

Horrors 361

Chapter 361: Phone

He doesn't seem to have followed me.

Finally getting the chance to breathe, Gao Ru Xue turned on all the lights in the room without taking off her shoes. The light banished the darkness and relaxed her nervous tension.

The outer door is still open, but opening the inner door to close it is too dangerous. What if the person is hiding in a blind spot?

Closing the blinds, Gao Ru Xue picked up the fruit knife from the table. As a medical science student, she was familiar with the fatal spots on the human body. With the steel of the knife in her hand, she did not feel that nervous anymore. Sitting in the living room, Gao Ru Xue took out her phone to call Chen Ge. This was the twenty-fifth time that she had called Chen Ge's phone, and the line was still engaged.

Still busy? It's already ten pm. Gao Ru Xue looked at the messages on her phone. She tried many methods to contact Chen Ge, but there was no response.

Did something happen to him? The line is busy every time. No matter who he's calling, it wouldn't take that long to explain something, unless... Gao Ru Xue seemed to remember something. *Unless he's on the phone with a ghost.*

Gao Ru Xue understood the problem with her phone. The previous night, when her two roommates returned, they brought a 'friend' with them. At the time, she had used her phone to send other people SOS messages, and everyone's reply was 'look behind you'. Only Chen Ge's number was replying normally.

Last night, the shadow that lay behind me didn't seem able to change anything related to Chen Ge. It couldn't replace the messages from Chen Ge.

A thought crossed Gao Ru Xue's mind, and the phone slipped through her fingers and fell to the ground.

The ghost cannot change anything related to Chen Ge. It cannot mimic Chen Ge to give me a reply, so when I call Chen Ge, the number is constantly busy and cannot be connected.

In other words, during this period where I cannot contact Chen Ge, the thing is probably controlling my phone. If that is the case, when I used the phone to call my father earlier, the person who answered probably wasn't my actual father. It was the ghost pretending to be my father.

Cold sweat slid down Gao Ru Xue's face. She had purposely avoided her roommates and snuck home because she was afraid of an accident, but on the phone, she had told her 'father' that she would be staying at home for the night.

If her speculation was correct, the ghost already knew she was not at the dormitory but at her own home. Her eyes fixated on the phone on the ground; Gao Ru Xue did not dare to move. Suddenly, her body felt chilled.

Just as she was thinking, the screen of the phone lit up. Someone called her at a time like this. The phone vibrated on the cold floor. The sound unsettled her. After some hesitation, Gao Ru Xue bent down to pick it up. The caller was Doctor Gao!

Her finger danced between accepting and denying the call. Eventually, Gao Ru Xue chose to accept it.

“What’s wrong? How come it took you so long to answer the call?” The familiar voice gave Gao Ru Xue a sense of security that she desperately needed at the time.

“My phone was on silent, so I didn’t see it.” Gao Ru Xue gave the reason that she had thought of earlier. She wanted to test out the person on the other end of the phone. When she wanted to ask something that would only be known between her and her father, the Doctor Gao on the phone said, “Don’t go out now that you’re home. It’s been rather chaotic lately. I still have something to do at the hospital, so I’ll be a bit late.”

“Okay, I understand.”

The call ended. The person on the other end of the phone seemed to know what she wanted to do and didn’t give her the chance to ask any questions. *It feels like something is observing my every move.*

There was an urge in Gao Ru Xue’s heart to grab the fruit knife to slash the phone screen. She took several deep breaths, and in the end, rationality won out. *The phone is probably controlled by the ghost, and there’s probably a murderer hiding outside the door. What should I do now?*

This was the 13th floor, so it was impossible for her to escape through the window. She wanted to use the front door, but she could not be certain the murderer was not just beyond it. Even if the man had left, the corridor might not be safe.

If I use the phone to call the police, it might be the ghost that answers, and it might not be the police who come to save me. Maybe I should call out the window for help, but Xi Xia Hu has so few occupants. Never mind, this is the only method left I can try.

Gao Ru Xue walked to the window and pulled the curtain back to look out the window. It was only ten pm, but the residential area was completely dark. All the lights were off.

How could this be possible?

Only the streetlight reflecting off Xi Xia Lake gave off the little light.

Am I hallucinating?

Gao Ru Xue became more afraid. She initially wanted to cry for help, but something was obviously wrong with the residential area. The area was quiet, and a strange atmosphere was in the air.

Looking out the window, the strange feeling that Gao Ru Xue had felt inside the taxi returned. She felt as if everywhere was unsafe, like every corner was hiding some source of danger. She collected her gaze and turned to look at her neighbor’s room. In her memory, her neighboring rooms were empty. The room on the left had its windows sealed shut, and the interior was empty. The room on the right had some dead potted plants on the windowsill.

Gao Ru Xue was rather disappointed. She looked upward to the right at the family on the 14th floor. At the edge of the window, there was a human face with the eyes gouged out looking back at her.

Gao Ru Xue staggered backward, and her back knocked into the cupboard.

A dead body? There's really a murder in this building? In the room just above me?

She grabbed the knife and used the point of the knife to lift the curtain up. She glanced at the room above her again, and the human face had disappeared. In its place was some laundry.

Did my eyes deceive me?

After some hesitation, Gao Ru Xue still picked up her phone to call the police. The police's reply was normal, but she just felt that something was not right.

Gao Ru Xue pulled on her hair. This feeling was similar to when she faced her roommate. The person was similar to how they were normally, but she just knew they were not them.

Everything is similar to normal, including father's voice, the police's answer, and the taxi driver, but how come I just feel like things are wrong? But what's wrong?

Gao Ru Xue called Chen Ge for the twenty-sixth time. The call was busy for two times before the synthetic voice replied. "I'm sorry, but the number you're calling is currently busy. Please try again after death... 1"

Chapter 362: Where Are You?

Call again later?

Gao Ru Xue felt like she had heard incorrectly. The system voice did not sound like it had said that, but what else could it have said?

After hanging up, Gao Ru Xue looked at her pale face reflecting on the display. It was her own face, but it showed a different expression. *I'm smiling?*

Gao Ru Xue flung the phone to the sofa and stood in the middle of the empty room with her hands twisted together. Time ticked by, and Gao Ru Xue stood in that position by the window. She did not dare move, be it the bedroom or the bathroom, it just gave her an uncomfortable feeling.

The ghost also knows my location. Does this mean that my two roommates will be here soon?

Outside the window, the clouds were thick in the sky. There was no light at all, and it felt like it was about to rain. *Father would normally be home by now.*

Holding the knife, Gao Ru Xue glanced at the room above her. The laundry was still there. The tense nerves made her tired. She leaned against the window, and looking at the dark residential area outside, her heart started to race again.

The whole residential area was dark, and only her room had its lights on. She had switched them on due to fear. It was like walking through the jungle with a torch raised. The light would bring her a sense of security, but it also exposed her location. *It's too obvious!*

Just as Gao Ru Xue hesitated over turning off the light, she saw something flashed across the gate of the residential area. She turned to look, and Gao Ru Xue's heart raised. There was a foggy shape of a woman standing at the gate. It looked like her roommate. *Why is she here?*

Gao Ru Xue was fully focused on the gate when the phone left on the sofa rang!

The screen radiated a faded cold light, and the humming noise made her teeth chatter. She quickly ran to the sofa to pick up the phone. It was her roommate who was calling her.

Should I answer it or not? After some hesitation, Gao Ru Xue answered it. "Liu Xian?"

"It's already ten pm, why aren't you at the dormitory yet?" Liu Xianxian's voice came on the phone. "Where are you?"

"I'm outside. I don't think I'll be sleeping at the dormitory tonight."

"Be careful since you're alone! Lately, it's been dangerous around here. There's a mad killer going about killing people and gouging out their eyes." Liu Xianxian's voice sounded creepy.

"Okay, I know all that. If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now." Gao Ru Xue ended the call and ran back to the window with the phone. She looked at the gate, and the shadow had already disappeared. *Did I imagine it?*

Her eyes moved, and when she saw the area before her own apartment building, the color drained from her face. The shadow had moved to the entrance to her apartment building!

Was it the light that attracted it? Gao Ru Xue hid behind the curtain. Her body was ice-cold. Just as she thought about turning off the light again, the phone started to vibrate. She lowered her head to look. Again, it was still from Liu Xianxian. The two shadows were just downstairs, and this time, Gao Ru Xue would not answer the call no matter what.

She tossed the phone at the couch. She used the cushion to cover the phone, but the sound of vibration still made her panic. After ten seconds later, the call finally ended. Then, there was a message from Liu Xianxian. "The dormitory manager is asking about your location. The school rules have been quite tight recently, so you'd better come back to the dormitory."

Gao Ru Xue did not reply and switched the phone to silent. She had just changed the setting when the second message from Liu Xianxian came. "Xiao Xue, are you in some kind of trouble? Do you need me to come fetch you? Where are you now?"

The message on the phone looked normal—just her friends being worried of her safety. There did not seem to be any other meaning, but placed in Gao Ru Xue's current situation, the meaning was completely different. There was a ghost standing at the entrance to her apartment building!

With trembling fingers, Gao Ru Xue turned the phone off. She pulled the curtain open a smidgen and saw that the shadow was still standing where it was. *It's that thing that's calling me?*

Gao Ru Xue kept her eyes on the shadow downstairs; she wanted to take a good look at who it was. She adjusted her position, and just as she was about to chance a glance, the phone in her palm, which was switched off, lit up again.

What's happening?

As she stared at the phone, the messages from Liu Xianxian kept coming.

"Where are you? It's very dangerous outside. Come back to school! Do you want us to come fetch you? Where are you?"

Gao Ru Xue did not reply, and Liu Xianxian sent about ten more messages before she stopped. Just as Gao Ru Xue thought it was finally over, the phone suddenly unlocked on its own and snapped a picture of Gao Ru Xue and the furniture beside her.

"So, you're home! I'm coming to fetch you now!"

When the new message appeared, Gao Ru Xue's scalp turned numb. She tried to switch the phone off with one hand as she glanced out the window. The shadow had disappeared. It felt like it had entered the building. The phone vibrated—a new message.

"I'm on the first floor."

Gao Ru Xue looked outside the window. The third building was reflected on Xi Xia Lake, and the voice-activated lights on the first floor lit up.

"I'm now on the second floor." Just as the second message was sent, the light on the second floor in the reflection of the lake came on. The thing was moving fast!

"I'm now on third floor!"

"I'm on 4th floor!"

"5th floor!"

"6th floor!"

The lights came up floor by floor. Gao Ru Xue gripped her hair. Reading the messages that appeared on screen, her eyes turned red. Her emotions were fraying.

"I'm on the 13th floor. Why has the anti-theft door to your home been left open?"

Footsteps echoed from the corridor; something was hurrying toward her! The sound from the outside and the message on the phone broke Gao Ru Xue. She used the fruit knife to stab repeatedly at the phone before smashing it at the ground. The phone cracked like everything had ended. All the lights in the corridor went off, and the residential area was swallowed by darkness again. There was silence in the corridor.

Did it leave?

Gao Ru Xue walked to the phone, and the broken display had one last message.

"I'm standing outside your door."

BANG!

There was knocking at the door!

Initially, it was slow, but the force slowly picked up. Gao Ru Xue felt like the whole door was shaking; this was not something achievable with human strength.

The thing is here. It's just outside the door!

The lights in the room flickered, and Gao Ru Xue's expression twisted as the fear in her heart was brought to the surface. She stood beside the window, and her heart raced. There were only fear and terror in her eyes.

Pulling open the curtain, Gao Ru Xue pushed the window open. There was one last way she could escape this room. Gao Ru Xue's breath caught in her throat as she sat on the window of the 13th floor. Her hands grabbed the windowsill. Looking down, all the fear in her heart exploded at that moment.

Her body slowly leaned forward, and just as she was about to let go, the door was kicked open, and a man's voice appeared beside her ears.

"Xu Yin!"

Chapter 363: I Knew from the Beginning

At 9:20 pm, Chen Ge's taxi arrived at Jiujiang's Medical University. After getting out, he realized that the university looked more dilapidated than he thought. "It's so quiet. It's not even 10, so why isn't there a student in sight?"

After paying the fare, Chen Ge took his backpack and entered the campus. When he passed the guardhouse, he glanced at the guard. The man did not stop him. I knew I don't look like a suspicious person.

There were many trees planted by the side of the road. The university cared about nature, but it was quite scary walking down the street alone.

Where is the old education block? All the buildings here look quite old.

Chen Ge called Gao Ru Xue again. "I've reached your campus. Where shall we meet?"

"Keep walking from the southern gate. You'll eventually come across an old building that's sealed. That's the old education block, hurry." Gao Ru Xue's voice was low like she did not want to be heard. "My roommates know I'm here. I can sense them following me. They've probably discovered me."

"I advise you call the police immediately. Where are you now?"

"Behind the education block. I gotta hang up; I can see them!" The call was ended by Gao Ru Xue.

Influenced by her tone, Chen Ge shivered involuntarily. He raised his head to look at the sky. It felt like it was going to rain soon. The sky looked dark. When he entered the gate, he could see some people, but as he entered the campus, the population slowly decreased to zero. Has there always been such an isolated place at the campus?

Chen Ge took out his phone to do some investigation. He realized that Jiujiang Medical School was the old campus. The school moved to a new site, leaving the forensic science department and a few other more unique specializations back at the old campus. No wonder there were so few people around.

The last side quest for School of Afterlife is at this place? Chen Ge was not thinking of accepting this quest. At Coffin Village, he had Xu Yin's help. Now he only had Uncle Yan. If he challenged a three-star scenario, it was simply asking for trouble.

"Once something goes wrong, we'll retreat instantly." Chen Ge placed the comic inside his pocket. "Uncle Yan's third power should be the key to why he's called a Lesser Red Specter. After I'm done with this, I should focus on fulfilling his dream."

The black phone gave Yan Danian a very good review, meaning that in spite of his appearance, the uncle had great potential. Chen Ge had wandered into the campus and arrived at the location Gao Ru Xue specified.

Two buildings sat in the dark, and there was a lock on the door. Standing at the entrance, the dark windows looked like eyes.

"I'm here," Chen Ge said into the phone.

"There's a storage room at the corner of the first floor, come get me! They're looking for me!" Gao Ru Xue kept her voice lowered, but the nervousness and terror was obvious. A weird emotion appeared within Chen Ge. He frowned slightly. He did not spot anything out of place, but something was not right.

Is it because I'm worried about Gao Ru Xue's safety? Chen Ge did not hang up the phone. He reached out to pull on the lock. It broke. Pushing the door open, Chen Ge stepped in. There was no trace of light inside the building, and the closed classroom doors looked rather scary.

Ever since leaving Mu Yang High School and Western Jiujiang's Private Academy, I've not come across any scary classrooms again, but I started to panic after stepping into this place. Is it because something scary is hiding here? Could this be related to the mission at the underground morgue? Chen Ge stopped at the door and placed his phone next to his ears to facilitate communication with Gao Ru Xue.

"The corner of the first floor. You have to be careful, my two roommates..." Gao Ru Xue suddenly stopped talking. There was the sound of a door opening from the other end of the phone. The sound moved closer to Gao Ru Xue, and it caused Chen Ge's heart to race like he was experiencing the terror himself.

The corner of the first floor? Or should I go downstairs? Chen Ge did not move, but the tape recorder in his backpack turned on itself to create white noise. "Xu Yin?"

Xu Yin finally gave Chen Ge some response after sleeping for one whole night and day after the adventure at Coffin Village. Normally, Xu Yin would only appear after Chen Ge turned on the recorder, but this time, he found Chen Ge on his own. "The breakthrough has been successful?"

Baleful Specters that were below Red Specter normally would not leave their item of possession. Their movement was limited.

“Is Xu Yin trying to tell me something?” There was a muddled voice. Chen Ge tried to listen for a long time before he understood Xu Yin’s meaning. The sound on the phone kept approaching, and it sounded dangerous. Technically speaking, Chen Ge should have been influenced to be nervous, anxious, but he hugged the recorder with an unknown smile on his face. Fear did not have the chance to appear before it was overwhelmed by joy. For Chen Ge, there was nothing better than the news of Xu Yin’s recovery.

“Chen Ge! Come quick! They’ve discovered me!” Gao Ru Xue screamed on the phone. She had already been discovered, so she screamed loudly for help. Footsteps came from the phone, but weirdly enough, the building was quiet.

Chen Ge took a deep breath after shoving the recorder into his pocket. He put on a serious expression and shouted into the phone, “Just hang on a little longer! I’ll be there in a minute!”

He took out the hammer, ran to the corner of the stairs, and kicked down the door that was not locked. There was no light on the first floor, but with the aid of his Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge saw three shadows running on the other side of the corridor. “Gao Ru Xue!”

Chen Ge ran forward with the hammer. While he was running, he felt his body temperature drop, and a cold presence surrounded him. However, out of his trust in Xu Yin, he pressed forward. When he chased the shadows until the stairs that led to the second floor underground, Xu Yin warned him to stay put.

There’s some problem with this floor? Chen Ge stopped moving and started to move back. Several seconds later, something scary happened.

Just at the corner, three shadows covered in blood poked their heads out! The three of them were working together, and they had been waiting for Chen Ge!

Chen Ge looked ahead. “Almost ran into your trap. Let me guess, your real trap is just ahead?”

The three shadows walked out from the corner and made the corridor turned colder. Their movement was slightly awkward like they were dead people.

“Your guess is correct, but you’ve missed the perfect opportunity to save your life.” The voice came from the phone. It was filled with venom and resentment.

“You’re not Gao Ru Xue?” Chen Ge placed the phone beside his ears but did not show much fear.

“Isn’t it too late for you to discover that now?” Gao Ru Xue’s voice turned shrill and sharp.

“Actually, when you called me this morning at 6 am, I knew you’re not Gao Ru Xue.” Chen Ge looked relaxed. “At the time, I called He San first, asking him why he called me. Not long after he hung up, you called. You told me other than my number, all the other numbers cannot be reached. However, I checked my phone history, and between 1 am to 3 am, both you and He San contacted me!

“If you were telling the truth, how did He San find out about this?”

“Therefore, the answer is simple—it was you all along! You tried to trick me last night, but my phone wasn’t in the service area. You couldn’t reach me no matter what, so the plan had to be delayed to tonight!

“There’s also one very important point. If you really did experience something this scary, you would have asked to meet me in the morning, but not only did you not do that, you even asked for me to meet you at night!

“I’ve been curious, why did you insist on meeting at night? It was since then that I was eighty percent certain you’re not Gao Ru Xue!”

With a smile, Chen Ge pressed the play button on the recorder. “I knew I’ve been talking to a ghost from the very beginning. I played along with your trick because I’ve been looking for you as well!”

Chapter 364: Missing a Heart

With the sound of white noise, an extremely cold presence radiated from Chen Ge. The blood dripped, and in the dark, a dark red arm grabbed Chen Ge’s phone. The blood vessels grew to envelope the machine, and the Gao Ru Xue on the phone screamed from sheer pain.

“Is it painful?” The familiar voice echoed beside Chen Ge’s ear, and the red Xu Yin walked out from the shadows. Without the order from Chen Ge, Xu Yin rushed at the three shadows down the corridor. His voice seemed to possess a powerful spell; whenever he spoke, the three shadows would pause, like their minds were seriously affected. Is this the new power Xu Yin gained after becoming a Red Specter? His voice can affect other ghosts?

Chen Ge held the cold phone. After the phone was cleaned by Xu Yin, Chen Ge escaped the influence of the phone. The world in his eyes returned to normal, and the fear in his heart gradually calmed down. Looking at the phone in his hand, Chen Ge started to get worried about the safety of that phone spirit. It wouldn’t die just like that, right? Xu Yin is good, but he’s too reckless. This phone spirit can heighten the fear in people’s heart and even take over their phone, isn’t that the perfect addition to my Haunted House?

There were going to be more people who would be like that Brother Wong. There were guides and pictures of the Haunted House’s low-level scenarios online. Even though visitors were not allowed to use cameras inside the Haunted House, many of them still refused to listen. Chen Ge was one person; he had no time nor the right to stop these visitors. But with the aid of the phone spirit, things would be a lot easier.

It should still be alive. Even though they were enemy, Chen Ge worried about the phone spirit. He gave himself a like for his kindness. People like myself who are so kind to others will often ignore themselves. That is not good. Perhaps I should learn to be more selfish.

The result of the battle in the corridor was obvious. However, the scene was rather bloody. Chen Ge looked at Xu Yin tearing the ghosts apart coldly as he thought about something else. The phone spirit purposely led me here but didn’t set a powerful trap. Looks like the society’s real concern is the door at the Haunted House. They didn’t want to kill me, but of course, that could be because their power has been greatly decreased, and they didn’t have that many people left to spare.

Five murders surrounded New Century Park—the society’s target had been the door at the haunted House since the very beginning. They seem to be planning some kind of special ritual. Luring me away is because they’re afraid I might disrupt their ritual?

Chen Ge was not sure about anything else, but he had full faith in his ability to create chaos. The thing that they don’t want to let me see, I’ll have to see it.

Chen Ge called Xu Yin’s name as he prepared to return to New Century Park. He called several times, but Xu Yin showed no response. After swallowing the three ghosts, Xu Yin stood at the corner of the stairs like he was in confrontation with something. Wounds started to form on his body.

Once he got near, Chen Ge also realized something was wrong.

The underground first floor and second floor were separated by a steel door, but the lock on the door was forced open. Cold wind kept coming from underground, and there were several wet footprints on the stairs. Squatting down, Chen Ge used his finger to touch the stain before sniffing it.

“Formalin?” Chen Ge had no idea how many floors there were in total, and he did not want to create trouble for himself. “Xu Yin, let’s go.”

There was something underground that made Xu Yin feel threatened. This was not good news for Chen Ge. He called several times before Xu Yin turned. When he faced Chen Ge, his expression was more relaxed, and he did not seem to be in as much pain as before. This was the first time Chen Ge had seen Xu Yin closely after he transformed into Red Specter.

Blood oozed from his wounds to knit together with the bloody shirt. However, one thing that confused Chen Ge was that the blood seemed to move away from the spot where Xu Yin’s heart would sit. The shirt had a conspicuous spot around his heart that was not dyed red.

“Why is there a lack of change around the heart?” Chen Ge looked at Xu Yin. He inspected the black phone, but there was no change to Xu Yin’s tab. Chen Ge could not even tell whether Xu Yin counted as Red Specter or not.

“This is different from Zhang Ya. When she first appeared, she was already in a full red costume. Is there a second trigger to becoming a Red Specter?” Chen Ge tried to communicate with Xu Yin, but the man was even more confused than Chen Ge.

“Could it be related to the door? The society only used several days to make Xiong Qing into a Red Specter. Can only the black blood found behind the door make a ghost into Red Specter? Then how did Zhang Ya become a Red Specter?”

Chen Ge realized he still knew too little about that world. After Xu Yin returned to the tape, he ran out of the building. The coldness surrounding his body had dissipated. Chen Ge took out his phone to call Gao Ru Xue. His phone had returned to normal, but Gao Ru Xue’s number was still busy.

“The society used Gao Ru Xue’s name to lure me to the campus, so they definitely wouldn’t let Gao Ru Xue meet up with me.” The phone spirit could affect people’s emotions. Worried about Gao Ru Xue’s safety, Chen Ge called Doctor Gao directly. Without the influence of the phone spirit, Chen Ge managed to successfully reach the real Doctor Gao. He told him what might happen to Gao Ru Xue.

When he heard his daughter might have been targeted by a group of mad killers, Doctor Gao dropped everything. He called the police and the school. The counsellors found Gao Ru Xue's roommates, but they had no idea where she was either. They said that Gao Ru Xue had looked disturbed that day, and it might be related to a new boyfriend.

At about 10 pm, one of the guards provided some valuable information. About half an hour ago, a kind-hearted taxi driver came to the school gate to return a water bottle and a textbook with Gao Ru Xue's name. The driver said that the girl left in such a hurry that she forgot her bottle and book. He had no idea which block she stayed in, so he could only return to the school and hope that the guard would return the girl her stuff.

The driver's kindness revealed an important detail—Gao Ru Xue was home. Chen Ge got the address from Doctor Gao, and he quickly called a taxi to get to Xi Xia Hu. The area was nice but rather isolated.

After getting out of the car, Chen Ge kept the phone on to communicate with Doctor Gao as he ran to the building where Gao Ru Xue stayed.

Chapter 365: Raincoat

At 10 pm, Chen Ge arrived at the block where Doctor Gao's family stayed. Looking up, he saw one of the windows had their light on, like all the lights in the home had been switched on. *Should be that room.*

The windows were closed, and there was a woman standing behind the curtain. She looked nervous and kept opening the curtains to look downstairs. "Gao Ru Xue?"

The girl also saw Chen Ge, but she did not show joy or surprise but a face filled with fear like she just saw something scary.

Looks like she's still under the phone spirit's influence.

When someone reached the threshold of fear, they would faint—that was the human body's inherent protective system. However, the fear created by the phone spirit was different. The fear came in levels to slowly tormented the victim, pushing them slowly toward the edge of mental breakdown. Under such circumstances, the victim might be pushed to do something extremely irrational.

"Don't do anything stupid!" Chen Ge rushed into the corridor and pushed on the elevator button, but the elevator stopped at the 13th floor and refused to budge. Given no other choice, he had to use the stairs. After completing so many missions, compared to logic and bravery, the biggest improvement to his body was his physical condition.

He activated the recorder and grabbed the hammer. He was not afraid of disturbing the other tenants and charged upstairs.

He moved fast!

The voice-activated light came on for each floor as Chen Ge ran to the 13th floor. There was only one anti-theft door that was open on the quiet corridor. "Found it!"

Chen Ge rushed to the door and called Gao Ru Xue's name. There was no reply coming from within, but he heard Gao Ru Xue's moan of pain and something being smashed. The girl that was normally calm and collected was like a madwoman. Chen Ge did not dare waste any more time. He used the hammer to smash the inner door open.

The blood vessels on the groove moved, and Chen Ge had no idea how many times he smashed at the door before the lock was smashed away. Chen Ge rushed into the room, and the first thing he saw was Gao Ru Xue leaning out the window.

The scarier thing was that there was a very thin boy sitting on Gao Ru Xue's head. He hugged her head and used his body to cover her ears, his hands clamped over her eyes.

"Xu Yin!" Chen Ge's shout echoed through many floors, and all the light in the room was extinguished in that moment. Air seemed to freeze as a bloody shadow charged at Gao Ru Xue!

The boy on top of Gao Ru Xue's head showed extreme fear when he saw Xu Yin and released his grasp without hesitation and disappeared. Gao Ru Xue, who returned normal, had not recovered when he saw a Red Specter with blood dripping charging at her. She wanted to scream, but there was no voice in her throat. Her arms weakened, and her body fell backward.

"Hold onto me!" The familiar voice appeared again. Gao Ru Xue's pupils started to focus. The red banshee that she had seen earlier had disappeared, and only Chen Ge was grabbing her arm. The lights went off, and staring at the man in the dark, Gao Ru Xue's mind started to collect its thought.

With one leg on the windowsill, Chen Ge tried his best to pull Gao Ru Xue up. Looking at the shocked Gao Ru Xue, Chen Ge's heart was also racing. "Thankfully, the outside door was left open. If that door was locked, I wouldn't have been able to get in so quickly."

Collapsing to the ground, Chen Ge was still worried about Gao Ru Xue. He dragged her to the sofa. "You're fine now. Get some rest, I'll go call Doctor Gao."

Ten minutes later, the lights in the room came on, and there were footsteps coming from the corridor. Chen Ge raised his head to see Doctor Gao, who looked different from his normal image. His usual confidence and maturity were gone. Gasping for air, his eyes were filled with concern.

"Xiao Xue." Kneeling by the sofa, Doctor Gao grabbed Gao Ru Xue's hands, and the girl finally showed her vulnerable side. Silently putting the hammer back into his backpack, Chen Ge picked up the phone that Gao Ru Xue had dropped and walked out the door alone.

It was not over yet. He had to get that phone spirit no matter what!

Specters that are not Red Specter cannot expose themselves too long outside in the world; they have to attach themselves to something. That phone spirit won't have gotten far.

Chen Ge did not chase blindly. His mind was clear. *When I entered building, the elevator did not budge from the thirteenth floor. At the time, the phone spirit was on Gao Ru Xue's head, suppressing her senses, so the one inside the elevator has to be another person or a ghost.*

Someone was controlling the phone spirit, and said person should have been the one stopping the elevator from moving.

If the plan was to lure Gao Ru Xue away, there was no need to do this because he has no reason to kill Gao Ru Xue. After the plan failed, the best solution is to escape—doing more than that will only expose himself. So, why did he change the plan to kill Gao Ru Xue?

There were many different answers in Chen Ge's mind, but there was only one that was most possible—Gao Ru Xue had accidentally seen the killer. To not let any witnesses survive, the person changed his intention to kill Gao Ru Xue.

The person behind the phone spirit lured me out of New Century Park and then lured Gao Ru Xue home. The culprit should be from the ghost stories society. Chen Ge leaned against the wall and looked out the window. All the clues started to line up. After tonight, they should only be the only member left.

Chen Ge returned to the room and had Doctor Gao pull up the surveillance of the thirteenth floor. He squatted down beside the sofa and asked, after Doctor Gao left, "Did you run into anyone weird on the way home?"

"Weird people?" Gao Ru Xue thought about it. "The driver who drove me home was weird. He kept telling me about those murders."

"Who else other than him?" Gao Ru Xue had been influenced by the phone spirit, so she would have thought the worst of everyone.

After some thought, Gao Ru Xue suddenly said, "When I wanted to take the elevator earlier, someone wearing an extra-large raincoat was leaving the elevator. I bumped into him."

"Raincoat?" Chen Ge was interested. "Did you managed to see his face?"

"No, the person was completely hidden inside the raincoat." Gao Ru Xue hesitated before saying, "After he left the elevator, for some reason, I felt fearful of the elevator. I was afraid I might get trapped inside, so I took the stairs, but when I reached the sixth floor, the safety door on the first floor was pushed open, and someone began to chase me."

Chapter 366: Chen Ge's Method of Elimination

"I was so scared that when I got home that I forgot to close the anti-theft door." Gao Ru Xue was still shaking, thinking about what happened then.

"Your choice was correct. The person trailing you had malicious intent." The phone spirit amplified the fear in Gao Ru Xue's heart to cause her to experience various illusions. No matter the situation, she would imagine it in the worst scenario, but that might have been the reason she was saved. ten minutes later, Chen Ge received the call from Doctor Gao, calling him to the building's surveillance room.

Chen Ge was worried about leaving Gao Ru Xue alone in the room in her current state, so he carried her in his arms as he moved downstairs. They entered the surveillance room where Doctor Gao and two security guards were stationed before the computers.

"Any discoveries?"

“Take a look at this.” Doctor Gao had the guard replay the footage, and they saw something hair-raising. After Gao Ru Xue entered the safety door, a person wearing a large dark-colored raincoat followed behind her. He tailed Gao Ru Xue closely like her shadow.

In the next screen, Gao Ru Xue had already arrived on the 13th floor. She raced to her home and searched for the house key with her hands shaking. Even through the screen, one could sense her fear. The man in raincoat slowly crept up on her. When he appeared on the 13th floor, Gao Ru Xue was still fiddling with the door.

He picked up speed, and during that process, the wind blew the sleeve off. It could be seen clearly on the screen that he was holding a uniquely-shaped metal device that was covered in blood.

The distance between the two closed. When there was less than ten meters between them, Gao Ru Xue finally got the inner door open and ran into the room. The door was slammed shut, and the corridor became quiet again.

However, the man in the raincoat did not leave. He stopped at the door to Gao Ru Xue’s room and slowly squatted down, hiding in the blind spot. If Gao Ru Xue thought the man had left and opened the door, the consequences would have been unimaginable. The time continued to move, but the screen felt like it had stopped. The killer kept himself frozen beside the door.

“Could this man be the culprit behind those eye-gauging cases? Is the sharp device in his sleeve the murder weapon?” When they were looking at the video, the surveillance room door was pushed open and in walked two policemen.

“We’re from the station precinct. I’m sorry, but where is Doctor Gao?” Chen Ge was familiar with the man who asked the question. It was Lee Zheng, whom he had met at Fang Hwa Apartments, one of Captain Yan’s trusted officers.

When Chen Ge recognized Lee Zheng so did Lee Zheng recognize Chen Ge. The next question out of Lee Zheng’s lips was... “Has there been another murder?”

“Almost.” Chen Ge did not think he would run into Lee Zheng, and he was surprised Lee Zheng seemed to know Doctor Gao quite well.

“If not for Chen Ge’s help, my daughter would have been the victim.” Doctor Gao was still coming down from his emotions. His daughter had almost died; anyone would need some time to process that worry.

Lee Zheng walked to the computer, and when he saw the person in the video, his expression changed. He immediately took out his phone to call a number. “Captain Yan! The suspect for the eye-gouging cases has been spotted at Xi Xia Hu residential area! It is similar to how the suspect was captured in other videos; the killer is wearing a dark-colored raincoat!”

After making the report, Lee Zheng asked for everyone’s cooperation and to stay in the room. Ten minutes later, Captain Yan arrived with his men. After asking about the situation, he had the perimeter surrounded. “Don’t worry, we have pinpointed the general location of the killer, there’s no way he’ll be escaping tonight!”

The commotion was much larger than Chen Ge had expected. With police cars and hounds, all the streets were sealed. It was obvious that this time the police had given it their all.

“The video shows that the suspect has left the third building in the last twenty minutes. Without the aid of a runaway car, the suspect should still be around the area.” Captain Yan marked down several points on the map on his phone and sent it to the officers’ phones. “Listen to me, comb the area inch by inch! Even if she’s buried three feet underground, we’ll find her tonight!”

With Captain Yan’s order, the officers started to move like a well-oiled machine. After Captain Yan finished his order, Chen Ge sidled up to the man. “Captain Yan, the killer is completely covered inside the raincoat, and none of you have seen him before. Will he be able to escape by just walking out the perimeter?”

“Even though we have not seen her face, it doesn’t mean that we cannot recognize her.” Captain Yan followed the movement of the teams closely and explained to Chen Ge, “This killer is cruel and cunning. Her targets are totally random, and there is no rhyme or reason. This is an incredibly hard case for the investigation team, but the most cunning fox will eventually fall to a better hunter. She thought she had committed the perfect crime, but she’s made some mistakes because she was in too much of a hurry to get the job done.

“We’ve pulled out more than one hundred cameras from the five crime scenes, and through digital reconstruction and the hair follicle and skin particles that we’ve collected at the crime scene, our criminal profiler has come up with this painting.”

Captain Yan pointed at his phone, and on the screen was an average-sized woman that was impossibly gorgeous.

“The killer is a woman?” Chen Ge was rather surprised.

“Not only a woman, an impossibly beautiful woman.” The walkie-talkie made a noise, and Captain Yan turned away from Chen Ge to focus on his work. What Captain Yan said repeated itself in Chen Ge’s mind; he had a good idea who the real killer was now.

She was related to the ghost stories society, was incredibly beautiful, and had a mental illness; there was only one woman who fit the criteria—Third Sick Hall’s Patient No. 6, Han Bao’er!

There was a comment on her patient’s report—Just how harsh must God be to make a woman as beautiful as this?

Other than Wang Shenglong, this woman was the last patient at Third Sick Hall. After removing her, the completion rate would go over ninety percent, and Chen Ge would get the hidden reward!

It should be her. Chen Ge moved back silently. The real reason for gouging out the eyes should be related to the door at my Haunted House. This means that Han Bao’er is a member of the society. As long as she is captured or removed, the society will only have one member left.

After confirming the identity of Han Bao’er, another detail could be confirmed.

No. 10 was taller than Han Bao’er and a man, so No. 10 isn’t Han Bao’er! If this is true, then that familiar No. 10 should be the chairperson!

In less than one week, Chen Ge had used his own method of elimination to discover the chairperson.

Quite a good hider, but it’s useless before me. After Han Bao’er is captured, it’s your turn next!

Chapter 367: The Rag Doll Before the Door

A dangerous glow appeared in Chen Ge's eyes. Since the chairperson gave him a sense of familiarity, it was all the more reason for him to expose the man. *The five killings look like they're part of a ritual. The society has spent so long preparing this, so they should have started the moment after luring me out from the Haunted House.*

The ghost stories society was afraid that Chen Ge might ruin the ceremony, and Cheng Ge was worried about his life. After all, at the time, Xu Yin had not awakened yet. He could only use those Specters that looked scary but were not at all harmful. But things had changed; Xu Yin had awakened. Even though his condition was a bit weird, he did raise Chen Ge's combat ability.

With the cooperation between Xu Yin and Yan Danian, they might stop the opponent's Red Specter. Then I will have the chance to stop the person behind all this.

Thinking about this, Chen Ge walked over to Captain Yan. "Captain Yan, I have an emergency back at the Haunted House."

"You'd better stay put until the killer is apprehended. Don't forget, you're one of their primary targets." Captain Yan did not agree to let Chen Ge go. He talked into the talkie-walkie, busy with the teams.

Returning to the chair, Chen Ge's eyes swept Captain Yan and the two officers in the room. Since he first met Captain Yan, he had never suspected this policeman that was filled with a sense of justice, but this time, his conviction swayed.

Two hours ago, it was Captain Yan who had personally called Chen Ge to come to the station. His reason was flawless, and he did sound like he wanted to protect Chen Ge, but the timing was too coincidental. It was about the time the society went to his Haunted House.

Looking further back, when the society wanted to snatch the door at Coffin Village, their preparation was so complete. They knew both Jiang Ling and Coffin Village very well, but where did they get that information?

Coffin Village was well hidden within the mountains, separated from the world. Those escaped villagers in Lin Guan Village had rarely communicated with the outside world as well. That was until half a year ago, when Jiang Ling's parents were poisoned, and this isolated village came under the police's radar. Captain Yan was also part of the investigation team then.

It was Captain Yan who entered Coffin Village, and it was his men that took care of Jiang Ling—that was undeniable truth. When Chen Ge saved Gu Feiyu at Fang Hwa Apartments, Captain Yan had also been there. It was Captain Yan who followed up on the cases from the Third Sick Hall. Now that he thought about it, there were reasons to suspect Captain Yan. Of course, these were merely suspicions. From how Chen Ge saw it, Captain Yan had no reason to do all this; it could just be a coincidence.

After Han Bao'er gets captured tonight, the society will only have the chairperson left.

Chen Ge made sure that Captain Yan was not looking at him when he sneaked out from the room and took a taxi back to New Century Park. Chen Ge arrived at the park at around 11 pm, and once he got out,

he knew that something was wrong. There was a very light smell in the air. The stench was similar to the stench at the Third Sick Hall and Hai Ming Apartments but much lighter.

“It’s that smell again.” Chen Ge had noticed this smell when he first arrived at Hai Ming Apartments. At the time, he had asked Doctor Gao about it and realized that only he could notice this very weird smell. After greeting the park guard, Chen Ge entered the premises.

The more he walked through the park, the more he felt something was wrong. The attractions looked normal, but they looked suddenly old to Chen Ge, like they were covered in a layer of dust. Pressing the play button on the recorder, Chen Ge took out the hammer from his backpack as he approached his Haunted House.

The park was rather creepy at night, and Chen Ge moved slowly. *This is weird. Could it be that the last member of the society hasn’t left yet?*

When he was thirty meters away from the Haunted House, the bushes nearby suddenly moved. Chen Ge narrowed his eyes and readied the hammer. Several seconds later, the leaves were pushed back, and a white cat poked out its small head. Its multi-colored eyes were obvious in the dark. When it saw Chen Ge, it jumped out and climbed onto Chen Ge’s shoulders, feeling this was the safest place.

At least help the Haunted House when I’m away. All you do is flee.

Chen Ge touched the white cat’s head. The cat looked spooked. Chen Ge continued to move forward until he reached the gate.

The lock is untouched, so the person probably didn’t go through the front door.

He walked around the Haunted House and stopped at the toilet’s window. Due to the incident with the mirror monster, the room had been sealed off, but now the window was open again.

He’s here for that blood ‘door’.

Chen Ge pulled the window opened and placed the cat on the windowsill. Seeing that the cat showed no response, Chen Ge jumped into the room.

Someone has moved the stuff in here.

The mop and brooms that should have been standing at the corner were on the ground, and the newly replaced toilet door was broken down. There were cracks on the mirror in the toilet, and the wooden boards on the toilet cubicle had all been removed.

Zhang Ya is sleeping inside my shadow, and Xu Yin has been with me. Other than them, who in this Haunted House can rival the people from the ghost stories society?

The chairperson would definitely have a Red Specter, and Chen Ge did not think that he had anyone at the Haunted House who could beat a Red Specter.

Did I miss something?

Chen Ge turned on the light in the toilet. He cleared away the trash and finally found something after removing all the boards. In front of the cubicle door sat a tattered rag doll.

It's her?

This scene was quite familiar. When Chen Ge did the Nightmare Mission for the first time, it was also this rag doll that had lain before the mirror to stop the mirror monster from coming out. He picked up the rag doll. After his parents' disappearance, the police had only managed to find two things, the black phone and this rag doll that Chen Ge made when he was a child.

After completing the third Nightmare Mission, Chen Ge had confirmed the rag doll's identity. It was a soul that protected the Haunted House and New Century Park; she was Director Luo's daughter.

The rag doll had many wounds on its body. There was a gash about the size of a finger on the back, and the cotton inside had been roughly pulled out. Chen Ge pushed the cotton back into the body and placed the rag doll on the counter.

After doing all that, Chen Ge turned to look at the cubicle door. The rag doll had blocked the way, so this meant that the society had not been successful. Their target was this door, but from its appearance, nothing had changed with this blood door.

Chen Ge was still worried. He pulled the door open, and when he did, he noticed a faded smell of blood in the air. He lowered his head to look. There was a painting of a weird Specter behind the door. It gnashed its teeth and was carrying many torture devices. The strangest thing was that the creature had ten eyes, and all of them seemed to be looking at Chen Ge.

Chapter 368: The Pen Spirit's Will

An evil Specter?

When he saw the drawing, this was the term that appeared in Chen Ge's mind.

Why would the society draw an evil Specter behind the door? What is the meaning of this?

It was very quiet inside the Haunted House, and being stared at by ten eyes, even with Chen Ge's experience, he still felt uncomfortable.

There have been five murders near New Century Park, and all the victims' eyes have been gouged out. The monster here has ten eyes; could this be a coincidence?

Chen Ge slowly squatted down and used his finger tip to touch the board. The drawing had not been painted on the door but was more like inside the door. Chen Ge could not feel anything with his fingers.

Before departing for Coffin Village, Captain Yan told me some things about the case. All the victims were sinners, including thieves, robbers, and fugitives. Sinners are used for the ceremony, and the Specter is carrying multiple torture devices; it does symbolize punishment. The weirdest thing is that the drawing is facing inside, meaning it's facing the world behind the door.

Chen Ge scratched his head but could not understand the society's aim.

I should come back to look at midnight.

Chen Ge closed the door, and to prevent an accident from happening, he picked up the wooden boards and used them to seal up the cubicle again. After dealing with all that, Chen Ge picked up the torn rag doll and the white cat and walked to the props room. He switched the light on to find the needle and thread to repair the rag doll.

There were few males who knew needlework, but Chen Ge was an exception. When the Haunted House had not been making much money, most of the outfits had been handmade by Chen Ge. After poking his fingers several times, Chen Ge had become quite proficient at the job.

My parents were nicer to you than me when we were small. If they saw you in this state, they would be devastated.

Chen Ge patiently sealed up the wound on the rag doll's back. The rag doll might have looked rough and simple, but Chen Ge knew it was hiding a beautiful and pure soul. When he was half-way through, Chen Ge realized that there was a long and thin red nail hiding in the doll's sleeve, one that would not be discovered if one did not look closer.

Wait, isn't this the nail I brought back from the Third Sick Hall?

During that trial mission, Chen Ge had found many letters inside the dresser in a room. The dresser had not been touched in all those years, and the four corners were sealed up by these long nails. At the time, Chen Ge had thought that they were useful to stop the ghosts, so when he returned to grab his hammer, he had pulled the nails out and brought them back to the Haunted House.

There is a blood stain on the nail, perhaps it's from the killer. Tomorrow, I should call someone to test this.

Chen Ge pocketed the nail and continued his work. Time slowly passed, and the bored white cat started to play with the ball of thread. Eventually, its body was tangled up in the thread, and it started playing with it in the room. Chen Ge ignored the cat and focused on fixing the cuts on the doll.

There were two conspicuous cuts on the doll's body, one old and one new. The new wound had been left behind by the ghost stories society, and the old wound was across its neck, almost chopping the doll's head off. Touching the wound on the neck, Chen Ge thought back to an event that happened many years ago.

After making the rag doll, Chen Ge's parents had told him to keep the doll with him no matter where he went. Chen Ge had refused because it looked weird for a boy to go everywhere carrying a doll, but he did not get into an argument with his family over this.

Since he had lived at a Haunted House since he was young, Chen Ge had greater courage than most and had a more vibrant curiosity. His parents never limited him but only barred him from going to the eastern side of Jiujiang.

Chen Ge could not understand his parents' rule until that one time when the school arranged a trip for everyone to go the dam at the eastern side of Jiujiang to play. Initially, everything had been fine. At around three to four pm, Chen Ge had seen someone waving at him. The person had felt familiar and was calling his name. Chen Ge had told the teacher this, and with the teacher's accompaniment, they had walked down that small path.

He could see a red house at the end of the road, and there were kids playing weird games around the house. He could not remember anything beyond that. When he woke up by the side of the street with his fainted teacher, he had the wounded rag doll in his arms.

“It should be you who have saved me then too.” Chen Ge touched the wound on the rag doll’s neck, and now he understood many things. “Before now, you’ve been protecting me, but from now on, I shall be protecting all of you.”

He placed the rag doll inside his pocket. Chen Ge grabbed the hammer and went to inspect all the scenarios.

Xiaoxiao’s family was inside the Murder by Midnight scenario. They were not hurt. He pulled off the wooden boards and entered the Mu Yang High School scenario. Twenty-four mannequins sat quietly in the sealed classroom—none of them was missing. They looked just like real mannequins. He moved forward, and when he entered the female dormitory, the Pen Spirit, who was wrapped up by tape, gave Chen Ge a surprise.

There was a sentence on the piece of paper.

“The killer is carrying a dead body on his back and he calls her his wife! Help me take care of Wang Xin and avenge me!”

Chen Ge was surprised when he saw the ‘will’ left by the Pen Spirit. “You sure are a kind person. Even at a time like this, you still care about that friend of yours.”

Chen Ge sighed in relief when he picked up the ballpoint pen and realized that the Pen Spirit was safe. He had a Pen Spirit that knew how to pen her own will; the chairperson definitely would not expect something like that.

The person is carrying a body, so it’s confirmed that the person who intruded into my Haunted House is No. 10. He called the body on his back his wife. That is a crucial clue.

After inspecting all the scenarios, probably due to the limited time, the chairperson did not ruin the Haunted House. His main target was still the door inside the first-floor toilet. Realizing that the Haunted House was untouched, Chen Ge felt relieved. He returned to the toilet with all of his equipment, waiting for time to go by.

The door inside the Haunted House was a treasure for the society, but it was worthless for Chen Ge. He knew too little about the world behind the door. He guarded the door until 11:59 pm.

The white cat that was playing suddenly rushed into the toilet while gnashing its jaw. Chen Ge also felt the changes in the room. Just as the door was about to open, all the souls in the Haunted House reacted.

Chen Ge gripped the hammer and had his finger over the recorder, ready to call Xu Yin for help.

The seconds ticked by.

When it was midnight. The drawing that was inside the door appeared on the other side of the door. All ten eyes came to life. They did not look like drawing but ten actual eyes that could move.

As time continued to move, blood vessels appeared on the door, and the monster's expression turned twisted. The vessels crawled all over the monster. When they passed through the eyes, they would turn blood red, and that continued until the tenth eye. But no matter how long the blood vessels curled around the last eye, they could not dye it red.

Chen Ge got closer, and he realized that this last eye had been poked blind by something sharp.

Chapter 369: I'm Also a Member of the Society

There's a long nail in the rag doll's sleeve, so she should be the one who did this.

The last eyeball was not dyed red, and the ghost stories society's ritual had been interrupted. It could not be considered successful, but it did not fail completely either. The blood vessels entered the Specter's body, making it more authentic, like it could jump out of the door at any moment.

After thirty seconds, there was a weird sound coming from inside the door. It sounded like a ball bouncing on the ground.

"A human skull?"

Chen Ge summoned Xu Yin and guarded the door with the hammer. If he had not just boarded up the cubicle, he could have been fighting the thing then. The sound came closer until it rammed into the door, causing the cubicle to shake slightly.

When the monster knocked into the door, nine eyes of the Specter painted on the door opened wide. A boy's scream escaped the door, and the bouncing ball quickly retreated. The sound disappeared, and the one minute ended. The Specter did not escape from the door. It appeared like it was forever stuck inside the door due to the one eye that had been poked blind. The blood door returned to normal like nothing ever happened.

The monster behind the door screamed loudly when it touched the door. The voice was filled with pain and terror. Looks like this Specter painted by the society is not to be messed with.

The drawing disappeared alongside the blood, but the memory was still fresh in Chen Ge's mind.

The Specter has the eyes of five sinners and carries tons of torture devices. It looks scary and can force dark spirits away. How come it feel like a door guardian? Normal families will put up pictures of door guardians during New Year to protect the family. Is this the same purpose for the ghost stories society?

At Coffin Village, Wu Fei had once said that the door at Chen Ge's Haunted House was probably unoccupied. At the time, No. 10's reaction had been huge, like an unoccupied 'door' was extremely rare.

A weird painting to control a 'door'? That's too unrealistic, but the key to becoming the owner of a door should be inside the door.

Now that he thought about it, Chen Ge suspected that the painting was a way to protect the door. The door was the connection between the two worlds. To explore the world behind the door, first one had to guarantee the door's safety. That way, one could retreat instantly in case of danger.

To protect the door from outsiders, that should be one of the purposes of this painting. I'll need time to discover its other uses.

To ensure that the painting would not influence the daily operation of the Haunted House, Chen Ge used Xu Yin and Yan Danian to try it out. Neither of them reacted in any special way.

I still worry about this, I should come back at midnight tomorrow.

Chen Ge's initial attitude toward the door was to avoid it and seal it up, but after Zhang Ya charged into the door at the Third Sick Hall, his attitude toward the door had slowly changed.

If there's a chance, I should go look behind this door. Chen Ge then recalled Xu Yin and turned to look at his shadow. *When Zhang Ya awakens, I should try to take a spin behind the door.*

It was already midnight, but Chen Ge did not feel tired at all. He tried to sleep but could not. His mind was still on that phone spirit. He felt like it would be immensely helpful to have that spirit as a Haunted House employee. Letting it die alongside the society was such a waste.

Normal people tried their best to avoid Specters and ghosts, but Chen Ge was the complete opposite.

The phone spirit belongs to the ghost stories society, and technically speaking, I'm also a member. Even though they didn't admit it, that's not important.

Chen Ge suddenly realized this as the society was almost crumbling. The society had more than one door and had been hiding in the shadows of the city for so many years, so they should have collected many goodies. Taking this one step further, even if they did not leave behind anything physical, just the information they had on ghosts would be extremely beneficial to Chen Ge.

This is such a wealth of treasure!

The society, including its chairperson, would all be captured soon. As the sub member of the society, Chen Ge felt like it was time for him to step up. Carrying his bag, Chen Ge dragged the hammer back to Mu Yang High School. He entered the female dormitory and found the Pen Spirit.

"Don't worry, I'm here. No one can hurt you."

After consoling the Pen Spirit, Chen Ge used her power to determine Han Bao'er's location. The successful rate of Pen Spirit's prediction was fifty percent, and the prediction could not be beyond her power. These conditions made her ability rather weak.

However, that day, perhaps instigated by outside influence, after Chen Ge asked the question, she wrote down a very detailed address on the paper.

"Xi Xia Hu's third building 23rd floor? The killer herself is a tenant at Xi Xia Hu?"

This was an important detail, and Chen Ge memorized the address on the paper. He took out his phone to call Captain Yan, but after a moment's hesitation, he put the phone away.

Locking the Haunted House, Chen Ge left New Century Park.

If she has a Red Specter, then we'll retreat and ask the police for help; if she only has normal ghosts, we'll capture her alive and suck all the ghosts she has into the comic to be trained.

Chen Ge was hiding in the dark and had the element of surprise thanks to the Pen Spirit. Combined that with Xu Yin and Yan Danian, he had every advantage. The taxi arrived at Xi Xia Hu; the roadblock was still ongoing. To prevent the hammer in his bag from being confiscated, Chen Ge got out early.

The killer can be handed over to the police, but I need that phone spirit.

Chen Ge returned to the surveillance room. Captain Yan and his men had already left. Weirdly enough, Captain Yan did not ask about Chen Ge's location. It was unclear whether he was too busy or it had already become a habit.

After a long search, Chen Ge finally found Lee Zheng. He told him about the Pen Spirit's prediction and attached that with a long list of speculation. Lee Zheng listened to him with a frown. Chen Ge's analysis was completely unreliable. If this had been someone else, he would have asked them to leave.

However, Lee Zheng did not disregard Chen Ge's input. After all, the man was special and had a brilliant case clearing record. He seemed to be the kryptonite of sinners.

After some communication, Lee Zheng found the information for all the tenants on the 23rd floor, and with the accompaniment of the owner, they went up to said floor.

Chapter 370: The Sickest Beauty [2 in 1]

"When Gao Ru Xue wanted to take the elevator, she ran into the person wearing the raincoat leaving the building. That should be just a coincidence."

The police's investigation pressured this person in the raincoat greatly. Chen Ge tried to envision this from her perspective, and he believed that the killer should be trying to escape Xi Xia Hu to find a new hiding spot.

"For now, that cannot be confirmed. There's also the possibility that the killer was tailing Gao Ru Xue." Lee Zheng look at the camera inside the elevator. "We once suspected that the killer is a resident here because some of the cameras within the residential area were maliciously destroyed three days ago, and three days ago was exactly when the first murder was committed."

After he said that, Lee Zheng glanced at Chen Ge with suspicion. The police had gathered many clues and pieces of information before they came to the suspicion that the killer might be a tenant at Xi Xia Hu, but Chen Ge had managed that alone without the aid of a team. Not only had he pinpointed Xi Xia Hu, he had even managed to provide the floor that the killer was staying at.

Honestly, if Lee Zheng was not familiar with Chen Ge, he would have suspected that Chen Ge was related to these murders. Exiting the elevator, the owner provided Chen Ge and Lee Zheng all the basic information of all the tenants on 23rd floor. Han Bao'er's name was not on the list, and based on the owner's memory, there were not any particular beautiful tenants on the 23rd floor.

"Chen Ge, could you be mistaken?"

When the police arrived at Xi Xia Hu, the first thing they did was seal up the third building, and they had investigated most of the tenants. Chen Ge honestly was not that convinced about the Pen Spirit's prediction. After all, she only had a fifty percent chance to be correct.

After giving it some thought, Chen Ge turned around to ask the owner, "Are there any surveillance cameras on the 23rd floor?"

"The cameras above the 15th floor have been broken for a long time, and there's hasn't been free time for us to call people in to come fix them. The main reason though is because we've tried fixing them before, but weirdly enough, they kept getting destroyed. In the end, the management kinda left them be after a while." The owner spoke very carefully. After all, this was their mistake. "Our residential area has three groups of patrolling guards, and there has been no record of incidents happening here."

"None in the past doesn't mean none in the future." Chen Ge did not plan to argue with the owner. "Are you familiar with the tenants on the 23rd floor? Are there any suspicious tenants here?"

"Suspicious people?" The owner shook his head.

"Then have you received complaints like weird noises coming out from a certain room at night? Or some horrible, pungent smell?" Chen Ge fired off so many questions that Lee Zheng could not find an opening to chime in.

The owner thought about it and looked down at one of the doors at the end of the corridor. "We did receive a call from the tenant once. However, it was not to lodge a report but to ask for help."

"Ask for help?" Both Chen Ge and Lee Zheng stopped moving.

"There's a family on the 23rd floor that has serious domestic abuse issues, but we never once received a call from the principal parties. Normally, it's the neighbors who called us when they couldn't bear it any longer." The owner led Chen Ge and Lee Zheng to the door at the end of the corridor. "This is it."

According to the tenant list, the tenant staying there was a man by the name of Qiu Meng. He was an employed physical trainer at an established gym. "The person you're looking for is not him. Qiu Meng is almost 1.9 meters tall. I've glanced at the person wearing the raincoat in the camera—at most, that person is 1.7 meters. They are definitely not the same person."

"Open the door. We'll take a look first before we come to a decision." At a time like this, Chen Ge would not let go of any suspicion.

The owner seemed to be afraid of Qiu Ming. He knocked on the door rather unwillingly. "Is anyone in? We're from the management."

The room was very quiet. There was no reply.

Chen Ge touched Lee Zheng's shoulder. "This family might be problematic. Why don't you call your people? If they won't open the door willingly, we'll just knock it down."

"That's easier for you to say. Without any evidence, we have no right to trespass onto private property." Lee Zheng thought about it and added, "At least we need permission from Captain Yan."

While they were conversing, they suddenly heard footsteps coming from inside the room. Moments later, the door was pulled open, and a large, handsome man stood at the door. He had blurry, red eyes. He yawned. It looked like he had not had a good night's sleep in days already.

"How can I help you?"

The owner forced a smile on his face and said rather abashedly, "A killer seems to have hidden himself inside our residential area, so the police would like to ask you some questions."

"Ask me questions?" The man was confused. He slowly woke up. When he saw the police uniform that Lee Zheng was wearing, his gaze shifted slightly. "I've been sleeping at home. I don't know anything."

"Can we come in?" Chen Ge's sense was very sensitive. When the door opened, he could sense the faded scent of blood in the air. Qiu Meng glanced at Chen Ge. He was uncooperative and refused to let strangers into his home.

"This is my ID. Please provide your cooperation." After Lee Zheng showed his ID, he pulled out his walkie-talkie before Qiu Meng and called for the rest of the members to gather at the 23rd floor of the third building. Knowing he could not escape from this, Qiu Meng pulled the anti-theft door open. "Come in, sorry for the mess."

The table in the living room was overturned, and things were strewn everywhere. The vase was shattered, and a few fresh roses lay pitifully on the floor. They had been stepped on—the petals were pulverized.

Domestic abuse? Chen Ge was the first one to step into the living room. When he saw this scene, that was the first thought that appeared in his mind.

"Ask if you have any question." Qiu Meng's face was dark. He hated allowing outsiders into his home. It felt like his secrets were all exposed.

"Where were you from 8 pm to midnight last night?"

"At home, playing on the computer."

"Can someone collaborate that?"

"Why do I need that? I'm not a murderer. You've got the wrong guy!" Qiu Meng roared. He was a feisty character. Even facing the police, he could not stop himself from exploding.

"I'll repeat that. Who can collaborate that for you?" Lee Zheng seemed to change into a different person. In terms of height and size, he was no match for Qiu Meng, but he gave the feeling that if this was a fight, he could apprehend Qiu Meng in a few moves.

"I reached home around 7:30 pm. I had dinner and started playing my game." Qiu Meng surrendered in the end, and he opened his computer. "I'm also a livestream host, teaching people how to train their muscles, but today, I didn't feel like giving people advice, so I streamed myself playing some games."

The replay of the livestream proved that Qiu Meng was not lying. From eight to twelve, he was playing on the computer.

"Then why do you seem so hostile tonight?" Lee Zheng did not let go off any details that escaped from Qiu Meng's lips.

"I had an argument with my girlfriend."

"Did you hit her?" Lee Zheng glanced at the living room that was a mess.

“Yes.”

“Why did you hit her? At what time did you hit her?”

“Do you really need to know that?” Qiu Meng seemed like he was at his limit, and he was going to explode any time soon. “At around 10 pm, I suppose. I was livestreaming at the time, and the camera was left open. If you don’t believe me, you can check the replay.”

The time Qiu Meng mentioned was the time the raincoat person was squatting outside Gao Ru Xue’s room, waiting to ambush her. If Qiu Meng was telling the truth, then he and his girlfriend were both innocent. Lee Zheng used Qiu Meng’s computer to find that particular moment.

Qiu Meng was parked before the computer until 10 pm, and his girlfriend’s voice was caught by the computer. They had an argument over something small, and then Qiu Meng left the camera. There was the sound of vase being shattered and the table overturned. Then it was followed by the sound of curses and cries.

“I know I did wrong, but sometimes I just cannot control myself.” The way Qiu Meng tried to brush it off as something insignificant made people mad.

“No matter what, using violence on an innocent person is a violation of someone’s dignity. You need to understand that causing damage through domestic abuse is punishable by law.” Lee Zheng stood up and told the owner, “If this happens again in the future, you have to take it seriously. Ignoring it will only cause him to commit a bigger mistake in the future.”

“Understood.”

Lee Zheng turned back with concern on his face. “Where is your girlfriend now? I wish to take a look at her injuries.”

“She’s inside the bedroom. She has locked the door, so I cannot get in.” Qiu Meng leaned against the sofa and showed no signs of getting up.

“You should have spare key to the bedroom, right? Use it to open the door.”

“Are police officers that free? Didn’t you say you have a killer to catch? I’ll handle the problem at my own home.” Qiu Meng’s brows were creased together, and veins popped up on his arm.

“It is because I am a police officer that I cannot leave this be.” Lee Zheng stared at Qiu Meng and pointed at the door. “Open it.”

He was adamant, and Qiu Meng knew that he could not get out of this that easily, so he stood up to rummage through the dresser for the spare key. He used it to open the bedroom door. Different from the chaotic living room, things were neat and tidy inside the bedroom. It was unclear whether it had been cleaned up or the place had not been touched earlier.

A woman’s sobbing could be heard coming from inside the room. It was soft, like she did not dare cry too loudly.

“We cannot tolerate domestic abuse. If you need help, you can find the local woman’s organization or just call the police.” Lee Zheng looked at the woman who lay in bed facing away from him. He could not

see anything wrong from her back. However, his years of investigative experience told him that something was wrong. He walked around the bed to attempt to look at the woman's face.

The team's profiler had come up with the killer's appearance. There were several properties to the killer; she was not strong and was very beautiful. She appeared kind and would easily make others feel comfortable in her presence. Lee Zheng remembered these details. Just as he was about to have a look at the woman's lowered face, his phone suddenly rang.

He took out his phone to answer it. Lee Zheng discovered that it was from Captain Yan. Captain Yan said that they had discovered the killer for the eye-gouging case, and he wanted Lee Zheng to bring his men as backup. Receiving the order, Lee Zheng glanced hurriedly at the woman on the bed. The woman's hair covered half of her face, so he had no idea what she really looked like. Having implicit trust in Captain Yan, he left the woman with a few more words before he walked out of the bedroom.

"The killer has been captured. Chen Ge, let's go now!" Lee Zheng headed out the front door but was stopped by Chen Ge at the last minute.

"There's no need to leave in such a hurry, this man looks like he is lying to us."

When Lee Zheng almost caught a glimpse of the woman's face, he had received the call from Captain Yan. From how Chen Ge saw it, that was definitely abnormal. A bigger anomaly was that Captain Yan would normally use the walkie-talkie to communicate at the crime scene, so why did Captain Yan use his phone to contact Lee Zheng this time?

"Come look at this broken vase." Chen Ge pointed at the shattered pieces on the ground. "If the vase was accidentally knocked from the cupboard or it rolled from the cupboard, then the pieces should have been lying around the cupboard. But take a look at the spray pattern of these pieces. The distance between them is as far as one meter. In other words, this vase didn't fall on its own; someone raise it up and smash it on the ground."

Lee Zheng inspected the evidence and realized that Chen Ge was right. The evidence did suggest that the man was lying to them.

"When you entered the bedroom earlier, I made use of the chance to also glance into the room. The bedroom was clean and tidy, and there wasn't even a water stain on the ground. This is completely different from the living room. I'm wondering, how did a man that lost his cool manage to contain his destruction within the living room?" Chen Ge looked around the house. "The kitchen and toilet are untouched as well. Only the living room is in this messy state, and the mess is very contained. So, this looks like it is purposely made to look this way."

He pulled on Lee Zheng to take a step back. "An innocent husband and wife, why do they need to create the illusion of domestic abuse? Are they hiding something? Also, the alibi provided by the man earlier—in the whole livestream video, only he appeared in the video. We did not see a trace of his girlfriend, so I now suspect that video is also problematic."

Now that Chen Ge brought that up, Lee Zheng also found the man and woman to be quite suspicious. He told the owner to leave the room to get help from the officers while he worked together with Chen Ge to surround Qiu Meng from both sides. While Chen Ge began his hypothesis, Qiu Meng showed a face

that said that he was wrong and complained that he was framed, but near the end, he chose the method of silent admission instead.

“Don’t waste your energy on resistance, stand up now!”

Facing both Lee Zheng and Chen Ge, Qiu Meng lowered his head. He was silent for a very long time before he seemed to come to a decision. “Those five murders with the gouging eyes, I’m the one who committed all of them. I will surrender myself and go with you.”

“You’re admitting that you are the murderer?” Lee Zheng shared a look with Chen Ge. Both of them understood in that instant that the man was trying to shoulder the blame for his girlfriend.

“Stand up and don’t move!” Lee Zheng took out the walkie-talkie to prepare to report to Captain Yan when his phone started to ring again. He took it out to take a look and was surprised to find it was a call from Captain Yan.

“Hello? Captain Yan! I’ve spotted the suspect! Requesting back-up!”

After Lee Zheng finished, the Captain Yan on the phone only said three simple words.

“Look behind you.”

Due to his training, Lee Zheng did what he was told. The woman inside the bedroom earlier had walked to stand behind him, and children that looked scrawny and malnourished climbed on top of Lee Zheng’s body. The curious part was that Lee Zheng did not seem to notice the children. His eyes stared into the woman’s dark pupils like he was hypnotized.

“I did not have any intention of killing you, but you insisted on courting death.” The woman’s voice sounded coarse and rough. It belied her advanced age, but if anyone took a glance at her face, they definitely would have had their breath taken away.

The beauty was not something that could be described with words. It was mixed with both sickness and madness, just like the brightest rose that bloomed in a lonely cemetery. It fed on the nutrients of death and blossomed into a beauty that would strike at one’s soul.