

Horrors 1141

Chapter 1141 Xin Hai, Here I Come 2 in 1

"An officer from the Jiujiang station?" When Mr. Wang heard these few words, he started to frown involuntarily. "I have never required their help before. Go and tell him to return. After all, they won't be of much help anyway." "Mr. Wang, you have been busy recovering your body and lecturing your classes, so you might not know this," the worker from the university said with a smile on his face. "In the past half a year, the Jiujiang station has been breaking one major crime case after another. Even if you compare them to the law enforcement over the whole country, you will see that they are the best of the best."

"The reason I needed to recover my body is related to the Jiujiang station, so I have nothing to say to their people, and I do not care about how many cases that they have solved." Mr. Wang appeared like he had once worked at the Jiujiang police station, but due to various reasons, his relationship with the station was rocky at best. "Like I said, tell him to leave. I am sure they currently have many cases to handle. They should not part with one of their people just to accompany me."

The university worker looked at the police officer standing next to him helplessly. The rather old police officer walked toward Mr. Wang and said, "Brother Wang, Captain Yan has returned. He is now the leader at the local station."

"Captain Yan?"

"Twenty years ago, he was the young man who requested for the case to be reopened due to the problems that he had discovered about two weeks before you did. He is now the leader at the Jiujiang station. It is under his brilliant leadership that we have managed to solve so many major cases." The old officer appeared to recognize Mr. Wang. "Brother Wang, the current local station is no longer the same as it was. The reason I am here today is because of Captain Yan. In fact, if possible, he wishes to see you in person before we depart. After all, you were the only person who lent your support to him back then."

When Captain Yan's name was brought up, Mr. Wang was silent.

"I do not have the face to see him." Closing the notebook in his hands, Mr. Wang handed it over to Zuo Han. "Don't you suspect that the haunted house is really haunted? Perhaps this notebook will help guide you closer to the discovery of the truth."

"Sir?"

"I feel well rested already. Today, we will depart to Xin Hai." It was as if Mr. Wang had turned into a different person. The presence that radiated off him was completely different from before.

"You still have not changed after all this time." The worker from the university shook his head. "We have already prepared the transportation for you. You can depart at 2 pm. Before that, you'd better rest as much as you can."

...

After stretching lazily, Chen Ge was woken up by the alarm clock. After a quick freshen up in the bathroom, he hurried to open the door. Ever since he obtained the black phone, his every day had been filled to the brim with meaningful events. Be it morning or night time, almost every hour of his life was occupied by some important event. After doing the make up for his employees, Chen Ge stood inside the dressing room. Watching the employees chatting among themselves, he too felt quite relaxed within that atmosphere. "If only this kind of life could continue forever."

After he had finished the make up for everyone, Chen Ge called for a simple morning meeting to discuss the future direction of the haunted house with his employees.

"You are all now experienced actors at the haunted house. You have plenty of experience in this field and are more than capable of handling any type of sudden accident, so I am not worried about leaving the haunted house in your care."

"Boss, how come it sounds like you are going to leave us behind and go for a long trip away all of a sudden?" Xiao Gu was wearing the Doctor Skull Cracker outfit. He pulled off the mask with both hands.

"Director Luo has just bought the biggest haunted house in Xin Hai. In the near future, I will move over there to open our first branch. After the situation at the branch has stabilized, I will return here."

Opening the branch was the second important mission; the main reason Chen Ge was going there was because he wanted to deal with the cursed hospital. Currently, all the clues pointed toward the cursed hospital. His parents might be found there as well, so he had to go there no matter what.

"Boss, our situation here has just stabilized. Isn't it a bit too rushed to suddenly open a new branch?" Zhang Jingjiu had experienced the nastiness of society before, so his thoughts were rather more reserved.

"Our base will still be this haunted house in Jiujiang. The branch in Xin Hai can only be called a trial." Chen Ge looked at his employees. "Now, I will assign all of you some work. After I leave this place, the scenario aboveground will all be handled by Xu Wan. I will also hand her the temporary key for the haunted house to Xu Wan. Xiao Gu if you run into any problems, you should go to Xu Wan or Uncle Xu for help."

"Okay."

"The underground scenarios will be handled by Wu Jinpeng." Chen Ge turned to look at the handsome uncle with the single ponytail.

"What, me? No, no, I can't do it." Wu Jinpeng quickly waved his hands.

"Do not worry, there are people who will come help you. This here is the list. Later, you shall go to the underground scenarios to communicate with them and see if there is anything you guys can do to ensure the operation can run smoothly."

The whole room was filled with his trusted confidants. Most of the living employees had survived a life or death situation with Chen Ge before; he would not worry about leaving his life with them. Chen Ge handed a name list to Wu Jinpeng. It had names of several 'people' like Doctor Wei and Ol' Bai on it. After being given the name list, Wu Jinpeng slowly calmed down.

“Now that the people in Jiujiang have been arranged, I will discuss the people who will come to Xin Hai with me.” Chen Ge turned to look at Zhang Jingjiu and Qu Changlin. “Changlin, you have personally worked at that haunted house before. I will give you the task to design the various scenarios and mechanisms for that haunted house. From today onward, you will be the designer of the props used in the scenarios at that haunted house.”

Qu Changlin was especially proficient at building various kinds of haunted house props and mannequins. The man himself was originally Shang Guan Qing Hong’s employee, but he was lured over by Chen Ge to work for him. “Shang Guan Qing Hong did not even attempt to train you to your full potential. But now, I will provide you with a large enough stage so that you can showcase your talent as much as you can.”

Chen Ge had ultimately fulfilled his promise to Qu Changlin. Back when they first met, Qu Changlin was just a bottom feeder who was not given much attention, and now he had been promoted to the main designer at Xin Hai’s haunted house. That was a promotion that skipped several steps.

“Thank you, boss!” This appreciation came directly from Qu Changlin’s heart.

“Qu Changlin will be responsible for the design of the set and props; the rest will be handled by Zhang Jingjiu.” Chen Ge valued Zhang Jingjiu a lot. He had rescued this employee from Li Wan City, and since he started working for Chen Ge, his improvement could be seen with naked eye. He had familiarized himself with the operation at the haunted house in a mere few days and could often provide unexpected help to Chen Ge.

For example, when Chen Ge was fighting Liu Gang online, it was Zhang Jingjiu who led some of the fans to lead Liu Gang slowly into the trap. In terms of business management and interpersonal relationships, Zhang Jingjiu had done better at these compared to the other employees. Now that they were going to a new location, Chen Ge required such a talent. Furthermore, it appeared like Zhang Jingjiu himself came from a wealthy background. His own family business had been in operation in Xin Hai for years already. Combining all these different factors, Chen Ge decided to select Zhang Jingjiu as the branch manager.

“Boss, I am afraid...”

“There is nothing to be afraid of; you are the most suitable candidate.” After saying a few more words, Chen Ge had his employees return to their posts and started the business for a new day. “Later tonight, perhaps I should use the nightmare mission coupon that I won from the Wheel of Misfortune. After completing this daily mission, I can consider moving to Xin Hai.”

Chen Ge had done everything that he could do; he had drawn practically all of the ghosts from the black phone’s Wheel of Misfortune. Even though there were still some unexplored ghost stories left in Jiujiang, exploring those deeply hidden stories would take weeks or even months. Chen Ge did not have that much time.

“The most important thing to do now is to set the scene as soon as possible by sending Xiao Sun into the hospital. That is the most crucial part.” After witnessing Xiao Sun’s talent in person, Chen Ge desperately wanted to send Brother Sun into the cursed hospital. The popularity of the New Century Park haunted house was rising day by day on the internet. It attracted many foreign visitors. The income of theme park had steadily increased. In contrast, there were endless problems with the futuristic theme park.

After two directors had been hospitalized, the upper management had been thrown into yet another power struggle. Many basic employees had no idea what was happening, and that seriously impacted the visitors' overall experience. All in all, New Century Park had already stabilized the situation, and it was time to overthrow the enemy.

That noon, Chen Ge suddenly received a call. It was from an auntie. She told Chen Ge that the doctor that Chen Ge had once introduced to Jiang Ming could no longer be contacted. Before this, the communication had gone smoothly. The preparation for the cochlear operation had been done already, but the doctor had suddenly gone out of contact, and this caused Jiang Ming and his mother to be extremely nervous. Chen Ge asked the auntie for a few more details, and only then did he find out that Jiang Ming's mother had already taken Jiang Ming to Xin Hai. With the auntie's help, they had found a cheap rental home to stay at. The operation was originally planned for the following day, but the surgeon had suddenly disappeared, so all of them were panicking.

"This can't be dragged on any longer. I shall depart for Xin Hai today." Chen Ge knew very well that the doctor in question had already had some problems before this. His disappearance probably had a lot to do with the cursed hospital. If he hurried over, perhaps there was still a chance to save that doctor's life. With a human life on the line, Chen Ge did not hesitate. He rushed back into the haunted house and informed Qu Changlin and Zhang Jingjiu to pack up their stuff after work that day, and they would meet up at Xin Hai's haunted house the following day.

Since Qu Changlin had worked at the haunted house before, Chen Ge did not have to purposely jot down the address for him. Picking up his backpack, due to the suddenness of the event, Chen Ge only took most of the Red Specters and the more dangerous Specters that might go out of control when he was not around with him.

"Ol' Bai can look after White Tiger when I am gone, and I will leave the Doctor Skull Cracker costume for Xiao Gu. I will instead bring some of the new costumes with me. Perhaps they might come in useful."

A haunted house prop that looked as suspicious as the Doctor Skull Cracker's Hammer would never pass the security check, so Chen Ge decided to figure out a way to book a car to head to Xin Hai. Taking out his phone, Chen Ge made a call to Lee Zheng. "Brother Zheng, there is something that I need to report to you."

When Lee Zheng got Chen Ge's call, his heart dropped into his stomach. "Why are you reporting to me? It makes it sound like you are part of our major crimes unit. If it is nothing important, you can talk to me after I am off work. We're still busy dealing with the case at Jiu Hong Apartments."

"It's like this. There is a Doctor Fang from Xin Hai who has suddenly disappeared. Based on his various actions, I suspect he is currently in a very dangerous situation."

"How would you come to know a doctor from Xin Hai?" Since this was related to a human life, Lee Zheng pulled his attention immediately. Chen Ge summarized how he got in contact with Doctor Fang and the history of Jiang Ming and his cochlear operation to Lee Zheng.

"You're putting me in a very hard spot! All I can do is help you contact the police at Xin Hai and inform them of the severity of the situation, pushing them to launch an investigation." Lee Zheng had his own difficulties. He was a police officer in Jiujiang, and the case in Xin Hai was beyond his jurisdiction.

“Brother Zheng, can you send someone to accompany me to Xin Hai? If I go on my own, I definitely cannot convince the officers at Xin Hai. They will not believe my story either. That will only waste precious time. Perhaps, because of this, it might cause us to lose the precious time that could be used to save a human life.”

Chen Ge was telling the truth. If not for the fact that Chen Ge had helped the Jiujiang police so many times and cooperated so many times with them, meaning they could be sure that Chen Ge would never lie, they would not trust him so implicitly.

Lee Zheng also knew that Chen Ge was most likely not lying. He paused for a long time before he said, “We are seriously understaffed at the moment, but I heard from Captain Yan that Ol’ Wu will be heading to Xin Hai for a mission this afternoon. You can hitch a ride with him.”

“Thank you so much! Forgive me for asking this, but how is he going to Xin Hai?”

“He will be taking a transport assigned by the Jiujiang Medical University. The mission that he was given was, I believe, related to a lecturer from that university as well. But don’t get ahead of yourself. This might not work. Let me go and inform Captain Yan of this first.”

Lee Zheng hung up the call while Chen Ge carried his two large bags and called a cab to head to Jiujiang Medical University. On the way there, Lee Zheng came back with good news. Captain Yan had approved for Chen Ge to tag along with Ol’ Wu and the people from Jiujiang Medical University. At 1:30 pm, Chen Ge finally managed to contact Ol’ Wu. He placed his two large bags in the trunk. When he got into the car, he was greeted by Mr. Wang’s dark face.

He had just been scared until he fainted by this man before him, but now they had somehow found a way to sit in the same car. Mr. Wang did not even know what to say. He had many thoughts in his mind, but he did not dare voice them. He appeared to fear Chen Ge without even realizing it.

“Mr. Wang, let me make the introductions. This is Chen Ge. He has helped us solved the case of a hidden body inside cement, abandoned bodies inside an old well at a school, a killer on the loose at the Third Sick Hall, the case of Jia Ming killing his wife...” Ol’ Wu gave a random repertoire of Chen Ge’s history, and it shocked Mr. Wang.

“It feels like you two share a very good relationship, as close as actual colleagues.” Mr. Wang once again studied Chen Ge. He really could not figure out how a haunted house would come to help the police solve so many major crimes. Was the haunted house boss actually an undercover cop?

“I guess you are not wrong that. There was this week when I encountered him six times. At the time, we were working three shifts per day. I met him more often than I encountered my actual colleagues.” Ol’ Wu was once rescued by Chen Ge, so he had a good impression of the young man. “Captain Yan and Inspector Lee value his opinion as well. They often joke among themselves that it was such a loss to the law enforcement that this kid chose to open a haunted house and not serve the force.”

With Ol’ Wu there, the atmosphere in the car was not that awkward. After they got on the highway, Chen Ge drifted off to sleep. At 4 pm, Ol’ Wu first deposited Mr. Wang at his assigned living area, and he continued to drive Chen Ge to locate Jiang Ming and his mother. Xin Hai was much bigger than Jiujiang; they traveled for a very long time before Ol’ Wu found the place. He parked the car in front of a rather

old-looking apartment building, and Chen Ge got his two large bags out of the trunk and entered the building.

“Room 202, is it? I’m on my way!” After hanging up, Chen Ge raced up the stairs and knocked on the door of Room 202. It was an auntie who opened the door. Chen Ge had met her at Jiang Ming’s home before. She was very kind and passionate.

“Chen Ge, I know that you are not a bad person, but the doctor that you recommended has suddenly disappeared. We really do not know what to do!”

“You need to first change the surgeon for Jiang Ming. The disappearance of Doctor Fang cannot be explained in a few words.” Chen Ge thought about it and then said, “Have you contacted the police?”

“No, Doctor Fang has not taken our money, so there is no reason for us to report to the police.” The auntie was really nice to have stayed with Jiang Ming and his mother for emotional support.

“Leave this to me then.” Chen Ge helped Jiang Ming contact another doctor. After he consoled them, he led Ol’ Wu directly toward the hospital where Doctor Fang worked.

“Chen Ge, are you sure something has happened to Doctor Fang? It is very inconvenient for you to carry two large bags like that. How about we find a place to stay first?” Ol’ Wu noticed the sweat on Chen Ge’s head, and he knew that Chen Ge was really desperate.

“Doctor Fang has come into contact with things from that hospital. If we do not hurry to find him, I am afraid we might not be able to find him at all.” Chen Ge knew that Doctor Fang was a very good doctor, and it was because Doctor Fang was the best in his specialization, so he was worried that the cursed hospital might have gone after him.

Chapter 1142 A Good Person? 2 in 1

“There are still three and a half hours until night falls. We have to investigate the places that Doctor Fang has been to before he disappeared,” Chen Ge said adamantly. When he stayed together with Ol’ Wu, those who did not know would assume he was the police officer and Ol’ Wu was just the driver. As Ol’ Wu drove away, he could not help but ask in confusion, “Why can we only conduct the investigation when there is still light? Do you have something else to do at night?” “The city will not be safe at night.”

“Xin Hai is the safest city on the northern side of China. Some of the business areas here operate for twenty hours. It has the nickname ‘the Eastern City that Never Sleeps’.” Ol’ Wu gripped the steering wheel. “Shouldn’t you youngsters be more familiar with these things than me?”

Chen Ge smiled but did not explain. Twenty minutes later, they arrived at Xin Hai Second Hospital. The whole of Xin Hai City had eleven top grade hospitals, and the Second Hospital that Doctor Fang was posted at was ranked at the forefront of the ranking and situated at the busiest part of Xin Hai.

Chen Ge and Ol’ Wu, who was wearing his police uniform, walked to the administration counter. “Hello, I would like to ask you some questions about one of your doctors here.”

The nurse on duty initially did not want to respond to Chen Ge, but when she saw the uniform that Ol’ Wu was wearing, her attitude became much better. With the accompaniment of the nurse, Chen Ge came to the unit for ENT specialists. There was currently a doctor who was inspecting a patient’s body.

“Doctor Fang has missed work for many days now. I personally have no idea what is going on. The doctor inside is called Doctor Zhao. He is Doctor Fang’s closest colleague and best friend, so he should know some information.”

After leaving that nugget of information, the nurse of duty left to return to her desk. Chen Ge and Ol’ Wu waited for Doctor Zhao to finish his consultation with his patient before they entered his room.

“Which one of you is the patient?” Doctor Zhao was very busy. He appeared like he needed a very good rest. He had heavy bags under his eyes, and he looked rather dispirited.

“We are not here to consult the doctor.” Chen Ge pointed at Ol’ Wu next to him. “This is one of the best inspectors from the major crimes unit from the police station.”

Chen Ge did not introduce himself and did not specify that Ol’ Wu belonged to the Jiujiang’s police station. Even though his entire sentence was nothing but the truth, it gave off the feeling that both of them were people sent over by Xin Hai’s police station.

“Inspector?” Doctor Zhao immediately understood the severity of the situation. “Are you here for Doctor Fang?”

“Looks like you really do know something.” Chen Ge planted himself on the chair, and the real police officer, Ol’ Wu, stood at the door.

“I told the officer from your station the actual details yesterday, but I did not expect another visit from your inspector again today, so it looks like Doctor Fang has already...” Doctor Zhao did not finish the sentence, but the intention that was in his words was not lost on everyone inside the room.

“Do not ask questions that you should not. You only need to tell us the information that you know.” Chen Ge picked up a piece of paper and a pen from the table and prepared to start his inquiry. The feeling that he gave off was very professional.

“The past few weeks, Doctor Fang has been performing very badly. He even made a mistake during one of his surgeries. The number of patients who have complained about him has grown larger and larger. This would never have happened in the past. Ol’ Fang is the best ENT specialist we have ever had.”

“Could Doctor Fang’s mental condition be related to his family members?”

“I saw Ol’ Fang’s family just yesterday. His wife and daughters are perfectly normal. They couldn’t be more worried about him. Oh right!” Something appeared to have just occurred to Doctor Zhao. “From what Ol’ Fang’s wife told me, Ol’ Fang would often spend time mumbling to himself, saying things like they are coming soon, they are very happy, and they are already here.”

“They are already here? Was someone following Doctor Fang and stalking him?” Ol’ Wu closed the door of the consultation room and walked over. He did not expect to stumble upon such a curious case as soon as he arrived in Xin Hai with Chen Ge.

“A few days before he disappeared, Ol’ Fang had serious problems sleeping. He kept hiding next to the bedroom window holding a knife and would keep sneaking glances outside the window as if there was someone standing there outside their house. His wife and daughters were very afraid, and they could not help themselves from looking out the window as well, but they never see anyone out the window.

There was no one down there.” Doctor Zhao sighed. “Ol’ Fang’s wife prepared to book an appointment with the psychologist here for him, but before the appointment could be arranged, Ol’ Fang disappeared.”

“Doctor Fang’s wife and daughters did not see anyone outside the window, yes?” Chen Ge repeated as confirmation.

“Ol’ Fang’s wife did not see anything, but his youngest daughter yesterday told the people from the police station that there was a woman who would not stop smiling hiding at her home.”

“A woman who could not stop smiling?” Chen Ge narrowed his eyes, and the name instantly floated up in his mind—Non-smilers.

“The station naturally sent people to check Ol’ Fang’s home, and they did not find any traces of this mysterious woman. They concluded that Ol’ Fang’s daughter had probably been under too much pressure lately, so she had been seeing things.”

“The things that she saw would still be related to her own memory. The woman who kept smiling would not appear out of nowhere in her mind. They should have followed this thread much further.” Chen Ge did not go into deep criticism about the things the police from Xin Hai had done; all he wanted to do now was find Doctor Fang as soon as possible. “Doctor Zhao, do you know who the last person who saw Doctor Fang was?”

“I believe that person would be me.” Doctor Zhao looked like he had aged several years in this short questioning. “Ol’ Fang had just requested half a month off, but before his holiday was over, he suddenly came back to work a few days ago. From the looks of it, he appeared rather normal, so I believed he had recovered. At the time, I did not think too much of it, and I even invited him to go have a few drinks with me after work.”

“Doctor Fang disappeared at the hospital?”

“For now, the evidence appears to suggest that. After his shift ended, no one saw Ol’ Fang leave the hospital. He locked himself inside his own room. I have no idea what he was doing inside. When I came to work the next morning, people told me Ol’ Fang had already disappeared.” Doctor Zhao was filled with regret. “If only I’d paid more attention to him that day, perhaps things might’ve ended up differently.”

“You should not blame yourself; this has nothing to do with you. You did everything you could.” Chen Ge frowned deeply in thought as he tried to think back to his first phone conversation with Doctor Fang. Doctor Fang had indeed mentioned he was being followed by non-smiler, and he had also brought up the recent reconstruction of the hospital’s storeroom and his finding an envelope in the old storeroom. After opening it, he had found a letter that requested him to go to an abandoned hospital at midnight. If he refused to do so, something bad would happen.

“Doctor Zhao, a few weeks ago, your hospital updated the hospital’s storeroom, didn’t it? Did Doctor Fang visit the old storeroom at the time?”

“How did you know that?” Doctor Zhao was truly surprised. From his point of view, the renovation of the storeroom was a completely different separate from Doctor Fang’s disappearance. There was no connection between the two at all.

“Try to think back to that period. Did the strange behavior about Doctor Fang start during the time he entered the old storeroom?” Chen Ge put down the pen he had taken and placed the paper note on which he had jotted down the important information into his pocket.

“Now that you mention it... that does ring true.” More surprise appeared on Doctor Zhao’s face. The feeling that Chen Ge gave off was completely different from the local officer that had visited him the previous day. “No wonder you guys are inspectors. Even such details do not escape your notice.”

“If it is not too much trouble, do you mind bringing us to visit the old storeroom now?”

“Of course not. Besides, the place is pretty much abandoned now.” Doctor Zhao was very good friend of Doctor Fang’s, so he was more than willing to help. After informing another doctor of his departure, Doctor Zhao led Chen Ge and Ol’ Wu out of the hospital.

“The old storeroom is not at the hospital?” Chen Ge asked with curiosity.

“A few years ago, our hospital changed address. The storeroom is still at the old address. The old hospital only has a few specialist units left over there.”

Twenty minutes later, the three arrived at the hospital’s original address. After they got the key from the manager, they entered the old storeroom. The place had just been cleaned, and the rows of shelves were all empty; there was practically nothing left in the room.

“When you guys were cleaning up the room, which area was Doctor Fang responsible for?”

“I believe it was at the inner part of the storeroom.” Doctor Zhao took out the key that would open the iron door leading deeper into the storeroom. “Due to the aging electrical circuit, the lights inside are not functioning that well. The place is very dim. The nurses at the time refused to go with him. If I’m not mistaken, Ol’ Fang entered the place on his own that day.”

“The middle of this storeroom is partitioned off with an iron door? Who designed the place like this? What is the purpose of this?”

“I have no idea.” The three entered the inner room and discovered things that would never be used at a hospital, like an old, white wedding dress and pairs of shoes covered in a layer of dust. Inside the dark room, just these rows of tattered shoes gave off a very creepy feeling.

“I have no idea why these things would be found here. The old gentleman who guarded this place when it was built passed away many years ago. This place is commonly locked up. If not for the fact that the new hospital director wanted to redo the storeroom, no one would have known that there were so many shoes abandoned here.” Doctor Zhao held the flashlight and keys. His heart was palpating with an indescribable fear.

“There are all different styles of shoes, and the sizes are all different. Is it possible that one of the former guards here liked to collect dead people’s shoes? Could he have stolen all of the dead people’s shoes

and then stored them here?" Chen Ge mumbled to himself. He did not notice the expressions on Ol' Wu and Doctor Zhao's faces that had gotten paler and paler.

"I have to say, if you don't mind, your supposition is rather unbelievable." Doctor Zhao pointed at the surrounding shelves. "All of these shoes on the shelves were once worn by dead people? I realize the process of thinking for you inspectors is really different from us normal people."

Ol' Wu touched his nose. He wanted to say something else, but after what Doctor Zhao said, he suddenly did not know how to voice his thoughts. Chen Ge, who walked at the front, did not answer. He suddenly stopped after walking past two shelves. "The shoes on the earlier few shelves were all neatly arranged. How come only the shoes from this shelf are on the ground? Someone has tripped here before!"

Narrowing his eyes, Chen Ge compared the location where the shoes had fallen and tried to reconstruct what happened that day.

"Someone who was about my height found something around this spot where I am standing. He was shocked, and his body knocked into the shoe rack, so the shoes got knocked off and spread to the two sides." Chen Ge had very sharp observational skills. Just based on where the shoes had landed, he had managed to come up with many reasonable hypotheses. "What shocked the victim probably suddenly appeared behind him. When he turned around, he lost his balance, and he knocked into the shoe shelf."

Chen Ge locked onto a direction and walked toward there. Scanning the shelves on the side with Yin Yang Vision, he came upon a discovery. "What's this?"

There was a small paper ball hidden in a very inconspicuous corner at the bottom of the shelf. Chen Ge opened it up, and there was only one sentence on it.

'Do not enter the last and innermost room!'

"Doctor Zhao, take a look at this. Do you think this is Doctor Fang's handwriting?" Chen Ge handed the note to Doctor Zhao.

After taking a look at it, the latter shook his head. "It is not Doctor Fang's handwriting, but it has appeared where Doctor Fang's accident happened. It can only mean that someone was kind enough to warn him of the danger before he came in here, but unfortunately, he did not notice it at the time."

Chen Ge held on to the paper note. This was a very important clue, so he had to look after it. "Doctor Zhao, do you still remember the people who came with Doctor Fang to this storeroom that day?"

"I do."

"Among them, do any of them have similar handwriting to this writing on the paper note?"

"I do not think so. The handwriting of most doctors is very hard to read because we need to write prescriptions very fast." Doctor Zhao confirmed it one more time and finally said that the note was not written by the people who went with Doctor Fang that day.

"It was not someone from the hospital, huh?" Chen Ge frowned, but after a while, he said, "To enter this place, one has to first get the keys from the management center. Could it be that someone there passed this note to Doctor Fang?"

Since they could not find more clues at the old storeroom, Chen Ge took the paper note and hurried back to the management center. After comparing the handwriting, Chen Ge noticed that the handwriting on the note was very similar to one of the managers. The manager had the surname Chi[1]. It was a very rare surname.

Chen Ge put away the paper note. He looked at the pictures of the employees that were posted on the wall and asked very loudly, "I am so sorry, but is Chi Ren here? Is he on duty today?"

"Brother Ren asked for holiday a few days ago. Is there anything that you want me to tell him when he returns?" The people at the center thought Chen Ge and Ol' Wu were inspectors from the Xin Hai station, so they were very cooperative.

When he heard that Chi Ren had not been to work for several days, Chen Ge immediately had a bad feeling arise in his heart. "Can you give me Chi Ren's address? We wish to ask him some questions in person. This is very important."

The people at the management center hesitated for a while before they finally gave Chen Ge the address of Chi Ren's apartment.

"Brother Ren does not like to communicate; he normally will not talk to strangers. So, I advise you to be prepared for no one to answer the door." The people at the management center had bitter smiles when they mentioned Chi Ren.

"Does he have any strange habits, or has he done anything strange before?"

"There is nothing particularly strange about him... Oh, right, Brother Ren, I am sure, lives alone. In his employment information, he stated very clearly that he has no family, but he occasionally mumbles to himself, saying terms that are very scary like Chi Shou[2], Chi Yanjing[3], Chi Bi[4], and so on."

Just the mere mention of these terms made the person at the center feel uncomfortable.

"One time, I could not help myself and asked him why he kept saying these things, and then he told me all those terms were the names of his family members."

"He sure comes from a very strange family. Who would even think of naming their children like that?" Chen Ge did not finish the other half of the sentence. He had a feeling that this family who had the surname Chi probably had some kind of relation with the non-smilers.

With this useful information, Chen Ge had Doctor Zhao return to his post while he and Ol' Wu travelled to Chi Ren's apartment. They knocked for a long time, but there was no answer. In the end, it was the landlord who had come over to tell them Chi Ren had not returned for days. The landlord revealed some very important information as well. The last time Chi Ren left the apartment, he was carrying a very large bag. It was filled with water and a lot of food. It was as if he was preparing for some incoming danger, and he was going into hiding.

If my assumption is not wrong, the reason Chi Ren gave Doctor Fang the note was because he wanted to save Doctor Fang, but he failed. He was worried about the non-smilers' revenge, so he hurried and packed up to run away in the night.

From how Chen Ge saw it, even though this Chi Ren had a very strange name, he believed that he should be a good person.

“Looks like if we want to find Doctor Fang, we need to find this Chi Ren first. He will be our next lead. Hopefully, he can give us more information that might help lead us to Doctor Fang.”

Chapter 1143 Which Is Scarier, Me or the Curse? 2 in 1

Chen Ge had Ol' Wu show the landlord his real identity, and then the two of them were given the permission to go inside Chi Ren's room to check. It was clear that Chi Ren had left in a hurry. The food that he ordered was abandoned, unfinished on the table; various clothes were abandoned on the couch; the drawers were left hanging open; the room was chaotic and unkempt, like it had been entered by thieves.

“Did Chi Ren tell you where he was going?”

“No, but recently, he has been calling someone. I overheard him begging that person to let him stay with them for a while. During one of the phone conversations, he even got into a huge argument with the other person.” The landlord pointed at the wall. “This is an old apartment; the walls are thin. Chi Ren might look very honest normally, but he can be quite scary when he is angry.”

“Then, did you happen to overhear any names or locations?” Chen Ge's expression was serious.

“I think they mentioned an eatery called Shi Li Xiang, and the owner of the eatery appears to have the surname Chi as well.” The information provided by the landlord was very limited, so during the course of conversation, Chen Ge silently released Men Nan into the room. When they were conversing, Men Nan checked every room rudimentarily, but he did not come up with anything.

After leaving the apartment building, Ol' Wu drove Chen Ge and hurried toward Shi Li Xiang. The shop was situated on the busiest street in Xin Hai, Destiny Avenue. Coincidentally, Shang Guan Qing Hong's haunted house was close to Destiny Avenue. The two locations were in the same business circle.

Destiny Avenue has bright lights twenty-four hours a day. There will always be a crowd here, making it a clever choice for a hiding spot.

In places where there were many people, it would hinder the movement of baleful Specters. Even Red Specters would be influenced.

“Brother Wu, you can just leave me at the eatery. I have troubled you too much already today. When we have the time, I will definitely treat you to a meal.”

“Are you sure you can handle this alone? This is Xin Hai. You do not know anyone here, so please do not go and do anything dangerous on your own.” Ol' Wu gave Chen Ge his own phone number. “If you run into any trouble, give me a call. I will do everything that I can to help you.”

“Thank you very much.” Ol' Wu was on an official assignment to accompany Mr. Wang. Due to that, he could not stay with Chen Ge for too long, but just due to the fact that he was willing to bring Chen Ge to Xin Hai, the latter was very thankful.

Carrying two large bags, Chen Ge eventually found the eatery 'Shi Li Xiang'. The shop was not that large, but there were many customers. There was a very long queue that led out the door. "The place has quite a good business."

Chen Ge queued for about fifteen minutes before it was his turn. He looked at the food inside the counter, and the delicious smell of food hit him. "Boss, how come your food smells much better than other shops?"

"That is because it is cooked with a secret sauce that has been passed down through the family for generations. I can guarantee that you won't be able to taste this delicacy anywhere else!" The boss was a big fatty, and he looked incredibly jovial.

"Then, why don't you give me one of everything on the menu? I am particularly fond of meat." When Chen Ge said that, he stealthily observed the boss and the employees. He did not notice any issues. This appeared to be a very normal eatery. After paying the money, Chen Ge left carrying a large bag of food. The sky was darkening, but the streets were still filled with cars. The place did not die down; if anything, it became even more crowded.

"Ultimately, Xin Hai is a big city." Chen Ge carried two big bags and the bag of food and found Shang Guan Qing Hong's haunted house on the corner of the street. Compared to the main avenue, there were obviously fewer people here. "When I came here last time, this haunted house still belonged to someone else."

Just as Chen Ge stepped into the haunted house, an employee came forth to welcome him with passion, but when she saw Chen Ge's face, she immediately retreated several steps. "Chen... Chen Ge..."

The female employee had a very deep impression of Chen Ge. After all, it was due to this scary man standing before her that her own boss had been hospitalized twice.

"You will have to call me boss in the future. New Century Park has already bought this place from your previous boss." Chen Ge took out the proof of purchase from his backpack. "Go and summon all of the free employees. I have something to announce to all of you."

The nemesis had become their new boss; the expressions of all the employees in the lobby turned very ugly. The way they looked at Chen Ge was how a hapless victim would look at the villains in TV shows. To them, Chen Ge was the kind of villain who would not stop even when he had already pushed the victims to the brink of a mental breakdown.

"Don't just stand there, go!" Chen Ge did not intend to bully these employees. Even though it was this haunted house that first ruffled his feathers, Chen Ge was not a narrow-minded person. He had already forgotten about those offences in the past.

About ten minutes later, a few employees in ghost costumes and make up rushed out from their posts. Counting the receptionist and the floor boy responsible for cleaning up the place, there were about five employees gathered in the lobby.

"How come there are so few of you? Where are the rest? Is this some kind of rebellion against me?" In Chen Ge's impression, when he came last time, this haunted house had at least ten employees.

“Due to the dwindling number of visitors and the withholding of the salary, combined with the rumors of this place being haunted, many people chose to leave,” the female employee said softly. “Since we are currently so understaffed, we only have our two most popular scenarios open for now.”

“With such a good spot in the city, how is the number of the visitors dropping? Looks like Shang Guan Qing Hong really needs to reflect on his job.” Chen Ge looked at the remaining five employees. “Shang Guan Qing Hong has already sold this place to me. If you are willing to continue working here, I welcome you to do so, but if you wish to seek employment elsewhere, I will pay the salary that Shang Guan Qing Hong owes you; we shall have a good parting.”

When Chen Ge said that he would pay them their owed salary, the remaining five employees wavered. In the ending, including the female receptionist, four of the employees chose to resign. Chen Ge cleared the debt that they were owed on the spot. “You guys do not need to come back tomorrow. I wish you the best of luck in finding a better job.”

After dealing with that, the four employees removed their make up and costumes before departing. The large haunted house only had Chen Ge and a female employee left.

“Why didn’t you resign with the rest of them?” Chen Ge looked at the female employee, and he thought that she looked rather familiar.

“I actually sleep here. If I leave this place, I won’t even have a place to stay anymore.”

“You should have saved a bit of money since you’ve worked here for quite some time, right? How come you still haven’t rented a place for yourself?” When Chen Ge asked that, he had forgotten that he himself had been staying at his own haunted house.

“My younger brother has a poor physical constitution; he needs the money for his treatment and education, so I try to save wherever I can,” the female employee said softly. She appeared to be very afraid of Chen Ge, but for the salary and a roof over her head at night, she forced herself to stand where she was.

“Family troubles are sometimes the hardest to solve. I understand.” Chen Ge nodded. “Why don’t me add my phone number first? I will send you the salary that Shang Guan Qing Hong owes you. From now on, you shall stay here to continue to work.”

“Thank you... boss.”

“Have we met before? I keep feeling like you look very familiar.”

“My name is Hu Die. Everyone calls me Xiao Die. When you came to visit last time, it was me who played the Pen Spirit game with you,” the female employee answered softly.

“So that was you! Without the make-up, I couldn’t recognize you.” Chen Ge finally realized who she was. When he played the Pen Spirit game with Xiao Die, during the second round, he had taken out the ballpoint pen where the Pen Spirit was hiding, and he had scared Xiao Die until she fainted. To avoid the awkwardness, Chen Ge changed the subject, “The people outside keep on saying that this haunted house is really haunted. I think you have personally experienced it before, so why do you insist on working here? Are you not afraid?”

"In this world, there is nothing scarier than poverty." Xiao Die squeezed her hands together. She seemed to come from a very bad family.

"Don't think about those unhappy things anymore. Keep working at this job. I do not dare guarantee that you will get rich, but I can at least promise that you shall one day get double your current salary."

Chen Ge did not like to give empty promises. Once he said something, he would try his best to make it into a reality.

"The employee benefits I have are much better than what Shang Guan Qing Hong gave you, so I suggest you find a place outside of this place to stay. Do not take this as me chasing you away, but after I visited this place last time, I realized that there is indeed some problem with your haunted house." Chen Ge started into Xiao Die's eyes. "There are certain things here at night. For your own safety, you'd better move out and find a place to stay."

Xiao Die nodded. She looked rather pitiful.

"Come, bring me on a tour of the haunted house. Last time I was here, I went through the place in quite a hurry. I believe I have not seen many of the scenarios before." Chen Ge and Xiao Die entered the haunted house. Before they visited much scenarios, Xiao Die's phone suddenly rang. Seeing the caller ID, Xiao Die very embarrassingly excused herself to the side and answered the call.

"Sis, where are you now? Can I stay with you guys tonight?" A male voice came from the other side of the phone. One could hear the voice trying to hold back his tears.

Xiao Die was caught in a conundrum. Chen Ge had just told her she could not stay at the haunted house overnight, so she really did not know how to answer her own younger brother. "But don't you have the permission to stay at the dormitory? How come you have sneaked out?"

"I really cannot stay there anymore."

"Are they bullying you again?" Xiao Die was rather angry.

"Sis, don't ask me anymore. I am now at the entrance of your haunted house. Just let me stay with you for one night," the boy pleaded. Xiao Die turned to Chen Ge helplessly. Before her lips opened to say anything, Chen Ge already nodded his agreement.

"That's fine. He can stay here tonight, but this is not going to work for the long term. You'd better find out why he is unwilling to stay at his dormitory."

"Thank you, boss." Xiao Die hung off her phone and ran out of the scenario with Chen Ge. When they arrived at the lobby, there was a lanky high schooler with very fair skin standing there. He had a very small frame and wounds on his face. He was holding a pair of glasses that had been stomped on and broken.

"How come you came here on your own?" When Xiao Die saw the boy, she hurried over. She took a wet wipe from under the counter and cleaned up some of the dust stuck to the young man's shirt and arms. "I will go and find some bandages. Stand here and don't go wandering anywhere."

After Xiao Die left, the lobby only had Chen Ge and the high schooler left.

“Your school allows their in-residence students to wander out of the campus at night?” Chen Ge placed the two big bags he was holding on the seat. He fetched two cups of water. He placed one before himself and the other before the young man.

The male student did not accept the water offered by Chen Ge; he did not seem to like Chen Ge. “Are you my sister’s colleague? How come there are only the two of you here tonight?”

“Do you have a problem with that?” Chen Ge took a sip of the water and smiled. They were not on the same level at all. Xiao Die’s younger brother stood transfixed. He held the broken glasses and did not dare say a word. Moments later, Xiao Die ran out with the haunted house’s first aid kit and dressed her younger brother’s wound as best as she could. During that period, Xiao Die asked her brother what had happened many times, but her brother clammed up like a shell. After she was done with his wounds, the young man grabbed his school bag and raced into the haunted house. He appeared to know where the staff breakroom was, so this should not be the first time he had run to the haunted house to seek help.

“Hu Yuan! Wait a minute!” Xiao Die shouted twice before the high schooler stopped moving.

“I do not know anything. Can you please stop asking me questions?” Hu Yuan had great emotional swings. It was a clear representation of his inner emotional state.

“This is my new boss, Chen Ge. If you want to stay at the haunted house, you must at least get his permission first. That is basic manners.” Xiao Die dragged Hu Yuan to stand before Chen Ge.

“He can stay here tonight, but what can hiding here one night change?” Chen Ge walked to stand before Hu Yuan. “Fear will not dissipate because you run away from it. Eventually, you will have to face it. Why don’t you share your problems with us and let me and your big sister help you?”

Ever since he obtained the black phone, Chen Ge had met many problematic children and had collected many useful experiences when dealing with him. With his coaxing and persuasion, Hu Yuan finally told the truth.

There were four students in his dormitory room, and the other three kept on ganging up on him. Normally, he would have just ignored them, but that afternoon, after school, the three bullies shoved an envelope to him. Hu Yuan did not want it. In the end, the three of them stayed to make horrid jokes about his sister, and that angered Hu Yuan enough to get into a physical fight with them. The thin Hu Yuan was naturally not their match. After being beaten up, he did not want to return to the dormitory room, so he chose to come to his sister’s place. It was typical school bullying. Xiao Die was very angry; she wanted to go to the school to talk to the teacher tomorrow.

“They wanted to give you an envelope?” Chen Ge caught onto this strange detail. “Did you take the envelope in the end?”

“Cao Fei shoved the envelope inside my pocket. I initially wanted to throw it away, but I hesitated after I saw the content of the envelope.” Hu Yuan took out an envelope from inside his school bag. “I don’t think you guys should look at it. I will figure out a way to deal with it later.”

Actually, Chen Ge did not mind this detail, but when he saw the envelope, his eyes slowly narrowed. There was a very dark print left on the surface on the envelope. “Why would there be human blood on the envelope?”

Chen Ge took the envelope and held it in his hands. Ignoring Hu Yuan's protest, he opened the envelope. Other than a few strands of hair of varying lengths, there was also a patient list. The list did not have the patient's name, but there were a few sentences written with red ballpoint pen on the back.

"Please clip a piece of your hair and place it inside the envelope and hand the envelope to the next person. If you do not pass the envelope to the next person before night falls, I will appear inside your house at 4:44 am.

"If you do not pass the envelope to the next person within the next three days, I will appear before your eyes at 4.44 am."

"A cursed letter? How juvenile." Studying the hair inside the envelope, Chen Ge knew that many people had received this envelope already.

"You'd better return the envelope to me. I heard Cao Fei say that he really saw something last night." Hu Yuan reached for the envelope but was evaded by Chen Ge.

"At your current age, the most important thing you need to focus on is your studies. Just ignore everything else." Chen Ge patted Hu Yuan's shoulder. "The person who handed you this letter is called Cao Fei, correct?"

"Yes."

"Does he also stay at the school dormitory like you?"

"What do you plan to do?" Hu Yuan was stunned. He turned to his big sister, but Xiao Die also had no idea what Chen Ge was planning.

"I plan to appear beside his bed at 4:44 am tonight." Chen Ge put the envelope away with a smile. "I'm just kidding. You must be tired. Go in and get some rest."

His expression was normal and easy, like nothing had ever happened. Chen Ge had Xiao Die lead him to visit the rest of the scenarios, and then he locked himself inside the headmaster's office.

"Nightmare Academy's sets are slightly better than my own haunted house. The props alone are worth quite a pretty penny." Chen Ge flipped through his comic and had his Red Specters check every corner of the haunted house. After ensuring that there were no hidden dangers, he sighed in relief.

"There are two things I need to do tonight—investigate the eatery and find the source of the cursed envelope." Chen Ge had seen many patient records, but this was the first time he had encountered one without a name or picture.

"After midnight, I will go and visit Cao Fei and trace it back student by student. Eventually, I will come to the source." Chen Ge placed both of his legs on the headmaster's office table and switched into a more comfortable posture. "The school is a place for education; those that target students shall never be forgiven."

Chapter 1144 Perspective of the "Victims" 2 in 1

At 11 pm, inside the male dormitory at Xin Hai First High, the lights went off. The three male students in Room 408 had already locked the doors and windows and crawled into their beds before the lights went out. "Ol' Cao, are you sure that you saw five people in the room last night?"

There was a rather well-built student sitting in the second bed, which was next to the window. He was wearing a basketball top, and the poster of a basketball athlete was pasted on the wall beside his bed.

"Why would I lie to you?" The student in first bed was bare chested. There were two night lights next to his bed, and he wore a pendant with a jade around his neck. "Initially, I also thought that cursed letter was nothing but a joke, so I did not give it much thought. Who would have thought there would be an actual extra person appearing in the room last night?"

Cao Fei, who was in the first bed, pointed at the window next to the second bed. "At the time, the person's face was pressed against that window. I personally saw him open the balcony door and enter the room. Throughout the whole process, he had his eyes fixed on me."

"Then, doesn't that mean he was just standing beside my bed? What the f*ck! Why didn't you warn me at the time? Some warning would have been helpful!"

"I really wanted to say something, but I realized I could not make any sound from my throat. Do you know the feeling of having a ghost pressing on you, holding you down? It felt just like that for me last night!" Cao Fei kept gesturing with both of his hands.

"Can you describe what that person looks like in more detail?" The student in the third bed removed his glasses and rubbed his eyes. He was very thin and tall. The textbook next to his bed had his name on it—Tian Yuan.

"I also cannot remember it that clearly anymore. I just felt there was someone there. He had been watching me as he slowly approached me," Cao Fei said as he reached over to switch on the night lights. "Tonight, I am going to sleep with the lights on. Bros, you won't mind, right?"

"Look at how cowardly you are. If you ask me, this is because you have done too many bad things, and it was your guilty conscience coming to get you." Tian Yuan picked up the textbook next to him and resumed his study. He was a very hardworking student, but that did not change the fact that he too was a bully. "Speaking of which, who gave you the cursed letter in the first place? Who have you offended lately that wanted to do something like that to you?"

"Oh, it was nothing like that. The letter was given to me by my girlfriend. I saw how scared she was, so I voluntarily took it from her. Who knew the content of the letter would be true?" The bedside lights cast a halo on Cao Fei's face. Once he reminisced about this incident, he could not stop the cold sweat from forming on his face.

"You are always the first to act like a hero, but now that you have to suffer the consequences, you have dragged all of your buddies down with you. I really do not know what to say other than thank you," the male student in the basketball tank said sarcastically. "Sigh, when will I get a girlfriend of my own? Are the girls nowadays not into jocks?"

"Brother Zhuang, that is where you are wrong. I stopped the tragedy before it could get to the rest of us because I have already given the letter to Hu Yuan. He is not at the dormitory at the moment, so that

ghost should have followed him home already,” Cao Fei said in a hushed tone. “Tomorrow, when he comes back to class, we will try to get some information from him, and we will frighten him even more and try to make him to stay away from the dormitory for the next few days so that the ghost will keep on following him back to his place.”

“What if he insists on coming back here?” Tian Yuan put his pair of glasses back.

“That weakling does not dare fight back. Even if he does fight back, what can he do to us?” It was clear that Cao Fei looked down on Hu Yuan. “The only thing that he has going for him is his sweet older sister.”

“Do you people know what time it is! Why aren’t you sleeping yet! Turn those lights off!” The door of the dormitory was knocked on, and the dormitory manager shouted from outside the door.

The people inside the room quickly moved to oblige. After the dormitory manager left, Cao Fei used the blanket to cover the night lights, and he whispered to the room, “I am not going to sleep tonight. I will keep my phone on and take a picture of the ghost for you to see.”

“I wish you best of luck. If you manage to get the picture, remember to wake us up.” The bedroom became very quiet, and no one was speaking anymore. Cao Fei buried his head under the sheets and started chatting with his girlfriend via text. Young couples at the start of their romance had many topics that they would talk about, and without even realizing it, they had chatted until midnight. Looking at the amount of battery left, Cao Fei prepared to bid his girlfriend good night. The dormitory that they were in did not have a place for them to charge their phones. If they wanted to do so, they would have to wait for the next day when they went to class.

His fingers moved on the screen. Before Cao Fei could send the word ‘good night’, he suddenly heard a weird voice in his ears. It sounded like the room door moving. He immediately yanked back the covers and turned his gaze to the door. The door was closed, and there was nothing out of place about it. He looked around. The inside of the room was intensely quiet, so quiet, in fact, that he could hear the breathing of his other two roommates and the sound of the beating of his heart.

“Brother Zhuang? Brother Yuan? Are you guys asleep?” There was no response. Cao Fei snuck under the covers again. This time, he only allowed his eyes to peek out from underneath. The phone kept vibrating; his girlfriend was sending him new messages. Cao Fei was feeling weirdly frightened. The only person that he could talk to now was his girlfriend.

“Cao Fei? Why have you suddenly stopped talking? Have you fallen asleep? Come and chat some more with me. I am a little bit scared.”

“Xiao Lu, our bedroom suddenly became very quiet. It is so quiet that even the buzzing of the mosquitos has disappeared. This is so strange!”

“Please don’t scare me like that! Have you passed the cursed letter on already?”

“Yes, I gave it to one of my roommates. He is not staying with us tonight.” When Cao Fei typed those letters, he heard another strange noise in his ears. It sounded like the water dripping and falling on the ground because the tap was not shut tightly.

“Then it should be fine. Don’t scare yourself. The curse has already been passed on to another person.”

"Let's hope so." After Cao Fei replied with that message, his gaze moved away from the phone screen and toward the window. Just as his eyes moved over there, they froze instantaneously because there was a face looking at him from the balcony!

His eyes blinked, and in that short moment, the face had already moved to stick itself against the glass window. Blood slid down the glass window. The handle that led to the balcony started to turn on its own. Cao Fei grabbed his phone like it was his lifeline. His heart would not stop racing. His limbs were as cold as ice, but the oxygen around him appeared to have ignited.

The balcony door that was locked from the inside was slowly opened. The temperature inside the room dropped drastically. Following the dripping sound, a man wearing a drenched red shirt appeared inside the dormitory room. The closer he got, the more twisted Cao Fei's expression became, but he found out that his body could not react at all. The blood slid down to the floor, and the stinging stench of blood rushed into his nostrils!

The hair that was slick from water stuck on the man's face. Only an eye that had no pupil stared at Cao Fei through the gap in between the hair.

Why? I have already sent the cursed letter away! Why have you still appeared!

It felt as if a pair of hands had gripped Cao Fei's heart. His eyes were widened to its maximum.

Following the sound of water dripping, a hoarse voice came out from behind the curtain of black hair.

"Why do you always bully me?"

Whenever Cao Fei blinked, the person would teleport one inch closer to him.

"Why would you give me that letter?"

The soaked body was standing next to him bed. The eye that was fully white stared closely at Cao Fei.

"Why would you say bad things about my big sister? Why would you not let me lead a peaceful life? Why? Why! What have I done to you! Why? Why!"

His tone was getting more and more maddening. The Red Specter who was drenched leaned close to Cao Fei's face. The wet black hair lingered on Cao Fei's face. A death man's pale face stared deeply into Cao Fei's eyes.

"Why did you want me dead?"

"You are... Hu... Hu Yuan..." His body was leaning tightly against the headboard, Cao Fei's body was frozen like ice. His pupils rolled upward; this scene was far beyond the threshold of horror that he could stomach. His body went limp on his bed, and the smell of ammonia later filled up the room.

"When you bully those weaker than you, you are like a horrible ghost, but when you run into an actual ghost, you perform even worse than those bullied by you." The soaked Red Specter picked up Cao Fei's phone and looked at the messages on it.

"What are you doing? How come you stopped answering my messages?"

“Are you still worried about the cursed letter? As long as you have passed the letter on to another person, the curse will not come to harm you.”

“Do not worry. The curse will only harm the latest unlucky b*stard. The two of us will be fine.”

Reading these messages, the Red Specters revealed a wicked grin.

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It was already 1 am. Her roommates were all asleep, but Zhang Lu kept the night lights beside her bed on. She crossed her legs on the table as she applied something on her nails and glanced at the phone screen.

“How come he has not replied?” Zhang Lu’s fingers glided on the phone screen and wrote, “Do not worry. The curse will only harm the latest unlucky b*stard. The two of us will be fine.”

The screen in the dark finally lit up. Cao Fei had finally replied to her message.

“Where are you now?”

Zhang Lu found this question weird, but she still replied, “I am in my dorms! Where else would I be? What’s wrong?”

“I’m coming over to you now!”

“Now?” Zhang Lu looked at the time on her phone and quickly typed back a few words. “Stop kidding. It is already one in the morning.”

“I have already exited the male dormitory!”

“Are you really coming over now?”

“I have already reached the bottom of your building!”

“But the doors to the female dormitory should be locked already. How are you going to get in?”

“I have reached the first floor already!”

“First floor?” Zhang Lu looked at the messages that kept on coming. The frequency of the messages had suddenly increased. It made Zhang Lu feel very unsafe and uneasy.

“Cao Fei, I am warning you, don’t play such childish pranks on me.”

“I have reached the second floor already!”

“I have reached the third floor already!”

“I have reached the door of your room!”

The messages on the phone gave off a very strange and scary feeling. Zhang Lu gripped her phone tightly. She had a sudden feeling that it was not Cao Fei who was messaging her.

“When Cao Fei was chatting with me earlier, there was a long period when he did not reply to my messages. He claimed to have run into a ghost.” The more Zhang Lu thought about it, the more scared

she became. She planned to wake up all her other roommates, but no one responded. After about ten seconds, there were no more new messages on her phone. Zhang Lu looked at the screen of her phone and silently slid to the door. She summoned all the courage that she had and slowly pushed the door open. In the dark corridor, other than the night breeze, there was nothing else.

"I knew it was a prank." Zhang Lu bit on her lips. Her face had blanched from the fear, but that fear turned directly into anger. She fired a voice message to Cao Fei. "You sick b*stard! Do you think it is fun to scare me like that? Where exactly are you now?"

Moments later, Zhang Lu's phone got a new message. "Look behind you."

Zhang Lu slowly turned around, and the face of a dead man suddenly appeared behind her. "Why would you want me dead?"

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Hanging up the phone, Wei Lijie cursed under his breath before he entered the bathroom of his own apartment.

"There are so many rich people in this world. How come I am the one who is so unlucky?" The man reeked of beer. He slumped down on the toilet and looked through the message history on his phone. "You can get much from threatening high schoolers anyway, and I still need to share the earnings with Cao Meng! F*ck! All he does is give me orders and stern faces. He really thinks he's the mafia boss? Just wait until I climb higher than him. I swear I will work him to death..."

At this point of his complaint, Wei Lijie's suddenly felt a pressure on the back of his neck. He lifted his head to look up in a blur, and he realized that there was a man in red shirt who was dripping wet standing at the top of his head. The blood leaked out from the shirt. Wei Lijie blinked several times, and the alcohol dissipated from his bloodstream immediately.

"Who gave you the cursed envelopes?"

"Cao... Cao... Cao Meng!" The man did not even take the time to put his pants on. He jumped up from the toilet and rammed into the bathroom door. He ran into the living room but was tripped by his own pants, which were tangled around his ankles. The sound of blood dripping echoed in his ears. He tried his best to crawl toward the door until his head bumped into something. Lifting his head to look, a fatty with an impossibly large body was reaching out to grab his head.

"Help! Help... Hmm!"

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Cao Meng, who was busy partying at the night club, suddenly got a call from Wei Lijie. Due to the booming music, he could not hear what the man was saying. With great annoyance, he left the dance pool and entered the bathroom alone. "You'd better have something important to tell me to disturb me when I'm partying!"

He waited impatiently for a while. Just as he was about to hang up, an unfamiliar voice suddenly came from the other end of the line. "Why did you hand me that cursed envelope?"

"What envelope?"

“Why would you want me dead?”

“Wei Lijie, if you really want to know, the answer is that there is no reason. I just want you dead. So, what are you going to do about it? Someone has gotten too big to work for me, is that it?” Cao Meng hung up the call directly. His mind was still on the girl that he had been dancing with earlier. Grabbing the door handle of the bathroom, Cao Meng was heading out when a pale hand suddenly appeared on the door handle, placing itself on his own hand!

“What the f*ck!” Cao Meng whipped his head around, but he did not see another person in the bathroom with him. “Have I had too much to drink tonight?”

Just as he was confused, he heard a small voice from one of the cubicles. It sounded like the sound of a woman. He slowly approached the cubicle. Just as Cao Meng was about to reach the cubicle, the door slithered open, and a slender leg that was so white that it had no color to it extended out.

“A woman has snuck into the male toilets in the night club? I should teach her what kind of danger she might run into doing something as reckless as that.” Cao Meng’s heart was palpitating from the dirty thoughts. With the buzz of alcohol clouding his mind, his eyes could not stray away from that leg that appeared to be inviting him. Just as his eyes were fixed on the leg, a breath-takingly beautiful head dropped down beside that leg. She was staring at Cao Meng with the most beautiful smile.

Cao Meng’s body stopped moving. In that moment, Cao Meng felt that even his own heart had stopped beating. His mind was drawing a blank as he collapsed to the ground.

...

At 4:40 am, Lan Xiaochen had just finished giving a horrible review to a horror movie that he had not even seen. Naturally, that got a strong reaction from the fans of the movies. He happily started to troll these people. This was the happiest moment of his everyday life. The pressure that he suffered during the day was released at that moment. He enjoyed eliciting anger from others and felt a sense of satisfaction because these people were unable to do anything to him due to his anonymity behind the screen.

“You guys should be thankful that I have spent the little precious time that I have to write a review for your beloved movie. What more do you want from me?” He trolled the people for about ten minutes until he was banned by the moderator. Lan Xiaochen slammed heavily on the keyboard. “Such cowards. But never mind.”

He scoffed chillingly and opened a new sub account to continue his trolling in the movie review segment. He used the worst language to curse all those people. “How I wish my curses could turn into reality and ruin the things that this group of trash values so much.”

Lan Xiaochen stared at the ID of the moderator on-screen and looked at all his sub accounts as his comments were deleted. He took out an envelope from his drawer. “There is only one last envelope left. I wonder if it will work on an internet ID.”

The time passed by second by second. When it was 4:44 am on the clock, Lan Xiaochen stuffed the written letter into the envelope, but before he could even seal it, the lights in the room suddenly all went out.

“What’s this? A power cut?”

The light from the streetlight filtered into the room. Through the dim lighting, Lan Xiaochen realized that a few shadowy figures were flickering inside his room.

Chapter 1145 From Today Onward, We Are Friends 2 in 1

A heavy stench of blood permeated the air. The originally spacious room suddenly felt so incredibly crowded. The chilling cold light from the screen lit up his surroundings. Lan Xiaochen stood before the computer table, holding the cursed envelope, and slowly turned around. “Who’s there? Come out and face me!”

The man who was normally so courageous and fearless shouted loudly in the direction of the living room. Unfortunately, all that replied to him was the static of electricity. Inside the empty living room, the television set was suddenly switched on, and the black and white static appeared on the screen like snowflakes. Lan Xiaochen picked up the badminton racket next to his computer table and slowly nudged step by step to the living room. Perhaps it was a psychological trick or something else, but he felt a sense of déjà vu regarding this whole situation.

A barely discernible sound of crying came from a corner of the room. The computer suddenly started to play the horror movie that he had been watching earlier. The segment that Lan Xiaochen had critiqued as extremely clichéd to the point of boring him was replayed again and again. The things that occurred to the main character inside the movie when he was watching a horror movie had replicated it perfectly now in his real life.

The familiar conversation floated out from the speakers. The heavy breathing and the nervous tone kept on stimulating Lan Xiaochen’s brain. Even though he was unwilling to admit it, he was really afraid at that moment. “Come out now! Or I will call the police!”

An overwhelming sense of helplessness overcame his body. Lan Xiaochen yelled at the living room as if raising his voice might increase his courage. He was facing away from the screen of the computer as he moved to the door between the living room and his bedroom. He noticed there was a bloody handprint left on his front door’s handle, as if someone had opened the door from inside his house.

At that moment, the horror movie playing in his computer reached its climax. The male main character realized that the ghost from the horror movie he was watching had escaped into his own home. He wanted to escape from his house, but he suddenly noticed that the door of his house was locked.

Seeing the bloody handprint on the door handle, Lan Xiaochen suddenly realized that someone had entered his own house; this place was no longer safe. He moved very slowly, but as he approached the front door, he suddenly picked up speed.

When both of his hands gripped the door handle, he realized, no matter how hard he tried, he could not turn the door open. Fear had completely swallowed up his sense of rationality. The man who thought he was so above other people, the man who spent his daily nights trolling fans of different horror movies, that man felt the prick of fear for the first time in his life.

“How come the door won’t open?”

He shook the door as hard as he could, but the door refused to budge even an inch. However, blood started to leak from the edges of the door!

The main character on-screen was caught in the same conundrum. He took out his phone to call the female lead for help. In real life, Lan Xiaochen also took out his phone in a panic. However, this person had no close friends, so he was calling the police for help. The scene in the movie and the scene in real life had run parallel, and the result was surprisingly similar. The phone call was soon answered, and a stranger's voice came from the other side of the line.

"You cannot escape."

Trickles of blood and pale faces started to appear in the room. Shadowy figures wearing red outfits surrounded Lan Xiaochen, who was so scared that he had started to convulse. Lan Xiaochen, who was never afraid of voice his opinion and who was always ready for a fight on the internet, was currently shivering with the corner of his mouth bubbling with white froth, calling his mother with tears in his eyes. A boy in a red shirt dragged Lan Xiaochen to his side. He opened the front door, and there was a young man carrying a backpack standing outside the door.

"He is the source of the curse? Not even a Red Specter?" The young man entered the room and closed the front door behind him. "So, I was getting excited for nothing..."

Sitting on the sofa, the young man took out a comic from his backpack, and he started to flip through it. A pail of blood splashed on the top of Lan Xiaochen's head. The man instantly waved his hands as if he was thrown inside an icy pool. His first instinct was to cry out for help.

"Chen Ge, wouldn't it be much easier for you to have Zhang Yi look through his memories? Why waste time with this extra step?" Men Nan clamped his hand over the Lan Xiaochen's mouth. He looked at the sticky white stuff on his palm and felt disgusted.

"Zhang Yi's ability is to hide and remove part of one's memory. If this man's memory has already been tampered with, Zhang Yi will not be able to recognize it. To prevent us from being misdirected, I'd prefer hearing the truth from the horse's mouth first. We cannot afford to be too careful." Chen Ge was a very cautious person. He first wanted the young man to very carefully think over the things that he had done. "Hey, I will ask you a few questions now. I hope you will answer them honestly. If I find out you're lying, I will make you see how difficult living can be."

With his brain slowly coming back online, Lan Xiaochen was half lying on the ground. He used the remaining energy in his body to force his head to nod. Just from the tone that he employed, Lan Xiaochen knew that the young man sitting before him was someone he could not afford to offend. Lan Xiaochen might not be afraid of anything or anyone on the internet, but in real life, he was even more cowardly than a mouse.

"Who gave you the blank cursed letter?"

"No one gave it to me. I stole it from an abandoned hospital." Lan Xiaochen placed the envelope on the ground with his trembling hands. "This is yours, right? I won't dare do this again. Please forgive me."

"Someone like you dared to sneak into an abandoned hospital to steal something? You have to be kidding me." The incredulity was clear on Chen Ge's face.

"I made a bet with someone on the internet that we would all go spend a night inside that hospital. I was just saying it for fun. Who knew they would really come to Xin Hai in person? I could not hide from them, so I was dragged by them along to the hospital."

"Where is the exact location of that hospital?"

"The hospital was in Xin Hai's countryside. The surrounding area has basically not been developed. It's a very desolate place." Lan Xiaochen was clearly at the point of crying already. "There were three of them in total. They were all visitors from Jiujiang. Jiujiang must be a very incredible place because each of them was more courageous than the next. Who knows what kind of training they underwent daily?"

"They entered the hospital with you?" Chen Ge did not expect visitors from Jiujiang to appear in Xin Hai.

"I was the first to enter, but once I escaped from their line of sight, I instantly went into hiding. After they had all gone into the building, I ran out of it immediately." This proved how nefarious this Lan Xiaochen was. To put it more frankly, he was human scum, plain and simple.

"Did the rest of the visitors come out from the hospital?" Chen Ge was more concerned about the safety of the visitors.

"I have no clue. I have waited outside the hospital for half an hour, but there was noise at all coming from inside the hospital. It was as if the three of them had been eaten by something inside the hospital." Lan Xiaochen's voice was stammering. He was still very afraid of Chen Ge. "The place was very scary at night. I did not dare stay there for too long, so I ran home on my own. But I returned to the place the following afternoon. I found one of the visitors' wallets in a corner of the hospital lobby. All the identification documents inside the wallet had disappeared. Instead, all that was left were the three blank patient records and a paper note."

"Did you call the police after that?"

"No, I assumed they'd left on their own. This could not be counted as a disappearance, and there was no sign of any dead bodies, so I had no reason to report to the police, right?" It was unclear whether Lan Xiaochen was trying to convince Chen Ge or himself.

"Where are the three blank patient records and the paper note now?" Chen Ge's face was dark as a storm, and the atmosphere inside the room was equally suffocating.

"I have already used two of the patient records. The last one is inside this envelope." Lan Xiaochen shrunk his neck back like a turtle. "Initially, I really did not know this patient record can curse someone. It was not until the day the neighbor's dog would not stop barking. I was just intending to give it a try, so I wrote down their name. Who would have thought the whole family would get sick and die? The dog was the last to perish."

"You said, other than the three patient records, there was also a paper note, right? Go and get it for me. I want to take a look at it."

Lan Xiaochen initially wanted to use that paper note as a bargaining chip, but he realized that he did not have the courage to sit on the bargaining table with Chen Ge. "The paper note is inside the locked drawer inside my bedroom. The key is inside my pocket."

Men Nan took out the key and headed into the bedroom. Moments later, he handed the paper note to Chen Ge. Lan Xiaochen might call it a paper note, but it was actually a page that was torn out from a book. There was a dark stain of dry blood left on it, and once one looked closer, one would realize the blood stain was hiding a sentence.

‘This is a sickened world, why have you not discovered that fact? I swear to cure you!’

These simple words had a very special power. They would give the reader a strange feeling, as if the statement was meant for them.

“A sickened world? I think you’d better work on curing yourself first.” Chen Ge used Yin Yang Vision to study the words on the page. The more he looked at them, the more confused he became. The black blood stain had a clear layering to it, as if people kept writing the same message on the same part of the page over and over again. “This feels like a notice, but at the same time, it could be some kind of hint. Could it have been left behind by the doctors of the cursed hospital? But why would this page be placed together with the three blank patient records?”

Chen Ge had fought with the cursed hospital several times already. This was the first time he had encountered a blank patient record. This was not something that someone could pick up randomly from the floor.

“I have already told you everything I know,” Lan Xiaochen whispered. “So, can you...”

“I can give you a quick release.” Chen Ge waved his hand, and Zhang Yi directly crawled into Lan Xiaochen’s brain. A person the size of an adult crawled into another person’s body through his head. This kind of horrifying scene happened almost daily before Chen Ge. With regards to Lan Xiaochen, it was not that important anymore. After all, when Zhang Yi exited his body, some of his memory would be hidden away. Ten seconds later, Zhang Yi crawled out of Lan Xiaochen’s body, and all the red Specters in the room disappeared. The television screen switched off, and everything returned to normal, but the world had lost an internet troll and had gained a young man who had a renewed appreciation for life.

“Lan Xiaochen was not lying, but there was a part of his memory that was very blurry. Even I could not see through it clearly.” Zhang Yi followed beside Chen Ge, walking in the shadows of the city.

“Which part?”

“Be it the first time he entered the hospital or the time he returned to the hospital, the details about these two incidents were all very blurry. In fact, perhaps he had not actually entered the hospital, but he was made to believe that he had entered the hospital.” Zhang Yi gestured with his hands. “I believe the enemy have an entity that can control memory as well, and they are much more powerful than me.”

“The cursed hospital also has someone who can control memories? Looks like I have to figure out a way to turn you into a Red Specter. Your current state as a Half Red Specter is no longer good enough to deal with the current dangerous situation.” The Specters who had more unique powers would have a harder time achieving a breakthrough. Chen Ge was very familiar with that fact. He wanted to cultivate Zhang Yi, but unfortunately, he had not found sufficient ‘food’ for him. He had befriended most of the Specters in Jiujiang already. He could not bring himself to feed them to his employees, but the situation was completely different now that he had arrived in Xin Hai.

“Do you think it is possible that Lan Xiaochen was a chess piece employed by the cursed hospital? Be it the cursed letter received by Xiao Die’s younger brother or the supposed disappearance of the visitors from Jiujiang, these two incidents feel so premeditated. It’s as if they’re inciting me to speed my investigation up.” Chen Ge’s mind was moving quickly, contemplating various possibilities.

“I honestly have no idea.”

“You’d better return to the comic to rest. Thank you for everything you have done tonight.” Chen Ge pulled his employees back into the comic, and he strode down the street alone. “I mustn’t act too rashly. Both Zhang Yi and Yan Danian are extremely rare Specters, so what I need to do now is train them to become Red Specters.

“Once these unique Specters around me become Red Specter, they will become a force to be reckoned with!”

Chen Ge’s mind was made up. Yan Danian, who was just a baleful Specter, was already determined by the black phone as a Lesser Red Specter, a Specter most powerful among all the baleful Specters, so if he turn into a Red Specter, would he not become a Lesser Demon God?

“I need to find a chance to sneak Xiao Sun over first and then take it slow. We will see who exhausts the other first.”

At 5 am, Chen Ge returned to Destiny Avenue. He was about to return to Nightmare Academy when he saw someone walk out from the backdoor of Xi Li Xiang eatery. The person looked similar to Chi Ren from behind.

Carrying his backpack, Chen Ge quietly snuck over. The sun was just coming up. It was the time of the day when Destiny Avenue least crowded. The person who snuck out from the backdoor of Xi Li Xiang was pulling along a suitcase. He carefully looked up and down the road as if trying to hide from someone. Chen Ge slowly approached, his footsteps not making any noise. He stared at the man for a long time before finally matching the man to the picture of Chi Ren that he had seen on at the management center.

“Have you been chased out by the boss?” Chen Ge’s voice suddenly appeared beside the man’s ear. It scared him so much that blood drained from his face.

“Who are you?”

“I am the new boss of the haunted house next door. If you have nowhere else to go, I’d be happy to take you on.” Before Chen Ge even finished, the man made a very strange gesture. He closed his mouth with both of his hands.

“What’s wrong? Are you not feeling well?” Chen Ge used his body to block the road. The man shook his head quickly. Finally, he took out his phone and type the following on it. ‘I do not want to harm you! Please go away!’

“Harm me?” Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision to stare at the man for a long time. After he ensured that he was indeed dealing with Chi Ren, he looked at the surrounding. They were at the backdoor of Xi Li Xiang eatery, and there was no surveillance camera there.

"You have trouble looking after your own safety, but you still care about harming an innocent passerby. Looks like you are indeed someone trustworthy." Chen Ge took out the comic. Blood vessels boiled behind him, and it swallowed up the light of the dawn.

"Red Specter!" The veins popped on the man's face. He realized the presence of danger. He directly abandoned his luggage and turned to run.

"Don't be afraid. I just want to help you."

"I do not need your help!"

"I never give the people a chance to say no when I feel like helping them." Chen Ge grabbed the man by his hand and forced him to stay where he was. "Be quiet. There are at least five Red Specters around us. Do you think you will be able to escape?"

"F, f, five?"

"Do not panic, maintain your breathing." Chen Ge helped the man reposition his cap. The rim of the cap was placed just right to cover half of the man's face. Walking down the street, Chen Ge led the man back to Nightmare Academy. After he locked the door, he grabbed the man and basically dragged him into the haunted house's headmaster's office.

"Okay, you are safe now." Chen Ge and the man stood inside the office, along with Men Nan and the water ghost Red Specter. The man did not dare say a word. He believed he had failed to escape.

"Are you Chi Ren?"

The man nodded carefully. "How did you know that?"

"It was you who was responsible for guarding the storeroom at the old location of Xin Hai hospital, right?"

"Yes."

"Did you give the note to Doctor Fang?"

"Yes."

Chen Ge took out a piece of paper. "Repeat the message one more time on this paper."

Ten minutes later, Chen Ge finally confirmed that the man before him was Chi Ren. A few days ago, this man had tried to save Doctor Fang, but he had failed to do so.

"Why would you risk offending the cursed hospital to help Doctor Fang?" Chen Ge wanted to know the answer to this.

"Doctor Fang is a very good person. Even though he is the best doctor in his field, he never had any sense of arrogance. He treated even us normal employees equally, and he has helped so many of his patients. He is the epitome of a good doctor." Chi Ren sighed. "How could I watch such a kind person lose his life?"

"Then, do you still want to save Doctor Fang?" Chen Ge was gradually coaxing the man.

"Of course." Chi Ren's eyes lit up, but soon, the darkness dimmed them again. "But now, I can't even save myself. How am I supposed to save him?"

"It'll be fine. I will help you." Chen Ge patted Chi Ren's shoulder with a smile. "The enemy of my enemy is my friend, so from today onward, we are friends."

Chapter 1146 Two Demon Gods 2 in 1

"Friend?" Chi Ren looked at Chen Ge, and he could not control his eyes from wandering to stop on the two Red Specters. Cold sweat slid down his forehead. "I... I do not have the qualifications to be your friend. We are people from two different worlds." "We are living in the same world, and it is this world. The fact that I've survived to this day is due to the help of my friends. You are Doctor Fang's friend, I am also Doctor Fang's friend, and we have the same target and the same friend, so that is more than enough to form the bond between us." Chen Ge was too lazy to waste more time on this topic. "Let's not waste any more time dawdling on this. Please tell me everything you know about Doctor Fang to me now. Perhaps we still can save him if we make our move now."

"We will not be able to save him; he has already been chosen." Chi Ren shook his head. "It is indeed impressive that you can order Red Specters around, but compared to them, you are still very weak. The difference in power level is too much."

"Who do you mean by them?"

"They are a hospital. Doctor Fang is someone chosen by that hospital. They wanted Doctor Fang to become one of their day-shift doctors. I do not know the actual reason. I believe it's because a lot of doctors have recently gone missing from that hospital, so they are currently seriously lacking staff." The information given by Chi Ren surprised Chen Ge. This could be considered extremely confidential information, but Chi Ren knew about it.

"What is your relationship with that hospital? Do not worry, everything that you say here will not be heard by anyone out of this room." To ensure Chi Ren's safety, Chen Ge even summoned out the red high heels.

"I wish I could tell you, but I cannot. The moment I reveal anything, I might die on the spot." Chi Ren undid the first button of his shirt. There was a deep black blood vein around his heart. It looked as if a thin black thread had been sewn into his flesh. "Everyone related to that hospital will be cursed, and when the curse is triggered, this black capillary will continue to grow until it pierces your brain."

"What will happen if the curse is neutralized? Won't you be free to say anything without worry?" Chen Ge stared at the black blood capillary. He appeared to hear crying coming out from the capillary itself.

"No one will be able to neutralize the curse, not even the most powerful Red Specter." Chi Ren shook his head. Just as he finished saying that, the surrounding temperature in the room suddenly dropped. A hand covered in bandages pressed lightly on his chest. The color of the black capillary started to fade until it stopped growing completely.

"You are not wrong that no one will be able to neutralize the curse, but this friend of mine can temporarily make it lose its power, and it will not trigger the alert of the person who laid down the curse."

The temperature in the room slowly rose back to normal. Chi Ren stood there, stunned on the spot. It was as if the hand that had just pressed against his chest was a part of his imagination.

“Now you can tell me everything you know without worry.” Chen Ge prompted for Chi Ren to continue with his story.

After a moment of hesitation, Chi Ren took a deep breath. It was as if he had abandoned his life and sped through the following as if worried that death might strike him down at any moment. “There is a monster that even Red Specters are fearful of in that hospital. It also has the surname Chi. The curses that we get are all related to it.”

After he finished speaking, Chi Ren’s face was pale. He stared straightly at the black blood capillary on his chest. He waited for a long time, but there was nothing special that happened to that black blood capillary. He was still alive.

“The curse has really been temporarily suppressed!”

Relief washed over Chi Ren. It felt like the time bomb that was strapped to his body had just been removed. Wiping away the cold sweat that had slid down his face, Chi Ren’s tone slowly returned to normal.

“There are four types of living humans at the hospital: the patients beyond number 100, the day-shift doctors, the people with the surname Chi, and the non-smilers. Among them, the non-smilers are the hospital director’s blood relatives while the people with the surname Chi are the family created by that monster.”

The information revealed by Chi Ren to Chen Ge was very important. Other than the thousand-faced Demon God who had been killed by Zhang Ya, there were at least two more Demon Gods at the cursed hospital. One was the hospital director, and the other was the monster with the surname Chi.

“You are all family who were created? What do you mean by that?” Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision to study Chi Ren. This was just a very normal middle-aged man. There was nothing particularly special about him. Chen Ge really did not understand why a Demon God would choose him to become its family.

“To explain that, we will have to go back about fifteen years. Back then, I have just arrived at Xin Hai for work. I was young and ready for the world. A relative who already lived in Xin Hai introduced me to a job guarding a morgue. It was not a taxing job, but I would need to work a lot of night shifts. At the time, I was too young to believe in supernatural and superstitious things.” Chi Ren started to reveal his past to Chen Ge. “I have not been to university and did not have any worthwhile skills. Just the fact that a relative was willing to help me find a job, I was already very thankful. Furthermore, the salary was quite lucrative.

“The hospital director told me that I would have to go on patrol at midnight, 1 am, and 2 am—three times in total. The focus of the patrol was the few doors at the bottommost floor of the morgue. Once I noticed that the lock had loosened, I had to report to him about it no matter how late it was. But seriously think about it, who would go to the morgue to mess with the locks so late at night? It was a morgue; there was nothing valuable here. There were only dead bodies. Which idiot thieves would be so dumb to go to a place like that to steal stuff?

“Naturally, I thought that this order was very strange, but I did not dare question it because this was my new job, and I was not sure I could find anything better. Everything was fine on the first week. Back then, the mobile phone had not been invented yet, and it was quite boring guarding the place alone. Furthermore, the morgue was very cool and comfortable at night. There was not even a mosquito. So, I started to think about stealing time off work.

“Instead of patrolling three times, I patrolled only the first time and then went to sleep inside the morgue. The place was particularly cool. That was understandable due to the air conditioning, so sometimes, I even brought a blanket with me. About two weeks after that, I started to have nightmares, the kind that felt incredibly real. I dreamt that after I had fallen asleep, there was a group of people standing around me, looking at me. I even dreamt that I was treated as a carcass being pushed into the crematorium to be burnt. Those were not even the worst of the nightmares. The worst came on the third week, when I dreamt about a child.

“The child’s face did not have any eyes or a nose; it only had a mouth. He stood beside my bed and asked me to tell him some stories. I was so afraid, but I did not dare refuse, so I told him some of the ghost stories I’d heard back home. He seemed to greatly enjoy himself, and he started to appear in my dreams every night. Eventually, I ran out of stories, but the child with only a mouth still refused to let me go. From then on, it not only appeared in my dreams, it started to show up in real life as well. When I felt like I was going crazy, when my mind was breaking down, a monster whose face was dominated by mouths appeared, hugging that child. He asked me whether I was willing to become his family member or not. I did not dare refuse.” Chi Ren had a pained expression. “He appeared to be looking for his family members, but he had no luck finding them.

“After I became that monster’s family, he left. Then I found this black blood capillary grown around my heart. I had to follow his requests and orders to go and do certain things. No matter how unwilling I was, the moment I dared go against his will would be the moment I died.”

After Chi Ren finished his story, he turned to look at Chen Ge. “You are the first person whom I have encountered that has the power to suppress his curse.”

Controlling a Demon God’s curse was very difficult. The red high heels was a Specter that had an extremely rare talent related to curses. Combined with the fact that she had consumed and inherited everything that belonged to a Demon God, the ghost fetus, she was basically a Top Red Specter already. It was because she had fulfilled these impossible conditions that she had managed to suppress the curse of this monster with the surname Chi.

“How is the relationship between the hospital director and the monster with the surname Chi?” Chen Ge wanted to see if he could get the two biggest bosses to go against each other. After all, Zhang Ya could only hold back one Demon God, and during that period, the other Demon God could easily kill all of Chen Ge’s employees.

“They have a very good relationship. Sometimes, we even feel like they are the same person.” Once the curse was brought under control, Chi Ren started to gain his confidence. He had been keeping his words inside his heart for a long time already, and now, finally, he had a chance to voice them out loud.

“Wait, you said ‘we’.”

“Yes, there are more who have the surname Chi in Xin Hai. Even the boss of Xi Li Xiang has the surname Chi. We are all victims of the cursed hospital, and we are forced to spend the rest of our lives under the shadow of the curse. We do not dare reveal any secrets, and we also need to satisfy their requests.”

Chi Ren gritted his teeth like something horrible had just occurred to him.

“Some of the requests are plain inhumane. The boss of Xi Li Xiang was force fed a kind of meat due to one of the incidents and was punished. One person went into the hospital in search of his daughter, but in the end, he failed to find his daughter but had his memory changed and was turned into a soulless puppet controlled by the cursed hospital.” With green veins popping on his forehead, Chi Ren sighed with heavy regret. “Yes, we are all monsters.”

“As long as you still have that glow of humanity in you, you are still human.” Chen Ge comforted Chi Ren, but in his mind, he was thinking about something else. The hospital director had a very good relationship with the monster that had the surname Chi, so close that other people felt like they could be one person, so Chen Ge’s plan of turning them against each other was impossible. If Chen Ge had to go against them, he would have to obtain the help from two more Demon Gods. That would only give him the qualification to face the cursed hospital. The cursed hospital had existed for more than twenty years. Just how many Demon Gods they had in their midst was truly a mystery in and of itself. Even a victim at the most outer fringe like Chi Ren knew of the existence of two Demon Gods, so the actual number of the Demon Gods inside that cursed hospital was probably much higher than Chen Ge previously predicted.

“Zhang Ya is a Demon God. The red high heels is a Top Red Specter. Xiao Bu can unleash the power of a Top Red Specter in Li Wan City, but her power will be slightly weaker than a Top Red Specter behind other doors.” These three were the most powerful Specters that Chen Ge’s haunted house had. The red high heels and Xiao Bu were also the Specters most likely to become Demon Gods in the immediate future. “The difference in power is too big. I still need to gather more strength.”

Three names instantly surfaced in Chen Ge’s mind—Doctor Gao, the painter, and Chang Wenyu.

“Doctor Gao destroyed the door at Coffin Village. He can move freely through the red city. Perhaps he has already become a Demon God. The relationship between us is very complicated. We are both members of the Ghost Stories Society, and with the favor that he left me regarding Gao Ru Xue, perhaps I will be able to convince him.

“The painter himself already possesses power close to a Demon God, and he has many Red Specters following him. Due to the presence of Fan Yu, we are not really enemies.

“Even though Chang Wenyu once used me, she desperately needs me to help her recover her soul. Of the three ‘people’, she is the easiest specter for me to befriend.”

Chen Ge knew that he would not be much of a threat to the cursed hospital based on his own power, so he decided to contact all his friends.

“If I see it from that perspective, I still have the chance at winning this.”

After speaking with Chi Ren, Chen Ge decided to help fulfill Chang Wenyu’s demand that night. The earlier he helped Chang Wenyu recover, the better it would be for him.

“With the current employees that I have, if the cursed hospital comes to hunt me at their full potential, I will definitely not survive.”

The haunted house had many Red Specters employees, but the boss, Chen Ge, was just a normal person. The cursed hospital would not have too much trouble murdering a living human.

“The whole plan will have to be moved forward. I cannot give the cursed hospital too much time.” Chen Ge turned back to Chi Ren. “Since becoming a member of the Chi family, have you run into any doctors or patients who were sent out of the hospital?”

“Yes, I did.”

“They will naturally run into danger when they are out completing missions away from the protection of the hospital, so did they come to you guys for help?” Chen Ge asked patiently. “After all, all of you are related to the cursed hospital, and all of you carry the curse on your bodies.”

“We with the surname Chi are normal humans who are spread over the city. To be honest, we are nothing but disposable chess pieces to the cursed hospital. Be it the patients or the doctors, once they sense the presence of the curse on us, they will order us to do something for them, and normally, we have to agree without the chance to bargain.” Chi Ren looked pained. “Because we do not have the power to reject them.”

“In other words, the people with the surname Chi are the bottom feeders at the cursed hospital.” Chen Ge had a brave idea surfacing in his mind.

“You can put it that way, yes.”

“You can stay here for now. I can guarantee you that as long as you do not leave this place, you will not run into any danger.” Chen Ge had not slept a wink the entire night, but he did not feel drowsy at all. If anything, his eyes were glowing with excitement.

“Are you going to leave already? By the way, I still do not know what your name is.” Chi Ren was still rather confused at this moment. Both the cursed hospital and Chen Ge were existences that he could afford to offend. But in comparison, Chen Ge appeared to be kinder and more reliable.

“There’s food and beer that I bought yesterday on the table. The bathroom is just next door. If you are tired, feel free to rest. Before I return, do not leave this building.” Chen Ge left the two Red Specters behind. He ran to one of the scenarios on the first floor and summoned Xiao Sun. “How far have your studies come along?”

Chen Ge looked at Xiao Sun with anticipation.

“I really did not expect that even after death, I would still need to study like I am going to sit a university entrance exam...” Xiao Sun appeared much thinner than before, and his body was more transparent. “I have studied everything that I need to, and I’ve memorized everything that was given to me. Now, even if Patient 101 comes back to life, I will be a much more convincing Patient 101 than he would ever be.”

“Very good, I need you to be as prepared as possible. I will send you into the cursed hospital in a few days.”

“So soon?” The blood drained from Xiao Sun’s face immediately.

“Listen to my plan first.” Chen Ge planned to make use of someone with the surname Chi to send Xiao Sun into the cursed hospital. He shared his plan with Xiao Sun and then brought Xiao Sun out to the city to scout out the target. It took a whole morning before they locked onto a person with the surname Chi in Xin Hai’s countryside.

“We will familiarize ourselves with the environment around here first before we make our move tonight.”

At around 1 pm, when Chen Ge returned to Nightmare Academy, he realized that Zhang Jingjiu and Qu Changlin had already arrived.

“From today onward, Zhang Jingjiu will be the branch manager, Qu Changlin will be the main designer for the props and sets, and Xiao Die, you will be the staff manager.” There were only three living employees at the haunted house, and Chen Ge had given each of them a very impressive sounding post. “I need everyone to help clear away the damaged and unused props and clean up the old scenarios. Depending on the situation, we might reopen for business in three days.”

After assigning the jobs, Chen Ge asked Xiao Die some more questions about her younger brother and then picked up his backpack, heading to Xin Hai First High. That was because Xin Hai First High, where Xiao Die’s brother attended, was the school where Chang Wenyu had left her shattered soul. That was where the girl whom Chang Wenyu had asked Chen Ge to find studied as well.

Chapter 1147 Ghost Stories Reviewer – Chen Ge 2 in 1

“Did you hear? There are rumors that a ghost visited the male dormitory last night! There was a student who always bullied his roommate found dazed in his bed. Both pee and poop were found staining his shorts!” “How come I heard it was the female dormitory that had a problem last night? The surveillance camera was covered by a black shadow, but the manager said she saw many different human faces flutter into the dormitory through the blurry camera! There was a female student who was found in the corridor. She was incognizant. People said she was sleep walking!”

“Yes, yes. This morning, I saw someone was sent to the hospital. The ambulance stopped for a while before the female dormitory. Now, everyone is talking about how the students who often bully their classmates are being cursed! This is karma rearing her ugly head!”

A few girls were standing together, whispering and gossiping among themselves. The most beautiful among them did not say anything; she just looked at the rest of them with derision in her eyes.

“Chen Wen, you’d better take this as a warning. If you continue to go cause trouble, be careful. You might also run into a ghost at night.” A female student with a coarse voice and a rather unisexual appearance turned to warn the student who had not spoken.

“Do you think I’ll believe these ridiculous stories?” Chen Wen crossed her arms. She guarded at the backdoor of the class like she was waiting for someone. The bell for class rang. Most of the students returned to their seats, and at that moment, a female student who was very casually dressed stepped into the class. She was wearing clothes that were bought at the market. She did not know how to dress herself. Her eyes darted everywhere but her deskmate, Chen Wen. The first class of the day was over. The girl did not dare leave her seat even though she wanted to go to the toilet. She kept herself glued to her seat, as if the moment she left the classroom, something bad would happen to her.

"You seem to have some issues with me, huh?" Chen Wen moved her chair to the girl's side. If one was not close enough to hear the content of her voice and the tone of her voice, just looking at them, one might think they were very close friends.

"No." The girl held her pen and kept flipping through her notes.

"Where are your manners? I am talking to you. Look at me. Look at me!" Chen Wen's arm landed on the girl's shoulder. "How about we go to play together after school? Don't be such a good two shoes. You've been wanting to make friends, right? After this afternoon, we will be friends."

"But I have something to do..."

"Okay, so that is a promise. If you dare skip out on me, there will be hell to pay. I will see you later." Chen Wen let go of her arm and took out her phone to start chatting with someone.

Her deskmate gripped the pen in her hand tightly. She was very afraid, but she did not know who to share her problem with. She did not know what Chen Wen wanted from her, but she was sure it was nothing good. Without any actual evidence, even if she went to the teacher, the school would not intervene to deal with Chen Wen. Furthermore, even if the teacher did choose to believe her, all the school could do was leave Chen Wen a warning. As long as they did not kick her out of school, Chen Wen and her friends would only make it their mission to make the girl's school life more miserable.

This was the saddest point about the victims of school bullies. They were the victims, but they were the ones being ostracized, and sometimes, they might even suffer secondary damage from their family and the school. Her head was filled with what Chen Wen had said; the girl could not even pay attention in class. She did not dare speak up, so she stared at her textbook quietly. During the physical education class, the girl requested a break from the teacher with the excuse that she was not feeling well. She returned to the classroom to rest on her own.

"Should I tell the teacher? The girls being targeted by Chen Wen either become her friend or transfer from this school. She appears to come from a very powerful family." The girl's family had just moved to Xin Hai not that long ago. She had the feeling of self-deprecation of a newcomer. "I cannot create more trouble for my parents anymore, but... what should I do?"

"Chang Wenwen?"

The girl suddenly heard someone calling her name. She turned her head to the source of the voice. There was a young man standing at the classroom window with a smile. The sun created a halo around the young man, and the young man's smile was as warm as the sun.

"That should be her! Quick! Pull me back into the comic! My body is about to dissolve under the sun already!" There was a shadow behind the young man who was struggling and pleading, but of course, the girl could not see that.

Pulling Chang Gu back into the comic, Chen Ge pushed open the backdoor of the classroom. "Please do not be afraid. I am completing a request for a friend, and I am here because I need a favor from you."

The girl was utterly confused. She had no idea what Chen Ge was talking about at all.

"Have you ever had this dream before?" Chen Ge stood at the backdoor and softly spoke. "You dreamed about a blood red door. Inside the door, there was a school that only had its classes at night. All the students and teachers at the school were ghosts. When you were lost and in despair, a female senior appeared to help you."

The words jogged the girl's memory, and her face was overwhelmed by surprise. "How do you know about that?"

"Do you still remember what kind of promise you made that female senior?" Chen Ge followed what Chang Gu said and was slowly leading the girl step by step.

"She would help me escape from the nightmare, and in exchange, I would help her look after something." The female student was very innocent, and she did not even consider hiding any information from Chen Ge.

"I am that female senior's friend. She asked me to come to you to reclaim that item."

Chen Ge did not look like a bad person. After a moment's hesitation, the female student undid the first button of her blouse and took out something that looked like a pouch from around her neck. "All this time, I have been wondering whether that was a dream or not. If it was not a dream, how come I cannot remember more details about it? If it was a dream, how I do explain this thing that appeared in my grasp after I woke up that night?"

The girl opened the pouch. Inside was a red stone, and in the middle of the stone was a strand of hair that had been balled up.

"This should be the thing." Chen Ge accepted the stone. The several Red Specters inside the comic gave him warnings at the same time as if this thing was extremely dangerous. "Thank you, I shall take this with me. From now on, your luck will slowly become better."

Before the school security arrived, carrying the stone, Chen Ge hurriedly left the grounds of Xin Hai First High.

"Chang Gu, I have already obtained the object. What should I do next?" Chen Ge carried his backpack to the shadows of a large tree. It was as if he was talking to himself.

A shadow behind Chen Ge opened his lips to say, "That strand of hair is the last lingering spirit of my little sister. The red stone is formed from the blood of her heart, the most important drop of blood for a Top Red Specter."

"Are you not afraid that I'll have the other Red Specters consume her by revealing to me such an important information?"

"Naturally, I am afraid of that, but there is nothing I can do about it," Chang Gu said with a bitter smile. "Even if I hid that information from you, your other Red Specters employees would notice it."

"Don't worry, I will fulfil the promise that I have made. I just hope that you siblings will do the same for me." Chen Ge tossed the blood stone lightly into the air, and that caused Chang Gu to get immensely worried. "With just this lingering spirit and blood stone, your younger sister can come back to life?"

"She still need to consume some Specters first, but I have no idea the exact number of ghosts that she needs to consume." Chang Gu lowered his head. He did not dare look at Chen Ge.

"In other words, you two planned to rope me into the role of her nanny, huh? I think I finally understand Chang Wenyu's plan now. Her enemies are all in Jiujiang, so she chose a girl who just moved to Xin Hai and left her last shred of lingering spirit with her. After she awakens, she can consume the ghosts in Xin Hai to recover her power, and when she is at her full strength again, she can easily return to Jiujiang."

Chang Wenyu was indeed very clever, but she had seriously underestimated Zhang Ya. She had failed to anticipate that Chen Ge would have a Demon God with him.

"Boss, we were indeed in the wrong at the School of the Afterlife. I hope you will help her one more time." Chang Gu was basically begging Chen Ge. During this period when they were together, his opinion of Chen Ge had kept improving. He felt like Chen Ge was someone trustworthy.

"Don't worry." Chen Ge put away the blood stone and creased his brows. "To awaken Chang Wenyu, she needs to feed on ghosts. To improve my employees' abilities, I also need ghosts and Specters." After giving it some thought, Chen Ge took out his phone and started to search for ghost stories related to Xin Hai. He created a throwaway account and snuck into a local supernatural forum. Inside a pinned thread, he found the thing that he was looking for.

'The collection thread for the ghost stories in Xin Hai! Come and review and vote your top ten scariest ghost stories from Xin Hai!'

Chen Ge surveyed the thread post by post. His pupils slowly narrowed as he silently recorded all the information. Chang Gu, who stood next to him, did not dare speak. When his boss looked through these ghost stories, it was like a customer looking over the menu at the restaurant. The serious expression on the man's face caused his heart to shiver with fear.

"This thread is still updating. The latest post was posted about two minutes ago. Looks like I have come across a treasure of a thread." Chen Ge bookmarked the page. He had already memorized the addresses of some of the ghost stories, and he planned to visit them that night.

Returning to the Nightmare Academy, Chen Ge did not have time to greet his employees but directly rush back into the headmaster's office. He asked Chi Ren some questions again and confirmed some information about Doctor Fang and people with the surname Chi before he left.

"Failure to plan is planning to fail, but sometimes, luck plays a huge part of it as well. Xiao Sun, you will run into many kinds of danger on this journey of yours, but I believe in you because you are different from the others." Chen Ge personally inspected the final result of Xiao Sun's special training and taught Xiao Sun a few more tricks.

Once the sky darkened, Chen Ge, who was all prepared, carried the 'heavily injured' Xiao Sun to the countryside of Xin Hai. The secret of the people with the surname Chi was only known to the people with the surname Chi, and this secret was one that they could not share. Due to the curse of the Demon God, once the person revealed the secret, not only would they die, the Demon God would be apprised of the situation there almost immediately.

The cursed hospital did not expect the red high heels to inherit everything that belonged to the ghost fetus and become a Top Red Specter, and Chen Ge was currently making use of this. Chen Ge created an accident so that the people with the surname Chi who lived at the countryside very coincidentally run into Patient 101 Xiao Sun, who was about to dissipate. After using some words and actions to convince the man, Chen Ge watched the man carry Xiao Sun out of Xin Hai with his own eyes. The place that they were heading to was the border between Xin Hai and Jiujiang. There were many ghost buildings and barren lands there. It had been abandoned for many years already.

“God will smile on the faithful. Hopefully, Xiao Sun will make something of himself at the cursed hospital.” For some unknown reason, after sending Xiao Sun away, Chen Ge unconsciously sighed in great relief.

“What I need to do next is improve my employees’ ability as fast as I can and try to get the red high heels to become a Demon God.” It was extremely difficult for a Red Specter become a Demon God, but Chen Ge had no other choice. Only by having the red high heels become the Demon God would he have the right to fight the cursed hospital.

Logging back into the supernatural forum, Chen Ge noticed that the thread was still updating. The forum users had gotten into an argument about the ranking of the ghost stories. No party wished to back down. In the end, some of them even swore that they would go to the locations of the ghost stories to record a video to show the other users how scary the place was.

“Ultimately, the place is a big city. The people are always busy.” Jiujiang had similar forums, but the number of active users was pitifully small. The populations of both cities were not on the same level. “The place with more people will have more despair and thus more ghost stories. Theoretically, that should be the case, but it appears like Jiujiang is an exception to the rule.”

Chen Ge had also had noticed that the number of ghost stories in Jiujiang was abnormally high. If he was to relate a city to a person, then Jiujiang was like Sun Xiaojun. It had the love of a thousand Specters.

“It has been quite a few days since I arrived in Xin Hai. It is about time I go pay them a visit.” Chen Ge hailed a cab to head to his destinations. “Sir, please drive faster. I am in a hurry. I have to visit a few places tonight.”

...

By 11 pm, of the top ten Xin Hai Ghost Stories, Chen Ge had already visited three of them, but unfortunately, he was not rewarded. He also slowly realized that the ghost stories with great word of mouth in reality would have a very low chance of actually hiding a Red Specter. If an actual Red Specter with great resentment was behind these ghost stories, there would not be any survivors to spread the ghost stories. Without any survivors, there naturally would not be any witnesses, and the ghost story would not even be known.

With a spirit of not wanting to miss anything, Chen Ge had recorded all the ghost stories on the pinned thread. Among them, he had found a few special ghost stories. The descriptions were not that detailed, but he could pick out specific terms like bloody clothes and red.

“Xin Hai Ghost Stories Rank Twenty-Seven. A crying well in a developing part of the city—it was supposed to be an abandoned well, but there was a crying sound coming from inside it. And there were

witnesses claiming they saw bloody hair crawling out from inside the well. This sounds promising. It is worth a visit.”

Placing his phone on his knee, Chen Ge used his pen and some paper to help with his note-making. Those who did not know better probably thought he was really reviewing these places.

Ten minutes later, Chen Ge arrived at a developing construction site. Due to many reasons, the construction progress was halted, and the well was at the foot of the hill behind the construction site. Walking through the bushes and trees, Chen Ge finally found the well. The well was made from stone, and not far away from the well were a few old and abandoned houses.

“This should be the place.” Before Chen Ge even got near, he could hear a wispy crying sound. “It’s coming from inside the well?”

There was a magical power about the crying. Chen Ge appeared to lose control of his body as he slowly moved to the mouth of the well. The pale moonlight shone on the surface of the water. Chen Ge looked into the well. There was endless black hair floating on the surface of the water. Without any attempt at communication, the black hair gathered together and tried to grab Chen Ge around his neck, intending to drag him into the well!

“You asked for it!” His palm flipped through the comic. The moon turned red as blood flushed right into the well. Moments later, the water ghost reappeared beside Chen Ge holding Chang Wenyu’s blood stone.

“There was a Half Red Specter inside the well, but it appeared to have been cursed. It cannot be rationally communicated with. It did not even seem to realize it was a ghost.”

“It was cursed?” Whenever Chen Ge heard the term ‘curse’, he was immediately reminded of the cursed hospital.

“After swallowing the Half Red Specter, the blood stone has deepened in color. I predict it will need to swallow at least two more Red Specters before she can awaken. Other than that, there’s something else at the bottom of the well. I think you’d better go and look at it yourself.”

The water ghost and Xu Yin led Chen Ge into the old well. At the bottom of the well, they encountered a tomb. Inside the tomb was a set of well-preserved clothing, and among the folds of the clothes, there was a patient record. On the back of the patient record was written—‘This is a sickened world. Why have you not discovered that fact? I vow to cure you!’

“This statement again?” Chen Ge had once seen this sentence before at Lan Xiaochen’s home. “This is a sickened world. Why have you not discovered that fact? I have a feeling that question is meant for me.”

Putting away the patient record, Chen Ge crawled out from the old well. “It’s pointless to think about it now. We should hurry to the next location of ghost stories instead.”

Chapter 1148 The Awakened Top Red Spectre 2 in 1

“Xin Hai Ghost Stories Ranked 19—Midnight Delivery. There was a horrible homicide that occurred at Xin Yue Towers Room 444. When the murderer was dealing with the dead body, the food delivery ordered by the victim arrived. The deliveryman had no idea what had just transpired inside the room; he

was just hoping to complete his job and get a good review from the customer. The room door creaked open, and the deliveryman was pulled into the room to face his death. From then on, as long as someone ordered food from Xin Yue Towers after midnight, one would have a chance of running into that poor food deliveryman.”

After reading the information on the phone, Chen Ge gently shook the door handle of Xin Yue Towers Room 444. To his surprise, the door was not locked. He entered it directly and took out his own phone to order some beer and food. Probably because the address that he filled in was Xin Yue Towers Room 444, even after the eatery had finished his order, there was no deliveryman who was willing to pick up his order. He waited for half an hour, but the food still had not departed from the eatery when suddenly footsteps came from the corridor outside room. Chen Ge peered through the peephole. There was a man standing outside the door of Room 444. He was carrying a red box that appeared to be overflowing with blood.

Chen Ge took out the comic and flipped through it while he shouted at the door, “I am sorry, but did you get the wrong address? My delivery app shows that the food is still at the eatery. No deliveryman has gone to collect it.”

“There is no mistake. This is the address that I was given.” The man outside the door had his head lowered, and his body leaned very close to the door.

“Then it appears like there is something wrong with the app on my phone.” Chen Ge appeared to convince himself. He opened the door and looked at the man with a smile. At that same time, the three Red Specters behind Chen Ge also turned to look at the deliveryman. When the door opened, a wicked smile appeared on the corner of the man’s lips, but soon, the smile froze on his face. The red box that he was carrying suddenly appeared to weigh a lot more. His Adam’s apple quivered slightly as he took a subconscious step backward. “I am so sorry. It appears like you were right. I’ve probably got the wrong address. This isn’t what you ordered.”

Hugging the red box, the man turned and attempted to run but was stopped by the water ghost. “The address is not wrong. The delivery that we have been waiting for is you.”

With the Red Specters surrounding him, the delivery man had nowhere to run, but Chen Ge did not feed him to Chang Wenyu. This baleful Specter was very conscious of his actions; there was no trace of a curse on his body. Chen Ge also did not discover any information related to the cursed hospital on the man.

“He is not even a Half Red Specter; it would be a waste to feed him to Chang Wenyu. Furthermore, he looks quite clever, and he even knows how to make deliveries. I suppose you can consider that a unique talent.”

Chen Ge pulled the delivery man into the comic and had him stay together with Men Nan.

“The ability of the delivery man was worse than the crying ghost in the well, but the atmosphere of horror he created was much stronger than the crying well. I’m struggling to make a decision. For now, this ghost story should be ranked lower than the weeping well.” After leaving Xin Yue Towers Room 444, Chen Ge hurried without pause to the next ghost story. He had already visited seven ghost stories that night, and of the seven, three of them were fake; there was no presence of ghosts. From the remaining

four, only the Half Red Specter inside the crying well was made into food. The other three ghost stories had only normal lingering spirits and baleful Specters. There was no point in consuming them.

“Xin Hai is so large. There is not even one ‘wild’ Red Specter?”

Looking through his phone, Chen Ge arrived at a place situated in the old part of Xin Hai known as Cards Archway. This used to be the most raucous location in Xin Hai’s old city, but due to a big fire, the place was abandoned directly. A development company bought the land at a very low price, but not long after that, for some unknown reason, the construction to bring this part of the city back to the life did not start. Thus, the place continued to be abandoned to the wilds just like that. The street was surrounded by cement walls. After Chen Ge leaped over the wall, he immediately sensed that something was not right.

The world inside and outside the cement wall could be said to be two completely different worlds. There was a scent of decay in the air, and the air pressed heavily on Chen Ge’s lungs. “There is no sense of human spirit in this place at all. Just how long has this place been abandoned?”

Oftentimes when a place in a big city was abandoned, it would soon become a paradise for squatters, but Cards Archway appeared to be an exception. With the training from the black phone, whenever Chen Ge entered a place, without even checking it too closely, purely based on the lingering presence in the air, he could tell whether the place was truly haunted or not. He had experienced so much that this had become one of his habits. He had mastered techniques that most people would not even dare to imagine.

Flipping through the comic and switching on the recorder, Chen Ge approach the nearby building whose entrance was burned to a crisp and entered the interior.

“Why is there a scent of blood in the air?” Chen Ge tilted his head back to take in a big breath, using his Spirit Sniff talent. “It drifts out from the interior of the building.”

Walking through a corridor filled with old cards tables and wooden cards, Chen Ge noticed something was wrong just as he turned the corner. Following the sound of ticking, he saw someone hanging at the end of the corridor inside the lobby. The horrible smell and the stench of blood radiated from this person, and just as Chen Ge discovered that person, the dead carcass, which had many fatal wounds on it, suddenly opened its eyes!

“Not good!” Chen Ge wasted no time in summoning his employees. Before the dead body managed to get close to Chen Ge, the water ghost and Xu Yin appeared to guard him. Black and red blood leaked out from the body’s wounds, and black insects that looked like centipedes dropped down from the dead body. It did not know fear and pain; even facing the two Red Specters, it did not evade or run, instead charging headfirst at them. The water ghost easily blocked the dead body, but just as he touched the body, the fresh blood that leaked out silently behind the body morphed into a red shadow to gnaw at Chen Ge’s face!

“Xu Yin!” The sound of static echoed in his ears, and a pale arm pierced through the blood shadow. A shrill wail echoed inside the lobby, but soon, something even scarier happened. The floor in the lobby started to crack and a face peeked through the gap. Black worms crawled out from the gap, and the floor not far from Chen Ge started to budge, as if something huge was moving rapidly underground!

About one second later, a face filled with wounds appeared next to Chen Ge's shoes. "There's another one?"

The face was about to burst through the ground but was stomped back underground by the boy with the stench. The stench with the giant body morphed into black mist and used his own body to envelope Chen Ge. The sound of wailing multiplied in the lobby. The paint on the ceiling started to flake like skin, exposing the many black and white pictures that covered the ceiling. The many faces stared closely at Chen Ge. Their faces were twisted in resentment and anger.

It was as if they had been given some kind of order. An endless stream of evil spirits rushed out from the pictures, and they all surged at Chen Ge like the latter owed them their lives. Xu Yin, who had torn open the red shadow, appeared again. He made easy work of the evil spirits that attempted to get close to Chen Ge. While Xu Yin was occupied by the wave of evil spirits, a tight web of blood appeared on the ground. A black red shadow whose body was charred ran out from the innermost part of the building. Its target was very clear—Chen Ge. If Chen Ge only had the protection of two Red Specters, then he would have been dead already. The ghost inside the building was very cunning. It waited until all the Red Specters around Chen Ge were preoccupied before it showed itself. But unfortunately, it had seriously underestimated the number of Red Specter that Chen Ge had with him.

After the Red Specter with the burnt body appeared, Chen Ge stopped hiding his true strength, he summoned out the rest of the Red Specters. Then, something very strange happened. The Red Specter whose body was burnt to a crisp appeared to lose his mind, and he started to fight several Red Specters like he had gone mad.

"Is he cursed as well?" For the sake of security, Chen Ge summoned out the red high heels. Once the Top Red Specter showed up, the whole building started to shake. The ground split open to reveal many charred bodies that were buried deep around. The battle was over once the red high heels showed up. The black and red shadow revealed its true appearance; it was an amalgamation of many vengeful spirits. When the archway was caught in the big fire, many people had failed to escape. The resentment from before they died was deeply buried underground, and they collectively formed a monster that was stronger than a normal Red Specter.

This monster itself felt deep resentment toward everything, and it was a victim of a curse. It would indiscriminately attack anyone that entered the Cards Archway at night. It was extremely dangerous. It could be said that Chen Ge had helped Xin Hai deal with a dangerous criminal. The collaboration of several Red Specters murdered the black and red shadow and fed all the resentment of Chang Wenyu's blood stone. It was a mystery how many people had died in the big fire. There was no actual report, and Chen Ge could not find much more information on it.

As the blood stone continued to feed on the resentment, the black and white photos on the ceiling started to peel. The pictures yellowed and faded away, and the human faces became ever more blurry. Many cracks appeared on the ground, and even the outside wall of the building started to break. This old building that had survived for decades appeared to be on its last legs.

Over the course of fifteen minutes, Chang Wenyu's blood stone finally swallowed all of the monster inside the Cards Archway. The stone had doubled in size, and it kept on pulsing like the beating heart of a living person.

“Let’s prepare to leave. This place is about to crumble.” Chen Ge was about to leave when the red high heels jumped into the mass grave where the victims were buried. Moments later, she returned with two objects from inside the mass grave, an envelope that was half burnt and an earring. Initially, Chen Ge did not care much for this discovery, but after he gave the items a closer look, his expression changed immediately. The earring, he was sure, belonged to his mother.

Putting the earring into the compartment of his backpack, Chen Ge tore open the envelope. His brows were then heavily creased together. The letter was half burnt, so only a few words were still visible— ‘This is a sickened world.’

The handwriting is very similar to my dad’s. Did someone copy his handwriting? But why would someone do that? And why would my mom’s earring be found inside the mass grave?

Chen Ge had encountered the sentence in the letter before, so even though the latter half of the sentence was burned away, he knew what the full sentence was.

‘This is a sickened world. Why have you not discovered that fact? I swear to cure you!’

Is this a message that my dad tried to leave me, or is this a hint for me?

Chen Ge looked at the familiar handwriting on the letter and contemplated the meaning behind it for a while. His finger touched the edge of the letter that was scorched. Then he pulled out the patient record that had the same statement on the back of it.

No, wait! The letter might be written by my father, but the message might not be the same! The handwriting on the patient record is different from the handwriting on this letter. They were written by different people.

Narrowing his eyes, Chen Ge compared the handwriting of the full sentence on the patient record and the half-sentence on the letter.

Someone is purposely trying to mislead me, hoping for me to fall into some kind of misunderstanding!

He placed everything inside the compartment of his backpack, but he did not share his thoughts with anyone else.

The person behind this managed to acquire my father’s handwritten letter and my mother’s earring so the chance of them being related to the cursed hospital is very high.]

A sense of desperation arose in his heart. Chen Ge summoned back all his employees and left the Cards Archway.

“It’s time to move to the next location.” He had brought his habit that he had cultivated at Jiujiang to Xin Hai. He would not sit down and rest until the sun came up. At 3:55 am, Chen Ge arrived at an abandoned school in Xin Hai’s countryside. Inside the school, he found a cursed Red Specter. After feeding the Red Specter to the blood stone, the hibernating Chang Wenyu finally awakened.

The beating blood stone was actually half of this Top Red Specter’s heart. In the School of the Afterlife, she did not go after the painter with full force because she had kept half of her power in this stone as insurance. When the blood red heart started to beat again, all the animals and insects around the

abandoned school became quiet. This place appeared to have become a zone of the dead. The single eye opened, a sea of blood hidden within!

With a twisted smile on her face, Chang Wenyu's bloody dress started to spread around her. She took slow and deliberate steps toward Chen Ge until she was stopped by the red high heels.

"I know you are very happy that you have come back to life, but I hope that you will rein in your power a little bit, or else I will feed you to the other Red Specters." Chen Ge had encountered many big events in his life. "You tricked me and used me, but I have repaid it with kindness. I not only did not take revenge on you, but I even brought you back to life. Aren't you supposed to give me something in return?"

"That does not sound like something an honorable person would say," Chang Gu whispered softly behind Chen Ge. After he saw his little sister, he was very excited.

Chang Wenyu slowly calmed down. Her remaining eye studied Chen Ge and her bloody lips slowly opened. "I once saw your phone at the innermost part of the red city. Only I know about that place. I can take you there."

When he was doing the mission at the School of the Afterlife, Chang Wenyu had stolen Chen Ge's black phone. Because of that, the black phone had purposely given a mission related to Chang Wenyu.

"Is that it? That's all you can offer?" Chen Ge was not satisfied. He had his employees surround Chang Wenyu. "For you, I have purposely come to Xin Hai and accidentally offended the scariest cursed hospital in Xin Hai. The hospital has at least two Demon Gods! After I have paid so much for you, what you have in return for me is a single sentence?"

Her single eye blinked. Chang Wenyu had just woken up. She had no idea whether Chen Ge was telling the truth or not, but she did know that she was at her weakest.

"What do you want from me then?"

"Until the cursed hospital is levelled to the ground, I need you to become an employee at my haunted house and listen to my orders." Chen Ge gave his request.

"You just said it was you who accidentally offended the cursed hospital, so why would you want to level them? What have they done to you?"

"Since the offense has been made, the only reasonable step now is to vanquish the enemy to remove a possible threat."

Being surrounded by multiple Red Specters, whenever Chang Wenyu's single eye blinked, the madness and cruelty in her eye would increase. But at the final moment, she decided to bend the knee.

"Okay, I promise."

"I swear this will be the best decision you have made in your life." Chen Ge had the red high heels leave an imprint on Chang Wenyu, and he then untied the hair around the headless woman's wrist and tied Zhang Ya's hair around Chang Wenyu's wrist instead.

Through the whole process, Chang Wenyu did not resist. After Chen Ge ensured that everything was fine, Chang Wenyu spoke. "I still have some of my own things to do. I will give you an eyeball. Whenever you need my help, just squeeze it until it breaks, and I will appear."

The blood sea in the single eye boiled, the aura around Chang Wenyu was as reddened as the rising sun. She took out a bloody eyeball from inside her dress and handed it over to Chen Ge. Then, she dissolved into a blood mist and disappeared. Looking at the bloody eyeball sitting in his palm, Chen Ge's face was twitching.

Chang Wenyu was an actual Red Specter; she was surrounded by resentment and was at the edge of lashing out at any given moment. She was not afraid of anything, and the parting gift that she gave was a bloody eyeball. The false Red Specters often bullied the weak and would run whenever they encountered Red Specters of the same level. They would not dare kill a chicken, much less harm a person.

"Where shall I put this eyeball? If I shove it inside the backpack, it might accidentally get crushed. If I put it inside my pocket, it might be discovered. People will treat me as a madman; it will only become worse if they call the police."

Chapter 1149 Innocent Citizen, Mr. Chen 2 in 1

Chen Ge did not know where to put the eyeball given to him by Chang Wenyu. It did not feel like it was appropriate to keep it anywhere. After much deliberation, Chen Ge decided to hand the eyeball over to Men Nan. Of all the Red Specters, Men Nan had the highest IQ and EQ. In fact, Chen Ge would sometimes have him go off on some individual tasks. Therefore, he was not worried at all with Men Nan temporarily holding onto the eyeball.

"Now is the most vulnerable moment for Chang Wenyu. She does not dare stay too long around me, and she left the moment she found the opportunity to do so. Looks like she still has a problem trusting me. She is worried that I might really feed her to the other Red Specters."

Rome was not built in a day; trust was the same. Chen Ge believed that with enough time, he would definitely be able to win Chang Wenyu's trust. The sky was already slowly brightening, but Chen Ge did not hurry to leave. He continued to wander about inside the abandoned school. "The Red Specter at this abandoned school and the Red Specter at Cards Archway are so much more powerful than normal Red Specters, but neither of their hiding places have the presence of a 'door'. Is it because their despair is not strong enough for a door to appear?"

There was no absolute connection between Red Specters and the doors. A door pusher would always be a Red Specter, but not every Red Specter would possess their own door. Chen Ge did not think too much about it initially, but now that he stopped to consider it, he suddenly realized things did not add up.

"Could the doors be unique to Jiujiang?"

Entering the classroom where the Red Specter at the abandoned school first showed up, Chen Ge found that familiar statement on the table occupied by the Red Specter.

'This is a sickened world. Why have you not discovered that fact? I swear to cure you!'

The words were carved unevenly on the table. It was like a kind of psychological hint, and it kept appearing before Chen Ge's eyes. Eventually, even without realizing it, Chen Ge had already memorized the statement in his mind.

"The sentence is always the same, but the handwriting's completely different, so they were probably left behind by different people. But why would these people that seemingly had no connection with each other all write or carve down those same words?"

He really could not come up with a reasonable answer. Chen Ge summoned back all his haunted house employees, hailed a cab, and returned to Nightmare Academy.

"I will go for a nap. You guys find something to do. Be prepared for business." Chen Ge greeted his employees before entering the headmaster's office. Chi Ren had been staying inside the room and out of boredom. He was building a paper tower from a deck of cards. "In a few days, you will be safe."

Chen Ge entered the inner room, hugged his backpack, and entered his dreams. Without the need to worry about the operation of the haunted house and the safety of the visitors, he had the first relaxing sleep in a very long time.

At twelve noon, Chen Ge woke up and went out to purchase food for himself and his living employees. After lunch, he left the haunted house again. Xin Hai was, to him, an unexplored treasure trove. How he wished he could capture all the baleful Specters and Red Specters at once. "After I deal with the cursed hospital, should I go on a train ride all over the country to spread this kindness to different cities?"

Of course, that was just a thought. Chen Ge used the daytime to arrange his clues and information while preparing to visit the different locations to conduct his investigation at night. Before he had a full-on conflict with the cursed hospital, he needed to do everything he could to increase his own power. At around 6 pm, the employees were still discussing the plan for the Nightmare Academy, but as the boss, Chen Ge had already escaped to Xin Hai's countryside.

It was yet another sleepless night. Chen Ge's plan was to feed all the Red Specters that he found to the red high heels to help her become a Demon God, but she rejected Chen Ge's kindness. As a Top Red Specter who had a special talent in curses, consuming other Red Specters would not help her in her breakthrough to become a Demon God; only by consuming greater and more evil despair would her power improve. In other words, the red high heels herself knew very well that the key for her to become a Demon God would be at the cursed hospital. The red high heels did not need to consume Red Specters, so Chen Ge turned his attention to Xiao Bu.

Xiao Bu, who could unleash the power of a Top Red Specter, had a very powerful innate talent. She was the shadow selected by Chen Ge's parents and was a door pusher valued by the ghost fetus. After consuming a Red Specter, Xiao Bu went into hibernation. With her ability, she would awaken after one night. When Xiao Bu was hibernating, Chen Ge pushed the rest of the Red Specters that he found to Xu Yin. Xu Yin was weaker than the spider in the tunnel, and he was not the strongest among Chen Ge's Red Specters, but Xu Yin's heart was very special.

Every time it beat, his heart would gain little more of the black pattern. That pattern appeared to be the branding of memories. It contained some kind of unspeakable power. The hearts of the other Red Specters were the source of their power, but Xu Yin's heart was more like a germinating seed. After

consuming one Red Specter, the black pattern on Xu Yin's heart grew to his chest, but to Chen Ge's surprise, even after Xu Yin had consumed a Red Specter almost as powerful as he was, he did not go into hibernation. Whenever Chen Ge pressed the play button on the recorder, Xu Yin still showed up.

"After Xiao Bu and Zhang Ya consumed Red Specters of the same level, they went into hibernation. How come it is so special when it comes to Xu Yin?" Chen Ge tried to ask the young man directly for the reason, but all he got in return was silence. It was as if Xu Yin himself did not know the reason.

By 3 am, Chen Ge had already investigated eleven ghost stories. He had collected the information in the day and come up with the best route to visit all of them. Just as he was about to go to visit the twelfth ghost story, the sky over the horizon of Xin Hai's countryside was curiously dyed red as if a bloody hole had been torn open in the night sky. Initially, Chen Ge did not think much of this paranormal activity, but when he used the wedding ring on his ring and realized that Xiao Sun's current location was right under that bloody tear, he started to get a little bit panicked. "Brother Sun has already made his move? I only sent him in there two days ago. Will he be exposed doing something so obvious?"

Xiao Sun was moving too fast. Chen Ge was still training and preparing, but something had already happened at the cursed hospital.

"There's no use in me worrying about this. I'd better focus on the things that I have to do." Xin Hai's population was several times greater than Jiujiang's, so there were a lot of ghost stories. But most of them were just smoke without fire; only a very small portion of them really had actual ghosts behind them. For a professional like Chen Ge, he could sometimes tell the authenticity of a ghost story just from the description, but even so, Chen Ge was still tricked multiple times.

In two nights, he had investigated twenty-five ghost stories in total, and among them, eight were fake. Of the remaining seventeen ghost stories, however, there were five Red Specters. This probability was rather scary. But the thing that worried Chen Ge the most was that all the Red Specters that he encountered were on the verge of a mental breakdown. Every single one of them had a curse on them, and the statement about the sickened world could be found without fail at the location that they haunted. Now, Chen Ge felt that perhaps the statement itself was a curse. Every Red Specter, normal Specter, and human being who was given the statement would eventually lose their mind. After working hard for two nights, Chen Ge was quite satisfied with his haul.

Of the five cursed maddened Red Specters, two were used to awaken Chang Wenyu, one was fed to Xiao Bu, and the last two were fed to Xu Yin. As he fed on more Red Specters, the changes to Xu Yin became more obvious. The black pattern growing from his heart stuck on his body like a second layer of skin; it gave him a very dangerous feeling.

Of all the employees, other than Xu Yin, there was another employee that underwent a huge change, and that was Zhang Yi. As a Specter that possessed a very unique power like him, if he became a Red Specter by consuming other Red Specters, it would seriously impact his natural talent. That would be more of a loss than a gain. Therefore, Chen Ge did not have Zhang Yi feed on any Red Specters but provided him with the Half Red Specters that they encountered.

Before consuming two Half Red Specters, Zhang Yi asked Chen Ge to call Fang Yu, and then he talked on the phone for a very long time with Fang Yu. This was the first time he had actively called Fang Yu. It was a call that traversed death and life, memory and the past. Chen Ge had no idea what the content of the

conversation between Zhang Yi and Fang Yu was. He did, however, manage to see Zhang Yi's body slowly becoming more transparent. Just as the man's body was about to fade away, a drop of blood appeared at the middle of his heart. Zhang Yi's power was deleting memories, but he could not recover deleted memories.

Luckily, even though Fang Yu had already forgotten all the memories related to Zhang Yi, she had not forgotten the sense of presence of the man who had been protecting her. She had stubbornly waited at the garden for ten years and tattooed Fang Yu's name all over her body. She had tried everything so that she would never forget until she eventually met the person that she had been waiting for. Ten years ago, Zhang Yi had saved Fang Yu, and ten years later, Fang Yu had become Zhang Yi's salvation.

After consuming two Half Red Specters, Zhang Yi sank into a slumber. The drop of blood inside his heart continued to spread until it formed a name, and it was seared at the bottom of his heart. Fang Yu tattooed a name all over her body while Zhang Yi branded a name at the bottom of his heart. It crossed the distance between life and death. They had chosen this method to remember each other.

"After Zhang Yi wakes up, he should be a Red Specter. His talent will improve again. Perhaps he will even gain a new power."

Zhang Yi had a very powerful talent, and Chen Ge had high expectations for him. With this in mind, he turned to glance at the comic with helplessness in his eyes. Danian was still hiding inside the empty page. His ears were closed to the world outside his comic, and he only had his attention on completing his work.

After Chen Ge detained the cursed Half Red Specter, the first person that he thought of was Yan Danian. He had the red high heels comprehend the Half Red Specter and then sent the Half Red Specter into the same page as Yan Danian. Then, something that no one expected happened. Both parties shied away from each other as far as they could. One was hiding in the corner, and the other was facing the wall. The image looked curiously harmonious.

After Yan Danian passed away, he had never harmed anyone, and he had never considered consuming other Specters. In fact, he was very reluctant to do things like that. Chen Ge had tried very hard to persuade him to overcome that mental block, but Yan Danian still unable to make that first step. In the end, Chen Ge had no choice but to give up.

After the old headmaster at Mu Yang High School passed away, he had not consumed a single Specter, but he had managed to become a Half Red Specter. From that, one could see that there were many ways for a Specter to increase their power; it was not limited to the consumption of other Specters. In comparison to other methods, however, consuming Specters was the most effective way. Actually, Chen Ge had realized in the few months prior, the presence radiating off Yan Danian had been getting stronger, but because Yan Danian had too low confidence in himself and would never leave the comic, very few people noticed this about him.

Chen Ge suspected that the change in Yan Danian was probably due to the fact that he had been sending multiple Red Specters into Danian's comic. Even for a normal object, if it was housing more than ten Red Specters every day, it would definitely change. The comic was originally Yan Danian's item of possession; now, every single page was filled with various Specters. Inevitably, that was also going to improve Yan Danian's own power. Chen Ge could sense that Yan Danian's power was increasing, but the

speed was too slow. He had to face the cursed hospital soon, and he had to turn Yan Danian into a real Red Specter as soon as possible. He had very high expectations for Yan Danian. After all, when he was in the School of the Afterlife, even the painter had said that Yan Danian's talent was above his own.

After comparing the painter who had managed to build a heaven behind the door with his own power and then Yan Danian who cowered in the corner inside his own comic, Chen Ge did not know what to do. "Danian, if you are ever hungry, please tell me."

Pulling all the employees into the comic, Chen Ge waited until sunrise before he returned to Nightmare Academy. He did not sleep a wink throughout the night. He was just about to go and rest, but once he opened the front door of the Nightmare Academy, he saw all of his living employees waiting for him inside the lobby.

"Are you guys waiting for me?" Chen Ge soon noticed that something was wrong. Other than his employees, there were a few other police officers present. He had met one of them before when he first came to Xin Hai. He believed the officer's surname was Cai.

"Mr. Chen, do not worry. We just have some questions that we wish to ask you." The leading officer walked toward Chen Ge. "The night before last, the Cards Archway at the old city collapsed. We saw you on camera at the street right outside the area. I am just very curious as to why you would appear at that location during that time."

With the presence of so many police officers, Chen Ge instantly realized that the mass grave inside the Cards Archway had been found by the Xin Hai police.

"Even if you did not come to me, I was planning on going to you." Chen Ge's expression was even more serious than the police officer's. "There are some words that are not so convenient for us to discuss here. How about we go to the station to slowly talk this over?"

"You want to follow us to the station?" The leading officer shared a look with his colleagues next to him. They were just there to ask some questions, but the man had voluntarily requested to follow them to the police station. What was the motive behind this?

"Trust me, I really have something very important that I need to tell you." Chen Ge stressed this again. The few officers finally decided to bring Chen Ge with them back to the station. Seeing Chen Ge leave with the police, Zhang Jingjiu signaled for Qu Changlin and Xiao Die to return to their work. "Don't just stand there. Go and do what you are supposed to do."

"Brother Jiu, the boss has just been apprehended by the police! Why are you so calm?" Xiao Die was very worried. "Would something happen to the boss?"

"There is no need for you to worry. It can't change anything either way. We have to believe in our boss. Eventually... you will get used to it."

After he got into the police car, Chen Ge's expression became even more serious. He sat on the backseat next to the two other police officers, and his demeanor made the two other officers quite uncomfortable.

"Okay, the night before last, why would you show up around the Cards Archway?" Captain Cai was curious, and he desperately wanted to know the answer.

“Other than the Cards Archway in the old city, I went to an abandoned skyscraper in the new city, a construction site in the countryside, and some barren land near the border.” Chen Ge had taken a cab between these places. The police would be able to trace his route easily, so he offered this information to prove his innocence.

“Why would you go to so many different places that night?”

“Not only that night. The night before last, I spent the whole night moving around the old city of Xin Hai and its countryside. I have barely slept for the past two nights.” Chen Ge was forceful. He was the one being interrogated, but he was extremely assertive, so it felt like it was him interrogating the police officers.

“You still have not answered my question. Why would you go to these many different places?”

“I am investigating the disappearance of a doctor. His surname is Fang.” Chen Ge grabbed Captain Cai’s hand. “Things are more serious than I thought. I might need your help.”

Chapter 1150 Chen Ge, Victim From Twenty Years Ago 2 in 1

There was no evidence that directly linked Chen Ge to the case at the Cards Archway. If anything, the only thing that they had was some surveillance footage that showed that Chen Ge was around the crime scene two nights ago. That barely amounted to anything. The police were just running through the motions by asking him in for questioning, but what Chen Ge said had gone wildly beyond their expectations.

“Mr. Chen, so you are saying that you went to these places just to investigate the disappearance of Doctor Fang?”

“Yes.”

“Okay, let’s just put that aside for now. Did you go to the Cards Archway last night?” Captain Cai was more concerned about the case at the Cards Avenue. When the place collapsed the night before last, it had exposed the mass grave that was previously hidden underground. Most of the dead bodies were from a very long time ago, but two of the bodies were fresh kills. Their time of death was only several months ago. After the police’s investigation, they found that the victims were all homeless squatters. They were most likely killed when they went to the Cards Archway to rest at night. Based on the profiler’s analysis, there was no conflict of interest or any beneficial relationship tying the victims and the killers. In other words, the killer was someone who was committing murder for the sake of it!

Such a dangerous person had to be arrested as soon as possible, or else it was certain that he would repeat the crime again.

“I only visited the place the night before last. I saw some things there as well. If you wish to solve the case at the Cards Avenue, then you cannot ignore the disappearance of Doctor Fang.” Chen Ge leaned against the cushion of the backseat. “Before Doctor Fang disappeared, his mental health was seriously affected. His colleagues said that he was not acting like his usual self. He spent the entire day in a daze, and he kept mumbling about some horrendous ghost stories.”

Chen Ge took out the notebook that he had been using to record all these details from the inner compartment of his backpack.

“For the past two nights, I have checked about twenty ghost stories throughout Xin Hai in an attempt to find any connection between them and Doctor Fang’s disappearance, and I really came up with something.”

Chen Ge then proceeded to pull out several paper notes from the compartment and showed them to Captain Cai. “I found these at some of the locations for the ghost stories.”

Seeing the strange statement on the paper, the young officers next to the Chen Ge were slightly confused, but Captain Cai’s reaction was very strange. He said subconsciously, “This statement again?”

“You have seen this statement before?” Chen Ge wanted to borrow the power of the law enforcement, but it was not easy to persuade the police to help him. After all, this was not Jiujiang; they had not cooperated in the past before, and they had no reason to put their trust in him. But Chen Ge did not expect Captain Cai to have seen the note before. With that, they had some basis to continue this conversation.

“About half a year ago, there were two homicides in Xin Hai. The victims’ state of death was extremely strange. We found the same notes with the same statement after canvassing the crime scenes.” Captain Cai put on a pair of gloves and took the notes from Chen Ge. “Even though the cases have been successfully solved... how shall I put this? When we got to the killer, the killer had already gone mad. Plenty of evidence pointed toward the madman as the killer, so at the time, the case was quickly solved and closed.”

“This note with the same sentence appeared more than half a year ago?” Chen Ge calculated the time. That would be around the time when his own parents disappeared. “Since the same notes have appeared again, is it possible that it could mean there was more than one killer behind those cases?”

Chen Ge was giving plenty of face to the police at Xin Hai. He did not point out directly that the Xin Hai law enforcement had missed the real culprit but used a roundabout way to point out that there might be more than one killer.

“From the killer’s lack of motive and the grisly method of killing, the possibility of that is high.” Captain Cai became the most serious he had ever been. “Mr. Chen, you have provided us with a very important clue!”

About ten minutes later, the three police officers brought Chen Ge into Xin Hai police station. Since it involved many murders, Captain Cai valued Chen Ge’s opinion a lot, so he was directly brought into the police station’s conference room. Pushing the door open, Captain Cai was surprised to find other people inside the conference room. A middle-aged police officer was seated at the side of the table with a serious expression. Opposite him stood a male lecturer who had the air of a cultivated scholar. It was clear that they had been arguing from the redness that covered both of their faces.

“Captain Yang?”

“Mr. Wang?”

Captain Cai and Chen Ge spoke at the same time, and the people in the room looked at each other.

“Who is this young man?” The middle-aged police officer known as Captain Yang looked at Chen Ge. “Ol’ Cai, how could you bring a normal citizen into the internal conference room?”

“The night before last, the Cards Archway collapsed, and thus, we found the dead bodies of two homeless people. The cause of death was determined as a sudden heart attack due to extreme pressure. It’s clear that they were both homicides. During our investigation, we encountered Mr. Chen, and he has provided us with a very important clue.”

Captain Cai pulled out the paper note.

“There might be more than one killer for the case of the two horrible murders that happened about half a year ago! The murder of these two homeless people was very similar to the previous cases. They might have been committed by the same gang of people!”

“So, the killers who are responsible for the death of the homeless people at the Cards Archway and the people responsible for the horrible murders that happened half a year ago could be the same, huh?” Captain Yang sank into quiet contemplation. Moments later, he turned to Mr. Wang. “Ol’ Wang, it is not that I don’t want to help you, but you can see for yourself that Xin Hai is not so peacefully. Our hands are full with all these sudden cases. We cannot spare any police officers for a case where the killer died twenty years ago. I hope you can understand our difficulty.”

Mr. Wang appeared to have expected this result before he came, so his expression did not change much when he was told such things.

“I shall be going then. I do not want to interrupt your investigation.” He did not appear to be in a good mood. When he walked past Chen Ge, he dropped his voice to a whisper and said, “Boss Chen, when you leave this police station, please do remember to reach out to me.”

“Me?” Chen Ge had no idea why Mr. Wang would suddenly reach out to him, but he still nodded. After all, they had both come from Jiujiang, so they should be helping each other. After Mr. Wang left, Captain Cai closed the door of the conference room and started to ask Chen Ge some questions in more detail. At Jiujiang police station, Chen Ge had accumulated a wealth of investigative experience, so he was very familiar with the procedure of the entire major crimes investigation. Initially, it was the two captains who were asking him questions, but eventually, Chen Ge slowly took over the discussion. He picked up the marker and started to draw and list out all the clues that they had found on the board. Those who did not know might assume that he was a professional lecturer hired by the police station.

His mind was clear, and his logic was in place. Chen Ge used the simplest and most common words to completely wash the suspicion away from himself, and then he proceeded to compile all the information related to the two murders. The cases that spanned half a year were connected together, and the string that connected them was the paper notes with the strange statement found at the various crime scenes.

“The real killer is not crazy, or rather, perhaps they are a team. They knew that they would not be able to escape from your investigation, so they dropped a sacrifice and pushed out a madman to take the fall as the scapegoat.”

When Chen Ge said that, he closely watched the facial expression on the two officers.

Where there was light, there was darkness. To reopen a case that had already been closed about half a year ago, this was not a result that would be easily accepted by everyone. With reputation and many other things on the line, some people might choose to turn a blind eye or purposely work around it. But thankfully, Captain Cai and Captain Yang were not such people. After they had confirmed that the two

cases were related and knew that the real killer was still beyond the reach of the law, they immediately came up with a plan. Before Chen Ge, they summoned the entire major crimes unit at Xin Hai into the room.

The police were about to conduct a special meeting, but there was an additional stranger in the room. The young police officers that entered the room could not hide their surprise, but Chen Ge was completely at ease. He even found himself a seat in the corner and planted himself there.

"Mr. Chen, we still need to discuss some internal details about some of these cases. Based on the rules, this cannot be observed by normal citizens, so I will have to request you to wait outside for a while." Seeing that Chen Ge was ready to sit in on their meeting, Captain Cai showed a helpless smile on his face. "Yue Ji, why don't you show Mr. Chen to the breakroom and make sure that he is comfortable there?"

A female officer with a baby face walked over. Chen Ge rather unwillingly left the conference room.

"Looks like they do not trust me fully yet. Then again, I cannot blame them. I am only a stranger who's just arrived from Jiujiang." Chen Ge stretched lazily. "But it does not matter. Trust can be slowly built. After all, I have a feeling we will have a lot more interaction in the future."

He had not slept the whole night. So, when he entered the breakroom, he pulled the few chairs together to form a line, and then with his backpack as the pillow, he lay on them and fell asleep. During the whole process, the female officer stood at the side, watching Chen Ge move the furniture around inside the room, and then she watched him go to sleep just like that.

"He purposely came to the police station to have a nap? What kind of strange behavior is this?" Yue Ji did not dare violate the order given to her by her superior. She even suspected that the man before her might be some important suspect, and she had been given the task of watching over him. Without anything else to do, Yue Ji leaned against the table and kept staring at Chen Ge, who had fallen deeply into his slumber. About one hour later, Chen Ge was shaken awake. When he opened his eyes, Yue Ji and Captain Cai were standing beside him.

"Have you finished the meeting already?"

"Yes, we have decided to investigate both the cases from two nights ago and the case from half a year ago together." Captain Cai poured a glass of water for Chen Ge. "Other than that, do you mind if we temporarily keep the notes? After the cases are solved, we will return them to you."

"There is no need for that. You can keep the paper notes as evidence. But I advise your people not to spend too much time staring at the words on the paper."

Those paper notes were nothing good. If the police were willing to take custody of them, Chen Ge naturally would not reject them.

"Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. Chen." Captain Cai handed the water in the paper cup over to Chen Ge. "During this period, we might need to summon you again for your help, so I hope that you will not leave Xin Hai for the time being."

"In that case, how about we exchange contact numbers? If you need any help from me, just call me directly. I am also very worried about Doctor Fang's safety, and I wish to hear any firsthand information

about him.” Chen Ge took out his own phone. Captain Cai could not find any reason to reject him, so he did end up exchanging numbers with Chen Ge. “These cases are not as simple as you might imagine. The killers behind them might be a huge group. They are extremely dangerous. You must be very careful during your investigation.”

The purpose of Chen Ge coming to Xin Hai Police Station had been achieved; he had formed a link with the police force and had pointed the law enforcement toward the direction of the cursed hospital. Next, he would need to slowly gain the trust of the police, and then he would gain support for his own objective.

“Okay, we will be extra careful. Look at you, you must be tired. You’d better go back and rest.”

“See you tomorrow.” Seeing Chen Ge depart from the station, Yue Ji was filled with confusion. In the end, she could not help herself but ask, “Captain Cai, who is this person? This is the first time I’ve seen you treat someone so kindly and respectfully.”

“His name is Chen Ge. He is the only normal citizen who has received the public security honorary badge in Jiujiang. He has been personally involved in more than ten major crimes and has helped more than twenty victims gain their justice.” Captain Cai’s gaze was heavy. “Lee Zheng at Jiujiang’s major crimes unit is my former classmates. I’ve already heard many things about this man from him. I just did not expect that he would come to Xin Hai so soon.”

“Could it be some exaggerated rumors? He is involved in more than ten heavy crimes and more than twenty human lives? Is he Conan?” Yue Ji’s interest in Chen Ge was piqued; she kept staring at his back.

“Regardless, time to get back to work. Things are going to get rocky in Xin Hai very soon.”

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Once Chen Ge walked out from the police station, Mr. Wang, who had been waiting for him at the roadside, walked over.

“Mr. Wang, you have been waiting for me?” Chen Ge had good impression of Mr. Wang, or to be more precise, he had good impression of everyone from Jiujiang Medical University.

“Yes.” Mr. Wang hesitated. He stared at Chen Ge for a very long time before he finally said, “I hear from Zuo Han that you are a legend. To search for your own missing parents, you practically flipped the whole of Jiujiang upside down and solved several important cases along the way.”

“I was just extremely lucky.”

“To be able to encounter so many murders one after another, I would not call that lucky. If anything, I would say you are probably the unluckiest person in the world.” Mr. Wang sighed. “Death, despair, pain, and struggle—behind every murder, there is hidden humanity’s sin. During this peaceful era, we are the people closest to these sins.”

Mr. Wang was being very serious, and this caused Chen Ge to treat him very seriously as well. “Sir, why exactly did you wait for me? What do you need from me?”

"About twenty years ago, there was a serial killer in Jiujiang. At that time, public surveillance was not as comprehensive as it is now. Combined with the fact that all the murders were committed in the countryside, this seriously hampered the investigation."

Mr. Wang looked at the cars moving up and down the road. It felt like he was talking to him.

"To avoid increased public panic, all the information related to the case was blocked off. The higher-ups even gave an order that the police needed to capture the murderer within a week. In the end, we indeed caught the killer on the seventh day, but at the time, we suspected that there was more than one killer." Mr. Wang sighed lightly. "The captured killer could not even finish a full sentence. He was made to be killer simply because all the evidence pointed toward him."

"Since all the evidence pointed toward him, doesn't that mean that the police got the right person?" Chen Ge had a feeling that he knew what Mr. Wang was getting at.

"But what if the evidence was purposely set up by the real killer?" Mr. Wang squeezed his hands together. "The killer is very cunning. He probably already came up with the solution to shake the blame off him when he committed the first murder."

The atmosphere slowly became heavy. Both parties were silent for a while before Mr. Wang finally continued. "That case has become a thorn in my heart. I'm always reminded of the victim's face, his open eyes, how he was struggling for help from me in his last moments."

When Mr. Wang said these things, he kept his eyes glued on Chen Ge.

"Do you know who the last victim was during that killing spree?"

"Who was it?"

"Chen Ge. That child had the same name as you." Mr. Wang took a deep breath. "Perhaps it's because of that Captain Yan was particularly partial toward you. I know you two cannot be the same person, but you two have the same gaze."

"His name was also Chen Ge?" Chen Ge was startled. "Mr. Wang, do you mind me about this case from twenty years ago in more detail?"

"The first victim was a tourist from another state. He accidentally captured the killer in the process of murdering a child on his camera. The killer was wearing a white doctor's coat, and the child was only about five."

The case that Mr. Wang described gave Chen Ge an eerie sense of familiarity.

"After the tourist died, we started our investigation. We slowly discovered how cruel and mad the killer was. He used different methods to kill children of varying ages but of the same body size. Even though we failed to find the bodies of these children, there were witnesses and surveillance footage. Then, what happened next was inexplicable. Two witnesses were brutally murdered, and the murderer in the white coat even somehow managed to tamper with most of the physical evidence."