

## Horrors 1071

### Chapter 1071: Nightmare Residential Area [2 in 1]

"The first time it appeared, I was almost scared to death. Do you think I still have the courage to stay there anymore? I am still renting that place, but I go over to a friend's place to sleep at night," the tall man said with a painful expression. "I came to Jiujiang to search for a better life. I still have not found a steady job, but I am almost losing my mind."

"I can understand your problem. How about this? Tonight, I will go home together with you, and we will go and check out the haunted rooms together." Chen Ge gave his own phone number to all the tenants. "Go back home tonight. I will go and inspect the rooms one by one. I hope everyone will be able to cooperate with me."

"Why can't you go and take a look at the place now? Honestly, I do not dare enter that place anymore at night. Whenever I step into it, I feel my heart shivering as if someone is staring closely at me." The tall man appeared to have been traumatized by this horrifying experience.

"You can wait outside the door first. When I arrive, we will go into the room together." Chen Ge asked for the details of everyone that wanted to request for a move away. After he jotted down all the strange phenomena, he finally got them to leave in peace after much persuasion and nudging.

Seeing the whole pages filled with notes, Chen Ge was rather confused and confounded by it. If none of the tenants were lying, the intensity of the supernatural activity at this residential area was as high as the two-star scenarios at his haunted house. Almost every room was a background for supernatural activity, and they were the kinds that got scarier and scarier, the kind that would make one's hair stand on end the more one thought about it.

"Do you really intend to return the money to them?" The boy's mother poured a cup of tea for Chen Ge. "I know you wish to help me, but I advise that you do not get yourself involved in this mess."

"Things are not so easy on their end either. I am merely taking their concern into consideration. Since I believe I can help them, why not?" Chen Ge had his eyes on this residential area as he entered the housing agency, so even if the tenants did not face any problems, he would 'create' some problems so that he could step forward to provide his help. That was the highest height of being a good Samaritan.

"The group of tenants still do not trust you. They heard that you are willing to pay them back their rent and deposit, and that is why they came up with all those fake stories to scam you." The boy's mother handed the cup of tea to Chen Ge.

"You think they are telling fake stories? You do not believe them?"

"Of course, I have been a worker here for so many years. If this place was really haunted, I would have handed in my resignation letter a long time ago." The woman sighed. "As you know, the economy these days is not so good. They just want to find an excuse to move away without breaking the signed contract."

"You have worked here for so long, but you have not run into one single strange phenomenon?" Chen Ge was rather surprised. The residential area that the woman described was vastly different from the one described by the group of disgruntled tenants.

“Hiding the fact that a place was a murder scene was indeed the fault of our agency, but you have to understand that in that case, we are also a victim. It was the landlord who lied to us and kept that from us.”

“Then, it is your company’s lack of responsibility to not conduct a further investigation. Put yourself in their shoes. If you found out that you and your son have been staying at a murder scene, wouldn’t you feel more than a bit unsettled by it?”

“As a matter of fact, my son and I are currently living at a former murder scene. We bought it about ten years ago, and the price was at least a quarter lower than the market price. We have lived there for a decade, and nothing out of the ordinary has happened. Actually, most of the time, this talk of ghosts is just a matter of the mind. As long as you do not overthink it, it really does not matter whether you are staying at a haunted house or not.” The woman was surprisingly courageous but strangely close-minded. She had a determined heart and a gentle way of speaking, so that combined to make her a perfect receptionist at an estate agency.

“You are also living at a former murder scene?” Chen Ge slowly lifted his head to look at the woman. “And you have been living there for over a decade?”

“That might be difficult for you to grasp, but for a person in the estate agent business like myself, there is nothing that can phase me anymore. Not everyone minds living in places where other people have once passed away.”

“I mean, have you not run into anything strange occurrence in the past ten years? Has your child told you anything out of the ordinary?”

Once the child was brought up, it was as if a wall was built around the woman. She lost her interest in their conversation almost instantly. “Even at his current age, he is barely able to call me ‘mom’. What out of the ordinary thing could he have told me? I am in your debt for helping me chase them away, but you are trying to wake up a bunch of people who are faking their sleep. They are just trying to scam you. Tomorrow, they will return to demand the promised rent and deposit from you.”

“Don’t you bet on that so fast.” Through the short conversation, Chen Ge noticed the problems with the woman. She not only refused to believe in the presence of the supernatural, she would also subconsciously negate and ignore everything that had anything to do with the supernatural. So many tenants had come to her with the complaints that the place was haunted, but the woman believed obstinately that they were just a bunch of dissatisfied tenants who wanted to break their rental contract. Furthermore, from her tone and expression, Chen Ge realized that the woman was not faking her belief. It was from the bottom of her heart that she believed that the tenants were trying to create a ruckus, and she refused to be swayed by their stories, not even a bit.

“Then I won’t disturb you anymore. I will go to the tenants’ place to take a look.” Chen Ge took the white paper that was filled with handwriting and started his preparation for the mission that night. The woman’s son might be the ninth child chosen by the ghost fetus. Getting to know the child and his surrounding living environment would effectively lower the difficulty of the impending mission.

"I will go with you since there are no customers now. Even if someone does come, they will be scared away by those old tenants." The woman packed her stuff, grabbed a bag, and walked out from behind the service counter.

"Is that really appropriate?"

"It is our job as estate agent to help our customers take look at their prospective houses. If you really return their deposits to them and take on all their rooms, then you will be one of our biggest clients in the future. How is this not appropriate?"

The two walked down the old, deserted street to enter the rather aged residential area close by.

"Jin Hwa[1] Apartments and Jiu Hong[2] Apartments used to be separated, but due to some unknown reason, the wall between the two apartments was broken down. Now, the two apartments are in one residential area."

The woman was a good estate agent. She had memorized all the details regarding this place in her heart.

"The one with the brand-new white coat of paint is Jin Hwa Apartments. They were built about twenty-six years ago. Most of our tenants are staying at this place. Jin Hwa Apartments consists of two separate buildings, A and B, and each apartment building has nine floors. Back when it was built, it was one of the tallest building around the old city. It came equipped with an old-fashioned elevator. By the way, this is where my family lives.

"The few squatter, gray-looking buildings on the side are Jiu Hong Apartments. There are four buildings in total. Initially, the developer wanted to build many high rises that rose up into the sky, having nine floors as the name suggested, but some kind of problem happened when they built onto the fourth floor. Regardless, the name Jiu Hong Apartments has stuck."

After entering the residential area, the woman was conspicuously more relaxed and at ease.

"Actually, Jiu Hong Apartments is not a bad place. They are facing the river that runs through the city on the western and eastern side. On the southern side, there is a small fruit orchard, and it is connected to Jin Hwa Apartments by the northern side. Other than the lack of good lightning, it is a good place to live."

"Are you sure estate agents can say things like that? Those are just blatant lies, right? This place is so isolated that there are barely any people around, and you are telling me this is a good place to live?" Chen Ge took a good look around. The place where Jiu Hong Apartments was situated was very backwoods. The place was basically cut off from the rest of the city on both the east and west side by the rivers, and eerie looking woods were situated on the northern side. If the woman did not mention it, he would not have believed it was a 'fruit orchard'. Even after the woman had said so, Chen Ge was still not convinced that it was the truth.

"At least the air here is very fresh, and it is untainted by the city. You have to understand how difficult it is to find a place as clean as this sanctuary in the middle of a bustling city."

Once the woman finished, she noticed that Chen Ge had stopped moving. She followed the direction of Chen Ge's gaze and noticed that Chen Ge was staring at a sign pasted on the wall outside the Block A of

Jin Hwa Apartments. The general content was that this place was haunted and warned people to stay away from it if they could.

“This is just one of the tricks came up by the tenants, venting their emotions. Ignore it.” The woman moved silently to remove the sign. After taking a quick tour, Chen Ge had familiarized himself with the layout of the residential area. Jin Hwa Apartments was connected to Jiu Hong Apartments, and there were two entrances. The bigger and more official entrance was on the side of Jin Hwa Apartments, and the other entrance was closer to Jiu Hong Apartments. It led toward that creepy orchard.

“Why does the entrance lead to the orchard? What is the purpose of placing it there? Do people go to the orchard often?”

“Initially, the developer of Jiu Hong Apartments planned to design that spot as a bio garden, but the plan did not take off. The concept was a bit new-fangled at the time, and many people did not even understand what it meant, so most of the people did not agree, and the plan was eventually left abandoned.”

A poor, old, tattered, and eerie location was turned into an untouched natural paradise in the middle of the city by the woman. That was probably her professional skills kicking in.

“There is no need for you to give the sales pitch. I am here to solve the tenants’ problem, not to find a place to rent.”

Jin Hwa Apartments looked at least relatively normal. From the surface, it was a typical residential area. Other than the lack of tenants and a still quietness, there was nothing wrong with it. In contrast, Jiu Hong Apartments next to it was completely different. It was the direct opposite of Jin Hwa Apartments. There was not even one human life that could be seen. It was more like a deserted building than an apartment housing area.

“I say, is this residential area completely empty?”

“It’s not that bad. There are good old tenants who have lived here for a very long time. The rent here is very cheap, and you can get cheap supplies around the area. After some time, you will get used to it, and you might even find the freedom quite enjoyable.”

“Those who can get used to living at a place like this are not so simple themselves probably.”

Narrowing his eyes, Chen Ge swept the few old buildings. It was just a quick glance, but he had already noticed some very scary details. On the balcony of the third floor of the first building, there hung a row of wigs. The tenant was probably a hairdresser, but this was the first time that Chen Ge had seen someone dry their rows of wigs out in the sun and rain in such a manner before.

“What’s up with the wigs?”

“The tenant on the third floor of the first building of Jiu Hong Apartments was a teacher at hairdressing school, but after his school shut down, he brought all the fake head models and wigs home. Since this place is so close to the water, the air can get pretty humid at times. So, he occasionally puts his wigs out in the sun to prevent them from getting moldy.” The woman was not lying when she said that she had been living here for years. She was familiar with most of the tenants there.

“The other tenants have no issue with him doing something like this?”

“He has done nothing wrong. He’s just drying the wigs out in the sunlight. How does it affect others?”

The wigs stood in a row on the third floor. As scary as they were, it was still acceptable. His eyes continued to move upward, and on the fourth floor, Chen Ge saw a human shadow standing behind the curtain. Ever since Chen Ge stepped into this place, the human shadow had not moved from his spot.

“Do you know who lives on the fourth floor?”

“It is a single middle-aged man. He is rarely seen outside his home. No one knows what he does for a living, but whenever he’s seen, he’s dressed from head to toe in branded clothes.”

“Then, there is a very big problem with that. Why would a person decked out in expensive clothes choose to live in a place like this?” Chen Ge had already memorized the man’s room location in his mind.

“Who knows? Perhaps he is running away from some debt.”

As his eyes continued to move up, Chen Ge discovered something else on the fifth floor. The room on the leftmost side had the curtain pulled off slightly, and through the gap, half of a binocular and some professional camera equipment were exposed. If not for Chen Ge’s Yin Yang Vision, he would not have caught sight of those things.

“A peeping tom?”

Out of habit, he turned to the opposite building. There were female undergarments of various colors and even different sizes hung on the balcony of the fifth floor on the second building. If that was just everything, Chen Ge would not have minded it, but the problem was that he noticed many very big and bulging black plastic bags that occupied the balcony as well. Who knew what was stuffed inside them?

“Hey! It is rude for you to stare like that,” the woman warned Chen Ge softly. “A pair of sisters live on the fifth floor of the second building. They are both quite young, and they came from the countryside. They are quite innocent and new to the city.”

“Innocent and naïve?” Standing inside the residential area, Chen Ge already felt a headache coming. The problem with this residential area was much more serious than he thought. Most of the normal tenants were gearing up to leave already, and those who wanted to stay were abnormal to a certain degree. “Other than the ghosts, I will need to be careful of the tenants as well.”

There were too many extenuating factors to consider. It was surprisingly hard to get to know the boy, but at this point, Chen Ge had no other choice but to keep going. After moving around for half an hour, Chen Ge was covered in sweat. He was feeling rather fatigued.

“You lack physical training. We have not even walked for that long.” After this period of interaction with Chen Ge, the woman realized that the man was quite a good person. Even though he might come up with some strange comments and have a naturally suspicious personality, he was quite an interesting person and was quite approachable and kind.

Chen Ge wiped away the sweat from his forehead. He also felt that this was very weird. He had never had any problem with his physique before. He rarely felt tired, but as the ghost fetus trial mission continued, his physical condition had continued to spiral downward.

To become a complete person, one must fulfil two conditions—a coffin that buries the past and a body brimming with life. Could the vessel that the ghost fetus is planning to use be mine? Or perhaps when he is completed, will I become a defect?

It was the final day for the ghost fetus mission. Chen Ge knew that allowing his thoughts to wander to impossible places was not going to help his case, but he could not stop himself. It was as if his body could sense that something bad was about to happen.

“You do not look so good. Is it from the sun? Do you want to stop by my place to take a quick rest?”

“That’s not a bad idea.”

The woman did not expect Chen Ge to take up her offer so readily. After a pause, she led Chen Ge into Building A of Jin Hwa Apartments. They took the old elevator to the fourth floor. Before they walked out from the elevator, they could hear the screaming and crying of a child.

“Damn it!” The woman jogged to Room 401. She pushed open the door and dashed into it. The place was a complete mess. Plastic cups littered the ground, and puddles were everywhere. The fruit basket on the coffee table was overturned, and different kinds of fruit rolled all over the ground.

Chen Ge followed the woman into the room. He noticed that all the lights in the room was switched on. Not only that, all the drawers and cupboard doors were pulled open. Even the fridge was left open, as if someone had been searching for something inside the room. Side-stepping the fruit and trash on the ground, Chen Ge walked toward the bedroom and then saw a gut-wrenching scene.

The boy had cried until his eyes had swollen shut. A scary noise was coming out of his mouth. His teeth were tightly gritted together, and the expression on his face spoke of pain. The boy seemed unable to control his emotions. He whacked heavily and repeatedly on the woman, and he even used his mouth to bite on her shoulder.

“Do you need some help?”

“It’s fine. Xiang Nuan is just afraid.”

Blood was coming out from her shoulder wound, but the woman maintained her posture. The boy knocked heavily into the woman’s body, but she lightly caressed him, her fingers trailing gingerly down the boy’s back. After a few minutes of this, the boy finally returned to normal. He plonked to the ground and pulled on the woman’s sleeve with an innocent expression on his face.

Chen Ge had many questions, but to not impose too much on the woman, he waited for a long time before he asked them. “How often does this happen? Why didn’t you just send him to a special ed school?”

“I sincerely do not know where to start.” The woman rubbed her shoulder and looked at the boy on the ground. “Xiang Nuan is a bit different from other children.”

[1] Jin Hwa can also mean Golden Shine.

[2] Jiu Hong can also mean Nine Great.

**Chapter 1072: The Last Night (2in1)**

**Translator:** Lonelytree

“I know you are trying your best to look after him, and you want to do it yourself, but is that really what is the best for the child? The teachers at the special ed school will be far more experienced than both of us. They have been given training and a whole set of systematic methods that are designed to help uniquely gifted kids learn and get an education...”

“How do you know I have not contacted such schools on Xiang Nuan’s behalf before?” The woman seemed to have an inherent meaning in her words. “The teachers and doctors at those schools always tried to treat Xiang Nuan as a child with autism, but I do not think Xiang Nuan suffers from autism although I will admit that the symptoms he portrays are rather similar to those who has autism.”

Chen Ge really did not know how to form an opinion of this mother. She was very sharp and astute in a way. If Chen Ge was not mistaken with his guess, he agreed with the mother that Xiang Nuan indeed was not suffering from autism; he merely had something taken away from him by the ghost fetus. The child was stubborn, temperamental, impossible to communicate with, and always locked himself up in his own little world. His various actions confused others, and he would occasionally do things that would harm others and even sometimes harm himself. He seemed to be in a lot of pain, but other than his own mother, no other person in this world seemed to be able to really comprehend the pain that he was going through. In fact, even his mother did not quite understand what kind of experience her son was going through.

“Xiang Nuan is very shy around strangers; he has an innate fear of people. I suppose you can view it as a form of paranoia. He believes that everyone is out to get him.” The woman entered the bedroom to change into a different undershirt. She held the clothes that she had earlier in her hands. The spot around her shoulder was bleeding. It appeared like Xiang Nuan had chomped heavily into her flesh. “I believe that Xiang Nuan does have paranoia, but then the doctors told me that is impossible because Xiang Nuan is still too young to even have the concept of danger formed in his mind, so he would not have been suffering from paranoia.”

“Then, have the doctors told you how to cure Xiang Nuan’s illness?”

“The doctors also suggested that I send Xiang Nuan to a special ed school and then combine it with some medicine that they would prescribe, but...”

After some hesitation, the woman finally let her guard down and told Chen Ge the truth.

“Xiang Nuan often acts up due to the smallest thing. He bites the people around him, he smashes the things that he can grab his hands on, and he is clearly very hostile. Most of the children at the special ed school calm down after being aided for some time by the professional teachers, but Xiang Nuan was different. None of the teachers and doctors seemed to be able to do anything to help him. Other than pumping him with heavy doses of sedatives, I am the only one who is able to make him calm down when he goes on a rampage.”

Bringing the bloodied clothes to the washing machine, the woman sighed softly. “I have visited almost all the special ed schools around Jiujiang. Initially, there were some that were willing to take Xiang Nuan on, but after the few incidents and Xiang Nuan’s name got around the small circle, fewer and fewer schools were willing to take him on. They were not afraid that Xiang Nuan might injure the workers or

the teachers, but they were afraid that Xiang Nuan might injure himself when he was in their care, and they would not know how to answer to me in that situation. Of course, that could just be their business talk.”

The woman and Chen Ge stood inside the bedroom. Xiang Nuan sat on the ground and toyed with a pair of chopsticks like the rest of them were not even there. He placed one chopstick over the other chopstick and then pulled the bottom chopstick down. He kept repeating this game of his over and over again.

“He has obvious problems with communication. He repeats the same strange actions, he has poor recognition ability, and he shows very few facial expressions; these are all typical symptoms of an autistic child. What has really happened to Xiang Nuan?” Chen Ge wanted to get to know the boy better. He looked around the room. “When you go to work, do you leave Xiang Nuan at home alone? Where is the boy’s father?”

“When Xiang Nuan was very small, his father died from an illness.”

“I am so sorry.”

“It has been years already. There is nothing to apologize for.” The woman knelt beside the bed and pulled out a cloth bag from underneath it. It opened to reveal several hundred wooden chopsticks that were arranged neatly.

“What are you doing?”

“Like I said, Xiang Nuan is very different from other kids his age. He does not like to play with toys but instead likes to play with wooden sticks and chopsticks. I personally do not understand why. When I am supposed to be reporting at work, I toss out all of these chopsticks, and he can occupy himself with them for the whole day.”

Looking at Xiang Nuan who was quietly building something out of the chopsticks, a smile involuntarily appeared on the woman’s face. “Actually, it is quite cute when he is acting this way.”

“How did you find out he likes to play with chopsticks?” Chen Ge was rather curious about this unique hobby that Xiang Nuan had.

“One time during lunch, I accidentally placed one extra set of chopsticks on the table. When the food was served, I saw Xiang Nuan picked up the extra chopstick and stick them into his bowl of rice, and then he kept staring at them.”

“Two chopsticks sticking into a bowl of white rice. That is something normally prepared for the dead on the seventh day of their death.”

Chen Ge tried to analyze the situation, but all he was rewarded with was an eye roll from the woman. “I have already told you that I do not believe in this talk of ghosts.”

She placed all the chopsticks beside Xiang Nuan and allowed the boy to play with them on his own.

“Normally, when I bring him back from the dam, I take out the chopsticks and have him place them all over the room, but today, I had to leave in such a hurry that I completely forgot about it.”

Xiang Nuan played with the chopsticks alone inside the bedroom. He was very focused in his task. Chen Ge made use of this opportunity to try to get more information out from the woman, but the reward was pitiable. Compared to the other children selected by the ghost fetus, Xiang Nuan did not appear to have experienced any outside trauma. His life so far was very idyllic and simple; he did not even have the chance to meet any strangers. Chen Ge found it impossible to work out the most despairing event in the boy's heart, and that meant that he would be completely lost when he was in the world behind this boy's door.

At around dusk, Chen Ge left the woman's home and took a trip back to New Century Park. That night was the last night for the four-star trial mission, Ghost Fetus. Whether or not he survived to see another day depended on what he did that night. He had everything to lose, so Chen Ge carried all of the ghost employees into the comic with him. Other than the lingering spirits that had no fighting ability at all, he did not exclude anyone, not even the white cat.

"The world behind the door is made from the door pusher's memory. The appearance of all the Specters is due to their lingering obsession, and the lingering obsessions themselves possess a strong and intense emotional memory. So, when I enter a certain door, the Red Specters and normal Specters will be limited by the rules behind said door. Only by breaking through the memory limitation of the world behind the door will they be able to appear in the world behind the other people's door, but the white cat is an exception to this rule. It's just a cat. The rules that target the Specters behind the door will not be able to limit it at all."

Normally, Chen Ge thought the world behind the door was too dangerous for the white cat to risk it together with him, and he did not believe a single cat would be able to change the outcome too much. However, his experience in the world behind Ying Tong's door had given him a fierce and painful reminder. Any kind of help was valuable behind the door. Furthermore, the white cat had consumed the blood vessels that the Ghost Stories Society had prepared for the Red Specters. Chen Ge had this feeling that this cat's potential had not been fully realized.

1"You have snacked on the precious blood vessels that the ghost society went to great length to obtain and have gained a lot from it. Now, as the last surviving member of the Ghost Stories Society, it is not too much to ask for you to give me a hand, right?" Chen Ge grabbed the bag and wanted to shove the white cat into it, but he was shocked to realize that the bag that he had been using was almost too small for the white cat to fit into anymore. "Your body seems to have grown."

1Looking at that familiar bag, the white cat's first intention was to run, but it was one step too late.

"I knew you wouldn't leave me alone." Carrying two bags, Chen Ge left the staff breakroom. He walked into the toilet. He looked at the broken mirror from his first nightmare mission and then at the cubicle door that was sealed up by wooden planks. "There is nothing you can do to stop a runaway train. Thus, there is no reason to have fear. It will only disrupt your heart."

Then Chen Ge lowered his head to look at his shadow. It was like a pool of darkness. Even with the Yin Yang Vision, he was unable to see anything. After consuming Ying Tong's mud statuette, Chen Ge's shadow had changed again. There was some response from Zhang Ya, but she still had not completely woken up. "Now is not the time to wait."

Walking out from the haunted house, Chen Ge stood at the entrance. After a moment's hesitation, he stopped and took out the key for the haunted house's gate and placed it above the fence. "I have been through a lot with the few of my living employees. I trust them with my life. If something happens to me, I know that they will do the right thing."

Chen Ge had carried away all the baleful Specters and Red Specters, but there were still plenty of lingering spirits at the haunted house like the students from both Mu Yang High School and the School of the Afterlife and Xiaoxiao's parent and so on. This was a home that they had found after so long; Chen Ge did not want to throw them out again.

Walking out from New Century Park, Chen Ge waited at the roadside for a cab to come by when he felt a chill run down his spine. He turned back to look and saw a young man wearing a cap way down his head standing across from the street. The rim of the cap covered the upper half of his face, so Chen Ge could not see his eyes and nose, but the strange and fixed smile on his lips was easily observable by Chen Ge.

"A non-smiler? But the body frame and height are different from the one that I met."

Chen Ge reacted very quietly. Without breaking a beat, Chen Ge reached into his backpack and pressed on the activation button on the recorder. The light from the streetlamps became twisted, and the busy streets suddenly quieted down. The young man in the cap did not expect that Chen Ge would summon a Red Specter the moment he laid eyes on him, ignoring their surroundings. The smile on his face froze for a moment. He turned and tried to lose Chen Ge in the crowd, but Chen Ge had already summoned a Red Specter, so of course, he was not going to let him go so easily.

"Did you have to find me at a moment like this? Do you wish to die that much?" Chen Ge had hardened his heart. "If a single Red Specter can't capture you, then I will summon two. If two still can't get you, then I will call out five. Even if I fill up the whole damn street with Red Specters, you are not getting away this time."

The ghost fetus mission had placed a lot of pressure on Chen Ge, and it pressed him greatly. He was definitely not in a good mood.

Normal people were unable to see Red Specters and baleful Specters; those who were more sensitive would at most feel the temperature drop around them. Carrying the two big bags, Chen Ge chased closely behind the young man. Seeing the young man turn the corner and run into a small alley, Chen Ge gave a sigh of relief. It was Chen Ge's favorite place in the world, this kind of dark and isolated small alley. In such places, he could do anything he wanted; he did not need to hold back.

"When you were chased by me, you should've headed toward the crowd. The best solution was to hide inside a police station and stay in there for the rest of your life."

Soon, the young man was caught in a corner. The smile still hung on his face, but the smile in this situation appeared to be quite scary. There was no confrontation, no interrogation. The first thing Chen Ge did when he caught up to the non-smiler was have a Red Specter possess the young man's body. Compared to using his lips to communicate with the young man, Chen Ge believed that this kind of method would be far more effective.

Non-smilers were unique creatures. They were unlike humans, and they were unlike ghosts. Chen Ge had been trying to find out what kind of creature they were, so naturally, he would not let go of this

precious opportunity. Chen Ge's presence appeared to have stunned the young man. The latter appeared to wish to say something, but he was unable to open his mouth.

"Don't worry, I will not do anything too bad to you." After Xu Yin and Men Nan crawled into the young man's body, the young man's facial expression changed multiple times until the corners of his lips that had been carved into the smile slowly returned to normal. He leaned against the wall and slowly collapsed to the ground. He soon lost consciousness.

"This man is so far weaker compared to the non-smiler from the cursed hospital." When the young man collapsed, a patient's form slipped out from his pocket. Compared to the young man's fashionable get up, this tattered patient's form looked rather out of place. It was probably from years back.

"He X, died on XX/XX/XXXX at midnight. Cause of death: Overly traumatized during a haunted house visit, causing his heart attack to claim his life.

"To those who happen to find this patient's form, please hand it to Chen Ge within three days, or else the next one will you be."

The patient's form was like those boring curse games that had become popular on the internet several years ago. Such chain messages would normally say, 'If you do not share this post within X days, something horrible will happen to you'.

Chen Ge's friends rarely sent those kinds of things to him. He wished that someone would so that he could take his employees and follow the trail, paying a visit to the first person who started this silly game and giving them his 'blessing' to let them know how silly this whole thing was.

"He should be the surname of a young person. He died when he was visiting a haunted house, and on the back of the form, it says that the form has to be handed to me within three days. My name is clearly specified on it, so from the very beginning, I was the target. Does this mean that the non-smilers are trying to reach out to me? Is this a kind of warning, or are they seeking cooperation?"

Chen Ge had encountered several non-smilers in his lifetime. Every one of them had a different ability, but they shared a common similarity. All the non-smilers were extremely cunning and powerful. Cooperating with them was like asking for medicine from a ghost; he should always expect to be betrayed by them. Moments later, Xu Yin and Men Nan left the young man's body. Xu Yin directly returned to the recorder while Men Nan stayed with Chen Ge.

"So, what did you find out?" Chen Ge inspected the young man's body and did not find anything out of place.

"The young man has a very heavy Yin energy about him. Before Xu Yin and I entered his body, there was another ghost inside his body, but the thing was too cunning. When you summoned us, he left. He abandoned the young man without a second thought."

"In other words, the young man was possessed by a ghost?"

"You can say that. The young man's mission appears to be handing you this patient's form. In a way, their goal has been achieved because the form is now in your possession." Men Nan had a clear mind in his analysis. Among all the Red Specters, he was the most rational.

“Temporarily, I do not want to have anything to do with the cursed hospital, but I did not expect them to come to me voluntarily.” Chen Ge opened the backpack and placed the patient’s form on top of the red high heels. Before he said anything, the words on the form started to wiggle and twist like a strain of hair. Finally, just one sentence was left on the form.

‘You will die tonight.’

Without waiting for Chen Ge to summon her, the red high heels appeared on her own. Her hand that was wrapped under the bandage grabbed at the patient’s form, and she tried desperately to change the statement on the patient’s form.

Her body was slowly wavering. After paying what appeared like a great price, she managed to remove the word ‘you’ from the sentence.

### **Chapter 1073: Death Notice [2 in 1]**

The statement on the patient’s form became—‘will die tonight’. It did not specify who would die that night.

#### **COMMENT**

“The cursed hospital wanted to come after me. This is their curse that I will fail tonight.”

Without showing themselves, hiding in the dark, they would complete their kill through unrelated individuals. Chen Ge had gained a new understanding of the cursed hospital. They could not be dealt with using the usual methods, so he would have to be extra carefully.

“Both the non smilers and the cursed hospital are openly trying to stop me, but what is the purpose behind this? Do they want to keep the ghost fetus for themselves? They have such a big appetite...”

Chen Ge put away the patient’s form. After the word ‘you’ was removed, the patient’s form from the cursed hospital probably could be passed down to another person.

“Perhaps they just want to put a curse on me and make me weaker so that they will have more confidence to complete the plan that they have in the world behind the door.”

The appearance of the cursed hospital at that moment gave Chen Ge a much needed reminder. Other than the ghost fetus, he would need to be careful of the hands of the cursed hospital that night.

“Before I even got into the door, the conflict has already begun. These people that live in the shadows of the city have a heart that is dirtier than the others.”

They would stoop to the lowest of the lows and would stop at nothing. To compete with these kinds of parties day after day, Chen Ge felt it had not been easy to maintain his own sanity. That in itself was a great achievement. Chen Ge used the young man’s phone to send a message to his family to inform them of his current location before turning to leave. He had much more important things to do that night, so he could not waste too much time there. At 8 pm, Chen Ge took the cab and arrived at Jiu Hong Housing Agency. None of the streetlights were functioning, and the whole street was submerged in darkness as if a monster could jump out at them at any moment.

“It is now only eight in the evening. Do the people here go to sleep so early?”

Jiu Hong Housing Agency was already closed, so Chen Ge headed toward Jin Hwa Apartments on his own.

“When I came in the morning, the walls on the both sides of the streets did not appear to have so many flyers on them.” Chen Ge stopped moving and turned to look at the wall. All the flyers featured a picture of Xiang Nuan’s mother. They claimed that she was a scammer and that she had a less than moral personal life. She was a mistress that was kept by the estate agent—her boss, in other words.

“These flyers look like they have just been recently pasted on.” Chen Ge tore down a random one and noticed that underneath that flyer was a torn corner of what appeared to be a similar flyer. “This feels like someone come every day to paste these flyers, and then they are taken down by another person every day. The person who does the latter is probably Xiang Nuan’s mother, and the former is more likely the tenants who stays at this residential area.”

Walking into Jin Hwa Apartments, Chen Ge felt slightly uncomfortable. The faded stench hit his nose. The smell was similar to the horrible stench that he had encountered in Ying Tong and Yu Jian’s rooms.

“This kind of smell will only be found in the rooms of the children who are chosen, but the whole residential area where Xiang Nuan lives reeks of this horrible smell.”

This was a very bad sign. Only Chen Ge was able to sense this smell, and every time he encountered this stench, something bad happened.

The residential area that night was strangely quiet. A few rooms in the two buildings from Jin Hwa Apartments still had their lights on, but the side for Jiu Hong Apartments was completely dark. It was as if the whole place was deserted and unoccupied. Standing at the mouth of the stairs of Building A, Chen Ge called Xiang Nuan’s mother on her phone. The phone rang for a while before it was answered.

“Hello, this is Chen Ge. I came to look at some of the rooms from this afternoon.” Chen Ge introduced himself. From the other end of the line, he could hear the endless wailing of a child and the sound of things being crashed and thrown around.

“I am so sorry, but I am in the middle of something...” There was a hint of desperation in the woman’s voice.

“Do you need any help? I am just right below your building. I can come up now.” Chen Ge hung up the phone before he got the answer from the woman. After he got into the staircase, he noticed that the smell had thickened. From the surface, Jin Hwa Apartments looked rather normal, but once he stepped into it, he realized that it had not been properly cleaned for a long time already. Trash and useless junk littered the corridors and staircases, and many different advertisement flyers were pasted on the wall. Among them were flyers that contained insulting words about Xiang Nuan’s mother.

Every flyer had the picture of Xiang Nuan’s mother on it. The woman in the black and white photo had a calm and collected smile. It formed a stark contrast to the heavily insulting words that followed the rest of the flyer. Chen Ge believed that he had a good eye for people. After their short interaction, he believed that these claims about Xiang Nuan’s mother were completely unfounded. That could only mean that someone was purposely out to slander her.

Chen Ge did not take the elevator. He walked down the dirty and unkempt corridor and reached the door of Room 401.

“Are you alright in there?” Even standing outside the door, Chen Ge could hear objects being broken. Moments later came the sound of hurried footsteps, and then the room door was pulled open. Xiang Nuan’s mother stood at the door with two black plastic bags. Her fingers were bleeding. It appeared that they had been cut by glass.

“I probably won’t be able to follow you to meet up with the tenants tonight. Xiang Nuan suddenly acted up, and even the medicine is not doing any good.” The woman was in such an urgency that she placed the plastic bags by the door, finished what she had to say, and then was ready to turn back into the room.

Chen Ge stopped her by grabbing the door to stop it from closing. “You might need an extra pair of hands at a moment like this.”

When he stepped into the room, Chen Ge was assaulted by a horrible stench. The smell was much more intense than any of the children’s homes that he had ever visited in the past.

“Where did the smell come from?” Chen Ge had sniffed this stench out when he first started this four-star trial mission, but so far, he was unable to tell the source of the smell. Initially, he thought the smell came from the candidates that were chosen by the ghost fetus, but after he entered the door to help these children find the parts that they were missing, the stench would disappear like it was never there in the first place.

Therefore, Chen Ge had been unable to confirm the source of the stench, but he had a feeling that this answer that had been eluding him for so long would be revealed that night. The living room looked like it had just been visited by a tornado. The floor was littered with water puddles and trash. The cheap cotton sofa had been bitten until there were holes in them. The lamps were shattered. The drawers were yanked out from the cupboards and tossed randomly to the side. There was cold food left on the dining table. The woman wanted to stop Chen Ge when she saw he was trying to enter the room, but then the boy’s painful screams came from the bedroom, so she abandoned Chen Ge and hurried toward the bedroom.

“Xiang Nuan, what’s wrong with you? Can you please tell mummy what’s wrong?”

The answer that the woman got was a lamp being shattered against the wall. Xiang Nuan did not seem to be in possession of himself. His mouth kept making some strange noises, and he ran about like a headless chicken. However, upon closer inspection, one would realize that he appeared to be looking for something.

“He is afraid. He is very afraid of something.”

Anxiety, fear, and panic—Chen Ge had seen these emotions on the faces of many visitors before, but Xiang Nuan’s emotions cut much deeper than his visitors. The fear appeared to come directly from the bottom of his heart, and it was slowly consuming him little by little.

As they say, the onlooker sees more of the game.

Chen Ge took in the mess of a room and reached out to pull the woman back. "Has anyone visited your place recently? Any strange visitors or people of that sort?"

"No, other than you, there have not been any visitors to my home for a very long time." The woman was in an agitated state. As a mother seeing her son in such a tortured state, it was a kind of torment for her as well.

"Does he act out like this normally?"

"Yes, but just as you saw this afternoon, he calms down after you give him some consolation and comfort. The intensity of what's happening now has never occurred. Even the medicine did not prove useful." The woman was on the verge of tears. "Should we call the emergency number? I am so afraid that he will injure himself."

"If he does not calm down within the next fifteen minutes, then we will have no choice but to send him to the hospital." Chen Ge could not offer a better idea. The boy finally stopped his maddening action when his battery ran out. He collapsed on the ground that was covered in chopsticks. Like a hooked fish that was placed on land, his chest rose and fell intensely.

To Chen Ge's surprise was Xiang Nuan's expression. His teeth were heavily gritted, and he kept making these guttural noises. His facial features were twisted together in hatred, but his eyes were flowing with tears.

*He appears to be asking for help...*

The woman had already taken the steps to pick up Xiang Nuan. She tried to comfort her like she normally did. Within his mother's embrace, Xiang Nuan's expression slowly returned to normal. He closed his eyes and seemed to have slipped away as fatigue took over. The woman placed Xiang Nuan on his bed. She stood beside him and quietly looked at her soon. Xiang Nuan, who was sleeping, looked not much different from other kids his age. In fact, Chen Ge could say that he was much cuter than most of the kids that he had met.

This whole scene pulled at Chen Ge's heart. Chen Ge did not disturb them but stood quietly and guardedly at the door. The woman gave Xiang Nuan's bedroom a quick clean up. She busied herself until nine o'clock before she left his bedroom. She looked haggard, and the tiredness originated from the bottom of her soul. The woman looked like she needed a much deserved rest. After cleaning Xiang Nuan's bedroom, she still needed to clean up the mess in a living room, a place that she had already cleaned up once that afternoon.

"Let me help you. Normally, I am the one who does the chores around the house anyway."

"Aren't you supposed to go and help those tenants with their homes? It is now already 9 pm. If you stay here any longer, I am not sure how long they will wait for you."

"It will be fine." Chen Ge was a fast worker. He only needed ten minutes to clean up the room with the woman's help. At the same time, he used this precious opportunity to study Xiang Nuan's house. The result was rather disappointing. This was a normal home. There was nothing out of the ordinary that stood out to him.

“Don’t you feel tired that you have to clean and work yourself to the bones day in and day out?” Chen Ge did not bring up the flyers that he had seen as he came up the stairs. He wanted to be selective with his words as he slowly pulled the woman out into admitting the truth.

“I honestly do not know.” The woman placed three plastic bags at the door and then pressed on her fingers that were covered with bandages. “Before I had Xiang Nuan, I did not even know how to cook. At that time, if you told me this was the life that I would be leading, I would probably ram my head into the wall and choose to end my life on the spot. But now that I have Xiang Nuan, seeing him grow older day after day, I can feel that I am growing up with him as well.”

“Because you have become a mother?”

“Perhaps but perhaps not.” The woman massaged her wounded fingers. “I do not ask for much. I just hope that one day I will hear Xiang Nuan call me mom with his own lips.”

Chen Ge nodded as he stood up. “Why don’t I leave you my number? If you run into any trouble in the future and you need help, feel free to give me a call.”

“Thank you.”

“I will go and take a look with the other tenants now. If there are any problems, I will contact you.” The woman walked Chen Ge to the door. Once she opened the front door, she was given a full view of the flyers that occupied the wall right in front of her house. The whole corridor was filled with her pictures. At that moment, even Chen Ge felt bad for her.

“Is this the work of the tenants because you refused to give them back their rent?” Chen Ge asked in a sensitive whisper.

“I don’t know.” The woman shook her head. She was on the verge of a breakdown. “I have no idea who’s behind these horrible rumors. Every morning, when I go to work, this is how I am greeted. The whole corridor will be filled with this nonsense. Even if I tear them all down, they reappear the next day.”

“It must need quite a workforce to put up so many flyers. I am sure you’d notice such a large group when they were operating.”

“Now that you mention it, that is strange. But then again, these flyers are probably pasted when I am at work.”

“To be able to know your schedule and when you will not be home, the culprits are most likely people who live in this neighborhood. They might even be your neighbors.” Chen Ge kept his voice lowered in a whisper. “Have they been trying to chase you away?”

“There is that possibility. As you can see, Xiang Nuan is not exactly a quiet boy. The neighbors hate him a lot.”

“Other than these insulting flyers, have they done anything else?” Chen Ge felt like he was slowly getting somewhere. “Please do not hide anything from me. These experiences might be the reasons behind Xiang Nuan’s illness.”

“Well, I have received some letters...”

“Letters?” Chen Ge narrowed his eyes. “Are they threatening letters? Can I take a look at them?”

“Why don’t you go and help the other tenants first while I go and look for them?”

“Okay.” Chen Ge stood at the stairs, and he reminded the woman before he left, “Someone else might come to find you tonight. You’d better not open the door for them.”

It was the last night for the ghost fetus mission. Everyone involved would give it their all. The woman, who was Xiang Nuan’s mother, would definitely be drawn into it somehow.

“I will be careful.”

After the door closed, Chen Ge took out the comic to summon Xiao Bu and Men Nan and had them guard in front of Xiang Nuan’s home. The cursed hospital probably had their eyes on Xiang Nuan as well. Chen Ge could not afford to be too careful. His mind was working up the memory of the room number of the few tenants. Chen Ge called the number of one of them. The tenant also lived in Building A of Jin Hwa Apartments. his room was just above Xiang Nuan’s room.

“No one is picking up? But didn’t they promise to meet me tonight?” Chen Ge walked up the stairs. The number of flyers had significantly lowered. He soon arrived at the door of the tenant.

“Is anyone home?” Before Chen Ge knocked on the door, he saw an old envelope stuck between the gap of the door.

“People still correspond with handwritten letters these days?” A very bad feeling rose in his heart. He flipped through the comic and summoned the water ghost. “Go and peel open that envelope for me.”

The Red Specter had no idea what Chen Ge was up to. He tore open the envelope and took out a bloodied patient’s form from inside.

“A death notice?” The water ghost very innocent opened the patient’s form and recited the statement on it. “Please hand this notice over to Xiang Nuan in the next three days, or the next one will be you.”

Chen Ge took one step backward. “Are you sure it is Xiang Nuan’s name on it?”

“Yes.” The water ghost held the envelope and stood where he was. “How come I feel like something is not right?”

“Looks like the non smilers have not only cursed me. They have cursed Xiang Nuan as well...”

At this point, Chen Ge suddenly stopped. He stood at the corridor and looked around. He realized with consternation that almost all the tenants’ doors had similar envelopes stuck in them.

“The letters that Xiang Nuan’s mother mentioned wouldn’t be this kind of cursed letter, would it? That cursed hospital appears to have sent these letters to all of the tenants!”

He hurried back to Xiang Nuan’s home and knocked heavily on the door. Moments later, Xiang Nuan’s mother opened the door. She was holding a large paper box and it was filled to the brim with old letters.

“Chen Ge, why did you come back so soon?”

“These are the letters that you mentioned earlier?” Looking at these envelopes, Chen Ge felt his scalp go numb. “You have opened all of them?”

“I have only opened some of them. They are all filled with Xiang Nuan’s death notice.” The woman’s face was dim. She did not know that the cursed hospital had channeled all the hatred of every tenant in the whole residential areas onto Xiang Nuan through these letters. Everyone was cursing him, everyone was part of the chain, and everyone wanted him to die.

Looking at the letters inside the paper box, Chen Ge felt a sense of déjà vu about this.

## **Chapter 1074: Strange Building [2 in 1]**

“When and how did you receive these letters?”

“When I get back from work, the letters are stuck into the door.” Xiang Nuan’s mother had not realized the severity of the situation. Hugging the paper box, she merely thought this was a harmless prank.

“Initially, I was also shocked by the number of letters and did try to ask a few neighbors about them, but they all refused to talk to me about it.”

“Of course they won’t because it was them who sent you these letters.”

“But why would they do that?” Xiang Nuan’s mother’s tone changed slightly. “I will go and demand an explanation from them. If they really insist on chasing me and Xiang Nuan away, we can move. There is no need to resort to something like this.”

“What if the thing that they want is for Xiang Nuan to die?” Chen Ge did not reach out to touch that box of letters, instead asking Xiang Nuan’s mother this serious question.

“Die?” Xiang Nuan’s mother sucked in a cold breath. Naturally, she did not expect Chen Ge to tell her something so drastic. “Impossible, we are all neighbors. Yes, I will be the first to admit there have been some altercations between us, but to wish a death upon an innocent child because of that? That’s preposterous.”

“I might’ve agreed with you a long time ago, but after experiencing some stuff, my opinion of humanity has slowly changed. Humanity is a very complicated concept. Through the layer of skin, you will never truly know what a person is really thinking.” Chen Ge’s voice was kept at a low whisper, and it sounded quite scary. “Every single death notice you are holding represents a person’s collection of hate, curses, and resentment. The reason for Xiang Nuan’s illness is probably related to them.”

“Then I will go and instantly burn all these letters.”

“It’s no use.” Chen Ge knew very well even if the letters were incinerated, it would not destroy the non-smilers’ curse. When the death notices were delivered to Xiang Nuan’s home, the curse had already been completed. “This is going to be a long night.”

When he saw the abundance of letters, as much as he hated to admit it, Chen Ge believed from the bottom of his heart that the chance of Xiang Nuan surviving that night was incredibly small. The red high heels had a tremendous increase in her power after she consumed the lingering curses from the ghost fetus in the several worlds behind the different children’s door, but even so, she still needed to herself

push so far just to remove one character from the patient's form. That went to show how powerful the curse on this thing was.

"The cursed hospital is truly a bunch of heartless people. They targeted so many death notices at Xiang Nuan. Even if the ghost fetus succeeds in his birth, the vessel that he has gone through pain to find will be consumed by so many curses that he will fall into an extremely weakened state."

The hospital had never cared about the lives of innocent people. Perhaps, in their eyes, life was just a vessel to transmit the curses, a bridge to complete their goal. As long as it could lead them to their destination, trampling on morality and humanity did not seem to be an issue.

If the ghost fetus' evil came from within him, in a wrapping of anger, hatred, envy, and other emotions, the evil from the cursed hospital was pure in the sense that it did not carry any emotion. Before such an adversary, kindness and innocence had no chance of winning. Therefore, to survive, Chen Ge had no choice but to arm his kindness with sharp edges.

Pa!

Someone clapped on the ground floor, and it lit up all the sound-controlled lights. It appeared that someone was coming up the stairs. Chen Ge signaled for the woman to keep quiet. One minute later, the old gentleman that Chen Ge had met in the morning appeared round the stairs. He was carrying an empty lunch box in his hand.

"Xiao Wen, I have come to return the lunch box. How is Xiang Nuan's condition? Is he better? Even from the ground floor, I could hear things being smashed." The old man appeared similar to how he was in the morning. He was about seventy but still gave off a happy go lucky feeling. He seemed to be interested in everything that happened in the building. If there was a rumor mill running at this place, this old man would definitely be the one operating it.

"Xiang Nuan is already asleep." The woman forced a smile on her face. She accepted the lunch box from the old man. Just as she was about to leave, she suddenly saw the old man holding an old envelope in his hand. When she saw the letter, the expressions of Chen Ge and her turned ugly.

The old man was confused by their reaction. "What are you two looking at?"

"Sir, are you also here to deliver the letter?" Honestly, Chen Ge had a good impression of this old man. He really did not want to do anything harmful to him.

"What are you talking about? Oh, this?" The old man lifted the letter. "When I left home this morning, I saw this stuck to my door. I have no idea who mailed it to me, but the key problem is that I'm illiterate! When I was young, I was not given an education. At this age, it's already too late for me to pick up the language. Half of my leg has already stepped into the coffin, so why do I care? Furthermore, at this day and age, even someone like me knows how to use a phone, so why would people still mail me letters? I really do not understand it."

COMMENT

"You still have not opened the envelope?" Chen Ge used Yin Yang Vision and realized that the envelope was indeed unopened. He sighed slightly in relief.

“Well, since you guys are here, do you mind if I ask Xiao Wen to help me see what the letter is about?” Before Chen Ge could stop him, the old man had already opened the letter. He took out the death notice, and his face dropped. “What the... It seems to be a letter from the hospital. Please see what is it about for me.”

The old man passed Xiang Nuan’s death notice to Chen Ge and the woman. His anxiety did not look like it was faked. Chen Ge felt like he could try to help the old man and stop the curse before it had the chance to spread, but before he could say anything, the woman accepted the death notice and read out the content of the letter as depicted on it.

The woman recited the last sentence on the death notice, if the death notice was not handed to Xiang Nuan, the next target would be the recipient.

“What kind of cruel prank is this? Xiang Nuan is still so young. There has to be some kind of mistake.”

The old man heard that clearly, but even so, he still asked for the letter back.

“Sir, why don’t you just leave the death notice with me? I have already received so many of them. I do not mind taking yours as well.” The woman did not want to drag the old man into her mess. Knowing that the old man did not intend to harm her and Xiang Nuan, that touched her heart deeply.

“These people are getting more and more ridiculous. Who gave them the right to turn their resentment on you two? Just ignore this thing. Moving away is one thing, but this is a whole different kind of mess. I will have to have to severe talk with them tomorrow.” After the old man said that, he grabbed the envelope and went back downstairs.

*Looks like not everyone in the building is a horrible person. There are good people here as well.* Chen Ge looked as the old man walk away. Perhaps, in the world behind the door, the old man could prove to be a valuable opening. “What is that old man’s name by the way?”

“His surname is Huang. He lives at Room 104. He is one of the oldest tenants we have here.” Upon mentioning the old man, the woman’s face softened greatly. “When Uncle Huang was young, he was badly injured at work. He’s had operations done in both his nose and ears. Then, out of any good career opportunities, he found work as a cleaner at the hospital. Normally, he works in the morgue.”

“So, he spends most of his time with dead bodies?”

“Yes, but unfortunately, it is not a lucrative job. He has been working for most of his life, but his bank account is still quite empty. Nonetheless, he is a good and kind person, albeit more than a bit stubborn with his personality.” The woman revealed a bitter smile. “He has no children. The room that he stays in was rented to him by the boss. Before this, I tried to set him up with a single middle-aged woman that I know, but he told me, at his age, he did not want to trouble anyone else with his problems anymore, so he told me to call off the date.”

“In the way, the old man has lived quite an interesting life. I can sense his free spirit.”

“I am just thankful that he has no serious illness and no horrible tragedy has befallen him. Normally, I go and take care of him, but if he suddenly falls seriously ill, then it will depend on the neighborhood to get aid for him.”

The old man did not force the death notice onto the woman, and that made the woman feel slightly better.

“Oh yeah, did he call you Xiao Wen earlier?”

“Yes, my name is Wen Qing, Qing from Qing Tian<sup>1</sup>.”

“Wen Qing? Xiang Nuan?” Chen Ge nodded as he memorized these names. “Since there is still some time left, you should stay at the house, and I will go and take a look with the other tenants.”

After a few more words, Chen Ge left while holding his phone. He summoned Xu Yin and walked between Jin Hwa Apartments and Jiu Hong Apartments. He entered each building to take a look, but to his surprise, there was basically no one that stayed around these two neighborhoods.

“Where have all the tenants gone?” The calls all went unanswered. There was no response to his knocking on the door. Chen Ge had the Red Specters enter the room to check them one by one, and they came back with nothing except the light scent of that stench.

As time passed, the stench around the neighborhood started to intensify and so did the anxiety in Chen Ge’s heart. He stood on the rooftop of the small neighborhood and looked around him. Jiu Hong Apartments and Jin Hwa Apartments seemed to have slowly drifted away from the rest of the world. It felt as if the whole neighborhood was sinking into a dark abyss.

“This whole neighborhood itself has a huge problem about it. The ghost fetus must have laid some kind of trap here.”

With his experience from dealing with the shadow, Chen Ge had familiarized himself with the thing’s personality. He was sure that he would use multiple traps to ensure that the plan would be able to follow through smoothly. So far, none of these things had been exposed, so it could only mean that it had not reached the stage where the ghost fetus had been forced to show his hand.

Time flew by. To prevent any accidents from happening, after taking a tour of these two neighborhoods, Chen Ge soon returned to Xiang Nuan’s home.

“How did things so?”

“I cannot find any of the tenants. None of the calls are going through. I have a feeling that something bad will happen tonight. Your neighbors all appear to be planning something.” Chen Ge took the white cat out from the bag and closed the front door. “But don’t you worry. I will not impose on you for too long, and of course, I will not stay overnight. If everything goes well and nothing goes wrong after 1 am, I will leave immediately.”

Since Chen Ge had already said that, the woman found it difficult to reject him. She shoved all the death notices into the box and planned to take them out from the building and burn them the following morning.

“Do you want to have something to eat?”

“It’s fine, I do not have the habit of dining at another person’s place.” Chen Ge was now in a highly alert mode. He knew that the blood door would appear beside Xiang Nuan’s bed, and the people from cursed hospital would come to fight for this door as well. At 11:30 pm, the sound of footsteps came from the

corridor. The sound was very complicated. It sounded like people were moving upstairs and downstairs at the same time. But when Chen Ge leaned against the peephole on the door and looked out, he could see no trace of anyone in the corridor. "They have arrived."

At 11:50 pm, the lights inside the room flickered before they all went out without any warning. The room was immediately dropped into darkness.

"The switch has flipped? I will go and take a look."

"Do not move! Stay where you are! Do not get close to any windows or doors!" Chen Ge screamed. Using Yin Yang Vision, he looked toward Xiang Nuan's bedroom. The boy was still lying in his bed. He appeared to be fast asleep. They gave up their defense at the living room. Both Chen Ge and the woman moved into Xiang Nuan's bedroom. At 11:55 pm, a knocking came from the living room door. Both the woman and Chen Ge's hearts squeezed.

"Thankfully, you decided to stay tonight, or else I would not know what to do all alone." As the insistent knocking echoed in the woman's ears, she could feel the chill crawling up her spine. "Should we go to the front door to take a look?"

"Just stand beside me and do not go anywhere." Chen Ge himself had no idea how scary the cursed hospital was. All he could do was be as careful as possible. After the mechanical knocking continued for a while. Suddenly, a child's voice came from outside the door. "Xiang Nuan, my name is Se Xin. I am here to take you home."

"Who is this Se Xin?" the woman whispered.

"A dead person." Chen Ge kept his eyes screwed on the living room door. At 11:59 pm, a strange sound was coming from the living room's door. As the spring moved, the locked door opened on its own. The iron door was slowly pushed open, and it revealed a corridor that was empty.

#### COMMENT

"The door opened? How did they manage to get my house key?" Xiang Nuan's mother heard the sound as well. At that moment, her heart was at her throat. She really did not dare imagine what would have happened to her if Chen Ge did not stop her from going to answer the door earlier.

"Shush!" Chen Ge narrowed his eyes and stared at the darkness before him. There was something approaching from the corridor, and there was only a living room between them.

Tik tok, tik tok, tik tok...

The ticking of the clock sounded like the dripping of blood from a slashed wrist landing on the ground. When the clock struck midnight, a door that was completely covered in blood appeared without warning next to Xiang Nuan's bed!

This was a real blood door! The scent of blood that came from it was more intense and realistic than any of the previous doors that Chen Ge had encountered!

Blood vessels and curses spread across the room. The footsteps outside in the corridor picked up. Chen Ge also removed Doctor Skull Cracker's hammer from his backpack. He turned his full attention to the

corridor. But at that moment, a woman's shrill scream came from behind him. "Xiang Nuan! Xiang Nuan!"

Chen Ge turned back to look. Xiang Nuan who was supposed to be asleep in bed had disappeared, and the blood door that was next to his bed had already been pushed open.

*Xiang Nuan has entered the door? This door is not a false door! It is Xiang Nuan's own door!*

The moment Xiang Nuan entered the door, his mother did not hesitate and moved to follow him. Chen Ge was not left with much choice. He grabbed the backpack, picked up White Tiger, and stepped through the blood door. He tried to close the door, but before his hand could reach the door that was filled with blood, his body and senses were overwhelmed by the sea of red.

...

After slowly opening his eyes, Chen Ge took a cautious look around. He realized that he was still inside Xiang Nuan's room. The place had not changed that much, but the furniture inside the room was mostly broken, and signs of disrepair were everywhere.

"This is Xiang Nuan's world behind the door? It is barely different from the one in real life, though the stench has disappeared."

This place felt more real than the real world. After Chen Ge came to this conclusion, he had an unsettling feeling, but he could not really put his finger on it. Picking up his backpack, Chen Ge tried to summon his employees, but unfortunately, he got no response. He then turned to look beside him. The white cat was lying on its side and was completely immobile, like the life had been sucked out of it.

"An accident happened to it when we went through the blood door?" Chen Ge's eyes immediately went red. He quickly reached to pick up the cat. The warmth that came from his fingertips was the first thing that tipped Chen Ge off. He gave the feline a good shake before the cat groaned with dissatisfaction.

"You even know how to play dead... Isn't that a dog's trick? When did you learn to do that?"

Putting down the white cat, Chen Ge sighed slightly in relief. He picked up the backpack and planned to inspect the room. He was stumped just as he pushed open Xiang Nuan's bedroom door. Xiang Nuan's mother was currently fast asleep in bed.

"Should I wake her?" Chen Ge walked into the bedroom. He looked at the woman's face, but there was a different question that was running through his mind. *Is this woman really Xiang Nuan's mother? If she is, is she the version that is from inside the door or from outside the door?*

## **Chapter 1075: Strange Neighbour [2 in 1]**

"Hey! Wake up!"

Her eyes slowly fluttered open. When she took in her surrounding, the woman sat up in bed immediately. "Where is Xiang Nuan?"

“Calm down first. Do you still remember who I am?” Chen Ge silently put down Doctor Skull Cracker’s Hammer.

“Chen Ge?”

“Where did we first meet each other?”

“At the Eastern Jiujiang Dam. Why are you asking me these questions? Can’t you see that Xiang Nuan is missing? We need to go and find him before he injures himself!” The woman was desperate, but Chen Ge did not even budge from his position.

“What did I say specifically at the time that caused Xiang Nuan to finally stop causing all that fuss?”

“I do not think I heard you clearly at the time, but I believe it was ghost fetus?”

“One last question. Why would I want to kill Xiang Nuan?” Chen Ge stared closely at the woman’s face. His last question honestly scared and stunned her. The expression was clear on her face.

“You want to kill Xiang Nuan? No!”

“Okay, looks like you are not one of the monsters behind the door. You are Xiang Nuan’s real mother.”

The woman’s reaction and expression were all completely normal. Chen Ge did not stop to explain the reasoning behind his series of questions. Instead, he turned to walk out from the bedroom, and the first thing he did was check the front door of the living room. The door and windows were tightly shut. Only Chen Ge and Xiang Nuan’s mother were inside the room.

“When I entered the world behind the door of the other children, there was a black iron door that gave off the smell of disinfectant behind me, but this time, that door has not made its appearance. From the moment I entered the blood door and when I opened my eyes, what really happened?”

Chen Ge was silently contemplating these questions when suddenly the woman’s voice came from beside him. “How did I suddenly fall asleep? And where is Xiang Nuan? In my blurry memory, I remember seeing him enter through a door, and then I followed behind him.”

The woman scratched her head. It appeared that she really did not remember what happened next.

“You sure are lucky. Only those who are dead and those who are dying are normally able to enter that door.”

“Then, doesn’t that mean my son is dying? Were those death notices all real?” The woman became worried and agitated again. It was clear that she was sincerely concerned about Xiang Nuan.

“Let’s not worry too much about Xiang Nuan at the moment. First, I will help you understand the logical reasoning behind all of this. If we wish to find Xiang Nuan, the first thing that we need to do is ensure that we will be able to survive long enough to find him, right? If we die, won’t the chance of Xiang Nuan surviving here all on his own become smaller and smaller?” Chen Ge planned to come clean with the woman just in case she did something rash and put both of them in danger. It would be too late to say anything then.

“Okay.”

“Only by keeping ourselves alive will we be able to find Xiang Nuan. And to do that, you have to promise me that you will listen to my every word from now on; do not act on your emotions.” Chen Ge lowered his voice. “This world is very different from the real world. In a way, you can see this place as Xiang Nuan’s nightmare.”

“Xiang Nuan’s nightmare?”

“Even though we are technically in his nightmare, if you die here, you will be dead in every meaning of the word.” Chen Ge gave the woman a quick and simple ‘101 course’ on the world behind the door.

“But how come I do not see much difference between this place and the real world?”

“When you see the difference, we will be in great danger.” Chen Ge stood inside the room and waved the hammer. He noticed that the physical exhaustion behind this door was incredibly high. He found his breathing catching from the simple exercise. It felt as if there was something lying on his back, madly sucking the life out of him.

“If this place is so dangerous, how can we leave Xiang Nuan all on his own? He is defenseless.”

“I know you want to rescue Xiang Nuan, but I hope you remember this one statement—only by ensuring that you are alive will you be able to save Xiang Nuan. I will not repeat this again, so I hope you will have that memorized in your heart.” Chen Ge took a deep breath. “Other than that, I have to tell you one more thing. If we run into any danger, if I can save you, I will try my best to do so, but if saving you is unfortunately not an option, I will choose to leave on my own. I hope you can understand that.”

Chen Ge was being really realistic. After hearing that, the woman nodded. She replied in a soft voice, “Thank you. The fact that you have volunteered to follow me into Xiang Nuan’s door has touched me greatly already. This is all because of Xiang Nuan actually. You could have stayed an outsider, but I have dragged you into this mess. I am so sorry.”

Once the woman phrased it like that, Chen Ge did not know how to reply. There appeared to be some misunderstanding on her side. She had treated Chen Ge as an innocent bystander who was dragged into this dangerous incident.

“We should stop discussing this for now. Even though the world behind the door is very dangerous, it does not mean that it is a dead end. You know Xiang Nuan very well and are familiar with all his memories. That itself will be invaluable information for us to navigate our way through this place.”

The world behind the door was weaved from the door pusher’s memory. Exploration the scenario behind the door was in a way reading the past experience of the door pusher’s despair. This time, Chen Ge had Xiang Nuan’s mother as help, so he had a feeling that if they played their cards right, they should be able to avoid most of the danger.

“We will start our exploration inside this room. I need you to go and take a good look around and see if there is anything that is different from your house in real life. Check every corner of every room. Do not miss a single detail. Even the smallest details will be able to help us find Xiang Nuan.”

After he said that, Chen Ge walked out from the bedroom. He looked through every single object in his backpack, and he noticed two things that were out of the ordinary.

The despairing diary entries in Zhang Ya's bedtime stories had disappeared. Only the last entry remained. The other thing was related to the red high heels. The other objects in Chen Ge's backpack appeared to be covered in a layer of dust, but the pair of red high heels was an exception. Under the blood red surface, it appeared like black threads were slowly congregating.

"The limitation upon the red high heels behind the door is weak. Is that because she has managed to consume a lot of the ghost fetus' residual curses?" The ghost fetus had chosen nine children as his candidates, and the curses behind most of these children's door had been consumed by the red high heels. Especially after Ying Tong's door, her power had increased in intensity. She had become much stronger.

"This can be considered the only good news that I have for now." Chen Ge was about to go and explore the other places when Xiang Nuan's mother's voice suddenly came from Xiang Nuan's bedroom.

"Chen Ge! The chopsticks that I placed under Xiang Nuan's bed have completely disappeared!"

Hearing that, Chen Ge rushed into the bedroom. He saw Wen Qing kneeling next to Xiang Nuan's bed. Her hand was pulling back the bed covers to show the emptiness underneath the bed. Where there should be a huge bag of chopsticks, there was nothing.

"What do those chopsticks represent to the Xiang Nuan?"

"I honestly cannot tell for sure. The child has a problem communicating with others, and he does not know how to express himself. It feels as if he has been trapped inside his own world where the logic and rules are only understandable to him alone."

"Other than the chopsticks, did you discover anything else that is out of place?" Chen Ge picked up the white cat and took out the death notice from the cursed hospital from his backpack. He gave the cat a good sniff of the document, but the white cat did not respond in any way. There did not appear to be any curse lingering on the cursed hospital's death notice.

"The death notices that have Xiang Nuan's name on them have all disappeared as well, as did the school bag that I bought Xiang Nuan..."

"A school bag?"

"Yes, when I first brought Xiang Nuan to a special ed school, I bought him a school bag. I had such great hopes on that day. I thought that things would finally return to normal."

"Sounds like the schoolbag is a symbol of hope for a better future, but what do the chopsticks represent? Why are these two the only missing things inside this house?"

He thought for a long time but could not come up with an answer, so Chen Ge eventually gave up. He gave the same house a close inspection and found a key to the front door and a fruit knife inside the house. Chen Ge pocketed the key and handed the knife over to Wen Qing. "Here, take this in case you need to defend yourself."

*The non-smiler will have entered the door as well. They might appear anywhere. If only I can find them first.*

All the Specters would be limited by the boundaries in the world behind the door. Either the people from the cursed hospital would not be able to show up, or if they did, they would have lost most of their power, meaning they would be in about the same position as Chen Ge, so this would be the perfect opportunity to get rid of them.

“This house should be safe, but we are going to leave this place soon. Follow close behind me. No matter what you see or hear, do not make any noise to attract attention to ourselves.”

“Understood.”

Chen Ge carried his backpack, but he did not leave from the front door immediately. Instead, he walked to the window to pull open the curtains.

“This is...” The scenery before his eyes could only be described as horrifying. The buildings were all mangled and twisted together. The surfaces of their buildings were mottled like wounds and scabs that were recovering. Narrowing his eyes, Chen Ge looked further into the distance. The few buildings were all covered in a thick black fog. It appeared that they had fallen into a sea of darkness.

“The windows can be opened, so this means that we might not necessarily need to use the door enter the other rooms. But it should be extremely dangerous outside the building now. There appears to be something incredibly scary hiding inside the rolling black fog.” Chen Ge could not tell for sure what was hiding inside the fog. The presence that this thing gave off was different from a Specter or a ghost, but it managed to evoke the innate fear within the human heart. “Are they the original tenants behind this door?”

Pulling back the curtain, the heart palpation finally stopped after a long time. “This place is too dangerous and scary.”

Chen Ge called Wen Qing. The two of them headed to the living room front door. Seeing that Chen Ge was ready to leave, the white cat, who had been playing dead, suddenly ‘came back to life’ and followed him.

Upon opening the front door, Chen Ge was hit by a horrible stench. He had a feeling that the stench that had been bothering him all this while originated from this neighborhood.

Pushing the door one quarter open, Chen Ge walked out first. There were many different objects crowding the corridor, and the floor was filled with black stains and not so obvious blood stains.

Yellowed flyers filled up the walls, and the flyers were all insulting words about Wen Qing, but different from the ones in real life, the black and white picture of Wen Qing on the flyers was no longer one of herself but replaced by a headless woman. The whole corridor was filled with the flyers of this headless woman. Just from a glance, it would be able to make a person’s heart skip a beat. The sound of a breath being held came from behind Chen Ge. Wen Qing’s face blanched as her eyes straight fixatedly at those flyers stuck to the wall.

Signaling for Wen Qing to keep quiet, Chen Ge slowly walked ahead a few steps. The stench in the corridor was very heavy, and the air was damp. Occasionally, something would fall on their heads. They felt like little spiders or the catkin plants. They could feel them, but they could not touch or see what they were.

“Every single door has a number on it. Xiang Nuan’s house is still Room 401, so we can assume that we are on the fourth floor of Building A.”

In this world behind the door, all the apartment buildings at Jiu Hong Apartments and Jin Hwa Apartments had been mangled and twisted together. The first thing Chen Ge needed to do was reconfirm his current location.

“401, 402...” When Chen Ge reached Room 405, he suddenly stopped. There were many black trash bags placed next to the door. He opened one of them and saw it was stuffed with bloodied bandages and toilet paper as well as an exorbitant amount of broken needles.

“Why are there so many broken needles?” He was about to open the other bags to take a look when the door to Room 405 suddenly creaked open, and the iron door was pushed open from within. A tall and fat middle-aged lady appeared at the door with a black plastic bag in her hand. Her body was practically overflowing with meat, and she had makeup caked on her face. Her hands were covered in band aids and traces of what appeared to be oil were left on the tips of her fingers. She reeked of cheap perfume, and the smell was heady enough to cover up the horrible stench that came from the black plastic bags.

“What are you doing?” The middle-aged woman’s voice was rather scary.

“I am so sorry. My cat is a rather fussy little thing. He likes to go around and scratch things.” Chen Ge picked up the white cat. At the same time, his eyes leaped past the middle-aged woman and looked into the interior of Room 405. The whole room was painted pink. On the tiled floor were some bloody needles and threads. The screen of the television in the living room reflected the shadow of a boy. The boy looked so well, and the lower half of his body was covered in a blanket. It was worth noting that the middle of the thin blanket was stained red by blood.

“Why do you keep it if it refuses to be trained? I hate these small critters so much.” The woman dropped the plastic bag by the door and then slammed the door closed.

“The woman looks quite hostile,” Wen Qing said softly, “but I am familiar with her face. She looks quite similar to the real tenant in Room 405.”

“Then she should be the tenant from Room 405, but her appearance has been tweaked somewhat.” Chen Ge lowered his voice. Earlier, he had just opened the black plastic bag for a few seconds when the middle-aged lady came to open the door with the appearance of throwing out rubbish. The higher chance was that she had been hiding behind the door, and she heard the commotion from outside.

“If it is really her, perhaps we can ask her for help.”

“Is this woman trustworthy?”

“In real life, the tenant of Room 405 is a woman living alone. She has a slight frame and is quite reticent. But she has a good personality and is especially kind around children. I think she is one of the few tenants who does not mind Xiang Nuan. She often voluntarily comes to talk to Xiang Nuan and play with him.”

“You have been tricked by her appearance. The tenant of Room 405 is most likely a human trafficker.” Chen Ge lowered his voice even more. He leaned into Wen Qing’s ears and said, “When the door

opened, the television screen in her home reflected the sofa. On the sofa lay a boy with a starkly pale face.”

“A boy? Is it Xiang Nuan?”

“He is slightly older than Xiang Nuan, and he looks completely different from your son.”

“It is not Xiang Nuan? But how can you tell she is a human trafficker?” The neighbor that she saw day in and day out was a human trafficker; Wen Qing still had trouble accepting that as a fact.

“The part below the boy’s waist is covered up by a blanket, and the blanket was sliding down the sofa. The key part was that the middle of the blanket was soaked in blood, and the stain was spreading. Obviously, the blood was coming out from inside the blanket.”

“He’s injured?”

“He is not only injured. His legs have been amputated, and the bleeding has not stopped.” What Chen Ge said caused Wen Qing’s hair to stand on end.

“In real life, these people hide their real personalities under the disguise of humanity, but behind the door, their real self will be exposed. We must be extremely careful, or else we will face a horrifying death.”

After leaving Room 405, Wen Qing still looked no better. Her eyes kept consciously and subconsciously wandering to the black trash bags that collected around the door of Room 405. “Chen Ge, I am now very worried about Xiang Nuan.”

“There is no reason to get so worked up. What we need to do now is go and find Uncle Huang on the first floor. He might be the only person who is willing to help us in this neighborhood.” Chen Ge’s mind was sharp and clear. His determination was as tough as steel, and he would rarely be interrupted by any outside influences.

### **Chapter 1076: Every Room Has a Secret [2 in 1]**

Chen Ge and Wen Qing decided to go to the first floor to look for the old man Huang first. They walked down the eerie corridor and came to the mouth of the staircase. The iron banister that was painted red was left with the handprints of children. The stairwell twisted downward. The steps were covered with dark red liquid, and stepping on them felt sticky. The windows in the corridor were all sealed shut, blocking out the light. Iron nails the length of one’s half finger were exposed, and if one was careless, one would be scratched by them easily.

“This place is so disgusting.” Wen Qing was desperate to find Xiang Nuan, but even so, when she saw the condition of the staircase, she could not help but frown. “It feels like someone has been dragging a leaking bag of garbage while they go up and down the stairs. And this has been going on for a while, or else it would not have been caked like this.”

“You are too naïve. What kind trash would form this kind of black and red stain?”

“Then, what do you think is behind these stains?” Wen Qing picked up the white cat. She seemed to be afraid that the white cat would dirty itself upon touching these disgusting black and red stains.

“A heavily injured person or a bleeding body will form a layer of blood residue like this. When the blood slowly dries, it will turn into this kind of color.”

Chen Ge looked at the stains on the ground, and for some reason, an incident that happened a very long time ago appeared in his mind.

When the toilet cubicle at his haunted house first acted strangely, Chen Ge had heard a heavy object being dragged through the door, and it was the same image that had appeared in his mind. A strange, faceless monster was using some kind of tool to drag some bodies down the corridor and staircase.

“This place is getting stranger and stranger. We will go to the third floor first. No matter what, remember to be careful.” Chen Ge carried his backpack, and his nerves were tense with alertness. After turning the corner, when Chen Ge reached the third floor, he heard the strange noise.

Creak, creak...

It was the sound of a door being opened and closed repeatedly.

There is no wind currently blowing and the windows in the corridor are all sealed shut behind wooden boards. Either the door is moving on its own or someone is opening and closing them again and again.

Leaning forward to look down the third-floor corridor, at the end of the dark corridor, a front door was swinging back and forth, giving off this shrill and sharp noise.

“Should we go and take a look?”

“We’d better locate Uncle Huang first. Before we accomplish that, it is better we do not find trouble for ourselves to prevent uncontrollable accident. Who knows what we will meet in the world behind the door?”

Once Chen Ge said that, the sound of door opening and closing stopped. Chen Ge turned to look, and he saw a young boy’s face poke out from the room at the end of the corridor. The boy had a neck that was much longer than a normal person’s. His head extended out of the door like a snake, and his eyes were staring fixatedly at Chen Ge and Wen Qing.

“He seems to have discovered us.” Wen Qing carried the white cat. “The boy’s gaze is terrifying! Why is he looking at us like that?”

“Just ignore him. We will get to the first floor first.” Chen Ge dragged Wen Qing along down the stairs, but that strange boy ran out from the door. Without saying a word, he made to follow Chen Ge and Wen Qing. He merely kept his eyes on the two of them.

“Are we going to ignore him?”

Chen Ge and Wen Qing continued to move down the stairs, and the boy followed them as well. After knowing that this was someone that they would not be able to shake off, Chen Ge gave up. He stopped moving. Gripping his backpack, he was ready to pull out Doctor Skull Cracker’s Hammer at any moment.

“What is your name?” The hand that gripped the hilt was white from force, and the green veins pulsed on the back of his hand. Even so, Chen Ge’s voice was soft and kind.

“My name is Wu You. Are you here to look for someone?” The boy sounded very strange. It just gave off a very unnatural feeling. It felt like a mannequin was trying to mimic human conversation. It sounded stilted and wooden.

He can be communicated with? Chen Ge narrowed his eyes. Initially, he thought the boy was dumb. After making noises in the world behind the door, that action was no different from actively seeking death.

“Yes, we are here to look for someone,” Wen Qing blurted out because she was too worried about Xiang Nuan.

“Are you looking for a little boy?”

“Yes! That is right!” Wen Qing’s mother’s voice rose out of excitement. She desperately wanted to know Xiang Nuan’s location. This gave her great hope. “The child is not tall, and he looks cute...”

“I’ve seen him.” Before waiting for Wen Qing to finish, Wu You said very confidently, “He has gone down the building.”

“Gone down the building? How do you know that he has gone down the building? Did you see that yourself?” Wen Qing wanted to confirm again.

“Yes, I saw that with my own eyes.” Wu You did not appear like he was lying.

Without some hesitation, Wen Qing turned to look at Chen Ge. “Then, should we hurry downward? If we move fast, we might be able to catch up to Xiang Nuan.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge still felt like something was not right with Wu You. He did not want to stay there with the boy any longer. He dragged Wen Qing by her arm and practically dragged her away down the stairs.

“Wait, the boy did not go down the building this way.” Wu You moved to follow them.

“Then, how did he go down the building?”

“From the window.” Wu You pointed at the window that was sealed shut. “With a splat, he went down the building.”

A peal of laughter that sounded like a balloon leaking escaped from the boy’s lips. Wu You said with extreme joy as he was dancing and clapping, “I was sitting quietly at home, and the window was open. With a ‘shoo’, he went down the building.”

“What are you talking about?” Wen Qing’s face blanched. If not for Chen Ge’s firm grip on her shoulder, she would have charged forward to give the boy a good beating.

“Don’t act so rashly.” Chen Ge stood between Wu You and Wen Qing. “The boy lives in the room at the end of the corridor. That is Room 301, and right above it is Room 401, your home. So, theoretically, he could be telling the truth.”

“My Xiang Nuan would definitely not do something like that,” Wen Qing replied very confidently.

“I know, so we’d better go to his place to see what he is really telling us.” After saying that, Chen Ge stared at Wu You. If possible, he wanted to check every single room in this building.

"It's true. I really saw it with my own eyes. I wouldn't lie to you." Wu You followed it up with that strange and eerie laughter.

"Are your parents home? Can we go to your house to take a look?" Chen Ge asked softly.

"My parents will never let strangers into our home, but since they are not at home now, I can quietly sneak you guys in. Come with me." Wu You turned and walked down the dim third-floor corridor. Looking at his back, Chen Ge and Wen Qing now realized that Wu You had a very strange gait. His legs were uneven, and his body was extremely nonuniform. After Wu You had wandered ahead of them, Chen Ge silently whispered to Wen Qing, "Is there someone that looks like Wu You in your memory?"

"Our residential area has quite a number of children. I have not been paying much attention. Furthermore, his face looks rather weird. I do not dare take an extra glance for fear of offending him."

There was indeed a strange presence about Wu You. He had facial features that were no different from a normal child, but when they were placed on his face, they were simply quite out of place. It was like the puzzle pieces were correct, but they were each taken from different puzzles.

"Come here. Why are you guys waiting over there?" Wu You waved at Chen Ge and Wen Qing. He led the two adults to his door. The not so large room was painted black and white. Toys, color pencils, and many newspapers littered the ground. It suggested that the boy was left alone at home most of the time.

"I saw him go down the building from this place." Wu You pointed at the window in the living room. At that moment, the window was closed, and the curtains were drawn shut. "Do you want to go and take a look? After he went down from this place, his body has stayed there on the ground."

"Do not go over there. It's too dangerous," Chen Ge whispered as he pulled on Wen Qing's elbow. At the same time, he closed the front door behind him. "Wu You, this is your home. It is impolite for us to mess with your things. Why don't you open the curtain and let us see what is behind it?"

"He was falling with his head facing down. When he passed by the window, he even waved goodbye to me..."

"Stop it! Stop it already!" This struck a nerve within Wen Qing. She shrugged off Chen Ge, strode through the living room to the window, and yanked the curtain back with one smooth motion. Various pictures of many different little boys were pasted on the glass window. The boys were captured with different expressions, but the unifying factor was that every single boy had visible wounds on their face. The collage made up a scary image.

"Was it him? See, I did not lie to you, did I?" Wu You pointed to one of the boys on the collage and a very big smile lit up his face.

"Mad child." Wen Qing was given quite a scare by the faces of these children. It took her quite some time before she managed to recover herself. She forced herself to look through the collection of human faces, and she was unable to find Xiang Nuan's face among them.

"Chen Ge, let's go. I do not wish to stay here anymore." Wen Qing hugged her chest. Her body was shivering badly. It felt like there were multiple pairs of eyes watching her from behind.

“The boy that you are looking for is not here, huh?” The smile disappeared on Wu You’s face. He tore down one of the pictures from the window and pressed it before Wen Qing’s face. “I know this is him! This has to be him! I have not been able to forget his face for a very long time. He was waving at me when he was going down the building!”

A trace of fear crossed Wen Qing’s face as she took a deliberate step back away from the boy. “Chen Ge, let’s hurry up and go!”

“Wait, there’s no need to hurry.” Chen Ge used Yin Yang Vision to scan the collage on the window. He reached out and pulled down one of the pictures of the boys. “Wu You, when did you see this boy?”

“I cannot remember anymore. Probably inside the trash bags, or under the sewer, or was it under the table? Inside the cupboard? I cannot remember! There are too many of them! There are so many of them!” Wu You’s expression was getting more and more unhinged as his body grew longer and longer.

“Have you seen this face inside Room 405?” The picture of the boy Chen Ge was holding had the painting of a boy who had lost his eyes. He was crawling desperately toward somewhere. It appeared like he was trying to run away. The boy in the picture reminded of the boy inside Room 405. If he looked closer, the boy in the picture indeed looked quite similar to the boy that he had taken a glimpse of earlier.

“Room 405? Auntie Ding’s room? The boy did indeed go up the stairs with her! Yes! At the time, the boy still had both of his legs!” Wu You had accidentally revealed a cruel truth. Initially, the boy was normal, but in Wu You’s picture, the boy had lost his legs. The boy that Chen Ge had seen in Room 405 had his legs cut off from the knee.

“Try to think back carefully. Did the boy tell you anything?”

“He asked me to help him. He told me that he misses his home a lot. No wait. He has not told me anything. I have not heard anything. He did not tell me anything! I do not know anything! La la la la la!”

“Then, can you tell me more about Auntie Ding?”

“Auntie Ding is a very good person. She cooks a red dessert for me. She loves children a lot, but she will only get mad at bad children. Auntie Ding forbids me from lying. Auntie Ding buys me toys. Auntie Ding treats me better than my own mother.” The whole statement sounded like it came right out from a recording. There was no trace of emotion about it. Wu You rattled his lines off from memory and forced them out of his mouth.

This surprised both Chen Ge and Wen Qing.

“Auntie Ding will not let the children go out alone at night. The children can only go out at night when they are carried by Auntie Ding. Auntie Ding’s favorite thing in the world is children. Auntie Ding likes to spend time with children...”

Like a broken record, Wu You kept repeating these things. And he spoke faster and faster. The pictures of the boys on the window gave off a staticky sound, as if every picture was trying to peel itself off the window.

“Chen Ge! We’d better leave! This place is getting too scary! And something is obviously wrong with the boy!” Wen Qing was scared out of her wits. She kept urging Chen Ge, but Chen Ge had managed to calm down. “I think I understand what is going on now. The tenants inside this building are all interconnected with each other. Their stories make up a big twine. The reason Wu You became like this is probably because he saw something he shouldn’t have about Auntie Ding, and he was scared until he became mad by Auntie Ding.”

Chen Ge did not know what exactly happened in real life, but from the information he gleaned from behind the door, that should be the truth. Chen Ge did not leave, but he walked voluntarily toward Wu You. He pressed on Wu You’s shoulders. “Try not to think about that person. She is not here. There are only the few of us in this room, only you and the two of us. She is not here...”

After some persuasion and coaxing, Wu You slowly calmed down and returned to normal. He pasted the picture that he had torn back onto the window, and then he pulled back the curtain. Those who were not there earlier would not be able to tell what had gone wrong.

“Wu You, when will your father and mother return? Do they know about the children on the window?”

“My father and mother have been gone for a long time. I have been keeping the door open to wait for them to return.”

“What were they going to do when they left home last time?”

“I do not know. The neighbors said they left because they could not stand me anymore because I am such a big liar.” A strange smile hung on Wu You’s face. “I’ve never told a lie in my life, but they all said I am nothing but a liar, that every word that comes out from my mouth is a lie.”

“Thankfully, the adults see you as a ‘liar’, or else you would not have been able to survive until now.” Chen Ge had a real issue assessing Wu You. He felt like the boy was incredibly clever, and behind the veil of madness was a very brilliant and cunning mind. He wanted to work together with Wu You, but he could not be sure about what the boy’s actual thoughts were. After giving it much consideration, Chen Ge decided to leave for now. He still could not place his trust in Wu You.

“You’d better stay here and wait for your parents to return. We might meet each other again tonight.”

Leaving Wu You’s home, Chen Ge was about to tell Wen Qing something when the door opposite from Room 301 was suddenly pushed open.

A middle-aged man with disheveled hair poked his head out. The expression on his face could only be described as dark and melancholic. Staring in the direction of Room 301, he whispered to Chen Ge, “You’d better stay far away from that boy, or he will cause your death.”

“What do you mean by that? Why would he cause my death?” When Chen Ge entered Wu You’s house, he had closed the door behind him. Unless the man was leaning against the door of Room 301 and eavesdropping on them, he should not have known what Wu You had told them inside the room.

“The boy is not normal. He caused his parents to die, so if you know what’s good for you, you’d better stay away from him.” After saying what was on his mind, the middle-aged man was about to close the door. However, Chen Ge made use of this opening to silently and quickly glanced into the man’s room.

The heavy smell of alcohol covered up the horrible stench. The room was a mess. Trash and clothing covered the sofa, and posters of women in skimpy clothing filled every inch of the wall.

Bang!

The door slammed shut, and Chen Ge signaled for Wen Qing to leave the third floor.

“What? Is there something wrong with that man as well?”

“A married man would not paste such pictures inside his room. His wife would not allow him to do so. But if he is not married, how do you explain the exorbitant amount of female underwear that cluttered his sofa?”

### **Chapter 1077: Smelliest Room [2 in 1]**

“Female underwear?” Wen Qing did not notice these details. But after hearing the warning from Chen Ge, she felt a shiver run down her spine. “So, he is a pervert that goes around stealing people’s underwear?”

“Wu You probably saw his secret as well. That is why he came out to warn us about the boy after he knew we had a chat with Wu You.” Chen Ge and Wen Qing stood inside the staircase. Both of them spoke barely above a whisper and ensured that their words were only heard by each other. “But the thing that worries me the most is not the man’s habit of stealing underwear but the words that he told us. Wu You has kept his door open because he has been waiting for his parents to come home, and he stated quite clearly to us that his parents have merely gone out for a walk. However, according to what the middle-aged man told me, Wu You caused his parents’ death. Wu You’s father and mother are dead because of the boy.”

“You mean to say the person who killed Wu You’s parents is the middle-aged man?” After following Chen Ge for some time, Wen Qing’s way of thinking slowly matched up with Chen Ge’s.

“I suspect it was a group effort. Perhaps no one dealt the killing blow, but everyone was related to the death of Wu You’s parents.” After meeting the three tenants, Chen Ge realized that the apartment had its own inherent rules, and the rules had been agreed upon by the tenants. If anyone dared break the rules, they might be targeted by the rest of the tenants. “After a person witnessed a murder, if they did not come forward to report to the police but instead maliciously tried to keep it covered up, then they can be considered an accomplice to the murder.”

“Then based on what you said, I feel like Wu You is one poor boy. After we find Xiang Nuan, how about we bring him away with us as well?” Wen Qing was a very kind woman, but kindness was the most useless thing for the original tenants of the world behind the door. To survive and flourish there, the first thing one had to abandon was the kindness that resided within humanity.

“We will discuss that after we find Xiang Nuan.” Following the stairs down, Chen Ge and Wen Qing stopped when they reached the second floor. Inside the dim second-floor corridor stood an old lady. She was holding a dirty china bowl, and inside the bowl were some coins and some leftovers. The old lady was originally standing outside one of the doors, and she was trying to turn the doorknob as hard as she could, but no matter how hard she tried, she was unable to get the door to open. When Chen Ge passed by, the old lady spotted him, and she started to make her way toward him. The stained hands waved

before Chen Ge. She held the bowl as she made this gargling sound. The whole incident just felt creepy and absurd.

“Granny Lee?” Wen Qing recognized this old lady before them, but when she saw the old lady’s actual appearance, she was given quite a shock.

“You know her? Is she one of the tenants of your neighborhood as well?”

“She used to be, but later, her son told us that she had wandered off one day. I personally have not seen her in years.” Wen Qing’s eyes were filled with shock. “The old lady led an orderly and prim life. Her hair was always in a neat bun, and you would not find a crease on her clothing. She was often spotted alone in the garden taking care of the plants and flowers.”

“Could it be that her son finally lost patience of looking after her, so he told you guys that the old lady had wandered away, but the truth was he had abandoned her?”

“That was his mother, not an object. How could someone abandon their mother just like that?”

“Do not overestimate the good in humanity. It was just a few days ago that I read on the news that a man had buried his incapacitated mother alive. Sometimes, real life is stranger than fiction.”

Wen Qing and Chen Ge stood where they were. The old lady appeared to have suffered from some real trauma. Her mind was not there, and she was unable to be communicated with. She just kept pushing the bowl toward Chen Ge.

“Are you hungry?” Chen Ge did not mind the old lady’s dirty appearance. He walked toward her and said, “Do you want me to lead you home?”

Through Wen Qing’s brief description, Chen Ge felt like this crazy old lady was one of the ‘good guys’ and was therefore one of the candidates that he could try to cooperate with. The old lady did not appear like she could even string together a complete sentence. She very urgently shoved the bowl toward Chen Ge, and her throat kept making these strange noises. Chen Ge took out a bill of money and placed it inside the bowl, but the old lady still stubbornly held out her bowl. Her hands were gesturing. Even though Chen Ge still had no idea what she meant, but at least for now, he was sure that she was not looking for money but something else.

The commotion that they made was quite loud. After they had stood there for about ten seconds, the door of Room 206, the room that was closest to the stairs, suddenly opened.

“You again.” It was a young man who pushed open the door. He was wearing a pair of headphones, and his face was pale like he had not seen the sun for a long time already. “I just chased you away. Why have you returned so soon?”

He looked at the dirty and disheveled old lady with undisguised disgust in his eyes. He walked out from his room and forcibly pulled Chen Ge away from the old lady. “Do not get entangled with this crazy woman, or else she will follow you forever like a shadowy ghost that refuses to leave. I have never seen such a disgusting person in my life.”

So far, this young man from Room 206 was the most normal person Chen Ge had met since he entered the world behind the door. Be it his words, appearance, or physique, he looked similar to a normal person outside the door.

“Xiao Sun?” Wen Qing also recognized this young man, but the young man was unable to recognize her.

“Do I know you? Never mind, I do not have any interest in making a new friend. I do not need to get a briefing on your life. What I need is for you guys to keep quiet. I am recording a song in there.” The young man then shut the door after saying all that.

“Is that young man the old lady’s family?” Chen Ge asked softly.

“No, Granny Lee stayed in Room 205. Her son has a very ugly grimace on his face like the whole world owes him something. He is completely unlike Granny Lee.”

“Then, who was that Xiao Sun? The feeling that he gave me was completely different from the other tenants that we have met so far.” Chen Ge looked at the door to Room 206. As he interacted with more and more tenants, he became more and more confused. This was Xiang Nuan’s world behind the door. How exactly were these people linked to Xiang Nuan? What was the nature of their relationship with the little boy?

“Xiao Sun was a university student, and he liked to sing. He used to stay in Room 206 of Jin Hwa Apartments. At the time, he paid a half year’s rent in one go, but strangely enough, he moved away on the second month without any notice. He did not ask for the rest of his rent or the deposit back. He even left behind most of his items and furniture. The landlord complained to me about it quite a lot back then.”

“What did you think of Xiao Sun? What kind of person is he?”

“He rarely left his room, and now that I think about it, I did not remember seeing him going to class. He did not like to speak to others and would only occasionally leave his room to go and buy some everyday groceries in bulk. To me, he is a quintessential shut-in.”

“A very normal shut-in that disappeared mysteriously from your residential area after two months.” When the door opened earlier, Chen Ge had used Yin Yang Vision to look into the Room 206. He noticed that there were several cracks on the wall, and the wallpaper had peeled back a lot. The interior of Room 206 was lacking and needed some good refurbishing.

“Why would you say that he mysteriously disappeared? Perhaps some emergency came up and he had to leave without informing the landlord. By the way, I heard from the landlord that Xiao Sun’s room was a mess, and his furniture was seriously damaged. Perhaps he was worried that he would be forced to pay the repair fee, so he sneaked away in the middle of the night.”

“When a sheep is staying with a herd of wolves, what do you think will happen to the sheep?”

“What is it that you are trying to say?”

“If he does not turn himself into a wolf, then he will become the wolves’ dinner. When everyone is an accomplice and you are not willing to come one, you will end up as a victim.”

Granny Lee heard what Chen Ge said clearly. Interestingly enough, the apparently mad Granny Lee started to calm down. She seemed to understand Chen Ge. Granny Lee's reaction was within Chen Ge's expectations. He was purposely discussing Xiao Sun's situation before Granny Lee because he wanted to see and test her reaction.

It was difficult to survive behind the door. Every 'person' had their own way of survival, their own method of not being killed. Wu You was a born liar, and Granny Lee became a mad woman. Xiao Sun appeared the most normal, and thus, he was also in the most dangerous situation. Of course, if he had 'compromised', then it would be a different story.

The hands that were holding the china bowl shook violently. Granny Lee was unable to speak, but at least she had stopped her strange action. She merely followed quietly behind Chen Ge and refused to leave. Everything was similar to what Xiao Sun had described. Granny Lee was like a 'shadowy ghost' and could not be chased away no matter what.

"Xiao Sun should have experienced something similar. If my guess is not wrong, Granny Lee was actually trying to warn him, or rather, she was trying to use this kind of method to get help from Xiao Sun." Chen Ge was curious as to why Granny Lee had lost the ability to speak. In Wen Qing's memory, the old lady did not have any problem with her voice.

Is it because she can't speak, or is she too afraid to speak?

They did not stop for long on the second floor. Chen Ge and Wen Qing, with Granny Lee trailing behind them, arrived at the first floor.

"Uncle Huang stays in Room 104. There are three rooms that are occupied on the first floor. The other three rooms have been modified into a storeroom and a garage." Wen Qing also believed that Uncle Huang was a trustworthy person, so she showed more desperation than Chen Ge. She ran straight to Room 104 and knocked on the door.

While Wen Qing was doing that, Chen Ge took his time to study the corridor of the first floor. Unlike the world behind Ying Tong's door, the interior of this apartment was not knotted in an endless circle. The exit to the staircase was right before them, but the way that should lead them out was blocked by a rusted iron door. And the door was locked. To leave, one needed the key.

"The way out has been locked. If Xiang Nuan does not have the key, then he should still be somewhere inside this building, but what if Xiang Nuan is the one who has been holding on to the key?"

Chen Ge had been inside this door for quite some time already, but he still had no clear idea what was going on. He could not see a clear sign of Xiang Nuan's despair. What he saw instead was the source of despair for the other tenants. In a way, Xiang Nuan was more like a spectator of other people's misery.

The corridor of the first floor has the most blood stains, and the black and red blood has seeped into the tiles. Even blood thread-like patterns have appeared on the wall. This floor might be more dangerous than the previous floor.

While Chen Ge was busy analyzing all that, the door to Room 104 was opened, and then Chen Ge heard a shocked gasp from Wen Qing.

“What happened?” Chen Ge turned back to look, and he too was given quite a shock. The iron door to Room 104 was open, and an old man with a serious hunchback stood at the door. His body was practically bent in half like there was something very heavy pressing down on him on his shoulders. If that was everything, Chen Ge would not have reacted so drastically. The scariest thing was the old man’s face. The face that was filled with wrinkles was covered in bite marks. The bite marks were of different depths and sizes; they appeared to have come from different people.

“Uncle Huang?” Chen Ge asked uncertainly. He tried to make himself sound as normal as possible.

“My surname is Huang. How can I help you?” The old man shuffled out of his room. An indescribably horrible smell came out from inside his room.

“Uncle Huang, I am Wen Qing...” Wen Qing explained with her brows deeply furrowed.

“Wen Qing?”

“Do you not remember me? I often cook lunch for you. One time, when you were sick, I even took you to the hospital. I spend every day taking care of you whenever I can.”

What Wen Qing had just revealed was news to Chen Ge as well. He had no idea she had been taking care of Uncle Huang.

“I am sorry, but I am so old that my mind is not working so well. Are you a tenant here as well?” The old man was totally confused. His body appeared to be incredibly fragile, and he would cough between every word.

“Of course, I live at room...”

“Uncle Huang, we wish to ask you something.” Chen Ge stepped in to interrupt Wen Qing. He did not allow her to continue. Actually, he had already noticed this anomaly a long time ago. All the people that they had met behind the door appeared to have no knowledge of Wen Qing. This woman who was supposedly the most important person in Xiang Nuan’s life was a complete blank in his world behind the door. The flyers that insulted Wen Qing all had her pictures turned into the picture of a headless woman.

Earlier, Xiao Sun had no memory of Wen Qing, and now even Uncle Huang could not recognize Wen Qing. This was definitely not a coincidence. It was Xiang Nuan who opened the door. Chen Ge had a feeling that Xiang Nuan was purposely trying to protect Wen Qing. He did not want Wen Qing to have any connection with his world of nightmares. Even if he had fallen into the darkest abyss, he wanted his mother to stay in the world of warmth and kind humanity.

The idea is not bad, but he probably did not expect that Wen Qing would follow him through the door.

Chen Ge did not voice this out loud. He was merely thinking about it in his mind. The most important thing now was to figure out whether Uncle Huang was on their side or not.

“What do you wish to find out?” The old man’s condition appeared to worsen. With his hand on the door, his back was bent even lower.

“Sir, has someone left from the exit before?”

“I don’t think so. Recently, it has been quite chaotic outside this building, so the landlord added a lock to protect the tenants from the outside threat. The key is with the landlord, so to leave, you will need to find the landlord.”

In one single sentence, Uncle Huang had revealed so much important information. The outside world was chaotic, so they at least knew something of the other apartments. This whole residential area was communal, and they were related to each other.

The lock was applied by the landlord, so if Chen Ge wanted to leave, they had to get the key from the landlord. Finally, what Uncle Huang said reminded Chen Ge of something. At least inside this apartment, the landlord was an important character. Chen Ge might have completely forgotten about him if not for Uncle Huang’s reminder.

Before entering this door, due to the time constraint, he did not have the time to get to know the landlord. Now he could only try to assess the situation through Wen Qing’s understanding of the landlord.

“Is there anything else? If not, I am going to go to rest. At my age, my legs get tired after standing for too long.” Uncle Huang was about to close the door, but halfway through, Chen Ge reached out to grab at his door.

“Sir, can we go inside your place to rest?”

The stench inside Uncle Huang’s room was heavy and thick. It was the smelliest room they had encountered. Chen Ge had a feeling that there was a secret hidden there. Even if Uncle Huang did not give his permission, he would figure out a way to get in to investigate.

“Be my guest.” Uncle Huang surprisingly did not deny Chen Ge’s rather unreasonable request. He appeared to be really tired. After saying that, he held onto the wall and returned to his seat in the living room.

Looking at the couch, Wen Qing felt her head go numb. The back of the couch was filled with sharp needles that appeared like blood vessels.

When Uncle Huang leaned into the couch, the expression on his face relaxed with satisfaction.

Wen Qing wanted to warn Chen Ge, but Chen Ge had already stridden into the room. It was as if he could not see all these scary and creepy things. He treated the place like his own house and very casually found a seat opposite Uncle Huang.

### **Chapter 1078: Who Is the Killer? (2in1)**

Wen Qing took a careful look at the two people in the room, and she felt a headache coming. They were in such a strange and creepy place, but neither Chen Ge nor Uncle Huang seemed to notice that. She did not know whether she was overacting because she had too little experience or these two’s understanding of the world had gone far beyond the conceptualization of a normal person. After much hesitation, Wen Qing finally walked into the room. But she did not dare sleep, she merely stood behind Chen Ge.

1Uncle Huang practically collapsed on the couch. He looked like he paid Chen Ge no mind at all and slowly closed his eyes. His body appeared to have grown attached to the sofa, and that was not a figure of speech. The blood vessels from the couch entangled around him, joining Uncle Huang to the couch. With no disturbance, Chen Ge made use of this rare opportunity to assess his surroundings. The layout of this room was rather different from the other rooms they had encountered. It was much smaller than a normal room. The kitchen and the toilet occupied the same space, and there was only one bedroom and one living room.

“Compared to Wen Qing’s home, this place is missing a bedroom and a kitchen.” Chen Ge suspected that the source of the stench came from the missing rooms. He sat for some time on the couch and even took some time to examine the blood vessels on the couch. Strangely enough, when Chen Ge sat on the couch, the blood vessels looked like red streaks of decoration, but when Uncle Huang occupied the couch, the blood vessels came to life like little snakes. They gyrated on the stained couch, looking quite scary while they were at it.

“The blood vessels inside under the stain inside this room can only recognize Uncle Huang. They will only show their true form when they are around Uncle Huang.” Chen Ge did not quite understand the relationship between the blood vessels and Uncle Huang, so the only thing to do was to ask the old man about it, but Uncle Huang appeared to be asleep. The wrinkles on his face were closely folded together. He had not said a single word since he dropped down on the couch, and his body was slowly sinking into the couch.

“Chen Ge, I do not think Uncle Huang will be able to help us in his state.” Wen Qing was feeling quite disappointed. Before she arrived, she had very high hopes for Uncle Huang, but the greater the hope, the greater the disappointment.

“Earlier, you told me that it was his boss who rented this room for Uncle Huang, correct?”

“Yes, what about it?”

“Then, between you and him, who moved into this residential area first?” Chen Ge asked.

“When Xiang Nuan and I moved here, Uncle Huang had been staying here for a while already. His boss was quite a nice person. He knew that Uncle Huang had no place to go in the city, so he rented this room to him for a very low price.”

“Uncle Huang got into an accident at work. Do you know how much his boss compensated him for his injury?”

“I’m not sure. I never thought to ask Uncle Huang about it. After all, that was his private business.” Wen Qing was quite confused about why Chen Ge was asking her about these things.

“Have you noticed that only this room’s layout is different from the other rooms in this apartment. This place is missing both a kitchen and a bedroom...” Chen Ge paced around the room. His fingers glided down the wall before they stopped at the wall that was right next to the main bedroom. “Based on the layout of your own home, there should be a door here that leads to the guest bedroom.”

His fingers dug into the wall, and they came back with some black and red stains in his fingernails. “The surface is coated with a layer of white paint, but underneath it was all this black and red stuff.”

The reason Chen Ge could discover this was due to the stench, the stench that apparently he alone was able to smell. From the moment he entered Uncle Huang's room, he had been trying to search for the source of the smell, but he had failed to find it. It was not inside any of the open rooms. After some analysis, he had gone to the spot where the smell was thickest. "The smell is leaking out through this particular wall."

Chen Ge turned back to look. Uncle Huang was still curled up on the couch. It was as if no matter what Chen Ge did, it would not rouse Uncle Huang. "There is a hidden room here, and the smell in this place originates from that place."

His fingers kept working. The paint on the wall was loose from the moisture. There was no cement or bricks behind the paint. Instead, the wall was made up of the unknown black and red building material.

Half of Chen Ge's finger had already dug into the wall. The sense of touch that came from his fingertip changed. It felt like he had touched a thin layer of blood vessels. Pulling back his finger, Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision and looked through the hole. What he saw was a maze that was made of the thing that looked like blood capillaries. Between the gaps in the 'blood vessel', Chen Ge spotted an eye looking back at him.

"Is there a dead body on the other side of the wall?"

Opening his backpack, Chen Ge silently took out Doctor Skull Cracker's hammer.

"What are you doing?"

"I am going to break down this wall."

"We've been in here less than five minutes, and the owner of this place is still sleeping."

"Hence, this is the perfect time for us to make our move."

"Are you sure you want to do this?" Wen Qing felt that Chen Ge was being irrational. What Chen Ge intended to do would definitely anger Uncle Huang. Why would they make another enemy for no reason?

When the two spoke, Uncle Huang, who was submerged in the couch, appeared to have recovered somewhat. He turned his head with great difficulty to look at them and then croaked out, "Have you two not left?"

Seeing Uncle Huang had woken up, Chen Ge expertly and silently shoved the hammer back into his backpack. "Sir, this place has been rented to you, right?"

"Yes, the owner of this place is not staying here, so they rented me this place to have me take care of it for them. That is the perfect arrangement because I was looking for a place to stay as well." Uncle Huang's mannerisms and tone did not change compared to before. It was as if no matter what happened, the way he spoke would be the same, and it would never change.

"Got it." Chen Ge nodded.

"If there is nothing else, perhaps you should go. I feel like calling it a day." Uncle Huang slowly stood up. The blood vessels on the couch returned to normal. It was as if those strange things had never

happened before. With his body trembling, Uncle Huang walked to the bedroom door. He coughed several times. His physique was so fragile that he had to walk by holding onto the wall. When he was at the door to the bedroom, one of his fingers tapped lightly on the wall that was next to the bedroom door.

“Close the door on your way out. I am getting more and more tired lately. If you have any questions, you should go and ask the landlord. He lives on the top floor, but he appears to have a bad temper, so you should be careful when you approach him.” Uncle Huang, whose tone had not changed since they met him, suddenly increased his tone, to stress his words careful.

“Then we shan’t disturb your rest. If you have any clues or if you have seen that boy, you can contact us anytime. We will be around the building.” Chen Ge practically dragged Wen Qing out of Uncle Huang’s room. When they left, they did close the door for Uncle Huang as he requested.

“I realize your mind changes as swiftly as the wind. At one moment, you were ready to break the door, but now you are so ready to leave. It was not easy for us to find Uncle Huang. At least we should have asked him more questions before we left,” Wen Qing lamented with some regret. “He has lived here for a very long time. He knows more about this residential area’s secrets than I do. You have wasted such a perfect opportunity. Speaking of which, why did you suddenly want to demolish the wall earlier? I felt like Uncle Huang was spooked by you.”

“You only saw the surface layer.” Chen Ge did not go into detail. He turned to take a glance at Granny Lee. When he and Wen Qing entered Uncle Huang’s room, Granny Lee, who had been following them, did not dare enter with them. She merely waited quietly outside the door.

“Then should we go back in to ask Uncle Huang for more details?”

“There is no need to do so.” There were certain things that Chen Ge could not say out loud. He realized that it was not that Uncle Huang did not want to help them, but he did not dare help them directly. When they first met Uncle Huang behind the door, both Chen Ge and Wen Qing were shocked by his appearance. Honestly, this version of Uncle Huang was the stuff of nightmares; bitemarks covered his face, and he looked rather unapproachable.

At the time, Chen Ge started to have his suspicions. Could it be that the Uncle Huang inside the door was different from the Uncle Huang outside the door? Even this old man had a secret and malicious side that he had not shown others. It was normal for Chen Ge to have this suspicion due to the combination of the old man’s scary appearance and the horrible stench in the room. But as time went on, Chen Ge slowly realized that was not the case.

When he practically demanded that they enter Uncle Huang’s room, the latter agreed easily. As slow of a talker as he was, there was no trace of rejection in his voice. It was as if Uncle Huang had been waiting for people to visit him. But what was there to see inside the creepy, dirty room of a single old man that reeked of a horrible stench?

After entering the room, Uncle Huang acted as normal as normal could be behind the door, but something still tugged at Chen Ge’s suspicion. After Uncle Huang collapsed on the couch, he closed his eyes directly. He did not mind what the two strangers did inside his house. This was the detail that

confused Chen Ge. He felt like Uncle Huang was purposely inviting them into his room for them to observe and study it.

Chen Ge indeed saw some problems. He noticed that the layout and the size of the room was not right. There were probably two hidden rooms inside the place. Just as Chen Ge was trying to prove that theory by breaking down the wall, Uncle Huang had 'just so happened' to wake up. Even though he had not said a direct word about it, his actions proved that he was trying to stop Chen Ge. If he did not wake up, Chen Ge might really have taken a swing at the wall.

From this, it might appear that Uncle Huang was worried that his secret had been exposed, but after giving it some thought, Chen Ge felt that he could have been trying to protect Chen Ge and Wen Qing. He did not want to pit them against the tenants of the building too early. One small action by Uncle Huang before he retired to his bedroom confirmed Chen Ge's suspicion. When Uncle Huang walked to the door of his bedroom, his finger tapped lightly on the wall next to the door. The spot where his finger landed was on the same level as the hole that Chen Ge had dug out on the wall. Uncle Huang probably wanted to use this method to tell Chen Ge that his suspicion was not unfounded; there was indeed something inside the wall. He did not dare say it out loud, so he could only use this method to warn Chen Ge.

*Uncle Huang should be one of the good guys, but how did he manage to survive behind the door? What kind of job does he do to keep his life intact?*

Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of what Wen Qing had told him earlier. After Uncle Huang was injured at work, he found himself a job at the morgue to look after the dead bodies and do some simple cleaning.

*Could the wall be hiding a whole room of dead bodies behind it? And Uncle Huang is the guardian of the dead bodies?*

Uncle Huang's parting words mentioned the landlord and even stressed for them to be careful. Now that he connected the dots, Chen Ge's eyes slowly widened.

*Uncle Huang has been helping the landlord guard the bodies?*

Even Chen Ge was shocked by the conclusion that he came to. He did not share his theory with anyone but silently memorized it in his heart.

*If that's the truth, then the most dangerous character in this building should be the landlord. Perhaps every single tragedy at this building was related to this landlord.*

The landlord must have known about the many tragedies and scary events that had occurred in his building, but he did not seem to have done anything to stop it.

*Perhaps the real landlord is already dead, and the bodies buried behind the wall are the actual dead bodies of the real landlord's family.*

Gripping his backpack tightly, Chen Ge had a plan forming in his mind. "Wen Qing, we will go to find the landlord now. He has the key to leave this building. So, he should know whether Xiang Nuan has left this building or not."

“Okay.” Wen Qing did not know Chen Ge’s real plan. Actually, Chen Ge had his sight set on the landlord already. Currently, the landlord still did not know about his and Wen Qing’s presence in his building. The success rate would be high if they launched an ambush on the landlord. After a brief discussion, Chen Ge and Wen Qing were about to head up the stairs when a loud scream came from above.

“What happened now?”

“Do not panic. The first thing we need to do is ensure our own safety.” Not only did Chen Ge and Wen Qing hear that scream, many of the tenants heard it as well. After the harrowing wail, the sound of doors opening echoed through the apartment block. It sounded like many people had come out from their homes.

“The scream appears to have come from the fifth floor.”

Chen Ge, Wen Qing, and Granny Lee slowly climbed up the steps. When they passed the third floor, they saw the middle-aged man with the collection of female underwear inside his room also exiting his house. After a brief greeting, the group headed up the stairs together.

*Why is he interested in this as well? He does not look like the kind of person who would be kind enough to go to the scene of an accident to help. He does not strike me as a good Samaritan.*

When they arrived at the fifth floor, Chen Ge noticed that the corridor was already packed. There were a few familiar faces among them. They included the university student Xiao Sun and Auntie Ding. Around five to six people were gathered around the entrance to Room 504. They were whispering among themselves. Chen Ge was standing too far away to hear what they were talking about.

“What happened here? Do you know?” Chen Ge whispered to ask Xiao Sun.

“Someone was murdered! It happened in Room 504!” Xiao Sun’s face was blanched like a sheet of white paper. This was the first time he had encountered something like this.

“A murder?” Chen Ge looked in the direction of Room 504. The living room was soaked in blood, and the wall was filled with scary paintings that were made out of red blood strokes. All the furniture was covered in splattered blood. A girl sat among the pool of blood, and she was the one who was wailing. She cried while holding the dead body of a middle-aged man in her arms.

“Was it the girl screaming all along?”

“I also just arrived here.” Xiao Sun shielded his face behind his hands. He only dared to look through the gaps between his fingers. Wen Qing wanted to get a closer look, but she was stopped by Chen Ge.

“Someone is dead. There is blood everywhere. You’d better be prepared for the sight. I must warn you, it is not one for one with a weak stomach.”

Just from Chen Ge’s description, Wen Qing felt her stomach rolling already. “It has nothing to do with Xiang Nuan, right?”

“No, the victim is a middle-aged man.”

“Then, I do not think I will go any further. I do not need to see this.”

“Shush, watch your words. The situation now is very unusual and dangerous.” Chen Ge lowered his voice. “The door that leads out of this apartment is locked, and the key is with the landlord. If the murderer is not the landlord, then the killer must still be in this building. He might be hiding amid the crowd at this moment.”

Wen Qing understood what Chen Ge meant. She sidled up closer to Chen Ge carefully.

“The tenants of this building have their own rules that they have already established among themselves. The death of this middle-aged man has shaken practically every tenant in the building, so it does not look like this was a job of one of the other tenants.

1“If the other tenants have been ruled out, other than the landlord, the only possible people who would dare to so openly violate the consensus within the building must be an outsider.”

As this thought crossed his mind, Chen Ge took another look at the drawing painted using fresh blood inside the room. He noticed that most of the paintings had some kind of relation to curses. He appeared to have seen similar paintings in Li Wan City and the old city before.

### **Chapter 1079: Sin and Greater Sin**

“What happened?” More and more people gathered at the fifth-floor corridor. Many tenants ran over. Chen Ge dragged Wen Qing to the corner. It was not the time to get mixed up. Xiang Nuan’s blood door did not disappear. When Chen Ge entered the door, the monster from the living room followed. At the time, he tried to close the door, but he was not the door pusher, so that was beyond his capacity. Chen Ge suspected that the monster following them was the killer, but only he knew about the monster’s presence.

“I’ll have to figure out a way to lead the tenants to find and locate that monster.” Looking at the gore inside the room, Chen Ge took a light breath. To act so brazenly behind another person’s door, the monster from the cursed hospital must have some kind of back up. “The cursed hospital’s study on the door should have begun much earlier than mine. They understand these ‘doors’ better than I do. Perhaps the world that is filled with danger in my eyes looks different to them.”

The cursed hospital had cultivated many monsters like the non smilers. These people had lost their consciousness and humanity. All they did was smile; they would be forever hated, perfect to survive behind the door. Standing in the corner, as Chen Ge listened to the discussion among the tenants, he tried to come up with a solution as fast as he could.

“It’s quite easy to see why the outsider would kill someone. The front door is locked, so they can’t leave this building. This means that they need a safehouse to hide in. After killing the owner, that means that they will be able to hide inside that room and use that room as a secure spot to continue observing and investigating the rest of the building.”

From this, it showed the different side of how Chen Ge and the cursed hospital dealt with things. The bottom line for the cursed hospital was much lower. In their eyes, the ‘people’ behind the door could not be counted as people. As long as it was to their benefit, they could be killed without any question.

“That was not a bad idea, but some kind of accident probably happened during the process and caused them to abandon this room and go searching for another room.”

With that in mind, Chen Ge looked at the girl inside the room hugging the dead body. “Is the reason for that this little girl?”

Using Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge did not find anything too special about the girl. She looked soft and weak, completely unthreatening.

“Move out of the way! Don’t block my way!”

While Chen Ge was thinking, a young man’s voice came from the sixth floor. He turned back to look and saw a disheveled man rushing down the stairs. This man looked more desperate than the other tenants.

“Yan Er!” The young man was calling an unfamiliar name. When the girl inside the room heard his voice, she cried harder. Pushing his way through the crowd, when the young man arrived at Room 504, he was stunned. He froze at the door, the energy slowly leaving his body.

“Big brother...” The girl’s face was covered in blood and tears. She looked both pitiable and scary.

“What happened here?” The young man stepped into the room and knelt next to the middle-aged man. His body was shaking like he could not believe what he was seeing. The girl finally found a sanctuary. With tears in her eyes, she started to narrate what happened earlier.

The girl’s name was Qu Yan. She shared Room 504 with her father, Qu Gui. Her older brother, Qu Yin, and his girlfriend stayed above them in Room 601. Qu Yan had the habit of sleeping early, and since her father had serious snoring issues, she would close the bedroom door every night. But earlier, when Qu Yan was fast asleep, she heard strange noises coming from inside her room. It sounded like mice biting on the closet or something crawling under the bed.

Qu Yan was frightened, so she quickly switched on the bedside lamp. There was nothing that suggested anything was wrong, but Qu Yan could not fall back to sleep; her mind kept wandering, feeling eyes on her from underneath the bed or inside the closet. She tossed and turned. The more she thought about it, the more scared she became. She wrapped herself in her blanket and left her bedroom to find her father.

Knocking on her father’s door, Qu Yan told her father that she was scared because it felt like someone else had entered the room. Qu Gui tried his best to console Qu Yan, but honestly, he did not think much of what she said. Seeing that Qu Yan was reluctant to go back to her own bedroom, he succumbed and allowed Qu Yan to sleep in his room. He told Qu Yan that he would guard the living room and stop any bad guys from entering. That way, Qu Yan could sleep soundly. After bidding Qu Yan good night, the middle-aged man left his bedroom for the living room.

After her father left, Qu Yan was still quite unsettled due to being left alone, so she went to lock the door.

A few minutes later, when Qu Yan felt like sleeping again, she suddenly heard the doorknob of the bedroom behind twisted. She only heard it once. When the person realized that the bedroom door was locked, they stopped doing it. That banished sleep from Qu Yan’s mind. She called her father’s name loudly, but no one answered from the living room. Fear wrapped around her heart, and she screamed louder and louder until knocking came from the door of the living room. The neighbors’ voices could be heard outside the front door. She then decided to open the bedroom door to check.

The moment she opened the door, her mind went blank. The whole living room was covered in blood. Her father was splayed out in the middle of the room, unmoving. The girl had no idea when she opened the front door. The neighbors probably just wanted the girl to be quiet so that they could rest, but when they saw the scene inside the room, even they were stunned.

“The entrance of this apartment is locked. The murderer must be still in the building!” Qu Yin tried his best to calm down. He resisted the sadness. With bloodshot eyes, he stared at the gathered neighbors. “The person that killed my father is now inside this building!”

The neighbors looked at each other. The familiar faces that they saw daily had a murderer hiding among them. That was a scary thought.

Looking at the pained expression on Qu Yan and Qu Yin’s faces, Chen Ge had confusion running through his mind.

“Qu Yan was the one who first discovered that something was off. She felt like a stranger had infiltrated their home, and she was proven right later, but how did that person manage to sneak in so silently? The person probably had the key to Qu Yan’s home and knew the place very well. Combining all that happened after that and the appearance, and timing, how come it feels like for me the greatest suspect is the older brother, Qu Yin?”

Chen Ge’s analysis was not unfounded. He had followed the police on multiple cases. He was quite familiar with investigation, logical construction, and the chain of evidence.

“Qu Yin lives on the sixth floor, right above the fifth floor, so he would have heard Qu Yan’s screams, but he was not the first to the scene. In fact, he arrived much later. What was he doing during this period? Changing out of his bloody clothes? Cleaning the blood stains from his hands?”

His eyes wandering between Qu Yin and Qu Yan. Actually, Chen Ge had a more brazen suspicion. The killer could have been Qu Yan too. This could have all been staged, but the chance of that was not big. After all, in terms of motive, why would any of them kill Qu Gui?

Chen Ge initially suspected that the killer was from the cursed hospital, but things did not appear to be that simple. Things became much complicated. Chen Ge’s mind from spinning. As he eavesdropped on the neighbors, he found out that the relationship between Qu Yin and Qu Gui was bad, and it was due to the Qu Yin’s girlfriend. It was the reason Qu Yin had moved out. Qu Yin had the motive, but it was not that strong a motive. After all, Qu Gui was his father; he would not kill him for his girlfriend, right?

“The walls are painted with cursed pictures, so the actual killer should be the monster from the cursed hospital. There is no question about that. However, I feel like someone is assisting these monsters from the cursed hospital.” Chen Ge kept his eyes on Qu Yin. “The people from the cursed hospital has probably formed some kind of contract with Qu Yin. The monster helped kill Qu Gui while Qu Yin helped to provide them with a cover. That way, it was an exchange of benefits, but it tied both of them to the same boat as well.”

The monster from the cursed hospital understood the rules behind the door better than Chen Ge. That came from years of studying, and they knew how to easily obtain the door for themselves. With threats and benefits, they could get anyone to work with them.

Before sin, there was deeper sin. The monster from the cursed hospital was not afraid that they would be scammed.

“I seem to have underestimated that cursed hospital.” Chen Ge dragged Wen Qing back a few more steps. They melted into the crowd to avoid Qu Yin’s sight.

### **Chapter 1080: A Good Person Couldn’t Be Bad For Once? [3 in 1]**

Qu Yin was one of the tenants. He was also the victim’s son and a member of the community that adhered to the rules within the apartment. If this person came out and accused Chen Ge of being the murderer, then the spotlight would be instantly shone on Chen Ge and Wen Qing. It would turn the situation from bad to worse. Out of such consideration, Chen Ge dragged Wen Qing to hide in the corner.

Qu Yin hugged Qu Yan. The two siblings felt great loss and pain. The neighbors showed pity, and everyone appeared normal, or more accurately, everyone tried to make themselves make the most normal reaction in the circumstances. The demons who had on the disguise of human skin had gathered together. Every single of them had their own agenda, and no one could really tell what they were planning.

“Wen Qing, we should proceed on our quest to find the landlord.” Chen Ge did not wish to stay there any longer. He had a very bad feeling in his heart. He knew that the people from the cursed hospital had entered the door, and the monster from the cursed hospital knew about him and Wen Qing’s presence. The fact that they had chosen to cooperate with the original tenants behind the door was probably a way to force Chen Ge to show himself.

Now that someone had died in the building, to investigate the killer, Qu Yin had a reason to knock on every door. This gave him a valid reason to go into every room to take a look. If someone refused, that meant that they had a guilty conscience, and that would prove that they were the killer.

“Such a wicked method. They had the actual murderer go and investigate the potential murderers. The real murderer is hiding among the family of the victim, practically hiding in plain sight, but he will be ignored by the rest of the tenants.”

The cursed hospital did so for two reasons. One, they could now openly investigate every single room behind the door, and two, they could easily pin the blame on Chen Ge. They could have pitted Chen Ge against the entire building of tenants. It was truly killing two birds with one stone.

“The group of monsters are familiar with the rules behind the door. Even though being inside the door has greatly limited their power, they are not that easy to deal with.”

This was officially the first time Chen Ge had crossed swords with the cursed hospital. Behind someone else’s door, both parties were trying their best to trick and scam the other.

“Even if you want me to take the blame, it depends on whether you have that capability or not. You might end up picking up the stone and having it dropped on your own two feet.”

To be fair, Chen Ge was not that worried. The rules within the apartment were broken. Even though the neighbors wanted to catch this person who had violated the room, every room had their own secret to hide. It would not be easy for Qu Yin to gain access to these neighbors’ rooms.

“For those who have darkness in their heart, once you infiltrate into their private space and discover their secret, it means you have made an enemy out of them. Even if they do not kill you straight away, the seed for murder will be buried in their heart.”

Chen Ge took one last look at Qu Yin before leaving together with Wen Qing. The two silently retreated to the stairwell, and Granny Lee followed behind them. The three first went to the sixth floor. Chen Ge stood outside Qu Yin’s room door. He stood at the peephole’s blind spot and used Ghost Ear to listen in on the door. There was a woman talking to herself inside the room. But the more Chen Ge listened to her, the more he felt like she was communicating with someone. Unfortunately, only Chen Ge appeared to be able to hear her.

“This woman should be Qu Yin’s girlfriend.”

Chen Ge looked at the door to Room 601, and he was feeling conflicted. If he knocked down the door and entered the room now, there was a very high chance that he would find the evidence to prove that Qu Yin had murdered his father. Perhaps he could catch the monster from the cursed hospital hiding inside the room as well. But he was afraid of an accident. If his speculation was wrong, then he would instantly be turned into the prime suspect.

“The other party is spreading out a web for their wicked plan. This web will slowly tighten until I am eventually trapped inside.”

The monster was clever, but Chen Ge was too sharp. After he saw Qu Yin, he had figured out many things.

“If the cursed hospital has really worked together with Qu Yin, that puts me at a serious disadvantage. Instead of letting this drag out and allow the situation to get out of my hand, why not end it here and now?”

There was only a door between them. Even the monster from the cursed hospital probably would not have imagined Chen Ge would be standing right outside the door at that moment. He knocked lightly on the door. Chen Ge was not only sharp; he was determined. Yes, he would hesitate occasionally, but he would not spend too long hesitating. When the door was knocked on, the whispering of the woman inside the room instantly disappeared. It became incredibly quiet.

“At this moment, the person inside the room should have sneaked to the door and is try to observe the situation outside the room through the peephole.” Chen Ge had contemplated all the possibilities. When he knocked on the door, he pulled Granny Lee and posited her before the door at the same time. He knocked on the door again, and they waited for a while before the front door was opened a gap. The person inside the room had probably confirmed through the peephole who was outside the door. They realized that it was only Granny Lee before they opened the door. Perhaps from their perspective, a mad old woman was no threat to them. Even if their secret was discovered, it would not have mattered because who would believe the words of an unhinged person?

“Stop knocking on my door. There are no leftovers at my place. Go and find your own son for help. If you continue to harass me, I will go and report you to the landlord and have you chased out from this apartment,” the woman warned viciously.

However, Granny Lee only stood where she was; she did not answer. The woman scolded the poor old woman a few more times before she prepared to close the door. The door was pulled back, but the woman suddenly realized that she was unable to shut the door no matter how hard she tried. When she lowered her head to look, her body broke out in cold sweat. There was a hand that gripped the edge of the door tightly and refused to let go.

“Who is it?”

“Do not worry, I just have some questions that I need to ask you.” With his hand on the door, after ensuring that the woman was unable to force the door shut, Chen Ge showed himself with an ingratiating smile.

“What do you want to know?”

“The fewer people who know about this, the better. Why don’t we go inside first?” Chen Ge pulled the front door open. He did not give the woman any chance to deny and forced his way into the room. The whole process occurred within the blink of an eye. Before the woman could react, Chen Ge was already standing in her living room.

“Who the hell are you?” The woman raised her voice. Chen Ge gave the woman a once over. He was actually already prepared to tear the whole place down. If the woman screamed loudly for help, he would rush forward to clamp his hand over her lips and apprehend her in the process. Chen Ge did not give her any response. The first thing he did was confirm the location of the bathroom and walked toward it.

“Stop right there! Where are you going?” The woman moved to stop Chen Ge, but when she caught up to him, Chen Ge had already pushed open the door of the bathroom. A bunch of dirty clothes were placed inside the dryer, and a few pairs of dirty shoes were abandoned at the corner of the room. Using Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge failed to find any trace of blood on the bunch of clothes.

Was I wrong?

His eyes wandered over to the sink, and Chen Ge hit the jackpot. There was a small stain of blood that was left on the edge of the sink. Moreover, there was blood that was not yet properly cleaned inside the gap of the bathroom tiles.

“There are droplets around the rim of the sink, and the room smells of soap. That can only mean that someone was using this room to clean up the blood evidence a few moments ago!”

The many different circumstantial clues told Chen Ge that his hypothesis was not wrong. “Qu Gui was stabbed to death by a sharp weapon. The whole crime scene was filled with blood splatter, so the murderer would have been covered in blood as well. There must be other traces of blood inside the house!”

With the possession of Yin Yang Vision, Ghost Ear, and Spirit Sniff, in a way, Chen Ge was no worse than an investigative officer who had years of experience under his belt. It would be very difficult to slip one by him. The blood stain in the sink confirmed Chen Ge’s supposition. That propelled him to make a braver action. After leaving the bathroom, without saying anything, Chen Ge moved on to the bedroom and started to investigate it.

“What are you doing?” The woman’s voice turned shrill, a sign of panic, but it was already too late to stop Chen Ge. He had already pushed open the door of the first bedroom. The room was not tidy, the closet door was hanging open, and a truckload of clothes were abandoned on the king size bed. The only place in this bedroom that was large enough to hide a person was underneath the bed, so Chen Ge swiftly walked over and peeled back the covers. After seeing no one was down there, he walked out of the bedroom and headed toward the guest bedroom.

“Stop! That’s enough!” The woman gripped Chen Ge by his arm. She pulled on him so tightly that her fingers had dug into Chen Ge’s skin. She was looking like a banshee at that moment, but probably the woman herself did not even realize that.

“Why are you trying so hard to stop me? Is it because there is a secret that cannot be discovered hiding inside this room?” Chen Ge forced his way to the guest bedroom, but before he got to the door, the sound of the window being opened came out from inside the door!

It appeared like the window had not been opened for a long time, so it lodged there before it gave. The person inside the room pushed twice before the window creaked noisily open.

“There is someone inside the room!” Chen Ge ignored the woman’s protestation and grabbed at the doorknob and tried to push it open. The bedroom door was locked from the inside. Chen Ge aimed at the lock and kicked it several times before he finally got the wooden door to break down. The large piece of red colored curtain was fluttering inside the bedroom; the bedroom window was open. A blood trail lingered on the windowsill. Someone had just abandoned this room through the window.

“The person sure is mad. To not expose himself, he chose to escape from the window.” The black smoke surrounding the residential area was the hiding place for many extremely scary monsters. When he faced the black fog, even Chen Ge’s heart could not help but shiver, much less entertain the thought of walking into the black fog himself. Chen Ge walked to the window and looked down. All he could see was the black fog; there was no trace of a person.

The woman beside him could not stop screaming and cursing at Chen Ge, but Chen Ge did not seem to mind it at all. The woman had made such a loud ruckus that the tenants who were already tense from the murder quickly rushed over when they heard the woman’s scream.

“Honey, are you alright?” Qu Yin’s voice came from the corridor. When he ran into the room, he saw Chen Ge and his own girlfriend pulling on each other at the door to the guest bedroom.

“Ah Yin, this person has barged into the room and started to destroy our furniture!” The woman appeared to have seen her savior. She ran to Qu Yin’s side helplessly. More and more people gathered in the corridor. The neighbors regarded Chen Ge with unkind gazes. At that moment, he was pushed to the tip of the cliff; one wrong move and he would be swallowed up by the dangerous mob.

“Brother, calm down first. I think, if anything, you should thank me.” Chen Ge was not going to be frightened by this situation; he had been in much worse conundrums. At that moment, he was as calm as ever. He pointed at the bedroom door that he had kicked down and very calmly asked the crying woman, “Did I break down this door or not?”

With the matter of fact tone and the even cadence, even Wen Qing who stood next to Chen Ge thought that Chen Ge was being a bit too arrogant like he was purposely saying these words to get a rise out of the woman or the man.

“Ah Yin, this person is crazy! After he charged into the room, he bustled everywhere and even kicked down the door to our bedroom!” Qu Yin’s girlfriend complained. It looked like she was about to start crying again.

Hearing his girlfriend’s complaint, Qu Yin’s expression darkened immediately. That was because he knew what or rather who was hiding inside that guest bedroom. Now his mind was working to come up with an explanation to this problem.

“The reason I kicked the door down was because the door was locked from the inside.” Chen Ge turned to face the group of neighbors and pointed his finger at Qu Yin’s girlfriend. “Brother, at the time, your girlfriend and I were in the living room, but the door to your bedroom was locked from the inside. That proves that there was someone else inside your house at that moment.”

From the moment Qu Yin’s girlfriend confirmed that it was Chen Ge who kicked down the door, they had fallen into Chen Ge’s narration. They could only be led down the plot that was arranged by Chen Ge.

“What is that able to prove? So what if there is another person inside the room at the time?” Qu Yin’s face was turning white. He did not seem like he was prepared for this situation. He had not figured out what to say.

“This is your home, and you are not home. Your girlfriend was cooped up inside your home with another person. The implication is not my business, but when I kicked the bedroom door down, there was no one inside the bedroom.” Chen Ge signaled for the neighbors to enter the living room to look at the evidence. “When I kicked down the door, the window was open, and the curtains were fluttering in the wind. But where did the person in the room go? Why would he escape from the window? What was he so afraid of?”

Chen Ge looked at the group of neighbors and slowly captured their expressions one by one. “If you still do not understand what I am getting at, then come closer. There are blood stains left on the curtain, and there are uncleaned blood stains inside the room. They are still very fresh...”

“I get it now! The murderer who just killed Qu Yin’s father was probably hiding inside this room earlier!” the university student, Xiao Sun, shouted out directly. He was just a student, so he had not experienced something like this before. Honestly, he was still in quite a bit of shock. The other neighbors probably came to the same conclusion as well, but since every single one of them had something to hide, none of them wanted to voice the truth.

“Looks like there are clear-minded people among us,” Chen Ge said with a bright smile. He walked voluntarily toward Qu Yin. “That is why I said you should thank me. If not for me, your girlfriend would probably have been killed by the murderer to silence the witness!”

Qu Yin’s face was twitching lightly. Chen Ge’s tale was being spun so fast that he had difficulty catching up. He had no idea what Chen Ge might say next.

Looking at Qu Yin's drab, gray face, Chen Ge very kindly moved to pat him on his shoulder. "From the situation that we managed to glean from your bedroom, the killer probably got into the victim's home through the window. After he murdered the poor father, he escaped through the window as well. That would explain why the killer was able to get into the victim's home so quietly even though he did not have the key to the victim's house. Don't you agree with me, Qu Yin?"

An observer might think that Chen Ge was just providing his analysis, but as an accomplice to the killer, Qu Yin was able to detect the heavy hint of threat that was inherent in Chen Ge's words. Obviously, Chen Ge knew how the killer had gotten into the victim's home, but he did not expose it and left some opening for all parties involved. The reason Chen Ge did this was definitely not to protect the murderer. He had a very crazy plan forming in his mind. He wanted to use this opportunity to eliminate all the mad people inside this apartment building. He knew that would be an incredibly hard undertaking, but getting Qu Yin to dangle by his fingertips was the first step of his plan.

"You have a point there. I am shocked to find out that the killer got into my father's house through the window." Qu Yin had no idea how much Chen Ge knew, so the only thing he could do now was follow what Chen Ge said and continue with the storyline that Chen Ge had provided.

Hearing Qu Yin agree with Chen Ge, Wen Qing was stunned beyond belief. She slowly lowered her head because she was worried that she might add trouble to Chen Ge because she was unable to control her expression.

"I kicked the door down about three minutes ago. It was around that time that the killer left; the opening between the two events was less than fifty seconds. From this, it can be proved that the killer is not one of us present at this moment."

Chen Ge used a single statement to help clear away the suspicion from everyone present; this banded them into a group. He could then use the power of this group to help investigate the other tenants who were not present and undermine the building from within. Chen Ge knew very well who the killer was, but he was not going to expose him. He was going to use the excuse of finding the killer to 'demolish' the rules of the apartment.

Qu Yin also knew who the killer was, but he had even less of a reason to reveal the killer's identity. Because the killer had already escaped, if he revealed the truth, would that not be equal to surrendering himself? After all, the threat from Chen Ge still lingered in his mind.

Both who knew the real killer were acting like they were searching for the killer. In a way, a consensus had formed between them. In the way they dealt with the situation, Chen Ge's method was far more complicated and useful than the monster from the cursed hospital. With one single statement, he had cleared the suspicion for most of the people. He claimed very plainly that they were not the killers, and thus, he would naturally not go and investigate their rooms.

In this selfish world behind the door, the thing that these tenants cared the most about was their own dirty little secret. They were neighbors, but at the core, they only cared about themselves.

Therefore, when they found out their own room would not be searched and their secret would not be exposed, they sighed in relief and very excitedly aided Chen Ge to go and help expose the others' dirty secrets. Chen Ge made use of their sick psychology and prepared to take down this building one step

after another. When there were more 'good people' than 'bad people', it would be time for him to lay all the cards on the table.

The trap laid down by the cursed hospital was not only easily neutralized by Chen Ge, the latter had even taken advantage of it. If the monster from the cursed hospital knew about this, he would be so mad.

"Wait a minute, how did you know the killer was hiding in Qu Yin's room in the first place?" The middle-aged man with the store of secret women's underwear in his room stood forward to pose this question.

"The killer wanted to kill Qu Gui and Qu Yan, so he must have great hatred for their whole family. I was worried that Qu Yin and his girlfriend might be his next target, so I quickly came to check on her. When I arrived, I heard strange voices coming from inside Qu Yin's room, so I knocked on the door." Chen Ge shrugged and opened his arms to say. "I admit that my actions were rather brash, but we are talking about human lives here. I am sure you can forgive me for my quick yet rash action."

After saying that, Chen Ge even turned to Qu Yin's girlfriend. "You have just brushed shoulder with death. If not for me, you might have been in great danger. Shouldn't you be appreciative of my help?"

The sound of gritting teeth came from Qu Yin's girlfriend's lips. She leaned against Qu Yin's chest with tears in her eyes; she refused to turn to see Chen Ge.

"Looks like your girlfriend is quite shocked. You should go and 'console' her." Then, Chen Ge walked into the living room like he owned the place. "The killer is now on the loose; he could get into any of your rooms through the window. This kind of person is very dangerous. We have to capture him as soon as possible."

Every tenant in this place had their own secret, and their secrets were mostly hidden inside their rooms. What Chen Ge was insinuating was that there was a crazed killer who would not follow the rules. He might look into their secret, so if they did not wish for their secret to be exposed, the group had better work together to apprehend him as soon as possible.

Hearing that, the neighbors were eager to agree. They agreed to help Chen Ge without hesitation. They appeared like they wanted to catch the killer more than Chen Ge. Seeing how worried the neighbors were, Chen Ge's lips curled upward slightly. He knew that the real show was about to begin soon. Everything was moving in the direction that he had planned.

"Perhaps I can use this opportunity to kill the monster from the cursed hospital once and for all."

Chen Ge now had an army by his side. Wen Qing, who stood behind him, was shocked. This was rather different from the world behind the door that she had imagined.