

## Horrors 131

### Chapter 131: I Know What I'm Doing

The dolls created using the Dollmaker's Talent looked incredibly creepy. With twenty-four dolls inside the sealed classroom, either standing or sitting, even Chen Ge did not have the heart to stay for too long.

*I must not release Mu Yang High School's scenario to the public easily. If these twenty-four lingering spirits go mad, they will probably scare someone to death.* Chen Ge had created all the mannequins himself, so he could acutely feel the change that happened to these mannequins after the school uniforms were put on them. It felt as if all the mannequins had acquired a soul, like the things that stood before him were not props but actual people.

Due to limitation in budget and workers, rarely would a Haunted House place more than ten actors in the same scenario. The lack of help was also something that Chen Ge had been worried about, but now this problem had been easily solved. A small scenario alone had twenty-four professional actors—now that was a high-end Haunted House!

*Gosh, even I am getting excited about this. This two-star Mu Yang High School scenario might be able to help me make the Haunted House a household name!*

After finishing the arrangement of the sealed classroom, Chen Ge placed the student nametags that littered the lectern inside the paper box.

*There is no exit inside Mu Yang High School, and there is only one entrance. The original plan of finding the escape is no longer useable. I will need to come up with a new rule for the game.* Chen Ge narrowed his eyes before coming up with the solution. He could go around Mu Yang High School scenario to hide the twenty-four nametags in various corners. *To clear the game, the visitors will have to find all twenty-four nametags in under twenty minutes. The winners will get a full refund of their tickets on top of a cash price. This way it will provide incentive for visitors to enter the Haunted House and will also increase the fun factor and interactivity.*

Chen Ge's Haunted House was rapidly expanding. He had been trying to figure out ways to make his Haunted House more inviting and interesting. This treasure hunt for the nametags was, for Chen Ge, worthy of a trial run.

*I will need to include more interesting elements in the future. The aim is not to create a scary Haunted House but a whole park themed around scares and horror.*

When Chen Ge was hiding the nametags, he realized that Mu Yang High School's scenario had grown bigger. There was a new junction at the end of the corridor. There were an additional three adjacent old-looking rooms. There were room numbers hanging on the doors—302, 303, 304.

The Room of Three One-Star Trial Mission had unlocked three new rooms beside Mu Yang High School. They merged perfectly together, but the corridors did appear to be much narrower.

*All the scary scenarios will expand close to each other. Eventually, the whole underground parking lot will be filled with my scenarios. The routes will overlap with each other, thus making an actual Maze of Terror.*

Chen Ge retraced his steps and returned to the Haunted House's first floor. He fixed his dusty outfit, exited the Haunted House, and opened the gate. The sun shone warmly on his skin; it was a good day to go out to play and enjoy the weather.

Xu Wan arrived at the Haunted House at around 9 am. Chen Ge had her go and prepare her make-up before sending her into the Minghun scenario. As the number of visitors increased, Chen Ge's Haunted House became the only attraction at New Century Park that required the visitors to line up. To smoothen the process, Chen Ge gave Uncle Xu a call, asking him to assign a free worker to come help him sell tickets. Who would have thought that, after a while, it was Uncle Xu himself who came?

"There are not many free workers to go around, and since I am free, I came to help. Do you need me to go inside this ticket counter to sell ticket?"

"No need, just do it whichever way is most comfortable to you."

After leaving the ticket sales to Uncle Xu, Chen Ge returned to the staff breakroom. He pulled out a wooden board and used fake blood to write down the introduction and game rules for Mu Yang High School on it. When he exited the Haunted House with the wooden board, there was a contained commotion among the crowd.

"A new scary scenario to experience!"

"This introduction sure is creepy."

"A school horror story! This, I like!"

The crowd's attention was attracted immediately. Since the ticket price was the same, the few who stood at the front of the line all requested to experience the new scenario.

"Everyone, please listen to me." Chen Ge placed the wooden board upwards by the door. "This new scenario is very scary! Inside, we have professional actors and the nation's top equipment as well as props. When I offered this scenario for a trial run, a set of workers from a horror studio accepted the challenge. They attempted to plagiarize my content by video-taping it, but they accidentally captured something incredibly scary! In fact, the two that went in to experience the scenario are still in hospital!"

Uncle Xu, who stood to the side, did not know what to say, seeing Chen Ge list this dark history so proudly. He could not understand what there was to be proud about scaring people to their death.

"Tell us, what they have captured on film?"

"You think we are that gullible to believe people might get sent to the hospital from a visit to the Haunted House?"

"Boss, don't waste your breath! We are playing this scenario!"

"If I do not enter this scenario today, I am not a man!"

After the visitors settled down, Chen Ge continued. "The reason I brought this up is because I wish to tell all of you that this scenario is not open to everyone. Only those who have completed the earlier scenarios can enter this one."

Chen Ge's meaning was clear. To enter Mu Yang High School, they either had to finish Minghun or Murder by Midnight scenario first. Delineating the scenarios according to their scream factors was something he had decided from the very beginning.

"This is daylight robbery!" The moment Chen Ge announced the new policy, there was instantly the sound of protest. "Entering every one of your scenarios requires us to purchase a new ticket. If this is not forced expenditure, I do not know what is!"

"Has the success gotten to your head?"

"I came because of the good online review, but what you are doing is incredibly immoral!"

"So many rules to visit a Haunted House, I will just give up! Now, are you happy?"

Chen Ge had expected this type of reaction from the crowd. When the visitors had their say, Chen Ge slapped the wooden board and said, "Trust me, I do not intend to cheat you out of your money. The ticket price of only 20 is the best proof. To prove my sincerity, how about we have a bet?"

He took out the reward money that he had not used yet and placed it beside the wooden board. "This here is 20,000 in cash! I have hidden twenty-four student nametags inside the Mu Yang High School scenario. If any of you can find all twenty-four nametags in under twenty minutes, this 20,000 is yours!"

"Ticket price is only 20, but reward is 20,000? That's almost a 100,000% increase!"

"How do we know how many nametags you have actually hidden inside the scenario? What if you have only hidden twenty-three nametags? Doesn't that mean no one will win the reward?"

A visitor pointed out this valid question. Chen Ge was too lazy to argue, so he merely said, "If any one of you can walk out of the scenario normally, I will answer your question."

The twenty-four nametags were hidden in extremely secluded places, and a few were hidden in places that people would least expect.

"Such conceit!"

"Why is that even though I know this is a cheap trick, I still have the urge to give it a try?"

"Let me!"

The atmosphere was thus brought up to a boiling point. Chen Ge asked Uncle Xu to look after the money for him.

"Today marks the first day a new scenario and a new rule are officially put into use! Due to a lack of promotion, many people still do not know this yet, so just for today, the new scenario is open for all! There is no need for you to go through the previous scenarios first. I have already stated the reward that awaits the winner. Only one person can enter at a time, and everyone can only experience it once. The

placement of the nametags will be changed each day. Alright, who wishes to come forward to take this 20,000?”

Earlier, everyone had been incredibly noisy, but when Chen Ge officially extended the invitation to the crowd, they looked at each other, but none dared step forward. Chen Ge scanned the crowd and realized that there was a group of six at the end of the line huddled together like they were discussing something. After a while, five of them came toward him.

“Boss, we do not want to challenge the game; we just want to visit the scenario. Can the five of us enter at the same time?” the leading young man asked Chen Ge. The six of them had obviously come together. Five of them were going to scout the new scenario, and after obtaining all the necessary information, the sixth would come forward to accept the challenge and find all the nametags with the information provided by the five.

Chen Ge knew what they were up to; the six of them were trying to cheat the system, but he did not seem to mind it. “Sure! All five of you can enter together, but I have to remind you—please do not use your phone to take pictures or videos inside the Haunted House because they might scare our friends from the other side.”

“Five of us, so here is 100,” the young man said with a smile. He did not pay Chen Ge’s advice any attention.

After accepting the money, Chen Ge flashed the five visitors a ‘professional’ smile before saying, “Thank you. Now, please come with me.”

Chen Ge’s smile was quite comforting; the five visitors did not think too much of it, but next to them, Uncle Xu shivered involuntarily and, after some contemplation, decided to walk over to stop Chen Ge.

He whispered into Chen Ge’s ear, “These are normal visitors. They have no history with us; you have to be careful. Please try to make sure everything is safe and sound!”

“Uncle Xu, do not worry. I know what I am doing.”

Chen Ge pushed Uncle Xu gently aside. However, the park manager was made anxious by this promise that he made. “Who are you trying to kid? That was what you said the last time, and those two poor children are still lying at the hospital! That one by the name of Fei Youliang can be heard screaming every midnight. He does not stop asking who his wife will be, and almost everyone at the hospital knows about him!”

### **Chapter 132: Uncle Xu Has a Point**

Uncle Xu was worried about Chen Ge. “We will let the visitors enter happily and then escort them out safely, what is so bad about that?”

“Okay, okay. Don’t worry, everything is within my control.”

With Uncle Xu’s repeated advice, Chen Ge led the five visitors to the underground parking lot.

"Please sign these disclaimers first." Chen Ge passed a few copies to the visitors. "All the notes and warnings are written there. Feel free to browse through them."

"This is quite official." The leading young man signed the agreement without even reading it. His name was Wang Hailong; he was about 1.85 meters tall and roughly the same age as Chen Ge.

"Boss, will you renege on the promise of the reward money? If someone really manages to find all twenty-four nametags, will you give him the money?" There was slightly shorter man standing next to Wang Hailong. They appeared to be siblings. His name was Wang Wenlong, but their personalities seemed to differ.

"Of course, where would I be today without honoring my promises?" Chen Ge replied with a professional smile.

"20,000, 1 person, twenty-four nametags. Since we have five people, if we manage to find all the nametags, can you give us 4,000 each?" The person who spoke was Wang Hailong's girlfriend. She wore a thin shirt and hot pants. The buttons of her shirt were not tight, and there was a fluttering butterfly tattooed on her collarbone. The girl's name was Dou Menglu—a pretty girl but horrible handwriting.

"Why not? The aim is to have fun. If you can manage to find all the nametags in twenty minutes, you'll each get not a penny less than 4,000." Chen Ge continued to smile.

Wang Hailong dropped the pen and promised, "Nice! I'll definitely call my brothers to come support you next time."

"Then I shall thank you in advanced."

*Such a kind visitor.* Chen Ge was touched. "After signing the agreement, please come with me. A word of advice, don't stay too long in the sealed classroom."

The group walked to the end of the corridor, and Chen Ge pulled the boards away. "There are many rumors about the abandoned school. Whether you believe them or not, be careful. Remember, no cameras when you're inside. You'll be responsible for the consequences."

"It's underground?" The five looked at the dim tunnel which felt like someone was walking on it.

"F\*ck, what was that?" The fatty who had not spoken suddenly screamed as he staggered back. He had a beer belly and beady eyes. He did not seem to be that courageous.

"Pei Hu, you're scared before we've even gone in?" Wang Hailong grabbed Pei Hu's bouncy arm. "It's all fake. If you're that scared, hide behind Meili."

"Stop whining. Are you going in or not?" This time, it was the other woman who spoke. She had a perpetual frown on her face and was short in stature. Even though she already tried her best, standing beside Menglu, she was like a green leaf accompanying the bright flower. Chen Ge glanced at her agreement; this girl's name was Xia Meili.

"What's the hurry?" Wang Hailong winked at Chen Ge. "Boss, remember to start the countdown only after we're in the tunnel!"

“Sure.” Chen Ge took out his phone to prepare. After the five visitors entered the tunnel, he closed the boards and put his phone away.

Countdown? What was that?

If they could walk out on their two legs, it was already good enough. Inside the dressing room, Chen Ge put on Doctor Skull-cracker’s outside and skin mask before going to the control room. He looked at the list of background music and decided against putting Black Friday on a loop.

*Uncle Xu is right. We’re in the service industry; we should put our customer first.* He moved the cursor to lower the volume and added Wedding Dress to the playlist. *Listening to the same music again and again will bore the visitors.*

...

The boards above their heads were sealed. The five visitors stood in the dim corridor looking at the half-opened classroom doors as shuffling noises drifted into their ears.

“This place is huge.” Pei Hu nudged backwards to stand beside Meili.

“Isn’t that a given? How else was he going to hide so many nametags? The boss isn’t dumb.” The slenderest man among them, Wang Wenlong, took the first step. “Let’s get moving. Five of us should be able to find all twenty-four nametags. After we win the 4,000, we shall go for hot pot and karaoke.”

“Since we’re already here, let’s finish this. My little brother is right.” Wang Hailong took large strides. When he passed the first classroom door, he stopped. This sudden movement spooked the others.

“Hailong, what have you seen?” Dou Menglu whispered.

“Look at yourselves! What is there to be afraid of?” He kicked the classroom door open, and the nametag that sat on the doorframe fell to the ground. “This is easy!”

He picked up the nametag, and a girl’s name was written on it—Chen Yalin.

“This nametag was placed at such a conspicuous location. It’s probably to help us recognize the shape and size of the nametags.” Wang Wenlong took the nametag and gave it a look. “Every nametag should have a student’s name then. The edges are yellowed; this looks old and wouldn’t be easy to replicate.”

“What has that got to do with us? We’ve been in here less than ten seconds, and we’ve already found one. As long as we’re not afraid, finding the remaining twenty-three should be easy.” Wang Hailong took the nametag back and continued moving forward. The easy success also relaxed the remaining members.

Wind made the blank test papers that littered Mu Yang High School flutter. None of them realized that even though all of them were wearing shoes, there were fuzzy bare footprints that appeared on the papers. The temperature lowered, and in the darkened corridor, a creepy children’s lullaby began to play. It sounded like crying and laughing all rolled into one.

The atmosphere turned weird, and there seemed to be something hiding inside the classrooms on both sides. It was as if pairs of eyes were looking at them in the dark.

“There’s nothing to be afraid of, but how come I feel weirdly unsettled?”

The five separated to find the nametags faster. Xia Meili and Wang Wenlong went into the classroom on the left-hand side to search while the rest searched the ones on the right. They searched a few rooms but came up with nothing.

“This boss is smarter than we gave him credit. Let’s move forward, we cannot waste any more time.” Wang Hailong walked at the forefront. When he passed the sealed classroom, he halted.

“What’s wrong, Brother Long? Did you discover another nametag?” Pei Hu turned his head in the direction Wang Hailong was looking. He only took a glance, and a chill surged through his body. There was someone standing by the classroom window, and he appeared to be smiling.

The scariest part was, behind him, there were twenty more mannequins who were sitting or standing in the classroom!

Their bodies did not move, but their necks were twisted in weird angles, and all of them were turning to smile at the visitors outside the window!

### **Chapter 133: Nightmare Difficulty**

The blanched Pei Hu staggered back a few steps before he stabilized himself.

“Are you alright? What happened?” Wang Wenlong and Xia Meili behind them rushed over immediately.

“Don’t mind him. It’s nothing.” Wang Hailong’s legs were shaking, and his face was slightly twitching, but he forced himself to appear calm. “It’s just a bunch of mannequins.”

Even though they were mentally prepared, the other three still got quite a shock when they looked into the classroom. The sudden appearance of twenty or so mannequins was scary enough, but to have them all looking in the same direction, with some of their necks twisted 180 degrees? Who would be able to prepare for a sight like that?

“I was wondering why the previous classrooms weren’t scary. It was to prepare for this ‘surprise’.” Wang Wenlong was probably the most collected of them all. He turned on his phone to use the flashlight.

“Wenlong, the boss said to not use the phone inside the scenario,” Xia Meili warned.

“What he doesn’t know won’t hurt him.” As Wang Wenlong directed the flashlight into the sealed classroom, the light reflected on the mannequins’ shiny bodies. “Should be all mannequins. None of them blinked when the light hit their eyes. Wait! I saw nametags; there are two of them!”

“Where?”

“Hanging on the mannequin’s uniform!” Wang Wenlong pointed his flashlight, and everyone turned to look. The mannequin in the middle of the classroom had a nametag hanging on its uniform’s lapel while the other nametag was on the innermost table. To obtain these two nametags, one had to move through the rows of mannequins.

"This boss sure is immoral!"

"Thankfully, all five of us came in. If we followed his rules and came in to find the nametags alone, of course, that person would be scared witless."

"Fine, time to stop praising others and lowering our own morale." Wang Hailong walked back and forth several times until his legs did not feel that numb anymore. "There's still time. There should be more than two nametags inside this classroom. We not only have to go in, but we also need to search the place carefully to find all of the nametags!"

"Brother Long, please think about it! There's no reason to put our lives on the line for 4,000!" Pei Hu still had not recovered from the scare earlier, and his brain was still a muddled mess.

"Is it as serious as you're making it out to be? Stop talking nonsense, come here!" Wang Hailong dragged Pei Hu to the entrance of the sealed classroom.

"Why do I need to enter first?" Pei Hu showcased his survival instinct.

"I'm afraid that you'll leave us behind if I don't watch over you!" Wang Hailong shoved Pei Hu into the room and turned around to tell Dou Menglu and Xia Meili. "The three of us guys will go in first. If anything happens, come in to get us."

"Okay, be careful."

"It'll be fine. Didn't Wenlong say it just now? They're all mannequins." Wang Hailong and Wenlong also entered the classroom. The three of them stood at the lectern and looked over the classroom. Goosebumps instantly formed on their skin.

"This is just wonderful. The mannequins have taken up all the space; there's not even room for us to move."

"Pei Hu, since you're so scared, you go and take the nametag in the middle of the room. Wenlong, you check the drawers, and I'll go and grab the furthest nametag." Wang Hailong acted like a real big brother. Even though Pei Hu did not feel that satisfied, there was nothing he could do about it.

Before getting down from the lectern, Pei Hu jumped back again. "Brother Long, these mannequins look weird; their eyes seem to move!"

"Would it kill you to be a little bit quiet?" Wang Hailong was also made anxious by Pei Hu.

"This is called the Uncanny Valley effect. Things that are too similar to humans will naturally elicit a negative reaction," Wang Wenlong explained, but he did not seem to buy his own explanation.

"Both of you be quiet! The boss has already started the countdown, and we need to find all the nametags in twenty minutes to win. Stop wasting time." Wang Hailong forced himself to walk toward the innermost table.

"Brother Long, don't be angry." Pei Hu moved toward the middle table with some hesitation. Due to his large size, when he got down from the lectern, his stomach knocked into a nearby standing mannequin, causing it to move.



"The person who designed this Haunted House must have experienced some kind of trauma to be able come up with something as sick as this..." Pei Hu grumbled, but before he finished, he suddenly felt someone knock into his back. "Wenlong?"

He turned to look, and Wang Wenlong was several meters away from him.

"Who touched me?" He looked around before his gaze fell on the mannequin that was still trembling. The mannequin was very lifelike. If one did not take a closer look, one would be prone to believe it was a real person. "This mannequin touched me?"

Pei Hu shivered. He did not dare stay to find out and hurried to the centermost table. It was a girl who sat at the table. Her uniform was different from the others' and was drenched in blood like something horrible had happened to her at the last moment of her life.

Pei Hu stared at the nametag on the lapel and took a deep breath before reaching for it. When his fingertip was about to touch the girl's neck, the head that was turned toward the window suddenly moved.

"F\*ck me!" Pei Hu instantly pulled his hand back like he had been shocked by electricity.

"It really moved? Could this be a real person?" He looked around. Wang Hailong was still moving toward the innermost table, and Wang Wenlong was near him. His friends were close, and this gave Pei Hu some degree of courage. He reached out once more and finally grabbed the nametag.

"I did it." Even though it was not anything impressive, Pei Hu felt incredibly happy. However, when he was about to retract his hand, he realized that someone had strung a piece of string around the nametag, and the string was tied to a noose around the girl's neck.

"F\*ck! Is this really necessary?" He felt like cleaving the boss in two then. He gripped the nametag and moved around the mannequin. The classroom was dark, so he needed light to undo the knot. He took out his phone for light and bent down to get close to the girl.

When the phone's light hit the girl's face, the mannequin's expression shifted, but Pei Hu did not notice that. Holding the phone in his hand, he stood behind the girl and had his head lowered to focus on the knot.

However, as he was fully focused, he heard Wang Wenlong suddenly take a deep breath and whisper, "This is weird, how come I feel like this mannequin has been following me?"

"You're probably overthinking it." Pei Hu, who found progress with his objective, laughed. He wanted to turn back to continue undoing the knot when he suddenly realized that the girl sitting before him had turned her head around, and the two faces, one living and one inanimate, were only half a finger away from each other.

### **Chapter 134: Brother Long Cried!**

The young face was covered with purplish bruises. She had a pair of dancing eyes and thin lips. She looked gorgeous when she smiled. This was the first time Pei Hu had been in such close contact with a girl. Looking at the head that had twisted 180 degrees, his mind was blank.

“What is happening? I wasn’t rejected, and I didn’t give up from fear; these two things should bring me more happiness. It should be a dream-like happiness waiting for me... but why? Why did everything change?”

The head that sat on the mannequin’s shoulders at impossible angle blinked lightly, and the clear skin turned black and blue as if from asphyxiation. Looking at the protruding set of eyes, Pei Hu’s entire person was shocked beyond belief.

“Help!” A shrill male voice echoed throughout Mu Yang High School as Pei Hu gripped the nametag and ran out of the classroom. The nametag was tied to the mannequin’s neck, so the mannequin was dragged along with him. The tables in the room were messed up, and all the mannequins started to move. Pei Hu dashed toward the entrance like his life depended on it. The huge commotion startled Wang Wenlong, who thought the mannequin was following him, and without a second word, he headed for the door as well!

They neared the classroom door, one running at the front, the other at the back. Poor Wang Hailong was still moving toward the innermost table. The whole room of mannequins was toppled, heads flying everywhere and limbs collapsing; it felt like they had all come to life!

“F\*ck! What’s happening!” Brother Long, who cowered in the corner of the classroom, felt like he had entered hell; this scene was one that he would not forget for life!

“Wait for me!” He grabbed the nametag that was left on the table and half-crawled his way through the maze of mannequins. Before he got out, he heard Pei Hu scream, “Don’t follow me! Don’t follow me!”

Pei Hu had forgotten that the nametag in his hand was tied to the mannequin’s neck. In his panic, he had dragged the mannequin along with him to the door.

“Stop chasing me!” He felt like something was collapsed onto his back. When he exited the classroom, without a second thought, he slammed the door shut behind him!

“F\*ck! Wait for me!” Brother Long’s face was twisted in anger. Unable to stop the momentum of his full speed sprint, he rammed into the door!

He collapsed onto the floor, and the mannequin heads rolled around on the floor. He realized a roomful of eyes was staring at him. Various mannequin faces flickered before Wang Hailong’s eyes. He felt the energy draining out of him; his body was frozen solid, and there were tears in his eyes.

“Pei Hu, you damnable f\*cker...”

Outside the sealed classroom, Pei Hu and Wang Wenlong were leaning against the wall, gasping for air.

“That was hella scary. This classroom is definitely cursed!”

“The mannequin moved! She winked at me!”

“Pei Hu, behind you! Look behind you!” the two girls screamed together. Pei Hu turned around and saw that the girl mannequin was hanging on his back. He shivered from fear and hurriedly extricated himself from the mannequin before tossing it down the corridor.

The mannequin slammed against the floor, and the beautiful head detached itself from the body. The face with a curious smile rolled before it stopped at the corner of the corridor.

"It was this mannequin that smiled at me earlier. I didn't think it would follow me," Pei Hu groused weakly. "How about we just surrender now? This Haunted House is too much. No wonder the boss is offering a 20,000 reward, no one will be able to win!"

"You want to give up after four minutes? Have you no shame?" Wang Wenlong complained. "The classroom should be the hardest scenario. We have found the nametags inside, so the rest should be easy."

"If you want to stay, go ahead. I'm leaving."

"Wait." Dou Menglu looked into the classroom before asking, "There are only the two of you—where is Brother Long?"

"Brother Long?" Pei Hu and Wang Wenlong looked around, and their faces dropped. "He... he should be still inside."

The two of them opened the classroom door quickly. Brother Long was collapsed next to the lectern, and there were tear stains on his cheeks.

"Brother Long! Why are you still inside?"

His lips were slightly purple. When he heard this question, Brother Long almost blew his top off. "You two still have the face to ask me that question? I also want to know why I was left in here! Quick, come and pull me up!"

After a few attempts, Wang Hailong finally found his footing. He cracked his knuckles to work some warmth into them.

"Brother Long, should we just give up? We'll just sit at the entrance for another twenty minutes then we'll leave. That way, it'll seem like we stayed for twenty minutes," Wang Wenlong whispered.

"Your mind is only filled with horrible ideas like that." Wang Hailong rubbed his eyes surreptitiously. "That would mean that we have surrendered to this Haunted House. Remember, there are no actual ghosts in this world; everything is a trick created by the boss. He's probably looking at us through the surveillance camera now."

"Brother Long is right. If we go and sit at the entrance and the boss suddenly opens the wooden boards, can you imagine how embarrassing that will be?" Xia Meili stood with Brother Long.

"But even now, we don't know how big this place is. If we run into something scarier later on, what shall we do?" Pei Hu was on the verge of tears. "We have not seen a single actor, but we're already so spooked. I still think we should not be so stubborn and put ourselves through this misery for the sake of face."

"Stop talking nonsense. I still haven't decided what I am going to do with the both of you for abandoning me inside the classroom, and now you're trying to go against my orders?" Wang Hailong glared at the two of them. "Look at the two of you, even worse than the two girls."

"But it wasn't the two of us that cried earlier..." Wang Wenlong grumbled softly.

Wang Hailong pretended not to hear him and said, "We have to pick ourselves back up. I believe we have around ten minutes left. Let's get moving—we still have a chance to find all the nametags."

Then, he opened his palm to reveal a nametag. "This is the one I found inside the classroom. Combined with the one Pei Hu found and the first one, we already have three nametags."

"Make it four. I found this inside one of the drawers." Wang Wenlong showed his discovery.

"Good, even though the process was tumultuous, the result was good." Wang Hailong put all the nametags into this pocket. "Actually, if you think about it, there is nothing scary about a bunch of surprisingly lifelike mannequins. The key is we must not scare ourselves, especially you, Pei Hu. Man up a bit."

"But I really did see the mannequin wink. Her face also changed like she was dying from asphyxiation!" Pei Hu grumbled with dissatisfaction.

"That's enough out of you. If you're that scared, go stand behind Meili and keep your mouth shut." Wang Hailong waved impatiently as he walked deeper into Mu Yang High School.

"But it's true." Pei Hu trailed behind the group as they proceeded forward. None of them realized that the mannequin that had been left in the corridor was slowly crawling toward the detached head.

### **Chapter 135: Bottom of the Well**

When Chen Ge heard the scream coming out from Mu Yang High School, he opened the boards and rushed into it. It was first day that Mu Yang High School had been open to the public, and Chen Ge was afraid that mannequins might take it too far.

*Chen Yalin's nametag by the entrance has been taken already... weren't these people afraid it might be a trap? Hopefully, that nametag won't pressure the Pen Spirit to do anything dumb.*

Chen Ge walked down the corridor until he reached the sealed classroom. The mannequin on the floor was hugging its head. It seemed like it was trying to reattach the head, but it could not find the proper location.

*Why is this mannequin outside?* Chen Ge looked into the classroom. The tables were a mess, and several mannequins were missing their heads. *Based on the conditions, they probably had the fright of their lives, so they wouldn't be daring enough to bring this mannequin out.*

Chen Ge picked the mannequin up from the floor and leaned her against the wall. Then he helped her reattach the head. He looked at the mannequin in her eyes. Perhaps it was the light, but he felt like there was soul in this mannequin; in fact, he could sense a trace of shyness and respect.

After taking out his black phone, Chen Ge looked through all the pages. There was no option related to controlling the mannequins' lingering spirit, so he told the mannequin, "You can leave the classroom, but you cannot leave the Mu Yang High School scenario, understood?"

The mannequin did not respond, but Chen Ge did not care whether she got it or not. He placed her on the side of the corridor and entered the sealed classroom to reset all the mannequins.

*There are four nametags in the classroom, and they have taken three of them; this group of people is not bad.* Chen Ge moved swiftly, and when he passed the table in the middle of room, his feet knocked into something. *Why is there a phone here?*

...

"Did any of you hear the sound of talking coming from behind us?" Pei Hu's legs were shaking, and he turned back to look every three steps. Even Xia Meili was tired of the man's cowardice.

"Poor kitty, if you're that afraid, just stay here and wait for us to come back."

"Who are you calling a kitty? Meili, you did not see what happened inside the classroom. The place was dark, and I had to use the flashlight on my phone to even get a good look of what was happening. When I was focused on undoing the knot, the mannequin's head suddenly creaked and turned around!" Even thinking about it now, Pei Hu was still afraid. He waved his hands in the air for a long time, and when he reached into his pocket, he gasped. "F\*ck! I was too focused on grabbing the nametag that I left my phone in the classroom!"

"Then, go and take it back, why are you telling me this?" Xia Meili gave Pei Hu a side-eye.

"You want me to go back alone?" Pei Hu glanced behind him with a bitter expression on his face. The darkened corridor was like the open maw of a monster. "So be it, I'll ask the Haunted House worker to get it for me after we're out."

He ran after the rest of the group, and the five stopped at the first junction.

"Just how big is this place? The path splits, and we can't even see the end of the corridors!" Pei Hu squeezed beside Wang Hailong. "Brother Long, there's still time for us to turn around!"

"Get away from me." Wang Hailong was getting nervous, too, but he did not dare show it before Dou Menglu. "About a third of the time has passed, and we still have twenty nametags to find. Moving in a group of five slows us down greatly. How about this? Wenlong and Pei Hu, you go down the left path, and I'll take Menglu and Meili down the right. What do you think?"

"We have no issue with that," the two girls said.

"Same with me," Wang Wenlong said with confidence. "This time, even though we failed the challenge, we would have explored the entire scenario; it'll be good information for our brother."

"Then it's decided. The two of you'd better stick close to me." Wang Hailong led the two girls down the corridor that led to the girls' dormitory.

"F\*ck! No one even asked for my opinion?"

"Come on, Pei Hu, you're with me." Wang Wenlong departed, and even though Pei Hu did not want to follow, it would be worse if he was left behind all alone.

"There doesn't seem to be anything scary here."

Wang Wenlong and Pei Hu reached the end of the path. The two looked at each other and saw the surprise reflected in each other's eyes. The corridor split in two again!

At the narrow end of one path was an old well, and the other led to a room with the number 303 hung on the door.

"Let's go together." Pei Hu grabbed Wang Wenlong's arm tightly.

"Okay." Wang Wenlong looked into the distance. "Why do you think there's a well at the end of the road?"

"An actor playing a ghost probably hides in there."

"Most likely. The Haunted House's boss likes to hide the nametags in scary places, so I believe there has to be at least one inside the well." Wang Wenlong was certain. "Come on, let's go take a look."

The two of them walked to the well and peered in. The well was about two meters deep. Wang Wenlong took out his phone to shine the light into the well. As he expected, two nametags sat at the bottom of the well.

"This is too easy." Pei Hu took a step back. Jumping into the well to take the nametags was definitely not something he would do.

"Be careful. We didn't come across any scares along the way, so this well must have its own traps and secrets." Wang Wenlong leaned against the well and shone the flashlight at every corner, but he did not find anything weird looking. It really did look like a normal, old well.

"Have I overestimated the boss?" Wang Wenlong let his guard down. After all, there were so many nametags; to set a trap for each of them would be too difficult.

He passed the phone to Pei Hu. "You stay above the well and hold the light for me. I'll go into the well to collect the nametags."

"Okay." Pei Hu sighed in relief. As long as he did not have to go down the well, he was good with anything. After all, with his size, it would be difficult for him to even get down the well.

Wang Wenlong's frame was small but fit; it looked like he trained daily. "Pei Hu, if you dare run away on your own when I'm down there, I'll skin you alive after we leave this Haunted House."

"What kind of person do you think I am? Do you think I would do something like that?" Pei Hu looked insulted. "You guys keep underestimating me. I'll prove myself, and you'll see."

Before he finished, Wang Wenlong jumped into the well.

The dark well looked deeper from the inside. This observation was the most obvious to Wang Wenlong. "Is it me or had this well gotten deeper?"

He had a soft landing because the bottom of the well was covered with sand. "Looks like I was right. The Haunted House's boss planned for people to jump inside the well or else he wouldn't have placed the layer of soft sand to soften the impact."

He examined the well wall. Some places were slippery while other spots had claw marks like someone had been buried alive and left the marks behind as they tried to claw their way out.

"This is quite creepy." Wang Wenlong looked above him and suddenly it felt like the mouth of well had moved further away from him.

### **Chapter 136: What Happened to Our Friendship?**

"Something's wrong!" Standing inside the well, a weird feeling came over Wang Wenlong. It felt like he had sunk into the deep ocean and his body was slowly submerging. His chest felt congested. He did not dare dawdle. He bent down to pick up the nametags.

When his fingers brushed the bottom of the well as he picked up the nametags, Wang Wenlong discovered there was something underneath the sand. It was about the size of a thumb.

"Is this some kind of trap?" Wang Wenlong was cautious. He did not touch the thing that protruded out of the sand but moved the sand around the thing away.

"What is hiding underneath here?" His fingers had made contact, and the touch was different from the slippery sensation of sand. It was something softer and colder. As the sand fell away, a human face surfaced, and the thing that had protruded earlier was the tip of face's nose.

"F\*ck!" Wang Wenlong quickly pulled his hands back. He had looked around closely before he jumped in and did not find anything weird. "The boss sure is immoral. He hid this underneath the sand!"

If he knew there was a 'body' hiding underneath the sand, Wang Wenlong would not have jumped into the well, at least not alone. He panicked and tossed the two nametags out of the well, yelling, "Pei Hu, pull me up quickly! There is mannequin inside the well as well!"

"Mannequin inside the well?" Pei Hu shone the phone into the well, and the face within the sand looked up at him. He shivered and reached into the well. "This is weird, when you jumped in, the well did not seem so deep."

Wang Wenlong gripped Pei Hu's arms, and his feet climbed up the clawed wall. Just as he was trying to pull himself up, he felt something cold touch his ankle. His legs gave, and he fell back into the well.

"Wenlong, what's wrong?"

"Something touched me earlier." Wang Wenlong looked at his ankle, but there was nothing there.

"Could it have been a lizard or tiny bug?"

"No clue." Wang Wenlong looked around him and realized that even without his intervention, the sand around the 'body' would slip away on its own. Soon, half of the mannequin's upper torso was revealed—it felt like the mannequin was trying to sit up.

"It knows how to move on its own? This can't be an actor! It would have made some noise when I fell on it earlier if it was a real person." Wang Wenlong's mind started to get muddled. "Pei Hu, quickly pull me up!"

Outside the well, Pei Hu heard his voice and quickly reached down. "Grab onto my hand!"

This time, Pei Hu acted courageously. With one hand on the flashlight, he extended his other arm into the well. The thick arm looked weirdly comforting.

"Okay!" His teammate's voice made Wang Wenlong feel much better. He grabbed Pei Hu's hand and started his climb out of the well. He leaned against the wall and tried to jump out in one go. When his body had almost reached the mouth of the well, his legs that were in the air were gripped tightly by something!

"F\*ck me!" He was pulled back into the well. Wang Wenlong turned to look behind him with disbelief, and the scene that he saw caused chills to run all over his body. The face in the sand was looking at him with its eyes open!

"It was the mannequin who dragged me down?" Wang Wenlong looked at the mannequin in the sand, and for some reason, he felt the eyes were following him.

"This is too much." His body leaning against the wall, Wang Wenlong looked above him. The light at the mouth of the well seemed to have moved further away from him. "I can't stay here any longer! Pei Hu!"

"Will you please be quiet? I feel like someone is coming our way." Pei Hu reached both of chubby hands into the well to hold Wang Wenlong. "Let's give this another go."

Pei Hu pulled with all his might, but some other accident seemed to have happened to Wang Wenlong.

This time, he was cautious. When he discovered the force on his ankle, he turned to look down. There was nothing on his ankle, but under the spot that he had been standing on earlier, a female 'body' had surfaced.

"There are two mannequins inside the well? Meaning I've been standing on the woman's head?" A chilling feeling surged through his heart. "Are there more mannequins inside the well? The person who designed the Haunted House must be mad! Buried the mannequins inside the well and waited for people to jump into it..."

Gripping Pei Hu's hands, he wiggled his legs in the air, trying to kick the force on his ankle away.

"Stop moving about! I cannot hold on any longer!" Pei Hu pulled again, and his face was red from the effort. He put one of his hands on the edge of the well as support, and while he gave another pull, the bad feeling increased.

Pei Hu kept looking around, and when his eyes swept the corridor that they came from, his heart froze. A girl with her head lowered stood at junction that separated the dark corridor. The uniform that was dark with blood amplified the fairness of her skin.

"That's the mannequin that I carried out of the classroom!" Even the air that he breathed into his lungs was chilly, and his arms were shaking. "Didn't she lose her head? Was it the worker who fixed it for her and placed her in the corridor? It has to be—a mannequin wouldn't be able to move on her own!"

"Pull! Quick! The mannequins have opened their eyes!" Wang Wenlong yelled from inside the well. It sounded like the man was crying.



At the same time, the mannequin at the junction lifted her head creakily, and the face that was purplish with blood spots turned to look in the direction of the old well.

“There is probably some hidden mechanism installed inside the neck. That explains the movement of the head.” Pei Hu sucked in a deep breath and turned back to the well. “I mustn’t be distracted; no matter what, I have to save Wenlong first!”

He tried to focus, but his eyes kept wondering toward the corridor, and when he did, Pei Hu’s heart almost jumped out of its chest. The girl who was supposed to be standing at the junction had moved into the left corridor!

She stood in the middle of the corridor and was looking at him with a smile. Pei Hu’s breathing raced, his palms sweated, and the fat on his body started to jiggle.

“What are you doing spacing out?” His calves felt like they were entwined by seaweed. Wang Wenlong tried his best, but he could not shake the shackles on his ankles off. He panicked when he saw the man and woman mannequins inside the well open their eyes. His only wish then was to get out of that damnable well. “Pull me up!”

Pei Hu yanked Wang Wenlong up another few centimeters. A cold draft came from the corridor, and a light creak entered Pei Hu’s ear. He turned to look out of the corner of his eyes.

In the dark corridor, the mannequin had toppled over, and the head with the weird smile was rolling speedily toward the old well like it was being pushed by an invisible hand!

The face of the girl who had died from asphyxiation slowly approached. Pei Hu’s face was twisted beyond recognition by fear. This time, he heeded the sound of his heart. He let go of Wang Wenlong’s hands without hesitation and rushed into Room 303 with a speed that was disproportional to his size. He then slammed the door shut behind him.

Without the support, Wang Wenlong slipped down the well, and as the surface that was inches away disappeared from his grasp, an expression of abject fear froze on his face!

### **Chapter 137: Pair of Eyes**

**” Pei Hu! ”**

Chen Ge was fixing the heads onto the mannequins in the sealed classroom when he suddenly heard a man’s scream coming down from the far end of corridor. The scream was a mixture of complicated emotions.

*That doesn’t sound like the scream of fear. It is mixed with surprise, anger, and terror.* Chen Ge fixed the last mannequin and exited the classroom. *This batch of visitors sure is energetic.*

...

Pei Hu, who had rushed into Room 303, had his back against the door, and his forehead was covered in cold sweat.

"Damn, Wenlong is still inside the well!" Pei Hu's palms were slick with sweat, and he looked at Wenlong's phone in his grasp. "I've even taken his phone away. The well is so dark, and there seems to be mannequins buried underneath."

Pei Hu did not dare continue that thought. He looked around the room. Room 303 had retained its original look; there was a bunch of dirty laundry sitting in the middle of the room, but the stench was missing.

"Why would they leave a pile of clothes in the middle of the room? This place gives me the creeps. To be safe, I'll just stand by the door," he mumbled to himself when someone knocked on the door behind him. However, curiously enough, the source of knocking came from the spot that was around his feet.

"People normally wouldn't knock at that spot, so this definitely isn't Wenlong." The only thing that could walk outside the corridor... other than Wang Wenlong, there was only one other option left. Pei Hu's face fell, and he stared at bottom of the door, which was creating the knocking sound. "It's the head! The mannequin head is knocking on the door!"

The thought caused Pei Hu's legs to go weak. He wanted to lock the door and realized with horror that the lock was merely a decoration. A slight push, and the door would be opened.

"There should be a window inside this room, right? But what if the mannequin head enters the room after I leave the door?" Pei Hu scratched his chin in thought, but it would not work if he just stood there, blocking the door throughout the night either. The knocking continued, and each knock resounded in Pei Hu's head. "I need to figure out a way to get out of here."

Pei Hu started to look around the room and then walked over the pile of dirty laundry. After an examination of the room, he came up with nothing. "It's a thick cement wall outside the window; there's no exit. Will I have to stay here until the game ends?" Pei Hu stood in the middle of the room. "How did a visit to the Haunted House turn into something like this? The winking mannequin, buried bodies in the well, and a detached head that chases people around. Is the boss a magician? How did he manage all this?"

Before Pei Hu could get an answer, there was a loud bang on the door.

"The force has suddenly increased? Is it the mannequin? Has she found her head?" The thought of it chilled Pei Hu. He looked around, and in the urgency of the moment, he hid inside the bedroom.

"Why doesn't this bedroom even have a door?" He regretted it after entering the room, but everything was already too late. The only hiding place inside the bedroom was under the bed. He shone the phone underneath the bed, and after seeing that there was not anything weird, he crawled into it.

*Please just leave me be!* He snuck under the bed, pocketed the phone, and focused his pair of eyes at the room door. The darkened room was very quiet, and the smallest sound was amplified. A few seconds later, the living room door was pushed open. After a tense silence, a very light sound reverberated through the living room.

*Sounds like something is rolling on the floor...* The thought flashed through Pei Hu's mind, and one second later, his legs froze, and a chill travelled from the balls of his feet to the top of his head. *I seemed to have forgotten one thing!*

The rolling sound neared, and when Pei Hu turned his head toward the door, a detached mannequin head that was smiling rolled to a stop at the bedroom door!

Two pairs of eyes looked at each other, and time seemed to stop.

...

Wang Hailong led Xia Meili and Dou Menglu to the female dormitory. Even though Brother Long had cried earlier, before his girlfriend, he had to act tough and calm. He walked ahead of the girls. They looked into the bedrooms before stopping at the one with the Pen Spirit.

"This room looks different." A few chairs were placed in the middle of the room, and there was a piece of white paper that had something written on it. Brother Long picked up the piece of paper and read it out loud. "The Pen Spirit knows the location of three nametags."

"No wonder this feels so familiar; it's the Pen Spirit game." Dou Menglu wandered closer out of curiosity. "I've seen this in the movies many times, but I didn't expect to run into one in real life."

"It's all fake, just a gimmick." Wang Hailong tossed the paper back onto the chair. "But we mustn't miss out on three nametags. Do either of you know the rules?"

"I do." Dou Menglu sat on one of the chairs and had Wang Hailong sit beside her. "Just follow my lead."

"Could you two be a bit more careful? Playing a game like this inside a Haunted House might attract some unwanted spirit." Xia Meili stood at the door. Looking at the banter between Dou Menglu and Wang Hailong, she was feeling rather uncomfortable.

"If a Pen Spirit really appears, that would be awesome. I want to ask whether I'll be Brother Long's future wife." Dou Menglu grinned as she picked up the pen that was glued together with clear tape and held it in the middle.

"Ask away." Wang Hailong did not seem to mind. Ignoring the fact that Xia Meili was there, he grabbed Dou Menglu's hand directly. Xia Meili pouted, and she turned to walk away. "You two have fun; I'll go take a look around."

"Don't wander too far, Meili."

"She knows how to take care of herself. Now, listen to me, Brother Long, there are several taboos to the Pen Spirit game. One, you mustn't ask about death; two, you cannot stop the game abruptly..."

When Xia Meili exited the room, even the air felt fresher. *That room stinks of sour sweetness; I hope the Pen Spirit teaches them a lesson.*

She walked to the end of the corridor, and the place became even creepier. Xia Meili was about to turn back when she heard Wang Wenlong's scream coming from the other end of the corridor.

*What happened? Based on the scream, Wenlong doesn't sound scared but more like he's angry.* Xia Meili retraced her steps, but this time, she entered the other corridor.

*Where are they? There's another split in the road? Which way should I go?* Xia Meili stopped at the junction between the old well and the few rooms from Hai Ming Apartments. She hesitated. *Pei Hu has lost his phone, so I should call Wenlong to ask for an explanation.*

The phone's ringtone came out from one of Hai Ming Apartments' rooms, but no one answered it.

*They're inside one of these rooms?* The ringtone sounded weirdly creepy in the Haunted House. Xia Meili ended the call and walked toward the three doors.

### **Chapter 138: It's Hiding Here**

"Wenlong? Pei Hu?" Xia Meili called out twice at the door, but there was not even an echo inside the Haunted House; it felt like the sound was swallowed by some monster hiding in the dark.

*What happened to the two of them?* She did not want to return to the lovey-dovey Wang Hailong and Dou Menglu, but she wanted to explore the place alone even less. *Don't tell me something happened to them? But that scream from Wenlong does not sound like he was in danger.*

Xia Meili stood at the doors for some time before finally pushing the door closest to her open.

*304? Why is there a number on the door? What is the meaning?* Xia Meili peered inside. It was different from she expected; the room was very clean.

*Why do I feel so worried even though the place is so clean?* She stood at the door and called her friends' names twice. The more she called, the more worried she became. *Where could these two large men have wandered off to?*

She took out her phone to shine some light around, but the light only made her surroundings look darker, and there appeared to be something moving in the corridor behind her.

*It's too dangerous standing outside. I'd better go in first.* Xia Meili entered room 304 and closed the door behind her. *This room looks very normal, like a typical rental room, but the more normal it seems, the higher the chance there's something scary. The Haunted House's boss would not build a set like this just for decoration.*

She was cautious and braver than most girls. With her body against the wall, she looked around the room before taking the first small step. Xia Meili finished examining the room after a few minutes and found nothing weird.

*There's nothing scary in the living room, so the danger is probably in the other two rooms! Wenlong and Pei Hu probably let their guard down and fell for the trap that was placed in the other rooms.* Xia Meili gripped the phone tightly as she moved to the bedroom.

*The bedroom does not have a door, so there will not be an actor hiding behind it. However, there are still blind spots behind the door frame. I need to be careful.* She moved slowly, but her heart beat ever faster. When she reached the bedroom room, Xia Meili activated the video recorder on her phone and reached the phone into the room and turned it around.

After taking a full video, she examined it on the phone. The video was dark, but it was enough to confirm that there was no one hiding in the bedroom.

*There's no one in the bedroom? Ah, I almost forgot! I haven't checked the area under the bed.* She retreated back to the living room, selected a specific angle, squatted down, and aimed the flashlight on her phone at the space underneath the bed.

*There's really nothing. Looks like I've watched a few too many scary movies.* Xia Meili relaxed slightly. *If I was the designer, of course, I would not waste this precious spot that is under the bed. I would put some trap on it to make a mannequin jump out when someone sits on the bed.*

Then Xia Meili wandered into the bedroom. There really were no traps or tricks. There was, however, a light scent of detergent.

*Even the table cloth has the scent of detergent to it; looks like the tenant has a strong obsession with cleanliness.* After exiting the bedroom, Xia Meili turned to look at the last available room. *The toilet is also a prime location, but this toilet is small and has no cubicle. There's not even a place for a person to hide.*

Xia Meili treated the visit to the Haunted House as some sort of survival game. She was very careful and took deliberate steps. This type of visitor was horrid for Haunted House proprietors because they would come up with all kinds of solutions to undo the traps set up by the Haunted House. When the traps were exposed beforehand, the scary effect would greatly dwindle.

The layout of Hai Ming Apartments' toilets was interesting to say the least. The mirror was facing the toilet door, so whether the resident was passing the toilet or entering it, their attention would be pulled to the mirror. It was the same for Xia Meili. Looking at her reflection in the mirror, she felt uneasy. *Is this the environment or a trick of the eyes? How come I feel like the person inside the mirror is not me?*

She stood at the door and shone her phone on the mirror. *It reflects light, so it is an actual mirror, not an actor standing behind it to scare people.*

She held the wall as she entered the toilet. The space inside was small, and soon, she found herself standing before the mirror.

*Either there is no a trap to this room or the people hiding inside this place left after they scared Wenlong and Pei Hu.* Xia Meili reached out to touch the mirror, and her tensed feelings relaxed. *It's just a fake scare. This is all Pei Hu's fault; I've been infected by his cowardice.*

She looked at herself in the mirror, and upon closer inspection, it looked much more normal. *This is just a regular Haunted House; we have been scaring ourselves for naught. Since Wenlong and Pei Hu aren't in this room, they should be in one of the other two rooms.*

Xia Meili tried calling Wang Wenlong again. *The sound seems to be coming from next door.*

She leaned to her side to listen, and right then, a drop of water fell from the ceiling and landed on the edge of the sink. Xia Meili's focus was fully zeroed in on determining the source of the ringtone, so she did not wonder why water was leaking from the ceiling.

*It's definitely coming from next door—Room 303.*

Another droplet of water fell from the ceiling. This time, it fell on the tip of Xia Meili's shoes. Before she could react, the third drop fell on her nose, and it slid down her face. Finally, Xia Meili noticed it. *This Haunted House is leaking?*

She frowned and turned her head up. In the partition above her head lay a woman who was completely drenched. Her face that was twisted from pain looked at Xia Meili quietly. A head of black hair fell down her face, and it would soon reach Xia Meili's eyes!

*No wonder I could not find anything... it was hiding up there.*

Something more viscous than water fell on Xia Meili's face. She wiped at it and realized it was as red as blood. Her body weakened, and Xia Meili collapsed to the floor with a thud.

...

Chen Ge exited the sealed classroom. *Where is the mannequin that I left out here?*

The girl mannequin had disappeared, and Chen Ge rushed toward the entrance. He remembered the warning on the black phone. Once the spirits left the Haunted House, they might go berserk.

Chen Ge examined the wooden boards at the entrance, and they were unmoved. He sighed in relief. *It's almost time to get them out already.*

He did not even grab the iron mallet and entered the scenario with just a bloodied shirt. He was halfway down the corridor when he heard an ear-splitting female scream coming from the direction of the female dormitory!

*That sounds like it came from the Pen Spirit's room, but the Pen Spirit doesn't seem aggressive enough to have caused something like this.*

Chen Ge increased his pace and soon saw a woman in hot pants who had lost her heels running his way at full speed.

### **Chapter 139: I'm Inside the Fourth Cubicle**

Her hair was a frazzled mess, and her delicate features were twisted from fear. Her face was blanched, and one of her heels was missing. The sexiness and softness that she had displayed before entering the Haunted House had completely disappeared.

"Dou Menglu?" When Chen Ge saw Dou Menglu, this racing woman also saw Chen Ge. However, unlike Chen Ge's calm attitude, she started to scream shrilly like she had seen a ghost and turned back to run away.

Standing where he was, Chen Ge touched his own face. *Is it because of the mask?*

The two consecutive scares had exploded the latent potential within Dou Menglu. Her slender legs carried her away like the wind, and she disappeared from Chen Ge's view in the blink of an eye.

*What has gotten into her?* Chen Ge pulled off the mask and walked deeper into the scenario. *But why is she alone? Were the others separated?*

When he reached the first junction, Chen Ge still had not found Dou Menglu. *So be it, I'll go to the Pen Spirit's room first or else I'll have another vomit case on my hands.*

He was about to move when the phone in his pocket rang, and the ringtone travelled far down the corridor.

...

Inside the fourth cubicle of the bathroom, Dou Menglu had given up on maintaining her image. She was lying on the floor, her eyes looking out through the bottom opening of the door.

*He didn't chase after me. Good, good.*

Her chest rose and fell unevenly. Dou Menglu leaned against the wall, and there were still tears in her eyes. The images from the Pen Spirit game appeared in her mind. The game had begun smoothly, but when she asked who would be Wang Hailong's future wife, a scene like it had come out of a nightmare appeared.

*What was with that hanging girl? That couldn't have been an actual person, but it did not look like 3D imaging either.* The more she thought about it, the more afraid she became. She hid alone in the cramped toilet cubicle and fear gripped at her heart like a pair of invisible hands.

*I have to contact the others; we'll need to group up to save Brother Long.* Rubbing tears dry, Dou Menglu called Wang Wenlong's number. It rang for a long time, but there was no answer. *What happened? Did something happen to him and Pei Hu as well?*

After hanging up, Dou Menglu called Xia Meili. There was still no answer, and this made Dou Menglu feel even more helpless. She retreated deeper into the corner. *Have they all fallen victim to the Haunted House? But there are five of us!*

With shaking fingers, Dou Menglu did not give up, and with the last bit of hope, she called Pei Hu.

*Pick up, fatty! Didn't you say you like me? Why are you leaving me to die on my own?* Due to extreme anxiety, green veins bulged on Dou Menglu's snow white skin, and she looked quite harrowing at that moment.

Three seconds passed, and Dou Menglu's heart sank. *What happened to all of you?*

Five seconds passed, and she gripped her fists tightly as if holding the last bit of hope in her palms.

Ten seconds passed, and Dou Menglu felt like crying.

However, at the thirteenth second, the phone was suddenly answered!

"F\*ck! Fatty, why did you wait for so long before answering my call?" Dou Menglu was on the verge of tears. Like a drowning victim finding an emergency raft, she had seen that bit of hope just as despair was about to swallow her whole.

"Why aren't you talking? Brother Long fainted from the scare, and I'm currently hiding in the fourth cubicle in the bathroom, quickly come save me!" After thinking a moment, Dou Menglu warned, "I saw a bloody monster wandering the corridors earlier, so you have to be careful when you come here!"

In her urgency, she blurted out everything. However, she waited for a long time, and there was still no response.

“Pei Hu? Are you there?” Dou Menglu gripped the phone with both her hands and placed it beside her ear. “You are scaring me. If you can hear me, please say something.”

After several seconds, there was finally a response from the other end, but it was not Pei Hu’s voice. It was a completely unfamiliar, gravelly voice that said, “Okay, I will find you now...”

The phone slid from her fingers. When she heard the voice, Dou Menglu was stunned, and her heart skipped a beat.

*Who did I call?*

*Who answered the phone?*

*Who is coming?*

She looked at the phone on the floor, but she did not dare touch it, treating it like it was some kind of cursed object.

*I’d better leave before he arrives!* Dou Menglu burst through the door and rushed out of the cubicle, abandoning her phone. As she staggered toward the bathroom room, Chen Ge entered the bathroom in the bloodied outfit.

Dou Menglu screamed and tripped onto the floor. She crawled back into the bathroom. “Go away! Go away!”

“Don’t be afraid, I’m just...” Before Chen Ge could say anything, Dou Menglu had climbed up from the floor, rushed into the nearest cubicle, and used her body to block the door.

Chen Ge did not have the time to stop her, but when he saw that Dou Menglu had entered the fifth cubicle, he immediately rushed toward her. “Hey, that cubicle is off-limits!”

Dou Menglu, who was on the verge of mental breakdown, did not even have time to recover when she opened her eyes to see the pairs of eyes looking at her. The impactful sight caused goose bumps to rise all over her skin, and she lost the ability to talk.

*It wasn’t like this earlier...*

Dou Menglu fell backwards. Chen Ge quickly rushed forward to grab her by the shoulders and slammed the door of the fifth cubicle shut. “Are you alright? Didn’t I warn you not to use cell phone inside the Haunted House?”

Chen Ge slid the phone on the floor into Dou Menglu’s pocket, but Dou Menglu used her last bit of strength to toss the phone out. “Take it away from me. I’ll never use that phone again.”

“Don’t be crazy. Go rest by the door. I’ll go find your friends.” Chen Ge dragged Dou Menglu to the bathroom entrance. “By the way, you people sure are courageous to split up and wander off on your own.”



After consoling Dou Menglu, Chen Ge ran to the female dormitory. Wang Hailong was collapsed on the chair with tears in his eyes. He looked like he was going to faint at any given moment.

*The main power of the Pen Spirit is fortune-telling. She's weak when it comes to other aspects, so it looks like this big bloke is another paper tiger.*

Chen Ge picked up the ball pen, and when he saw that the pen wasn't injured, he placed the pen back and dragged Wang Hailong away.

*This is exactly the shock I want to see on the first day the new scenario is open for visitation.*

Chen Ge reunited Wang Hailong and Dou Menglu. Then Chen Ge entered the other corridor and looked in every room.

After rescuing the unconscious Xia Meili from the toilet of Room 304, Chen Ge pushed the female mannequin back into the ceiling partition. Then, Chen Ge dragged Pei Hu out from underneath the bed in Room 303.

To his surprise, this cowardly fatty had the best mental state of the group of them. When Chen Ge arrived, he was in the middle of a staring contest with the mannequin head by the door. According to the man, before Chen Ge arrived, he had been exchanging gazes with the head for about ten minutes already.

With Pei Hu leading the way, Chen Ge arrived at the last scary stop. He stood beside Pei Hu at the edge of the well and peered into it.

#### **Chapter 140: The Different Levels of Scary Scenarios**

Wang Wenlong sat in the old well with his fists punching the air before him. It looked like he was in the middle of a boxing match.

"Stand here and don't move. I'll go and pull him out," Chen Ge told Pei Hu. Wang Wenlong heard him and stopped moving. Like a traumatized victim, he lifted his head upwards dumbly. When his pair of lifeless eyes caught Pei Hu, they started to focus.

His body shaking with anger, Wang Wenlong seemed to escape from the thing that had taken hold of him earlier, and he yelled at Pei Hu, "You f\*cker! You dare come back to face me?"

"Listen to me. It was a dangerous situation. If I didn't run, we both would have been in danger."

"You lie!"

"It's true! I used myself as bait to lure the scariest threat away! If you don't believe me, ask the boss!"

Pei Hu felt wronged. Being targeted by a mannequin head and frozen under the bed for ten minutes, those who had not experienced that before had no idea how scary it was.

"Keep your voices low. You can continue the argument outside." Seeing how spirited Wang Wenlong was, Chen Ge sighed in relief. "Come, give me your hand."

Wang Wenlong stopped shouting when he saw Chen Ge. "I can't. My lower body is numb."

"Numb?" Chen Ge jumped into the well, and with Pei Hu's cooperation, they hauled Wang Wenlong out. After saving the guy, Chen Ge did not hurry to leave. He had inspected the well when he placed the nametags that morning. Other than the two mannequins, there was nothing particularly scary about.

Outside the well, Wang Wenlong and Pei Hu had started the argument anew. Chen Ge squatted down to examine the mannequins' faces. The male mannequin's eyes were open, which was different from that morning.

*The mannequins buried inside the well should represent Fan Yu's parents. If they are baleful specters, it would not be so easy to deal with. Thankfully, they are just lingering spirits.* Chen Ge was reminded of what had happened to Fei Youliang. His body had been taken over by the Pen Spirit, who wanted to escape, but he had been stopped by the twenty or so spirits in the sealed classroom.

The spirits had entered his body and controlled him to walk to the deep well. They had seemed prepared to punish the Pen Spirit but stopped at the last moment.

*The mistake lay with the Pen Spirit. The other spirits dragged her to the well to punish her, did they plan to throw her inside the well?*

Chen Ge looked at Fan Yu's parents, who were buried in the sand, and his suspicion was confirmed. The old well seemed to be some sort of prison for evil lingering spirits.

*Now that I think about it. The lingering spirits in the sealed classroom have quite a strong sense of justice.*

All the spirits had been orphans when they were alive. They had been adopted by the old headmaster, and they treated Mu Yang High School as their home. Now that Chen Ge's black phone had reconstructed Mu Yang High School inside the Haunted House, these lingering spirits probably just wanted to have a stable and peaceful life here.

*As long as you do not do anything out of line, my Haunted House will be your new home.*

Chen Ge looked at the mannequins buried in the sand and jumped out of the well. When he turned back to look inside the well, the eyes of the two mannequins were closed again.

"Come, it's time to walk you out." Chen Ge helped Wang Wenlong get up from the floor. The fear in his eyes had not dissipated. The only reason he could appear so spirited earlier was because his anger at seeing Pei Hu had suppressed all the other emotions.

After wasting a ton of energy, Chen Ge finally managed to drag these five people out of Mu Yang High School. When the curtains to the Haunted House opened, the surrounding visitors all took a cold gasp. They had heard the incessant screaming coming from inside the Haunted House, but they had never envisioned things being so bad.

"What have these people experienced?"

"It was only half an hour..."

Uncle Xu, who was serious in his role as the ticket seller, felt everyone's eyes focusing behind him. He had a bad feeling, and when he turned around, his hair stood on end.

"Damn! What happened to them?" Uncle Xu abandoned his post and ran over to help Wang Hailong and Xia Meili.

"Just a little scare, it's nothing serious." Chen Ge released his grasp on Wang Wenlong's arm. "Can you walk on your own?"

When they heard Chen Ge, the visitors all took a step back.

"He could not even walk, and you say that's a little scare?"

"Are you trying to lie to us?"

Wang Wenlong was embarrassed with the crowd watching him. He waddled forward two steps like a baby learning how to walk.

"Wenlong, Pei Hu!" A large fella in a tank top pushed through the crowd. He had the tattoo of a wolf's head on his shoulder. He rushed over to support Wang Wenlong. "What happened to all of you? I heard your screams from outside."

Chen Ge glanced at the man; he was the group's sixth member. According to their plan, now was the time for the man to challenge the Haunted House alone.

"Were we that loud?" Wang Wenlong prayed for a hole for him to hide in as he brushed the man's hands off him. Since Wang Wenlong did not seem like he wanted to explain, he turned to Chen Ge, "What have you done to my brother?"

"Brother?" Chen Ge thought the man's tone was a bit weird, but he did not take it to heart. He took one step forward to face the crowd. "I told all of you before they entered that the scenarios are separated into levels! Only by passing the earlier scenarios will you be able to stomach the fear levels of the later scenarios, but they refused to listen to me and insisted on trying it. You can see the result of that for yourselves."

Standing before the Haunted House, Chen Ge ignored the muscular man, and his expression turned serious. "When I suggested to delineate the scenarios into levels, many suspected I was trying to cheat you out of your money, but that is really not the case. I simply want to protect my customers because the newly opened two-star scenario is not suitable for everyone. Its scare factor is much higher than other Haunted Houses available on the market!"

Chen Ge gripped the gate of the Haunted House. "Western Jiujiang's Haunted House has been in operation for several years already, and from the beginning until now, our rating has never dipped under 90 percent, and that is because we put our customers first. As long as you are willing to try, we will give you the scariest time you'll experience in your life!

"But have you considered this? Everyone's fear threshold is different. We strive for the ultimate scare, but for those who haven't visited a Haunted House before, certain scenarios might be a bit too much. Thus, after much consideration, we decided to set the rules to split the scenarios into levels."

The new rules had to be accepted by the visitors, and what Chen Ge was doing then was introducing the rules to the visitors and making them accept the rules. On one hand, he used reward money to make people want to challenge the hard scenario; on the other hand, he made use of Wang Hailong's group as a lesson to warn future visitors of the consequence from not following the rules.

"If you want to win the reward, then you have to follow the Haunted House's rules. Start with the low-level scenarios before you challenge the scarier ones."

Once this rule was put into place, all of the scenarios inside the Haunted House would be put to good use. And most importantly, as long as he could unlock more scenarios with higher Scream Factors, the level of attraction it would have for a certain type of visitors would increase, and this would lay the foundation for the scary theme park.