Tong and Ying Chen, but as a tenant here, you should know the two siblings, right?”

“Of course, they are a pair of poor brothers too. Their parents died when they were young, and they raised by their relative.” Miss Dress seemed to know Ying Chen and Ying Tong very well.

“Then, what is your impression of the brothers? Can you tell me more about them?” Chen Ge finally found a ‘person’ who was willing to communicate with him, so he used this opportunity to ask as many questions as he could.

“The big brother is the most perfect man you will ever meet in your life. He is kind, generous, and the best around animals. He is very serious with his work and is a very good student. I like him very much.

“About the younger brother, I cannot say the same thing. If anything, I feel like the younger brother has dragged down his elder brother. Without him, Ying Chen would have a much better life. His younger brother is blind in both eyes, and he cannot even look after himself. He also likes to say these strange things. If you ask me, I believe there is something wrong with his mind.”

What Miss Dress said unsettled Chen Ge very deeply. In Miss Dress’ eyes, Ying Chen was as perfect as an individual could possibly be, but it was the complete opposite for Ying Tong.

“Sometimes, what you see might not be the real deal.” Chen Ge felt like even if he told the woman directly that Ying Chen was a murderer, she would not believe him.

“I am so sorry. I forgot that you are blind as well. I hope that you understand I do not have anything against the blind. It is just that the younger brother is a very strange boy. He cannot survive on his own without his elder brother, and he likes to create problems. He always tries to run away from him, but at the same time, he cannot leave his elder brother because how is a blind boy supposed to look after himself?” Miss Dress was very direct with her words.

“You hate Ying Tong that much? But don’t you think Ying Tong is rather similar to Ah Mu?” Chen Ge might be blind, but he could sense something through the things that he had heard. However, Miss Dress did not appear to be able to make the connection between Ah Mu and Ying Tong.

“You have to be kidding. Ah Mu just celebrated his sixth birthday, and that Ying Tong is about ten already. Their heights are completely different.”

“I wasn’t talking about their appearance. Why did you mention their height instead?” To prove his suspicion, Chen Ge pressed further.

“Now that you mention it, their appearance couldn’t be more different. Ying Chen has a very horrid face. It is completely different from Ah Mu’s.” What Miss Dress said next sent a chill down Chen Ge’s spine. “Ying Tong rarely leaves his room. I remember this one time when he tried to sneak away from home, but he tripped among the field of pebbles. A large part of his face was scratched, and a nail almost pierced into the space near to his eyes. If his elder brother did not find him in time, I can’t begin to imagine what would have happened next.”

“His face was ruined?” Chen Ge had a sneaking suspicion that this ‘accident’ was created by Ying Chen. Ying Tong probably knew about this as well, so he had been trying to escape again and again. But in reality, every time Ying Tong tried to escape, he would be captured back by Ying Chen. Chen Ge should be reliving Ying Tong’s life. As a blind person, it was practically impossible to escape from Ying Chen.

“Fine, even though their height and appearance are different, did you notice that they sound quite similar?” Chen Ge still had not given up. It was hard for him to find a reasonable ‘person’ to converse with behind the door, and he did not want to give up so easily.

“Fine, I will concede to you on that point. They do sound quite similar, but that cannot really prove anything. Before puberty, most boys sound the same anyway.”

“How come you just cannot get it?” Chen Ge wiped away the sweat from his forehead. “Fine, we will not talk about that anymore. Then, can you tell me more about the exact situation with Ah Mu’s parents? Why would they come to you to look after Ah Mu?”

“Are you really that dull, or are you acting dumb?” Miss Dress’ tone had a hint of dissatisfaction weaved into it. She grabbed Chen Ge by his elbow and dragged him out of the room.

“What are you doing?” The woman closed the door and ensured that Ah Mu would not be able to hear them. “Hasn’t Ah Mu already told you that his parents have gone to a faraway place? Why would you ask a question like that? Now, I really suspect you are not really a psychologist at all.”

“Are Ah Mu’s parents dead?”

“Yes, Ah Mu is an orphan. In fact, he was an orphan found by Ying Chen outside the residential area. He was helpless and alone. In the end, after an internal discussion among the tenants, we decided to look after them together.”

“Wait, you said ‘them’?” Chen Ge caught the keyword within the sentence that the woman said.

“Yes, they are triplets. Ah Mu, Ah Tong, and Ah Ying. It was Ying Chen who found these three kids. He saw how pitiable the children were, but he was unable to take care of all of them on his own, so he pleaded with us to help him look after them. When he was done with the procedure, he would send the three kids to the nearby orphanage.” What Miss Dress said caused Chen Ge sucked in a cold breath.

“It was Ying Chen who asked you all to look after these three kids?”

“What do you think? In today’s society, there are very few people who are as kind and as selfless as Ying Chen anymore. He has done so much and gone to so many places for these three children. He has given them so much of his time and energy.” Miss Dress had a very good impression of Ying Chen. It felt like if she was asked to praise Ying Chen, she could go on for the whole night.

“Then, do all the three children all suffer from some kind of illness?” Even though he was given only the barest of information, Chen Ge cut through the dredge and asked the most vital question.

“How did you know that? Then again, if they were perfectly fine, they would have been adopted already,” Miss Dress whispered softly. “Ah Mu has aichmophobia. Ah Tong has claustrophobia, and he will act out if he is left alone inside a room. Ah Ying has the rarest illness. It is called lygophobia. He will act up when he hears loud noises like screams and shouts.”

“Have you ever considered why the three kids got illnesses like these and why it was Ying Chen who first discovered them?”

“I have not wondered about that question before, but it is probably related to their biological parents.”

“But in Ah Mu’s memory, his parents are nothing but a pair of angels. They are the warmest part of his memory.” At this point, Chen Ge’s expression was very dark. Through these little clues, he had a very dangerous speculation forming in his mind.

Miss Dress, Mr. Wood, and Miss Red should be Ying Chen’s real life victims. Ying Tong, who was his prisoner, knew about the truth, but he did not dare tell anyone else. In fact, he ended up befriendng these three ‘people’.

From how Chen Ge saw it, even though there was a problem with Ying Tong’s eyes, he was not completely blind.

Living within the ugly world that Ying Chen had created, he suffered from many different mental traumas. But he knew that only by pretending to be fully blind would he be able to survive, so he locked up the fragile, fearful, and remaining beautiful memories that he had in his life and split them into different personalities. They were the innocent Ah Mu, Ah Ying, and Ah Tong.

Ying Tong himself would continue to be an honest blind person and kept searching for his way out.

### **Chapter 1059: Two Helpers [2 in 1]**

Chen Ge’s initial plan was to find Ying Tong, but from the clues that he had found so far, the plan might need to change. He probably needed to locate all four children: Ah Ying, Ah Mu, Ah Tong, and Ying Tong.

“Ying Chen should know about the existence of the three brothers. In fact, one could say that the existence of the three brothers is deeply linked to him. He alone created this tragedy. The three children each suffer from a different type of mental illness, and it is most likely Ying Chen who caused this to happen. They correspond to respectively the fear of sharp objects, imprisonment in a small room, and being scared.

“He asked ‘dead bodies’ to look after the three kids, and if we relate this to real life, it means that he has hidden the dead bodies in his home. Ying Tong spent too much time with dead bodies, and the pressure on his mind probably caused this split personality and the birth of the three distinct personas. That explains why the three children are unable to leave their homes, but Ying Tong alone has been trying to escape non-stop.

“The other thing worth noting is that Ah Mu is not blind, but Ah Mu’s current age is only six. If my previous analysis is not wrong, Ah Mu should be one of Ying Tong’s suppressed personalities. Then it indirectly proves that Ying Tong was not blind before he was six, or at least, he had not lost his sight completely then.”

The more he analyzed the situation, the more Chen Ge felt unsettled by it. He took a deep breath and turned toward the direction of the living room to ask, “Miss Dress, are you still there? Do you mind telling me when Ying Tong first ran away from home?”

“That was so long ago. It was maybe five years ago, I believe. At the time, Ying Chen’s relative had just moved away. Ying Chen and Ying Tong were the only ones who stayed in their house.” Miss Dress yet again revealed a very important piece of information.

“Don’t you think there is a problem that Ying Tong chose to run away the moment their relative moved away? If Ying Tong was treated nicely, why would he attempt to run away from home for no reason? His

elder brother, Ying Chen, must have done something horrible, something that has deeply traumatized his younger brother, Ying Tong.”

Chen Ge was unable to see Miss Dress’ expression, so he could not tell whether the woman agreed with his reasoning or not.

“Other than that, here is one more thing for you to think about. When Ying Tong ran away from home, he was about the same age as Ah Mu. As you told me, Ah Mu suffers from aichmophobia. After Ying Tong ran away from home, he was probably captured by Ying Chen and then was threatened by the latter by having the nails poke at the spots near Ying Tong’s eyes. Isn’t a nail a sharp object? And hasn’t Ah Mu been dreaming about people wanting to use sharp objects to blind his eyes?”

“What is your point exactly?” Miss Dress asked.

“Ah Mu is Ying Tong from back then,” Chen Ge replied. “The reason he suffers from aichmophobia is because of the trauma Ying Tong received when Ying Chen did those things to him. That’s the reason he is so afraid when he sees any sharp objects. That is the source of his phobias!”

The world behind the door was often absurd and weird; one could not view them with a logical eyes. However, after combining them with the memory and experience of the door pusher in real life, one would realize that the layer of absurdity often hid a deeply wounded heart. To persuade Miss Dress, Chen Ge volunteered all his analysis.

“If you do not believe me, you can bring me to see Ah Tong and Ah Ying. The combination of these three children’s experiences will be the injuries and traumas that Ying Tong has once experienced.”

“I still do not quite understand it,” Miss Dress said. “Ah Mu is a living individual. He is a complete and separate existence. How could a person represent a part of a memory from Ying Tong’s childhood?”

As an original tenant of the world behind the door, Miss Dress herself was made from memory. The purpose of her existence was to look after Ying Tong, to accompany Ying Tong, and to be his friend.

“You will get the answer to this question after you find Ying Tong. Even though his face is ruined and he is blind, he should have no problem communicating with others.” Chen Ge paused. “Neither of you have been given a chance to seriously listen to what the boy has to say. The strange mumblings that you heard might be the boy’s cries for help. The tragedies keep on repeating, but unfortunately, all of you have been tricked by Ying Chen. The kindness and passion are a disguise that is put on by the b\*stard. His real persona is something that will disgust all of you.”

All the tenants inside the building believed that Ying Chen was the second coming of Jesus, and they thought that Ying Tong was just a burden that he had to carry. In reality, though, this was an illusion that Ying Chen had been trying to perpetuate. It was because they believed in this lie that most of the tenants in the building had been turned to dead bodies.

“I do not expect you to believe me fully without further evidence, but I ask that you give me a chance to prove myself.” Chen Ge pleaded with the most sincerity he could muster. He was out of ideas. Ying Tong’s door was the most difficult door that he had ever experienced. He had to grab any chance that came his way; that was the only way he could find the path to survival amid the many traps that would lead to his death.

The room became silent. After a long time, Miss Dress opened her lips to speak. “But how do you intend to prove what you said? You want me to help you find Ying Tong?”

“Or at least do not tell Ying Chen of my presence before Ying Tong is found. Other than that, you have to take good care of yourself.” The tenants inside the building all treated Ying Chen as a good neighbor, but in Ying Chen’s eyes, they were merely puppets on the stage. Once he tired of them, he would not hesitate to remove them from the stage.

“Okay, before Ying Tong is found, I promise to help you keep your secret. But after Ying Tong is found and what you just said is proven false, I will not hesitate to hand you over to Ying Chen.”

“That is a fair deal. I will accept it.” After getting the confirmed answer from the woman, Chen Ge sighed in relief. He leaned against the wall for support. “Ever since Ah Mu came to live with you, has he not left the room even once?”

“Yes, ever since Ying Chen dropped Ah Mu off with me, the latter has not moved one step away from his room.”

“Is this one of the orders given to you by Ying Chen as well?”

“Yes, he is worried that Ah Mu might be injured.” Miss Dress had no idea what Chen Ge was planning, but she told him all she knew.

“Ah Mu suffers from aichmophobia. It is understandable that he has been asked to stay inside the room, but what about Ah Tong and Ah Ying? As you told me earlier, Ah Tong suffers from serious claustrophobia. How could one trap a child like that inside a small room and not allow him to leave? Imprisoning a child with claustrophobia inside a room will cause his condition to deteriorate—is that really the best solution to help the boy?” Chen Ge cut straight to the point. The woman thought about it and suddenly realized that Chen Ge was not wrong there.

“It was not really for Ah Mu’s real good that Ying Chen did not want him to leave the room. Only by hiding him away would he not be found by Ying Tong.” Chen Ge used his hands to search around for a long time before he found a chair. He took a seat. “Ah Mu should be a part of Ying Tong. I suspect once Ying Tong finds Ah Mu, his body will somehow change.”

Ying Tong did not dare open his eyes because he had to disguise himself as a blind man, or else he would die. He would be poked blind, and thus, the existence of Ah Mu was born. If the Ying Tong behind the door was reunited with Ah Mu, perhaps Ying Tong might recover part of his sight. As an outsider, Chen Ge should be living through the most traumatic events that had happened to Ying Tong. If Ying Tong’s condition turned for the better, he would have plenty to gain from it as well.

“When the boy pushed me down the stairs, I noticed a problem. They did not call me a blind man. They were just curious about why I’ve been keeping my eyes closed. At that moment, it crossed my mind that I may not be blind. Who would have known I was so close to the truth? There is a very high chance that Ying Tong is not completely blind. He simply does not have the courage to open his eyes. I must try my best to help Ying Tong walk out from his fugue of despair and make him try to open his eyes.”

Chen Ge’s voice was determined and confident. He had never been so desperate to help someone. Only by walking in one’s shoes would one be able to experience what said person had lived through, and that

was why Chen Ge was able to empathize with Ying Tong so deeply. He had to walk out of this door alive to save Ying Tong in real life and deliver the necessary punishment and judgement to Ying Chen. It was what they deserved.

Chen Ge's voice was filled with gentleness but also a font of strength. It carried with it a determination that would not waver in the face of adversity. That helped improve the woman's impression of him greatly. It was why she said, "I will first bring you to meet Mr. Wood, but he is not as easily persuadable as I am. He is one hell of a stubborn person, just like his name suggests."

"Thank you so much."

"There is no need to thank me. I am merely curious about what you have said." When she was still alive, Miss Dress had probably been a young woman with a sparkling personality. She opened the front door and held Chen Ge gently by his elbow. "Mr. Wood lives on Tuesday. We will have to go up a floor."

"Lives on Tuesday?" Chen Ge stopped moving. "What do you mean by that?"

"I suppose you can see it as the second floor. The ground floor is Monday, and the second floor is Tuesday. The seven floors correspond to the seven days of the week." Miss Dress did not elaborate further on this strange naming system. Chen Ge wanted to ask her more about it, but he was already being dragged away by Miss Dress into the stairwell.

The floors are named according to the days of the week, and the day itself might represent the day the tenant died.

Chen Ge could feel the chilling wind blow from any corners. He felt very unsafe and exposed. "Miss Dress, can you promise me one thing?"

"What is it?"

"If there is an accident, I will give you the direction to run in. I will need you to take me and run in that direction without asking any question and without making any noise."

"Okay."

Perhaps Ying Chen was still dealing with the middle-aged man's body—Chen Ge and Miss Dress did not run into him. The two successfully reached the third room from the left side stairs on the second floor. Knocking lightly on the door, Miss Dress called Ah Tong's name softly, and then the door was soon opened.

"Weren't you here not too long ago to take the medicine? Why are you here again?" The person who spoke sounded like a middle-aged man. His tone was even, as if he could not bring himself to be interested in anything.

"I have something that I need to ask you." Miss Dress helped Chen Ge step into the room.

"Who is this? A blind person?"

"He just told me a story. I think it's quite interesting. I thought you'd like to hear it as well." Miss Dress had Chen Ge sit on the couch while Chen Ge was more concerned about whether they had closed the front door or not.



“Can I also hear the story?” Another voice came out from the room. The voice was about eighty percent similar to Ying Tong. Based purely on the voices, Ah Mu sounded like a kid about four years old, and the owner of this voice should be around seven or eight. The voice had lost its naivete, and it sounded softer in nature.

“Are you Ah Tong?” Chen Ge turned toward the source of the voice. Of course, all he could see was a screen of darkness, nothing else.

“Yes, do you know me?”

“Not only do I know you, I also know your mother and father,” Chen Ge said with a smile in his voice. “I need to discuss something with Miss Dress and Mr. Wood. Do you mind going back to your room for now?”

“Okay.” The boy was very obedient. Chen Ge paid close attention to the sound of the footsteps. After the boy walked away, Chen Ge whispered to Miss Dress, “Do you mind closing the door to his room? I do not think it is wise for him to hear what we are going to discuss.”

“I am sorry, but I cannot do that. The child suffers from claustrophobia. To help with his condition, I have removed all the doors in the house. The only door that remains is the front door.” Mr. Wood did not have a good attitude toward Chen Ge. He felt like he was a scam artist.

“That’s fine then. There is nothing we can do about it.”

Chen Ge repeated what he had told Miss Dress earlier to Mr. Wood.

After hearing everything Chen Ge had to say, Mr. Wood did not reply immediately. He was deep in thought for a long time. In the end, it was Ah Tong who ran out from his room. The boy had also heard what Chen Ge had to say. He pitied Ying Tong in the story, and he instinctually begged Mr. Wood to help Ying Tong.

“I still cannot trust you fully. What you hear can be false, and nothing is more trustworthy than what you see.” Even though Mr. Wood was a nice person, he could be ridiculously stubborn. Miss Dress’ earlier warning was not unfounded.

“What you can see with your eyes might be a front that someone purposely constructed to show you. His actual personality has already decayed and corrupted under his shining exterior.” To convince Mr. Wood, Chen Ge revealed another secret. “There is a middle-aged man living on the fourth floor. Ying Chen should have just killed him. The reason I can wander around the building so freely at the moment is because I know he is currently busy dealing with the dead body on the fourth floor.”

“I still think that is impossible unless you let me see the carcass with my eyes.”

“There is a headless body hidden under Ying Chen’s bed in his bedroom. If you do not believe me, you can go and see it for yourself, but I would advise you not to do so. Once you see the body, the next person that Ying Chen will target is you.”

Chen Ge must try his best to fight to gain Mr. Wood’s trust. If the man did not listen to him, there was a great chance that he would expose Chen Ge’s location to Ying Chen, and the situation would go seriously out of control. Chen Ge did not look like he was lying, and with Ah Tong putting in some good

words for him, Mr. Wood eventually decided to compromise and temporarily placed his trust in Chen Ge, agreeing to help him find Ying Tong.

“No matter what, do not tell Ying Chen of my existence, and do not bring up the fact that we are trying to help Ying Tong. You guys have to try to act normal and give Ying Chen the illusion that the whole world is still isolating Ying Tong. Only then will we be able to survive.”

After leaving the facts, Chen Ge prepared to leave. He was in the hurry to find Miss Red.

“Ah Tong and Ah Mu are just like normal kids when they are not acting up. If anything, I feel like they are cuter and more obedient than normal children their age.” Chen Ge sighed under his breath, and then with Miss Dress holding him, he walked into the left staircase. “Which floor is Miss Red staying on?”

“Saturday.”

“The sixth floor?” Chen Ge frowned for the umpteenth time behind this door already. “Ying Chen might be still on the fourth floor dealing with the body. To get to the sixth floor, we will need to pass the fourth door. It will all be over if we are discovered by him. And sixth floor is very close to the seventh floor.”

His heart was beating wildly. Chen Ge felt like he was walking on a tightrope dangled between two cliffs. He moved up the steps, and Chen Ge and Miss Dress soon arrived on the third floor. When they were about to move toward the fourth floor, a wisp of a cat’s meow suddenly rang out.

“Stop moving!” Chen Ge grabbed at Miss Dress. “Ying Chen is on the fourth floor.”

“How do you know that?” Miss Dress whispered to ask, but Chen Ge did not answer. He held his breath and tried to focus on the direction of the cats. But strangely enough the calls of the cats did not grow louder or weaker. It felt like Ying Chen was standing at the same spot and had not moved.

“What is he up to?” Chen Ge leaned against the wall. “Is he hiding in a room, armed with the murder weapon, and waiting to jump those who walk past?”

Chen Ge signaled for Miss Dress to keep quiet. He climbed up to the fourth floor carefully. The cat’s calls still had not changed.

“Could the b\*stard have perceived the fact that I have the ability to predict his location, and he is currently conducting some kind of experiment?”

The more he thought about it, the more unsettled he felt. Chen Ge pointed to the fourth floor. “Miss Dress, do you mind helping me see if Ying Chen is standing in the fourth-floor corridor?”

“No, the corridor is empty.”

“Okay, then we will hurry to the sixth floor.” Chen Ge pointed above them. He did not dare stay there for too long. For now, the plan was to reach Miss Red on the sixth floor and talk to her.

**Chapter 1060: Blind Man with Light [2 in 1]**

“Ying Chen should not be in the fourth-floor corridor and expose himself to the public. He’ll be hiding in one of the rooms and probably waiting for people to go by. He is a predator waiting for his prey. The man does not operate like a normal person, and his way of thinking is cruel and unusual. I must be more careful. I need to be as cautious as possible.”

Chen Ge did not know if Ying Chen had managed to get any information about him from the middle-aged man, but it was not the time to care about small things like that. Since Ying Chen had not made his move, Chen Ge wanted to meet up with Miss Red as soon as possible and get as many allies as he could.

With Miss Dress leading the way, Chen Ge came to the landing between the fourth floor and fifth floor. A light stench lingered in the air, and Chen Ge felt his shoes stepping on puddles of what seemed to be water.

“Why did we suddenly stop?” Chen Ge asked softly. He was on the way of moving up when he realized that Miss Dress, who had been holding him by his arm, had suddenly stopped. Unable to see anything, when he sensed this anomalous behavior from Miss Dress, his heart started to race immediately.

Moments later, he heard a girl’s singing. It sounded like it came from a broken music box. It sang intermittently, and the tone was one that was impossibly weird to describe.

“Is someone coming? Then we must rush to the fifth floor now. We must not stay here any longer!” Chen Ge had a very bad feeling. He could sense that the singing came from the fifth floor, and he was afraid that the sound would attract Ying Chen’s attention.

“There was someone who just went past the fifth floor, but the person made no sound at all when they were moving,” Miss Dress said in a baffled tone. “Or did I see it wrong?”

“Wait a minute! A music box? A girl’s singing? A person who moves without making a sound? It was not Ying Tong that you saw, right?” Chen Ge knew that in real life, Ying Chen had a broken music box sitting on the table in his bedroom.

“Should we chase after that person to find out?” the woman asked.

“No, that is too risky, and this whole thing feels so fishy.” Chen Ge’s grip on the strap of his backpack tightened. “If I were Ying Tong, I would not purposely make the sound come out from the music box if I was attempting to escape. Isn’t that a surefire way to expose my own location? Why would I do something like that?”

“Perhaps he accidentally bumped against it and caused the music box to start playing?”

“I have been to Ying Chen’s house before. At the time, the music box was placed inside Ying Tong’s bedroom. Assuming Ying Tong has not returned home, then it is definitely not Ying Tong who is in possession of the music box now!” Chen Ge was sweating cold sweat already. “There is someone else in the building who is helping Ying Chen! It is this person who is holding the music box and walking around to distract our attention! The b\*stard has probably already guessed that someone else is searching and trying to help Ying Tong!”

Ying Chen was very clever, but Chen Ge was a very astute person as well. Both parties were able to find out the problem from the smallest details.

“Do you know anyone who has a very good relationship with Ying Chen in this building? The kind of person that Ying Chen would be able to trust unconditionally?”

“There are many tenants who have a good relationship with Ying Chen, but if you have to pinpoint those who love Ying Chen unconditionally, it should be the children. Ying Chen is very welcomed among the group of children, and they are very willing to play with him.”

“Ying Chen is good friends with all of the children in the building?”

“Yes, Ying Chen has a good personality, and he likes to play with the children. Occasionally, he even buys sweets and toys for them.”

“Did the person who went past earlier look like a child to you?”

“Now that you mention it, perhaps it was. The person was very small, and they moved without making a sound. They were so quick and silent that I thought I was mistaken.” The woman gave a long sigh. She too was slowly discovering that the building that night was rather different from a normal day. “Are we still going to the sixth floor?”

“Of course, but we have to be extra careful when we go past the fifth floor. Pay attention to the corridor and see if there are people there.” Chen Ge bent down to touch the puddle on the ground. “The puddles are drying up. They do not appear to be something purposely left behind by Ying Chen for us to step into so that we would leave behind a trail of footprints.”

“Now you are just being too cautious. The water is probably there because Auntie Wu just cleaned the building.”

“How can you be sure that it was Auntie Wu who just cleaned this place?” Chen Ge heard another new name from the woman’s lips—Auntie Wu.

“She is our building’s cleaner. She is a very responsible worker. She cleans the entire building every morning and night,” Miss Dress explained and tossed out this question casually. “You don’t suspect that it was Auntie Wu who is helping Ying Chen, right?”

Chen Ge did not reply because he was thinking about something else. Even though the building that Ying Chen and Ying Tong were living in was extremely poor and dilapidated, many years ago, this had been the richest apartment in the old city. This was viewable from the fact that this building was one of the earliest apartments to be fitted with an elevator.

Having a special cleaner to take care of the building’s sanitary work was nothing big, but the issue was that this Auntie Wu had appeared in the world behind Ying Tong’s door. Perhaps this cleaner had already been killed Ying Chen in real life, just like Miss Dress and Mr. Wood. But on the other hand, there was a different possibility. This Auntie Wu might have done something traumatic toward Ying Tong and thus carved her existence into his mind. Many different speculations appeared in Chen Ge’s mind. Auntie Wu might have helped Ying Tong mount his escape before, or it could be Auntie Wu who leaked Ying Tong’s escape to Ying Chen every time.

“How is the relationship between this Auntie Wu and Ying Chen?”

“Like a cat and dog. Auntie Wu always gets into arguments with Ying Chen. She does not like cats, and she feels that by bringing back all these dirty and unkept strays from the wild, Ying Chen is purposely adding to her workload.

“Oh right, one time when I was chatting with her in private, Auntie Wu mentioned that she smelt a sour smell from Ying Chen’s body. It smelt like cat’s meat that had been left out to decay for too long.”

Chen Ge’s brain was moving quickly to piece the puzzle together. He connected all the known information together. “This place has just been cleaned, and that proves that Auntie Wu was here earlier. Right after that, it was followed by that small shadow who was holding the music box. The music box originated from Ying Chen’s house. I believe it was Ying Chen who tasked that small person with using the music box to test Auntie Wu, and that is because Ying Chen suspects that it was Auntie Wu who had sneaked into his home!”

“Even though I do not quite understand what you are saying, from the way you said it, it does sound reasonable.” Miss Dress realized that Chen Ge had a way with words, and he was able to convince people to see his perspective quite easily.

“Ying Chen should not have known about my existence, so it is totally normal for him to suspect Auntie Wu.” The world behind the door was made from Ying Tong’s memory. The rules of the way this world operated were thus based on Ying Tong’s memory. If Ying Tong wanted to escape, the only tools he had access to were the people and things from his memory. However, Chen Ge had entered his world behind the door, and he became the only extenuating factor. While the two were exchanging information, they had reached the fifth floor. The floor was quite wet; Auntie Wu had probably just cleaned this area.

“There is no one in the fifth-floor corridor. Should we go up to the sixth floor now?”

“There is no need to hurry. Can you tell me if there are any footprints on the ground? Try to be as careful as you can.” Chen Ge leaned against the wall. By now, he had basically gotten used to the darkness, and he was slowly able to overcome the discomfort that came from his physical disability.

“Footprints?” The woman released the hold on Chen Ge’s elbow. She sounded like she had walked deeper down the corridor. “There really are footprints here!”

“Shush, do not make such a loud noise. How many types of footprints are there on the ground?”

“This first set of footprints should belong to Auntie Wu. She likes to wear cotton slippers. The other set of footprints has been left behind by a pair of sneakers, so they probably belong to one of the children in the building.”

“Looks like our guess was not that far from the truth. Now try and see what direction the tips of the footprints are pointing in, and that will help us determine the direction that they were coming from and the direction that they had headed to.” Chen Ge was unable to see, so he could only rely on the help from Miss Dress.

“Auntie Wu left behind more footprints. She seems to have lingered for quite some time at the door to the cleaning closet. She was likely there to grab her cleaning equipment. The other sneaker footprints have been going straight. It feels like the owner of the footprints has been trailing behind Auntie Wu,”

the woman said. "Currently, there is no one at all on the fifth floor. Is it possible that they have all gone up to the sixth floor?"

"Auntie Wu lingered around the cleaning closet? Normally, isn't the storeroom prepared for the cleaning services located on the ground floor? Wouldn't it be extremely inconvenient for Auntie Wu if her supply room is placed on the fifth floor?" Chen Ge thought back to his visit to Ying Chen's house in real life. He could not remember encountering a cleaning closet on the fifth floor.

"When the architect designed this building, they planned to have a cleaning supply room on every floor, but it is more of a place for the cleaners to store their equipment. It works in an emergency as well. Other than the daily cleaning supplies, it is also where the fire extinguisher and ropes are stored."

"That sounds reasonable, but why would Auntie Wu linger around this particular cleaning closet on this floor?" Chen Ge grabbed Miss Dress by her elbow. "Is the closet locked?"

"No."

"Go and open the door. I suspect Auntie Wu might have hidden something inside the closet."

The woman led Chen Ge and walked to the side of the cleaning closet. She gave the door a light tug. "Hmm?"

"What's wrong?"

"It cannot be opened. It feels like something is stuck against the door on the other side."

"It is not locked, but it cannot be opened, huh?" Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of something. He leaned toward the door and softly whispered, "Ying Tong? Are you inside there? I know your elder brother is a crazy murderer who likes to torture cats. I am here to help you escape this building!"

"What are you mumbling about at the air?" Just as Miss Dress said that, a click suddenly came from inside the cleaning closet. It sounded like someone had removed the item that had blocked the inside of the closet door. "Who's in there?"

Opening the door, Miss Dress sucked in a cold breath.

"What did you see? Say something! Don't just stand there," Chen Ge urged in the smallest voice he could manage.

"Ying... Ying Tong is inside the closet! Why is he hiding here?" The woman was shocked and that caused the volume of her voice to rise.

"Ying Tong?" Even though Chen Ge had already mentally prepared himself and knew that Ying Tong would be hiding somewhere in this building, he did not expect to encounter him so early in his journey. "Looks like I am quite lucky this time."

"Who... are you guys? Was it Auntie Wu who told you I am hiding inside the closet?" Ying Tong's voice sounded rather dull, like that of a robot. It was devoid of any human emotions.

"I am here to help you escape. I know the type of person your elder brother really is. I guarantee that he will receive his due punishment." Chen Ge took one step forward. His hand touched Ying Tong's

shoulder. He used his fingers to lightly caress Ying Tong's face, and the tip of his fingers ran over the uneven surfaces that were from the many different wounds.

"I look like a monster, don't I?" Ying Tong's voice came from before Chen Ge.

"I'm blind. I cannot see your appearance, but I know that you have a strong and kind heart. More than that, you also have a very clever and calm mind."

If a normal child was placed in Ying Tong's position, they would have gone insane already, but that did not happen to Ying Tong. He had been trying to find an opening to escape, and even after so many failures, he had not given up. Even though the siblings' personalities could not have been more different, they were both incredibly clever, and in a way, both of them would grow up to become incredibly awe-inspiring individuals but for different reasons.

Chen Ge memorized Ying Tong's appearance. To gain Ying Tong's trust, he held Ying Tong's hands and placed them over his face. "My name is Chen Ge, and from now on, you are not alone. No matter the result, I will always be by your side."

No one had told Ying Tong these words before. That Auntie Wu should be helping Ying Tong in the dark, but she too did not dare give Ying Tong any promises. When Chen Ge was feeling Ying Tong's face, he brushed against something Ying Tong was holding. The boy was carrying a big bag with him. Inside it was something in the shape of a ball and a stick-like object that appeared to be a flashlight.

"What is inside that bag of yours?"

"Auntie Wu did not believe me initially, so I had to take something to show her for her to believe me."

"What is it?"

"A football that my elder brother made."

A rustling sound came from the small room. Ying Tong opened the bag, and Miss Dress peered to look into the bag out of curiosity.

"Ah! A human head!" Fear overwhelmed her heart. Miss Dress was stunned in that moment, and she forgot that she needed to keep her voice down.

"Shush, we need to be quiet! We cannot stay here any longer! We need to get to the sixth floor so that Ying Tong can meet up with Ah Ying!" Chen Ge's hypothesis would be proven when Ying Tong met Ah Ying. Now he could not wait for them to reunite. Miss Dress held Chen Ge and Ying Tong with each hand. The trio reentered the stairwell, but when they reached the landing between the fifth and sixth floor, the old elevator in the building suddenly started to move and make its horrible sound.

"The elevator is moving! Someone is using the elevator to come up the floors! Is it because Ying Chen heard our voices?" Miss Dress' earlier gasp when she found out about the human head was rather loud, so Chen Ge was quite worried about that. He stopped moving, and his expression turned dark. The elevator stopped at the fifth floor, and immediately following it was the weak meowing of cats.

"It is Ying Chen!" The cat's call did not increase in volume immediately, which meant that Ying Chen had stayed close to the elevator, but it was certain that the man was now on the fifth floor.

“We need to move.” Since the group had gotten so big, their movement would be much louder. However, Chen Ge was devoid of a better idea other than to stay as far away from Ying Chen as possible.

“We will go to Miss Red’s place first and hope that she will open her place up for us to hide in!”

The sound of the cat had not changed. Miss Dress led Chen Ge and Ying Tong up to the sixth floor, and they stopped before Miss Red’s door.

“Do not knock. It will make too loud of a noise. Give her a call or a text message, and tell her to open the door.”

“But I didn’t bring my phone with me.”

When the two spoke, the sound of a girl singing came from the other side of the staircase. The person holding the broken music box was coming up the stairs!

The cats would warn Chen Ge of Ying Chen, but they would not warn him of other people. Ying Chen had found help from the tenants inside the building. This was a very bad development for Chen Ge, who was unable to see anything.

“What should we do now?”

They were running out of time and options. Knocking would have a fifty percent chance of attracting Ying Chen’s attention. If Miss Red took her time to open the door, they would be captured, and Ying Chen’s helper was closing in from the other side.

“We will retreat to the left stairwell for now.” The plan had to be changed. As Chen Ge’s group was moving toward the left staircase, suddenly the cats started to growl and howl. The distance between Ying Chen and them was closing.

“The man has heard our movement!” Chen Ge gritted his teeth. He realized that Ying Chen was very hard to deal with. Earlier, he had been tricked before, so this time, he had found another person to go up the stairs with him. Each taking one side of the stairs, they would be able to corner the people in the corridor!

The cat’s meowing drilled into his ears, and the meowing was becoming more shrill and twisted. The three of them stood at the mouth of the staircase, and Ying Chen was probably heading up the stairs.

“It was me who made the noise, so he’ll be looking for me. The two of you should go and hide on the seventh floor. I will stay to delay Ying Chen as long as I can.” Miss Dress volunteered to walk down the fifth-floor corridor. Chen Ge grabbed Ying Tong by his hand and led him up toward the stairwell, but they were moving silently up to the seventh floor.