

## Horrors 1111

### Chapter 1111 Take Good Care of Yourself 2 in 1

The rewards for completing the four-star scenario were far greater than a three-star scenario's. Even Chen Ge needed quite some time before he went through everything and managed to memorize all the information inside his mind. "The things mentioned by the black phone are too general. I will have to return to the haunted house to see what these rewards are for myself."

His finger slid across the many messages. Looking at the numeral new scenarios that had just been unlocked, Chen Ge sighed a long sigh from the bottom of his heart. "This time, my visitors sure are lucky. They only need to spend a few RMB to experience a scary atmosphere created by a Demon God. Where else are you going to find a steal like that?"

The haunted house had been upgraded to become a Theme Park of Despair. Its general sense of horror would continue to increase, and the authenticity level would increase as well. Sometimes, Chen Ge would even have a feeling that he was back behind the door when he was walking through his own haunted house. "When the haunted house reaches its final upgrade, perhaps the line between the world outside the door and the world inside the door might be blurred. It will become a kind of a pitstop between the living and the dead."

When he put the black phone away, Chen Ge had regained some strength. He surveyed his surroundings. The red high heels had returned to her original form. The woman who was covered in bandages was staring closely at the giant spider that was dangling upside down on the ceiling of the tunnel. The Tunnel Lady's son was covered in cobwebs and blood vessels. It appeared that the door inside his body could not be opened recklessly; it would cause serious harm to the boy's body. Of all the Red Specters that had followed Chen Ge into the world of black fog, it was the Spider Boy who was most injured because of this.

"One has to be pay that greatly to leave the world of the black fog, huh?" Chen Ge tried to communicate with the Spider Boy, but the boy was not in the mood to respond to Chen Ge. He was too busy focusing on the effort to remove the curse and the black fog that lingered inside his body.

"Even though the ghost fetus has been eliminated, I have also gained some very bad news from the faceless doctor. The cursed hospital that is much scarier than the ghost fetus can now freely enter and leave Jiujiang. In your current state, if they come to find you, I am afraid you will not be able to survive the encounter. How about..." Chen Ge was silent for a while for his proposed suggestion to sink in. "How about you follow me for now? You can return to this place when your wounds are healed."

The Tunnel Lady's son was dangling from the roof of the tunnel. For some reason, he was struck by a sense of déjà vu. He felt like he had already heard the words that Chen Ge was saying some time ago.

"Most of the dreams that you have accumulated inside the tunnel have been destroyed. It is very dangerous for you to stay here, especially in your current weakened state." Chen Ge glanced at the giant spider above his head. "You have helped me kill the ghost fetus, and it was me who was responsible for the wounds currently on your body. I hope you will give me a chance to recompensate for what you have sacrificed for me. My haunted house has a Red Specter who specializes in curing curses. She will aid you in your treatment. When your body is full recovered, you can come back to this tunnel any time

you want. When you are a guest at my haunted house, you will be treated like an esteemed guest. As a matter of fact, you might even experience some good memories there.”

Chen Ge’s words were very sincere, and there was nothing that was too out of place in his request. It was a simple story of a man repaying someone who had lent him a hand. As if to help Chen Ge in his persuasion, the red high heels reached out to place her hand on one of the spider’s appendages. In just ten seconds, a spray of black mist evaporated from the spider’s body, and the Spider Boy appeared much better. After giving it a long thought, the Tunnel Lady’s son decided to give Chen Ge this opportunity to repay him. After all, it would take far too long for him to cure himself of the curses on his own.

“The child trusts me so implicitly. I must not fail his trust.” Chen Ge looked at the giant spider that had crawled back onto his back. “With a door inside his body, this talent is exceptionally unique and overpowered. Without him, I might have been trapped in the world of the black fog forever and would have no means to leave at all.”

Chen Ge wanted to keep the Tunnel Lady’s Son at his haunted house. Compared to the cold and eerie White Dragon Tunnel, Chen Ge felt that his haunted house was a far better lair for the boy. At least he would be able to get endless negative emotions and screams without actually harming anyone there.

Carrying his backpack, Chen Ge led the white cat and walked out from White Dragon Tunnel.

“Of those who know about the Spider Boy’s talent, other than my own employees, the rest either already have their souls destroyed or are forever left behind in the world of the black fog. In other words, this is a trump card that my enemy still do not know I have. When I have to deal with the cursed hospital in the future, the Spider Boy might yet have the chance to shine.”

The sunlight showered down on his body. The warmth of the sun finally made the man give out a sigh of relief. His heart that was strung taut finally had the chance to relax.

“Did you find something to eat behind the door? How come it feels like you have gotten fatter again?”

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Chen Ge returned to New Century Park at around 8:50 am. By then, a lot of visitors had already queued up outside the theme park’s entrance. Most of them were there for Chen Ge’s haunted house. Seeing the crowd getting larger and larger but Chen Ge who had the key to the haunted house still not appearing, Uncle Xu, Xu Wan, and the rest were desperate enough to want to call the cops. “I am so sorry. I left in such a hurry last night that my phone ran out of battery.”

As Chen Ge apologized, he quickly unlocked the haunted house’s gate. When he left the previous night, he had taken all of the useable Specters with him. All that remained at the haunted house were some lingering spirits.

“As long as you are safe, everything is fine.” Compared to the business, everyone, including Uncle Xu, was more worried about Chen Ge. Over the past few days, they had all noticed how tired and lethargic Chen Ge was looking. After entering the haunted house, Chen Ge first had Xu Wan lead the team to the dressing room while he summoned out Yan Danian and Ol’ Zhou and had them take the comic and reassign all the employees to their posts.

Chen Ge was so busy that he did not even have the chance to stay for a chat. He hurried to help with other people's makeup. With some rushing here and pulling there, they finally managed to open for business right on time. Currently, the haunted house had many playable scenarios. It could allow more than one hundred visitors to enter it at the same time. As the operating hours lengthened, the number of visitors who had successfully cleared the three-star scenario had increased, and so everyone had their eyes now on the four-star scenarios.

Both online and offline, on all sorts of forums, there were predictions on who would be the first person to clear Chen Ge's haunted house's four-star scenario. The haunted house app that Director Luo had made specifically for Chen Ge's haunted house also became quite a popular download. Naturally, most of the haunted house aficionados would download it, but other than them, the greater number of download came from various 'cloud' users.

This batch of users did not dare come to challenge the haunted house on their own, but they enjoy watching other visitors go into the Haunted house in their stead. The app had a forum where the visitors were allowed to share their visitation experience, and these strange and scary stories had become a kind of source of joy and interest for this batch of 'cloud' visitors. Other than the sharing of the visitors, Chen Ge's haunted house was now also popular enough to attract the attention of many online celebrities. Chen Ge naturally welcomed these people, and he even allowed some of them to record a video during their visitation provided that the request was not too over the line.

The internet celebrities came to the haunted house for clicks, and the haunted house relied on these people of influence to spread its fame. They would both benefit from this relationship. Of course, the most important reason was because Chen Ge was not afraid that his secret would be exposed. The speed by which he unlocked the new scenarios was far beyond his visitors' speed to explore them. This was something that was unprecedented in the haunted house industry.

Furthermore, even if the visitors had gone through all the guides and videos and came over to visit, expecting to clear the scenario, when they were inside the haunted house in person, they would realize that everything was different from what they had imagined. The atmosphere, sense of horror, and real ghosts were not things that could be captured through the lens of a camera. For an example, if the horror feeling felt through the video was at a ten, the feeling one would have when experiencing the horrors inside the video in person would be at a hundred or even more. This was why some of the visitors felt so scammed by the guides that they saw.

The popularity of Director Luo's app that aided the haunted house made the futuristic theme park copy him and come up with the same strategy. They spent a lot of money on the marketing for the app, but the effect was not as good as they expected. There were many reasons behind this, but one of the reason was that the futuristic theme park would never show their haunted house's ranking to the public because they did not wish for the public to know that their haunted house had been grabbed and ground on the floor by a certain someone, not once but twice.

"Now that the issue with the ghost fetus has been handled, I can finally give myself a good rest." Chen Ge handed the responsibility to look after the visitors over to Ol' Zhou and Duan Yue while he squirreled into the staff breakroom. Closing the curtain, Chen Ge took out the comic that Yan Danian had just returned to him. He released Xiao Sun and the other remaining tenants from behind the door. Surveying

the new and strange environment, Xiao Sun was much more honest this time. He rubbed his eyes, and the young man seemed to sense that something was wrong.

“Xiao Sun, I have something that I need to tell you.” Chen Ge sat at the side of the bed as he rubbed the white cat on its head. “Actually, you are already dead.”

When Chen Ge said that, not only Xiao Sun, even the rest of the original tenants behind the door had very strange expressions.

“I need you to really think about it.” Chen Ge took out several pieces of white paper and pens and placed them on the table. Then, he summoned out Zhang Yi from the comic to help these tenants recover their original memory. The memory of being murdered was naturally the most painful memory. The tenants’ faces paled instantly, and they refused to accept that they were already dead. Of course, that would be a hard pill for anyone to swallow.

“Life that has been lost cannot be recovered, but the only thing that I can do is help you find your murderers and offer them to the police.” Chen Ge pointed at the stack of paper on the table. “Write down the name of your murderers and the exact details of your murders. I know how cruel that must be, but this is the only way I can bring you justice.”

After Chen Ge said that, some of the ‘people’ started to move to the table and write. In the end, only Xiao Sun stood where he was.

“What is the problem? Do you not feel well?”

“It is not that.” Xiao Sun shook his head. He hesitated for a long time before he spoke. “I actually ran away from home. I remember now it was because my family did not support my career in music...”

“You wish to go back to see them.”

“Yes.”

“Okay, I will take you home this afternoon. Why don’t you write down your original address on the paper as well?” Chen Ge turned to the other tenants. “I will also help the rest of you fulfill any regrets or final wishes that you have. Please do write them all down.”

Overwhelmed by drowsiness, Chen Ge placed the white cat and Xiaoxiao next to the bed and then slumped down to sleep. His body had reached its limit long ago. He slept until noon. Chen Ge sat up and went to collect the paper on the table. He then asked the tenants some questions one by one before he sent them all back into the comic.

“This is truly a tragedy. Some people have achieved unimaginable success due to their unflinching obsession, but others became ghosts with human skin due to the same reason.” After he read all the information left behind by the original tenants, he took out the black phone because it had a few more unread messages on it.

“Congratulations, Red Specters’ Favored, for gaining a new employee—Sun Xiaojun (Cursed Seed): A walking attraction for bad luck. He is a very special Specter. The ghost fetus once considered using him as one of the candidates, but due to various accidents, the ghost fetus ultimately chose to forgo him. In a way, that was the luckiest thing that ever happened to him.

“Congratulations, Red Specters’ Favored, for gaining a new employee—Huang Mei (Baleful Specter): A soul that was dragged into the door by the ghost fetus. Due to her resemblance to Wen Qing, the ghost fetus never harmed her.

“Congratulations, Red Specters’ Favored, for gaining a new employee...”

Chen Ge gained seven new workers. However, these employees did not have much loyalty toward him or the haunted house, and they had not been given professional training, so Chen Ge did not plan on letting them ‘interact’ with the visitors for the time being. “After I help the other tenants with their last wishes, I probably will have more employees who are willing to join me.”

After taking a whole morning of rest, Chen Ge still felt incredibly tired. He went to the toilet to wash his face, and then he collected all the evidence and documents that he had so far and shoved them into his backpack.

“I need to go to the police station to file these cases and hand the information over to the police. Then I shall bring the new employees to have a reunion with their family.” Chen Ge had already planned the rest of his day.

“Finally, things can go back to normal for a day.” Just as he said that, the phone that was charging suddenly rang. When he saw the caller ID, Chen Ge’s expression twisted with disbelief. “Lee Zheng? I haven’t gone to find him, yet he is already calling me on his own?”

Taking the call, Lee Zheng’s voice came from the other side of the line. “Chen Ge, where are you now? And how come your phone was switched off all of last night?”

“I was at... how about we talk about this in person?”

“I am afraid you will have to come and see me in person whether you like it or not.” Lee Zheng’s tone was extremely severe. “The blind man who stayed with you at the mental hospital before this, he died last night. It was a horrible death. I need you to come to the People’s Hospital of Jiujiang as soon as possible!”

“Chang Gu is dead?” Chen Ge was so distracted by the ghost fetus that he had almost forgotten about Chang Gu. Now that he was given this sudden news, his brain was struck numb. He was still expecting Chang Gu to help him finish a movie.

“Okay, I will be there in a minute!”

After explaining the situation to Uncle Xu, Chen Ge carried his backpack, hailed a cab, and hurried to the People’s Hospital. One of the sickrooms on the second floor at the hospital had been cordoned off. Chen Ge was only given entry after he dropped Lee Zheng’s name.

Pushing open the door, Chen Ge was hit by an extremely cold presence. He narrowed his eyes, and he realized that Chang Gu was just standing behind the curtain. The man was expressionless. One of Chang Gu’s eyes had been dug out, and his other eye was completely white. At that moment, Lee Zheng and two police officers as well as two medical workers were inside the room. When they saw Chen Ge walk in, they directly surrounded Chen Ge.

“Brother Zheng, what time did Chang Gu die last night? Do you suspect that this is a homicide?” Chen Ge’s eyes glanced toward the curtain. Chang Gu did not seem to notice that Chen Ge was looking at him.

“The patient woke up at around midnight last night. His eyes started to bleed, and he kept screaming a person’s name. Then he went completely silent. We tried our best to rescue him, but ultimately, we were unable to keep him around.” The doctor sighed. “Honestly, this is the first time I have encountered a patient like this. His body temperature was far lower than a normal person’s should be, but his physique and vitals were far stronger than a normal person’s. He was unable to resuscitate from the coma. Until last night, his internal organs started to atrophy, and even now, we still cannot find the reason behind it.”

“The doctor is not wrong. The patient’s body has been sent for autopsy. The official statement given by the coroner is that the patient died from organ failure, which then led to his death.” Lee Zheng turned to Chen Ge. The gaze that struck him caused Chen Ge’s heart to quiver.

“That was a strange cause of death, but that does not have anything to do with me, right?” When Chen Ge spoke, he kept his eyes on the curtain.

“The name that the patient kept screaming before he died was your name, Chen Ge.” Lee Zheng carried over a chair. “I also do not understand why, but it feels like everything is somehow related to you. Can you explain to me again what your relationship is with this patient?”

“I guess you can say that he approached me for a favor. His younger sister is missing, and he wanted me to help look into that.” Chen Ge stared at the curtain. His brain was not focusing on how to deal with Lee Zheng but on the reason behind Chang Gu’s cause of death.

Body temperature lower than normal but physique stronger than normal, these ‘symptoms’ were similar to his. Chen Ge was worried that he would one day end up in the same state as Chang Gu.

#### Chapter 1112 Who are you talking to 2 in 1

“You said Chang Gu asked you for a favor? So, in other words, he can be considered your client?” Lee Zheng looked at Chen Ge with blatant suspicion on his face. “But you have not met him before. Why would he come to a person who owns a haunted house to help him finding a missing person? That does not make sense at all.”

“How does it not make sense? This person who owns a haunted house has a sparkling record of helping the police solve their cases, right? That only proves that I have a wide range of hobbies and am interested in many things.” On the surface, Chen Ge was conversing with Lee Zheng, but he kept his eyes glued to the curtain. No one in the room could see Chang Gu but him. They had no idea that this patient who had already been sent for autopsy was currently standing behind them.

“Helping us with our cases? Well, you sure are quite open with your self-praise.” Lee Zheng was about to counter that claim, but there was nothing that he could say to overthrow it. There were many haunted house operators in the country, but a boss like Chen Ge was indeed exceptionally rare. One would probably come just once in a hundred years.

“Brother Zhang, other than calling out my name, did the patient say anything else before he died?”

“No, he only kept screaming your name before he died.” Lee Zheng creased his brows into a frown.

“Please be a little bit serious. We now suspect that it was you who put him in this state. After all, at the mental asylum, you were the only one who shared the room with him. In other words, you are the only one who has had any contact with him.”

“Brother Zheng, I swear this is a misunderstanding!” Chen Ge immediately jumped to his explanation. He told Lee Zheng about Chang Wenyu and the parents of the children who were sent to the door behind the School of the Afterlife. However, he did not tell the full story. He chose parts of it that could be shared and used that to distract Lee Zheng’s attention. In reality, Chen Ge himself had no idea what Chang Gu’s goal was. After all, when he was at the School of the Afterlife, he was technically scammed by the Chang Gu and his sister. The real victim of that situation was Chen Ge.

Of course, Chen Ge was not going to take issue with a dead person. He planned to take Chang Gu home with him after this. At the end of the day, they had been through many things together, and Chen Ge had a feeling they had many things that they could talk about.

If it was another person who had come to drop these things on Lee Zheng, the latter would not have given the person any chance and would have taken him to the station in cuffs for questioning. But Chen Ge was different. No matter how ridiculous his stories were, they would be confirmed later, especially when it came to the prediction of a murder case. It was almost a prophetic power that the young man had. His stories were scarily accurate.

Seeing that Lee Zheng was still hung up on the suspicions, Chen Ge decided to pull open the zipper of his backpack and said in the severe tone, “Brother Zheng, can we put the issue about this patient aside for now? I have something more important to report to you. Actually, when you gave me the call, I was already prepared to go to the police station to find you in person.”

“What could be more important than the loss of a human life?” Not only Lee Zheng, even the doctor in the room was irked by what Chen Ge said. They all felt Chen Ge was being a bit too unfeeling and harsh.

“The loss of several human lives.” Chen Ge took out the information from his backpack. When he said that, the sickroom was shrouded in silence. Everyone turned to look at the stack of white paper that he was holding.

“I went to the old city last night and came upon a big discovery at a place called Jin Hwa Apartments.” The actual statements and crime scene reconstructions written by the dead were hidden inside Chen Ge’s backpack’s compartment. What Chen Ge took out was a simplified version that he had personally written when he was in the cab. It only contained several names and several important clues. For murder cases, it was best that things were not that detailed. After all, if a normal person managed to reconstruct the murder scene perfectly, it would only be logical for the police to suspect them of being the murderer.

Chen Ge handed the papers over to Lee Zheng. “Why don’t you take a look at it yourself?”

Even though it was already the abridged version, it was enough to shock and stun Lee Zheng. After all, the whole apartment block was filled with murderers and madmen. To accomplish his own goal, the ghost fetus had conducted a careful screening process when he chose his tenants. He denied those who

had a kind heart, those who did not have a mind that he could corrupt, and those who were too simple and naïve.

After collecting for ten years, instead of saying that all the crazies at Jiujiang had chosen to move to Jin Hwa Apartments and Jiu Hong Apartments, it was more like the ghost fetus had found them and lured them into one spot. When Lee Zheng was skimming through the papers, Chen Ge made use of this chance, grabbed his backpack, and moved to the window.

When Chang Gu saw him approach, his body started to shake slightly. He lifted his head and used his remaining eye to look at Chen Ge. His lips opened and whispered in a tone that only Chen Ge could hear, "I can still see my little sister, yes?"

Chen Ge nodded. He took out the comic from his backpack, flipped it over to a random empty place, and then turned to look at Chan Gu silently. The meaning was clear. It was inconvenient for them to talk there. If he wanted to see his sister, then he had to go with Chen Ge. Chang Gu did not have much choice. The reason he called out Chen Ge's name before his dying breath was probably for this express reason. Chen Ge managed to extrapolate that much from the fact that his lingering spirit had not left the sickroom after he died as if he was there waiting for Chen Ge to come. The two shared a silent connection. Chang Gu entered the comic without resisting. Chen Ge put the comic away like nothing had ever happened.

"Is the air conditioning broken? How come it suddenly feels so hot?" The doctor lowered the temperature of the air conditioning, and he moved several steps toward Lee Zheng as if he was curious about the content on the white paper. Hearing the shuffling footsteps, Lee Zheng immediately put the papers away. His expression was severe when he turned to look at Chen Ge. There was fury burning inside his eyes, but the fury was not directed at Chen Ge. Lee Zheng was a man of justice; this was one of the reasons Chen Ge admired him so much.

"Chen Ge, you have to follow me back to the police station after this. This is too serious. We have to inform Captain Yan about it." Then, Lee Zheng turned to address the doctor and the nurse. He told them to keep the room where Chang Gu died vacant for a while. He then left the hospital with the other police officers and Chen Ge in tow.

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At the police station, once Captain Yan was briefed of the situation, he immediately summoned all the important personnel to have an emergency meeting. Everyone was seated inside the conference room. Even Chen Ge was given his own seat, and most importantly, none of the officers felt that Chen Ge's presence was out of place. The staff had compiled the information provided by Chen Ge and compared them to the missing person records and the unclosed cases from many years ago. The police discovered that the murders mentioned on the papers matched some of the cases almost perfectly.

"Round up the teams immediately. We are going to Jin Hwa Apartments now. By the way, call all the people who are on leave back to the station as well!" Captain Yan was going to lead the team personally. After he had assigned everything, a few police cars left the station in a group.



Hugging his backpack, Chen Ge was squeezed between two other police officers. He appeared rather cautious and reserved. "Er... should you guys send in some plainclothes to do some investigation first? If you go in directly like this, you might scare some of the innocent tenants there."

The atmosphere inside the car was serious. Neither officer answered Chen Ge's question. Ten minutes later, they arrived at Jin Hwa Apartments. The parade of police cars rumbled through the streets. The sirens echoed through the air of the old city. Karma might be late, but she would never miss out on the party.

Most of the tenants had no idea what was going on, but some of the tenants had already prepared to sneak away. When the police arrived, however, they directly sealed up the whole of Jin Hwa and Jiu Hong Apartments. No one was going to escape.

The ambush was so sudden and without any warning. In a way, this was the first time Chen Ge had seen Captain Yan in action. He carried out his action with drive and determination and had a scarily accurate instinct when it came to crimes and cases.

Everyone at Jiujiang Police Station was a well-trained member of the law enforcement. After all, they had been 'baptized' by a shower of heavy crimes. Even a newbie would grow exceptionally fast in this environment. For those working there for just a month, they would have been exposed to a number of heavy crime cases that would rival the total number of those at other stations in a year.

In just ten minutes, they had managed to apprehend many suspects. Captain Yan and the rest had also noted the mysterious disappearance of Xiang Nuan and Wen Qing. The crime scene investigators managed to find Chen Ge and other strangers' fingerprints at the scene. The police had also discovered a large amount of death notices with Xiang Nuan's name.

"You were here last night?" Both Captain Yan and Lee Zheng were staring at Chen Ge. They took on a different persona when they were working a case, and that brought some amount of pressure on Chen Ge.

"Wen Qing is the estate agent who is responsible for these two residential areas. She has worked here for ten years already. She's the one who told me most of the information that I handed over to you." Wen Qing's occupation meant that she needed to have a close relationship with the tenants there, so there was a chance that she would know about everything that had happened. Other than that, Wen Qing was now trapped on the other side of the door. The police could not summon her for questioning, so Chen Ge could come up with any story that he wanted.

"So, where is she now? Weren't you with her last night?" Lee Zheng peppered Chen Ge with questions. This time, the case involved so many people that even this experienced police officer who had been through a lot was quite nervous.

"Wen Qing noticed the strange actions of the tenants here a long time ago, but she was too scared to speak up because she had a feeling someone was onto her and might her or her son. However, she did not know who that person was."

"Someone was threatening her?" Even Captain Yan's expression changed. This case was getting worse the more he dug into it.

“Yes, you can see that from the flyers in the corridors all over the building that slander her reputation and the stack of death notices that were addressed to her house. There are some people who could not wait for her to die.”

“Some people? More than one person?” Captain Yan very astutely captured the choice of words that Chen Ge used. “There are many people who wanted this poor woman dead? Is it because she found out about their secrets?”

“I do not know the details either. I am afraid you will have to find her and ask her in person.” Chen Ge changed the subject. “But Wen Qing did mention something to do. She did say that the person that wanted to kill her was related to a hospital.”

Chen Ge decided to bring up the non-smiler and the cursed hospital now. He could push all the blame behind the murders and the disappearance all on the cursed hospital. When Chen Ge could not find the solution, he decided to pin the blame on the cursed hospital.

After all, it was indeed the faceless doctor sent by the cursed hospital that framed the ghost fetus and killed Wen Qing; that was truth. Even if Chen Ge was given a lie detector test, he would pass with flying colors. Not only Wen Qing’s disappearance, Chen Ge had also pinned all the wicked things that the ghost fetus had done onto the cursed hospital. The ghost fetus was corrupted by the hospital, but the ghost fetus was dead now, so the crimes committed by the ghost fetus should be shouldered by the hospital. That was quite sensible in Chen Ge’s eyes.

Earlier, when Se Xin died mysteriously on the operating table, Captain Yan’s people spotted the non-smiler on the surveillance camera outside the hospital. Then, they had once again spotted the presence of the non-smiler on the street outside of Jin Hwa Apartments. Combined with the ‘crucial clues’ given by Chen Ge, the investigative direction of the entire Jiujiang police department would be targeted at the cursed hospital.

Several murders were exposed, and the murderers were apprehended on the spot. The owner of Jiu Hong Housing Agency who rarely showed himself was also summoned to the crime scene. The police interrogated them one by one. This continued until the afternoon. Interestingly enough, after the police finished their questioning of Jiang Jiu, they had him sit together with Chen Ge to wait for the next round of questioning. Of the two of them, one was the last to see Wen Qing alive, and the other was the last to talk to Wen Qing on the phone.

The actual lynchpins of Western Jiujiang New Century Park and Eastern Jiujiang futuristic theme park were seated side by side. This was a scene that was hard to imagine. After the police left, when there were only the two of them in the room, Chen Ge leaned back in his chair and glanced sideways at Jiang Jiu next to him. Time had not left much of a trace on Jiang Jiu. He was supposed to be around the same age as Director Luo, but he appeared much younger than Director Luo. However, he was dressed his age. It made him look very formal.

“It is quite difficult to schedule a meeting with you. This is indeed a rare chance for us to meet.” Chen Ge took out the comic like he was looking for reading material and casually flipped through it. Jiang Jiu did not reply. He appeared to think that it was beneath his level to speak to Chen Ge. Perhaps he might have responded if it was Director Luo.

“The ghost fetus that threatens you is no longer of this world.” Chen Ge flipped the comic to the page where Zhang Yi was hiding and stopped.

When the term ghost fetus was mentioned, Jiang Jiu’s hands trembled slightly, but he soon caught himself. “I do not know what you are talking about.”

“If that were true, you would not have responded to my statement.” Chen Ge stared at Jiang Jiu, and his pupils slowly narrowed. After he used Yin Yang Vision, the presence about him completely changed. Even the temperature inside the room started to drop.

“From how I see it, you have lost your mind from spending too much time designing the haunted house.” Jiang Jiu refused to admit it no matter what. He turned his head to the side, but his body was shivering out of fear.

“I do not care about the rest. I only want to know one thing.” Chen Ge stood up and looked down on Jiang Jiu. “Did you hear any information about my parents from the ghost fetus?”

Jiang Jiu was a pure businessman, for benefit and gain, he could accept working with a ghost. One could not expect honesty from such a person, but by giving him enough benefits, he could be urged to spill the beans on everything he knew. The room temperature continued to drop. While Jiang Jiu was hesitating, Chen Ge realized his own body temperature was dropping as well. That caused a twinge of fear to curl around his heart. He was reminded of a very bad memory.

“I have never heard the ghost fetus mention your name before, but he likes to make mud statuettes that resemble you. He appears to want to become you.”

“Is that all? Then, did he mention anything about my parents?”

“He did go to find your parents before.” This statement excited Chen Ge. It caused the blood in his veins to boil.

“When did that happen?”

“I cannot remember it that clearly anymore. I only know that after that incident, the ghost fetus never stepped into Western Jiujiang again.” Jiang Jiu slowed down as he gradually calmed down. He tried to wrest the control away from Chen Ge. “I can tell you something even more important. The city of Jiujiang is very unique. Your parents were forced to stay here, or rather, they were not allowed to leave, due to some unique reason.”

“They were forced to stay here because they were needed to guard over something.” Chen Ge thought back on his more than twenty years of life on this earth, and his lips were pursed together. “Were they protecting me or the door at the haunted house?”

Jiang Jiu had quietly memorized everything Chen Ge had said. Naturally, that did not escape Chen Ge’s notice either. Thankfully, he had the perfect solution for this problem.

“I did not want to do this initially, but you are too cunning, and I am afraid that you might use my words to harm in the future, so...” Chen Ge waved at Zhang Yi. “Make it quick.”

Jiang Jiu had no idea what was happening. He frowned deeply. “Who... who are you talking to?”

## Chapter 1113 She Is the Female Main Character for this Movie! 2 in 1

Jiang Jiu soon understood whom Chen Ge was conversing with. He saw a thin and lanky young man walk out from behind Chen Ge and proceed to use both hands to press against his head. "Do not be afraid. It will be over soon."

Suddenly, there was one extra person in the room. Jiang Jiu soon realized what was happening. However, before the man was given any chance to struggle, his memory started to get muddled. The memories related to the ghost fetus were hidden away, and he soon collapsed unconscious to the ground. Summoning Zhang Yi back into the comic, Chen Ge glanced at Jiang Jiu, who leaned on the seat unconscious, and he quickly yelled at the top of his lungs, "Hey! Are you okay? Hey! Wake up! Can you hear me? Brother Zheng! Brother Zheng! He has fainted! I need help!"

Hearing Chen Ge's cries for help, the police officers on duty quickly hurried over. They conducted first aid on Jiang Jiu. They concluded that there was nothing wrong with Jiang Jiu. He was not injured, but the problem was that he refused to wake up. "We'd better get him to the hospital stat!"

After the police sent Jiang Jiu away, Chen Ge was again left alone in the room. He took out his phone to give Uncle Xu a call to get an update on the haunted house. After ensuring that everything was running smoothly, he walked to the side of the bed, hugged his backpack in his arms, and curled up and slept. After who knew how long, Chen Ge was shaken awake. He opened his eyes blurrily and saw Lee Zheng and a few of the officers looking down at him.

"You guys are finished with your work?"

"I really did not expect someone to be able to fall asleep at a crime scene. Do you think we summoned you here to provide a place for you to rest?" Lee Zheng was rather speechless when it came to dealing with Chen Ge, but he could see that Chen Ge was indeed incredibly tired.

"Well, that's because I know you guys are around. I've helped the police apprehend so many killers. Naturally, there are many people who are out to get me. Normally, I have to sleep with my eyes open. Only when the people's guardians are by my side can I sleep peacefully."

"That's enough nonsense out of you. You'd better get ready to go back home. And please do not leave Jiujiang for now. We might summon you to aid in the investigation at any moment." Lee Zheng and the police were very busy. After they said that, they left in a hurry. Chen Ge looked out the window; the sky was already dark.

"Indeed, it's time to go back. I should have a nice little chat with Chang Gu tonight." Chang Gu himself was not that unique. He was just a Specter who had a talent in directing, but Chang Wenyu was different. She was the second Red Specter who had her own special page other than Zhang Ya in the black phone. Technically speaking, Chang Wenyu's soul should have been destroyed at the School of the Afterlife already, but the black phone stated that she was not yet fully dead, and she appeared to know some secrets about the black phone. That was something that Chen Ge minded a lot.

When he returned to New Century Park's haunted house, the living employees were cleaning up and ready to go home while the ghost employees were all busy with their own things. Chen Ge did not disturb them. He walked straight into the staff breakroom and flipped through the comic to summon out

Chang Gu. "There are no outsiders here, so there is no need for you to hold back. Tell me everything that you know."

The white cat gave the single-eyed person that appeared before it a once over before it jumped to the side with disdain. The cat was always meek before the strong but strong before the meek.

"My little sister's soul is probably still alive. She that said she has kept a life as a backup." Chang Gu's first sentence was so shocking that grabbed Chen Ge's attention immediately.

"What do you mean by that? Where is this life then?" Chen Ge stared into Chang Gu's eyes.

"I do not understand it either. That was what she told me. Whether the plan failed or succeeded, as long as I could leave the School of the Afterlife, I needed to hurry to come find you because she wants to make a deal with you." Chang Wenyu had indeed prepared some insurance. The siblings were not as simple as they seemed.

"What kind of deal?"

"She knows you have a black-colored phone on you, and she even knows that phone has once appeared on another person before. She is willing to tell you everything that she knows and help you complete their favors." Chang Gu extended out three fingers.

"You guys sure have planned ahead. To ensure that you are not lying to me, I will have to first rescue Chang Wenyu's spirit." Chen Ge glanced at Chang Gu. "This is a deal where you guys have nothing to lose."

"My sister's eye has seen many things. She will not lie to you."

"You two sure share a deep and firm relationship. She is directly responsible for your death, but even now, you are still doing everything you can to help her. Even I am getting a little bit touched by it." Chen Ge stood up and walked a circle around Chang Gu. "There is no problem with me helping Chang Wenyu, but three favors are far from enough."

"Then, what else do you want?"

"I will tell you later. First, I need you to tell me what kind of help you want from me." Chen Ge first needed to completely finish all the issues related to Chang Wenyu. This was a mission given by the black phone, and it was a rare chance for him to get to know the black phone a little bit better.

"My sister has hidden a lingering spirit in Xin Hai. The lingering spirit is inside the body of a student. You only need to resuscitate the memory of that lingering spirit."

"Will the student die after the lingering spirit's memory has been activated?" Compared to saving Chang Wenyu, Chen Ge was more worried about the innocent student's life. After all, Chang Wenyu was a Top Red Specter; a normal human would be able to suffer her memory and survive.

"No." It appeared like Chang Gu was still hiding something else from Chen Ge. "The student is currently enrolled at Xin Hai First High School. She is a girl who was almost dragged into the School of the Afterlife by the door, but my sister saved her."

"Do you have any other information beyond that?"

“No, that’s all I was told.” Chang Gu had already finished all the words that he was supposed to say. He stood in the middle of the room with a lack of expression on his face except the small trace of melancholy that lingered in his eyes.

“To be able to have been selected by the School of the Afterlife’s door, she must have been bullied at her school before. That helps narrow down the search a lot, so I believe it will not be that difficult to find this girl.” Chen Ge suddenly changed his tone. “But I do not intend to go to Xin Hai any time soon.”

“Why?” Chang Gu felt like Chen Ge was purposely making things difficult for him.

“I have a nemesis currently residing at Xin Hai. If I go there now, they will definitely come for my life.” Chen Ge’s hand phased through Chang Gu’s shoulder. “Before I have everything prepared, my advice is for you to stay here and work. I risked my life at the School of the Afterlife for you and your sister, and in the end, I got betrayed by both of you. Don’t you think it is time for you to work for me to repay your debt?”

“How long do you need to prepare? Can you at least give me a time frame?”

“I guarantee you it will be done within a month.” After saying that, Chen Ge took out his phone. He was now ready to complete another promise that he had been delaying for a long time. Sliding down the screen, Chen Ge called a number. A dial tone came from the other side of the phone. Just the dial tone was enough to make the temperature inside the room dropped several degrees. Several seconds later, the call was connected. A hoarse male voice came through. “Chen Ge? Do you need anything from me?”

Zhang Wenyu!

“I do not need anything from you. It’s like this.” Chen Ge took a deep breath. Even though he was talking on the phone, it felt like the Red Specter’s voice was directly echoing in his mind. “I have expended a lot of energy to help you find a rather famous director within the industry to help, and I believe I have all the required actors. Furthermore, I have more than enough locales at my haunted house to use as set pieces, like schools, an isolated village, a small town, a mental asylum, an underground morgue, and so on. The only thing that I am lacking now is the script.”

“You wish to help the author complete his dying wish?”

“Of course. Wasn’t that our promise from the beginning?” Chen Ge smiled. “Not only him, I will help carry the dying wishes of the other suicide victims out as soon as I can because I might not have much time left.”

“Did something happen to you? Do you need any help?” The male voice on the other end of the phone was chilly and icy. Those who did not know him would think that Zhang Wenyu was a very scary ghost, but those who knew of his past would know how much he loved and cherished this world.

“This has nothing to do with you. If I do need your help, you can be sure that I will tell you.” Chen Ge wanted to form a good relationship with Zhang Wenyu because this Red Specter was someone that he drew from the black phone, and he was extremely rare. It was much more difficult to get him compared to Zhang Ya. In other words, this suicide line operator who died from committing suicide carried many secrets and was incredibly powerful.

Actually, after meeting Zhang Wenyu for the first time, Chen Ge had secretly gone to investigate the man. He realized that the man had left his presence around both Northern and Southern Jiujiang. The reason these two places could be so peaceful probably had plenty to do with this unique Red Specter. Western Jiujiang had Chen Ge's haunted house, and Eastern Jiujiang had the ghost fetus. Even though neither Southern nor Northern Jiujiang had any powerful Red Specters, that also indirectly proved how unique Zhang Wenyu was. Perhaps, like Zhang Ya, he had many important secrets about him.

No matter the reason, Chen Ge wanted to befriend Zhang Wenyu. Of course, if the latter was willing to become his employee, that would be the best. Zhang Wenyu shouldered many things on his back; he had shouldered all the dying wishes of the suicide victims. In a way, this was very similar to Doctor Gao and the ghost fetus, who had chosen to carry all of the sin that had collected behind the door. But Zhang Wenyu obviously did not lose his mind over this. He still maintained his rationality and sentience after what he did.

Chen Ge had a feeling that Zhang Wenyu was treading a third path. This path was different from Doctor Gao and the ghost fetus, who voluntarily took on all the sin behind the door, and also different from Chen Ge, who opened a haunted house to help all his employees fulfil their wishes, but eventually, all paths would converge to the same destination.

"I will help you complete all the victims' dying wishes. I know it is inconvenient for you to do certain things, so just leave them all to me." Chen Ge had gotten information about the author's bibliography from Zhang Wenyu, and at the same time, he had gained some affection from the man. After the call was ended, Chen Ge went online to search for the author's published books. After he ordered all the official publications, he turned to discuss the direction of the movie with Chang Gu.

"The camera that Liu Gang's team carried with them when they came to challenge my haunted house is still with me. Do you think it will work?" Chen Ge had utilized the term 'recycling' to its maximum.

"The author's dying wish is to make a film that will become popular, and you plan to accomplish that with a simple camcorder. Don't you think that is a bit disrespectful toward the author and his work?" Chang Gu was surprised that the first thing Chen Ge wanted him to do was make a movie, but he did not hate this kind of feeling. At least his talent would not be wasted. "Other than that, making a movie is not as simple as you think. We need to make many preparations, like casting, preparing sets, and gathering props and machinery."

"Other than the cameras, I basically have everything else here."

"Well, I do have some camera equipment," Chang Gu said with a hint of wistfulness. "Do you still remember the holiday villa where we first met? The equipment that I used when I was still alive is all stored there. You can go and take them out. I can lend them to you."

"The word lend is wrong here. Furthermore, you will be the one using the equipment. I am just returning the equipment to its owner." Chen Ge picked up Xiaoxiao and signaled for Chang Gu to follow him. "I will first give you a tour of this place. Along the way, you should see if there are any suitable sets."

Pulling open the door that led underground, the chill wind brushed against the face, and it almost toppled Chang Gu over. This place was indeed scary because even a ghost like him thought the place had an eerie feeling about it.

“Guys, it is time to gather round! We are going to make a movie!” Chen Ge took out the comic, stood at the top of the stairs, and shouted at the underground scenarios. It did not take long for ‘people’ to react. The first was the mannequins from Mu Yang High School, who came out chasing after their heads that had rolled ahead of them. Then came the rustic ghosts from the Living Coffin Village. Lastly, the doctors arrived from the underground morgue. In a few months, Chen Ge’s haunted house had become quite a big family, and the family size was only growing bigger and bigger.

“These are all the actors at my haunted house. They have great experience in how to play a ghost. Perhaps they might not work as the main character, but I believe they have great potential to be side characters.” Chen Ge looked at his employees with satisfaction, and he did not notice that Chang Gu’s face had gone green. This scene from hell was actually a casting opportunity.

Chang Gu’s lips twitched slightly and nodded out of habit. “Okay then.”

“I have seen the movies that you’ve made. They are not bad, so I will leave the rest to you.” Chen Ge shoved Chang Gu into the countless lingering spirits, baleful Specters, and Red Specters. “Let me make the introduction. This is Director Chang. He will be responsible for the production of the movie, so please try to cooperate with him.”

Being stared down by a gauntlet of flaring gazes, Chang Gu had a feeling that his body was being torn apart. He could take the searching views from the normal ghosts, but he felt very uncomfortable being scrutinized by the Red Specters.

“I will leave you guys here to discuss the script and come up with the direction of the plot. I will instead go to the holiday villa to collect the necessary equipment.” Chen Ge called over the driver of Bus Route 104. Before this, after Xiao Bu had taken back the control of Li Wan City, Chen Ge had the girl help him find the bus that had gone missing. Xiao Bu did exactly that. The bus had been placed at the theme park for quite some time after it was moved back from Li Wan City. The reason for that was because it was too easy for this bus to become an urban legend after it got on the road. “Even though I do not have my own Mercedes or a race car like other bosses, but I do at least have my own personal driver.”

The journey took quite some time. After Chen Ge finished moving all the equipment and returned to the haunted house, it was already 3 am. He drove the bus directly to the haunted house, and he had his employees help move the equipment underground.

“Chang Gu, how did the discussion go?” Chen Ge noticed that many of the employees were in preparation or memorizing lines. He realized that Chang Gu had great organizational skill.

“I have skimmed through the work of the author. The easiest among them to be adapted into a movie is a novel about a high school comedy romance—*Summer That Year, I Was Eighteen*. Of course, this is not to say that his other works are not popular. Every single one of his other books has enjoyed quite the popularity, but this book is the easiest to be adapted into a movie format. Furthermore, we have a lot of students here, and we have an assortment of schools, so we can make the movie from many different angles...”



Chang Gu continued with some professional lingo that confused Chen Ge, so all the latter could do was to nod along. "Well, I see that you have already decided on the setting. What about the casting?"

"I noticed one who has an exceptional talent in acting. When I saw first her, I knew that she would be the main female character." Chang Gu pulled the Pen Spirit over to him. "She is practically the embodiment of the main character in the book. She is the epitome of youth and has that brooding presence about her that suggests something deeper in her personality. But most importantly, look at her eyes. They are deep with anxiety, suspicion, brashness, as well as anticipation and hope. What is youth? This is youth!"

#### **Chapter 1114 "Peaceful and Warm" Daily Update 2 in 1**

the pen spirit stood blankly next to chang gu. she still did not understand what had just happened. earlier, everyone was called to casting, and she merely ran through the expressions as per chang gu's direction.

"i am surprised that the pen spirit will be the first actor from my haunted house to debut. at least the daily lectures that i have given have not gone to waste." chen ge looked at the pen spirit like a proud father looking at his accomplished daughter. he asked chang gu, "then, how about the casting for the male main character?"

"about the male main character, i am still hesitating. there is a problem. in terms of acting skills, your worker by the name of zhou is very impressive. his acting skill is far better than all of the actors that i have worked with in the past, but the main problem is his age. we are going to shoot a high school drama. with his age, he is more suitable to be the main character's father." chang gu glanced at ol' zhou and bai qiulin, who were purposely wandering around the area, and he sighed weakly. "theoretically speaking, the most suitable person at your haunted house to be cast as the main male character is xu yin. his eyes appear to be hiding a sea of sadness, and he carries a natural air of melancholy with him. age-wise, he is also the most suitable, but most importantly, his face can practically 'slaughter' most of the male actors his age, so i would say he was born to become an actor!"

"then it's decided. xu yin will be the main male character." it really did not matter to chen ge who the male main character was. he had even more hope that xu yin would be able to slowly walk out from his own world through this experience and see what the outside world had to offer. of all the workers at the haunted house, xu yin was the most loyal. to protect chen ge, he had almost lost his soul several times, so no matter what, chen ge also wished to help xu yin regain his hope.

"if you agree with that, then i will need you to have a good chat with him and help him with some counselling. the main male character has a lot of lines. it won't work if he just keeps on repeating the words 'so painful'." chang gu was rather afraid of xu yin. he did not even dare raise his voice when he was talking with xu yin.

"certain things can't be forced. why can't you try to shorten the script for the male character, cut out most of the lines or use another method to express the main male character's intention?"

"that will be very difficult. after all, we are different from the other teams on the market who ruin the source material that they were given. we have to be able to say that we have not disappointed the

original author who has already passed away.” in a way, chang gu had his professional ethics when it came to his work.

“okay, i will go and talk to him in a bit.” chen ge followed chang gu as he paced between the school of the afterlife and mu yang high school scenarios. “how about the other main characters? have they been cast? previously, i promised one of the employees that i would help her fulfill her dream of being in a movie. her name is duan yue. she was an english teacher before she died.”

“the investor forcing an actor into the film crew? that feels oh so familiar.” chang gu wanted to reject it initially, but after he remembered who duan yue was, he changed his mind again. “oh, i think i remember her. that female teacher is quite a good actor as well. how about i cast her as the main female character’s class teacher? in the original story, the class teacher helps the female main character, and in the end, she even marries the girl’s father and lives happily ever after.”

“what the... if ol’ zhou heard this plot, he’d probably die again from laughter.” chen ge nodded. “i think you need to communicate with duan yue some more to see whether she is willing to take this role or not.”

“okay, i will run through the rest of the characters and casting with you for now.” chang gu was a very talented director. the characters that he had chosen and the cast that he had assembled were so perfect that the actors basically did not need to overact in their roles; they only needed to be themselves, and they could easily bring the characters that they were assigned to life. the extras aside, there were only nine main roles in total. this high school comedy did not have a convoluted plot. it focused around a girl from a single parent family and how she managed to walk out from the mist of depression with the aid of her family and her company at school.

it was a story about youth; it was a story about growth. it was filled with positive energy and the pain that one had go through as one grew up into adulthood. a series of seemingly unimportant events were lined up together to form an interesting and captivating story. the story itself was not that long, but it had a great dramatic effect and obvious conflicts. it was not that difficult to shoot. these were all the reasons chang gu had selected this source material to adapt.

“you’d better work as fast as you can. i will leave the rest to you. i hope that everything will be done in a week.” chen ge did not know when the cursed hospital would come to find him. the easier he gained zhang wenyu’s trust, the better. there was only positive benefits and no downsides.

“i am surprised that i’ve been given more time to do the things that i love after death. this is so ironic. but don’t you worry, i will not disappoint you this time.” chang gu gave chen ge a promise. he would let chen ge see the result within five days. chen ge also thought that chang gu was quite a reliable director, so he did not ask more questions. like he said, he handed everything over to chang gu. he was just a normal person. he could not be compared to baleful specters and red specters. after working without rest until midnight, he was already very tired.

the moment chen ge left the underground scenario and chang gu was going to continue with his shooting, a small figure silently pulled on the corner of chang gu’s shirt. chang gu, who was startled, turned back to look and saw a red specter whose height reached his knees staring up at him.

do red specters roam this place freely? chang gu's body was frozen to the spot. he noticed that chen ge's haunted house was scarier than the school of the afterlife.

"director chang, my name is men nan. do you think there is a character suitable for me in the script? since i was young, i've dreamt of seeing myself on the big screen. i guess you can call it one of my biggest dreams." chang gu could ignore the request of a child, but things were different if that child was a red specter.

"of course, there is no problem with that. how about i assign you the role of the female main character's younger brother? there is such a character in the source material, but he does not appear that often."

"that does not matter as long as i can show up on the screen at least once." men nan left satisfied. chang gu also sighed in relief. he moved his feet and was about to walk away when his whole body shivered. a mist of blood enveloped him. he turned back to look, and a female red specter was standing at the corner gazing at him with the head that she carried in her arms. she did not say anything; she only continued to stare at chang gu with the head in her arms.

"hello..." chang gu said cautiously as he forced himself to move forward to meet this newcomer. this was because he felt that it would be safer for him to get close to the woman rather than show her his back and allow her to follow him everywhere. the headless woman could understand chang gu, but the accumulated resentment and hatred made it so that she was not used to express her own opinion.

"you also wish to be a part of the movie? actually, i have a role that is perfect for you. the character has no lines. she only needs to give her silent blessing to the main couple." chang gu's face was pale, and he was speaking very carefully. making a movie at other places required money, but making a movie at this place might require your life!

the headless woman did not say anything. she merely held her head and nodded it several times before she silently left. chang gu only sighed in relief after the headless woman disappeared from his view. "i should hurry back to work, or else some other red specters might appear to accost me."

...

at 8 am the next day, the first thing that chen ge did after waking up was enter the underground scenario. he needed to remind chang gu that all the movie-making business had to be done at night because the haunted house needed to operate like normal in the day. the ghost employees did not need to rest. even after a whole night of shooting, they were still very energetic. everyone was excited to welcome the visitors. they were the most professional actors whom chen ge had ever met.

the employees returned to their workstations while chang gu used the morning break time to edit and cut the drafts that he had shot the night before. even though he had worked through the night, he could still continue working. the director was as impressive as the actors.

xu wan and the gang arrived at around 8:15 am. chen ge helped them with their makeup and then walked into the staff breakroom alone. he complied and arranged all the dying wishes that he had gotten from zhang wenyu's suicide victims. most of the suicide victims came from northern and southern jiujiang. a small portion of them died somewhere between xin hai and jiujiang.

“there are so many of them?” chen ge printed out all the information and shoved it into his backpack. he planned to go out that morning to help zhang wenyu complete part of the dying wishes of the suicide victims. most of the dying wishes were not that complicated, but zhang wenyu, who was a ghost, had trouble doing them due to obvious reasons.

before he even stepped out from the door, chen ge’s phone rang. pressing the accept button, director luo’s voice came from the other side of the line. “chen ge, i have just received two pieces of news. i need you to be prepared.”

“what’s the news?” chen ge heard an undercurrent of worry in director luo’s voice.

“there has been an adjustment among the higher ups at the futuristic theme park. jiang jiu is hospitalized, and now the theme park’s administration has been taken over by someone called ma feng. i know this man very well; he is callous and ruthless. he is young, but he’s advanced very quickly through the ranks. that is because he is swift with his decision and merciless with his actions. the people below him all refer to him as the quick slasher.”

“the man’s name is ma feng?”

“he is very capable and always goes for the kill. because of his merciless nature, he has offended quite a long list of people. if not for jiang jiu’s accident, he would not have gotten the chance to rise to the top.”

“do we need to pay special attention to this person?” chen ge knew the reason behind jiang jiu’s hospitalization. he just did not expect the chain effect to be so strong.

“ma feng operates on benefits. from the very beginning, he was vocally against the many traps that jiang jiu set up against us. he thought they were a waste of money and time. now that he has taken the reins, he will launch to another counterattack on us. if he is successfully, then it will highlight how good he is and how useless jiang jiu was; if he fails to accomplish anything, then he will probably give up the haunted house idea and other related projects for the futuristic theme park to avoid competition with us.”

“is that not a good thing? if we teach him a good lesson, in the future, the two theme parks will exist in a peaceful, symbiotic relationship, and they will not keep a target on our back anymore.”

“the world of business is like a war; only the winner takes all. even if ma feng fails, the futuristic theme park will only temporarily remove the target from our back, but being able to gain that period of time where we do not need to worry about the competition is very valuable already. i will not sit idle in the meantime. our theme park has already to upgrade and improve with the time.” director luo’s words had hidden a very important message. “and in the future, when we have everything that they have and we also have everything that they do not have, if you were a visitor, who would you choose to visit?”

“of course, i will choose to come to our theme park.” it was not until this moment that chen ge realized that when director luo said ‘the winner takes all’, it meant that he wanted to swallow up the entire futuristic theme park.

“this will not take too long. before the upgrade is completed, i am afraid you will have to work a little bit more to shore up the deficiencies of the other halted attractions.”

“understood.” chen ge and director luo were on the same ship. their fate was tightly linked together. “by the way, didn’t you say you receive two pieces of news? what’s the other one?”

“it’s news from the special sickroom at the people’s hospital of jiujiang. the people that have fainted at your haunted house have mostly recovered and left the hospital. these people spent almost every day consoling and encouraging each other. other than that, the hospital workers heard that they have been planning and plotting to come back for revenge. it is like some kind of cult.”

“you are afraid that they might come back to take revenge on me?” chen ge could not help but laugh. “these fainted visitors have watched too much of the avengers, haven’t they?”

“do not be overconfident. a collective wave can capsize a boat.” director luo ended the call after that. the smile still had not left chen ge’s face. yes, a collective wave could capsize a boat, but no matter how big the wave, it would not shake an aircraft carrier. chen ge welcomed their return. if they came openly through the front entrance, the doors of the four-star scenario would be open for them anytime; if they sneaked from behind, the demon god and red specters would be their welcoming crew.

after greeting uncle xu, chen ge carried his backpack and left new century park to hurry to northern jiujiang. following his own plan, he started to help the suicide victims complete their dying wishes. during this process, chen ge noticed something peculiar. as more and more dying wishes were completed, a red number appeared next to the title of votive master in the black phone. whenever he finished a victim’s dying wish, the number would increase, and the amount it increased would differ each time. the amount appeared to be related to the difficulty of the dying wish. currently, the number next to the votive master title was 127. chen ge predicted that the title would somehow change when the number counter reached 200. chen ge busied himself until late afternoon, and he returned to new century park. he asked his employees for an update. it was yet another peaceful day with no accidents.

“there are more and more people who are courageous enough to challenge the four-star scenario, but their progress from completing the scenario is still very very low.” from the report given to him by ol’ zhou and bai qiulin, in the past week, there had been almost two hundred visitors who entered the school of the afterlife, but the scenario had such a high intensity of specters in it. after all, chen ge had found all the souls of the dead students who had been dragged into the door and had provided these homeless souls with a sanctuary at his own school of the afterlife scenario.

this caused a direct consequence where no visitor was able to full explore the school of the afterlife. basically, most of them called to surrender with tears and screams, and they were led out of the scenario by actual ghosts. various rumors about the school of the afterlife started to appear on the internet. the popularity of this topic was so high that it had far expanded beyond the small circle of haunted house enthusiasts.

“one four-star scenario is still too little. i should consider opening the ghost fetus’ scenario to the public. i should go and give it a good inspection tonight.” the theme park closed for the day at 6 pm. after sending away all the visitors, he had xu wan and the gang go home, and he entered the underground scenario alone.

chang gu had started to organize people for his shoot. meanwhile, chen ge hugged the white cat, carried the comic, and entered the ghost fetus scenario. originally, there was only one ladder that led underground, but now, there was a second ladder that led to the second basement level. the whole

second basement was occupied by one scenario, the ghost fetus' scenario. the voiceless small town, the white orphanage, the spire of darkness, the haunted avenue—all these scenarios were joined and pieced together. there were many dark paths that extended deeper into the ground. the ghost fetus' despair and twisted spirit shrouded the entire scenario.

the ghost fetus' scenario was, in essence, different from the school of the afterlife scenario, probably because this scenario once belonged to a demon god. once one entered it, one would feel the pressure on one's heart like a demon had just entered it. it kept evoking the bad memories that one had buried deep in one's mind. all the negative emotions would be amplified. a person's sin and guilt would find release there to become the nutrient for the ghost fetus' scenario.

after experiencing the worst despair, perhaps the visitors would feel lighter after they left. perhaps they would gain a new insight toward life and their future. with only some short period of unconsciousness as sacrifice, one could welcome a new life. for chen ge, this seemed like such a valuable trade. flipping through the comic, chen ge summoned out all the specters he had encountered in the world behind ying tong's door. miss dress, mr. wood, auntie wu, and miss red silently appeared around him.

"i believe bai qiulin and ol' zhou have already updated all of you on what is going on. the spire of darkness will be your home from now on. other than the rules of the employees that you need to follow, you are free to do anything you like." chen ge conversed quickly with his new employees. "soon, you will see the allure of this job, and i trust that you will learn to enjoy it and love it."

after that, chen ge summoned out all the specters and spirits that he had obtained from all the ghost fetus' nine doors. he assigned them positions one by one until xiao sun was the only one left.

xiao sun had accepted the fact that he was already dead. he was surprisingly open about it. at this moment, seeing that he was the only one who was not assigned a job, he felt quite left out. "brother, what do you need me to do? i also want to help scare the visitors. i am quite good at that."

"i do not need you to do that." chen ge looked at xiao sun with expectation. "instead, i need you to pretend to be part of the visitors and mix into them. that is the only way for you to unleash your full potential. utilize your uncanny ability to bring down the luck of the people around you."

"you want me to act as one of the visitors?" xiao sun did not quite get it. he did not understand that this was something a haunted house could do.

"that is the only way your talent will not be wasted. i fully believe that with your talent, it will be very easy for you to cause bad luck to befall your teammates." chen ge nodded with a smile. "after all, you are a unique talent who managed to use a single statement to make a demon god go on a rampage."

### **Chapter 1115 Why Is Your Comedy Breaking the Records of the Horror Shorts and Movies Ranking? 3 in 1**

"but i have no experience! i am not that good a liar. i will be so easily exposed." xiao sun had a helpless smile on his face. this was the first time he had been so valued greatly in his 'life'.

"there is no need for you to act. you only need to be yourself." chen ge had great expectations for xiao sun. he planned to train this young man well. "after ol' zhou is done with the shoot, you should go and

ask him for some pointers. he is one of the most experienced employees here, and he has a lot of experience acting as part of the visitors.”

“okay.”

“good luck, i believe in you.” chen ge had xiao sun familiarize himself with the scenarios while he carried the white cat to continue inspecting the ghost fetus’ scenario. “ol’ zhou and duan yue have become far too popular for their own good. many visitors become alert once they see someone similar to them in their midst.

“in fact, i was told that some of the more experienced visitors purposely ask for the names of their teammates before entering the haunted house. if there’s a member with the surname zhou in their team, they stay far away from them. this has greatly increased the difficulty of ol’ zhou and duan yue’s work. a new employee joining the big family is a good thing. i believe that xiao sun will be given his chance to shine in the haunted house and greatly showcase his unique talent.”

the cursed seed that was abandoned by the ghost fetus found a new ‘job’ at chen ge’s place. after assigning the posts for all the ghosts, chen ge personally taught him the tactics to scare people, and at the same time, chen ge himself was getting more familiar with the ghost fetus’ scenarios. the ghost fetus’ scenarios were slightly bigger than the scenario for the school of the afterlife. the nine sub-scenarios were already extremely scary, and that was not counting the hidden scenario that was the scariest—the world of the black fog.

chen ge realized that the biggest difference between a three-star scenario and a four-star scenario was that all four-star scenarios appeared to have a hidden scenario embedded within them. the hidden scenario at the school of the afterlife was the red specter’s art room. the school compound where the art room was located was dyed completely red, and it was a perfect replica of the world behind the door. the hidden scenario at the ghost fetus’ scenario—jiu hong apartments—was a perfect replica of the world of the black fog.

wandering souls and negative emotions that morphed into the black fog shrouded the scenario. the only difference here compared to the world behind xiang nuan’s door was the lack of man-eating monster fleeing through the black fog. wading through the black fog, chen ge closed his eyes. he tried to seriously sense the terror that was brought on by the black fog around him.

“what exactly is this black fog? why is my heart still palpitating even though i know that i am in a perfectly safe state? it feels like i have been brought out of the real world and deposited into someone else’s nightmare. everything is an unknown, and nothing is familiar.”

the world of the black fog was filled with abandoned memories. the black fog was brimming with pain, despair, and terror. walking through it, one would have the sense of being assimilated by the atmosphere within it. as one continued to walk, one would subconsciously be sucked into being a part of the black fog and become a walking vessel for pain and despair.

“if a visitor is able to walk out from the world of the black fog with their own determination, then they must be someone incredibly powerful and impressive,” chen ge commented as he walked through the black fog and entered jiu hong apartments. the few buildings there were located in similar positions to the world behind xiang nuan’s door. the ghost fetus’ most important memory and most painful past

were all buried there. chen ge even found the rag doll's broken body. similar to the jiu hong apartments behind xiang nuan's door, the rag doll's body was cut into many different parts and hidden within different buildings.

"i could have the mission be the collection of the rag doll's body. after the visitors have found all of the body parts and successfully bring them all out from the scenario, they will have cleared the scenario." with that in mind, chen ge started to find the body parts of the rag doll himself. the original intention was to take a picture of the compiled rag doll to use as part of the mission explanation, but who knew an accident would happen.

when the rag doll was fully collected, the whole ghost fetus' scenario started to change!

crying children appeared from inside the black fog, numerous haunted spirit flickered in and out of the darkness, and various curses climbed over all the buildings at jiu hong apartments like some kind of dark vines.

"what the... what the hell is happening now?" chen ge quickly summoned the red high heels. he was worried that he had triggered some kind of trap left behind by the ghost fetus. after the red high heels examined the situation, she gave chen ge a clear answer. the ghost fetus' soul had already been destroyed. his consciousness was no longer of this world, and he would not return anymore. the reason the scenario had changed was because the malice of a demon god was so heavy that even though the ghost fetus had been destroyed, because he had suffered and carried all the sin behind the door, something of the ghost fetus would be left behind. that was the difference between a demon god and a top red specter.

the ghost fetus' scenario had recorded everything there was about the ghost fetus. this place would be a location that was closest to hell for any unsuspecting visitors, but it was heaven for the red high heels. she was treading the same path as the ghost fetus. her expertise was also similar to the ghost fetus. furthermore, she had consumed most of the curses left behind by the ghost fetus. this scenario that recorded the process of how the ghost fetus became a demon god would be incredibly helpful for the red high heels in her journey to become a demon god herself.

"then, you shall stay at this scenario. with a top red specter like yourself watching over this place, i will not need to be worried." after chen ge said that, the red high heels who was covered in bandage walked over to him. waving her hands, the woman used multiple black threads to weave out an army of ghosts and monsters. these monsters that were formed from pure curses were extremely scary. they were about as powerful as half red specter.

"you plan to use them to scare the visitors?" chen ge wiped away the cold sweat that slid down his forehead. "that won't be necessary. that's too much overkill. calm down! you only need to guard this scenario so that nothing goes wrong. please do not use the curses to harm the visitors."

chen ge did not make use of the red high heels' idea, but it had given him a reminder. "i have memorized the features of many monsters from inside the black fog. when i have time, i should go and make mannequins for all of them. a perfect haunted house scenario needs to have a mixture of mannequins and actual ghosts."



leaving behind zhang yi to aid the red high heels, chen ge followed a hidden path and left the hidden scenario. this was another difference between the ghost fetus' scenario and the scenario for the school of the afterlife. at the ghost fetus' scenario, every sub-scenario had a hidden path that could lead to the hidden scenario. whether they could be found depended fully on the visitors' capability.

the employees busied themselves with their chores. those who were involved in the movies were busy with their scripts, and those who had just joined the haunted house were studying to get familiarized with their new identities. chen ge did not sit idle either. he entered the prop room and started to draft the blueprints for the monsters in the black fog and planned to go to the mannequin workshop to customize yet another set of equipment.

when dawn had almost arrived, chen ge returned to the staff breakroom. he lay in bed, but no matter what, sleep eluded him. after spending almost every night the past week working through the night and risking his life, he was rather unused to the fact that he was suddenly given a chance to take a breather. with his mind wandering about, chen ge could not tell when the drowsiness overwhelmed him, but when he opened his eyes again, a new day had begun.

the group of people that director luo had cautioned him about still had not appeared, but the amount of visitors who decided to challenge the four-star scenario, the school of the afterlife, had a drastic increase. many of them came from very far away, and their sole purpose was entering the school of the afterlife to experience it. these people did not appear like they were there to create trouble for chen ge. they were so polite that some of the employees felt too embarrassed to scare them. when they encountered a ghost, it was like they had met their seniors. they were so obedient and reserved. but even so, none of them were able to clear the scenario.

"this is too strange. something must be behind this. most of the visitors that came to visit the four-star scenario today bought their ticket in a group via the internet, and they appeared to know each other fairly well." chen ge took a glance at the haunted house app that was designed by director luo. he noticed that in the past few days, someone had madly been collecting all the information about the school of the afterlife. in fact, there were threads on other forums and platforms where people had given out hard cash to purchase information related to the school of the afterlife. chen ge reflected this to director luo. around noon, director luo confirmed that this was probably ma feng's doing.

a real general would never fight an unprepared war; that was from the art of war. the heavy collection of information conducted by ma feng was probably to rechallenge the scenario that had made the people from the futuristic theme park greatly lose face.

as the idiom goes, pick yourself up where you fell down.

the plan was to regain the face that jiang jiu had lost. in a way, there was nothing wrong with what ma feng was doing. if he was up against a normal foe, he probably would have succeeded, but the key problem was that chen ge already had a new scenario. this kind of speed where a new scenario was unlocked surprised everyone in the haunted house industry, including ma feng.

"have you finished your scouting? when you are all prepared, i will then announce the opening of a new scenario, the ghost fetus." chen ge watched from the sidelines as the batches of 'visitors' entered to challenge to the school of the afterlife and were eventually wheeled out in the carts. he was feeling

quite proud with himself. "i am surprised that a mere haunted house operator like myself could help raise the income of the nearby medical facilities. i am truly a stand-up citizen."

it was a peaceful day, and it passed without much fanfare. chen ge carried his backpack and left theme park to continue to help the suicide victims complete their dying wishes. actually, during this process, chen ge had gained some small epiphanies. the bridge between life and death was uncrossable. the rules of the world were that harsh, but sometimes, a gentle person would be able to ease the harshness a little.

he busied himself until sundown. by now, zhang wenyu owed chen ge more than ten favors. his attitude toward chen ge was turning better, his tone was no longer that stiff, and occasionally, he would let his real self peak out. when he called chen ge on the phone, it began to feel more like two old friends catching up on the phone. the more chen ge got to know zhang wenyu, the more he realized how scary this red specter was. northern jiujiang and southern jiujiang used to have the presence of many scary specters, but in the end, only zhang wenyu was left watching over these two locales.

chen ge returned to new century park at around 6 pm. he had just finished getting an update from ol' zhou about the daily operation when chang gu rushed out from the underground scenario. "director chang, are you looking for me? how can i help you?"

"the film has been finished. do you want to take a look at it?" chang gu's eyes were bloodshot, and his face was as pale as a sheet of white paper. even his body had turned more transparent compared to a few days ago. it felt like the man had just been through a harrowing battle.

"you finished the movie in just a few days? that is incredible!" chen ge could not hide the shock on his face.

"be it tv series or movies, making one is not as simple as you think. based on the rules, we first have to get affiliated to a management unit who possess a movie-making permit and then apply for a movie-making request form from the local film industry unit with their name. after the request form is approved, it will be passed above. the government will issue the permit after they have gone through the request and found no problem with it. but all of that is just getting project approval. in other words, that's just the first step." chang gu's tirade had successfully confused chen ge.

"so, what did you mean earlier when you said that the film has been finished?"

"the film i am talking about is a concept film. i suppose you can see it as an online short film that contains the main points of the main plot. as long as this concept film can get enough traction on the internet, it will naturally grab the attention of related companies. we have a lot of wiggle room then. after all, all of our actors are very special." chang gu was a member of the industry, so naturally, he understood the ins and outs better than chen ge. "but i do not wish to raise your hopes too high. this might not end up as anything. but at least everyone has enjoyed the shooting process, and they are eager to see the final result."

"there is no living audience, but there is a bunch of eager dead viewers. i wonder if the author will accept this kind of result or not." chen ge followed chang gu underground. they entered the temporary theater. when they arrived, the theater was already bustling with the employees.

“the film itself is not that long, but every frame is exquisite. this is the hard work of everyone combined.” after saying this concluding statement on the stage, chang gu walked down the stairs. then the lights went off, and the film started to play. the source material was called ‘summer that year, i was eighteen’. the main plot was about a female high school student walking out from the influence of depression with the aid of her family and school to welcome a new chapter of her life. this was supposed to be a high school comedy filled with positive energy, but the feeling captured by chang gu’s movie was a bit out of place. before the image even appeared, just as the background music started to play, chen ge could fill the hairs on the back of his hand stand on end.

“what do you think of this melody? it is an original by xu yin. the man is a genius. he is incredibly handsome, good at acting, and knows how to compose music and play various instruments. how i wish i had an actor like him when i was still alive,” chang gu whispered softly. his tone was gushing with admiration for xu yin.

“the melody was composed by xu yin. then, who is the singer? how come it sounds so horrifying?”

“the singer is a student at the music club from the school of the afterlife. her nickname is monitor. she’s actually quite a cute girl.”

“the melody is already scary enough, and you even found a ghost to help add to the singing?” chen ge felt that the song was scary enough to be used as the background music at the haunted house as it was.

“is it scary? i personally felt the atmosphere that it created is quite comfortable! the aim of a comedy is to make the viewers feel comfortable and at ease.” chang gu stared at the screen. the director appeared to be quite nervous.

“big brother, you are already dead. what seems comfortable for you will be a wildly different concept for the audience.”

“but even the audience thought it was not bad. alright, the show is starting. the short is about to begin.” chang gu shushed chen ge and signaled for him to focus. honestly, chang gu had done a good job. he had expressed his talent as a horror movie director to its maximum. chen ge only watched the short for about one or two minutes before he was completely sucked in by the plot.

however, the whole short was no longer focusing on the positive story of a girl with depression overcome her psychological illness. instead, it turned into a journey through the macabre and absurd where the girl accidentally found herself living inside a world of illusions. she ran, she escaped, and she went through many inexplicable scenes like alice through the looking glass before she finally woke up from her nightmare. the moment she woke up, it was also the moment where real life echoed with the nightmare. all the clues and symbolism had matched up.

at the last scene of the short, the girl looked at the version of herself in the nightmare and yanked out the rose that grew on her heart in the nightmare. the rose pricked the girl’s finger. the blood dripped from the nightmare into real life, and as if through mist, the gentle and familiar voice of the male main character could be heard. “is it painful?”

even though the ending was left open for interpretation, the story was well constructed. even chen ge was quite shocked after he finished watching it.

“it is far better than anything that i could have imagined. job well done... but wait a moment. what was the plot of the source material again?” chen ge turned to chang gu.

“the girl with depression overcoming the ordeals brought on by her illness. however, i have adopted a more visual approach to explore this whole project. high school, drama, youth, positive energy, all these elements could be found! the plot is basically left untouched, but the plot is merely moving at the same time in both real life and in the nightmare world. the nightmare world is the representation of the depressed girl’s inner world, and the real world is, well, the real world. the two worlds intertwine and influence each other. it is, if i do say so myself, perfection!” chang gu took out the author’s book and specially marked out the changes and description to the girl’s inner turmoil.

“a normal shooting method is very difficult to express this kind of inner change, but we are different. you should understand the concept of hiding the shortcomings and highlighting the positives.” chang gu had great confidence in himself.

seeing the rowdy bunch of employees who had started to celebrate, chen ge also did not know what to say. “in any case, copy the short for me. i will give it to the original author to take a look. if he gives his approval, we will directly upload it onto the internet.”

after he got the copy, chen ge hurried without stopping to northern jiujiang. he saw zhang wenyu again. this red specter looked just like a normal person. there was no trace of negative energy around him. he was very different from the rest of the red specters that chen ge had encountered in the past. the author was given a private screening of chang gu’s short and gave chang gu a very high review. he appeared to be saying that chang gu had managed to capture so perfectly the inner essence of his work.

“these people who are in the arts, they are impossible to understand...”

after getting the approval of the original author, chen ge rushed back to the haunted house. he had a very long discussion with chang gu before deciding to upload this concept short on many different platforms for short videos or platforms that chen ge had used in the past to promote his haunted house. the idea was to use the popularity and the number of fans that chen ge’s haunted house had amassed to garner a kickstart for the short.

his personal account, the biggest website for short videos, platforms for video-sharing, and the livestreaming platform that chen ge was a part of as well as the haunted house app that director luo had designed—chen ge decided to release the short on all the platforms that he could think of. he did not care about the money that he might need to burn. as long as this short could gain popularity and attract the attention of a potential investment company, he would have completed the dying wish of the author. in just ten minutes after the short was uploaded, the views, comments, and shares started to skyrocket. this was far beyond chen ge’s wildest expectation.

“what in the world? a haunted house is releasing a movie about high school comedy and romance?”

“what kind of black hole script is this?”

“the moment when the female main character confessed her love to the male main character, why did the head of the red-dressed extra in the background suddenly fall from her shoulders? what is the meaning of this? is there a symbolism behind this?”

“have you ever seen a movie where the extra committed suicide simply because a love confession had occurred between the main characters?”

“are you sure this is supposed to be a comedy? the female teacher who led the two main characters into the classroom, when she turned around, her legs disappeared! what the f\*ck! what kind of comedy is this?”

“the ending is godlike! jesus, i’m still trying to get over it!”

“the main male character is so damn handsome! xu yin fan club incoming. come and join. as long as you profess to guard xu yin with your life, we will be brothers and sisters from different parents!”

seeing the data that continued to rise, both chen ge and chang gu were stunned. most of the editing and cutting was done by chang gu alone, and due to the restriction of time, there was bound to be some mistakes in some of the frames. but these mistakes taken in chen ge’s haunted house would be real special effects in other horror movies, and they were special effects that needed a lot of money to simulate.

“what do we do now?”

“i feel like we are wandering further and further away from the category of comedy.” before chen ge could finish what he had to say, his phone rang. seeing that it was a call from director luo, chen ge quickly picked it up. “director luo? what’s wrong? is there anything i can help you with?”

“you know how to make movies?”

“it was my employees’ handiwork.” chen ge did not even know how to explain himself. “director luo, have you seen the short that we’ve made?”

“it was an old friend of mine who called me up to inform me of it. he said that he had noticed a video that had gone viral on the internet. the production company of the short was listed as new century park’s haunted house. he thought about it and realized, wasn’t that my theme park? so, he quickly called me to confirm it with me.” director luo’s tone had calmed down a bit.

“is that friend of yours from a film and television company?”

“in any case, he comes from an impressive background. chen ge, once your short was uploaded, its data directly steamrolled over all the shorts of the recent horror films. their website has a ranking for overall data. your short has already broken the record for their horror-type shorts and movies, and it is still setting new records as we speak!” director luo’s voice was laced with surprise and admiration. “chen ge, you have given me too many surprises.”

“it’s good thing to break records, but i have something to reinstate and reaffirm.” chen ge scratched his head. “we are actually shooting a high school teen romance. it is supposed to be a comedy filled with positive energy.”

“comedy? then why is your comedy breaking the records of the horror shorts and movies ranking?”

Chapter **1116 You Sure You Want to Challenge the Most Difficult Scenario? 3 in 1**

“I also do not understand why our comedy broke records for horror films, but I swear we meant to produce a comedy from the very beginning,” Chen Ge said with a bitter smile. As the saying goes, one aims for the goose but hits the gander.

The original author had died and become a ghost, but he was very satisfied with Chang Gu’s short and said that Chang Gu had captured the essence of his work. The original author was satisfied, the director was satisfied, the audience was satisfied, and the film and television company was satisfied; everyone was satisfied. As strange as Chen Ge felt this whole thing was, he had slowly learned to accept the truth. “Director Luo, the short that we uploaded is just a compressed concept short. If your friend wishes to cooperate with us further, we can sit down and talk about it.”

“I believe that is his intention. I will give you his contact information in a minute. You guys can discuss this among yourselves.”

“Thank you.”

“Make use of this opportunity. The popularity of a film will be very good advertisement for the theme park. If the ensuing web series can maintain this popularity, it will be far more effective than any conventional advertising method.” Director Luo ended the call. At that moment, the legend of this comedy-cum-horror flick was still spreading on the internet.

Initially, Chen Ge’s intention was to use the haunted house’s popularity to give the short some traction, trying to attract one or two investment companies, but to his shock and surprise, in just a few hours, the popularity of the short started to overwhelm the popularity of the haunted house. Many viewers who had never been interested in the haunted house and horror games became interested in it. After all, it was rare for a haunted house to have the ability to produce a comedy short.

A comedy produced by a haunted house even became a gag on the internet. The many ‘unintentional’ takes became instant classics and were soon included in the educational syllabus for horror movie production. This kind of accidental horror caused the viewers to have a hard time sleeping at night. The more they thought about it, the more uncomfortable they felt. As a result, more and more people started to discuss this ‘comedy’.

The source material was first a good one. The description of the clues and the psychological changes of the main characters were well done and to the point. Chang Gu’s direction and production were uniquely perfect as well, and the unilateral plotlines of both the real world and the nightmare world could elicit various symbolic readings of the analogies and metaphors. To conclude, this web short produced by Chen Ge’s haunted house exploded on the internet, and many users anticipated the sequel.

Even though he had not gotten a wink of sleep that night, Chen Ge was still quite energetic. He and Chang Gu rotated through the various platforms. The data for the short for all platforms was still continuing to rise. The employees at the haunted house were very excited as well. Even though they still did not quite understand how popular this short was, they were satisfied and very happy when they saw themselves appear on the screen. The employees chatted among themselves, citing each of their cameos. Chen Ge, who overheard them, almost had a heart attack. Many employees came to join the shoot during the recording process. They used multiple methods to enter the shot, methods that one could not imagine—for example, a floating head inside a glass of water, a small shadow under the table, a severed hand that floated behind the door, and so on.

One would miss these details unless one took a close look at the short. As the popularity on the internet continued to increase, to prevent an unnecessary exposure, Chen Ge decided to directly and openly admit that the haunted house had hidden one hundred easter eggs in the short and challenged the viewers to find them all. With the popularity at an all-time high, Chen Ge decided to stop 'pretending' and told the viewers directly that all the extremely scary details and frames that they saw were Easter Eggs that were purposely left in by the haunted house. That statement attracted yet another batch of fresh viewers.

"This has become viral too suddenly. I am totally not prepared for it." Chen Ge saw his mailbox that was exploding with messages at the back end of the platform. Some people planned to group up and visit the set, and some planned to enter a haunted house for the first time tomorrow. The sole reason was to see the main male character in person. There was even a talent agency that dropped Chen Ge a message stating their intention of offering the Pen Spirit a contract. There were so many messages that Chen Ge could not run through all of them. He glanced at the sky that was getting bright, and he put the phone away. "Yet another sleepless night."

He got a quick wink and hurried to get up from bed to prepare for work. Today, Xu Wan and Xiao Gu and the rest came early. Once they saw Chen Ge, they rushed over immediately. That was especially so for Xiao Gu; he was holding the phone and stammered nervously, "Boss! Did we really produce this video? When I saw the video on my recommended list last night, I was stunned beyond words."

"Yes, it was indeed produced by our haunted house."

"When did you have the time to do something like this? This is too impressive!"

"What do you think I was doing every night not sleeping for the past few days? To produce this film, I have exhausted so much stamina and a lot of time, but thankfully, from the result, the sacrifice was worth it." Chen Ge stopped answering Xiao Gu's questions because he did not know how to spin the story anymore. He ushered his workers into the dressing room to help them with the make-up and ordered them to prepare to welcome the day's visitors.

At 9 am, New Century Park opened for business. The visitors rushed into the gates. When they were queuing up, the comedy made by the haunted house became the central topic. Two groups of people who did not know each other would be able to engage in titillating conversation because of it.

"The number of visitors today is even greater than the previous days. What is going on?" Uncle Xu was worried that there might be a problem, so he hurried to find Chen Ge.

"Uncle, you do not use the internet much, do you? We uploaded yet another advertisement last night. The effect is not bad." Chen Ge was outside the haunted house helping with the ticket sales. Seeing the visitors coming to visit his haunted house, joy emerged sincerely from his heart. However, he made sure that he was not blinded by this joy. While he was selling the tickets, he was paying close attention to potential troublemakers among the crowd.

The number of visitors coming to challenge the four-star scenario, School of the Afterlife, had tripled or even quadrupled. The scenario could hold at most twenty people at the same time, and that day, almost every session was full. This had naturally attracted Chen Ge's attention. The visitors who were there because of the internet short were mostly newcomers to the theme park, so they needed to start their

challenge at one-star scenarios. Therefore, most of the visitors who could challenge the School of the Afterlife would be experienced visitors.

There was nothing wrong with this in itself, but Chen Ge noticed that there was a specific batch of people who kept repeating the process of buying the tickets to challenge the same four-star scenario, the School of the Afterlife. It appeared like they would not stop until they had cleared this scenario. After paying a heavy price of their sanity, money, and physique, this batch of people managed to explore about seventy percent of the scenario, but of course, they were still far away from clearing the actual scenario.

To protect the other innocent visitors, Chen Ge pulled the few most difficult missions out from the drawing box, missions like finding all thirteen oil paintings, searching for the club president of the Red Specter's Club, exposing the secrets behind the old headmaster's disappearance, and so on. These missions were specifically left for the troublemakers. Normal visitors would almost never have the chance to draw these certain-death mission.

These people got missions that ranged from simple to medium difficulty, but even so, their mental tenacity was still seriously tested. After the last of them fainted, there would be members among the visitor group who escorted them out. It was clear from Chen Ge's perspective that this was a group of people who were attempting to tackle his haunted house, but they had seriously underestimated the difficulty of Chen Ge's haunted house.

After this group of people who kept challenging the School of the Afterlife left, the same afternoon, they were replaced by another group of people. They appeared to be sharing the same information. The map and the location of the scare points that had been collected by the previous batch using their 'lives' provided a great amount of help to the latter group. This batch of strange visitors had attracted the attention of the employees as well. Ol' Zhou even came over to Chen Ge to ask whether they should increase the difficulty of the scenario.

Chen Ge directly rejected Ol' Zhou's suggestion. He told Ol' Zhou that only by dangling the possibility of clearing the scenario before the players would they continue to play the game. It was a simple theory of the donkey and the carrot. But that was just a front taken by Chen Ge. What he was really thinking was that he would let this group of people try the School of the Afterlife again and again until they let their guard down, and then he would surprise them with the announcement of the new scenario, the ghost fetus.

The haunted house began its operation at 9 am and closed for the day at 6 pm. Throughout this period, the scenario for the School of the Afterlife was never empty even for a minute. Even though the group of people had thrown their lives into challenging the scenario, they ultimately failed to clear it. But they appeared to have managed to compile the full map of the school's eastern and western campus. With the map in mind and a clear marking of the various scare points' locations, as long as they were not that unlucky to draw any mission related to the hidden scenario, clearing the scenario was only a matter of time. Dusk had already fallen. After the visitors left, Chen Ge sat on the steps of the haunted house alone.

"The popularity of the comedy produced by the haunted house is still climbing, and this is just a conceptual short. If we really manage to produce a sequential web series, not only the comedy itself,



the film set at New Century Park will become famous through it as well. Perhaps Ma Feng has sensed fear from this, which is why he's so desperate to clear my scenario, to stifle the haunted house's wave of popularity." Chen Ge studied the numbers on the income ledger, and the corner of his lips could not help but curve upward.

The School of the Afterlife could fit twenty people at the same time, and a session would take around forty minutes, but most of the time, rarely could the visitors hold on until the full forty minutes, so in reality, a real one session would last around thirty minutes. The ticket price per person was forty RMB, so one session could earn Chen Ge eight hundred RMB, and in that day alone, the scenario of the School of the Afterlife had been used twenty times. Normally, this kind of four-star scenario was rarely challenged. In fact, just finding people to fill up a group was hard enough. Most of the income normally came from the lower star scenarios, and these higher difficulty scenarios were prepared for the expert haunted house aficionados. Compared to using them as a money-making machine, they were more of a symbolic presence to Chen Ge's haunted house.

"I sure hope this gang of people will return tomorrow." After giving the place a quick clean, Chen Ge carried his backpack and arrived at the mannequin studio. He paid the boss and then directly chased the boss out of the place. He turned to lock the door and quickly summoned out his ghost employees and had them help him produce the mannequins of the monsters from the black fog. They worked until dawn. Chen Ge then called Tang Jun to drive Bus 104 over to transport all the manufactured black fog monsters back to the haunted house.

When Chen Ge returned to the haunted house, he was told that Chang Gu had been hit by new inspiration, and he was prepared to shoot a new short. That did not bother Chen Ge. The latter summoned some of the employees who were not involved in the shooting to help him decorate the ghost fetus' scenario. After inspecting the scenario several times, Chen Ge finally left the scenario after making sure that there were no hidden threats lying around the scenario at around 4 am.

"Now that the ghost fetus' scenario can open for visitation any time, I wonder which batch of visitor will be so lucky." After three hours of sleep, Chen Ge was woken by the alarm that he had set. He sat and observed the rising sun and stretched lazily. "If only life could continue like this."

After taking a cold shower, Chen Ge changed his clothes and opened the gates of the haunted house. The theme park opened punctually at 9 am. The visitors entered the park, and the place was instantly filled up by the noise and ruckus of the crowd. A long queue had already been formed at the haunted house. Some of the old players had run to the resting hall to occupy a seat and found their familiar buddies to start an intense discussion on the latest guide that they had come up with. Ever since Chen Ge obtained the black phone, the haunted house had accompanied these visitors for quite some time. More and more people had fallen in love with this place, and the haunted house had left lasting marks on their lives. Many of their bittersweet memories could be traced back to this theme park.

Most of people's lives were flat and uninteresting, but at Chen Ge's haunted house, they were given a glimpse into a different version of life. Group after group of visitors was welcomed into the haunted house, but to Chen Ge's surprise, the batch of people who repeated the challenge of School of the Afterlife the day before did not show up again. Just as Chen Ge was wandering whether they had already given up, a shocked scream came from the resting hall.

“What is going on?” Chen Ge was quick to walk over. Many old visitors recognized him so when they saw the boss came over. They automatically opened a path for him to walk through.

“Boss Chen! Quick, you have to take a look at our haunted house’s app. Someone has started a thread saying that they want to challenge and clear our haunted House’s most difficult scenario. It is the thread with the most replies and views!” A student from Jiujiang Medical University ran over to Chen Ge, holding his phone out to show the thread. There was indeed a new thread that appeared inside the app. It was commented on by a fifty-cent army, and that made it so that the thread would always remain at the top of the posts.

The content of the thread itself was incredibly incendiary. First, they started with the admission that Chen Ge’s haunted house was scary, but it was not as scary as many people made it out to be. It was all an exaggeration. The thread stated that most of the visitors had been lied to and misdirected. That was a quintessential start for a drama post. In essence, it said that Chen Ge’s haunted house was scary, but it did not scare them. Even though they had not visited the place themselves, that was how they felt.

The thread gained support from many other haunted house owners in the business. They helped to analyze Chen Ge’s haunted house from many different angles, and they came up with the same conclusion. Chen Ge’s haunted house did not live up to its name; it only had twenty percent real ability and eighty percent hype and sensationalism.

The fact that Chen Ge’s haunted house enjoyed such high popularity was a disrespect to those who ran their business with heart and hard work. It was unfair to them, so they were going to join forces to expose Chen Ge and his haunted house to the public. The whole thread was written like a real call to arms, and it indeed had its effect of getting one’s blood boiling, but then if one just thought about it, most of those people had not even visited Chen Ge’s haunted house before, so how did they come to this absurd conclusion? Via their super powerful imagination?

The thread not only appeared on the haunted house app, but it had popped up at the same time on most other platforms. A fifty cent army had been hired to repeatedly comment and maintain the multiple threads’ popularity and relevance. Interestingly enough, the platforms where these threads mushroomed were exactly the platforms where Chen Ge’s haunted house’s fans were most active. Once the threads were posted, they garnered various sarcastic responses and caustic replies. After all, the last person who made this kind of claim was still lying in the hospital.

However, it was clear that whoever was behind this was well prepared. They did not respond to the fans’ mocking words. They seemed to be biding their time to prove the fans wrong. They had done all the preparation that they could, and that was the confidence behind their courage to dare to post inflammatory posts like these at platforms where Chen Ge’s haunted house’s fans were most active. Their aim was for those who supported Chen Ge’s haunted house to see their thread and then clear the haunted house’s most difficult scenario before these people’s eyes. That way, they would have won back their face, they would have proven themselves right, and they would have broken the legendary record of no one being able to clear Chen Ge’s haunted house.

When he saw all that set up, the name ‘Ma Feng’ instantly floated up in Chen Ge’s mind. This man’s method of doing things was definitely different from Jiang Jiu’s. He was swift, fast, accurate, and deadly. All the cards had been laid on the table, and when given an opening, he would strike for the jugular.

“He should have prepared for a long time.” Just as Chen Ge finished reading the thread, another problem started outside the haunted house. Nine visitors blocked the entrance of the door. They refused to queue up like the rest of the visitors and requested to see Chen Ge. Of the nine visitors, there were both males and females. They were dressed differently and had different accents. They appeared to come from different parts of the country, but Chen Ge did manage to recognize two of them.

One of them was called Shang Guan Qing Hong, the boss of the haunted house at Xin Hai; the other was Qin Guang, the streamer who was the first to compete with Chen Ge on the livestreaming platform. When he saw the two of them, Chen Ge felt quite happy to see their familiar faces. He walked out from the resting hall to welcome them. “Long time no see, guys. I am quite busy at theme park, so I did not have the time to go to the hospital to visit you. I am so sorry.”

Just the sound of Chen Ge’s voice was enough to make Qin Guang grit his teeth in anger. He was about to fire something back when he was held back by Shang Guan Qing Hong from the side.

“Boss Chen, you are being too kind. Today, we just wanted to visit your haunted house. There is no problem with that, right?” Shang Guan Qing Hong had once been a victim of Chen Ge’s sharp tongue, so he tried to not give Chen Ge any chance to speak to rope them into more traps. “I have the top designers and creators of many haunted houses from all over the country with me. We are all very curious about your haunted house. We wish to see what kind of haunted house is hailed as the scariest haunted house in the whole country.”

“I would not say my haunted house is the scariest in the country, but a mutual exchange within the industry is a good thing. We can always learn from each other.” Chen Ge was cautious with his words, using the term exchange. He had memorized the faces of these few visitors. “It is fine that you wish to challenge the scenario, but I have a rule at my haunted house. All visitors have to start their challenge from one-star scenario, and then after clearing that, you can only challenge the two-star scenario. If you wish to challenge the most difficult four-star scenario, you will have to clear the previous scenarios first.”

“Challenge? Where does your confidence come from? We already told you we are here to visit, not to challenge. We give an inch and you take a mile?” A young man who was fashionably dressed gave Chen Ge a side eye. “Unlike you, the rest of us do not have the time to play with you.”

“The rules that I have set are for the visitors’ own good. Only by slowly increasing the visitors’ threshold for fear can one prevent the occurrence of accidents to the maximum degree.” Chen Ge was trying hard to ‘persuade’ them, but this persuasion sounded like Chen Ge had no confidence in the group.

“That won’t be necessary. The reason we are here today is to visit the most difficult scenario that you have. We just want to see what is so special about this haunted house that is so popular on the internet.” This time, it was a man who was wearing a pair of sunglasses who spoke. More and more visitors started to gather at the entrance of the haunted house. Some of them even took out their phones to start recording.

Hearing what the man with the sunglasses had to say, Chen Ge uttered with plain difficulty on his face. “But that is against the rules...”

“Rules are manmade. We came from so far not to visit a one-star scenario. We are all experienced members of this industry. Don’t use the tricks that you apply on your visitors to trick us. We are not so easily fooled,” the man in the sunglasses groused with impatience. He appeared to be melting under the sun, and he shifted uncomfortably.

“Boss Chen, is it because you lack confidence that you have been trying to find excuse to deny us entry?” The man who was fashionably dressed smiled. “Do not worry, we will be sure to save some face for you.”

Since the exchange had reached this point, it was unsuitable for Chen Ge to continue to say no anymore. He looked around him, and he realized that many of visitors were armed with the camera phones and were recording their exchange. Some of them were innocent visitors who were attracted by this drama, but Chen Ge believed that part of them were people sent over by the futuristic theme park because Chen Ge realized that there was a live update of their exchange on the haunted house app and the many other platforms, and the comments were all extremely slanderous toward Chen Ge and his haunted house. It felt as if someone was purposely leading the wind of the conversation.

“Since you people insist on challenging my most difficult scenario, I have no choice.” Chen Ge turned to face the cameras. “I will need everyone here to be my witness. I have already tried to persuade them. They have insisted on challenging the most difficult scenario.”

“You sure know how to spin a yarn. Are you going to let us in or not? To visit your cr\*ppy haunted house, we need to be subjected to a lecture from you, huh? This is unbelievable!” The person who spoke was a woman with an explosive temper. There was a tattoo of a black skull running down her arm. She looked like a person one would not wish to cross at any time.

“I am doing this for your own good.” Chen Ge stood before the nine people. “I need to check with all of you one last time—do you really insist on challenging the most difficult scenario at my haunted house?”

“Yes, we do! Stop wasting our time!” The nine visitors urged him on. They appeared to be more anxious than Chen Ge. It was like they could not wait to get this started.

“Okay!” Chen Ge nodded in agreement, and then his tone suddenly changed as he turned to all the phone cameras and said loudly. “Since we are all in the same haunted house industry, a pure visitation is so boring, right? So, how about we add a bet on top of it? If you successfully clear the most difficult scenario that I have at my haunted house, I will add a statement on all of my social accounts and even order a custom banner to hang over this haunted house’s entrance that my own haunted house is not as scary as the rest of yours, and I will admit that most of the popularity of my haunted house came from sensationalism and produced hype.”

Chen Ge’s haunted house was incredibly popular on the internet. If Chen Ge did something like that, it could really bring some serious income to the other business owners. This caused the other owners to be attracted by Chen Ge’s offer of a bet. Only Shang Guan Qing Hong felt that something was not right, but before he could say anything, the other eight had already agreed to take Chen Ge up on his challenge.

“Do not hurry to agree so soon. Because if you lose, you have to hang a banner of my haunted house’s name over the entrance of your own haunted house and admit that my haunted house does live up to

its name on the internet.” Chen Ge looked at the gang of people with a smile on his face. The few communicated among themselves for a while. They had the map of the School of the Afterlife and all the scare points in their possession. Other than that, they had also spent the whole previous day looking over the videos that had been secretly taken in the scenario. They had gotten used to the scary atmosphere. From how they saw it, there was nothing stopping them from clearing this scenario.

“We agree. That is a very fair bet.”

“All of you are respected members of the industry from big cities. I believe you will not go back on your words, right?” The corners of Chen Ge’s lips curled up into a smile. He turned to face all the cameras and shouted at the top of his lungs, “Come on in then. Follow me. You are going to challenge the four-star scenario—ghost fetus! Inside the deepest part of the black fog, there are nine children waiting for you.”

“Ghost fetus?” Shang Guang Qing Hong and someone inside the group shared a look. They wanted to make sure that they had not heard wrong. That was indeed what Chen Ge had said, right?

### **Chapter 1117 I’ve Never Believed in the Supernatural 2 in 1**

“is ghost fetus another name for the school of the afterlife?” shang quan qing hong quietly asked the teammate beside him. the latter was equally confused. “probably. a scenario the size of the school of the afterlife takes more than a year to design and build. the fact that their haunted house has one of them is already quite impressive.”

“you have a point there. it appears to be just a name change.”

“how come i do not feel like that is the case? i feel like we’ve been tricked.” shang guan qing hong had interacted with chen ge before, so he knew what kind of person chen ge was. with chen ge’s personality, he would never cave under pressure and admit defeat so easily. when chen ge’s tone changed earlier, shang guan qing hong had noticed a bad feeling rising in his heart.

“it is too late to say anything now. we have already given the man our promise. there is no way we can back out now. i am not going to lose this face.” the man with the sunglasses overheard the conversation between shang guan qing hong and the other person. he opened his mouth to say, “do not worry. even if this ghost fetus is a different scenario, it won’t affect us that much. all of us have been in this business for more than half a century; we already know everything there is to know about the ins and outs of the business. it is easy for him to scare the normal visitors, but to wish to use the same tricks on us, it is almost impossible.”

the man with the sunglasses was very confident. he appeared to be one of the top haunted house designers in the country. even though chen ge did not know him, he appeared to be well respected among the other members within the business. once the man in the sunglasses said his piece, the others were quick to nod along. the nine visitors followed behind chen ge to uncle xu.

“uncle, i need nine tickets to the ghost fetus scenario.” chen ge’s request had cornered uncle xu. after all, the experienced ticket seller had not even heard of this ghost fetus scenario before, but he knew it was unwise to point that out before the crowd, so he just randomly printed nine general tickets for shang guan qing hong’s group.

the surrounding visitors also heard about the news of the ghost fetus scenario for the first time. a wave of excitement travelled through the crowd. many of the experienced visitors who were sitting at the resting hall rushed out to look.

“the four-star scenario ‘ghost fetus’ will be open to the public for the first time today! so, there is a fifty percent ticket discount promotion! those are interested shouldn’t let this opportunity go! the first trial of a new scenario is the most exciting. it is like watching the livestream of a sports game. you never know what will happen the next second. this kind of facing the unknown is the most exciting feeling there is!”

once chen ge said that, shang guan qing hong’s face turned green immediately. now that he had confirmed that ghost fetus and school of the afterlife were two different scenarios, it meant that the information that they had collected beforehand had all been rendered useless. he tried his best to control the expression on his face. shang quan qing hong tried to capture the attention of another member in this team, but the latter was stunned beyond belief, unable to give shang quan qing hong any attention.

“a brand-new scenario, an extreme experience, all that for just a mere twenty rmb, what are you guys hesitating for?”

the nine visitors all knew each other, so it was inconvenient for chen ge to stuff his own employees into their ranks. therefore, he needed more visitors to fill up the visiting team. whenever chen ge went through such promotional spiel, the frequent visitors at the haunted house would all instinctually take a step back. they would get as far away from chen ge as they could.

the opening of a new scenario would always capture a few visitors to use as ‘sacrifices’. the experienced visitors quickly retreated. they were very familiar with chen ge’s agenda. other haunted houses giving a discount might be to celebrate some kind of holiday or anniversary, but whenever chen ge’s haunted house gave a discount, it could only mean that something bad was about to happen. everyone had learned their lesson. no one stood out to answer chen ge’s call. just as chen ge was about to give up, a voice suddenly travelled through the crowd.

“haven’t you guys been skipping class to come here to play? how come all of you are as silent as a mouse at a moment like this?” a middle-aged man wearing a pair of glasses walked out from the crowd. “students of forensic science skipping classes to come to a haunted house to play every day and still not being able to clear the game. in a way, you students are the worst batch that i have ever taught.”

“mr. wang, shh! now is not the time to speak. do not let boss chen make a target out of you.” the students standing beside the middle-aged man quickly spoke. one of them was very familiar; it was one of chen ge’s oldest friends.

“he san, i heard you were the first to come to this haunted house. you alone have dragged all of your seniors down into your bad habits, and that has raised the university’s truancy rate by three hundred percent. when we return, we will need to have a good sit down and talk about this.” the middle-aged man was very stern. he san did not even dare raise his head during the lecture.

“he san! long time no see!” chen ge was troubled over the lack of volunteers, so when he saw the students from jiujiang medical university, it was like he had just seen his long-lost relatives. he ran over to them happily. “is this your lecturer? how shall i refer to you, sir?”

“my surname is wang. i am a senior lecturer at jiujiang medical university.” the students beside him kept making faces at mr. wang, but mr. wang ignored all of them. “my students often skip class to come to your theme park to play after classes and even during classes. they only talk about how to clear your scenarios. their parents have paid for their tuition, and the country has given them such a conducive education environment. is that for them to think about how to clear a haunted house day in and day out?”

mr. wang was a very stern but responsible lecturer. that could be seen from the fact that he had personally purchased the ticket to come to the theme park to capture the students who had skipped class by himself. furthermore, this lecturer had probably been observing this for quite some time already because once he showed up, he managed to capture so many of his students in the act.

“all work and no play makes jack a dull boy. skipping class to come to a theme park is something wrong, but with a proper time management, a visit to a haunted house can help a student greatly release their stress. it is a very good method to relax after a long day of studying.” chen ge did not mind the expression of the other visitors around them, and he continued to speak in a serious and open tone. “how about this, mr. wang? you should give it a try in person. after that experience, perhaps you will be able to understand why your students have such passion for my haunted house. after all, my haunted house is distinctively unique from other haunted houses. it is hidden with many puzzles and unsolved cases. during the visitation process, the visitors can improve their observation, analysis and logical thinking abilities.”

“sir! you really have to think about this!” he san quickly grabbed mr. wang by his arm. “a four-star scenario is very scary. it is not a joke!”

“do you have such little faith in your lecturer?” mr. wang stared harshly at he san. “i have participated in many heavy crime investigations. i only retired from the front line two years ago. what kind of gory and bloody crime scene have i not seen before in my career?”

the innocent he san felt wronged. “sir...”

“a real crime scene is one hundred times scarier than a scenario made up inside a haunted house. when you are there in person, you can sense the presence of the lives that once occupied the space. the smell, the wounds, any traces could be hiding a true horror.” mr. wang shook his head. “when you graduate and become a qualified coroner, you will naturally understand these things. by then, you will know that these so-called haunted houses can only bring you temporarily shocks, but they are far from being actual terrors.”

“well said, i agree with that whole-heartedly.” chen ge finally understood the confidence behind mr. wang. this mr. wang was not a normal lecturer; he was a coroner who had just retired from the front line two years ago. he had actual experience dealing with murders and homicides under his belt. unfortunately, it was because mr. wang had retired from the front line two years ago that he had not heard of the record where chen ge had helped the law enforcement solve so many actual cases in the past few months. the number of heavy crimes already could not be counted. just considering super

heavy and serious crimes, there were already quite a few. chen ge admired people like mr. wang who had actual experience to back up his words. of course, he also wished that he could undo the prejudice that mr. wang had toward his haunted house. "mr. wang, ticket sales are this way."

"there has to be a reason why your haunted house enjoys such high popularity on the internet. i am here today not to ruin your reputation. i just want to instill a lesson in my students. nowadays, the kids are too used to not taking things seriously, but i need to make them understand that the occupation of a coroner is a very serious one." after saying that, mr. wang grabbed the two students closest to him and walked ahead. "come on, we will experience this today. actually, after listening to you people doing research about this place day in and day out, i am quite curious about it."

mr. wang was surprisingly strong. when he san felt his body being pulled along, he took a moment to realize and snapped out of it. "we're entering the haunted house together with you, sir? what the f\*ck!"

"how could you curse before your teacher?" chen ge chided he san with a smile. he was reminded of the first time he encountered he san. that day, he san had come to visit his haunted house with gao ru xue.

"no, wait! sir! wait a minute!" not only he san, the other student from jiujiang medical university who was closest to mr. wang failed to escape, and he was half dragged and half pulled to the ticket sales booth.

"three tickets to the ghost fetus scenario, please." mr. wang was quick and efficient. after he purchased the students, he dragged the students through the gates of the haunted house.

"this lecturer is not as brash as he seems. he purposely grabbed he san and the other student, who are already familiar with the rules of the haunted house, to prevent accidents from happening." after chen ge saw the other people from jiujiang medical university retreat back into the crowd, he turned to lead the other nine visitors into the haunted house. "please sign the disclaimer forms first. i will go out and see if there are any other visitors who are willing to join. it costs quite a bit to open a four-star scenario to the public, so i wish to fill up twenty people in a team before we start."

moments later, chen ge came back with three new visitors. one of them was xiao sun, and the other two were a couple from xin hai. the couple appeared to have just finished an argument. in the heat of argument, the girl grabbed the man and registered to join. chen ge initially wanted to reject them, but to his surprise, he realized that there was a heavy air of yin energy around the man. he suspected that this was a unique visitor, so in the end, he did not stop them. after all fifteen visitors had signed the disclaimers, chen ge put the forms neatly away and then started to explain the background of the ghost fetus scenario and the rules of the game to them.

"even though most of you are experienced members of this industry, there are certain things that i need to warn you about." after signing the disclaimer, chen ge's tone and expression changed. it was as if he had changed into a different person compared to the smiling man who had welcomed them warmly outside the haunted house. at this moment, he looked quite scary. "this ghost fetus scenario is different from any of the haunted house scenarios that you have ever designed or visited. you will meet life threatening danger inside there, but you might run into some very interesting events."

"why is your scenario called ghost fetus?" the lights inside the haunted house were dim, but the man with the sunglasses did not appear like he was about to remove the glasses.



“there was once a shadow who wanted to become human. he yearned for bliss, but during the process of chasing after bliss, he ran into many twisted and crazy monsters who left scars and incorrect values in him. in the end, he turned into a ghost fetus that was feared by everyone. you will soon experience his slow process of descending into the dark abyss. i hope you will treat every choice that you face seriously because every choice that you make will greatly influence the plot that will come in the future.” chen ge heard a grunt of impatience coming from the team, so he quickly wrapped things up. “the time limit is one hour. you need to find a rag doll inside the ghost fetus’ scenario.”

chen ge took out two pictures that he had taken beforehand and handed them separately to mr. wang and shang guan qing hong. “this rag doll has been severed into many parts by a doctor. you only need to find all the broken pieces within an hour and piece them together to clear the scenario!”

“the goal is that simple?” the man who was fashionably dressed asked to confirm.

“if you ever want to give up, just scream loudly for them. other than that, i have to give you one last piece of advice. do not have any physical contact with anyone inside the haunted house, including your teammates.” chen ge led the fifteen visitors down the steps into the underground scenario. “take good care of the pictures and pay attention to the people around you. most importantly, do not wander off on your own.”

chen ge gave the visitors a lot of warnings. he was being sincere; he did not want anything bad to happen to these people. after all, the memory of the demon god lingered throughout the ghost fetus’ scenario. opening the steel door that headed underground, the ambient temperature dropped immediately. chill winds rushed out from the ground, and among the visitors, three of their expressions changed immediately.

one of them was the man from xin hai, the one who had heavy yin energy on him. the second one was the woman with the black skull tattoo on her arm. she touched her earring and opened her lips as if to say something, but in the end, she quieted down again. the woman with an explosive temper suddenly became curiously quiet. the last one was mr. wang. his brows were heavily creased together, and the bridge of his nose twitched like he could smell something special in the air.

“stick close to me.” chen ge led them underground. they walked past the first floor and then headed to their destination, the underground second floor. another black iron door appeared before them. this door was embedded into the ground like it had grown out from the walls. it was giving off a faint disinfectant smell.

“everything you need to know about the ghost fetus is behind this door.” chen ge used quite some strength before he managed to push the heavy door open. his eyes narrowed as he studied all the visitors coldly. “you can go in now. the timer will start once this door closes.”

standing outside the iron door, the visitors all stopped at the same spot as if they had discussed this earlier. no one appeared to wish to make the first step. after some time, the man with the sunglasses took off his glass. he coughed several times and grabbed another person to walk past the door. the other visitors moved to follow. after they had all walked in, chen ge stayed to look at them. his eyes were like he was looking at a group of walking corpses, and the corners of his lips curled upward.

“welcome to the four-star scenario, ghost fetus. i hope you enjoy yourselves.”

bang!

the heavy black iron door was slammed shut. the chains grinded against the rusted railings, and the iron door was locked tight.

“i think it’s better if i follow behind them. after all, i am one of the nine chosen children.” chen ge returned to the dressing room to touch up his make-up and then went to the specter’s changing room to pick up a costume. after he was ready, chen ge went to survey the other scenarios and called over some of the employees who were free. “now, there should be no problem already.”

...

the black iron door closed heavily. none of the visitors wandered away from the team. the haunted house was a completely different world aboveground and belowground. it was as if before this group of people was ready, they were kicked down from heaven into hell.

“buildings that are completely unfamiliar, the video information did not provide us with any details related to this scenario at all.” shang guan qing hong’s scalp was numb. he leaned against the iron door, and it felt like the air that entered his lungs even chilled his organs. “we have worked together to plan this for a whole month and wasted so much money to have people collect information for us, but in the end, we were ushered into a new scenario that is completely unknown to us.”

for some reason, shang guan qing hong was suddenly reminded of this quote from zhu ge liang’s memorial on sending out the troop—‘the late sovereign was taken from us while his life’s work, the restoration of the han, remained unfinished.’

“snap out of it. as the initiator of this proposal, you cannot give up now.” the man who had been exchanging glances with shang guan qing hong before they entered the haunted house whispered to him.

“director ma, you have no idea how scary the owner of this haunted house is. the man is evil incarnate!” shang guan qing hong also lowered his voice to a whisper. he did not want to lower the group’s morale.

“i personally have never believed in the supernatural because i only believe in myself.” the man patted shang guan qing hong on his shoulder. his gaze was as sharp as a knife.

### **Chapter 1118 A Conclusion That Overturned My Entire Understanding of This World 2 in 1**

“director ma, i know you don’t believe in these things, but certain things are truly impossible to explain via scientific means.” shang guan qing hong’s face was stretched into a mirthless mask. he really was no in mood to smile.

“since we are already here, we shall take things as they come. we should always remain calm whenever we run into something serious. other than that, stop calling me director ma. you can just refer to me as brother ma.” this was the man’s first time entering such an eerie scenario, but he was able to maintain his composure. this proved that he was indeed better than others. at least in terms of mental strength and stability, he was already stronger than most normal visitors.

“now, i have a very bad feeling about this. director ma, how about we come back another day? today, we’ve obviously been tricked by that chen fellow. there must be many unknown traps laid in this

scenario. i do not mind it myself, but you can't get injured in here!" shang guan qing hong looked at the dark and creepy buildings around him, and his legs refused to take a single step forward.

"i do not believe that a visit to a haunted house can injure someone. furthermore, if you see it from another perspective, if i am really found injured inside his haunted house, wouldn't that be perfect as well? i can use that to bring his haunted house down." the man raised his arm. "there are many ways to bring down a haunted house. to me, open competition is the stupidest way to do it."

"you have other plan in mind?"

"you do not need worry yourself about that. today, i came in person to see what is so impressive about a haunted house that could make jiang jiu stumble so hard. at the same time, i want to let the other people at the company know that i can do what jiang jiu cannot do, and what jiang jiu can do, i can do much better." the man had ability to back up his words. whenever he spoke, there was a confident and sharp air that surrounded him. shang guan qing hong realized that his persuasion had fallen on deaf ears. he did not have the face to surrender now, so all he could do was ignore the bad feeling in his heart and follow the rest deeper into the scenario.

"if a perfect score is ten marks, given the creation of the atmosphere, the set design, and the combination of the lighting and sound effects, i will give it 8.5 marks." the man who was fashionably dressed touched the wall and felt the sensation that came from the tip of his fingers. "the set pieces feel very real, like they have been moved from an actual haunted site. it is not completely based on luck that this haunted house was able to gain its massive popularity. there is actual backing behind it."

the man was mean to others, but when it came to his professional field, he was rather fair and honest.

"but other than the authenticity, i cannot see any other positive points about this place." the man with the sunglasses crossed his arms before his chest. he continued with more than a hint of derision. "the story background is so unspecified. the visitors do not have a fixed role, so they are unable to emerge themselves into the plot fully. this kind of haunted house enjoys so much praise on the internet? i do not believe one bit that he did not hire a fifty cent army to bulk up his positive reviews."

"it is your freedom not to believe it. just remember what you said now when you cry for mercy." he san was getting annoyed by the man in the sunglasses. he knew how scary a four-star scenario was. after being forcibly dragged in there by mr. wang, he was in a very bad mood.

"we are all professionals in this industry. his little tricks might work on normal visitors like you guys, but they will never work on professionals like us." the man with the sunglasses took out his phone and searched for chen ge's haunted house on the general review website. "of all the visitors that purchased the tickets, about ninety-seven percent of them thought their experience was horrifying, and ninety-five percent gave it a very high review. do you think that is possible?"

"that is indeed impossible." he san shook his head. "i think one hundred percent of the visitors would have thought this place is scary if they'd really visited it. that three percent are probably the real fifty cent army hired by other members within the industry to bring down boss chen's overall rating."

"haha." the man with the sunglasses said caustically, "i will let you in on a real industry statistic. even a top haunted house will not make sure that every visitor that has gone through its doors feels fear, so normal data will be around seventy-five percent. the fact that this haunted house's statistics are so high

is obvious proof that he has hired a fifty cent army to fluff up his marks. sometimes, i find it ridiculously funny that a haunted house that depends on sensationalism and a fifty cent army to get so popular online was hailed by so many idiots as the scariest haunted house in the country. if that is not the joke of the century, what is?"

"even if you are a professional in the industry, and even if you have the real statistics, i still do not understand how that gives you the right to slander someone else's haunted house like this." the other student from jiujiang medical university had spoken. normally, they were tortured enough by chen ge's haunted house, but if there was someone who dared mock chen ge's haunted house, they would be the first to jump out to defend it.

"because my name is fu bole."

the man with the sunglasses appeared to be very famous in the industry, but it was clear that the students from jiujiang medical university had never heard this name before.

"why should i care what your name is? am i supposed to know you?"

"that is why i say you visitors are innocent, like pieces of white paper. have you heard of the ling family? the biggest chain of haunted houses in the country. we have in total thirty branches, and i am the ling family's main designer." the man with the sunglasses pointed at the people around him. "every single one of us here is more experienced and accomplished than that chen ge fellow. how long has he been in the business? if you really want to talk about it, we are all his seniors."

the man wearing the sunglasses introduced the others in his group one by one. the man who was fashionably dressed was called wei chaochao. he was a designer for the aotsuka family's haunted house from japan. the woman with the skull tattoo was nicknamed sister snake. she was involved in the design projects of many large-scale, international haunted houses. when she returned to the country, she opened an escape room whose good reviews were just second to chen ge's haunted house—bewitched.

the other two fatties were twin brothers. the elder one was called liang er, and the younger brother was liang san. according to rumors, they had an elder brother who died young. a fortune teller had purposely persuaded their mother to name them liang er and liang san to prevent the eldest son from coming back to grab them as scapegoats. the brothers worked together to run the fifth most popular haunted house in the country—dreamscape. they were both designers and, at the same time, actors who specialized in scaring others.

among them was a middle-aged woman who had spoken very little since they appeared at the theme park. she appeared to be very afraid of the cold and impervious to heat. even when they were outside, she was still wearing long sleeves and had her body wrapped up tightly. the middle-aged woman was very reticent, and the man in the sunglasses, fu bole, did not give her much of an introduction. he merely went through the haunted house that she ran—the castle of lost memories.

the six of them could be considered the top haunted house designers in the country. scenarios that would be very scary for normal people would only be considered normal in their eyes because they had seen too many similar scares in their career. this year, they were hit by the low economy as well, and some of their haunted houses had seen an obvious decrease in their visitor count. to see chen ge's

haunted house suddenly rocket in popularity naturally ate their ego and made them feel slightly indignant; that was only natural.

“a group of haunted house designers coming to challenge a haunted house? that is very interesting. i am so lucky to have run into something as epic as this.” the male visitor from xin hai smiled wickedly. he turned to look at the other people around him. “why don’t we also introduce ourselves? i believe we will need to work together to clear this scenario.”

after the male visitor said that, no one present accepted his suggestion. they all ignored him, but that did not seem to faze him. he continued on his own. “then, i will start. my name is gu ren, and this is my girlfriend, fang ying. the two of us like to watch horror movies, and we are greatly interested in these things. we have been to many haunted houses in the past. i suppose you can see us as experienced players.”

“we are students from jiujiang medical university. i am he san, and this is my senior, zuo han. he is the person with the highest accumulative score at our school.” he san pointed at the other student next to him. the other student did not appear like he was a chatterbox. he was quite a handsome young man, but he did not seem to be interested in anything. he had that brooding presence about that. “and this other person is my lecturer, mr. wang.”

“accumulative score? what is that?”

“boss chen’s haunted house has a ranking system. if you clear a scenario, you will be awarded a point. the higher the difficulty of the scenario, the more points you will be given. senior zuo han is ranked third on the ranking. he is one of the most experienced visitors at boss chen’s haunted house,” he san explained patiently. he was a nice person; he was naturally kind and innocent, but unfortunately, he had been given a glimpse into the danger and darkness of humanity during his many visits to chen ge’s haunted house.

after everyone had made their self-introduction, they all turned in unison to xiao sun. he was quite nervous under their combined scrutiny. “my name is sun xiaojun. i come from the old city.”

xiao sun wanted to act as normal as he could, but he could not control himself. but if one really thought about it, it was quite ironic. a ghost was being stared at until he became nervous by a few living humans.

“alright, now that we have gone through all the introductions, we should start to discuss how to clear this scenario.” the sunglasses man, fu bole, stepped out to take the center stage. it was clear that he was expecting everyone to just accept him as the team leader.

“you can save your time trying to clear the scenario. this is the first time this four-star scenario has been open to the public. our main goal should be to ensure our own safety, and that is all,” zuo han said plainly.

“you are being drawn too deep into the trap by the boss. oh, never mind, it is a waste of time trying to explain it to you people who do not know anything.” fu bole did not care at all about the other visitors’ feeling. after all, this was not his haunted house; the worse the experience was for the other visitors, the happier he would be. “we have a one-hour time limit. it will be extremely difficult to find all the broken parts of the rag doll within such a large scenario, so i suggest we split up into groups. four people a group, that will greatly increase the efficiency of completing the game.”

“i can tell you very clearly right now that if we split up, we will be actively searching for death.” zuo han walked directly to face fu bole. “do you know how we ended up clearing the three-star scenario ‘coffin village’?”

“a three-star scenario is much simpler than a four-star scenario. your experience is of no use to us right now.”

“i just want to tell you that, at the time, ten of us entered the scenario at the same time. we were moving in a group. to transfer the red wedding dress out of the scenario, we watched our teammates disappear one after another with our own eyes.” zuo han stared into fu bole’s eyes. “even if we are gathered together, the teammates will still disappear without reason, much less when we get separated.”

“based on what you said, since we will disappear either way, why the insistence on us sticking together?”

“it’s to buy time. i do not know how the haunted house came up with the design to make people disappear before everyone else’s eyes, but at least the person who was lost could use his own ‘life’ to buy precious time for the others. his ‘death’ could not be wasted for no reason. do you understand it now?” zuo han’s tone was getting impatient. to be honest, he did not want to spend so much time persuading this stubborn and arrogant fu bole, but it could not be helped. this time, nine of the group were fu bole’s people. to clear this scenario, he would have to work together with these nine people.

“use their own lives to buy time?” fu bole and the other haunted house designers all laughed at him. “have you people lost your mind from visiting this place too many times? hey! you are their lecturer, right? how do you normally teach your students? they are about to enter society soon; how can they still be so naïve?”

the few haunted house designers were making fun of jiujiang medical university, but mr. wang’s eyes did not even wander over to them. he kept his eyes on zuo han.

he knew how brilliant zuo han was. he was the top of his class at the university. zuo han’s overall marks for all his courses—autopsy class, medical high grade mathematics, medical physic, forensic pathology, forensic psychology, and criminal psychology—had broken the records of jiujiang medical university for the past ten years. mr. wang knew that zuo han would not lie and knew that the young man was not just blowing air. that was why, when he entered the haunted house, he grabbed zuo han’s arm and never let go.

he san was the person who was most familiar with the haunted house’s boss and the environment, while zuo han was the student with the highest accumulative score from the university. mr. wang only had two hands, so he had chosen the two most reliable students. when he decided to enter this place, mr. wang had lowered the chance of him humiliating himself to the minimum, but after he was really inside the haunted house, he realized that he might have underestimated this place. everything felt so real. that authenticity even brought up many of his bad memories from the past.

“you can humiliate me all you want for now, and i will not waste time arguing with you. i am just telling you the way to ensure our survivability that has the highest probability. it is up to you whether you accept it or not.” zuo han’s words were clean and cutting. his eyes scanned through fu bole’s group

before finally landing on ma fang. "if there is a clever person among you, then it would be best if you followed my instructions. after all, we are all on the same boat."

zuo han appeared to have picked out the fact that ma feng was the real core of this group through their micro-expressions, so his last statement was meant for ma feng only.

"i also agree that we should stick together." shang guan qing hong was quick to agree. "do you still remember the warning that the haunted house's boss gave us before we entered the scenario? he told us not to have any interactions with anyone else, including the people beside us. this was clearly meant to sew discord among us. he could not wait for us to fight among ourselves."

the group got into a heated argument. xiao sun stood at the side and did not dare speak. he thought to himself that the reason chen ge said that was probably because he was afraid that the other visitors might abandon xiao sun, so he purposely said that so that xiao sun would be stuck with the rest of the group.

"stop arguing, it is safer for us to stick together," ma feng decided, and fu bole did not dare argue against him. so, the team of fifteen moved together. "but since we are on a time limit, squeezing together like this will waste too much time. we will split into three groups, and each group will have five people. when we are outside on the streets, we move together, but once we enter a building, we will move according to our designated groups, and then we will meet up again at the entrance of the building."

ma feng was the top leader, and he found a compromise between the two options.

"it won't work." zuo han rejected that idea without even giving it much thought. "you are not familiar with the boss' tactic. once we split up, he will have a way to make us separate from each other. other than that, how can you make sure that there are no actors among us?"

that one statement from zuo han made everyone nervous. before they came to chen ge's haunted house, they had heard similar rumors before. some of the visitors there could be disguised workers from the haunted house, and it caused people within the same group to have difficulty trusting each other.

"the nine of us came together so there are certainly no actors among us, but the rest of you are very suspicious." fu bole glared at zuo han and he said. "it is quite rare for a university lecturer to bring his students to visit a haunted house. are you guys really a lecturer and students from a university?"

"before you people suspect us, i wish to tell you one thing, and i hope the nine of you will remember this clearly." zuo han said in a cold tone. "based on our previous experience, i believe this haunted house has an actor that can mimic people's voices. he can perfectly replicate our voice, so you cannot confirm a person's identity through their voices alone. and other than that, make sure to take good care of your phone. even if you get a phone call or any information from your partner, do not trust it implicitly."

"would a haunted house go to such lengths?" it was noticeable that fu bole's tone was no longer as confident as before.

“that is not even the worst,” Zuo Han said hesitatingly. “personally, when I run into a problem, I use every method to find a solution. After visiting this haunted house so many times, I’ve gradually come to a conclusion that overturned my entire understanding of this world.”

“What conclusion is that?”

“This haunted house... might really be haunted.”

### **Chapter 1119 Voiceless Small Town 2 in 1**

“Haunted?” The few haunted house designers all turned toward Zuo Han. Even Mr. Wang had started to frown. He really did not expect to hear such a declaration from his best student.

“Certain things cannot be answered in this world, or rather, the answer cannot be found through my current store of knowledge. It can only be explained via the supernatural.” Zuo Han’s tone was very serious. This was the first time the scenario ‘ghost fetus’ had been open to the public. Based on his previous experience, the difficulty for every scenario that was open to the public for the first time would be abnormally high. Even Zuo Han was feeling unconfident about this. That was why he shared the suspicion that he had long buried inside his heart with his teammates. He wanted to search for the truth, but he knew that was impossible when paired with these deadweight teammates. In fact, he knew just keeping their sanity intact would be a huge problem.

“Before we’ve even started the game, you have already brought the supernatural?” The sunglasses man, Fu Bole, laughed out loud immediately. “Little brother, you made quite a bit of sense at the beginning. In fact, I will admit that you almost got me, but when you suggested that this place is really haunted, you exposed yourself as the hired actor. As an experienced member of society, I will give you some advice that will be valuable for you in the future—haste makes waste.”

In such an eerie and disturbing environment, when Zuo Han suggested that the haunted house was really haunted, everyone’s heart skipped a beat, but after they heard Fu Bole’s analysis, they all slowly but surely started to calm down. There were no ghosts in this world. Since the young man had said such a thing inside the haunted house, there was a very high chance that he was a hired actor working for the haunted house.

The few haunted house designers looked at each other with a knowing smile on their faces. Even Ma Feng took a few extra glances at Zuo Han. For people who had never believed in the supernatural in the first place, telling them that a place was really a haunted house, they naturally thought that he was playing a prank on them.

“The goal of the first thing you said was to insinuate that there might be haunted house actors among us, and then you proceeded to tell us many details that we will need to pay attention to inside the haunted house. All of that created a scary atmosphere. Honestly speaking, as an employee, you have been a really responsible one. That Chen fellow is lucky to have hired someone like you.”

The fashionably dressed Wei Chaochao had spoken as well. The group of haunted house designers chimed in one after another. The more they talked about it, the more they were convinced that Zuo Han was an actor hired by Chen Ge. They provided one example after another to prove their points until Xiao Sun himself was made confused. He started to wonder if Zuo Han was someone Chen Ge had sent in to support him because this was his first time working at the haunted house.



"I know all of you are very capable, and that's why I wanted to cooperate with you. Unfortunately, conceit and envy have blinded your eyes. All you can see now are illusions that you have constructed before your eyes, and you refuse to even consider the possibility of the truth." Zuo Han shook his head. He turned to He San and Mr. Wang beside him and said, "This time, we won't be able to rely on anyone else. But no matter what, the three of us cannot get separated from one another."

He San and Mr. Wang had understood the severity of the situation, so they nodded in agreement. Seeing how serious the three visitors who were supposedly from Jiujiang Medical University were, Fu Bole could not help but laugh. "You guys are still acting even though you have been exposed. Don't you feel awkward about this?"

"This haunted house came up with this kind of method to help build the atmosphere and introduce the scenario's details. It is quite interesting. It is something that we can learn." The fatty Laing Er waved at Fu Bole. "Let's prepare to enter the scenario. Now, I am quite excited to see what they have in store for us."

Even though each of them had their own reasons for being there, the fifteen people had gathered together again. They followed the rutted street and officially entered the ghost fetus scenario. The black iron door appeared to wander further and further away from them. After they turned a corner, the first junction appeared before them. A strange, faded smell lingered in the air. The shadows of the buildings of varying sizes appeared to dance in the darkness. They looked around and found nothing, but they could swear that there was a feeling that there were people hiding in the recesses of the darkness watching their every move.

"Which path should we pick?" Fu Bole turned back to ask Ma Feng for his opinion. Ma Feng turned to look at Shang Guan Qing Hong.

"Just standing here is not going to help us in any way. How about we just pick a random path, leave behind a marking, and if we run into any trouble, we can always come back and pick another path?" After saying that, Shang Guan Qing Hong followed Ma Feng and walked down the path on the left.

"Wait a minute!" Zuo Han wanted to say something, but the rest of the team did not give him a chance. They all sauntered down the left path. The old-fashioned lights that adorned the street flickered on and off. The shadows that they created on the walls of the buildings appeared to possess strange human shapes. Occasional whispers came from the buildings from both sides. It sounded like people were talking. They appeared to be hiding from something and, at the same time, searching for something. The nonexistent wind carried with it words like 'body parts' and 'rag doll that is unkillable'.

"Our mission is to find the rag doll's severed body parts, but the boss only gave us a single picture. He did not even mention how many parts of the rag doll there are, so I think we should not leave any one of the buildings unchecked." Wei Chaochao stopped moving. His body leaned against the door of one of the old buildings next to him. "I heard someone speaking inside. There should be a scare point hidden behind this door."

"I would advise you against opening any random doors. At this haunted house, it is better to do less than to do more." He San was kind enough to warn him, but the few haunted house designers had already confirmed that he was one of the haunted house's actors, so naturally, they did not heed his advice.

“Normally, when you are designing a haunted house, the first scare point is very important because, for that first scare, you will be able to discern the overall style and features of that haunted house.” Wei Chaochao gripped the door handle and said with some excitement, “Are you guys ready?”

Even though the haunted house designers had been mocking Chen Ge’s haunted house nonstop, when they were about to really trigger a scare point, all of them became incredibly cautious.

“Open the door. I want to see how scary a haunted house with more than ninety percent good reviews on the internet can be.” Fu Bole stood at the front of the group. He was like a general leading his army, impervious and unafraid.

Zuo Han, who had voiced his objection to this earlier, had decided to pipe down. He stared at Wei Chaochao and Fu Bole coldly like he was coldly observing cadavers on an autopsy table. He really did want to work together with these haunted house designers, but the latter was unwilling, so now, he had changed his mind and was prepared to use these people as bait. Since they were going to ‘die’, why not make their ‘deaths’ a little bit more valuable? Zuo Han’s thought was that simple. Everyone held their breath as their eyes followed the movement of Wei Chaochao’s arm.

His five fingers gripped the door handle tightly. Wei Chaochao opened the door a sliver, and then he suddenly stopped. He used his body to block the door that was not fully open.

Dong!

The haunted house actor who was hiding inside the house saw the door open and instantly jump out to scare the visitor as he had been told, but he did not expect the visitors outside the door to only open it a sliver, and more than that, the visitor purposely leaned his weight against the door to stop it from budging so that the door could not be opened fully. Without expecting this, the haunted house actor inside the house rammed directly into the door. The actor did not anticipate something like this happening at all. After his head knocked into the door, he tumbled to the ground, landing on his butt.

“That’s all?” When the group of haunted house designers saw the actor who had stumbled inside the room, their nervous hearts relaxed greatly. Then they all revealed expressions filled with condescension and revulsion.

“A scare tactic that cannot be more cliché combined with obvious inexperience. Does not know how to adapt to the situation and has such horrible reflexes.” Wei Chaochao now opened the door fully and started to give his criticism. “If the set design is worth 8.5 marks, I can only give the actor three marks.”

“This has to be a joke. Why would they assign someone like you to act as a ghost to come scare the visitors? You are more suitable to be a comedy actor.”

“You have all seen this, right? I believe you are all familiar with the standard of this haunted house now. Now, I can be one hundred percent sure that the good reviews on the internet are all from the fifty cent army hired by the boss himself.”

The group of haunted house experts’ words were ruthless and cutting. They surrounded the poor actor and kept insulting him. Thankfully, the actor was not that easily offended. He rubbed his bruised forehead and slicked back his single ponytail as he climbed up from the ground. He did not seem to

mind that he had just been tricked. He brushed it off like nothing had happened. He lifted his head to reveal the face that was made up by Chen Ge earlier.

“Please quiet down. Speak too loudly in the Voiceless Small Town, and you will be heard by the ghosts.” The male actor’s expression was very serious. It appeared like he had practiced his facial expression before the mirror many times before.

“If all the ghosts are someone like you, what does it matter if we are overheard by them?” Fu Bole shrugged. “I was expecting something new and interesting, but what do I get? Same old tricks reused and recycled.”

“I am not a ghost. I am a human being like you, but there are ghosts inside this small town.” The male actor was not lying. With his hand on his heart, he was telling the truth.

“Even with the bruise on the head, you still have not forgotten your designated lines. Okay, that is quite professional. The rating that I gave you has risen to 3.5 marks.” Wei Chaochao patted the dust on his shoulders.

“Everything that I say is real. My son and myself were trapped here after dark. We were forced to play a game of hide and seek with a bunch of ghosts. If you are found and captured by them, the consequences are unimaginable!” The male actor’s expressions were all to the point, but the few haunted house designers still took issue with him.

“That is the background of the story? Looks like a four-star scenario is not that scary after all.”

When the haunted house designers were still continuing their mockery, Zuo Han and He San waded through the crowd. They kept their stares on the male actor and said with a serious expression, “Just now, you said that if you speak in this small town, you will be heard by the ghosts, correct?”

“Yes, this small town is called the Voiceless Small Town. Whenever you make a sound, you will attract the ghosts’ attention.” The male actor tried his best to explain the scenario.

“What will happen if you are found by the ghosts? Earlier, you said that you were here with your son, but I see that you are here alone now. Where is your child? Has he been taken away by the ghosts?” Zuo Han’s mind was sharp. It was rare that one could find an actor that could be communicated with inside Chen Ge’s haunted house, so he wanted to obtain as much information as he could.

“At the time, my son and I were both chased by the ghosts. I volunteered to distract the ghosts from him and left him alone inside a storage building on the northern side of the small town.” The male actor lowered his voice. “If you can help bring my boy back to me, I will tell you a secret about this world.”

“A hidden mission?” Zuo Han nodded. “I will help you find your boy. By the way, what is your name? Can you give us something to prove your identify? We need to prove to your child that we are acting on your favor.”

The male actor was startled. This was not part of the plot, but the man was quick on his feet. “My name is Wu Jinpeng. After you find my boy, just tell him my name, and he will follow you.”

“Then, what does your boy looks like? I am afraid that the ghosts might get to your son before we do, and then we might mistake the ghost as your son.” Zuo Han had considered all the possible scenarios.

“He is very short and wears a red shirt. His name is... Wu Nan.”

“You were obviously hesitating earlier. Is there something that you have not told us?” Mr. Wang also walked over. The lecturer and student worked together perfectly, and they applied a ton of pressure on Wu Jinpeng.

“The children here like to play hide and seek. Actually, from the moment you enter this small town, you have been forced to join this maddening game already.” Wu Jinpeng suddenly reached out to grab the door handle. “Remember, be careful of the ghosts, and be on the lookout for places to hide!”

After he had said everything that he needed to say, Wu Jinpeng closed the door and returned back to the house.

“The main theme of this ghost fetus scenario is hide and seek, huh? He mentioned that the children here like to play hide and seek. That proves that there is more than one child here. And the scenario itself is called ghost fetus, so obviously, all of the scares are related to children.” Zuo Han looked at the door that was already closed. “I think we should avoid the mission that he gave us because the mission told us was to find a child.”

“Yes, and when he was describing his own child, he thought for a long time, and he even halted a few times. I suspect that the child he described was not even his child at all,” Mr. Wang analyzed. “The name Wu Nan was probably something he made up on the spot. Assuming the worst, the man inside the house is working together with the ghosts. He is trying to feed us to the ghosts.”

Mr. Wang and Zuo Han shared the same opinion. The two of them were seriously analyzing the information they were given, without giving any concern to the other visitors. Listening to their discussion, Fu Bole only confirmed his suspicion even further. These three who claimed that they were from Jiujiang Medical University had to be the actors hired by the haunted house, and they had been trying to compensate for the horrible acting of the man inside the house.

“Well, just keep on acting. We will see how much longer you can keep this going.” Fu Bole suddenly spoke to interrupt their analysis. Then he scoffed with derision. His sudden words startled Sun Xiaojun, who was standing beside him.

“We have just seen the true standard of this haunted house. What we need to do next is explore the houses one by one. There is nothing to be worried about.” Wei Chaochao’s expression was rather disappointed. Initially, he was quite curious about Chen Ge’s haunted house, but now that he realized the place was not that different from the other haunted houses on the market, he could not help but feel a bit underwhelmed. “Let’s just hurry up and get this over with. I still need to catch a plane this afternoon.”

The Voiceless Small Town was very large. The designers pushed open three doors, and they still found nothing. So, they started to let their guard down.

“What is the meaning of this? They are all empty houses? There are no scary objects or any actors inside any of the buildings. It is like the scenario is not even completed.” Liang San also started to complain. He felt like it was a waste of time for him to purposely come to Jiujiang to visit this haunted house.

A few of the designers started to take it like a stroll through the park, but in contrast, Zuo Han and He San got more and more nervous. "You could hear voices inside every house, but after you open the door, there is no one inside. This is very strange."

"The voices do not appear like they are broadcast from any speaker. It feels more like people are whispering into our ears."

"Let's ignore that for now. We need to stick close to them and have them scout the path for us." Once Zuo Han said that, Wei Chaochao's voice could be heard coming from the front of the group.

"Eh? I finally found something interesting!" Before Wei Chaochao was the entrance to an apartment building. On the wall next to him was a missing person's report. The missing child's name was Jiang Ming. The ladder was before them, and the ladder led downward, but due to the lack of the lighting, standing outside the apartment, they could not tell how many floors the stairs led down to.

"The interior is so big? I thought there was only one floor..." The bad feeling that had been troubling Shang Guan Qing Hong only got stronger, and he stuck close to Ma Feng.

"Let's go in to take a look." Liang San opened the apartment's iron door. When he entered the place, he did not feel anything weird, but after some time, he suddenly noticed the problem. "This place is so quiet. You can't hear anything. Even the background music has disappeared."

"Indeed, it is like we have entered a different world compared to the outside street. How did he manage to do this?" Liang Er followed behind him. "It is quiet to the point that it feels unnatural. Now it feels like I am inside an actual haunted house."

#### **Chapter 1120 I Did Not Mean to Do It on Purpose! 2 in 1**

The Liang siblings entered the corridor directly, and the others followed closely behind them. Ma Feng, though, stopped outside the building for a while. He was studying the missing person notice. "The name Jiang Ming is very familiar. I believe Jiang Jiu's son is called Jiang Ming. Is this one of the pranks pulled by the boss?"

The missing person's article provided a picture of the child, but Ma Feng had no recollection of this child at all. Once all the people had ventured into the building, the child on the missing person notice suddenly winked. He appeared to be making signal at another 'person' who was far away. A small shadow appeared from the corner of the wall. A light scent lingered in the air. He followed the group into the apartment and kindly helped close the front door behind them.

"This place is too quiet, isn't it?" At a location that was absolutely silent, people would sometimes be frightened by their own voice. Liang Er and Liang San were incredibly interested in how the haunted house boss had managed to do something like this. They were all professionals. They inspected the scenario inch by inch and noticed with surprise that not only were the corridors not fitted with speakers and microphones, they did not even have any surveillance cameras. Other than a few old-looking light bulbs that appeared like they could go out at any moment, there was no trace of any high-tech equipment in this sub-scenario at all.

"Didn't the people on the internet say that the special effect at this haunted house are Hollywood level? Are you telling me that these few lightbulbs are everything they are talking about? This has to be a

joke.” This time, not only Fu Bole, even Ma Feng also thought that Chen Ge’s haunted house was more hyped up than it actually was.

“You cannot find any high-tech equipment, but the place can pull off a Hollywood standard horror effects. That in itself is a very scary thing.” Zuo Han was telling the truth, but in the other people’s ears, he was merely making excuses for Chen Ge’s haunted house.

However, there was a small number among the haunted house designers who took his words seriously. Liang Er and Liang San stood inside the corridor and looked around with confusion. “The walls, and the banisters are everyday objects. The walls are not painted with acoustic insulating material, and there is no trace of any high-tech equipment. How did he manage to create this kind of strange and eerie atmosphere? There is not even an echo to our voices. It feels like once the sound leaves our lips, it is immediately swallowed up by something.”

“Stop trying to scare yourself. The concept behind this is probably something like magic. It might look magical, but you will realize it is just a normal trick once you find out the truth.” Fu Bole clapped his hands. “Okay, we will follow Brother Ma’s earlier suggestion. We will split into three groups and start to search for the broken parts of the rag doll. One group will be responsible for the search of an individual floor. We will do the same thing in the other buildings that we encounter in the future.”

After he said that, he wandered purposely to Ma Feng’s side. The meaning was clear; he wanted to be in the same group as Ma Feng.

“You have not even found the insider, and you are already that desperate to split into groups. Death is going to come for you, and you will not even know what happened.” Zuo Han shook his head at Mr. Wang. “The three of us will continue to stick together. Let’s just ignore the rest of them.”

Since the people from Jiujiang Medical University had refused to join the rest, the remaining twelve were split into three groups.

Ma Feng, Shang Guan Qing Hong, Fu Bole, and Wei Chaochao were one group; Xiao Sun, Liang Er, Liang San, and the middle-aged woman from the Castle of Lost Memories were the second group; and the third group consisted of Qin Guang, Sister Snake, and the couple from Xin Hai. The twelve of them would still be inside the same building, but they would split up to search the different floors. This meant that the distance between the three groups would not be so far. They could get another group’s help if they needed it.

Fu Bole, who thought that Chen Ge’s haunted house was just a product of pure sensationalism, led Ma Feng and the rest to the second floor. Sister Snake’s group ventured further down to the underground third floor. Liang Er and Liang San continued to search the first floor. The Liang siblings were hulking leviathans. They were muscular and strong. It felt safe being assigned the same group as them.

Liang Er gave Zuo Han a side eye and warned, “You will go to the rooms on the left, and we will check the rooms on the right. That way, we will not interrupt each other. Do not cross that line and come to disrupt our work.”

“That was my intention too.” Zuo Han led He San and Mr. Wang down the long corridor. They started to search for clues closely from inside and out.

“Big brother, do you really think they are the haunted house’s actors? I personally do not think so. The presence that they give off is very unique and unlike normal haunted house workers,” Liang San whispered.

“We are here to clear this haunted house. Who cares what their real identities are? We only need to complete the assignment given to us by Director Ma.” Liang Er stopped at the door of the first room at the corner of the stairs.

There was a wooden sign hanging next to the door. The sign read, ‘If you need anything, please pull on the string connected to the light repeatedly.’

“It warns us against knocking on the door but wants us to pull on this string. Is it because they are afraid that the sound of knocking might attract the ghosts?” Liang Er grabbed the string. “The actor called Wu Jipeng appeared to have said earlier that if you make any sound, you will attract the attention of ghosts. But along the way, we have been chatting quite loudly, and we have not seen any ghosts, have we?”

“This place is so quiet. Is it possible that the ghosts have already shown up? It is just that because they do not make any sound, temporarily, we haven’t been able to find them.” Liang San’s brain was very active as well.

“Oh well, it does not matter. We will take a look inside this room first. All of the haunted house’s first sub scenarios should be the simplest. Nothing too scary will appear here, or else it will not give an accumulative sense of fear to the visitors in the latter parts of the scenario,” Liang Er said as he pulled on the string. Once he yanked on the string, the lights inside the room switched on. He repeated it several times, and the lights flickered on and off, but nothing happened.

“Were we tricked?” Liang Er frowned heavily. He grabbed the doorknob and pushed heavily. The old door was pushed open easily, but before he could observe the environment inside the room closely, a change suddenly happened inside the corridor. A strange stench drifted around them. It smelled like the decay of dead bodies mixed together with the copper smell of fresh blood. They had a feeling that something or someone was slowly approaching them.

“Be careful. The ghost probably is coming. You’d better not wander off on your own. Just stay close to me.” Liang Er was a kind and responsible person. Those words were meant for Xiao Sun.

“The first actor at this haunted house has disappointed me greatly. I wonder if what happens next will change my mind.” Liang San entered the room. The first thing that he saw were the broken beer bottles that littered the floor. But all the sharp edges of the glass had been grounded smooth, probably out of concern for the visitors’ safety. Among the broken pieces lay a woman. She was covered in wounds. Other than her face and both her arms, her body was covered with cloth patches. The patches appeared to grow directly out of her skin, and it looked quite scary.

“Is that an actor or a prop?” Liang San reached out to grab the woman’s arm. The sensation that came from his fingertips was very different from that of human skin. He was about to sigh in relief when he suddenly saw the mirror that was hanging in the bathroom. The mirror was facing the door, and inside the mirror, there was a pair of strange eyes staring at him.

“Someone’s there!” Liang San dropped the woman’s arm and whipped his head around to look. Being warned by Liang San, the others also turned back to look. Everyone saw a man’s face that had poked out from the door frame of the door that they just came through!

His features were twisted, and his mud-like body was plastered onto the door frame. His black eyes were filled with curses and venom. Xiao Sun was standing at the back of the group, so he was the one that was currently closest to the entrance. He was originally trying to think about the scare points that were hidden in this scenario when he suddenly heard Liang San’s warning. He turned subconsciously around and almost bumped right into that scary face. His face paled even further. Xiao Sun staggered back several steps and almost knocked into Liang Er’s stomach.

“When did this thing show up?” Xiao Sun’s voice was shuddering. He was given quite a fright.

“I have no idea. I did not hear any movement at all. It’s as if it appeared from thin air.” Liang San scratched his double chin. “So, there is something about this haunted house after all!”

“Should we inform the others about this development?”

“We should wait until we have more concrete evidence first.”

Liang Er and Liang San started to move to study the monster outside the room. They discovered the man that was shaped like a pile of mud was just a mannequin. There was no high-tech equipment installed in the mannequin either.

“Someone probably moved this thing here. I suspect that the culprits are the people from the so-called Jiujiang Medical University. They are on the same floor as us, and they are very close to us.” Liang San looked down the corridor. Currently, Zuo Han’s group was inside the room at the other end of the corridor. For all intent and purposes, it did not appear that they had left that room.

“They are highly suspicious, but if it was not them, this is worth considering. We are operators of a haunted house as well. These are things and techniques that we can pick up and learn.” The Liang Brothers had a more neutral attitude. They did not view Chen Ge’s haunted house with absolute hostility.

Just as the two were speaking, the middle-aged woman suddenly opened her lips. “Did you guys notice something?”

“What is it?” Liang Er and Liang San turned to look inside the room. They saw the middle-aged woman was pointing at the woman lying on the ground.

“Her hand was not held in that gesture earlier.”

“What are you trying to say? The mannequin knows how to move on her own?”

“No, the logical explanation is that there should be a hidden room inside this room. When our attention was distracted by the monster outside the door, the workers came out from the hidden room and changed the woman’s posture.” The middle-aged woman spoke very slowly. “They probably wanted to create the impression that the danger is slowly approaching. The ghosts and monsters will move without a sound, and they might appear beside us at any scenario and at every spot. That should be the biggest selling point of this scenario.”



“You have a point.”

“That honestly is not a bad idea, but unfortunately, he has run into us. We are all top haunted house designers. With just a lift of his finger, we can already predict what he is about to do next.” Liang San’s gaze moved back into the room. “Why don’t we continue the search inside the room? Perhaps we can find some kind of hidden pathway.”

Liang San wanted to find out how Chen Ge managed to move the mannequin so silently and without notice. He wanted to steal the knowledge of these things and then apply it to his own haunted house.

“What was your name again? Don’t just stand there and do nothing. Come and help us look. I know we are visiting a haunted house, but we do not need to follow the rules laid down by the boss.” Liang San noticed Xiao Sun, who was still standing there. He thought that Xiao Sun was scared into inactivity.

“I think it’s best we follow the boss’ rules. What if some kind of accident happens?” Sun Xiaojun’s real thoughts were—If you guys continue to stray from the script, there will be no chance for me to shine.

“Didn’t Boss Chen claim that we are free to explore the scenario, that the visitors are free to do anything they wish? Today, I will teach him that bluffing has consequences. It is one thing to do that before normal visitors, but before us professional designers, a haunted house is nothing more than a delicately designed toy.” The two brothers started to search inside the room. Xiao Sun also symbolically started his search. He had not followed Chen Ge for that long. He did not recognize most of the original workers, and he was not familiar with the secrets of most of the scenarios.

Every time he wanted to ask Chen Ge what he should do, Chen Ge would just tell him to be himself. Then, when he went to ask for pointers from Ol’ Zhou, Ol’ Zhou would wax some kind of nonsense about his natural talent and that there was nothing that he could be taught. Apparently, he was perfect the way he was. Both his boss and his teacher were of no help to him. Xiao Sun felt quite helpless. He sighed lightly to himself and moved around the room, pretending to find something to do.

When other people were making their search perimeter around the woman mannequin, he was aimlessly looking through the other items in the room. He even grumbled under his breath. “When the man came through the door, even I was frightened by it. This haunted house is really scary.”

With that thought in mind, he turned back to look at the entrance. Xiao Sun realized with some confusion that the man’s gaze appeared to be fixed at a certain spot.

“Is he looking at the mirror inside the bathroom?” Xiao Sun entered the bathroom and stood before the mirror. “A scary face like that is leaning against the door. It feels even scarier looking at from the reflection in the mirror.”

He held the bottom of the mirror with his palms. Xiao Sun gradually applied force. When the mirror started to nudge, a droplet of blood slid down the surface of the mirror, and then a snail shell dropped out from behind the mirror.

“A snail? The man is afraid of snails? Never mind, I am not good at this kind of guessing game. This shell is covered in a spider web. It is probably a prop left behind from a long time ago.” Xiao Sun tossed the snail shell to the side, but right then, another snail shell dropped out from behind the mirror.

“What is going on?” Xiao Sun grabbed the side of the mirror out of curiosity. He wanted to remove the mirror to take a look. As the mirror moved further from its original spot, more and more snail shells poured out from behind it.

“What are you doing?”

“Why are there so many snail shells?”

The other people heard the strange noises, so they too hurried into the bathroom. Before Xiao Sun could answer their question, they saw the wall next to the mirror suddenly give way to reveal a door that was painted with a bright red snail.

“The hidden pathway?” Xiao Sun and the Liang brothers said in unison. They had not spent that much time in the haunted house, and they had already found the hidden pathway inside the first room of the first sub scenario!

Liang Er and Liang San were overjoyed. They had finally found the hidden pathway inside the haunted house. Whether this would help clear the scenario or not, it would be intensely helpful to get to the bottom of Chen Ge’s secrets. Xiao Sun was stunned out of his mind. He had heard from Chen Ge that there were nine hidden pathways in the nine sub scenarios. All nine pathways could lead directly to the hidden scenario. The rag doll’s broken body parts were hidden inside the hidden scenarios, but at the whole haunted house, only Chen Ge knew where the hidden pathways were located. Not even Xiao Sun knew about their exact locations.

This is bad. I seem to have done something irrevocably horrible.

Xiao Sun was still holding the mirror. His mind was spinning rapidly. He was supposed to be there to add trouble to the visitors, but the first thing he did helped the visitors find the hidden pathway and saved them plenty of time.

“You are good, Xiao Sun. I am surprised you are that detail-orientated of a person. None of us professionals even noticed this hidden mechanism.” Liang San patted Xiao Sun’s shoulder in praise, and then he moved to push open the door with the snail painted on it. The surrounding temperature dropped again. Behind the door was a staircase that led deep underground. Standing at the top of the stairs, one was unable to see the end.

Being praised by the visitors, Xiao Sun also did not know what to say. Before he could figure out what to do next, he saw Liang Er and Liang San switch on their flashlights and enter the hidden path.

“Hey! Be careful! We were warned against moving on our own!” Xiao Sun wanted to hold them back, but the few overly confident haunted house designers did not give him the time of day. Including the middle-aged woman, all three of them filed into the stairs.

Cold, dark, quiet. The scary feeling could no longer be described in simple words. This was far beyond the realm of a simple game. The path was surprisingly long, but they still managed to reach the end of it eventually. A pure black iron door appeared before them. The door was reeking of disinfectant. If one looked closely, one could see black threads wiggling on it. Everything inside the hidden path was scary, but the words beside the iron door that said ‘please close the door after you enter’ ruined the scary atmosphere quite a bit.

“What do you reckon’s behind the door? The body parts of the rag doll? This haunted house’s surveillance room?”

“I guess it is the dressing room, and we will run into a bunch of actors putting on their make-up.”

“Well, we will find out by opening the door, won’t we?”

Liang San pushed open the heavy and unwieldy black iron door. Instantly, an endless sea of black fog rolled out and directly swallowed these few lucky visitors. When the black iron door closed again, there was only Sun Xiaojun left alone inside the hidden corridor. His Adam’s apple wiggled. Sun Xiaojun had taken a glimpse of the world behind the door. He dropped down to the stairs.

“This is bad. These three have not even experienced a one-star scenario before. They have entered the ghost fetus’ world of black fog without any preparation!”

This was similar to a patient, thinking that he had a sore throat, going to the hospital for a consultation but being wheeled directly into the crematorium.

“The red high heels is recovering the ghost fetus’ memory inside the world in the process of becoming a Demon God. She definitely will not expect the visitors to find her within five minutes of the game starting!” Just the thought of the accidents that might happen inside there made Xiao Sun’s scalp go numb. “I really did not mean to do this! This can’t do! I need to contact Boss Chen immediately! This is an issue of life and death!”