

## Horrors 321

### Chapter 321: Ghost Village

Chen Ge's group of three looked at the man before them, and each of them had a different expression.

"Is what you're saying real?" Master Bai was shocked. He and his father had come to Coffin Village a long time ago. At the time, he had only thought the villagers looked weird, but other than that, they were no different from normal people. He did not expect they would be hiding such a scary secret.

"Yes, it's all real." The man took several steps forward and stood inside the inner room's door. "I could keep all this to myself, but I told you everything. This is proof of my sincerity."

It was quite curious to hear a deformed man saying these words inside a village filled with coffins. Master Bai and Ol' Wei looked at each other before their gaze collectively fell on Chen Ge.

"Wait a minute, I want to ask him a question first." Chen Ge asked for the man to move forward. "How shall I refer to thee?"

"You can call me Ah Qing."

"Okay." Chen Ge walked to the man, dragging the hammer. "You can get us out?"

"Yes, I know the way, and I have that power." The man was urgent, like he was running out of time.

"In that case, why didn't you leave the village with your son on your own?" From Chen Ge's perspective, they were using each other. Since Ah Qing had volunteered his service then there had to be something useful on the outsiders for him, "You're afraid of being chased by the spirits, so you're planning to use us as bait?"

"No, that's really not my intention!" Ah Qing waved his hands. He was trapped inside the village and had little interaction with the outside world. His expression was obvious, and it showed his real thoughts easily.

"Then, why do you need us?"

"The first month after a baby is born, the Zhu woman pays the family a visit personally to inspect the baby. If the baby is normal, she takes the baby away, but there was an exception." An Qing counted on his finger. "Every year, on the day the female ghost jumped into the well, the village will hold a sacrificial ceremony. Around that time, the Zhu woman collects all the babies born in the village for the past three months. She will carry them into a room and let the female ghost choose the sacrifice."

"Let the ghost choose?" Chen Ge frowned. *This female ghost is possibly the scariest Red Specter!*

"Today is the day she jumped into the well. The ceremony is starting soon; this is our chance! When the ceremony starts, everyone will be summoned by the ghost, but as long as we manage to sneak into the building to steal the baby away before she wakes up, it'll be fine!"

"You sure are optimistic." Chen Ge interrupted the man. "The female ghost, you're saying, has the power to wipe out an entire village with her own power. Even if we manage to escape, I don't see why she would leave us be."

"This is the best solution." Ah Qing's nails dug into his flesh. "The female ghost's resentment is only directed at this village; she doesn't seem interested in outsiders."

"Is that true?"

Ah Qing nodded with difficulty. "Just as she has never harmed the Zhu woman, I've never seen the female ghost attack an outsider. When you see my child, bring him away, and I will go back to the village. If you're accidentally exposed, I'll try my best to buy you some time."

"But the key problem is, your child is a villager. If we bring him with us, it might get us targeted by the female Specter."

"If she chases after you..." Ah Qing released his tightened hand and sighed with resignation. "Then you can put my son down and run away on your own."

Master Bai felt pity for the man. "Why don't we promise him for now? After all, we don't have any better options."

"The man's words have too many holes," Ol' Wei commented. "He said that female ghost wouldn't hurt outsiders, but count the amount of times we've been assaulted since we entered this village. I believe he just wants to take our lives as bet. If we're really chased by the female ghost, both us and the child won't be safe."

"The things that happened to you so far have nothing to do with the female ghost." Ah Qing sighed. "There are fewer and fewer living souls in the village, and this attracted plenty of Yin energy. This is not something that I can explain easily. In summary, the population of this village is ten percent living, ten percent dead and eighty percent ghost."

Ol' Wei still wanted to ask something when Ah Qing put the graveclothes back on. "The ceremony is starting soon. If you miss this chance, there will be no chance of leaving in the future!"

"Why don't we follow him? After all, it's unsafe to stay here, and the ghost baby knows that we're here." Chen Ge put the hammer inside his backpack.

"Er... why don't you leave your bag here?" Ah Qing's voice came out from the graveclothes. "The graveclothes of Coffin Village can hide you from the detection of the ghosts to a certain degree, but your backpack is too obvious."

"It'll be fine." Chen Ge took out the recorder and walked into the adjacent bedroom.

"What are you doing? We don't have much time."

"Taking some graveclothes. It won't take much time." Chen Ge closed the bedroom door and hit the play button. One minute later, Chen Ge exited the room with two sets of graveclothes he found inside the bedroom.

"These are for both of you. Consider putting them on when the situation calls for it." Chen Ge passed them to Ol' Wei and Master Bai. Master Bai had the protection of the jade necklace, so Chen Ge did not worry that much about him. The issue was Ol' Wei; he did not want something bad to this retiring policeman.

"You took these from the coffin?" Ah Qing looked at the clothes Chen Ge was holding. The fabric still had signs of nail clawing. Since the man was perfectly unscathed, the claw marks were probably made by the original owner of these graveclothes.

"Yes, I saw them deserted, so I picked them up." Chen Ge smiled. "Don't worry, if there's a chance, I'll return them in the future."

Ah Qing moved his gaze away, not daring to meet Chen Ge's eyes. The man gave him a unique feeling. Standing in the dark, he was filled with power and hope, like the sun was surrounding him.

"Follow me closely, and put on the graveclothes or you might run into ghosts," Ah Qing said as he moved forward. He stuck to the left wall and turned left at every corner. After eight minutes, different buildings appeared on both sides of the street.

"We've left the maze?" Wearing the graveclothes, Ol' Wei looked so tired.

"I'll bring you to the center of the village; the ceremony will start there." Ah Qing led Chen Ge's group into an old home. "I hear outsiders will be participating in this year's ceremony. I will find some way to contact them, to hear what they have to say."

## **Chapter 322: It's Only Just Beginning**

"Other outsiders?" The main reason Chen Ge's group had entered the village was to search for Fan Yu and Jiang Ling, so when they heard there were other outsiders, their ears perked up.

"Before you arrived, two kids accidentally entered the village because they were lost." Ah Qing tried to remember the details. "A boy and a girl. The boy is very thin and of average height. The girl looks about four; she's just like a China doll, very cute."

"Fan Yu and Jiang Ling!" Hearing Ah Qing's description, Chen Ge's speculation was confirmed. He grabbed Ah Qing's graveclothes. "Where are they now? Bring me to see them!"

"I don't think that's possible." Ah Qing tried to pry Chen Ge's hand away, but he realized that the thin-looking man before him was quite strong. "When they entered the village, they were spotted by the other villagers. Then the Zhu woman appeared and personally arranged a place for them to stay. She paid special attention to the girl."

"Jiang Ling? Why?" Chen Ge was confused.

"According to rumors, that Zhu woman plans to have the girl join the ceremony. At the time, I was also confused. This is the first time in decades that someone from the outside has joined the ceremony." Ah Qing finally stopped struggling and allowed Chen Ge to grip his shoulder.

*Did the woman notice Jiang Ling's history? She plans to gift Jiang Ling to the female ghost?* Chen Ge started to think. *Zhu Xinrou is staying by Jiang Ling's side, and she wouldn't let any harm come to Jiang Ling, so there are only two possibilities. Either Zhu woman has some method to suppress Zhu Xinrou, or Jiang Ling joined the ceremony voluntarily.*

On the drawing that Fan Yu had left behind, he had written two words—Going Home. There had to be a reason they returned to Coffin Village that night. Coincidentally, that day was the day the ghost stories society made their move and placed their target on Jiang Ling. All roads led back to Coffin Village.

*Other than the villagers at Coffin Village, I have to be cautious of the society's members.* Chen Ge released his grasp and patted Ah Qing's shoulder lightly. "If possible, try to bring that thin boy out."

"Understood." Ah Qing rubbed his shoulder. "When the ceremony starts, the whole village will be affected. The maze will automatically be deactivated, and the sleeping monsters will awake. You'll see this village's real face."

He spoke very fast, and he kept looking around. "There have been too many deaths in this village, collecting a heavy amount of Yin energy. It's the perfect birthing ground for ghosts and monsters. They will wake up following the ceremony. You have to be careful, don't taunt them. After stealing the baby, leave immediately."

"But how are we supposed to steal the baby?"

"The ceremony starts at the ancestral hall that is in the middle of the village. All the children will be taken inside the ancestral hall, and then the procession will move toward the well that the woman died in. All you need to do is sneak into the ancestral hall after the procession leaves to find a baby with a copper coin around his neck and bring him away with you." Ah Qing paused and took out a cloth from his pocket with hesitation. "The village layout can get quite complicated. Some roads lead to hidden monsters and ghosts. If you want to leave, follow this map."

He handed the cloth to Chen Ge. "You have to save my son!"

After that, Ah Qing left in a hurry. Chen Ge looked at the cloth in his hand. It was a simple map for Coffin Village, and more than twenty spots were marked with a red cross.

"He trusts us so much to leave the map with us? Isn't he afraid we'll leave without saving his child?" Master Bai looked at the map, and his heart was chilled. He had been to many places with crosses when he was young, but at the time, it had been during the day.

Chen Ge shook his head. "The man has planned this for a long time. He wouldn't commit such a careless mistake. This could be a fake map and the real one is probably on the baby."

The streets outside started to change. All the white lanterns were extinguished at once, casting the whole village into darkness. In the silence of the night, someone's house was pushed open, and a woman's voice rang in the dark.

She seemed to be calling someone's name like she was trying to rouse them. The doors were pushed open, and footsteps echoed on the street. The deformed villagers exited their homes with masks on their faces. They held white lanterns in their hands, but none spoke. They passed the door of the old home

Chen Ge's group was hiding in and stopped about ten meters away. The woman's screamed became clearer, and the weird village was shedding its disguise.

Night fell like silver, suffocating those underneath it. Blood stains started to surface on the village's clean walls, and scratch marks as well as knife marks appeared on the ground. The things that once happened at this village had been bloodier and scarier than Ah Qing's described. The story he told was probably part of the whole truth.

The maze was broken, and where all the streets intertwined was an old ancestral hall. Standing just next to this building was a bright red coffin!

The woman's voice stopped. The deformed villagers stood before the ancestral hall. They looked like soulless puppets with their heads lowered and hands holding the lanterns. No one spoke; the place was deathly quiet.

*Creak...*

A door of a two-story building next to the ancestral hall was pushed open. The building was the tallest inside the village and was also the best preserved. The darkened home puffed out a cold draft. Several minutes later, a woman in a bright red dress came out of it. Her face was white and lips purple like a frozen dead person.

Her eyes scanned all the villagers as she walked to the ancestral hall. She gesticulated to the coffin three times, mumbling some local language. When she was done, several villagers come out of the crowd holding bamboo baskets. The baskets were covered with a layer of fabric, and the crying of babies came out from underneath it.

The woman walked past them one by one, lifting the cloth off to inspect the product closely. When she came to the forth basket, she stopped and opened her lips to say something. The one holding the fourth basket was Ah Qing in his mask. His arms of different lengths shuddered like the woman was telling him something scary. After looking at all the babies, the woman pulled out a bloodied scissors from inside her sleeve.

She stood beside the coffin and had the first villager place the basket in the middle of the ancestral hall. Then she walked into the hall with the pair of scissors. The door closed, and the baby cried. The plaques in the hall creaked, and all the villagers lowered their head with despair. Only the red coffin at the door emitted the echoes of a laugh.

### **Chapter 323: Only Kindness**

The door of the ancestral hall opened again. The scissors in her hands were dripping with blood, matching the color of her dress. Seeing this, the villager who sent the basket into the ancestral hall collapsed to the ground. She tried to hold it in, but she still cried. No one came to help her; no one even dared raise their head to look.

The woman walked out the ancestral hall to stop beside the coffin. She whispered to the coffin like she was communicating with the thing inside it. Then, she turned to speak to the villagers.

The villager who held the second basket kept shaking her head like she was unwilling to give her child away. The woman held out three fingers; before she finished the countdown, the villagers beside the second villager grabbed the basket away from her and placed it before the woman.

The hand that held the scissors lifted up the basket. With the smell of blood surrounding him, the baby cried harder, but no one dared to stop this travesty. The woman entered the ancestral hall, and the door slammed shut. No one knew what happened inside.

The ceremony continued. As the babies' cries rose, Coffin Village turned creepier and creepier. Strange eyes opened in the dark.

Chen Ge and Ol' Wei, who were hiding in the room, also faced a problem. The relatively quiet courtyard started to move. The soil loosened like something was trying to crawl out. The pieces of fabric that were tied to the beam fluttered in the wind. Some of them seemed to be covering twisted faces. Shadows were cast on the windows, and there were weird noises inside the room like someone was knocking on the wooden bedframe from underneath the bed.

The ghosts were waking up, and horror gripped every villager's heart. The old door of the ancestral hall was pushed open, and the crying stopped. The blood trailed down the scissors, and even against the red of her dress, one could pick out the blood stains.

*That's the second one.* Chen Ge kept his gaze on Ah Qing. The man's arms kept shaking. The woman stood beside the coffin. A woman's cackles could be heard coming out from the coffin; it was like a curse that could not be broken.

The hand that held the scissors rose. The woman seemed to understand the meaning of the red coffin. She turned to look at the villager holding the third basket.

Detached, aloof, and hopeless, the villager voluntarily placed the basket before the woman. When the woman took the third basket inside the hall, the ceremonial table shook, and the plaques all fell to the floor like they could not witness this anymore.

The door slammed shut, and the baby's crying intensified before it stopped suddenly. Blood seeped out from the door, and various voices echoed around the village like the ground itself was crying.

The old house Chen Ge's group was in started to change. The coffins in the bedroom creaked. The eyes of the people in the pictures on the wall flew open, and their expressions twisted with pain. The female ghost seemed to be tormenting the people inside the village. Even when they were dead, they were not going to have their release.

The woman came out of the ancestral hall for the third time. Blood trailed down her dress, and Chen Ge finally understood why she was wearing such a bright red dress. With every step, a bloodied footprint formed on the ground. The woman asked the coffin, but only laughter was her answer.

Hearing this sound, Ah Qing's quivering legs finally gave. He crumbled to the floor, and his arms of uneven length held tight to the bamboo basket. The woman held out her three fingers, and the other villagers wearing the masks forcibly separated Ah Qing from the basket. Before the countdown finished, the basket was handed to the woman.

The ancestral hall's door closed. No one knew what the woman did to the baby, but they knew all the souls in the village were crying. The forgiveness that the villagers prayed for did not happen. It was not until all the babies were carried inside the ancestral hall that the laughter inside the coffin stopped.

The woman's dress was completely drenched. She put the scissors away and had the villagers open the red coffin. There was no body inside the coffin but a set of jewelry. They were probably what the woman had been wearing when she was kidnapped to Coffin Village. The woman put the jewelry on piece by piece. The more she added to her body, the chillier her presence became, and even her skin turned whiter.

After putting on all the jewelry, the woman walked into the crowd. The villagers moved away, and only a pair of boy and girl remained in the center of the ground. The boy was thin, and even though he was surrounded by such a creepy environment, he did not feel fear.

The girl's reaction was completely different from the boy. Her body was shaking, and she looked pitiable like a newborn kitten. The children were Fan Yu and Jiang Ling.

"Welcome home, no one will be able to harm you here." The woman touched Jiang Ling's head. She held her hand and led her toward the village entrance. The other villagers followed behind with the white lanterns. The crowd soon left the center of the village, taking Fan Yu and Jiang Ling with them.

*Based on the woman's tone, it doesn't sound like they will harm Jiang Ling. Fan Yu escorted Jiang Ling home, so they have no reason to harm him either.*

With his Yin Yang Vision, he could see the wounds on Fan Yu's body. His shirt had been torn apart by branches, his arms were scratched, and there were mosquito bite marks on his face. To protect Jiang Ling, he had suffered quite a bit.

*The woman said no one can harm Jiang Ling here, so it does look like Jiang Ling and Fan Yu had to run back here to protect themselves. Chen Ge thought about it from another perspective. In Jiujiang, the only party that can cause Jiang Ling's sister such pressure that they had to escape is probably the ghost stories society.*

The village was still changing. Chen Ge did not dare to delay. He called Master Bai and Ol' Wei as they headed for the ancestral hall. Once he pushed the door open, the smell of blood hit them like wave. The scene they saw made them frown.

"Would the woman have... those babies..."

Chen Ge entered the ancestral hall. The ceremonial table was covered with dust like it had not been cleaned for a long time already. The plaques were on the floor. Some were cracked, but no one had cleaned them up.

"Chen Ge, this blood probably didn't come from the babies." Ol' Wei touched the blood on the floor. "When the woman entered the ancestral hall, she was holding a pair of scissors. If that was from a murder, the blood splatter wouldn't have been so uniform."

"In other words, the babies might be safe?" Chen Ge followed the trail of blood and eventually stopped at the corner of the hall where a bunch of trash was piled up. He moved it away and discovered an underground tunnel.

"Stay out here. I'll go take a look." Chen Ge pressed on the recorder and climbed into the tunnel. The tunnel was only three meters wide, and the end was covered by a wooden board. Chen Ge pushed the board aside and found himself inside the two-story building next to the ancestral hall.

*Isn't the home for the Zhu woman?*

#### **Chapter 324: Approved by the Spectres**

Chen Ge crawled out of the tunnel and looked around. There were no windows in the room, and not far from the mouth of the tunnel were a few livestock that had just died.

"She used animal blood? This can trick the baleful Specter?" Chen Ge muttered to himself.

Hearing the faded sound of a baby crying, he followed the voice and went up to the second floor. The room felt obviously feminine. There was simple furniture in the room. Different from other village homes, there was not a coffin but a wooden bed.

Pulling the heavy curtain back, there were several bamboo baskets placed next to each other on the wooden bed, and each baby's lips were covered with a piece of grass. The grass seemed to have some sort of tranquilizing effect. Even though the babies were taken away from their parents, they did not cry that heavily.

"The reason the Zhu woman takes the babies away every time is to save them?" Chen Ge found a notebook underneath the pillow. He flipped it open and realized it recorded a list of names and address. The author of this notebook was probably barely literate, so most of the pages were represented by symbols.

"The Zhu woman outside looks to be in her thirties or forties, but this book is already yellowed; this should be from many years ago." Chen Ge read through the book, but he could not understand the content. It looked like Chinese, but Chen Ge could not recognize the characters. "The addresses are fuzzy. I can recognize a few of the names. Could they be the children that were rescued?"

"You're right. These are all the children that I've managed to smuggle out." An old lady's voice suddenly came out from behind him. Chen Ge turned with his finger on the recorder. "I should be the one that's afraid, or do you think this old lady that has one foot in the grave can still harm you?"

The old lady's speech was off, probably because she had no teeth. Chen Ge walked deeper into the room with the recorder. In a small room, he found a seriously hunchbacked old lady with wrinkled face. She was leaning against the wooden bed. Both of her legs and one arm had severely atrophied, and she could only barely move her head and the remaining arm.

"Madam, you are?" The woman looked so old that Chen Ge felt the need to show her respect. The senior looked at Chen Ge and smiled. "I'm someone who is favored by the Specters."

Hearing that, Chen Ge's mind woke up. He could not have been more familiar with that term!

"You have this sense of familiarity about you. You have interacted with them before, yes?" The 'them' on the old lady's lips naturally referred to the baleful Specters.

"You're right. I've not only interacted with them; I've built them a home to give them a place to live."



"Then, you're much stronger than I am." The old lady tried her best to express her goodwill. "Come, take a seat. I didn't hear the door open, so you must have entered from the tunnel connected to the ancestral hall. I believe you're here to smuggle the babies away while the ceremony is ongoing?"

"Yes, that is the plan." Chen Ge did not get close to the old lady, but he did move his finger away from the recorder.

"It is as I thought; those who are favored by the Specters have something approved by the Specters." The woman's voice was flat but comforting.

"Something approved by the Specters?"

"Yes." The old woman nodded with difficulty. With Chen Ge pressing her, she told Chen Ge what really happened that year. It was similar to what Ah Qing had said, the only difference being the baleful Specter was not completely inhumane. She still had some humanity left. The old woman had once told the woman 'three times', so she promised to do three things for her that were not out of bounds.

She was also showed some kindness to the old lady, like she would never enter the old lady's home, and whenever a Specter in the village tried to harm the old lady, she would consume them.

"She massacred the village, and all the sinners were killed. I can understand why she did that. In fact, I agreed with her actions, but what happened next unsettled me." The old lady's physical condition was weak. She needed to rest after speaking for some time. "A red door suddenly appeared at the family home that she stayed in, and only she can open the door. She planned to leave the village and let go of her resentment after massacring the village. She planned to enter the door before leaving the village, and that was when the problem started.

"When she exited the door, resentment consumed her, and her eyes were filled with venom; she had morphed into a different person. I don't know what happened behind the door, but I could see that she was filled with hatred. She planned to trap the future generations of sinners here and force them to live their lives as monsters. Her mind became so twisted that those who looked normal became sinners in her eyes."

There was deep pain in the old lady's voice. "I have no power to stop her; the only thing I can do is use my own method to save some innocent children when she was in a rage. Like what you saw today, every year, she will awaken to enter the world behind the door. If the children were placed somewhere else, she will definitely kill them, so the only safe refuge for these innocent lives is my home. After surviving tonight, once she exits the door, she will go back to sleep."

The old lady did not know what was behind the door; all she knew was that the ghost would enter the door every year around this time.

"Then why didn't you escape, leave the village altogether?" Chen Ge asked.

"Those who drank the well water will never escape; she haunts us forever. That is the reason I only save newborns."

"Forever? But around one and a half decades ago, some villagers managed to escape, and nothing happened to them." Chen Ge was referring to Jiang Ling's father and the rest.

“That was an accident. Around one and a half decades ago, she entered the door, but that night, she did not return. The villagers lived the whole month in fear. When they found out she still hadn’t returned, some thought she had died behind the door.

“At the time, two voices appeared within the village: one was to stay inside the mountain, and the other was to use this opportunity to escape. In the end, those with minor deformities chose to escape. On the third day of their escape, she returned.

“I begged her to let them go. I used two favors in exchange for twenty years of safety for them.”

The old lady started to cough violently. Chen Ge did not dare press her anymore; he had found out enough from the senior.

“Madam, please take a good rest. I’m not going to disturb you anymore. I’ll only take one of the babies; that is a promise I made with one of the villagers.” Chen Ge turned to find Ah Qing’s boy.

However, he only took several steps before the old lady spoke again. “Actually, there’s another reason why I called for you.”

“Is it related to the female ghost?” Chen Ge had found the baby with the coin around his neck. He looked so cute.

The old lady shook her head. She kept her gaze on Chen Ge’s face. “Did you discover that your body temperature is dropping?”

### **Chapter 325: Crying Soul**

His hand hanging over the bamboo basket, Chen Ge slowly turned around. Starting from several days ago, he had discovered the changes to his body. Even if he had only three to four hours of sleep, he would still wake up refreshed the next morning, his senses were extra sensitive in the dark, and his mind turned agile. The only drawback was the sudden chill that gripped his body. It would not be alleviated even if he wore thick layers.

“Looks like you’ve noticed it.” The old lady raised her arm to reveal the row of red pieces of string that were tied around her wrist. Each string was attached to a small jade pearl. “Of course, a living person will not be able to digest the Specters’ favors. A few years after the village massacre, probably due to my constant interactions with ghosts, weird things started happening to my body, the most obvious being the drop in body temperature. No matter the season, my body rarely feels warmed.”

Chen Ge had the condition the old lady described, but there was a small difference between them. Chen Ge held the basket that carried Ah Qing’s children and returned to the small room. “Granny, you noticed the drop in your body temperature a few years after dealing with the Specters?”

“To be accurate, it was ten years later, and at the time, I was just like you; I didn’t pay it much attention.” The old woman sounded kind. “Your condition is still light, so you must have started interacting with them several years ago, right?”

“Several years?” Chen Ge’s eyes twitched, and after some hesitation, he told the truth. “I saw my first baleful Specter several weeks ago.”

The room became silent. The old lady stuttered, probably due to old age, “Sev... several weeks ago?”

"In any case, it's less than a month." Chen Ge touched the back of his hand, and it did feel colder than normal.

"I live in a haunted village and thus interact with ghosts often; the noticeable changes occurred a few years later. You only saw Specters several weeks ago, so how come the body temperature changed so soon?" There was confusion in the old lady's voice. "Did you garner the attention of many ghosts at the same time?"

"Not really." Chen Ge counted in his heart. "Those directly related to me are like ten."

The old lady was silent as she processed this message.

"Probably it has to do with my home. I live inside a Haunted House, so you can consider them my housemates." Chen Ge turned to look at his shadow. "Right, there's also a Red Specter hiding in my shadow; she sticks close to me."

The old lady did not speak. Using her own arm as support, she nudged backward like she was trying to get away from Chen Ge. Noticing the changes to the old lady's behavior, Chen Ge was unsettled.

"Granny, how did you resolve the problem? If the issue isn't solved, what will happen in the future?"

"Our situations are not the same; I don't think I can help you." The old lady removed a piece of string from her wrist. "Extended exposure to ghosts will gather Yin energy inside the body. The bead on this string is made from Heat Jade. The people rear the jade, and the jade rears the people. If you wear this long enough, the Heat Jade will balance the Yin and Yang energies in your body. Other than that, you'll need to go to crowded palaces and absorb the sunlight."

"I'll remember that." Chen Ge nodded. There would be crowds at New Century Park in the morning, and the number of visitors would only increase.

"Be careful, my legs became like this because I didn't pay close attention to this." The old lady tied the string back on her wrist. "Actually, I planned to give you several jade beads, but based on your situation, even if I give you all of my Heat Jades, it won't be useful. The key now lies in you." She looked at the row of babies on the wooden bed. "There is a difference between humans and ghosts; make sure that line is still there."

"Okay." Chen Ge was frustrated, but he had no solution. He did not tell the senior that Specters' Favored was just the beginning for him. After winning five baleful Specters, his title might upgrade!

"If there's nothing else, take the child and leave. The person hosting the ceremony is called Zhu Shumei; she's my handpicked successor. She's a kind woman, and as long as you do not purposely show up before her, she will not harm you." The old lady raised her hand. "After midnight, the creatures inside this village will rouse. Be careful when you leave the village, do not enter doors that are open, do not answer when people call your name, hide when you see bright lights, and do not touch any of the coffins."

After thanking the old lady, Chen Ge grabbed the basket and retraced his step. He could sense the pure kindness inside the old lady, so he did not doubt what she said.

Just like I thought, those who are favored by the Specters have pure, kind hearts.

He crawled out of the tunnel, and the cold gripped Chen Ge. There was only a wall of difference, but the world changed.

“You’ve found the child? Let me hold him.” Master Bai took the kid.

When he saw the leaf on the baby’s lips, he tried to take it off but was stopped by Chen Ge. “That leaf seems to be able to stop the baby from crying, don’t touch it.”

Chen Ge had wasted some time inside the old lady’s home. Chen Ge waved for Master Bai and Ol’ Wei to join him at the ancestral hall’s door. He pulled out Ah Qing’s map. “The ceremonial procession will pass the wells around the village; we must be careful not to run into them.”

The trio soon decided their route, left the ancestral hall, and walked down the street. The ceremony was still ongoing, and the village had changed. Those who had left returned, and death was in the air. All the old houses became creepy, like their original owners had returned for the night.

There were knockings coming from inside the coffin, and unknown footprints could be seen on the streets. The blood on the walls turned vibrant like time was returning to that night. Chen Ge’s group turned a corner when Master Bai, who carried the baby, suddenly stopped.

“Did you hear that? Someone is calling my name.” The cold wind brushed against their faces, and there was a wispy female voice that resounded in their ears.

Reminded of the old lady’s warning, Chen Ge told Master Bai, “Ignore it. No matter what she says, do not answer back.”

The three continued to move forward. The previously-clean roads were filled with paper money, and the white paper on the doors of old house fell off. The wooden boards creaked. The sound of the woman became clearer, and it felt like it was coming from all sides. They could not tell where she was coming from, but they did know she was getting closer.

This village is hiding a Red Specter and many tortured souls. Since the Red Specter hasn’t awakened yet, these souls will probably attack us so that they can take over our bodies and leave this place.

Chen Ge knew that with the awakening of the many ghosts, the real horror of this three-star scenario was showing itself.

### **Chapter 326: Dangerous Roads!**

The woman’s voice circulated around their ears, and it made them panic. The harder they tried to ignore it, the sharper the sound became, as their brains tried to figure out what the female voice was saying. Bloody handprints appeared on the wall. The street that Chen Ge’s group was going down seemed to have been the setting for one heavy tragedy before this.

“Don’t listen to it! Move!” Chen Ge felt something was chasing after them. With his trusty hammer in hand, he stood at the back of her group, carrying the backpack. These tortured souls did not want to be tormented by the female ghost anymore, and this was their only chance to escape her control.

Invisible rain seemed to fall from the sky, and there was moisture in the air. A light smell of blood touched their nostrils as the street turned complicated. The woman slowly approached, and her voice changed; it overlapped with a voice in their memory. She called after them like family calling them home.

“That sounds like my daughter?” Master Bai tried to turn behind him to look. “Is that real or fake?”

Chen Ge grabbed his shoulders. “Do not turn back! Do not answer!”

He had just told Master Bai that when Ol’ Wei screamed at the front of the group, “Look up at the house on the left!”

Ol’ Wei kept his hand on the holster, his emotions running wild.

“Look up?” Chen Ge looked up, and his pupils narrowed. There was someone squatting on the top of the building!

The man’s body was very thin, and his arms very long; he looked like a monkey.

“What was that?” Chen Ge had not seen a monster like that before; it did not look like a ghost.

“I’ve heard my father tell stories about them before—they’re called Eaves Ghosts.” Master Bai’s face was white. “They will lie in wait on top the eaves at night. After the home owner falls asleep, they will crawl in through the window to steal the owner’s belongings and suck their blood dry. It’s a common rumor in villages, but no one has really seen them.”

Chen Ge moved his gaze away from the monster. As long as it was not a Red Specter, there was nothing he was afraid of. “Ignore it, we’ll run past him!”

The group ran past the Eaves Ghost carrying the baby. The thing on the eaves seemed to be particularly interested in living humans. Its elongated arms grabbed the pillar as it swung downward. It moved between beams as it chased after Chen Ge’s group. The thing was very clever; it maintained its distance, staying not too close and not too far. It was biding its time. Soon, a second Eaves Ghost appeared. Their appearance was different from a living human. Their skulls protruded outward, their eyes were small, and their mouths were filled with sharp teeth.

“Chen Ge, we cannot just keep running blindly!” This was the first time Ol’ Wei had seen something like this. If given a second chance, he would never follow Chen Ge to come to this isolated village.

“Ignore everything, just focus on running.” Chen Ge did not mind those Eaves Ghosts. The only thing he was afraid of was the Red Specter and the voices that circulated around their ears. The danger that they could see was not really dangerous; what they could not see was the real fatal threat.

They ran for several meters, and when they about to turn the second corner, the Eaves Ghosts who were tailing them finally got impatient. However, they were cunning and careful. They did not attack the living humans directly but placed their focus on the backpack Chen Ge was carrying.

Several thin hands reached for the backpack, and Chen Ge finally lost his patience. He swung the hammer to smack the Eaves Ghosts’ arms away and pressed on the recorder.

“Let’s get this over with quick!”

When Zhang Ya was asleep, Xu Yin was Chen Ge's biggest combat power. This young man would pursue his target relentlessly when he was let out. Chen Ge was afraid that Xu Yin might be led away, so he did not summon him until the last moment. He wanted to keep a trump card for him. However, the incessant provocation from the Eaves Ghosts had erased his patience.

After releasing Xu Yin, Chen Ge grabbed Ol' Wei and Master Bai's shoulders to tell them to slow down. When the two Eaves Ghosts saw Xu Yin, they turned and ran. With red in his eyes, Xu Yin grabbed one of them and tore it into pieces. When he finished his meal, the other Eaves Ghost was already several meters away. Xu Yin was in a bloodlust; without waiting for Chen Ge's order, he leaped forward to chase after his dinner.

The tape in the recorder continued to play. Chen Ge's group had to leave the village before the ceremony ended; the time was limited, so they could only force themselves to move forward. Master Bai and Ol' Wei followed Chen Ge's instruction. They covered their ears to ignore the woman's voice carried by the wind and focused on running forward.

The distance was slowly pulled away. Neither one of them discovered the faces that appeared on the wall before them. The expressions on the faces were all different. They looked like mural and were inconspicuous in the dark. They chose to strike when their targets were close enough by reaching out their hands from the wall!

"The baby!" Master Bai's first reaction was to use his body to protect the baby. He exposed his back to the wall. The many arms reached for the old man; all of them wanted to take over his body. Due to the great number, it felt like the arms were trying to tear Master Bai apart.

"Watch out!" Due to desperation, Chen Ge slammed the hammer into the wall without thinking twice. The hammer made contact with the wall, creating a loud noise that echoed throughout the village.

"We're definitely exposed now. The villagers of Coffin Village and the hidden members of the ghost stories society will definitely confirm there are other outsiders in the village," Chen Ge said calmly; there was no panic in his eyes. "Since we're already exposed, there's no need to hide anymore."

He aimed the hammer crazily at the wall of faces. The faces cried for mercy. "Don't stop, keep moving!"

Regardless of whether the monsters inside the walls reached out for them or not, whenever Chen Ge saw a wall with human faces, he would greet them hammer first. The man's madness stunned even Master Bai and Ol' Wei. Master Bai used his palm to cover the baby's eyes.

Chen Ge turned to yell at Master Bai, "Are you alright?"

"I'm fine. Those looked like Wall Spirits. In other words, people who died close to walls. Their power is limited; they just look scary." Master Bai waved his hands repeatedly. He was worried about the Wall Spirits.

The three continued to move forward. By then, Xu Yin had returned, and he had two more small blood stains on his shirt. The tape in the recorder made some white noise. This time, Chen Ge did not tell Xu Yin to return to the tape. He had made the decision to level Xu Yin up to a Red Specter that night!

"The whole village of malicious spirits, if we fight our way out, it should be enough to dye your whole shirt red!" They continued to move forward as paper money fluttered on the street.

The old house's front door was blown open, and a voice floated out from within. "Help me, my death is so unjust..."

BANG!

The old wooden door was kicked open by Chen Ge. He rushed into the house with the hammer and Xu Yin!

"Where are you? I'm here to deliver your justice!"

### **Chapter 327: Why Do You Run?**

The layouts of the old homes were similar to one another. There were two dead locust trees in the courtyard, a large water tank under the tree, and beyond that was the inner room and bedrooms. The wooden door slammed open; Chen Ge's kick almost broke the door. "Tell me about your injustice!"

He walked forward, and the soil in the courtyard started to loosen. The dead locust trees started to lean like something was trying to crawl its way out. Chen Ge walked to the locust tree. The soil fell off to reveal a shallow grave, and a pair of arms were trying to reach out.

"You want to come out? Fine! I'll help you!" Chen Ge looked at the venomous gaze of the body, and he raised the hammer. "I'll smash your skull so that you won't get stuck!"

The hammer fell, and a series of creepy voices came out from the old home. It was worth noting that the other locust tree stopped moving, and the soil flowed backwards. After he was done, Chen Ge and Xu Yin yanked the ghost out from underneath the tree. After that brief exercise, Chen Ge turned his attention elsewhere. "They were hiding under the tree earlier, so it wasn't them who called for help."

The voice earlier came from inside the old home, but once Chen Ge entered it, the voice stopped. He looked around and noticed a round rubber ball floating inside the water tank. The weird thing was the ball slowly sunk downward like it was trying to drown itself. "The ball is sinking on its own?"

Chen Ge walked to the water tank with the hammer. He looked into it and saw the ghost hiding inside the tank. Its body was bloated from being soaked in water, and its bloated head floated on the surface like a rubber ball. "Was it you who called for help me? If you have some injustice in your heart, you have to say it out loud!"

The hammer smashed the tank, and water flew everywhere. Chen Ge left Xu Yin to help the ghost with its 'injustice', and he walked into the inner room. The room was filled with paper money like they had just held a funeral. There was a dark coffin sitting in the middle of the room, and weird pictures hung on the walls.

"Where are you? Why aren't you talking?" Chen Ge stared at the pictures for quite some time. The villagers here did not pray to Gods but spirits of the mountain. The pictures on the wall were all creepy-looking monsters. "They look so real."

They were paintings, but there was something about them that made Chen Ge feel there was more than met the eye. Chen Ge was not sure whether it was because he had stared at them for too long or it was due to another reason, but he saw one of the eyes in one of the paintings move.

*Wait, it moved! Are the ghosts hiding in the painting?*

While Chen Ge was contemplating, Xu Yin walked in with half of his red shirt. At the same time, several shadows escaped the paintings and rushed into the bedroom. Xu Yin gave chase immediately. When he entered the bedroom, the coffin in the middle of the room shuddered, and the lid of the coffin was pushed open slightly.

A ghost with some blood stains on its body looked at Xu Yin cautiously before pushing the coffin lid open and running for its life!

“There are blood stains on the body. This ghost also has the potential to become a Red Specter?” Chen Ge called Xu Yin and gave chase. The black shadow discovered Chen Ge and Xu Yin chasing after it, and it ran faster. The old home was filled with the sound of soil moving, glass shattering, water splashing, and the coffin bursting open. Master Bai and Ol’ Wei stopped outside the front door and did not dare go in.

“Who is Chen Ge talking with inside? Why hasn’t he come out yet?” Ol’ Wei was worried. He gathered some courage and walked to the door. Before he got close, a black shadow with flashes of red blasted past him.

“What was that?” Ol’ Wei’s heart gripped. Before he recovered, he saw a bloodshot Chen Ge ran out, waving the scary-looking hammer in the air.

“Stop right there!” The death flags on the streets were snapped, and Chen Ge’s voice echoed down the street.

“What’s going on...” Ol’ Wei and Master Bai stood at the door holding the baby. They looked at the whole hide-and-seek and felt it looked perfectly normal.

“Xiao Chen is chasing after the person in front?”

“Looks like it.”

“But shouldn’t we be the party on the run? Why is he chasing after some other people?”

“I’m not quite sure, perhaps because he looks scary?” There was another sound of the hammer hitting the wall. Master Bai and Ol’ Wei immediately ran after them.

The black shadow moved very fast. Chen Ge could barely keep up, but Xu Yin slowly closed the distance. *The movement speed is so fast, so its power must be quite high. After consuming it, Xu Yin might become a Red Specter!*

Inside this creepy village, he had to have a Red Specter to accompany him before he could feel safe. *If Xu Yin can become a Red Specter, then this mission will have been worth it!*

The black shadow did not dare slow down, but its escape route seemed predetermined; it was heading toward one of the buildings inside the village. The atmosphere turned heavy. The paper money became less common, and in their places were the ‘joy’ characters cut from white paper.

After another ten meters of chasing, at the end of the street, Chen Ge saw a wedding sedan. The red sedan and the white ‘joy’ characters formed a great contract, and the sedan was radiating a heavy sense



of resentment. The wind fluttered the curtain, and the woman's voice came again. The shadow stopped at the door where the sedan was placed before it ran into the old home.

"It knows how to ask for help? This ghost is clever." Chen Ge lifted the curtain on the sedan, but there was nothing inside. He followed the black shadow and ran into the old home. The old home looked grander than other homes, but the lingering blood stains and signs of struggles were also more numerous than others.

"Could this be the village elder's home?" Chen Ge pushed open the door, and there were white 'joy' characters everywhere. This looked like a wedding where an accident had cut it short.

"When the shadow stopped at the door, I saw clearly it was wearing the groom's outfit. He came back to find his wife?" Chen Ge waved the hammer and scoffed. "What a man."

He entered the inner room, and the woman's voice in his ear intensified; it influenced Chen Ge somewhat.

"The thing that has been calling is the shadow's wife?"

The woman's voice seemed to drill into the body and curled around the heart like strings. With every beat of his heart, the familiar notes flowed to every part of his body following the blood. The voice felt very close, and it made one lower one's guard involuntarily.

*Looks like the shadow's wife is the one with the greater ire.*

Chen Ge was considering whether the wife could be the Red Specter when the door closed, and the candles on the ceremonial table were lit on their own, shining an eerie red light.

Cast in the light, a woman in bright red wedding dress poked her head out from inside the bedroom. She was wearing a pair of embroidered shoes and looked rather scary.

*A Red Specter?* Chen Ge gripped the hammer until the veins on the back of his hands popped.

Walking forward, the woman revealed the lower half of her body. The wedding dress was not completely drenched by blood. It was half torn to reveal the dirtied underclothing.

### **Chapter 328: Tonight, I'll Let You See**

The wedding candles gave off an eerie red light, making the old home look even creepier. At the bedroom door, the woman in a tattered wedding dress looked at Chen Ge. Her lips moved, and the voice echoed in Chen Ge's mind. The memories were muddled, and a weird feeling gushed up his heart. She seems to be calling my name.

When he was young, Chen Ge once heard the elders of his family say that there was a kind of ghost in the world that called passersby's names in the middle of the night and then transformed into the person who was the most memorable in the passerby's mind to approach them and harm them.

This female ghost has a similar power?

The voice that they had been hearing amplified; it disturbed Chen Ge's power of thought. He tried to focus, but his body relaxed completely. He raised his eyes to look, and the woman's face changed. There was a general outline, but it slowly turned familiar like he was looking at someone from his memory.

The wonderful memory was sewn together by threads, and the dead woman lifted her sleeves lightly to cover her face. She walked out of the bedroom gracefully. The embroidered shoes stepped on the white paper. The woman's wedding dress glowed redder. She lowered the sleeve slightly, and the originally scary face became exquisite and beautiful. The facial features slowly formed, and there was a sense of familiarity comforting Chen Ge. She should be someone important in my life.

The woman's voice sneaked into his bone marrow like strings controlling Chen Ge's body, stopping his means of harming the other party. His mind froze, and his body moved on its own. Chen Ge took a step forward like someone in his mind was urging him to not give this opportunity up lest he regretted it forever.

Such a familiar voice, who is she?

The memory buried in his heart was pulled to the surface, and Chen Ge felt like his soul was leaving his body. The voice echoed in his mind, and the hall stopped being scary. The surrounding melted away, and with the voice leading him forward, Chen Ge took his steps.

The distance between the two closed, and the woman's bright-red sleeves slowly lowered. The pale face shifted as she flipped through Chen Ge's memory and found the woman who loved him the most. The blurry facial features became clear and flawless. Even the pickiest artist would gasp and say, "Beautiful!"

With the familiar face, the exquisite expression, the woman lifted her head to look at Chen Ge in anticipation. Their eyes met, and Chen Ge, who was under the woman's spell, felt struck by lightning!

His body shook continuously, and his heart raced. An indescribable terror tore through the memory and romance. "Zhang Ya?"

A strong survival instinct made Chen Ge jump backward. No matter how the woman called for him, it was useless. The flickering candlelight extinguished, and facing the extreme fear, the woman's voice had lost its power over Chen Ge. The woman's face turned back to normal. She was holding a pair of scissors and red string, standing the middle of the room.

She used her power to morph into the most memorable woman in Chen Ge's memory. She used that to weave a trap for Chen Ge to walk into. Initially, everything was going according to plan. The man was under her full control, so she could not understand why, when the man saw the woman who loved him deeply, his reaction would be so drastic?

Chen Ge gasped greedily for air. This was the first time he had felt the true meaning of fear since he entered Coffin Village. He did not expect to see Zhang Ya's face when she was slumbering. The voice in his mind disappeared. Chen Ge wiped the cold sweat off his forehead and calmed down again.

That was most likely the ghost's special power. The ghost was powerful, her voice carried his own memory and could enter a normal person's mind with being noticed to make others lower their guard around her. That was a hard threat to deal with; it was because of pure luck that Chen Ge managed to survive this time.

When Chen Ge escaped the ghost's control, even the ghost herself was injured. Her voice stopped, and a part of memory was left in Chen Ge's mind. Chen Ge thus gained a new understanding of this ghost who had the potential to become a Red Specter.

She was the village elder's daughter, and the night of her wedding was also the night of the massacre. Her whole family had been torn apart, and there was not enough of them left to become ghosts. She was the only survivor. Her resentment kept her alive, and as the years passed, she became more and more powerful... until she met Chen Ge.

The ghost in the wedding dress was several steps away from Chen Ge, and her face twisted with a pair of eyes burning with vengeance. Xu Yin was battling the groom, but it was not much of a match. All the groom could do was buy time. Their original plan was probably to possess Chen Ge and then cooperate to kill Xu Yin. Unfortunately, the ghost's plan ran into some trouble.

Looking at Chen Ge, who had regained his sanity, the ghost was irrationally angered. Her hands reached out from underneath the sleeves, and her wounded palms were tied with red strings. She screamed, and the red strings that flowed out from her flesh rushed at Chen Ge.

The door was sealed, and the hammer did not have much use against the red strings. Xu Yin, who was some distance away, saw the situation Chen Ge was in, so he tore the groom's arm off and turned to fight the ghost in the wedding dress.

The red strings stuck into Xu Yin's body, but it did nothing to stop him. The greater the pain, the stronger Xu Yin got. Fresh blood spurted out, and it almost dyed his shirt. Both Xu Yin and the bride were half Red Specters, and they were equally powerful.

His senses returned, and Chen Ge could feel the weight of the hammer in his hand again. He circled the outskirts of the battle, trying to find a chance to help Xu Yin, but did not anticipate the ambush from the groom. Xu Yin was unable to help Chen Ge, and the groom realized this was a perfect chance.

His cracked face revealed a dirty smile. He walked toward Chen Ge like he planned to return all the damage that he had suffered from Xu Yin's hands to Chen Ge.

"Going for the weaker party? Then you've got the wrong target." Chen Ge did not retreat. He was also quite mad that day. "Even if you have the potential to become a Red Specter, as long as you're not a Red Specter now, you possess no threat to me!"

Chen Ge's calm voice sounded like a bluff to the groom. He hugged the torn arm and walked toward Chen Ge with a wicked grin!

"Don't believe me?" Chen Ge did not fight back as the groom approached. In fact, he put his only weapon, the hammer, down on the floor. "Actually, compared to a duel, I prefer a brawl."

Chen Ge took out the comic from his backpack. He flipped through it, and a heavy stench covered the old home. "Tonight, I'll let you see what the real meaning of strength in numbers is!"

The stench coagulated to form a large fatty, and more shadows appeared from the comic!

## **Chapter 329: Sedan Kids**

In the blink of an eye, Chen Ge was surrounded by several shadows. They had different expressions; some were curious, some harsh, some cunning, and some quivering with fear. The ghosts filled up the courtyard, and the old home became several times scarier than before!

Chen Ge put the comic back and pointed at the groom. The situation changed instantly as the shadows surrounded the poor man. "It's time for dinner."

Chen Ge picked up the hammer and charged ahead. The battle was not fair from the beginning. The groom was slightly more powerful than normal ghosts, but he could not fight so many of them. The wounds on his body increased, and his body started to fade. When he was almost at his limits, the groom tried to lean toward the bride like he was trying to get his wife to help him.

However, the bride was locked in the battle with Xu Yin and did not have the time to deal with him. Chen Ge saw this opportunity to attack. The groom had already been injured by Xu Yin earlier; one of his arms had been torn off, and he could not even fight back. The ghosts tore him apart. He wanted to run, but the door was sealed. He had nowhere to escape to.

There's still an advantage in numbers. Chen Ge took a step back after making sure his workers could handle the groom just fine. Ten seconds later, the groom who acted as bait was consumed by Chen Ge's workers.

"Don't just stand there, go help Xu Yin!" Chen Ge ordered again, but only the fatty marched obediently forward. The rest of them jumped back when they saw the heated battle between Xu Yin and the bride. "Stop wasting time! Attack together!"

Xu Yin had been cruelly murdered by his loved ones, so he had a great amount of dissatisfaction and resentment to begin with. He had consumed so many ghosts, but he only fought to a stalemate with the bride.

The bride has a very powerful special power, and she is herself quite strong. If only she could become a worker at the Haunted House.

Realizing how fitting the bride was to the Minghun scenario, Chen Ge's interest was piqued. However, he thought about it from a different perspective. The bride was filled with resentment, and it was probably caused by her desire to take revenge for her family. That meant killing the Red Specter that jumped into the well.

That was too much to handle for Chen Ge.

The Haunted House workers have to be completely obedient so that they won't hurt the visitors. This particular one is too unruly, and her wish cannot be fulfilled. Even if I forcibly take her back, it'll only cause more problems. Chen Ge never suffered from hesitation. He called the other ghosts to help Xu Yin.

"Rest in peace. Actually, if you didn't attack me in the beginning, this wouldn't have happened."

The red strings were soaked with Xu Yin's blood. With the aid from the other ghosts, Xu Yin finally found the break he was looking for. A blood-curdling scream echoed through the old home, and several minutes later, everything returned to normal.

Afraid that they might influence Xu Yin, Chen Ge held the other ghosts back. The bride was consumed fully by Xu Yin. The red strings on the ground lost their color, and the bright wedding dress turned old and dusty.

Chen Ge anticipated the change to Xu Yin, wishing that he would turn into a Red Specter in that instant. Standing in the middle of the room, the wounds on Xu Yin's body recovered, but the blood that drenched his shirt did not recede. He raised both of his hands to look at his palms before turning to look at Chen Ge. His body slowly faded as he returned into the tape. "So painful..."

The recorder's play button bounced back. Xu Yin seemed to have exhausted all of his power to deal with the bride.

"Wait, something's wrong. If Xu Yin also slumbers..." Chen Ge looked at the shadows that might even be afraid of himself, and his lips twitched. "What am I supposed to do tonight?"

After collecting the ghosts into the comic, Chen Ge grabbed the hammer and raced out of the old home. "I need to leave this village as soon as possible."

He ran out of the front door and saw Ol' Wei and Master Bai. They were walking around a sedan, talking among themselves.

"Let's go, we must leave this village immediately." Chen Ge took out the map given by Ah Qing and started to study it. "Follow closely, don't wander off. This place is getting more and more dangerous!"

You have the map. We've been following you!

Before Ol' Wei and Master Bai could say that, Chen Ge hollered, "This way."

According to the map, they were still quite far away from the perimeter of the village.

The three prepared to leave when the sedan at the door started to shake. Two kids appeared beside the sedan, and they were humming some kind of lullaby. Their faces were painted with something that looked like blood, and they were wearing clothes that were black and red.

Hearing the song behind him, Master Bai turned to look. He rushed forward from the back, holding Ah Qing's baby. "Quick, run! Those are Sedan Kids!"

Chen Ge and Ol' Wei did not even turn back to look and raced down the street. The sedan shook, and the two children smiled happily. They clapped their hands and danced some weird dance.

"Master Bai, that's a dead-end! Stop!" Chen Ge pulled Master Bai. "It's safe now. The two kids didn't chase after us."

"Good..." Master Bai sighed. As healthy as he was, the strain on his body was becoming clear.

"Thankfully, we ran fast. If we're haunted by Sedan Kids, it's over."

"What do you mean? Those children are that scary?"

"These are stories I heard when I was small. Sedan Kids hide under sedans and wear masks and uniforms from Chinese opera. They show up whenever there's a ceremony. It's okay if you don't run into them,

but if someone exposes them, they will find said person's home and use different faces to play with you." Master Bai felt better after the short rest.

"But didn't you call out their names earlier?" Ol' Wei was worried.

"Yes, I regretted it right after. Who knew things from legend will appear in real life!" Master Bai gave himself quite a fright.

"Master Bai, where did you hear these stories from? Do you know other stories? Why don't you share them with us so that we can be prepared?" Chen Ge held the hammer. Now that Xu Yin had returned to the tape, he had lost a powerful trump card.

"My father told me those. He was a wandering doctor, so he had been to many places and heard many things. He shared these stories with me. I thought he made them up, but who would thought I would run into them one day?" Master Bai laughed bitterly. He felt like the night was a dream.

### **Chapter 330: Scared to Death**

The three slowed down. Before Master Bai could finish, the sound of a nursery rhyme came from behind them. Master Bai turned to look behind him. The two kids with red paint on their faces did not come close, like they were afraid of something. They just stood a distance away to look at Chen Ge's group.

"Talk as we move." Master Bai dragged Ol' Wei and Chen Ge to move forward. He combed his mind to come up with the stories that his father had once told him. "These kinds of villages deep in the mountain will be filled with various monsters at night. Other than the Pillar Ghost, Sedan Kids, Wall Spirit, the more difficult ones include the Pillow Ghost, Mummy Wraps, and Skull Lantern."

"Skull Lantern? Can you tell us specifically what these three look like?" Chen Ge and Ol' Wei had not heard of this before.

"In these villages, the pillows that people sleep on have to be burned after the person passes away. This is to prevent the formation of a Pillow Ghost. This kind of ghost is normally the lingering spirit of the dead person remaining in the pillow. If one falls asleep on these pillows, they will be tormented by nightmares and even hear the person whispering in their ears.

"If you're lucky, you might sleep until morning, but if you're not, you might wake up in the middle of the night and find someone lying beside you, sharing the pillow, and that person will be the Pillow Ghost." The senior did not have a talent in storytelling; the description was rather dry. However, Chen Ge made a note of the details of this Pillow Ghost—perhaps he could use it in his Haunted House in the future.

"Pillow Ghost cannot stray too far from the pillows, so as long as we don't enter these houses, it should be fine. The things that really concern us are the Mummy Wraps and Skull Lantern," Master Bai said carefully. He was worried these things might really appear in real life.

"Mummy Wraps are more difficult to deal with compared to Pillow Ghosts. These are the clothes that villagers put the dead person in when they carry out the burial. There are taboos and traditions to abide by for the clothes that dead bodies are buried in. If they are not followed closely, it might form the

Mummy Wraps. They will wander the street when the Yin energy gathers. They look like a person, but it is actually only a layer of cloth.

“They will attack by wrapping themselves around the body of a living person. They make the living person wear the clothes of a dead body and use it to control the living human. If you see someone wearing a new set of clothes but they smell weird, remember to stay away from them because they might be wearing a dead person’s clothes.”

Master Bai looked around him. The ceremony was still ongoing, and the streets were empty. Only the two Sedan Kids trailed behind them with hesitation. Master Bai hugged Ah Qing’s baby and sped up. He continued to explain, “The skull lantern is the scariest ghost from all the stories my father has told me.

“No one knows how they’re formed, but people have seen them inside abandoned villages or places where high concentration of resentment gathers. Those rushing in the night would see lights inside a village. They rushed over, thinking it’s human activity, but the light kept moving away from them.

“They called for the light to stop, and it did. When they got close, it was actually a floating head, and it was biting a lantern with its teeth. According to legend, Skull Lanterns are spirit trying to seek help, so they float about with the lantern.”

After Master Bai finished the last story, he realized that neither Ol’ Wei nor Chen Ge replied. “What’s wrong with the two of you? I still know quite a bit of this village folklore.”

“Master Bai, you said the Mummy Wraps look just like normal people?” Ol’ Wei looked at the street behind them.

“Yes, they look just like humans because the clothes will take on the shape of a human. However, they have no face or hands; they are only clothes.” Master Bai had a very bad feeling.

“Then did you father tell you what to do if we run into Mummy Wraps?” Chen Ge grabbed the hammer and similarly looked behind Master Bai. Master Bai did not dare turn back, but his face paled. “My father said, if we come across these things, we need to run.”

Xu Yin was digesting the bride, so Chen Ge grabbed hold of the hammer and thought about it. “Looks like we have to change a different route.”

The three of them turned down a different street. Behind them, their old sets of clothes with weird smell stood in the middle of the road. The nursery rhyme beside their ears did not stop, and new things appeared. As the ceremony continued, more monsters woke up from the night. The number was unimaginable.

This is the real three-star scenario! Chen Ge compared Coffin Village and The Third Sick Hall. When he arrived at Third Sick Hall, most of the patients had already left, like the Devil and Wu Fei. The craziest ones had joined the ghost stories society; only those normal ones were left behind to watch over the blood door. This was the biggest difference between Third Sick Hall and Coffin Village. In other words, this was the first time Chen Ge had entered an actual three-star scenario.

Various monsters were crawling out from their hiding spots, gnashing their sinister teeth.

This village has all sort of monsters. If they're fully replicated inside the Haunted House, the visitors will be scared to death!

Chen Ge was quite excited. Coffin Village was different from the Haunted House theme that was currently popular on the market. The style was unique and would be one of a kind if Chen Ge had it inside his Haunted House. The key was, the scenario would be three-star, and it would be enough for the visitors to explore it for a long time.

Chen Ge scouted ahead. He followed the complicated roads that was mapped out on the cloth. They walked for some time when bits of light appeared before them. The old lady in the two-story building had warned him to evade the bright lights. Master Bai's story also had similar effect.

They stopped where they were as the monsters slowly surrounded them. The lights swayed in the wind and formed blurry human faces. Ol' Wei and Master Bai did not look so good. They had not encountered scenes like this before, so they involuntarily turned their attention to Chen Ge.

"What should we do?"

Holding the hammer, Chen Ge felt the pressure. "We have no other choice but to power ahead. Stay close to me and try not to get separated."

The three of them had just confirmed the route when a loud boom occurred at the western part of the village. It was much louder than the sound Chen Ge had made earlier.

"A fight has happened? The ghost stories society is fighting with the ceremony?"

Coffin Village's peace was completely shattered. The night thickened. As long as they survived this, dawn would not be far away.

"Chen Ge, should we avoid the eastern exit and take a longer detour?"

"We don't have time! Let's charge out of this place first!"