

## Horrors 261

### Chapter 261: The Map Is Wrong?

“Okay, don’t worry.” Gu Feiyu did not understand why Chen Ge wanted to block off the exit if he was just going to scare people. He grumbled internally, *Is this to give the visitors a sense of despair?*

After sending Chen Ge off, the honest Xiao Gu closed the wooden boards and hauled the props to cover it up.

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The group of visitors chose the left path, and they walked for some time until they reached another junction. “This is the second junction. The road on the left leads to a deep well, and the end of the right corridor is three empty rooms.”

Yang Chen looked at his notebook. It had a detailed explanation of all the scenarios. To be able to record everything so clearly, it showed how deep the despair his seniors had experienced was, such that they could still remember everything so clearly after they returned to school.

“The three rooms have their own number, and in the ceiling of the one of the rooms’ bathroom is a female body. According to the record, there’s a nametag inside her pocket.”

Listening to Yang Chen’s description, Lee Xue and Wang Dan frowned. Just the sound of it made them refuse to go forward.

“Leave this nametag to us.” Kong Xiangming, who had been silent, suddenly spoke. Wei Wu wanted to say something but was stopped by Kong Xiangming with a look.

“Okay, shall we wait outside the room for you? According to the notebook, when the visitors are inside the room, there might be mannequin dolls that come to interrupt.”

“There’s no need. Didn’t you say we’re running low on time? You can go on to the other path. We’ll meet up later.” Kong Xiangming left right away. Wei Wu followed behind him, and the two did not share a word as they walked away.

“Ol’ Yang, let us go.” Wang Dan pointed down the other corridor. He whispered, “It’s good that we’re splitting up; this means we don’t need to worry about them.”

Even though the notebook said not to split up, this was a unique situation. The two visitors were most likely actors. Yang Chen nodded. The three of them jogged to the deep well. As recorded in the notebook, there were two nametags inside the well.

“Two nametags. The seniors are right; this well is very dangerous.” Lee Xue took out a ball of string from her purse and then removed the hair clip she was wearing to tie to the end of the string. “Thankfully, we came prepared.”

“The boss wouldn’t expect this as well.” This was the first time the students had felt happy inside the Haunted House; it was as if they had just scored a psychological victory. Lee Xue dropped the makeshift

fishing line into the well and very easily hooked one of the nametags. She pulled it up slowly, and when the nametag left the well, the three sighed in relief like they had just won the Super Bowl.

“Well done!” When Lee Xue dropped the fishing line into the well again, she realized that the well seemed to have gotten deeper. She tried several times before finally hooking the other nametag, but when she tried to pull it up, something scary happened.

The sand parted to reveal a dead person’s face. Half of the nametag was exposed out of the sand while the other half was in the dead person’s mouth.

“F\*ck me!”

“What the hell?”

The three students gasped. For the first time, they felt how malicious the adult world could be.

“Xiao Xue, try to yank harder. See if you can pull the nametag out.”

The girl pulled on the string. The sand moved, and the dead body started to surface.

She tried this several times until the string snapped. The nametag was still at the bottom of the well, and the girl’s hair clip now rested next to the mannequin’s lips.

“No, this won’t work. The boss is not even giving us a chance!” Lee Xue looked at her hair clip, and she felt the sting of regret.

“You two stay here, I’ll go grab the hair clip and the nametag.” Wang Dan put his hands on the wall of the well. “It’s just a mannequin that looks like a dead body, right? We’ve seen real dead bodies.”

“But have you seen one that can move?” Chen Yang stopped Wang Dan. “This well has been marked by the seniors as extremely dangerous. It’s just one nametag. Without this, we can still clear the scenario by searching for other nametags. Don’t be blinded by the small benefit before us.”

“You’re right.” Wang Dan was a rash person, but he was not dumb. “Should we ask the two actors to go down the well for us?”

“If they’re real actors, they won’t go down the well; if they’re normal visitors, that’s not a moral thing to do,” Lee Xue argued.

“We still have time. We haven’t seen the couple on our way here, so they probably went to the other side; we should go meet up with them first.” Yang Chen looked at the map. “There’s a connecting passageway next to the deep well. The scenario on the other side will be the female dorm.”

Yang Chen followed the map, but the female dorm did not appear. Instead, there was another junction.

“The map is wrong?”

Yang Chen turned the map around to look. “How can there be a new route here? Have we triggered a hidden scenario? Is this some new trick by Boss Chen?”

The three students looked at one another. The map that they had been relying on now lost its purpose.

“No wonder there are so few nametags in the previous scenarios, looks like part of the nametags have been moved into this hidden scenario.” Yang Chen tore out a page from the notebook and drew some lines on it. “Come on, let’s go take a look. Even if we cannot clear it today, at least we can complete the map for our friends.”

The three students thus became the first batch of visitors who entered Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy. After turning the corner, the architectural style of the building changed. There were no longer charred marks on the walls, but the place looked more realistic.

“Oh Yang, do you smell something bad?” Wang Dan stopped at the entrance with his hands over his nose. “It’s a very weird smell like something gone bad.”

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Kong Xiangming stood outside the Room of Three scenario silently.

“Why did we purposely avoid the three students to come here?” Wei Wu was confused.

“Look at this place, doesn’t it look like Hai Ming Apartments?” Kong Xiangming pulled the door open. The place reminded him a lot of Hai Ming Apartments.

“You’re right, how can things be so coincidental?” Wei Wu was surprised. “We just went to Hai Ming Apartments several days ago to capture that runner, and today we see the building replicated here.”

“He would have needed time to build something this scale. Looks like the boss discovered the secret at Hai Ming Apartments a long time ago,” Kong Xiangming speculated. “I believe he might have seen the person that escaped from behind the door.”

### **Chapter 262: The Hanging Man [2 in 1]**

“I can understand why the chairperson is targeting him. The man has probably gone into the door before and might even have a ‘door’ of his own.” Kong Xiangming kept his voice very low, afraid that a third person might overhear him.

“It does not matter—so what if he has gone behind the door? Ultimately, there is only one of him.” Wei Wu did not sound that confident when he said so; it sounded more like he was trying to convince himself. “Since this mission is so important, the chairperson wouldn’t have sent only the two of us. The other members from the society are probably also here already.”

“Don’t put your hopes on others. What if the chairperson’s plan is to sacrifice the two of us to scout out the way for everyone else?” Kong Xiangming closed the door. “The society’s members can change at any moment, but the number will never change. Each number corresponds to a monster behind the door. Owning this number means you have a cohesive relationship with the monster that it corresponds to. Therefore, in the chairperson’s eyes, the real thing of import is the monsters living in us and not ourselves.”

He narrowed his eyes and suddenly brought up something that was not relevant. “The rules of the ghost stories society forbid us from exposing our own identity and investigating others. The two rules are to

protect our personal safety since the members of the society either are crazed maniacs or butchers with bloody hands. However, have you considered the opposite implication?”

“What is it? What is the opposite implication?”

“Not interacting with the other members means that we will never find out who the chairperson is.” Kong Xiangming’s thoughts went deep. “Everyone knows that the chairperson is hiding among the ten people at the dining table, but none of us know who the chairperson is. I now have my suspicion that the chairperson might be a monster behind the door, and we are nothing but vessels to contain monsters.”

“Why are you telling me all this?” Wei Wu tried to distance himself from Kong Xiangming. “No one has ever betrayed the ghost stories society, and that is the scariest point. Do you understand what I mean?”

Kong Xiangming shrugged. “You joined the society in the same batch as me, so I can be sure you’re not the chairperson. That is why I actively approached you during our last mission together and revealed my real identity. You’re the only person I can trust inside the society.”

Wei Wu had a feeling there were other things that Kong Xiangming did not tell him. He wanted no part of this, but he had already been roped in.

“All the monsters are escapees from behind the door. Therefore, it is a certainty that the chairperson has a door of his own!” Kong Xiangming’s voice stopped as a thin smile appeared on his face. “Owning the door means owning the right to create the rules. Don’t you want to be the chairperson?”

“You really have lost your mind.”

“I have not. I simply have no other ghost stories left to share. If the rules aren’t changed, the next time we meet, I might be the food served on your plate, turning from diner into dinner.” Kong Xiangming’s words were like cold water hitting Wei Wu’s face. The ghost stories society was not a place for charity. Even the members were afraid of the power of the society.

“Tell me your plan.”

“If this was before, I wouldn’t have done something so risky, but I found a chance recently. The chairperson has been having more constant interaction and communication with us. He is in deep waters, and that is where his weakness is exposed.”

“What weakness?”

“The chairperson communicates with us through the monsters that are possessing our bodies, but the monsters can only communicate when they are within fifty meters of one another. We have tested this out ourselves before.” Kong Xiangming came to the key point of his speech. “In other words, the chairperson was within fifty meters of us when he communicated with us.”

“You’re right.”

“During the meeting, I’ve always sat close to No. 10. Whenever I’m next to him, the monster in my body will reveal a strange emotion. It is akin to a desire. I can sense its desire; it wants to consume No. 10.”

“But that doesn’t mean that No. 10 is the chairperson. The monsters in all ten of us are different from one another.”

“I know, but the point is several seconds before my monster received the message from the chairperson, it also responded with this strange desire.” Kong Xiangming’s voice slowly changed. “When the message was sent, both No. 10 and the chairperson were around the vicinity of my house. Is this not the perfect proof of their relationship?”

“Could this be a coincidence?”

“The society chairperson should be the one who sent us the flyer. He is also the only one who knows the real identity of all the members. For both times when communication was made, No. 10 and the chairperson appeared around my house; I don’t think there is such a coincidence in this world.”

Kong Xiangming finished his speculation, and Wei Wu gone completely silent. The mysterious chairperson was like a sharp sword hanging over all the members’ necks.

“No. 10 is the chairperson? Then how do you plan to cooperate with me?” Wei Wu walked alongside Kong Xiangming. Since they had the same target, they formed a temporarily truce. If there was no shared benefit, the two would be at each other’s throats because they knew the other person’s real identity.

“The chairperson wants us to target the boss of this Haunted House. This means that the boss is not an easy character. We must let them fight it out among themselves, and we’ll find the opportunity.” Kong Xiangming entered the bathroom and removed the female body from the ceiling. He pulled out a nametag from her pocket. “We’re here as visitors, so just be careful not to let the boss think otherwise.”

The two left the room with the nametag. One or two minutes later, there was a sound in the room. It sounded like something rolling on the floor.

A mannequin’s head had rolled out from underneath the bed.

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The three medical students congregated together. Without the map, they finally understood the ‘joy’ of visiting a Haunted House.

“Lee Xue, wait for us!” The girl with a babyface walked in front all alone. The two male students followed behind her, leaning so close to each other that it would have been easier if they were holding hands.

“When we were outside, every one of you boasted more than the other, but without the guide from our seniors, how come you are so weak?” Lee Xue turned around to look at her partners and sighed. “Are you two even men?”

“What does this have to do with gender?” Even though Wang Dan was hiding at the very back, his attitude had not changed. “This is called being careful. Can’t you see that we’re just trying to watch your back?”

“Ha ha.”

Yang Chen was blushing from embarrassment. "I'm not afraid, but this place is too similar to my high school. The set earlier looked fake at first glance, but this place gives me the feeling that I've returned to my high school."

"What is so scary about returning to your high school?" Lee Xue did not quite understand.

"If the set is obviously different from reality, I can convince myself that everything is fake, but this set is so similar to the high school from my memory that no matter how hard I tell myself, I cannot help getting immersed into the atmosphere." Yang Zhen was still holding the notebook and a pen. He was drawing out the map with shaking fingers.

Most of Western Jiujiang's Private Academy had been cut out due to certain reasons, so the space that it occupied was not big. The three students soon reached the end of the corridor, and before them sat a very common glass door.

"Wait a minute!" Yang Chen stopped Lee Xue, who was trying to open the door. He leaned against the door and looked through the dusty mirror. "This looks like one of the floors of a dormitory. There is even a number on the door."

"Could this be the female dorm that was supposed to be on the map?" Lee Xue urged Yang Chen to open the map to do a comparison and realized that the location was much too different.

"Should be a hidden scenario," Yang Chen said as if that was the answer, "When I first got the map, I was wondering why there was only a female dorm and not a male dorm. Now it looks like the male dorm has been made into a hidden scenario. But I'm curious, how did we manage to trigger the hidden scenario? We didn't do anything out of the ordinary, did we?"

"The boss probably felt too afraid because we were clearing the map too fast." Wang Dan laughed cockily as he joined Yang Chen at the door. "This looks similar to our school dorm. Let's go in and take a look."

Although he said that, his body did not move. Eventually, it was Lee Xue who pushed the door open. The rusted lock fell to the ground, and as the glass door slipped open, a strange smell permeated from within.

"Why does this smell like body decay?"

"Should we even go in?"

"To be honest, since we're here and discovered the hidden scenario, we've already broken the seniors' record." Wang Dan raised his hand. "I suggest we leave while we can."

"It's not a guarantee that we'll be able to trigger the hidden scenario next time. Since we're already here, why don't we enter the place? Are you really going to leave just like that?"

Yang Chen and Lee Xue grabbed Wang Dan as they entered the corridor.

There were half open room doors on either side of the dark corridor. It was unclear which room the horrible stench came from.

“This place is so unnecessarily creepy.” Wang Dan’s voice became low as if being too loud might awaken the monsters that were slumbering there.

“We still have time. We mustn’t give up on any of the rooms. This place must be hiding plenty of nametags.” Yang Chen accompanied Lee Xue as they walked in front. Wang Dan followed unwillingly at the back. He was deeply unsettled, but he did not have the courage to leave on his own, so he could only power on with everyone else.

“Don’t be such a scaredy cat. The scary scenes are probably at the back, so the front few rooms should be perfectly safe.” Yang Chen tried to use his own experience to console Wang Dan. “Which Haunted House will put the scariest scenario at the beginning of the scenario?”

As he said so, he pushed open the door to the first bedroom on the left side of the corridor. Dust fell from the wooden door frame like a curtain. It appeared like it had been many months since someone visited the place. As the door creaked open, Yang Chen walked into it. However, he only took one small step before he stopped. His upper body was leaning forward, but his lower body was frozen to the ground.

“Ol’ Yang? What’s wrong with you?” The door fell fully open, and Lee Xue as well as Wang Dan behind him took in a cold breath. There was someone hanging in the middle of the room.

“A mannequin?” Yang Chen was the first one to recover. He rubbed his hands on his clothes to wipe away the cold sweat that had formed in the middle of his palms.

“Don’t go in first.” Wang Dan pointed at the mannequin’s feet. “It doesn’t look like a real hanging. Look at the feet, they’re still standing on the ground. I suspect this is a Haunted House actor.”

“I don’t think so.” Lee Xue was the most courageous of the party. She walked into the room directly. “The rope is pulled taut. Maintaining this pose for a long time, even while standing, will heavily stress one’s neck.”

She walked to the other end of the room carefully. The hanging mannequin was wearing a dark black coat and had its head lowered, so the face could not be seen clearly. Lee Xue reached out slowly until the tip of her finger touched the ‘dead body’s’ skin.

“It’s not human skin. Come in, it’s safe.” There was an audible sigh of relief. All three of them had been given quite a shock.

“What is the meaning of hanging a mannequin in the middle of the room? And even purposely letting it stand on the ground?” Wang Dan touched the dead body’s hand. He was a forensic science student, so he understood the difference between fake skin and real human skin. The fake skin felt colder and harder to the touch.

“Don’t touch anything randomly. This dead body might be the answer to a puzzle that we haven’t discovered yet.” Lee Xue’s hands lightly pulled on the dead body’s chin, slowly raising its head. When they saw the dead body’s face, the three medical students started to get bothered.

*It looks too real!*

Because they had seen actual dead bodies before, the fear that gripped them at that moment was far greater than if this had happened to a normal individual.

“The rope stressed the front of the neck, causing the tongue to be squeezed upward, blocking the back of the throat and the windpipe. The cause of death is probably asphyxiation.”

After Lee Xue said that, she herself was stunned. She did not expect that the first time she would use her professional knowledge that she had picked up in class would be inside a Haunted House.

“Look closer at the mannequin’s face. There are irregular blood spots. This is different from a normal asphyxiation.” Yang Chen walked around the mannequin. “The neck snapped, causing a lack of blood flow to the brain. The real cause of death should be brain anemia.”

“Guys, does it really matter how the mannequin died? We should focus on leaving this place!” Wang Dan urged. “Don’t you two feel afraid? A dead mannequin in the Haunted House not only has the looks of an actual real body but perfectly mimics its cause of death!”

“The Haunted House’s boss also knows forensic science?” Lee Xue turned to look at Yang Chen standing beside her.

Yang Chen did not look so good. “An amateur wouldn’t be able replicate the unique properties of a dead body so perfectly... unless he had a real dead body as a model.”

There was an image that appeared in the minds of the three students. None of them said anything, and they very uniformly left the bedroom.

“We have gone deep enough into the Haunted House—how about we leave now?”

“Let’s look at a few more rooms first. By the way, did you spot any nametags in the room earlier?” Yang Chen asked, and both Lee Xue as well as Wang Dan shook their heads.

“Didn’t pay much attention.”

“Oh well, let’s go look in the other room, then we’ll return to this room last.”

The three students discussed their tactics outside of the door. None of them realized that the standing body that was facing their backs inside the bedroom slowly opened its eyes.

There was another junction at the front of the corridor. The deeper they went, the stronger the stench in the air.

Dirty stains started to appear on the floor tiles and walls. The three students reached the end of the corridor at one go. The few rooms at the end of the corridor were all locked.

“The stench seems to flow out from this place.” Lee Xue walked in front, so it was her who pushed open the door to the deepest room.

There were four beds in this room, but only one of the beds had a mattress on it. The other three beds were piled high with various rubbish.

“That’s it? I thought something very scary would be hiding in this room. Hell, the first bedroom is a lot scarier than this.”

“We’re running out of time; focus on locating the nametags. Wang Dan, stop spacing out, come in and help!”

Yang Chen and Lee Xue entered the room, and only Wang Dan was left in the long, dark corridor. Something seemed to be jumping down the corridor!

“Ol’ Yang, come out quickly! I seemed to hear the footsteps of a fourth person.”

### **Chapter 263: The Stench**

Yang Chen and Lee Xue ran out in a hurry. The three of them stood in the corridor and looked down. They saw nothing but darkness.

“Where are the footsteps?”

“I really did hear them! It sounded like someone was jumping down the corridor!”

“You’re just scaring yourself, come help us.”

Lee Xue dragged Wang Dan into the last room while Yang Chen stood outside for a moment. He repeated the thing that Wang Dan mumbled about earlier. “Jumping?”

The three ransacked the last bedroom. Most of the trash on the bed was made from foam and wooden blocks. It looked dirty and messy, but none of it would produce any weird smell.

“Was this room purposely left open to store trash?” Lee Xue used the sleeve of her shirt to block her nose. “But why does that bed have a mattress on it? Who would sleep in an environment that is as dirty as this?”

“Now our consideration shouldn’t be the occupant of this room.” Yang Chen picked up one piece of trash from the bed and gave it a good sniff. “When we entered this secret scenario, there was a weird stench in the air, and the stench is the most intense in this room. This means that the thing that gives out that stench should be here. We need to find that thing to solve the mystery of this scenario.”

“Ol’ Yang has a point. There is so much trash inside the room, but none of that is radiating this stench. It’s very weird.” Wang Dan walked to the only bed with a mattress. “This relatively clean bed has the strongest smell.”

He put his hand on one of the corners of the mattress before yanking it back. There was nothing scary underneath the torn mattress except a notebook. Wang Dan picked it up and gave it a read.

“I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have gotten too close; I just wanted to help you pick up the ball.

“Teacher, it wasn’t my plan to dirty my shirt. No one bullied me, this is all my fault.

“Father, I will do my best to be a better person. Please don’t hit me anymore.

“I’m sorry, I don’t know why I look so ugly when I smile. I will stop doing that.

“Where did you think I went wrong? I can change, I really can change!

“I just want to be like them, I’m sorry...”

The notebook was thin, but it was filled with apologies.

“Is something wrong with the writer? Why is he only focused on apologizing? He should fight back if someone bullied him!” Wang Dan scoffed. He was very much against what the owner of the notebook did or rather did not do.

“Come take a look at this.” Lee Xue found a torn picture inside the dustbin. She picked up all the pieces, and after joining them together, a picture could roughly be seen. “Looks like a father and son.”

The son was dangerously obese, and his lack of self-esteem could be seen even through the picture. He seemed to be afraid of the camera, so he hid behind his father. His father had a scowl on his face. He was rough with his child. He had one hand around his boy’s neck as he dragged him forward.

“Is this a stepfather?”

Wang Dan flipped open the notebook for the other two to read. The front few pages were fine, but the more they read, the more uncomfortable they felt.

The boy did not have a name; the students all called him Piggy. His father was one of the sponsors of Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy. He came from a rich family, but his father was extremely strict with him. The notebook did not explain why explicitly, but it could be read from between the lines. The boy’s mother had betrayed his father, and the father had moved that resentment onto the son.

The boy desired his father’s love, but no matter what he did, no matter how obedient he was, the only reaction he got was violence and lecturing. He led a very careful life, and only when he was ingesting food would he feel a sense of satisfaction. Food thus became the way for him to release stress. This led to the consequence where the boy’s weight had gone beyond the accepted standard even when he was a child.

Seeing the boy’s ugly exterior, the father did not feel a shred of worry but felt a rush in taking revenge. The boy, who did not know better, forced himself to eat even more to see the smile on his father’s face. After he grew up, both his physique and heart were ill.

At school, the boy retreated into himself, which was perfect because no one wanted to sit with him anyway. When he was at home, whenever he was not careful, he would be greeted by his father’s punches and kicks. Slowly but surely, the boy’s heart started to twist. The things that others saw as beautiful were ugly in his eyes—the things that others could not wait to escape from, he saw as treasure.

The boy would often be caught doing stupid things like stealing the leftovers from the canteen and grabbing stuff from dumpster. His father would beat him up every time he did so, but the boy could not stop himself anymore. His worldview had completely changed.

After this repeated several times, there was one instance where the father was too heavy on his beatings, and the boy had to be sent to the hospital, which alerted the police. With pressure and advice from law enforcement, the father finally agreed to send the boy to the school dorm.

The father was a sponsor at the school, so the school was willing to specially open a room for the boy to live in. After moving into the dorm, the boy had to interact with other students. The amount of times he apologized to others drastically increased, and his illness turned several.

Not long after that, the boys in the rooms near him started to smell a stench. The school followed the trail and forced open the single room that the boy was assigned to. When the door was open, they were shocked. The originally clean bedroom was filled with assortments of trash. However, the dirty, smelly trash became the best decoration in the boy's eyes.

The school had someone cleaned up the room, punished the boy, and informed his father. The way the father taught his son was the same. It was yet another round of heavy beating. The notebook recorded the punishment that night in close detail. His father left only after midnight.

No matter how hard his life was, life had to go on. After the wounds on his body healed, the wounds on his heart only got deeper. There was again a deep stench in the dorm corridor. The school could not do anything. His father was one of the sponsors, so expelling his son made no sense.

The room was cleaned again and again, but the boy did not change. In the end, the school had to clear away the rooms near to the boy's bedroom and then had someone clean his room every few days.

As days moved into the weeks, the stench seemed to stick to the room, seeping into the floor and walls.

At the time, Western Jiujiang's Private Academy was too busy dealing with the 'accidents' happening at the female dorm, so they did not have time to pay the boy any attention. Even the cleaners stopped coming.

The boy whose heart was twisted kept bring trash to his bedroom, and the stench got thicker.

From this point onwards, the boy's diary started to repeat itself. He kept apologizing to his father, asking him for forgiveness.

#### **Chapter 264: Plastic Wrap**

After finishing the diary, the three medical students each had a different take on the story.

"Helping outsiders to bully his own child, he doesn't deserve to be a father." Lee Xue looked angry. Even though she knew this was probably just a made-up story by the Haunted House, she still immersed herself in it, feeling sorry for the boy.

"The boy is too weak. If it was me, I would have bullied them back twice for what they had done to me!" Wang Dan punched the air.

"I don't think the boy is weak. If anything, I think he's scary." Yang Chen inspected the diary closely. "Did you realize the boy spent the last few months in the diary apologizing to his father?"

"Isn't that the perfect proof of his weakness? Bowing his head to the real culprit."

“The boy used to apologize to everyone daily, but starting from a particular point in time, the diary only recorded his apology toward his father.” Lee Xue also saw the anomaly. “Why would he need to do that?”

“Look at the time.” Yang Chen flipped to the front of the diary. The latter half of the diary was mostly about his apology and penance to his father. “The boy started apologizing to his father after the school called his father on him and after the night his father beat him until midnight.”

Yang Chen held the diary and stood in the middle of the dorm to think.

“The diary wrote it very clearly. The father locked the bedroom from inside and barred anyone from coming close. He even used the bedsheet to tie over the boy’s mouth. So cruel.” Lee Xue pitied this boy from her heart.

“You have to be clear about one thing. The diary is written by the boy, so he’ll only let us see what he wants us to see.” Yang Chen closed the diary. “Almost the entire book is about apology, but think about this—a madman whose worldview has completely twisted, seeing beauty as ugly and vice versa. How could someone like that be filled with penance?”

He sat on the smelly bed and immersed himself into the character of the boy. “The other students hated him, stomping his show of kindness; they thought he was disgusting. His only family saw him as his nemesis. The boy’s life was filled with violence and negativity. Therefore, he could only hide his real self in his heart and use the layer of apology as a shield to protect himself.”

“Oh Yang, what are you trying to say?” Wang Dan and Lee Xue thought Yang Chen’s emotions were slightly off.

“I was a victim of abuse myself, but luckily, I had a strong and clever big brother to look after me.” Yang Chen sat on the bed. “I understand the pain he went through, so I can guess his actual thoughts.”

There was an indescribable emotion in his eyes. Yang Chen picked up the rubbish model from the floor. “The design of this Haunted House is amazing. It’s as if everything is real.”

“Well, tell us! Why are you sighing to yourself?” Wang Dan mimicked Yang Chen to pick up a model of his own, but he could not see what was so different about it.

“The boss has given us the hint since we stepped through the door.” Yang Chen sniffed at the rubbish model. “The rubbish in the room doesn’t give out any smell, but the stench is still in the air.”

“Didn’t we establish that earlier?”

“Then, have you considered why the boy kept hoarding rubbish in his bedroom?” Yang Chen had guessed the truth, but he did not feel a rush from guessing it correctly. If anything, he felt slightly uncomfortable.

“Because the boy is mentally twisted, isn’t the diary the best proof? He has been suffering from this illness since he was young, and his worldview has collapsed, seeing ugly things as beautiful.”

“Wrong. Actually, the answer is really simple.” Yang Chen toyed with the rubbish. “The rubbish in real life will be smelly.”

“Real life?”

“The boy wanted to use the smell of rubbish to cover the actual thing that is creating the stench! That’s why he kept bringing the rubbish home!” Standing up, Yang Chen looked around the room. “What kind of thing will create a stench? A stench that mustn’t be discovered by others.”

Wang Dan and Lee Xue looked at each other. They were forensic science students, and a phrase appeared in their minds. “The stench of decaying body!”

“Starting from that night onward, the diary turned to a devoted apology to his father. I wondered what he has done to his father that he needed to apologize for endlessly.” Yang Chen already had the answer in his heart. He stood before the only locked dresser in the room and reached out to grab the lock.

The lock was heavily rusted, but it was only a prop inside the Haunted House. He pulled slightly, and it fell away.

The door fell open, and the stench hit them like a wave!

There was a dead body standing in the middle of the dresser wrapped in plastic wrap!

His face was twisted, and his eyes were bulging. The man had a horrible death. The three students stopped before the dresser, looking at the body inside the plastic wrap. None of them spoke. The fear and horror knitted around their hearts, making it difficult for them to even breathe.

“This should be the answer. The day the boy started collecting the rubbish in his room, the plan was already forming.” Ever since that night, the boy kept apologizing in his diary. It lasted for ten full pages before it stopped. It was hard to imagine how he managed to spend so long in a room with a dead body.

“The saddest thing is he wasn’t discovered for so long. Even after shoving the real culprit inside the dresser, the boy’s life didn’t change. No one cared about him; no one realized he was even there.”

Yang Chen closed the door and put the lock back on. “To be able to design such a scenario, I’m truly impressed by Boss Chen. His Haunted House is more than just a simple scare.”

“Indeed.” Lee Xue’s hands slowly loosened. Her emotions were still raging.

“Stop lamenting a prop. Twenty minutes should have passed already. Let’s get moving.” Wang Dan thought about the dead body inside the dresser and was unsettled. “The dead body mannequins in his Haunted House look scarier than the real deal.”

“Let’s go.” Yang Chen was the first one to turn. When he reached the door, he suddenly stopped. “Did you notice the stench in the air seemed to get thicker?”

“Is it because we’ve opened the dresser?” Lee Xue followed behind Yang Chen. “Stop reading so much into it. We’ve failed this time, but we can always try again.”

The three of them exited the dorm. When they retraced their steps, they suddenly discovered someone standing in the corridor. The man had his head lowered while facing them. A rope swayed before his neck.

“Isn’t that the hanging mannequin from the first room? Why is it here?”

Wang Dan turned back to look at his partners and realized that both Lee Xue and Yang Chen's eyes were filled with fear.

The stench in the air thickened. Just as the three students were hesitating, the lock on the dresser slowly loosened and fell to the ground.

Creak...

The old dresser door was slowly pushed open from within.

### **Chapter 265: I Give Up!**

The three students were squeezed together. Their focus was on the mannequin in the corridor, so none of them heard the weird noise coming from the room behind them.

"Shall we retreat back into the bedroom?" Yang Chen's suggestion was the most conservative. He had no idea why he was afraid of a mannequin.

"Since we've given up on the visitation, there's no need to keep moving forward," Wang Dan said plainly. "Find a security camera and call for the worker to bring us out."

Lee Xue looked at the mannequin standing in the middle of the corridor and whispered, "When we entered this place, I noticed that this place isn't fitted with any security cameras."

"Xiao Xue, why didn't you tell us about something that important earlier?" Wang Dan managed to keep his cool because he knew, within his heart, when the visitors called for help at the camera, the Haunted House worker would appear to help them. Since they could escape at any time, he had not been worried.

"Because you didn't ask." Lee Xue rolled her eyes. "Don't worry, I believe a professional like Boss Chen will have equipped his Haunted House with enough security cameras. Perhaps he utilized those hidden cameras in this hidden scenario to not ruin the atmosphere."

"Now it's not an issue of atmosphere, okay?" Wang Dan squeezed behind Yang Chen. "The mannequin suddenly appeared in the middle of the corridor; it must have followed us out!"

"It is weird." Yang Chen frowned. The stench intensified, and his heart quivered. "According to the diary, the boy who was abused by his father was quite fat, but the hanging man in the first room is relatively thin."

"Will you stop the analysis at a time like this?" Wang Dan rushed them with a series of grumbles. "Shall all three of us rush forward at once? The mannequin only has two hands; he won't be able to stop all of us."

"Be quiet for a moment." Yang Chen pushed Wang Dan's arm away. "The boy is fat and thus doesn't match the hanging man. This means that there is another theme inside this hidden scenario! This whole scenario should be made up from two separate stories!"

“Two stories? Meaning there’s another monster that hasn’t shown itself?” Lee Xue understood what Yang Chen meant immediately, and she looked behind Yang Chen with fear. When her gaze fell on the bedroom that they had just exited, her eyes widened as color left her face.

“Xiao Xue? What’s wrong with you?”

Lee Xue seemed to have lost her ability to speak. The words stuck in her throat, and she forced them out two seconds later. “Behind you!”

Yang Chen and Wang Dan looked around at the same time. The dead body in plastic wrap was standing at the bedroom door. Its body was heavily twisted like it was trying to struggle free from the plastic wrap. The scariest thing was that there was a ball of smog radiating a thick stench forming behind the body, and it slowly morphed into a ball-like shadow!

“Is this special ef... What is this?” Wang Dan was at the back of the group, so he was closest to the plastic wrapped body. When he turned around, his face was merely inches away from the dead body’s face. Naturally, he did not expect this. Before his head even turned back, his body already carried him forward. When he was about one meter away, he screamed, “Run!”

Yang Chen and Lee Xue were also shocked out of their daze. They chased after Wang Dan. They ran for their lives, but there was more surprise in store for them. Blocking the corridor was the hanging mannequin. It suddenly raised its head to reveal a face that was bloated with purplish spots. It used a speed that was faster than the three students to jump toward them!

“F\*ck me!” Wang Dan, who ran from the back of the group to the front, saw the hanging mannequin that was rushing at them, and his face turned green!

He was stuck between a rock and a hard place. He was afraid, but he did not dare stop. Wang Dan used all the courage he had in his life as he closed his eyes, gritted his teeth, and rammed into the mannequin!

BANG!

The mannequin was knocked into the wall. Wang Dan continued to charge blindly ahead with his hands shielding his face. After he cleared the way, Yang Chen and Lee Xue also successfully ran past the hanging mannequin. However, these two students failed to notice one small detail.

After the mannequin fell, its lips creaked open to form a creepy smile. The rope around its neck slowly slithered toward Lee Xue’s ankle. Just as the rope was about to curl around the girl’s ankle, the mannequin seemed to remember some scary memory and quickly pulled the rope back.

“They’re still chasing after us!”

The three made such a commotion that the other visitors in the scenario could hear them clearly. They finally escaped Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy. Fear, terror, shock, and extreme physical activities, the three medical students felt like they had just come back from a tour of hell.

“I can’t run anymore.” Lee Xue was physically the weakest of the three. Her face was white as she gasped for air, cold sweat trailing down her face.

“Take a break. We... we can afford to take a break.” Yang Chen was also running out of air. He leaned against the entrance to Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy and turned to check up on Wang Dan. When they running for their lives, Yang Chen had clearly seen Yang Chen knock into the mannequin that blocked their way.

“Wang Dan, are you okay?”

The Wang Dan who would never admit defeat even when he was afraid was squatting on the floor. He had his hands over his head. He gritted his teeth to stop the tears from falling.

“Wang Dan! Don’t scare me!”

“Ol’ Yang, I don’t think I can do it anymore.” The feisty young man had tears in his voice. “The mannequin was not hollow. It’s so f\*cking scared. I give up, let’s call the cops.”

“Okay, okay. We’ll stop now. Let’s find the exit.” Yang Chen also had quite a shock of his own. He tried to pull Wang Dan up, but all his attempts failed. Wang Dan’s energy had completely left him, and his legs were like jelly.

“Find the camera to call for the worker to come save us. I think I’ve seen through this Haunted House’s tactics. The scary stuff is all at the back, and the beginning is easy to make us let our guard down.” Lee Xue had given up on the struggle. She did not dare stay outside the scenario alone. With gasping breath, she walked toward the two male students. “With our current condition, walking to the exit normally is impossible.”

“I remember there’s a camera at every junction. Wait for me here, I’ll go get help.”

Yang Chen prepared to leave when Wei Wu and Kong Xiangming arrived. The two seemed to have noticed something. Instead of looking at the three students, their attention was focused on the entrance to Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy.

## **Chapter 266: Stay a Little While Longer**

In the crazed doctor’s outfit and with a scary hammer in hand, Chen Ge stood at the first junction. This time, he entered the Haunted House not to save the visitors but to use the Haunted House’s unique environment to capture the two potential ghost stories society members. *Now where have they run off to?*

Standing quietly in the junction, Chen Ge strained his ears. Not long after that, he heard something from the corridor that led to the deep well. A human head was rolling toward him like it was pushed along by some unknown force.

“You’re out to play again?” Chen Ge walked toward the mannequin head. He assumed that the head could not find its body, so it had rolled out to seek help. However, before he got close, the head rolled in another direction. It was neither fast nor slow, just fast enough for Chen Ge to keep up.

“You’re going to be my guide?”

Chen Ge did not hesitate to follow. The draft fluttered his bloodied doctor's coat. Chen Ge wore the skin mask and held the red large hammer in his grasp as he followed the rolling human head deeper into the Haunted House.

...

When Yang Chen saw Wei Wu and Kong Xiangming, his heart jumped with joy. From his perspective, whether they were real visitors or Haunted House employees, it was only beneficial to him.

"You guys just came out from that place?" Wei Wu looked at the three students. His tone was cold. Since he felt the threat, he did not plan to keep up the pretext anymore.

"Yes." Yang Chen wanted to ask Wei Wu for help, but he found Wei Wu's attitude grating. It made him uncomfortable. It did not feel like an attitude an employee in the service business should have.

"What did you find in there? Why are all of you in this state?" Kong Xiangming also walked over. The two's questions confused the three students. They had assumed that Wei Wu and Kong Xiangming were the employees at the Haunted House, so their questions confused them.

*Are these two really clueless about the layout of the Haunted House, or are they toying with us?*

Before the students could reach a conclusion, Wei Wu and Kong Xiangming did something weird. They both suddenly turned their heads to look at the glass door that led into Western Jiujiang's Private Academy. Their actions were weirdly unified.

"What are you two looking at?" Yang Chen was unsettled. He retreated to his friends. Things appeared more complicated than he had initially thought. After two seconds, the glass door opened on its own, and a faded stench drifted out.

"Other than those mannequins, there are other souls trapped inside this Haunted House. This is quite surprising." Wei Wu kept his voice low. If not necessary, they would not reveal their identity to outsiders.

"The one on me has already awakened, and it's hungry." Kong Xiangming stood where he was as a pair of arms appeared around his shoulders, and then a shrunken head climbed up from his back.

"Have you lost your mind? There are other people here!" Wei Wu wanted to stop Kong Xiangming, but it was already too late. The three medical students had seen everything.

"I have no power to stop it when it's hungry." Kong Xiangming's voice was calm like this was not the first time he had experienced this. "It's fine if they see it. We'll just take care of them as well. Too bad this identity is going to waste though."

Wei Wu did not expect that the normally reticent Kong Xiangming would be so direct when he made his move.

"Fine, after all, the one on me is also hungry already." There were blood vessels moving on the back of Wei Wu's head. He turned to look at the three students, and to his surprise, they did not show fear but gave a look that said, *See, I thought so.*

"They're not afraid of us?" Wei Wu did not know what the three students had experienced. In comparison to the things they had been through, the monsters on the members looked rather cute.

"I'll leave the three to you." Kong Xiangming walked into Western Jiujiang's Private Academy alone. In the dark, something else seemed to crawl out from his back. Seeing Kong Xiangming walked into the scenario alone, the three students had different expressions.

"Shall we go and warn him?" Lee Xue felt sorry for the man.

"Stop worrying about him, these two have to be employees."

Normally, when one saw a ghost inside the Haunted House, one's first reaction would be to think they were workers. Wang Dan climbed up using the wall as support. He was scared, but his tone still had not changed too much.

He sighed and stumbled toward Wei Wu. "We give up, please bring us out."

The face was almost forming on the back of Wei Wu's head, but when he heard what Wang Dan had to say, the process stopped. "You want me to lead you out?"

"Yes, the three of us have given up already."

*What is going on?* To complete the ghost society's mission, Wei Wu had created quite a number of ghost stories himself. Whenever his victims saw his real identity, they would be too scared for words.

"Let's go." Wang Dan's legs were shaking. He held his head with one hand, and his other reached out to hold Wei Wu's arm. "Boss, can we go now? My head is spinning, and we have class to attend this afternoon."

Wei Wu tried to shrug Wang Dan off, but he failed. "Are you blind? Do you not see the blood face on the back of my head? How about a little respect?"

"We've already surrendered, what else do you want from us?" Wang Dan was annoyed; he had lost much of his confidence and pride that day.

Wei Wu thought that something was wrong with these students. In any case, he decided to end it as soon as possible. "Looks like none of you will be leaving."

The blood vessels knitted into a scary face. The face was blurry as the vessels moved about to slowly form a face that looked suspiciously like Wang Dan.

"Brother, can you please stop with the tricks? We're tired after leaving the hidden scenario. If you continue to be like this, I'm going to give you a negative review on the internet." Wang Dan's head was hurting, but holding Wei Wu's arm, he felt weirdly secure.

"What are you talking about?" Wei Wu gathered his strength to shove Wang Dan aside. His two faces had the same dark expression. "The plan was to finish this as fast as possible, but now..."

Wind picked up in the corridor, and Wei Wu was halfway through his speech when the face behind him screamed!

Wei Wu turned around and saw a monster in a bloodied outfit and giant hammer running at him as he followed a rolling head!

Wei Wu's head went numb as a giant sense of danger gripped his heart. "Not good!"

He turned to run instinctively to meet up with Kong Xiangming, but the 'monster' did not give him the chance.

"Since you're already here, why the rush to leave?"

### **Chapter 267: Please Forgive Him!**

The appearance of Chen Ge in Doctor Skull-cracker's outfit not only scared Wei Wu but also the three medical students. They were not sure who that sentence was directed at; after all, who would care about those details when their lives were on the line? The need to survive compelled them to start running for their lives!

Yang Chen and Lee Xue squeezed next to Wei Wu as they ran down the corridor to head into Western Jiujiang's Private Academy.

"Wait for me!" Wang Dan, who had been shoved to the ground, screamed. He was surprised to find the energy returning to his limbs as he climbed up from the floor.

"Why are you guys running as well?" Wei Wu looked at Yang Chen and Lee Xue, who had run ahead of him. He was both angered and anxious. "Get out of my way!"

The blood face on the back of his head screamed. This was the first time he had seen the monster on his back react in such a drastic manner. Blood vessels seeped out from his back and trailed down his arm to reach toward Lee Xue, who was in front of him. He felt deeply threatened and knew he had to meet up with Kong Xiangming no matter what.

Chen Ge's pupils narrowed, and his Yin Yang Vision allowed him to see clearly in the dark. He caught the changes that happened to Wei Wu's body. "It is you, ghost stories society!"

There was still a distance between him and Wei Wu, but the blood vessels were almost touching Lee Xue already. In his desperation, Chen Ge picked up the rolling head and lobbed the head, which now had a shocked expression, at the back of Wei Wu's head!

**BANG!**

The mannequin head knocked into Wei Wu, causing him to lose balance. He staggered unsteadily, almost collapsing to the ground, and the mannequin head rolled to the side. The blood face at the back of Wei Wu's head was smashed into a messy pulp. The large crack stunned the three students. Whacking one's head with another head? Even a stunt actor would not dare do that!

"Still want to run?"

Wei Wu's speed slowed down after he was hit by the mannequin head. Chen Ge rapidly closed in on him. The blood face had not even used its power, and it had already been injured. Seeing this, Wei Wu did not dare stay any longer, "Get out of my way!"

Lee Xue, who ran before him, did not have the chance to evade and was shoved roughly to the side. Yang Chen, who stood before the glass door, frowned with confusion.

"Wait! Isn't he an actor? Why is he running faster than we are?" Yang Chen had several answers in his mind. "Is still part of the experience? Some kind of insider drama?"

Seeing how Lee Xue was shoved to the side, he was rather angry. "If that's the case, that's so rude. How can they disrespect their visitor like this?"

Wei Wu charged ahead savagely, but Yang Chen did not let him past. Instead, he purposely moved to block the door. "If this is part of a performance, please stop. Your earlier action has..."

"Get lost!" The blood vessels seeped out from Wei Wu's skin to knit on his face. It was very dark underground, so Yang Chen did not catch the changes on Wei Wu's face. However, it did not escape Chen Ge's Yin Yang Vision.

He sprinted, and before Wei Wu attacked Yang Chen, he raised the hammer to swing at Wei Wu's left arm!

The bones snapped, creating a crisp sound. All five visitors, including Wei Wu, seemed to petrify. This was especially true for Yang Chen, who blocked Wei Wu's way. He was closest to the man, so he heard it the clearest. As a forensic science student, he could even hear the tearing of the cartilage between the humerus and scapula. Yang Chen had forgotten what he wanted to say. He was dazed. Losing the control of his arm, Wei Wu gritted his teeth until it was bloodied. Using his other arm, he pushed the glass door open and ran down the corridor.

"That's a dead-end; I'll see where you're going to run this time!" Chen Ge put down the hammer and turned to look at Yang Chen. "Are you alright?"

"Y-yes." Yang Chen shivered. If he was not leaning against the wall, he would have been sitting on the floor already.

"Great. Normally, I'm a gentle person, but that visitor is not a normal visitor—he's different from the rest of you." Chen Ge tried his best to explain. He had to turn to violence earlier because he was afraid Wei Wu might harm the innocent.

"I understand. That big brother was the employee at the Haunted House, right?" Yang Chen stated his thought.

"Employee?" Chen Ge did not know why Yang Chen would come to this conclusion. He thought about it and admitted 'honestly', "You guys knew that already? The new actors don't know how to do their job. He acted too harshly earlier; I apologize on his behalf."

The three students looked at Chen Ge holding the hammer. They could not believe their ears. How could this person be so insouciant after severely injuring someone?

“We don’t mind it.” Yang Chen was screaming internally, *Compared to us, shouldn’t you be more worried about that actor that you assaulted?*

“Okay, when you go out, go find the uncle who sells tickets. When you come again in the future, I’ll give you an eighty percent discount.” Chen Ge took out his phone to call Gu Feiyu. “Xiao Gu, you can stop blocking the door now. Come in to help me lead these visitors out.”

He had asked Gu Feiyu to block the door because he was afraid the two from ghost stories society might escape. However, now that both of them were inside the Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy, which was a dead-end, there was no need to block the door anymore.

“Block the door...” The three students wiped their cold sweat. It looked like they were not going to make use of that discount any time soon.

“The three of you, wait here. An employee will come get you. I’ll go and take revenge for you.” Chen Ge waved the hammer around. “As a service business, we should always put the visitors first!”

As if sensing the murderous aura on Chen Ge, Yang Chen quickly advised him, “No, no! We’re all really fine. Please don’t take any revenge on our behalf!”

“Yes, actually, that brother is not that bad.” Wang Dan also walked over, but he did not dare get too close to Chen Ge. He grumbled in his heart, *At least he looks much friendlier than you do...*

“Stop trying to make excuses for him. If he’s made a mistake, then he needs to be punished.”

Chen Ge opened the glass door. The three students felt guilty, so they stood outside the scenario and yelled.

“Boss, we’re really fine!”

“Punishment is one thing, but you broke his arm!”

“We’ve already accepted your apology, so please forgive him!”

There was a faded stench in the air. Chen Ge sighed as he heard the shouts coming from behind him. *These few visitors sure are good people. Western Jiujiang Medical University produces some wonderful students. They are helping the people who harmed them earlier.*

After turning on the recorder, Chen Ge walked deeper into the corridor.

## **Chapter 268: Value of Your Life**

There were weird noises coming from the belly of the scenario, and the stench in the air seemed lighter than usual. *They’re of equal power? Looks like these two members from the society are quite powerful.*

Chen Ge upped his pace. He did not see Wei Wu along the way; the poor sap had probably run straight for the deepest part of the scenario after being spooked by Chen Ge.

*Where can you run to? This scenario is completely sealed, and there is only one exit.*

The ghost stories society's members had come to create trouble at his Haunted House during his working hours. This created a great sense of danger in Chen Ge. If he did not terminate the society, they would return in the future, so Chen Ge did not hold back. After walking ten meters, Chen Ge finally saw the fighting.

Kong Xiangming had a dark expression on his face. There was a thin monster standing on his shoulders, but the monster was longer and stronger than the ones he had seen at the Third Sick Hall. Most likely, it had consumed many innocents. The monster on Kong Xiangming was almost four meters long, and the crying faces on its body made it look like a twisted centipede!

Facing the monster was a mannequin with a rope around its neck. There was obvious damage on the mannequin's body, but it kept charging at the monster.

"The more savage the soul, the greater it tastes."

Kong Xiangming looked at the mannequin, and there was a playfulness in his eyes. The monster on his shoulders did not pay the mannequin much attention but was looking in another direction with alarm.

The stench that covered the scenario had congregated to form a shadowy version of a large man. The fat man had a blurred face but extremely high strength. However, his agility left much to be desired, and he could not do anything in the cramped corridor.

The fat man and the mannequin did not know anything about combat, and with the tactics from Kong Xiangming, the battle was one-sided. Slowly, the wounds on the mannequin and the fat man increased. Their bodies turned blurry, and the stench in the scenario slowly dissipated.

*Are they that weak?* Chen Ge thought about it and could understand why. Most of the powerful and resistant baleful specters at Western Jiujiang's Private Academy had been consumed by Zhang Ya already, and only the two weaker ones remained.

Wei Wu was hiding behind Kong Xiangming. When the blood face saw Chen Ge approach, it screamed!

"Be careful! Our target is coming toward us!"

Even though Kong Xiangming had the upper hand, he was still facing two enemies, and if Chen Ge joined in the fight, it would not be good for him.

"Why did you lead him here?" Kong Xiangming could still maintain the calmness in his voice, but his words came out faster than before.

"I didn't want to! How about we swap places? You go and deal with him while I take care of these two?" The blood face on Wei Wu had a special power, and like Pen Spirit, it was not suitable in combat—Kong Xiangming understood that much. "Fine."

This was not the first time they had cooperated. They stood back to back as they moved. Blood vessels surged out from behind Wei Wu's head, and the expression on the face slowly morphed to mimic the mannequin. Weirdly enough, when the blood face changed to mirror the mannequin, the savage mannequin suddenly became quiet, and its eyes turned hollow.

Wei Wu had stopped the mannequin, but he could not do anything toward the fat man. He could only watch on as the fat man's body slowly recovered, and the stench in the scenario returned. Leaving the

specters to his teammate, Kong Xiangming and the thin monster on his back both turned to look at Chen Ge.

Wearing Doctor Skull-cracker's outfit, the skin mask, and holding the hammer, it was hard to tell who the scarier party was. The things that Kong Xiangming told his victims when he created his ghost stories did not seem appropriate. Compared to the 'monster' before him, he felt like he was the more normal one.

"Actually, we can talk this out," Kong Xiangming said very naturally. "Neither one of us came with malicious intentions; we're here because someone ordered us to."

Chen Ge did not respond. The man had managed to survive for so long inside that crazy society, so this meant that none of the words that left his lips could be trusted. He raised the hammer. Perhaps Kong Xiangming was telling the truth, but he did not dare bet on it, nor did he want to bet on it.

"Think about it first before you make your move. I know you have gone into the world behind the door already. I can tell you a secret about the door, but you must promise me one condition." Kong Xiangming increased his talking speed because he sensed the danger. "This is a valuable opportunity. We can cooperate, and you only need to promise me one condition; this is my bottom line."

"Bottom line?" Chen Ge took one step before suddenly increasing in speed. "You dare to talk conditions with me inside my Haunted House? You really don't understand the value of your life! Xu Yin!"

Following Chen Ge's call, a melancholic young man covered in wounds appeared beside him. Both the man and the ghost rushed toward Kong Xiangming.

Kong Xiangming's lips twitched as he realized an issue. The thin monster could stop his opponent's specter, but who was going to stop the madman with the hammer?

"So painful!" His legs landed on the floor, and the wounds on his body opened to pour out blood. Xu Yin, with his face twisted from anger and resentment, charged at the thin monster. The monster's power was stronger than Chen Ge had expected. The faces on its body started to cry and wail, causing Xu Yin's speed to decrease. The thin monster's arms gripped Xu Yin's neck, and the human faces on its body chewed on Xu Yin's clothes.

The thin monster used the faces to apprehend Xu Yin temporarily, but the key problem was, after he got entangled with Xu Yin, who was going to protect Kong Xiangming?

Chen Ge, who had battled similar monsters before at the Third Sick Hall, knew its weakness. After the thin monster left its host, its power would decrease by at least thirty percent, so the thin monster was not Chen Ge's target to begin with.

"Wait a minute!"

The hammer cut through the air, and Kong Xiangming's face paled. Desperate, he forced the thin monster to ignore Xu Yin to come protect him. The monster also knew the importance of its host, so it immediately let go of Xu Yin to shield Kong Xiangming.

Without the restraint, Xu Yin landed on the ground and charged at the thin monster again. He bit ravenously on the thin monster's neck. The more he consumed, the brighter the blood stain on his shirt.

At the same time, the hammer also made contact with the thin monster. Chen Ge did not slow down to check the effect of his attack or give Kong Xiangming any chance to speak. He took the hammer and went ham on his opponent!

Kong Xiangming tried to block, but Wei Wu behind him was losing ground. The hanging man was controlled by Wei Wu, but the key problem was that he could not do anything to the fat man that was slowly recuperating.

"If we stay here, both of us are going to perish. Ol' Kong, good luck!" Wei Wu yelled and then chose to abandon the war. He turned around and ran past Kong Xiangming and Chen Ge!

### **Chapter 269: Turning into a Red Specter**

Wei Wu's sudden reaction surprised not only Kong Xiangming but also Chen Ge. "From the beginning, it's your friend that has been under pressure, but why is it you who chose to run first?"

"Wei Wu!" Kong Xiangming yelled with bloodshot eyes. He was surrounded by three baleful specters and one madman. He did not expect his teammate to abandon him so easily. In the blink of an eye, Wei Wu was already several meters away. Chen Ge had the two specters take care of Kong Xiangming while he and Xu Yin ran after the deserter.

"Xiao Gu has already opened the door; I cannot let him slip away."

Chen Ge chased after Wei Wu, and after he left Western Jiujiang's Private Academy, he realized that the three students had already left. There was nothing left for him to worry about anymore. "Stop struggling, you're not going to escape!"

Hearing the call behind him, Wei Wu ran faster. The face behind his head kept screaming, urging him to run faster!

The distance between them grew. Chen Ge did not have any good idea to catch up. Running in the Haunted House with the hammer hindered his speed. To be able to follow the man so closely was mainly because of his good physique. Wei Wu ran with all his might. There was a voice in his mind saying, *Faster, faster!*

He remembered the exit was just several corners away and hope lit up in his heart. *I mustn't fall into his hands! Yes, I can definitely make this!*

He ran out of the corridor adjacent to the deep well. Wei Wu was about to charge forward when he suddenly realized the tight corridor was filled with numerous mannequins!

"Shouldn't they be inside the classroom? Why are they here?"

With intertwining arms and teetering bodies, the mannequins' faces with creepy smiles looked at Wei Wu, causing him to shiver.

"Why?"

Whenever he wanted to do something, there would be people or things trying to stop him; that had happened several times already that day. Wei Wu dashed into the group of mannequins. As he knocked the mannequins down, they gripped his clothes, pulling him down with them. If this was any other time, he could have used the blood face to slowly escape the trap, but Chen Ge was close behind him.

As Wei Wu fell down, he turned to look, and the scary-looking hammer was closer than he expected. He was reminded of the first time he created his real ghost story. *Once, I chased innocent people like this before...*

BANG!

His other arm was incapacitated, and the large pound sent Wei Wu sprawling across the ground. Not giving him any chance to escape, Xu Yin jumped on the man's back and poked his hands into the back of Wei Wu's head to yank the blood face out!

A blood-curdling scream reverberated through the Haunted House. After dealing with Wei Wu, Chen Ge dragged him to a corner. The blood face on Wei Wu was torn apart by Xu Yin, and the blood that splattered all over the place became nutrition for the many mannequins.

"Not bad, very clever." Chen Ge was never stingy with his praise, and he could sense joy coming from the group of mannequins. Bringing Xu Yin along, Chen Ge returned to Western Jiujiang's Private Academy.

Kong Xiangming's thin monster had harmed many innocent people, so it was incredibly powerful. There was a long trail of human faces on its body, and it did not show any sign of being cornered even facing three baleful specters.

Unfortunately, this was just a battle between ghosts. While the thin monster had a handle on the ghost situation, Chen Ge was already chasing Kong Xiangming all over the place with the crazed hammer.

"Save me! Save me!" he yelled inside the scenario, but the thin monster was unable to do anything. After Kong Xiangming took a hammer strike to his back, the monster was forced to leave Kong Xiangming and escape on its own. With the lesson from Wei Wu, Chen Ge was prepared this time. The three specters jumped on the monster and apprehended it tightly. Several minutes later, the monster was shared among the three specters, and its host, Kong Xiangming, fainted.

"There's no notification on the black phone. Looks like these three aren't patients from the Third Sick Hall either." Chen Ge looked at the baleful specters who were feasting, and he mumbled to himself, "Seven left..."

The thin monster soon disappeared down the specter's stomach. The fat specter held its stomach like it had not had enough yet. It wiggled its large body around to look for more food when it noticed Chen Ge looking at it. It panicked and immediately dispersed to merge into the stench that covered the scenario.

*Am I that scary?* Chen Ge turned to look at the other specter. The hanging man was even more shameless. After it had its fill, it leaned and fell to the ground like nothing had ever happened.

The two specters probably did not eat much since Chen Ge was there. Most of the thin monster had been consumed by Xu Yin. This time, Chen Ge could see the obvious change in the man. Xu Yin's shirt bloomed with a large blood stain, and it was still growing. "A Red Specter?"

Chen Ge knew that Red Specters were stronger than normal specters, but he did not know how they were formed.

*One-third of Xu Yin's outfit is bloodied, so normal specter can change into Red Specter?* He looked at the hanging man lying on the floor and compared it to Xu Yin. He had a feeling that things were not that simple.

*Perhaps only a certain type of baleful specter has the ability to turn into a Red Specter.* Chen Ge thought long and hard before he came up with this speculation. He had seen many ghosts before, but other than Zhang Ya, only Xu Yin, this specter that was surrounded by hatred and resentment, showed any chance of becoming a Red Specter.

*I should use other ghosts inside the Haunted House to give it a try when I have the chance next time.* He imagined Xiaoxiao in a red dress slashing her claws, and he silently shook his head. *Even when she's a Red Spectre, I have a feeling she'll still be bullied. I should use the Pen Spirit to give it a try.*

Chen Ge realized that Xu Yin had reverted to his original form. He lowered his head, and his eyes were hollow like everything that was reflected in them would lose their color. Taking out the recorder, Chen Ge walked toward Xu Yin. He was about to speak when Xu Yin, who sensed his approach, disappeared. The tape stopped moving, but the blood on it seemed to have deepened.

*Looks like more communication is in order.* Chen Ge understood the source of Xu Yin's pain, but he had done everything he could. The rest depended on Xu Yin.

Dragging Kong Xiangming out of the Western Jiujiang's Private Academy, Chen Ge returned to the corner where he had left Wei Wu. From afar, he saw Gu Feiyu standing in the middle of the junction with a flashlight. The young man was worried about Wei Wu's safety. He wanted to help Wei Wu, but the group of mannequins made him hesitate. He paced where he was and did not dare to move forward.

"Xiao Gu, come and help me!" After removing the skin mask, Chen Ge waved at Gu Feiyu. "Have the three medical students been sent out?"

## **Chapter 270: Anything Can Be Solved with a Swing of the Hammer**

Seeing Chen Ge in the doctor's outfit, Gu Feiyu took an involuntary step back. He recovered seconds later and quickly replied, "Yes, the three students all gave the Haunted House five stars in front of me. They said that they had a great time and hope you won't make it too difficult for that Haunted House actor."

"They had a great time?" Chen Ge nodded. "Well, as long as they had fun."

"Brother Chen, what is it with those two visitors? They've both fainted; is it really alright?" Gu Feiyu added one last question after some hesitation. "Also, what did the students mean by the Haunted House employee?"

"It's nothing important, Xiao Gu. If you want to work here, then you need to be familiar with these things. By the way, I need you to learn some first-aid skills in the future." Chen Ge had Gu Feiyu carry Wei Wu and Kong Xiangming. "Now, we lock them in the dressing room first."

“First-aid skill? Lock them in the dressing room?” Gu Feiyu’s head was covered in cold sweat. For some reason, he felt like he had entered a trap.

“They’re not visitors.” Chen Ge knew that Xiao Gu had misunderstood him, so he explained roughly, “The New Century Park is bouncing back, and that is tied to this huge promotion the Haunted House is having. Some people are not happy that we’re coming back and so sent their men to come sabotage us.”

“Oh, is that so?” Xiao Gu nodded seriously. “Life in the big city sure is complicated.”

Xiao Gu carried Wei Wu, and Chen Ge dragged Kong Xiangming. The two stopped at the entrance to the Sealed Classroom. “There are still two more visitors in the Haunted House. They should be in the scenario on the right. Stay here and wait for me. I’ll be back in a minute.”

Chen Ge left Kong Xiangming behind and ran into the female dorm. Gu Feiyu stood outside the classroom, and for some reason, he felt like someone was looking at him from inside the classroom.

“Brother Chen, wait for me! I’m going with you!” They had just entered the corridor on the right when they heard the sound of argument. The visitor by the name of Na Na was still at the height of her temper. She was adamant about breaking up with the man. Her fury had completely nulled her sense of fear.

*What are these two doing? Fighting inside a Haunted House?*

The two visitors stood in the middle of the corridor, and there were no other scare points around them. They were locked in a deep argument and did not seem like they were going to stop anytime soon.

“Brother Chen, please slow down.” Gu Feiyu half-tow and half-dragged the two members from the ghost stories society with him.

“Why did you follow me?”

“I’m worried about you, so I came to help.” Gu Feiyu looked ahead and changed the topic. “The two are in a serious argument. Shall we go help?”

“Do you know them personally? How do you expect us to help?” Chen Ge swung the hammer. He felt dealing with them was easier. At least things could be solved with a swing of the hammer.

“But they’re arguing so vehemently, will this be good for us? After all, we’re inside the Haunted House. If people hear of this, it might influence our reputation.” Gu Feiyu stood behind Chen Ge. Eavesdropping on a couple’s argument inside a Haunted House still did not seem that moral to him.

“If these two really want to break up, they wouldn’t have let this drag on for half an hour already.” Chen Ge retrieved the skin mask, put it on, picked up the hammer, and headed for the couple.

Before he got close, he saw the girl shove the man back and snuck into the bedroom where Pen Spirit resided alone. Then she locked the door. The man slammed on the door repeatedly. The woman cried inside the room, but she did not open the door.

“Yan Na Na!” The woman locked the door and windows. The man called her name outside the window, but the woman seemed insistent on ending this relationship.

“Chen Ziming, we met each other inside a Haunted House, so we’ll end it here today, okay? Two years, six months, and one day, thank you for everything that you’ve given me.”

“I really don’t understand why you’re breaking up with me! Am I not good to you?”

“You’re very good; it’s all my fault. Are you satisfied?”

The argument kept going, and it grated on Chen Ge’s ears. He dragged the hammer across the floor and picked up his pace. The footsteps echoed down the corridor. The man outside the door saw Chen Ge. Honestly, he was a little afraid, but his anger had overwhelmed that fear completely. In fact, when he saw Chen Ge get close, he intended to turn his fury onto Chen Ge, who dared to disturb them.

With his finger pointing at Chen Ge, the man’s lips were already opening, but before he could make any sound, Chen Ge suddenly charged forward and picked up the hammer to swing at the door’s lock!

The wooden door broke into splinters, and the lock flew into the wall, creating a crisp sound.

The pair was completely stunned, especially the man, who was about to say something. When the hammer swung through the air, he could hear the air being sliced through clearly. His lips could not close. The man looked at Chen Ge’s skin mask, and his eyes twitched. His body would not listen to his brain’s commands.

The woman stopped crying and started to scream.

The man tried to enter the bedroom, but his legs were not moving. His ears hummed, and after he staggered a step back, his body leaned weakly forward.

“Ziming!” The woman ran to grab the man’s shoulders. This time, she stood before the man to shield him from Chen Ge.

Chen Ge pulled the hammer out from the hole in the door, and he was feeling rather embarrassed. He had been using the hammer so much recently that he had forgotten how to gauge his strength.

He coughed awkwardly before removing the skin mask. Looking at the two shocked visitors, before the two recovered and their fury returned, he said, “When danger appeared, your partner’s first thought wasn’t to run but to enter the room to look for you. This shows how much he cares about you.”

Chen Ge then turned to tell the male visitor who tripped, “When you fell to the ground, your partner let go of everything to come help you and shield you. If you miss a woman as good as her, you’ll regret it for the rest of your life.”

His bloodied shirt fluttering in the wind, Chen Ge helped the two get up with a smile.

“You two love each other. No matter what happens, as long as you have that, it’s enough.” Chen Ge placed the hammer aside. “If you don’t believe me, we can play a little game to test it out.”

The two visitors were picked up from the floor and arranged by Chen Ge to sit on both side of the chair. They had their fingers intertwined and a ballpoint pen wrapped in cellophane tape within their grasp.

“This Haunted House has been open for years already, so some of the things have gained their own spirit. This ballpoint pen is one of them. You can ask it the question that you wish to be answered inside your heart, and it will give you the answer.”

The couple had just woken up from the shock that Chen Ge delivered. They looked into each other’s eyes and felt the warmth that came from the other’s palm. After a long time, they finally started the Pen Spirit game. “Pen Spirit, Pen Spirit, you are my spirit from my previous life, and I am your spirit in this life. Can you tell me if they love me the most in this world?”

Looking away from the couple, Chen Ge rolled his eyes. He kept giving hints to the Pen Spirit; he needed to send this couple out as soon as possible. Several seconds later, the ballpoint pen started to move, and both visitors captured the surprise in their partner’s eyes.

The pen started to move on the paper to write a word. “Yes.”

After sending the Pen Spirit away, the game officially ended, but the two visitors had let their hands go.

“Ziming...” The woman apologized softly, and the man went over to pull her into a hug.

“I’ll make more time to accompany you in the future!”

“I should have been more understanding.”

“It’s okay, honey.”

“Are you two done?” Chen Ge’s hands that gripped the hammer were bursting with veins. He felt like he was going to lose control soon.

“Boss, we’re so sorry for creating all this trouble for you.” The two visitors finally parted. They apologized and thanked Chen Ge profusely.

“If not for the fact that you two met inside my Haunted House, I wouldn’t have cared.” Chen Ge put the hammer away. “Good luck in your future. Don’t leave any regrets.”

“We won’t!”

After sending the two visitors away, Xiao Gu was shocked. When he saw Chen Ge knock down the door, he had been ready with his phone to call the police. He was surprised by this ending.

“Brother Chen, you’re amazing.”

“Stop dawdling. Go upstairs and help me get the toolbox, we need to fix this door.”