

Horrors 341

Chapter 341: Seamstress' Wedding Dress

The woman blinked several times before she fully regained consciousness. She gripped Chen Ge's sleeves, and the first sentence out of her lips was... "It split open. The person's body split open!"

"Huh? Slow down. There's no need to rush." Chen Ge patted the woman on her back and slowly helped her to sit upright.

"After you left with the two children, the six-headed monster was torn apart by the village's ghosts, and throughout the process, the black robe didn't move a finger." The Zhu woman's body was weak, and her words came slow and stunted. "After the village's spirits shared the monster, they turned their attention to the black robe, but the moment they got near, they screamed and ran away."

"The ghosts were afraid of him?"

"Yes, red blood started to seep from his body, and after the robe was peeled off, I saw that he was carrying a dead woman on his back."

The woman's description made Chen Ge think of himself, but Zhang Ya had been hiding in his shadow.

"When he pulled off the black robe, did you see his face?"

"No, actually, it felt like it was the female body that yanked the robe off."

"Are you sure it's a female body? Not a female ghost in a red outfit?" In Chen Ge's mind, the difference between a female body and a female ghost was still big.

"I can still tell the difference between something like that. However, there's something unique about that body that is different from all the dead bodies that I've seen before." The Zhu woman tried her best to explain the situation, but since she had spent her whole life cooped up in Coffin Village, the words just could not come to her as easily. "The body looked like it had been dolled up. It looked more like a display than a body."

"The society is indeed filled with mad people." Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of something and he asked, "Was the body beautiful?"

So far, other than Wu Fei and Wang Shenglong, only Han Bao'er was still unknown. The comment of the Third Sick Hall's doctor about this female patient had been— *Just how harsh must God be to make a woman as beautiful as this?*

Chen Ge paid attention when he saw this message. *Xiong Qing was made into a Red Specter, so Han Bao'er might have been made into something else. It's hard to understand the world of the crazies.*

"I don't think you can call the body pretty." The woman also did not understand why she was being asked to judge a body's beauty, but she suddenly stopped. "I almost forgot, the body didn't show any sign of decay, but the skin looked weird, radiating an aura of death."

The more she described, the stranger it became. The thing No. 10 was carrying seemed to be different from everything he had seen so far.

“What happened next? Why did all of you say the person split open?” Chen Ge was curious about this.

“The woman’s body was made up from numerous red threads, and regardless of whether it was living or dead, she shoved everything into her mouth like food. When she ate, her lips could split until here.” The woman pointed at her ear. “The woman’s body could split open any place it wished. In a way, she looked like a moving body of lips.”

Listening to the Zhu woman’s description, the monster sounded like a Red Specter, but if it was a Red Specter, there was no way the Zhu lady and the villagers could have survived.

“So why did the monster leave?”

“The black robe wanted to capture the baby before turning to deal with us, but right then, someone entered the village.”

“Was it the police?”

The woman shook her head. “It was a doctor. He was wearing a white doctor’s garb, and many playing children surrounded him.”

When this image crossed his mind, Chen Ge was weirded out. “A bunch of children circling the doctor?”

“All those children are ghosts. They seem to treat the doctor as their father.” Now that the woman said that, it reminded Chen Ge of someone—Doctor Chen from Jiujiang’s Children’s Home!

“The doctor looks around forties, has a square face and thick eyebrows?”

“I was too far away to tell.” The woman thought about it. “After the doctor entered the village, he headed right for the black robe. They seemed to be nemeses.”

“Did they exchange any conversation?”

“No, when the black robe saw the doctor, he immediately left. We were attacked by the children following the doctor. However, they did not harm us; they merely knocked us out.”

“One last question. Was it you who transferred the babies from the ancestral hall to your home through the secret tunnel?” Chen Ge stood up and prepared to leave.

“You even know that?” The woman did not deny it. “Whenever the female ghost returns for the annual massacre, only my place is relatively safe.”

“I heard that from the old lady. Is she your family?” Chen Ge asked, but there was no answer. He turned to realize there was a weird expression on the woman’s face. “What’s wrong?”

“My grandmother passed away a long time ago; you couldn’t have spoken with her.”

Even though he had suspected that, Chen Ge’s heart still skipped a bit.

“But don’t you worry, she probably had something she wanted to tell you.” The woman signaled for Chen Ge to inspect the western side of the village. “Before I fainted, I saw the black robe and the doctor heading that way.”

“The gunshot came from that side as well. They probably ran into Ol’ Wei and Master Bai.” Chen Ge was worried about the almost-retired police officer and quickly rushed ahead. He ran for a while and started to hear the sound of a baby crying. Following the voice, he saw Master Bai and Ol’ Wei collapsed next to a dirt wall with the basket between them.

They were not injured, and to Chen Ge’s surprise, Ol’ Wei’s gun was sitting snugly in his holster. Chen Ge lifted the gun to take a look, and there was a shot missing.

“There is no slug around here. Did the thing that was shot get taken away?” He stayed on guard beside Ol’ Wei and Master Bai until they woke up.

It felt like a nightmare. Master Bai could still remember some of the details from the night before, but the situation with Ol’ Wei was slightly more complicated. He looked worried and kept telling Chen Ge that something scary had happened to him. When Chen Ge asked him about it, he had no recollection of said event.

Ol’ Wei was clearly traumatized. He had forgotten everything that had happened in Coffin Village, but he kept saying that something was not right.

The night dispersed, and the sun was coming up. Chen Ge received the message that his mission had been completed.

“Congratulations, Specters’ favored! You’ve completed the random three-star mission—Coffin Village! A new scenario has been unlocked!

“You have successfully completed the mission within the allocated time. Congratulations for winning the reward—Seamstress’ Wedding Dress!”

Chapter 342: Who Stole My Memory

“Seamstress’ Wedding Dress. My bone as the needle, my blood as the thread, my skin as the cloth—hopefully, you won’t mind my blood red wedding dress.

“Congratulations for obtaining the special-type baleful Specter—Seamstress’ lingering spirit!

“The three-star mission for Coffin Village has been completed. Completion rate: seventy percent—unable to obtain the hidden item.”

Chen Ge looked at the message on the black phone twice to make sure he did not see incorrectly. The completion rate is only seventy percent? I’ve run through the village several times already tonight, and I’ve been to all the places. How come the completion rate is only seventy percent?

The black phone would never make a mistake, so he started to think. The ghost stories society’s interruption caused the Coffin Village’s ceremony to fail. Could that be a reason why?

The key to completing the mission should be the female ghost. Either help her complete the ceremony or killing her will bring two different results—that should be the core of the mission. The woman said, since they refused to let her be a human, she wouldn't give them a chance to be ghosts. This shows that the Red Specter's desire has changed; she wants a rebirth!

Either helping her or stopping her would increase the completion rate, but due to the arrival of the society, before Chen Ge could commit to any choice, he had to start running for his life.

Safety first. As long as I'm alive, there's a chance to raise the completion rate in the future. Chen Ge leaned against the wall and slid the phone in his pocket. But what shall I choose in the future? Help her get her rebirth or stop her?

Coffin Village was hiding a large secret. The whole village could be seen as a tomb—all the villagers were paper doll sacrifices, the Zhu woman was the tomb guard, and the only dead buried here was the Red Specter!

Rebirth is impossible. Possessing others to create a nightmare is more likely, but if I stop her, we'll turn into enemies, and it will be an endless battle. Chen Ge turned to look at Fan Yu. The boy had his head lowered as he toyed with the jade bangle on his wrist. Inside the jade bangle were lines of red blood.

The ghost seems to value Fan Yu a lot, and she has given him a precious bangle. She is Fan Yu's friend, and Fan Yu is my friend, so in a way, I'm also her friend. That's not so bad. Even though the woman is a vengeful spirit, she knows right from wrong, and she deserves the help. Furthermore, as a Haunted House boss, isn't it my job to befriend souls from the other side?

Chen Ge very quickly convinced himself. He told Fan Yu to try to keep that Red Specter big sister as happy as possible. For today's Trial Mission, Chen Ge was just an observer. Zhang Ya was asleep, and Xu Yin was in the middle of his transformation. That meant that he had lost the right to join the battle. Thankfully, the result was not so bad. The scenario was unlocked, and Xu Yin had a high chance to become a Red Specter. Even the white cat that swallowed the society's blood might experience some special change in the future.

I've been running for a whole night, but how come I feel I've been heavily rewarded?

The day was starting. It was 5 am. Chen Ge calculated the time. Even if he rushed nonstop, it would be hard for him to reach New Century Park before 9 am.

Director Luo has given everything for this promotion; I cannot let him down. I'd better return as soon as I can. Chen Ge found the Zhu woman to discuss the issue regarding Ah Qing's son with her. In the end, Chen Ge did not take the baby away but left him to be taken care of by the Zhu woman.

Ol' Wei also asked the woman many questions, but the woman sided with the Red Specter in the well. She did not reveal any information. She said that this was just a normal village with a unique ceremony during that time of year. Ol' Wei felt like he had forgotten something. It was as if he had drunk too much the night before and could not remember what had happened.

Chen Ge was afraid that Ol' Wei was affected by the society, so he led him to a room and had his employees check on him. They discovered that he was just fine. The gunfire from the night before should have come from Ol' Wei's gun. He must have seen something and fired. It was probably that

thing that stole his memory. Only Ol' Wei had seen the thing that stole his memory, but he could not remember what that thing was.

Chen Ge told Ol' Wei to be careful and advised him from going out alone. He was worried that the death of the investigator might repeat itself.

The villagers hated the outsiders—probably because they were afraid that others would see their abnormalities—so they stayed far away from Chen Ge's group. At 6 am, Chen Ge, Ol' Wei, and Master Bai led the two children out of Coffin Village. They walked for one hour through the forest before Ol' Wei and Chen Ge's phones rang.

"Finally, there's signal!" Ol' Wei recovered and called to report the situation to Captain Yan. The two kids had been discovered, but the doctor at the Children's Home had disappeared. Based on Ol' Wei's understanding, he suspected that this was a premeditated kidnapping; the two children had probably been kidnapped by Doctor Chen to be sold.

Captain Yan also relaxed when he found out that Ol' Wei and Chen Ge were safe and the kids were found. He had them bring the kids to the station.

When Ol' Wei reported the situation to Captain Yan, Chen Ge logged into his social account. He realized from 1 am to 3 am, He San and Gao Ru Xue had messaged him many times. They seemed to have urgent things to tell him.

Chen Ge called He San and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Boss! Why didn't you answer earlier? Something big has happened!" He San was so loud that even Ol' Wei could hear him.

"Don't act so flighty, slow down." Chen Ge walked ahead to introduce some distance between them.

"Do you still remember Gao Ru Xue? It was the senior who joined me to visit your Haunted House. Someone has disappeared from her dorm!" Even though He San had lowered his voice, it still caused Chen Ge's ear some pain.

"In that case, you have to go to the police. Why come to me?"

"The person didn't disappear. I don't know how to explain this. The person looks the same, but the personality is completely different, like the soul has been exchanged!"

"A ghost possession?"

"Yes, just like that! Boss, do you want to come to our school to take a look tonight? This thing is just weird, and now my senior really needs your help."

"Temporarily, I don't have time." Chen Ge thought about it but did not reject directly. "I'll call Gao Ru Xue to ask for more details."

After hanging up, Chen Ge took out the black phone. The last side mission for the four-star scenario School of the Afterlife was at Jiujiang's Medical University.

I should give myself some time to rest. At least I have to wait until Xu Yin wakes up first.

Chapter 343: Look Behind You

When Chen Ge ended the call, Gao Ru Xue's call came in. He San had probably contacted her. "Is it that urgent?"

Chen Ge answered the call, but before he could say anything, Gao Ru Xue's purposely suppressed voice came through. "I'm not wearing earphones, and my roommate is just outside the corridor, so don't raise your voice."

Gao Ru Xue did not sound like she was in a good state—Chen Ge could hear uncertainty and anxiety in her voice. "I just heard from He San that your roommate is possessed?"

"It's scarier than that. I feel like she has changed into a completely different person."

"Is it because of change in habit?"

"She acts like normal, but I can feel that it's not her!" Gao Ru Xue sounded confident. "Listen to me. This is related to legend at our school. There's a stone statue underneath the old education block whose eyes can bleed. According to legend, as long as you can find it before midnight, you can ask it a question."

"I have two roommates. One of them is Ma Xin, and the other is Liu Xianxian. That night, they went out together."

"Why did they want to go look for that statue? Just out of curiosity?" Chen Ge interjected with a question.

"Liu Xianxian has fallen in love with a man that she shouldn't. She has been wondering whether she should get together with him or not. She comes from a single-parent family, so she lacks security. She would fall for anyone who treats her slightly better. We've tried to advise her, but she refused to listen."

"She stubbornly thought the man also loves her deeply but cannot be together with her due to multiple reasons. She wanted to have a clear answer, but she was afraid to ask the man, so she thought to ask the statue to see whether the man's love for her is sincere or not."

Chen Ge was inexperienced in the field of relationships, so he did not comment. "Then what about the other girl?"

"Ma Xin has a big sister, and she managed to get into Jiujiang's Medical University five years ago. However, during her second year, she disappeared while she was on the way home and has remained unfounded to this day. She wants to find out about her sister's location, her whole family do. When she heard about this rumor, she yearned to give it a try."

Gao Ru Xue was halfway through when another female voice came from the corridor. It sounded like it was rushing her. After she answered, Gao Ru Xue spoke faster into the phone. "The two wanted to find the statue, but they're both scared, so they dragged me with them."

"We departed last week and entered the old education block's underground rooms at 11 pm. The place was filled with so many abandoned materials, so it was hard to find a statue. We searched the majority area on the first night but didn't find anything."

“On the second night, I thought they would give up, but they dragged me with them again. Since we’ve been roommates for so long already, I didn’t have the heart to reject them, so I followed them underground a second time. However, this time, things were different. We didn’t walk too far into the place before I heard something laughing.

“I asked them about it, but both of them said they didn’t hear anything. I had a feeling something was wrong, so I forcibly dragged them out with me. I thought it would end then, but on the third night, they told me they still wanted to go.

“That was the first time I realized something off about them. I warned them if they insisted on doing this, I would report them to the school and dormitory security. Realizing I was serious, they unwillingly went back to bed.

“The real event that sent a chill down my spine happened on the morning of the fourth day. When I opened my eyes, both of my roommates were already awake. They lay in their beds, looking at me, with smiles on their faces.

“On the fourth night, they didn’t show any signs of going out, but I just felt something was not right. I lay in bed and pretended to fall asleep. At 2 am, they sat up simultaneously and sneaked out of the room like this was something planned.

“I didn’t dare chase after them. They returned at 3:30 am. They went back to bed like nothing had ever happened.

“The same thing happened on the fifth and sixth nights, but last night, things changed. They also left at 2 am and returned at 3:30 am, but when they returned, three of them returned—not two!

“The light in the bedroom was off, so I could not see clearly, but it felt like all three of them were dressed similarly. They walked to the three beds and lay down, and the strangest thing happened!

“There were only three beds in the room, so this meant that one of them crawled into my bed. I didn’t dare move throughout the whole night. I used my hands that were hidden inside my bed to call and send messages. You might not believe me, but this is the truth.

“All the replies, no matter who it was, was—Look behind you. Only when I messaged you did the system reply normally. The additional person should have been lying behind me, and at the time, I could only message and call you, but you were unreachable.

“I stayed put until morning. When I looked behind me, there was nothing on the bed. One hour ago, my roommates woke up, and they acted like normal, calling me to breakfast and class, but...”

“Aren’t you ready yet?” There was another female voice on the phone, and it sounded like a door had been opened.

“Coming, just talking with a friend on the phone.” Gao Ru Xue’s voice changed; she sounded calm.

“You rarely talk so much even to us; this isn’t like you. You sure it’s just a friend?” The other girl commented with a laugh. “In any case, don’t just chat on the phone. Today’s autopsy class is quite important.”

“Okay.” Then Gao Ru Xue spoke into the phone. “If you have time, why don’t you come over for dinner tonight? This is the first time I’m inviting someone over, so you’d better think about it.”

“Hurry on to your class. I’ll be over tonight.” Chen Ge sounded magnetic on the phone like a confident, mature man.

After hanging up, Chen Ge’s expression changed. Gao Ru Xue asked me to meet her in person tonight, looks like this thing has really spooked her. Then again, why could only my contact be reached normally?

He placed both of his phones in his palm, but he could not figure it out.

Statue, the additional person, phone message...

Actually, Chen Ge wanted to ask Gao Ru Xue if that underground room had anything to do with a morgue or not.

No. 10 was carrying a body on his back. Could that body be related to the underground morgue at Jiujiang’s Medical University?

Chen Ge examined all the clues in his mind, and the dots started to line up.

Chapter 344: Open for Business!

“When I see Gao Ru Xue tonight, I’ll warn her that it might be time to move out of that bedroom.” There was something scary buried underneath Jiujiang’s Medical University that Gao Ru Xue did not know about.

After pocketing the phone, Chen Ge ran out of the mountain. Chen Ge reached Lin Guan Village at 9 am, and Xu Wan’s phone call came, asking him why he was not at the Haunted House and if something happened to him. Chen Ge brushed her off with some random excuses, and Xu Wan told him some good news—Gu Feiyu had gotten out of the hospital already.

This young security had been assaulted by the ghost stories society at Fang Hwa Apartments and only recovered recently. He had already reported for duty at New Century Park early in the morning. “Xiao Gu is quite a responsible worker, and the Haunted House does need the manpower.”

Chen Ge told Xu Wan that he would arrive at the park within three hours. He hoped that she would be able to calm the visitors down. Bringing the two kids into the police car, Ol’ Wei planned to drive them to the station, but with Chen Ge begging him, he finally agreed to drop Chen Ge at New Century Park first. Chen Ge caught a quick forty-winks inside the police car and arrived at the park at around 11 am.

He had been rushing throughout the night, and his clothes had been torn open by branches and trees. There was a dirty cat on his shoulders. He looked rather worse for wear. “So sorry I’m late.”

The resting tent beside the Haunted House was already full, as were the steps. Many visitors came purposely for the Haunted House. The visitors were filled with complaints since they had been waiting for so long, but when they saw Chen Ge, the complaints were stuck in their throat.

“Xiao Chen, you’re so late! Don’t you know the time?” Uncle Xu had the park workers hand out some free gifts and water, and then he asked the question that was on everyone’s mind. “Where have you been all night?”

Many visitors came closer to listen. After all, they were intrigued by Chen Ge appearance.

“Last night, two kids went missing from Jiujiang’s Children’s Home, and I went to help them look for the missing kids. We followed the trail into the deep mountain and discovered a village filled with deformed people. The whole village is just like a tomb where joyful occasions are shunned, and funerals are welcomed. There are white lanterns and paper money everywhere. When I arrived, they were in the middle of a ceremony with babies in bamboo baskets and a red coffin standing upright. The woman at the village held a pair of scissors in her hand as she carried the babies into the ancestral hall. When she exited, her clothes are drenched in fresh blood...”

“Okay, you can stop now.” Uncle Xu quickly grabbed Chen Ge’s arm. There was already a group of visitors around them. They were originally filled with displeasure, but the story was quite interesting.

“Why did you tell him to stop? What happened next?”

“What kind of ceremony is this bloody? Is this village real?”

“Let’s leave, the boss has gone insane.”

Uncle Xu tried to calm the crowd, but Chen Ge spoke louder. “That’s not even the scariest thing!”

He grabbed the loudspeaker that the worker used to maintain order and stepped on the railing to climb onto the Midnight Ticket Counter. He was dressed normally, but he grabbed everyone’s attention.

“After some deeper investigation, I realized the village is a ghost village!

“A place for the living in the day but for the dead at night. After midnight, the whole village is filled with ghosts!

“You definitely have not seen things like that before! Dead people holding a funeral for dead people, the funeral procession moving through the village!

“If you think that’s all, then you’d be mistaken! The most dangerous thing about this village was the houses. The courtyards were planted with locust trees, and they had weird-looking monsters buried underneath them. If you’re lucky enough to escape into the inner room, don’t be happy so soon!

“Every room in the village is placed with a coffin, and a set of red graveclothes is placed inside each one. Regardless of whether you touch them or not, the clothes will crawl out of the coffin to follow you!

“You have to be careful with your every breath because, at any given moment, someone will call your name. If you answer the call, you’ll enter the wedding night, and your partner will be a bride wearing a wedding dress made from human skin!

“Death funeral, ghost village, skull lantern! All sorts of monsters reside in this village!

“A unique setting! Scary design! You only need to pay 30 to experience such an interesting scenario! That’s the reason I’m late today; I’ve been busy building this new scenario!

“This latest three-star scenario will be opened for a limited period! Believe me, this is definitely the scariest village-themed scenario on the market!”

When Chen Ge finished, his voice still echoed through the park.

“It was just a sales pitch, but why do I feel so excited?”

“What was I trying to say earlier?”

“Since you have a new scenario and a special offer, I’m willing to forget that you’re late. Losing memory...”

“I want to try it out, but I’m afraid. This is so hard!”

The update speed of Chen Ge’s Haunted House would scare his competition out of the market. Chen Ge nodded in satisfaction, looking at the visitors in deliberation. The new scenario and limited time offer would save him from being late. He jumped down from the ticket counter and returned the loudspeaker to the worker. He opened the Haunted House’s doors.

“We’re open for business!”

Chen Ge had Gu Feiyu change into the doctor’s outfit and handed him the upgraded hammer. He was tasked with acting as the serial killer in Murder by Midnight. Xu Wan was tasked with handling the Minghun scenario.

The two one-star scenarios above ground had someone looking over them, and the underground Mu Yang High School had the twenty-four students. Uncle Xu was selling ticket, and Chen Ge was left with nothing to do.

I should find more spirits like Uncle Yan and the students. They aren’t malicious. If this continues, I can rest myself at the counter daily, with the sole responsibility of counting my income.

Chen Ge rested at the door after sending the visitors in. He wanted to ask Gao Ru Xue for an update when he saw someone looking for him on WhatsApp.

“Ye Xiaoxin?” That was the professional critic who entered Chen Ge’s Haunted House with the people from Tian Teng Medical School. She had been scared until she almost vomited. Then, she gave Chen Ge’s Haunted House a very high remark online and asked for his contact, saying she planned to help him do the promotion online.

“What’s wrong? How can I help?”

“Lately, there have been many comments trying to give your Haunted House a bad review online. I searched high and low and finally found the culprit.” Ye Xiaoxin sent Chen Ge several pictures. “One of them is also a Haunted House reviewer. We share quite a rocky relationship. As long as it’s a Haunted House recommended by me, she will critic it heavily. They might be visiting your Haunted House soon, so be careful. Among the pictures that I’ve sent to you, there’s the reviewer’s selfie that she posted on the platform.”

Chapter 345: The Kind Boss Chen

Chen Ge glanced at the picture. This woman looked just like a good little girl; she was wearing a cute dress in the picture and was a complete opposite to the tomboyish Ye Xiaoxin. He moved the picture, and when Chen Ge saw the second screenshot, he started to get unsettled.

The unassuming girl kept creating chaos online. One could find her on all the reviews Ye Xiaoxin had ever released. This was particularly obvious with Chen Ge's Haunted House review. Initially, it was 9.7, but after a wave of negative reviews, it was pushed down to 8.9. Thankfully Chen Ge's Haunted House had its own fans and many good reviews, or the point would have been lower.

The other screenshots showed the woman going around to bring down the reviews for other Haunted Houses and raise the ratings for the ones she reviewed. The main point was that many online users were tricked by her looks and supported her no matter what.

The comparison was quite obvious. The reviews on her main page were all maintained above 9, but the other reviews pointed out how unfair they were. However, she showed no sign of changing them. In Ye Xiaoxin's review, the highest was Chen Ge's Haunted House, and the second highest was only 6.

"It's one thing if you make enemies with Ye Xiaoxin, but you've flooded my Haunted House with negative reviews. In that case, I'll need to fight for myself or else it'll be unfair to my loyal employee." Chen Ge glanced at this woman's ID and even remembered what she looked like. There were many other screenshots. Other than this woman, there were parties purposely talking about New Century Park on forums and websites. It felt like they were trying to attempt something bad.

"I should tell Director Luo about this. After all, the Haunted House is now the park's main attraction, so the lowering in the Haunted House's review will affect the park's name."

Sitting at the door, watching the visitors being led into the scenarios, and listening to the screams that escaped from within, Chen Ge felt quite accomplished.

Earlier, Chen Ge had been calling all day, saying that the three-star scenario was temporarily open to public, but most of the visitors were experienced. They would google the review before they entered the Haunted House. For most, a three-star scenario was like a taboo for living humans. Chen Ge sat at the door until noon. He almost fell asleep when he was shaken awake by Uncle Xu.

"What's wrong? Uncle Xu?" Uncle Xu coughed twice and pointed behind him. "These few visitors want to challenge that new scenario that you mentioned."

"The environment is passable, four points. The worker is so lazy that he fell asleep at work, two points." Five visitors stood at the door, three males and two females. One of the females was typing on her phone. When he saw the woman's face, Chen Ge stunned before he turned habitually to a smile. "Welcome, the new scenario hasn't been tested before. You're so lucky."

"It's too late to change your attitude now. I want to see the most authentic experience your Haunted House has to offer." The woman raised her head. She had a baby face, but her voice was coarse, revealing her actual age.

"Aren't you here to visit the Haunted House?" Chen Ge pretended like he did not know what she was talking about.

"You can call me Cassie. I'm a professional Haunted House reviewer, and I have several hundred thousand fans online. If I feel like your Haunted House is not bad and I place it on my recommendation page, your visitor number will increase by 33 percent." The woman was prideful. "Of course, you have to make me believe your Haunted House is worth it, but so far, it is not living up to its name."

Chen Ge was too lazy to listen the woman's boasting. "Do you have a Chinese name? Like Tie Zhu or Gou Dan ¹, something easier to remember."

The woman's face fell immediately, but she did not get into an argument with Chen Ge. This girl would maintain her persona around her friends. She did not speak, but the two men saw how hurt she was and walked forward to defend her.

One of them had a head of hair dyed yellow, with an earring and nose ring. He looked like a hippie. The other was more normal, but he was around 1.9 meters tall.

"Fine, since you're here, you're my visitors. Let's not waste time, sign these disclaimers." Chen Ge did not want to get into an altercation with them. He gave them the contract to sign, and the excitement in his voice made the hair on Uncle Xu's body stand upright.

"Xiao Chen, they just want to give an objective review, don't act recklessly."

"Haunted House has been open for long already, don't you know me? When have I been reckless before?" Chen Ge pushed Uncle Xu out the door. "Don't worry."

"You say that every time." Uncle Xu did not voice his real opinion since there were outsiders around, but there was obvious worry in his eyes.

The five visitors noticed the look in his eyes, and for some reason, they felt creeped out. *Is this uncle also employed at the Haunted House? He's such a good actor! Just a look can express so many complicated feelings.*

After sending Uncle Xu away, Chen Ge's smile grew brighter. "Come, sign the disclaimer. Coffin Village is open for the first time for visitation, so you have to be careful of safety. If you come into any danger, do scream, and the worker will come save you."

Chen Ge's attitude was flawless, but the more he acted like this, the more worried the five visitors became.

"The new scenario is just a gimmick; there's nothing to be afraid of. Actually, this is just a trial. A uniquely eastern haunted house experience I made using local folklore; it's completely different from the western and Japanese horror houses," Chen Ge explained the theme of Coffin Village briefly.

When the visitors heard it was not the western and Japanese horror theme that were common on the market, they sighed in relief. Actually, there were few eastern-themed Haunted Houses in the country, but probably due to budget and inexperience, the effect was lacking.

"An eastern-themed scenario? Earlier you also mentioned it was a haunted village, right? That's very rare." The one who spoke was the other woman. She had pigtails and looked quite young. Chen Ge glanced at the woman's name on the disclaimer. It was rather common—Zhang Lan.

"That's why I'm interested to give it a try." Chen Ge collected all the disclaimers carefully. It felt like he knew they would come into use eventually. "Come with me. The new scenario is underground."

"Wait a minute." The woman suddenly spoke. She was a cunning one. Before she arrived, she had looked over all the information on Chen Ge's Haunted House. Furthermore, they were challenging a three-star scenario, so she had to be careful. "I hear for scenarios above two-stars, you accept teams of ten. There's only five of us now; why don't we wait for other visitors to join us?"

Chen Ge thought about it and agreed. "Then let me go see if there are any other visitors who wish to join."

"Thank you." The woman smiled sweetly.

"It's nothing. Our Haunted House always put our visitor's request first." Chen Ge turned and walked out. After Chen Ge left, the few visitors started to talk among themselves.

"Sister Mao, what are you afraid of? The five of us have cleared how many Haunted Houses already? Other visitors will only drag us down," the yellow hair grumbled with dissatisfaction.

"This guy is friends with Ye Xiaoxin. I'm afraid he might trap us inside the Haunted House. If there are other visitors, he won't do something like that." The woman took out her phone and added, "The worker has attitude, three points."

Five minutes later, Chen Ge pushed open the door. He slid the comic into his pocket, and three people followed behind him.

Two guys and one girl.

The woman was very pretty, but her body was unsteady. One of the guys had his left hand stuck in his pocket, and the other was wearing a black shirt, grumbling about his recent bad luck.

"You're so lucky. These three visitors also want to visit the new scenario, so the eight of you can experience it together." A smile hung on Chen Ge's face like serving the visitors was a very happy thing for him.

Chapter 346: Wave of Ghosts Coming Through

"I've already introduced the scenario. Three-star scenario, there's no path to follow, and it's completely open. All you need to do is find a blood red wedding dress and bring it out." Chen Ge came up with the rules on the spot. After all, this was his Haunted House; his words were the rules.

"That simple?" The young hair turned back to ask Chen Ge, "Are there any hidden conditions? Some Haunted Houses will design multiple side missions to make the experience more enjoyable. They allow the visitors to explore the place on their own, to increase playability."

"There are many hidden plots inside my Haunted House. You can explore it to your heart's content." Chen Ge's smile was like the sun, it made people feel warmed.

"Then how about time requirement for clearing the scenario?" The large man chimed in. It was quite obvious that they were experienced players. They knew the ins and outs of Haunted Houses.

"Since this is the first time the place has been open to the public, I'll give you more time. As long as you can find the wedding dress in forty minutes, I'll consider it a success." Chen Ge was kind. He wanted the visitors to experience Coffin Village fully, so he purposely extended the time limit.

"We won't need forty minutes." The young hair flicked his bangs back. He too was a prideful man.

"We've reviewed many Haunted Houses, and the longest we've taken was thirty minutes."

"Forty minutes is indeed too long, but this way we can look around." The leading woman still held her phone, having no intention of putting it away. When Ye Xiaoxin entered the Haunted House, she had used her paper and pen for her notes. Based on this alone, one could see they were not on the same level. Actually, Chen Ge knew what the woman was up to. The Haunted House review was just a gimmick. She wanted to use the scary atmosphere to create a contrast to her cute demeanor. She was a lesser reviewer compared to Ye Xiaoxin, who knew and respected the rules of Haunted Houses.

"Yes, go look around, you might find more hidden joys." Chen Ge was so kind that even the three 'visitors' following him could not stand it. After he had the three new visitors sign the disclaimers, he led the eight of them to the end of the corridor and lifted up the wooden boards. A blast of cold air came from underground, causing them to shiver.

"Only a wooden board is used to separate the scenarios. It's too rough, minus one point for set design." The woman added another note to her phone.

Chen Ge was not angry. He was so nice that even his reminder was given with a kind smile. "Our Haunted House doesn't allow the usage of phones and other recording devices. Please do mind that."

"I'm a certified reviewer. The phone is just to record data. Don't just assume stuff."

"Understood, when you start your review, please be kind." Chen Ge politely sent the eight into the scenario. "The one on the left is the two-star scenario Mu Yang High School; the one behind the steel door on the right is the Third Sick Hall. Coffin Village, which you're challenging today, is just ahead."

When Chen Ge entered the underground earlier, he had seen a meandering path appearing between the Third Sick Hall and Mu Yang High School. At the end of the path was a pale light.

"Coffin Village is at the end of the path. This is where I'll leave you, have fun." Chen Ge stood at the mouth of the path and sent the visitors away. *It's nice that the three scenarios are separated, but after the expansion turns the Haunted House into a maze, all the underground scenarios might join together to create a large scary scenario.*

After three expansions, the Haunted House would morph into a Maze of Terror. It had been expanded twice already, and the third time was not that far away. Chen Ge looked down the other two scenarios. Inside the Mu Yang High School, the sealed classroom's door was pushed open. A mannequin head peeked out as if to see whether Chen Ge had already left or not. When it saw Chen Ge, it rolled back into the classroom and closed the door.

Those students sure are naughty. I'll need to have them memorize the worker's rules later. Chen Ge returned to the surface and headed to the props room. He ransacked the place and finally found the

reward at the corner—Seamstress' Wedding Dress. The tattered wedding dress was red as blood. It was possessed by a hatred-filled spirit. If one leaned close enough, one might even hear the weeping of a woman. If the visitors saw this, they would be so angry. Chen Ge had not even placed the thing that they were supposed to look for into the scenario. *The happiness in finding it after looking for a long time is the real fun of the game.*

He wrapped the wedding dress inside a black cloth. Chen Ge entered the changing room. This was the unique construct that he had obtained after the Haunted House's second expansion. None of the visitors had tried it before. Chen Ge selected one of the less conspicuous outfits and put on some make-up. "This is not bad. I look normal from afar, but upon closer inspection, it's quite scary."

Chen Ge entered Coffin Village again. He used the black phone to inspect the hidden tunnels and pathways inside the village and took out the comic. When the ghost stories society was battling the Zhu woman, Chen Ge had made use of the opportunity to collect a few ghosts into the comic. After a whole night of 'education', the lingering spirits had been reformed.

"I've told you it's a good decision to follow me. This is the new home I've arranged for all of you. The whole village is yours. You can feed on the visitors' fear and screams, but remember one thing, you cannot harm the visitors and no physical contact, understood?"

Chen Ge walked through Coffin Village and tossed out the ghosts as he went. "The completion rate for the mission is only seven percent, which means the scariest thing at this scenario hasn't arrived. Thankfully, I remembered to carry some ghosts from the village itself."

Looking at the village that came back to 'life', Chen Ge flashed a satisfied smile. "Even though it is quite harsh and demanding, all the sacrifice is worth it to give the visitors the best experience."

Chen Ge felt like he was the kind that worked in the background. If he revealed all the effort he had done, the visitors would be so touched.

...

Amid creepy music and a heavy atmosphere, when the eight visitors reached the end of the path, what they saw stunned them—rows of old houses, intertwining streets, fluttering paper money, and the white paper lanterns giving off pale light hanging at the door.

"This is Coffin Village?" The leading woman shrunk back and silently hid behind her companions.

Chapter 347: There's No Need to Go Fast

"Such a real setting," the large man mumbled. "How did he do this?"

"Of course, he has to be talented to have opened a Haunted House. Furthermore, Ye Xiaoxin gave this place such a high review. This means this Haunted House has its positive points." The woman stood behind the yellow hair. She walked toward the other three visitors with a friendly smile.

"Are the three of you together?" The woman was good at socializing. Her tone and attitude were very friendly.

"No," the man with his arm in his pocket replied coldly before he walked away.

"Be careful, this is a three-star scenario!" The woman grabbed the thin man's sleeves. The man turned back to glare at her, and she quickly staggered back. "I just want to remind you."

"Sister Mao, just ignore him. When he is spooked until he wets his pants, he'll come back to us." The yellow hair stood between the man and the woman.

"It's alright. Since we're in the same group, we should help one another." The woman did not seem to mind the man's offensive behavior. She walked back to him. "My name is Cassie, but you can call me Sister Mao like the rest of them if you like."

The thin man thought about it and accepted her kindness. "The name's Bai Qiulin. My mood has been very awful lately, so I came to this Haunted House for stress release."

"Understood, a Haunted House is a place like that, right? To scream and release stress." Sister Mao nodded with understanding before she turned to the other two visitors. "Then how about the two of you?"

The man in black shirt looked smart, and he was very friendly. "My name is Zhou. I'm a real estate agent. I came with my girlfriend today..."

"Who's your girlfriend?" The woman beside him smacked his arm. She did not have any make-up on, but she looked pretty.

"Well, it's only a matter of time." Mr. Zhou winked at the woman as he grabbed the woman's hand.

"This is my girlfriend, Duan Yue. She's a high school English teacher. Normally, she has no break and has to tutor kids at night. It's rare that we both have a day off, so I brought her here to relax."

"You two sure are sweet." Sister Mao smiled. There was a trace of resentment in her eyes, but she hid it very well. "Later, the three of you can follow along. This way, we'll be able to be on the lookout for one another."

"You sound very professionally. Are you all professional Haunted House visitors?" Mr. Zhou asked.

"I'm a Haunted House reviewer. I have tons of fans online, and these guys are members of my team." Sister Mao introduced the people around her. The yellow hair was Huang Xing, the large man Ma Tian, and the other girl was Sister Mao's assistant, Zhang Lan. Sister Mao didn't introduce the last man, who looked older than the rest of them, in detail, but she called him Brother Wong.

Each of them had a different personality. The only reason they could work together was because they had Sister Mao as the mediator.

"You all are indeed professionals. Then today we'll be depending on you." Mr. Zhou was a people person as well. He continued to chat happily with Sister Mao like he could not see the fiery gaze Duan Yue was directing his way.

"Don't worry, we've completed more than ten of such Haunted Houses already." Huang Xing was the bravest and the rashest of the group, so he walked ahead.

"Come on. The online review for this place is very high. I want to see how good it is." To make it convenient for recording, Sister Mao walked into the scenario with her phone on. A wind of unknown origin picked up the paper money from the floor. The white lanterns swayed as the pale light washed the street white.

"There are three main elements to a Haunted House's design—story, setting, and atmosphere. For this setting, I can give him six points, but alas, without a story to go with it, it's difficult for visitors to feel invested. The atmosphere is the worst; I don't feel afraid at all. It's such a waste of these realistic props," Sister Mao said and the two men next to her nodded.

Only Zhang Lan kept turning back to look at Bai Qiulin. She felt something was wrong with this man. *How come he keeps his left hand inside his pocket?*

The eight of them squeezed together, and five of them were professional players. Naturally they were not afraid.

"The boss said there's a time limit. The place is so big, why don't we split into two groups?" Mr. Zhou thought about it and voiced his suggestion.

"Forty minutes is more than enough for us to clear this game. For a Haunted House, especially one that is open like this, it is crucial not to fall into their tempo." The yellow hair looked experienced. "The two of you just follow behind me. To tell you the truth, I've always been brave. Even if a real ghost appears, I'll fight them with my bare hands, much less Haunted House actors."

"Impressive." Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue followed behind the yellow hair. Sister Mao walked with the tall guy while Zhang Lan stood between Brother Wong and Bai Qiulin. She realized Bai Qiulin had many habits that were quite abnormal. For example, his neck was slightly twisted like it was sprained.

"What are you looking at?" Brother Wong glanced at Xiao Lan. He seemed to have his own reason to be there. He was not familiar with Sister Mao's team members. It was the first time Zhang Lan had met Brother Wong. She also had no idea why he was tagging along. "It's nothing. By the way, I'll be following you later. Sister Mao told me that."

The group walked ahead, and Bai Qiulin looked at their backs with a smile on his face. The pale light pulled their shadows long as they formally entered Coffin Village. When they stepped into Coffin Village, the white lanterns lining the street on both sides started to sway. The village turned darker like something was waking up.

CREAK...

Yellow hair pushed open the door to the first old home. The empty courtyard had nothing.

"That's all?" He sounded disappointed. With Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue accompanying him, the three entered the inner room together. There was a black and white picture sitting on the altar. The person in the picture had their eyes gouged out. There was painting of a mountain spirit on the walls, and a coffin sat in the middle of the room.

"The decoration is simple; there's nothing particularly scary." The yellow hair turned around the room. He picked up the picture on the altar and started to study it. "Why did they gouge out the eyes? Is it hiding the clue to clear the scenario?"

He undid the frame and took out the picture. “The person looks like he’s crying?”

The man prepared to examine closer when Mr. Zhou’s voice came from behind him. “What are you looking at?”

“It’s nothing, just looking around. I like to clear all the stories inside a Haunted House—it’s more fun that way.”

“I feel like we shouldn’t be wandering about. The crucial thing is to find the wedding dress. What if we run out of time?” Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue walked over on tip-toe.

“Don’t worry, there is enough time.” The yellow hair flicked his hair back and raised two fingers. “We can finish this place in twenty minutes, but there’s no need to. It won’t be fun that way.”

He faced Mr. Zhou, so he did not notice the ghosts in the pictures that were all looking at his back.

“You’re right. Taking it slow is more fun.” Mr. Zhou silently moved the black and white picture away. The position of the man inside the picture had changed like he had moved one step forward.

Chapter 348: Something’s Wrong

Reaching out to press the face of the man in the picture, Mr. Zhou agreed with the yellow hair. “Indeed, why should we be in such a hurry? It’s rare that we have the chance to come in here, so we should make the most of it.”

Mr. Zhou was actually talking to the spirit inside the picture, but yellow hair thought the man was talking to him, so he concurred. “That’s right. That’s the spirit you should have when you’re inside a Haunted House! Come on, I’ll bring you to go visit some other places. This Haunted House is not that scary; it’s probably just a hoax online!”

Yellow hair led the two out of the old home. They searched through many homes before they reached the center of the village.

“The scenario is rather big. With our current speed, we might not be able to finish it in forty minutes. If we cannot find the wedding dress before forty minutes, it’ll be such a shame,” the large man told the rest. “I think we should split up. With this ancestral hall as the center, Sister Mao, Mr. Wong, and myself will go to the left, and the rest of you go to the right.”

“Why should you be with Sister Mao? I think it’s better if we switch places.” The yellow hair was unhappy. In the end, it was Sister Mao who convinced him to let it go.

“Then it’s decided.” Ma Tian’s group walked down the meandering road, leaving the rest in the middle of the village.

“We should plan this out as well. Xiao Lan, you go with the couple, and I’ll stick with the other guest. This way, we can save time and hopefully find the wedding dress before them.” Yellow hair took up the leadership role naturally.

"I don't think that's a good idea. We're already split. What if we run into danger?" Zhang Lan walked to stand beside the yellow hair, hoping he would change his mind.

"Listen to me, this Haunted House's atmosphere is not bad, but the scares are horrible." The insouciance in yellow hair's tone made Zhang Lan anxious. She wanted to tell yellow hair, *The visitor that you're pairing yourself with is quite abnormal!*

However, she did not want to say that before Bai Qiulin.

"It'll be fine, let's go." Yellow hair extended his hand toward Bai Qiulin, wanting to shake his hand, but Bai Qiulin did not show any intention of pulling his hand out of his pocket—he just nodded.

"You sure are something else. Later, don't come to me with tears, begging me to help you out." Yellow hair was quite angered. He took back his hand and walked ahead on his own. Bai Qiulin trailed behind him and still kept his hand inside his pocket. Zhang Lan saw this clearly, and her painted brows creased. "Something is just not right."

"What is not right?" The friendly Mr. Zhou came to stand beside her.

"By the way, I have some questions to ask you." Zhang Lan pointed at Bai Qiulin, who walked away.

"That man came together with you. When you were in the lines outside, did he do anything weird? Or something out of the ordinary?"

"When we were in the lines?" Mr. Zhou scratched his chin in thought. "When Boss Chen shouted that there was a special discount for visitation of this three-star scenario, we were closest to the entrance, so we were selected. I don't have any special impression of the man. He's probably just a normal visitor."

"I hope so." Zhang Lan was still worried. "Let me tell you something. There was one time when I accompanied Sister Mao to review a Haunted House, and a mental patient sneaked into it. He looked just like a normal person, but he acted up inside the Haunted House. You have no idea how scary it was."

"Why don't you tell me?" Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue were curious.

"He slathered himself with the fake blood inside the Haunted House and then grabbed the prop to assault the other visitors. The worst thing was initially the visitors thought he was an employee at the Haunted House. They were afraid, but they did not resist. This caused many injuries." Zhang Lan still had nightmares of that experience.

"How could something like that even happen?" Mr. Zhou's hand went to his lips. His action was quite exaggerated.

"That's why I'm worried about Huang Xing. He might be hard to deal with, but he's my companion." By then, yellow hair and Bai Qiulin had already disappeared from their view.

"If I were you, I would be worried, too." Mr. Zhou very naturally took up Duan Yue's hand and turned to look at her with love. "If you went missing, I would look all over the world for you."

Duan Yue's reaction was cold. She only said one word. "Lies."

"You two sure are a loving couple." Zhang Lan laughed. She had just come to visit a Haunted House—she did not expect to be fed dog food. "Let's start moving as well. The earlier we find the wedding dress, the sooner we have the upper hand."

The mention of the mission made Zhang Lan turn serious. "I'm Sister Mao's assistant. I investigated this Haunted House before we arrived. The information I've found is quite scary. The reviews from actual visitors are all above 8. Minus the trolls, all the reviews said this place is scary. We've reviewed many Haunted Houses before, and this is the first time we've seen something like this."

"Meaning this Haunted House is very scary?" Mr. Zhou looked around him. "I don't think it's that scary so far, just a bit cold."

"Don't let your guard down. I suspect the boss is just biding his time." Zhang Lan took out her phone to click open a page. "Look at the online review for the boss."

Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue glanced at Zhang Lan's phone and saw about ten anonymous reviews.

"The boss is insane! Like a serial killer, he discovered me but didn't say anything, trailing behind me silently. The man followed me for ten minutes! If not for my friend who screamed, I really didn't know there's something behind me!"

"Don't ask me why I'm an Anon, I still want to see tomorrow's sunrise... The boss is too scary."

"My friend asked why I brought extra underwear with me to a Haunted House. I say, if you want to prepare diapers, it's also fine."

Reading all the anonymous reviews, Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue's expressions changed. They had a new understanding of Chen Ge.

"Scary, right?" Zhang Lan pocketed her phone. "So, I say we better find the wedding dress as fast as we can and leave this place."

"Okay." Mr. Zhou arranged his emotions. "Then, what shall we do next?"

"I'm a little worried about Huang Xing. Let's go meet up with him first." Zhang Lan pointed toward the road that yellow hair had headed down earlier. Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue followed behind her.

By then, yellow hair and Bai Qiulin had reached the end of the street. They found a sedan at the corner.

"A bridal sedan?" Yellow hair was excited. "Looks like the wedding dress will be nearby! I've found the right place!"

He ignored Bai Qiulin and walked into the house where the sedan was parked alone. "There's white paper everywhere. Is this a Minghun?"

Yellow hair looked left and right but forgot to look behind him. The sedan that he had passed earlier started to move on its own.

Chapter 349: Where Is My Hand?

After yellow hair entered the home, two children with painted faces poked their heads out from the sedan. Bai Qiulin acted like he did not see this creepy scene and walked past the sedan. The white lantern above the door swayed several times before they went out, throwing the home into darkness.

White celebratory posters were pasted on the wall, and yellow hair stood in the courtyard alone. "This place is larger than the others. Plenty of traps must be around here."

He might be reckless, but he was not dumb. The atmosphere in the home was slightly off—he had already noticed that.

"Huang Xing..." Someone was calling his name. It sounded ethereal and seemed to come from the inner room.

"Someone's calling me?" He tried to follow the voice, but it disappeared as if he had imagined it. "It should be some kind of surround sound system. I'm surprised such a dilapidated set design has high-end equipment."

Without him realizing, Huang Xing was nervous, and he pushed the door open carefully. White draperies covered the room. It was a wedding, but the place was decorated like a funeral. "It really is a Minghun, such an old, used theme."

"Huang Xing..."

Yellow hair talked to himself when that weird noise appeared again, and this time, he heard it clearly. "The voice is familiar!"

It was a strange feeling. It sounded like a familiar person who called his name, but he could not remember who it was. The old home, the paper money, the white decoration—there was no change to the surroundings, but Huang Xing felt like everything had shifted, like it had turned creepier. A draft picked up behind him to chill the back of his neck. He turned around instantly. "Who is it?"

"Why are you panicking? It's just me." Bai Qiulin had his hand in his pocket and started to look around the room.

Seeing a second visitor, Huang Xing sighed in relief. "Did you hear a woman's voice earlier?"

"I don't think so." Bai Qiulin 'studied' the decorations, but he made sure to stay close to the door.

"But I did hear someone calling my name." Yellow hair looked outside the door, and there were two children with blood red paint on their faces running through it. "Someone's outside!"

Bai Qiulin also looked out the front door. There was only an empty street. "What are you talking about? Where are the people?"

"But they're there! There were two kids with something painted on their faces." Huang Xing tried his best to describe the features of the two kids.

"Do you think the Haunted House would employ children to scare people? If it was not mannequins, then you were definitely mistaken." When Bai Qiulin turned away, the two children poked their heads through the front door again.

“No, I’m not mistaken!” This time, Huang Xing matched the gaze of the two children and ran out immediately. “Wait for me, I’ll catch them for you to see!”

Huang Xing rushed to the front door, but the two kids had disappeared. The street was empty other than the paper money and the creaking bridal sedan. “Where are they? I only took several seconds to run out here. Where can they disappear to?”

“Huang Xing...” Yellow hair shivered, and the woman’s voice came again. “Why does it sound like the voice is closer when I’m outside? It feels like she’s talking into my ear.”

He took out his phone to use the torch to find the hidden audio system, but when he turned the torch on, the woman’s voice picked up again.

“Huang Xing...”

This time, the voice was even closer, like it was trying to drill into his mind.

“This is cursed, too cursed.” Yellow hair had been to many Haunted Houses, and this was the first time he had run into something like this. “I cannot stay here alone. I need to find the wedding dress and meet up with Sister Mao.”

He turned back into the inner hall and discovered something even scarier—Bai Qiulin had disappeared! How could a live person disappear just like that!

“Where is he?” A rare emotion rose in yellow hair’s heart—fear.

“Bai Qiulin!” Yellow hair called the man’s name as he moved into the bedroom. The room was different from others. The bed and mattress were red in color, but it did not feel auspicious; if anything, it felt bloody. It was not paint but blood that dyed the fabric.

“This looks like the room of the bride. The wedding dress should be here, right?” Yellow hair walked forward, and he saw many red threads on the ground. They were particularly conspicuous in the room filled with paper money.

He walked over those red threads to the bed. The red pillows were tossed in a messy way, and there were needles, thread, and scissors left on the bed. However, there was no wedding dress. The place that should have had the wedding dress did not have it. Huang Xing gritted his teeth. “I knew it wouldn’t be so simple.”

He lifted up the mattress, and there was an obvious bloodstain. It looked real.

“Huang Xing, look down...” When he was focused on his search, the woman’s voice appeared in his mind without warning again. When a person was highly tense, they would be spooked by a tap on the shoulder, much less a voice in their head. Yellow hair almost fell to the ground, and he grabbed the edge of the bed to stop himself from falling.

He took a deep breath, and his fists tightened. “That wasn’t an audio system! It couldn’t be!”

He twisted his arms, and his heart raced. “That voice said something else. Yes! She said look down!”

Huang Xing looked on the ground, and he realized all the red threads led to the space underneath the bed. "Underneath the bed?"

His Adam's apple moved as he slowly squatted down. He held the edge of the bed with one hand, and his other supported his weight on the ground as he lowered his head. His sight slowly lowered, and his senses were taut. He gritted his teeth, and just as his head was about to reach the ground, a hand suddenly reached out at him!

"F*ck!" Huang Xing collapsed to the ground. He crawled backwards with fear in his eyes. "That was a chopped hand! There was no arm, just a hand!"

He had not recovered from his shock when he knocked into something on his back. Turning back to look, yellow hair saw Bai Qiulin standing behind him. "Are you trying to kill me? Where have you been!"

"Just walking around. By the way, what did you see under the bed?" Bai Qiulin asked with curiosity.

"A chopped hand. It doesn't feel like it was remote-controlled. It just poked out from underneath the bed." Yellow hair wiped the cold sweat from his forehead, his calves still shaking. "We need to leave this place, come give me a hand."

Huang Xing reached out to grab Bai Qiulin's left hand, but he missed. Holding the empty sleeve in his hands, yellow hair's face was blank. His brain could not process the information. "Where... where is your hand?"

His neck snapped like he had fallen headfirst from a tall building, and blood seeped from Bai Qiulin's mouth and nose. He turned to look at his empty left sleeve, and a happy smile was on his face. "You're right, where is my hand?"

Chapter 350: Triple the Happiness

His eyes bulging out of their sockets, yellow hair felt like he was about to faint!

"Have you seen my hand?" Bai Qiulin looked down at him when his neck snapped, and his head fell to the ground. "Where is my hand?"

...

Zhang Lan's group, who were heading toward Huang Xing, heard the man's scream that came from the corner. The scream pierced through their ear drums. Just what had the man been through to make him scream like that?

"This is bad!" Hearing that, Zhang Lan's face changed. She told Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue, "Something happened to Huang Xing! I told you something is wrong with that Bai Qiulin!"

"Isn't it normal to scream inside a Haunted House? It probably has nothing to do with Bai Qiulin," Mr. Zhou said.

"If it was a prop, then he would scream continuously. There wouldn't be a brief shout like this," Zhang Lan analyzed as she walked forward.

"Understood." Mr. Zhou remembered what Zhang Lan said. "So you're saying that Bai Qiulin is a real mental patient?"

"Not necessarily." Zhang Lan's expression was serious. "Actually, I've been hiding something from you."

She stopped moving and turned to Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue. "According to internet rumors, this Haunted House is really haunted."

"Haunted? You're trying to say Bai Qiulin is a ghost?" Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue stopped together. "You're kidding, right? Who would believe that in this day and age?"

"I also don't think so. When a person is past their fear threshold, other than fainting, they might see illusions," Duan Yue said that, but it was obvious that she was afraid, too. She held Mr. Zhou's hand, and she looked panicked.

"Regardless, this Haunted House is scary. The boss knows psychology. Even if there's no ghost, he can make the visitors feel like there is one." Zhang Lan slowed down to walk beside Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue. The three turned the corner and saw the sedan at the end of the street. The curtains were open.

"Huang Xing and Bai Qiulin have been here." Zhang Lan did not dare go into the old home alone. For support, she dragged Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue with her. When she pushed open the front door, they saw Bai Qiulin coming out from the inner room.

"Stand there and don't move!" Zhang Lan screamed. "Where is Huang Xing? Weren't you two together earlier?"

"How am I supposed to know? We got separated, and I also just rushed here when I heard his scream." Bai Qiulin had his hand inside his pocket, and he seemed impatient. He was offended by the interrogation.

"Then what did you find?" Zhang Lan was very cautious. She did not take a step toward Bai Qiulin.

"I've searched the house inside out, but I cannot find him," Bai Qiulin said and walked toward them.

"Don't come any closer!" Zhang Lan warned him again.

"Xiao Lan, we're all visitors. There's no reason to do this." Mr. Zhou tried to ease the tension.

"You don't understand. I've seen the review that said the boss once had his worker join the visitors to 'play' with them! The man's insane!" Zhang Lan pointed at Bai Qiulin. "Something must be wrong with this man! You have to believe me; the most dangerous threat is often just standing next to you!"

"You suspect I'm a Haunted House employee?" Bai Qiulin chuckled. "Have you lost your mind?"

"If not, why do you keep your left hand inside your pocket? Is it because it's painted, or is it holding some remote control?" Zhang Lan had the support of the two visitors, so she was not afraid. "If you dare take out your hand and there's nothing wrong with it, then I'll take back everything I've said."

Bai Qiulin narrowed his eyes. "You sure?"

"Yes! I'm sure! You're definitely not a normal visitor!" Zhang Lan sounded confident.

"Fine, as you wish." Bai Qiulin pulled out his left arm; it was only an empty sleeve. "Can't a disabled person visit the Haunted House? Must you tear open my wound again? Now are you satisfied?"

Zhang Lan was stunned. She really did not expect Bai Qiulin's left sleeve to have nothing.

"Xiao Lin, you've crossed the line this time." Mr. Zhou came forward to try to calm everyone down. He smiled apologetically at Bai Qiulin. "This girl doesn't mean anything bad. I understand what you're feeling—I've been through something similar."

"This is just a misunderstanding." Duan Yue tried to persuade Zhang Lan. "Stop being so suspicious. Isn't it the biggest taboo to scare yourself inside a Haunted House?"

"No, I still think something is wrong with him. The two of you, follow me. We'll investigate the house together. I suspect he's lying to us." With Zhang Lan leading the way, Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue walked into the inner room. The paper money flew into the air.

"Not in this room." Zhang Lan walked into the bedroom. "The mattress has been moved; someone has been in here before. That Bai Qiulin was indeed lying! Mr. Zhou, you go and keep an eye on him outside. Don't let him out of your sight."

"Okay," Mr. Zhou promised. He left the room with Duan Yue.

"I'll need to inform Sister Mao about this." Zhang Lan took out her phone. She looked around the room before settling on the wooden bed, "The only place large enough to hide someone is under the bed."

The phone rang briefly before it was accepted by Sister Mao. "Xiao Lan, I was about to call you, what happened to Huang Xing? We could hear his scream from here. Did some accident happen?"

Zhang Lan squatted beside the bed. Her voice was urgent. "That Bai Qiulin is suspicious! Do you remember that mental patient that we ran into at the Haunted House overseas? I suspect either Bai Qiulin is an employee or a madman on a rampage!"

"Okay, I understand. Where are you now? We'll meet up with you."

"There's a sedan outside this old home..." Zhang Lan looked below the bed, and multiple red threads intertwined forming a web of sorts. In the middle of the web was a man covered with a red wedding dress.

"Huang Xing?"

"What's wrong? Xiao Lan, have you found Huang Xing?" Sister Mao asked on the phone. Zhang Lan was about to reply when a cold hand suddenly reached out from underneath the bed to grab at her!

Zhang Lan's phone flew from her grasp. She wanted to go grab it when she noticed a person standing beside her. The man's spine was twisted, his neck snapped, but his bloody face made Zhang Lan feel familiar.

"Bai Qiulin!" Zhang Lan was scared. She did not understand how Bai Qiulin walked into the room with Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue watching the door. She called out instinctually, "Mr. Zhou! Come help me!"

The chopped hand silently ended the call. Hearing Zhang Lan, Mr. Zhou and Duan Yue walked into the room. However, their looks had completely changed. All three 'humans' squeezed inside the room to give Zhang Lan triple the 'joy'.

"Don't be afraid, we won't hurt you."