

Horrors 381

Chapter 381: The Weeping Statue

At this most dangerous moment, Liu Xianxian found the statue they were looking for. This should have been a happy occasion, but Ma Yin found it so difficult to smile. She was certain that there was a third person hiding in the storeroom—maybe he was hiding in a corner, watching them at that very moment. Should they leave or take a risk?

“No, I still think it’s too dangerous. Since we know where the statue is now, we can come back tomorrow. There’s no need to rush this.” Ma Yin tried to convince her best friend. “Listen to me, we need to leave.”

“Two questions won’t take that much time.” Liu Xianxian was stubborn. The man that she loved had become a thorn in her heart. Releasing her grasp on Ma Yin, Liu Xianxian walked deeper into the storeroom alone. “It’ll end soon. In a few minutes, I’ll know the real answer.”

She sounded like she was possessed.

“Liu Xianxian!” Ma Yin was agitated. She wanted to leave, but she could not abandon Liu Xianxian. Her two hands holding the chair, she gave chase after Liu Xianxian.

The two girls reached the last rack that was on the left side of the storeroom. Liu Xianxian pointed at the gap between the rack and the wall. “The wall behind that rack is hollowed out, and the statue is just behind it.”

Ma Yin leaned on the rack and shone the light into the gap. There was an ugly face that looked back at her. When the light hit the statue, the eyes of the statue seemed to blink.

“There’s only one statue inside this storeroom, so this has to be it.” Liu Xianxian grabbed the edge of the rack. “What are you doing standing there? We’ve finally found the thing we’ve been looking for so long—why aren’t you helping?”

“I feel like there’s a reason someone purposely hid the statue behind the rack.” Ma Yin looked at the statue, and for some reason, it felt familiar to her. The two of them moved the rack aside, and a faint smell drifted out.

“What is that smell? It seems to come from the statue. It smells like... decomposition?”

“Why would a statue smell like decomposition?” Liu Xianxian walked to the statue with her phone, and the light hit the statue fully. It was a sculpture of a mature male. It was larger than a normal man, and it was well-built. However, the face was distorted, so ugly that people would not look at it directly. Very rarely would a sculptor do something like this, unless there was a special meaning.

“The words at the base and the face, it’s the same as the statue in your video.” Liu Xianxian looked at this statue, and her fingers shivered. She had finally found the solution to the question that had been bothering her for so long.

The hollowed-out alcove was only one meter wide, and the statue was placed at the very back. He looked like a devil with his arms open, ready to welcome the lost lambs. Standing before statue, the smell intensified, but Liu Xianxian did not seem to smell it. She put her hands together and lowered her head silently.

"In my heart..."

"Wait a minute!" Ma Yin interrupted Liu Xianxian. "You'd better think about this carefully before you ask the question. According to the legend, this statue can verify the validity of any statement. If the statement is true, it will shed blood tears, but if it's fake, then something scary will happen."

"I know." Liu Xianxian was closed to any advice. She took another step and told the statue softly, "The man inside my heart, he also likes me, yes?"

Inside the darkened storeroom, the girl asked the question inside her heart, and she turned to focus on the statue's eyes with anticipation. If the statue wept, then she was right. Liu Xianxian started to get nervous; she could even hear her own heartbeat.

One second, two second...

Half a minute went by, and nothing happened. The statue did not cry, and nothing scary happened.

"The legend's fake?" Liu Xianxian leaned weakly against the wall like her energy had been sucked out of her body. Her hope morphed into a bubble and was popped. Ma Yin stood behind Liu Xianxian—she seemed to have expected this result. Often, people did something not to wish for any result, but it was because of that drive of hope. Ma Yin patted Liu Xianxian's shoulder lightly, but she did not know how to best console her roommate.

"I'm fine." The trained smile appeared on Liu Xianxian's face. "This statue once appeared in your sister's video. You have to go and check whether there's any clue regarding her disappearance. I'll be fine."

Ma Yin nodded. She took out her phone to pause the video where the statue was on screen. "The statue in the video is completely identical to this statue. I only need to find out who this statue's original owner is, and I'll be able to find the killer."

She recorded the statue on her phone, not letting go of any details. The camera moved from the statue's chest to its cheeks. The sense of familiarity in Ma Yin's heart increased like she had done something like this before.

"Have I forgotten something?" After recording everything, Ma Yin put her phone away. "The legend involving the statue is fake, but at least the appearance of this statue has proven something—the video that my sister sent me is real."

She stared at the statue before her. Looking at that ugly face, an urge blossomed in her heart. She reached out to touch the statue's icy skin, and Ma Yin asked the question that had been troubling her. "My big sister is dead, isn't she?"

Disappeared and dead were two different things. Even after so many year, Ma Yin still had some hope in her heart.

After two seconds, Ma Yin shook her head. “The legend is fake, so why am I doing this? It’s just a story to trick children, and we’ve fallen for it.”

She was talking to herself, but when she finished, the stench in the air grew, and the light from the phone twisted. The originally silent storeroom started to echo with a pounding sound like something was knocking into the racks.

Ma Yin sensed the change in the air, and she prepared to leave when Liu Xianxian yelled, “Xiao Yin! Look at his eyes!”

“His eyes?” Ma Yin understood it immediately and turned to look at the statue’s eyes. Two lines of blood were flowing down the statue’s eyes. The blood was thick and red, forming a great contrast to the plaster-white skin.

“The statue cried?”

Ma Yin stood where she was, and soon, she was covered by fear. “The statue will cry when it’s a truth, but when Liu Xianxian asked her question earlier, it didn’t respond.”

The light was distorted even more, and the pounding sound became more consistent.

Chapter 382: Even Greater Despair

Ma Yin looked at the blood tear on the statue’s face, and a weird emotion formed in her heart. It was fear and familiarity, like she had been through this before.

“We cannot stay here any longer. We have to leave now!”

Liu Xianxian was completely unmoved by the urgency in Ma Yin’s voice. Her slender arms curved inwards to hug her shoulders like she was suddenly feeling very cold.

“So, he really doesn’t love me. I’ve been reading too much into this.” Liu Xianxian’s emotions were unravelling, and she started to cry, talking to the air. “Since he doesn’t love me, then why did he give me hope? Why did he torture me?”

Ma Yin shook Liu Xianxian. “We can talk about this outside. It’s not safe here.”

She was about one head taller than Liu Xianxian, and she was also stronger. She forced Liu Xianxian out from behind the rack. When the two of them turned, the statue at the inner most part of the storeroom elicited the sound of teeth grinding. The tears of blood kept falling like the statue was about to come to life at any moment.

Unlike when they entered, a weird change was happening to the storeroom. The racks moved to form a maze, and the trash blocked the road, making it difficult for them to exit.

“Didn’t we move the canvases to the side of the wall? Why are they still blocking the path?” Ma Yin needed to take care of Liu Xianxian, who was in the middle of a breakdown, and tried to mow their way out. She moved the heavy canvasses aside, her heart screaming, *Faster, faster!*

The pounding sound entered her ears. It sounded like it came from a particular corner of the storeroom. Ma Yin's forehead was covered with sweat; she had never been so fearful in her life.

After moving several canvases, she moved forward and realized that the tables and chairs that were stacked up in the corner earlier had been moved to sit in the middle of their escape route.

"Did the chairs come alive? Who could have moved so many of them in such a short amount of time without making a noise?" Ma Yin dragged Liu Xianxian forward. She did not have the time to move the tables and chairs one by one anymore. "Follow me, we're jumping over these things!"

Liu Xianxian had also noticed the differences. Even though she was devastated, she did not want to drag her roommate down with her. The two girls climbed over the teetering tables and chairs. When they reached the highest spot, Ma Yin saw that the monitor, which had been turned off, was on again. The monitor was rather obvious in the dark storeroom.

Who turned the computer on? The person that I saw earlier?

The thought had just appeared in her mind when the shape of a human face appeared on screen. It was a bald man with a bloated face.

At the same time, the photocopier beside it started to operate on its own. Paper shot out from the chute, and there was a human face printed on each page. The paper flew out, and the human face became clearer. Without any hesitation, Ma Yin jumped down from the table. The room was completely dark, and she could not see anything without the light from her phone.

"Quick! This way!" Ma Yin took out her phone to provide Liu Xianxian with some lighting. Liu Xianxian aimed for a spot that had no trash, and when she was prepared to jump, something touched Ma Yin on her back. Ma Yin jumped and immediately turned her phone around. At the same time, Liu Xianxian jumped.

The spot that was originally empty suddenly had an extra chair that only had three legs. Liu Xianxian's left leg stepped on the edge of the chair. She screamed as she fell to the ground. Her arms were bruised, and she sprained her leg.

Ma Yin just turned around when Liu Xianxian screamed behind her. She felt like she was losing her mind.

"Come, I'll carry you!" Ma Yin had just picked Liu Xianxian up when she felt something touch her back. This time, she was prepared. Her fist tightened as she turned back. She missed, and she lowered her head to look. She then realized it was the paper from the photocopier that had hit her.

She shone her phone on it, and there was a faded human face on the paper. His face was bloated and ugly. His hair and brows seemed to have fallen off due to extended period of submersion in a certain type of liquid. He looked like a rubber ball.

"Why would such a thing come out from the photocopier?" She had Liu Xianxian climb onto her back and powered forward. The face on the paper became clearer, and Ma Yin ran past the monitor. When she passed the photocopier, the paper slowed down, and she turned subconsciously to the scanner on the photocopier. In the faded light of the scanner, there was a bald man smiling at her!

Her breathing became slow as Ma Yin forced herself to run faster. She was already scared, and she still needed to carry Liu Xianxian. Her energy quickly drained. She only ran for a short distance before her legs felt like lead.

“Xiao Yin! Put me down!”

“I’m fine.” The two girls continued to move forward. The closer they were to the door, the louder the pounding sound.

“Will something block the door?” Fear curled around Ma Yin’s heart. Various ghost stories related to cadavers and underground morgues flooded her mind, and the color drained from her face. “Impossible! That is all fake.”

She ran at the door. At first, it was just a pounding sound from the door. Then there was a pounding sound from under the rack. Finally, the pounding sound came from everywhere.

“What is making that noise?” Ma Yin’s face was white. She did not dare stay. She ran through the racks to get to the door. The wooden door’s lock was broken, so it could not be locked, but the pounding sound now came from the door.

“It’s just outside the door!”

Just as Ma Yin hesitated whether to go out, one of the lockers beside the rack was shoved open. Following the pounding sound, something dripping wet, hairless with the shape of a human, landed on the ground and slithered toward them like a snake!

“Be careful!” Liu Xianxian screamed. Ma Yin decided to run out the door—staying in the storeroom meant death. At least out the door, she had a chance of getting to the surface.

“Hold onto me!” Ma Yin shoved the door open, and she saw something like a human bouncing on the ground. The pounding sound was its head knocking against the door

“Run!” Liu Xianxian screamed. Ma Yin carried her and ran back the way they came. However, as they turned the corner, something even more despairing happened.

Standing in the corridor was a man. His face was shrouded in darkness, but she could see the half-a-meter-long murder weapon he was holding in his arms!

Chapter 383: I’m Not a Bad Guy

There was a shadow holding a creepy-looking hammer standing in the dark corridor that seemed to lead right to hell. The man blocked the only way out—he was the manifestation of despair itself. Ma Yin did not have much energy left in her body. Her footsteps slowed down, and the color disappeared from her eyes as she looked down the corridor with helplessness. Compared to this man who held the murder weapon, it was obvious that the weird thing that slithered on the floor behind them was easier to deal with.

She did not dare move forward. Her legs weakened, and fear drained the energy from her body.

"What should we do?" Ma Yin asked for Liu Xianxian's opinion. At this moment, they only had each other.

"The underground passage is complicated and connects to the various labs at the western side of the campus. Should we just run backward? If we're lucky, we might find a way out, but it's more likely that we'll get trapped inside the tunnels." Liu Xianxian bit on her lips and made the second decision. "The other choice is to rush forward. If the man tries to attack you, toss me at him. I'll try my best to stop him, and you run as fast as you can to go and find the teacher and the security."

"No, I won't do that."

"My ankle is sprained, so I cannot run. It's that, or both of us are going to die here!" Various newspaper headlines that stated how a young girl was found dead in her campus flashed across her mind, and even though she tried to stop them, the tears kept on falling.

"Die here..." Ma Yin was reminded of the few paintings that she had seen inside the cupboard. The paintings made her feel fear and terror. Ma Yin nodded as she made this painful decision. "I will run at the top of my speed and find someone to come save you."

"I'll wait for you." When they finished their discussion, the monsters had been catching up to them. The man who blocked the corridor had noticed them as well. The half-a-meter-long murder weapon twirled in the air, and the man walked toward them.

The smell of blood crept through the underground corridor, and there was a red shadow flickering beside the man. Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian were trapped by threats coming from both ends. The two girls moved toward the man as they had planned, but they only took several steps when Ma Yin was unable to move anymore, and on her back, Liu Xianxian was as pale as a sheet of paper.

Blood vessels seemed to crawl over the man before them, and perhaps due to fear, Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian heard the sound of blood dripping in their ears. That introduced a change to their plan. Ma Yin's bodily instinct told her to slow down, her brain giving her signal to tell her to stay away from the man. Liu Xianxian's heart was filled with regret. When she was really facing death, she found out how cowardly she was. With tears falling down her cheeks, she grabbed Ma Yin's shoulders. "Should we try going deeper into the underground morgue? Perhaps we might be able to find other exits?"

Before Ma Yin could answer, the man's speed suddenly increased. She screamed, and before her mind came to a decision, her legs carried her away from the man. It was too scary!

Turning back the corner, there were several fish or snake-like humanoid monsters in the corridor. They were quite happy when they saw Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian return on their own, but their smile soon disappeared. The smell of blood in the corridor overwhelmed the smell of formalin, and the blood vessels crept along the wall like spider web.

What were those things?

The sound of footsteps echoed down the hall. With the Red Specter following behind him, Chen Ge ran to the girls with the hammer. "Don't be afraid! I'm here to save you!"

However, no one stopped because he said that. Including the monsters, everyone ran deeper down the corridor. Looking at Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin running along the monsters down the corridor, Chen Ge's lips twitched. "What is the meaning of this?"

The corridors would get even more crisscrossed down the line. Afraid that Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian might get lost in the tunnels, he picked up his speed again. "Stop running!"

Ma Yin was carrying Liu Xianxian, so her energy was exhausted after a short distance of running. Noticing the man catching up to them, she experienced the sting of despair so acutely for the first time in her life. It was exactly as depicted in that painting. The decayed hand reached for the sky, but it could never touch it.

"Xianxian, I cannot run anymore." Ma Yin did not know what kind of tone she was using when she said that sentence. She turned to look at Liu Xianxian, who was crying. She gripped her fists trying to fight the man behind them, but when she turned around and met his gaze, she understood how fragile her courage was before this man. She stopped moving like she had surrendered.

The smell of blood intensified. The blood vessels that crept on the wall became more numerous as the despairing shadow got closer to them. Ma Yin closed her eyes; she did not want to watch her own demise.

The footsteps approached them in mere seconds. The imagined pain and assault did not appear, but when the footsteps stopped beside them, they could not help but scream. Even after their screams, the pain did not appear. Just as they thought this was going to be a cruel game of cat and mouse, they opened their eyes to realize that the man had already wandered away.

He waved that unknown weapon in his arms and ran down the corridor. With wet tears still in their eyes, Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian watched Chen Ge run away from them, and it felt like they had been given a second chance at life.

"Let's go!" The two had not completely lost their sensibility. They supported each other and staggered down the corridor. Chen Ge was chasing the retreating monsters when he turned back to see the escaping girls. He hesitated and decided to give up on the monsters.

If I continue to chase after them, I might accidentally trigger the Trial Mission at the underground morgue. Since Zhang Ya hasn't awakened, I'd better be more careful.

Chen Ge stopped moving. There was another reason he made this decision—the underground tunnels were complicated, so it was very disadvantageous to him.

Looks like I need to make more preparation. At the very least, I need a map of the underground morgue.

Chen Ge put the hammer away and continued to walk backward. The two girls shook violently when they saw him coming their way. They wanted to run but could not. Recalling Xu Yin into the tape, Chen Ge stood in the dark corridor so that the girls could not see his face clearly. "Don't be afraid, I'm here to save you."

He was quite a bright person, but since he had spent so much time with Specters, it had introduced a contradictory element to his presence.

Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian did not dare move. In fact, Liu Xianxian almost fainted from fear.

“Even though it would take a long for anyone to discover your bodies and there is enough time to deal with the evidence and clues, don’t worry, I would never do something like that.” Chen Ge held the hammer with both of his hands. “Actually, I only have a few questions to ask you. I hope that you can answer honestly.”

Chapter 384: It Was Here Earlier

The two girls squeezed together with their backs against the wall, and they kept nodding to Chen Ge’s every word.

“Don’t worry, just answer honestly to my questions.” Chen Ge waved the hammer in his hand. “I will not hurt you, provided that you do not purposely lie to me.”

“Please just ask your questions. We promise to tell you everything we know.” Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian had pale faces. Their bodies kept shaking, causing their words to stutter.

“What are your names? What is the number of your dormitory, and who is your counselor?” Chen Ge started with known information to test if they would lie to him. The two girls provided honest answers. Whether Chen Ge asked or not, they told him everything.

“Sounds like you two are just normal students, so why are you here so late at night?”

“There is a campus legend about a statue. As long as you can find it before midnight, you can ask it a question.” Ma Yin told Chen Ge the reason that she and Liu Xianxian were there. To prove their innocence, she even took out her phone to show Chen Ge the video.

This was the first time Chen Ge had seen the video left behind before Ma Yin’s sister disappeared. The victim had shot the video from underneath the bed. There seemed to have been a recent tragedy in the house because there was blood everywhere. The video was only thirteen seconds long, and the frame froze on the woman by the window at the last second.

“My sister’s disappearance should have everything to do with this woman with a skin disease.” Ma Yin offered her opinion in a soft voice.

“Don’t rush to any conclusions. The victim is recording from under the bed—the bed sheet is rumpled, and a bloodied sheet can be seen peeping out from the dresser door. Obviously, a murder just took place in this room. In other words, other than the person holding the camera, there was a second victim.” Chen Ge looked through the video again. “There is a noose hanging in the middle of the room, giving the impression that someone committed suicide by hanging. However, there is no stool on the ground, so could it be that this is just a set-up created by the killer? Even though the room is a mess, weirdly enough, the sculptures on the shelf are all untouched, and the statue is not wounded. The bedroom is possibly not the first crime scene.”

A murderer analyzed the situation logically while holding the camera. This unsettled Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian. They did not know what kind of emotion they should be showing.

"The woman by the window is definitely suspicious. From the muscles on her arms and the point she grabs to the window, her feet should be supported by something. If the wall outside the window didn't have a protruding spot for her to put her feet on, then the other explanation is that this room is on the ground floor." Chen Ge stared at the woman's face in the video. "Of course, that is provided this woman is not a ghost."

"Ghost?"

"Look at the woman's skin color for yourself. Does she look like a normal person to you?" Chen Ge returned to phone to Ma Yin.

"In that case, this woman has to be the killer!" Ma Yin felt some energy returning to her.

"Do you have some kind of misunderstanding about ghosts? Not all ghost would harm people for no reason. Look at the woman's eyes closely; she has no malicious intent. Furthermore, if she was the real killer, why would she stay at the window after committing the crime?"

Ma Yin did not know how to answer that—this was the first time she had met someone who would come to a ghost's defense. Her palms became sweaty as the thought entered her mind. *Could this man be a ghost, too?*

Chen Ge could feel the fear from Ma Yin, but he had no idea which sentence of his had spooked her.

"Okay, that's all the question I have. Now take me to go see that statue."

"The statue is inside the storeroom, but it's not s-safe in there," Ma Yin stammered. "It's haunted."

"What kind of ghost is haunting it?" Chen Ge asked the first question that came to his mind, but it stumped both Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian.

How should we answer this? Ma Yin's forehead was covered with cold sweat. When a normal person heard that a place was haunted, even though they might not be afraid, they would be suspicious. *What kind of question is this man asking? How many kinds of ghost are there?*

"I'm not really sure." Her voice shaking, Ma Yin felt like the tears were about to fall from her eyes.

"Bring me to go take a look."

There was power in Chen Ge's voice that ensured his command was not denied. Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian did not think about running. They supported each other as they staggered step by step to the storeroom door.

"Paradise?" Chen Ge saw the words that were painted unevenly on the door. "Why is the abandoned storeroom called paradise? Does it have relaxation and entertainment facilities?"

Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian shook their heads. They did not understand it either.

"This place is rather interesting." Chen Ge squatted down to examine the claw marks on the door. He placed his finger over the groove; it fitted perfectly. "These should have been gouged out by human hands."

This observation made the claw marks even creepier.

“The number of the monsters is higher than I thought.” Chen Ge pushed the door open and led the way. “Where is the statue you mentioned?”

“Behind the rack at the back of the storeroom.” Then Ma Yin softly reminded him, “The computer and photocopier are weird. When we were in here earlier, they activated on their own.”

“The photocopier you say?” Ma Yin successfully piqued Chen Ge’s interest, and he ran to the photocopier. The tables and chairs blocked the way, and the white papers that covered the floor was printed with the face of a man.

“Such an ugly mug, but it is creative to hide inside a photocopier.” Chen Ge looked at the photocopier that had stopped working. He pushed the plug into the socket and switched the monitor on.

Weirdly enough, he tried the power button many times, but the computer refused to switch on. “What’s going on?”

Both of the girls were shocked as well, and they started to plead, “We’re not lying to you. There is a ghost inside this photocopier. I saw it myself!”

Ma Yin pulled the photocopier’s lid open, but there was nothing underneath it. “Where did it go to? It was just here earlier!”

“I know you aren’t lying to me. It’s probably run away already.” Chen Ge moved the tables and chairs away. He smashed those that were too tangled, and a path was cleared.

The two girls followed behind Chen Ge. Seeing the hammer in his hand, they had zero intention of trying to escape.

The three walked to the alcove behind the rack, and Chen Ge finally saw that ugly statue.

“This is the weeping statue?”

“Yes, he can verify the authenticity of a statement. If the statement is true, he will bleed tears of blood. We tried it earlier, and it’s real.”

Chen Ge nodded. He did not quite get the theory behind this statue, but that was not an issue because if he did not know the answer, he could just ask the question.

Chapter 385: No Tears Left to Cry!

With his hand on the hammer, Chen Ge walked up to the statue. He looked at the statue’s eyes and asked his first question.

“You can verify the validity of my every sentence, yes?” Chen Ge’s question was not that difficult because he did not plan to make an enemy of the statue. He waited for half a minute, but the statue did not react.

“What’s going on? Why didn’t he cry?” Chen Ge turned to look at Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian. When the two girls saw him turn around, they shivered involuntarily.

“That’s impossible! We’ve tried it earlier; the statue is real.” They were underground, and the only source of lightning they had with them came from the phone. Ma Yin wanted to take a closer look at the statue, so she raised the phone that she had in her hand. However, just as the light hit the statue, she immediately put her hand down like she had realized something.

She urgently apologized to Chen Ge. “I understand your rules. I didn’t see your face, and I don’t know what you look like. I didn’t see anything! We will not speak a word of what happened here to anyone!”

Her gaze focused on that creepy-looking murder weapon, and Ma Yin wished to throw her phone away. Now that she had been taken hostage, she was worried that they would be silenced for knowing too much.

Inside the basement at 2 am, first they ran into ghost, and then they were chased by monsters that looked like bald fishes and finally this murderer. A series of mental collapses had hollowed out Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian’s minds. Their minds were completely blank—they just wanted to return to the surface as soon as possible.

“Afraid that you might get killed?” Chen Ge said to himself. “I cannot say your worry is not unfounded.”

Hearing that, the two girls almost cried. “It’s alright, I won’t blame this on the two of you.”

Chen Ge turned back to the statue. With his Yin Yang Vision, he could see the blood stain around the statue’s eyes. “Was my question too difficult?”

When he was studying the statue, Liu Xianxian, who stood behind Ma Yin, slowly calmed down. Listening to Chen Ge’s voice, she felt it sounded very familiar, similar to someone in her memory. “Impossible, why would he be here at 2 am? I should be mistaken.”

Chen Ge ignored the two girls and walked around the statue, dragging the hammer. “A stench is coming out from inside the statue, I do wish to break it open to take a look.”

He moved to stand before the statue again. “This time, I’ll try a simpler question. I hope you’ll give it much consideration before giving the answer.”

Chen Ge pressed the play button on the recorder and picked up the hammer. “Do you think I can smash you into pieces in under a minute? If you don’t, then I would love to give it a try.”

White noise came out from Chen Ge’s backpack, and several seconds later, two lines of blood escaped the statue’s eyes.

“Looks like the legend is real.” Chen Ge laughed satisfactorily. Listening to his laugh, the two girls behind him shivered. They looked at the statue in the dark corner, and for some reason, they felt pity for it.

The Pen Spirit can predict the future, but it is only fifty percent accurate. This statue can verify the authenticity of every word. If I combine their powers, doesn’t that mean I will have a one hundred percent accurate prediction every time?

Chen Ge started to have ideas for this statue.

I don’t think it’s possible for me to carry this thing out alone. Asking two girls to help me is quite unreasonable. I suppose there’s nothing I can do for now.

The blood tears slid down the statue's face, making it look quite pitiful. It only stopped crying when Chen Ge turned off the recorder.

I suppose I won't walk away empty-handed tonight. Chen Ge turned to ask the girls, "Is there a limitation to number of questions I can ask in that legend?"

"Amount of question?" Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian thought that Chen Ge was going to leave already, but who would have thought he would ask something like that? "I don't think so."

"No limitation?" Chen Ge felt rejuvenated. The statue had been placed in the storeroom for such a long time, so he must be familiar with this place. Chen Ge put the hammer away and very gently helped wipe the tears on the statue's face away.

"Okay, now I will ask you the second question." Chen Ge looked at the statue's ugly face. "The monsters that hid in this room earlier came from the underground morgue, yes?"

Several seconds later, blood red tears came from the statue's eyes.

"Very good, third question, there are people or monsters scarier than me in the underground morgue, yes?" The blood tear did not stop. The scene made the two girls close their eyes.

"Fourth question: someone is secretly helping the monsters in the morgue, yes?" The statue's tears had dried, but his survival instinct forced him to push out some tears.

"Looks like my previous speculation was not wrong. This underground morgue is complicated." Chen Ge realized that the statue was reaching its limits, so he asked the last question. "This is the last and most important question, so you'd better consider it carefully. The chairperson of the ghost stories society is Captain Yan from the police department, yes?"

The term 'ghost stories society' seemed to have a special meaning to the statue. When it heard these four words, the stench disappeared instantly like the soul on the statue had escaped.

"You cannot say? Could the society be the one who placed the statue here? Is the underground morgue also related to the society?" Chen Ge leaned close to the statue. His finger brushed across the statue's eyes, and there was one last blood tear drop that was oozing out.

"Looks like Captain Yan is really unrelated to the society." Chen Ge touched the statue's head, "Thank you for your help, but I have to remind you, none of the members of the society are sane; it's dangerous if you follow them. Why not go toward the light? I'll protect you in the future."

The statue did not show any response, and Chen Ge did not force it. He pushed the statue and placed it horizontally on the ground. He looked from underneath the base—the statue was hollow.

"The Pen Spirit can predict the future because it is possessed by a spirit. This statue has a similar ability, so it is probably related to a ghost as well." Chen Ge reached his hand into the statue. "The space is very big. I thought the statue would be hiding a body, but I'm mistaken. But something must be different about this statue since it can be possessed by a spirit. There might not be a body inside it now, but it doesn't mean that it wasn't hiding a body before this."

Chen Ge talked to himself, not caring about how the others with him felt. Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian were greatly panicked. They thought the man was finding a suitable spot to abandon their bodies.

"Anyway, the result is not bad for tonight. Let's leave for now." Chen Ge stood up and picked the statue back up. "The statue says that there is something scarier than me in the underground morgue. Based on my current ability, it is probably not enough to deal with that three-star trial mission."

Chapter 386: Boss Chen?

The three-star Trial Mission at Jiujiang Medical University would be a hard place to navigate without a map, so Chen Ge knew that he had to be careful. "I'll need to leave the statue here for now. Perhaps I should try to communicate with the school first. After all, if I need to complete the underground morgue mission, the school will be involved somehow."

The underground morgue was the last side mission that led to the four-star School of the Afterlife, so Chen Ge could not afford to be too cautious. *A three-star trial mission is already so scary—a four-star mission would have been unimaginable, much less the five-star mission.*

The black phone had its own system of categorizing the scary scenarios, but Chen Ge still had not grasped the standard of measurement yet.

His mind filled with thoughts of other things, he walked back to the two girls, holding the hammer. Without his Yin Yang Vision, he would not have been able to see the girls in the dark.

"Come on, I'll walk you out." Chen Ge seemed to change into a different person as his tone softened. "In the future, try not to wander off into strange places. If I didn't arrive in time, who knows what would have happened."

The two girls had pained expressions on their faces. The man had almost killed the statue from their campus ghost story, and he had the audacity to say the place was dangerous.

"Don't be afraid. I was acting so harshly earlier because this place is too creepy. If you'd shown any trace of fear or retreat, you'd be targeted by the monsters." Chen Ge held the hammer in one hand. "Actually, in real life, I'm a gentle and kind person."

"Gentle and kind?"

"Yes, of course." Chen Ge's voice was now filled with warmth. Unlike earlier, there was a sense of familiarity that arose in the hearts of Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian. It felt like they had heard this voice somewhere before.

"Come on, it's time to leave." Chen Ge walked ahead. When he passed the computer and photocopier, he gave them another try. After making sure that the computer could not be activated, he gave up.

The three exited the storeroom, and when they closed the wooden door, Chen Ge heard coming from down the corridor, something that sounded like a bubble bursting, like many things were bouncing on the ground.

"What is that sound?" Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian heard that as well.

"Doesn't this corridor lead to the underground morgue?" Even with the Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge could not see what was happening.

“Don’t know, but it should extend to the underground basement of the western part of campus. That section was sealed up several years ago.” Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian’s eyes twitched violently like something seriously bad was about to happen.

At the end of the corridor, the sound of bouncing became more rapid, and it was mixed with the weird sound of a beast breathing. There was no ventilation underground, but they could feel the presence of a draft, covering their nostrils with the smell of formalin.

“Run, it’s not safe to stay here!” Chen Ge grabbed the hammer and yelled at the girls, “ **Run!** ”

Before Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian realized what had happened, Chen Ge had already turned around and charged forward.

“Is something chasing after us?” Liu Xianxian’s ankle was sprained. She wanted to move fast, but her body did not allow it.

“Come, I’ll carry you.” Ma Yin’s own physique had not recovered. After picking up Liu Xianxian, she slowed down. The sound of bouncing came close, causing their hair to stand on end. They did not dare imagine the thing that made that sound.

“What should we do?” Her legs slowed down, and Ma Yin felt like collapsing.

“Put her down!” Chen Ge’s voice came from the front. Ma Yin wanted to say no, but before she could say anything, she saw Chen Ge pull Liu Xianxian off her back and onto his own. Then he continued running. “Follow me!”

Ma Yin felt rejuvenated by hope seeing this, and she tried her best to keep up to Chen Ge. Chen Ge had an average build, and he did not look that muscular, but his explosive power and persistence was not worse than a trained athlete. They rushed forward.

When they ran out of the underground second floor, Ma Yin felt like fainting already, but Chen Ge showed no sign of slowing down. “Keep it up, this place is very dangerous!”

Chen Ge rarely put himself in a dangerous situation that he could not handle. When the underground morgue gave out that sound, the recorder activated on its own, and Xu Yin kept giving him a warning. To be able to make Xu Yin do that, the enemy had to be at least a Red Specter, which was why Chen Ge chose to run immediately.

The end of the corridor was a three-star scenario, and Chen Ge had never underestimated three-star scenarios. The Third Sick Hall aside, whether it be the well ghost in Coffin Village or Zhang Ya at Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy, they were the most powerful existences among Red Specters—one Xu Yin would not be able to rival their power.

When they arrived at first underground floor, Ma Yin did not have much energy left in her. It was Chen Ge who dragged both of them out from the underground. After leaving the stairs, Chen Ge kicked the front door open and dropped Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian on the grass. He was also exhausted.

Of the three, only Liu Xianxian was not that tired. She looked at Chen Ge’s face in the dark, and that sense of familiarity heightened. She gathered her courage and took out her phone to shine on Chen Ge.

“Boss Chen?” She gasped. Even though she had suspected that earlier, it was still quite unbelievable.

"After you that surprised? I thought you realized that earlier," Chen Ge said and provided the reason that he had thought of earlier. "When you came to my Haunted House this morning, I noticed that the two of you were hiding some secrets. I was worried about you two, so I've been following you."

Ma Yin had other questions, but she was interrupted by Chen Ge. "Don't need to thank me. You're my guests, and since I noticed it, I couldn't just let it be."

He silently moved the hammer inside the backpack. "I don't have anything to ask for. The reason I'm doing is so that I can sleep at night. If you really feel like repaying me, then bring more friends to come visit my Haunted House."

Chen Ge's image increased tremendously in the girls' hearts. Even though Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian still had many questions, there was one thing they could not deny—it was Chen Ge who had saved them that night.

"Thank you."

"Quickly return to your bedroom. It won't be good if you're discovered wandering around the campus at 3 or 4 am." Chen Ge glanced at his own shadow. "We can continue this discussion in the morning."

Chen Ge sent the two girls away, and he prepared to return to New Century Park. He turned around to glance one last time at the old education block. He wanted to say something like When Zhang Ya wakes up, I'll return, but to his surprise, the door that he had kicked earlier had been opened again.

Something came out? Why didn't I notice it?

Chen Ge looked around him before turning to look in the direction that the two girls had left. His pupils narrowed, and he saw a third woman following behind the two girls.

Then the three of them entered the female dormitory together.

Chapter 387: I, Chen Ge, Am a Good Citizen [2 in 1]

How long has there been a third one?

Chen Ge was startled before he ran toward the female dormitory. The woman who trailed behind Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin seemed to notice him as well as she turned around to glance at Chen Ge. The ashy skin spoke of death, and her eyes were filled with complicated emotions.

Wait, that face?

The woman who followed behind Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin was the woman who appeared in Ma Yin's video!

The facial features and the emotions filling her gaze were all the same. Chen Ge did not dare waste time and charged forward.

"Be careful!" he screamed, but Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin did not seem to hear him. The woman placed her hand on Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian's shoulders. She leaned into the space between them and whispered something into their ears. Due to the distance, Chen Ge could not hear her clearly, but he did

see the girls' bodies turn stiff and the focus in their eyes swaying. They eventually closed their eyes, but their bodies kept moving like they were sleep-walking.

"Ma Yin! Liu Xianxian!" Perhaps Chen Ge's shout had its effect because the two girls slowed down, and the expression slightly changed like they were caught in a nightmare. They were also struggling, but the result was different from what Chen Ge anticipated. The two girls did not wake up, but after moving for a few more steps, they fainted and collapsed to the ground.

The woman who trailed behind them turned to look at Chen Ge. She held his gaze as she pointed toward her heart. She made a weird sign before turning to disappear inside the female dormitory. The woman disappeared in the blink of an eye. Chen Ge managed to catch that there was a hole in her clothes near her shoulder like it had been shot through by a bullet.

"Why did she point at her heart? Was that a threat? Was she trying to warn me?" Chen Ge ran to the female dormitory and slammed on the window. In reality, his scream earlier had already awakened the dormitory manager.

"Someone fainted! Just outside the dormitory front door! Help!"

A man banged loudly on the window at the entrance of a female student's dormitory at 3 to 4 am. The manager, who was an auntie, did not dare come out on her own. She picked up the phone to call the security and the school admin.

...

A glass of warm water that had gone cold was placed on the table. Chen Ge glanced at the clock on the wall—it was already 5:40 am. The light filtered down on him. He placed both of his hands on the table and looked at the seven people who sat across from him calmly.

There included police officers, school security, and teachers at the university.

"I have told you many times, I am not a prevent, and it was not me who made the two girls faint. You can doubt me, but please remember everything that I am saying now. When the two girls wake up, I want you to personally apologize to me."

"Chen Ge, of course, we believe that you are innocent, or else Captain Yan would not have personally assigned me to watch over this case." Lee Zheng had dark circles under his eyes. They had just parted about ten hours ago, and ten hours later, they met up again in a different environment. Looking at Chen Ge, Lee Zheng felt like he was looking at one of his colleagues.

"The two girls came to visit my Haunted House yesterday morning. I realized that they were seriously troubled by something, and after I asked them, I found out the taller girl's elder sister has gone missing, and it has been troubling her for a very long time." Chen Ge placed his hand over his heart. "Perhaps you might think my action is very weird—why would I help them if I am not related to them? But I want to tell me, my parents also had a mysterious disappearance half a year ago, and since I understand what she is going through, I have the urge to help her!"

Chen Ge's voice echoed in the office, and it sounded quite convincing.

"Two girls fainted in front of the female dormitory at around 3 am. We have looked through the surveillance video. At the time, you were the only one who was following them. If you are not the culprit, then who could it be?" The person who spoke was a man in his thirties who dressed fashionably. He normally stayed at the staff dormitory, so when the news exploded, he was one of the first to come over.

"I don't know. It could be anyone, including you." Chen Ge did not show any intention to back down, and he would take on anyone who dared challenge him. "The fainting of two girls might not appear to be that serious, but there is a bigger case behind it."

There was a chilliness in Chen Ge's eyes. Other than the few police officers, the other people felt unsettled in their heart.

"I've already told you, the two girls came to find me at my Haunted House. The girl called Ma Yin... her sister has disappeared, and she studied so hard to enter Jiujiang Medical University to find her missing sister because her sister was once a student here..." Chen Ge told the school how Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian had been sneaking out of their dormitory every night lately to find the statue that was part of the campus legend.

"Most of the urban legends are fake, but a small portion of them are based on real events. However, after being tossed around as rumors, it was exaggerated to an impossible proportion." Chen Ge took a sip of the water. He sounded calm, but his brain was turning fast, trying to come up with a way to distract everyone's attention.

"You mean, the story of the weeping statue is real?" Lee Zheng was comparatively familiar with Chen Ge, and at the very least, he knew that Chen Ge would not create stories.

"There is a video on Ma Yin's phone that was sent to her before her sister's disappearance. The weeping statue in the underground storeroom showed up in the video. As long as we can find the owner of the statue, I'm sure we can use that as a clue to look for her sister's killer!" Chen Ge cupped his hands over the glass, and veins were popping on the back of his hands.

Not everyone in the room bought his story. They were there because they were told there was a pervert who was caught trailing female students. They definitely did not expect that to lead to a murder case.

"We've found the video that you mention." Lee Zheng's expression was weird. "The video wasn't taken on Ma Yin's phone. A few years ago, when Ma Yin's sister disappeared, her parents came to the police station to seek our help. At the time, they also provided that video, and after analysis by our technicians, we found that the video wasn't sent by Ma Yin's sister; it was shot by Ma Yin herself."

"Ma Yin was the person who shot the video?" Things were different from what Chen Ge expected.

"Indeed, to be precise, when Ma Yin's elder sister disappeared, she was together with Ma Yin, but Ma Yin cannot remember what happened that day." Lee Zheng flipped through his phone. "We still have the case files with us. A few years ago, her parents regularly came to check up on the progress, but they gave up recently." Lee Zheng sighed softly. "When Ma Yin's sister disappeared, Ma Yin hadn't even enrolled in university yet, but now she is about to graduate."

"No wonder she is so desperate to find her sister." After Chen Ge heard what Lee Zheng had to say, he was not feeling so well. He turned the cup in his hand, and he was suddenly reminded of something. "The video is shot from the first-person view. Obviously, there had been a murder in the house, and when I first saw the video, I managed to confirm the presence of a second victim. Since it has been revealed that the video was not sent to her from her sister's phone and shot by Ma Yin herself, the one who shot everything under the bed was Ma Yin! The other victim was most likely her sister!

"The murderer was inside the house, so how did she manage to survive the ordeal? In the last second of the video, she saw the woman hanging on the windowsill. Is it possible that it was this strange woman who saved her?

"She had lost the memory for an entire day. Could that be the doing of this strange woman as well? She didn't want Ma Yin to remember certain things."

At this point, Chen Ge stood up from the chair. "Have Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian woken up? Quick go and check up on the two of them. I suspect they might have forgotten the things that happened last night!"

The woman who entered the female dormitory with Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin earlier was similar to the woman who leaned on the windowsill several years ago. A few years ago, she managed to make Ma Yin lose her memory, so there was no reason she would not do the same thing several years later.

"Calm down, I will call the doctor down." Lee Zheng dialed a number on his phone. "Doctor Zhang, have the two girls awakened? Is it okay if we go and talk to them?"

The not-so-optimistic voice of the doctor came through the phone. "They have already woken up, and they're physically fine. However, they seemed to have suffered some kind of trauma, so their mental state is not that stable."

"Okay, we'll be there in a bit." Lee Zheng and the other officer led the way. The security guard at the campus and the male lecturer flanked Chen Ge on both sides. They did not seem like they trusted Chen Ge that much. The group entered the infirmary together. Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin were lying in bed, and their faces were pale.

"Are you feeling better? I have a few questions that I need to ask you two about last night." Lee Zheng moved a chair over and sat down beside the beds. He saw both Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin shake their heads at the same time.

"Last night, we were in our bedroom, but for some reason, we ended up in the corridor. We cannot remember anything that happened in between."

"Please try to remember. Last night, the three of us went into the underground morgue together. In the end, it was me who saved both of you!" Chen Ge squeezed his way to the side of the bed. He was pulled back by the security and the doctor; they were afraid that Chen Ge might scare the girls. But it was weird—the pale-faced Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin felt much calmer when they saw Chen Ge. It was as if this man gave them a sense of security.

"I cannot remember what happened last night, but I cannot sense any malicious intent from him." Ma Yin touched her head. "I feel like I've forgotten something very important."

Liu Xianxian had a deeper impression of Chen Ge compared to Ma Yin, perhaps because Chen Ge had carried her and run for quite a distance. Now, even though part of her memory was missing, staring at Chen Ge, she knew instinctually that this man was a good person, someone reliable. "Last night, he helped me and Ma Yin. I cannot tell what happened exactly, but I am sure that without his help, Ma Yin and myself would have been in serious danger."

Liu Xianxian sounded so sure and confident when she said that. She even smiled and added a thank you to Chen Ge.

"Last night, you say." Chen Ge narrowed his eyes. The memory loss of these two girls had to do with that woman with ashy skin. He remembered seeing the woman lean into Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian's ears to say something before they started to look like they were sleep-walking.

The ability to eclipse a part of someone's memory, I've seen this ability before. Chen Ge thought about it internally. Looking at Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian, Chen Ge was reminded of a different person—the police officer who was retiring, Ol' Wei. When Ol' Wei entered Coffin Village with Chen Ge, he seemed to have a run-in with No. 10 from the ghost stories society, and then part of his memory disappeared as well.

Ol' Wei's condition is similar to Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian! Does this mean he has also run into the woman with ashy skin? The Zhu lady said that No. 10 had a dead body on his back; could that dead body be this woman with ashy skin?

When Chen Ge asked the statue in the underground storeroom about the ghost stories society, the soul inside the statue had disappeared instantly. Therefore, the underground morgue was probably related to the ghost stories society as well.

The ghost stories society's chairperson should have access to more than one door. One of the doors is the blood door at the Third Sick Hall, so could the other door be the door in the underground morgue? Chen Ge was shocked by the thought that surfaced in his mind. He felt like he was getting close to uncovering the real identity of the society's chairperson!

No. 10 should be very familiar with Jiujiang Medical University.

Familiarity with Jiujiang Medical University, seen him wearing the Doctor Skull-cracker's mask at least once, and participated in many cases where Chen Ge was involved... At this point, a name suddenly popped up in Chen Ge's mind.

He Feng!

When Murder by Midnight was first introduced, He San had come to visit with a few other students from Jiujiang Medical University, and the eldest and tallest among them was He Feng. At the time, Chen Ge had been impressed by this young man's ability to stay calm under duress and even exchanged numbers with him. Chen Ge had planned to invite the man to join him as he expanded his empire.

Could it really be him? Chen Ge was still deep in thought when the eyes of Liu Xianxian, who was in bed, suddenly reddened. She was looking at someone among the group. Following the direction of her gaze, Chen Ge realized that the clean-looking man had his eyes jumping all over the place. He was trying his best to remain unaffected. *Looks like this is the man Liu Xianxian was in love with.*

Perhaps beauty is indeed in the eye of the beholder.

The perfect man in Liu Xianxian's eyes had zero advantages in Chen Ge's eyes other than his passable fashion sense.

The black phone hasn't announced that the one-star mission is complete. Looks like I need to be cautious of this man.

Ma Yin and Liu Xianxian became Chen Ge character witnesses. They both said that Chen Ge was a kind person, and with the testimony from Lee Zheng, the incident was thus settled. When the sun rose, Lee Zheng brought the campus security into the underground morgue to remove the statue.

Then, they connected the school admin at the new campus, and the investigation to check who left the statue inside the underground morgue began. Things were taken out of Chen Ge's hands. While no one was noticing, he picked up his backpack and prepared to slip away from the campus. As he waited for a taxi to arrive, he suddenly saw the man whom Liu Xianxian had a crush on also trying to run away from the scene.

Now should be the time the school is busiest, but he is not staying behind to help, so where is he rushing to? Chen Ge hid inside the convenience store, and after the man got into the car, Chen Ge also hailed one of his own to follow after the man.

The taxi drove for about ten minutes before stopping at Fang Hwa Apartments.

According to Lee Zheng, the man has a permanent residence at the staff dormitory, so what is he doing at Fang Hwa Apartments?

Chen Ge did not have a good impression of Fang Hwa Apartments. He got out of the taxi and silently tailed the man.

Chapter 388: The Three Actors

The man that Liu Xianxian had a crush on was very alert. Thankfully, this was not the first time Chen Ge had needed to tail someone, and it was due to his experience that he was not exposed. His apartment is in Fang Hwa? This place is not that far from Jiujiang Medical University, and the bus comes pretty often. In that case, why did he ask for a staff residence at the school?

Chen Ge did not dare get too close. He watched as the man entered the third building. It's the third building again. This cannot be a coincidence.

After enough time had passed, Chen Ge also entered the building. He was familiar with the building's layout. He pretended to be a tenant and very naturally head for the safety door. He was halfway through and realized that there was no one waiting for the elevator.

The man didn't take the elevator? Chen Ge held his breath as he entered the safety passage. There were no footsteps echoing down the stairs either. Right then, there was the sound of door opening on the first floor.

He's living on the first floor itself. Chen Ge stood in the half-open door and leaned out to look down the corridor.

Room 3004.

He remembered the room number before slinking over it to stick his ear to the door.

The man's voice on the phone filtered out from inside the room. "Brother-in-law? The school has not been safe recently. Things keep happening at night. Do you mind if I stay at your place for a while? Don't worry, I will not mess up the place. I will not touch a thing of yours or sister's. I know how important this place is to you. I know, I understand. I promise to not enter your study! Will not touch anything!"

After the call ended, the man's tone changed immediately. "Do you really think I want to be here? Such a pretender. Do you think I really want your charity?"

Outside the room, one could hear the man rummaging through the room. He appeared mature and confident, but a completely different soul was occupying his body. After a bit more grumbling, the man continued to ransack the room. The sound of doors and drawers being pulled open echoed endlessly.

"That room has been rearranged, so the layout is different from before. No one should be able to tell the difference. I need to check it again." The man moved inside the room, and he had no idea his monologue was audible to Chen Ge.

One of the rooms has been rearranged? Why would he conduct an investigation at a time like this?

The man's actions were weird. Chen Ge initially thought that he was a weirdo and did not relate him to the murder, but with every sentence that escaped the man's lips, his suspicion of the man continued to grow.

After a few more minutes, the man seemed to have gotten all the necessary tools and entered the room. Due to the distance, Chen Ge could not hear anything. He remembered the room number and exited the building to walk to the window. He squatted down and crawled to the window of room 3004. Chen Ge glanced into the room. The man had a toolbox in his hands, and the look on his face as he stared at the bed in the room was quite scary.

"When I first stepped into this room, I felt it was cold. Even after so many years, I still cannot forget about it." When the man focused on the bed, Chen Ge clicked open the camera on his phone and silently recorded the layout of the room. The room had many partitions, making it feel smaller and more cramped than it was.

There is no table or bookshelf, and the mattress is also different from the one in Ma Yin's video, but the location of the bed hasn't changed. Peeking through this window allows me to have a clear view of stuff under the bed.

The furniture inside the room had been changed, and the interior had been transformed due to the partitions. On first glance, it was indeed different from the room in Ma Yin's video. However, he missed a very important element—the window.

The man had not seen Ma Yin's video. He only knew that Ma Yin had captured a video from inside the room, but he had no idea about its exact content. Based on the layout of the room and the man's words, Chen Ge was fifty percent certain that this man, who Liu Xianxian had a crush on, was related to Ma Yin's sister's disappearance. His hand went to the hammer inside the backpack, and he was itching for action.

No, the sun is still out. It's too inconvenient to do things like that in broad daylight.

It was almost the beginning of the working day. There were many people in the residential area. If Chen Ge injured the man, he would definitely scream. If a crowd gathered, Chen Ge would really have no way to explain himself.

He works at Jiujiang Medical University, and so many things happened at the campus last night. He must have a lot of things to do, so he wouldn't dare stay too long at home. He'll be leaving soon. I'll take my chances then.

Chen Ge took out the comic to attempt to negotiate with the ghosts inside it. However, probably it was daytime, only one of them answered his call.

So heartless?

In the end, it was Yan Danian who helped Chen Ge convince the other three ghosts. Chen Ge could sense a trace of liveliness in Yan Danian that was absent before this.

After summoning the gambler, Ol' Zhou, and the English teacher, Chen Ge told them his plan. He needed them to 'accidentally' steal the key. The three ghosts were doing this for the first time, and it was a challenge for them too.

Several minutes later, as Chen Ge expected, the man exited Room 3004. He put on the confident smile. His clothes had no wrinkles, and his shoes were shined.

It's time to move.

Perhaps because the light in the room was stronger, the three ghosts could only stay in physical form for twenty or thirty seconds, so Chen Ge only had one chance. When the man was about several meters away from the safety door, Chen Ge put all three of them out at the same time.

The very moment he did that, before he even realized what was happening, Ol' Zhou already landed a punch on Bai Qiulin's face. "You dare to cheat with my wife! You f*cker!"

Then, he started tussling with Bai Qiulin. Their fight was dragged out of the safety passage and knocked into the man.

"Stop fighting!" Duan Yue screamed as she ran out to try to stop the fight. Everything happened so suddenly that even Chen Ge himself was stunned, much less the man. The three tossed and turned, and the man was pushed against the wall. The argument was so intense that he did not dare interrupt them. At a time like this, he just wanted to escape.

After about fifteen seconds, Bai Qiulin swung Ol' Zhou's hands away, and he ran into the safety door.

"I will definitely kill you today!"

Ol' Zhou and Duan Yue chased after him. The three completed the mission in about twenty-three seconds.

Holding the key in his hand, Chen Ge felt the event was quite surreal.

"My God, what just happened?"

Chapter 389: The Owner

The man cursed under his breath, patted down his clothes, and made sure his shoes were sparkly clean before leaving. He did not notice the lack of a key in his pocket. After the man had been gone for several minutes, Chen Ge used his key to enter Room 3004.

If this was someone else in this situation, they would have been cautious and tense, worried that the owner might return because, after all, the man was a suspected murderer. However, Chen Ge did not have that worry. The last murderer that had set his sight on him was still in the ICU with two arms and one leg broken.

“As long as I have good intentions in my heart, there is nothing to be scared about.”

Chen Ge looked at the opened drawers and cupboards, but he did not venture to randomly touch the stuff in the room. Instead, he walked into the bedroom and placed the phone down under the bed. He tweaked the phone until the camera angle was similar to the video on Ma Yin’s phone.

“Even though partitions have been added to the room, they did not change the location of the window.” Chen Ge tapped the partition lightly and memorized the layout of the room. “This man is very suspicious.”

Chen Ge stood in the middle of the room, thinking about the comments that Liu Xianxian had made about the man.

“After we left the teahouse, Liu Xianxian told me that this man is different from other men out there. He had all the good points of a mature man, but there was one thing weird about him—he thinks that his wife, who died in a car accident a few years ago, is still alive. The man packages himself as an emotional and trusting person, but reality does not seem that way. From how I see it, the man hasn’t even married, and this room is not even his; it’s his brother-in-law’s.”

People in the throes of romance would lose their rationality, and Liu Xianxian was a naive girl, so Chen Ge suspected that she had been conned by this man.

“Perhaps Ma Yin’s sister was conned by the man as well.” Chen Ge came up with various possibilities.

“When she discovered the man’s real identity, they had an argument, and the man accidentally killed Ma Yin’s sister.”

He wanted to call Liu Xianxian to ask for more details, but he was afraid that the girl might act rashly and do something unnecessary. To prevent himself from being exposed, Chen Ge eventually decided against that.

“The man’s maturity and confidence are a facade. Internally, he is a very self-abasing person. Based on the conversation he had with his brother-in-law, it is obvious that he hates his brother-in-law. Perhaps the brother-in-law is the source of his self-abasement.” Chen Ge was suddenly interested in this brother-in-law. “On the phone earlier, the brother-in-law forbade him from entering the study. This means that there is probably something important inside. Perhaps I can use that to figure out the brother-in-law’s identity.”

Chen Ge entered the study. The study was twice the size of the bedroom. Two bookshelves were stocked with various types of books, and there was a study table near the window.

“The man’s brother-in-law appears to be a heavy reader.” The man had an eclectic collection from philosophy to art, from modern medicine to study of the occult. Chen Ge did not touch the books on the shelves because, for a real book lover, they would know the exact position of each book, and Chen Ge was afraid of leaving a trace. He opened the dresser to take a look; it was very tidy inside. Chen Ge walked to the table and pulled open the drawer. It had two laptops of the same model.

“Why are there two laptops, and why are they kept inside the drawer?” He took them out and placed them on the table. He pressed the power buttons. One of them opened like normal, but the other one had a password lock. “They serve different purposes?”

Chen Ge got even more interested in the owner. “Since the laptop is locked, there must be something important sorted in this.”

Chen Ge clicked open a random folder on the desktop, and when he did, he was shocked. The folder contained more than one hundred pictures and about twenty videos. Most importantly, all of the media was related to Chen Ge’s Haunted House! The pictures covered all the scenarios, including Coffin Village!

“The only visitors who have visited Coffin Village are Sister Mao’s group, so where did these pictures come from?” Chen Ge did not feel so good. He looked at the time stamp, and they matched the day of Sister Mao’s visit. In other words, the owner of this house had taken the pictures from Sister Mao’s group after they visited the Haunted House in the morning.

“But they were sent directly to the hospital after their visit. Does this mean the owner is someone working at the hospital?”

The more Chen Ge scrolled through the media files, the more unsettled he became. All the pictures and videos were time-stamped. He clicked open the earliest video. It was shot about one month ago at exactly the time he unlocked Murder by Midnight!

The video was blurry, and a few students’ voices could be heard in the recording.

“That is He San and his friends’ voices!” Chen Ge immediately thought back to the scene at the time. He had just unlocked Murder by Midnight when the students from Jiujiang Medical University came to create problems for him, to take revenge for Gao Ru Xue.

At the time, one of the students planned to take a video inside the Haunted House and shared it online. Chen Ge had mixed himself into the group of students. There should only have been seven people, so he had become the eighth one.

The video was shaking badly. When the cameraman realized there was an additional person caught on video, he dropped the phone out of fear. The camera was facing up, and it caught Xu Wan walking over from the other side of the corridor wearing Doctor Skull-cracker’s outfit. The video froze on Xu Wan’s face. She was wearing the scary mask that was sewn together from many human faces.

The video itself had no problem, but the timing and location was too weird.

“When I arrived at the ghost stories society for the first time, No. 10 recognized me immediately because he had seen the mask on my face.”

Initially Chen Ge thought No. 10 was definitely one of his customers, but after watching this video, he realized that things might not have been that simple.

“No. 10 is someone I know in real life, but that person might not have visited the Haunted House personally.”

When the group from Jiujiang Medical University first came, it was He Feng who led the group. Chen Ge suspected the young man to a certain degree, but be it from the aspect of age and presence, Chen Ge did not think He Feng was No. 10.

“The chairperson should be someone else.” Chen Ge stared at the computer screen. “Why is this place’s real owner so interested in my Haunted House? On top of that, why did he purchase a house in Fang Hwa Apartment’s third building?”

The top floor of the building was the headquarters for the ghost stories society. The owner was familiar with Chen Ge’s Haunted House and lived in this building. Chen Ge’s conclusion was the real owner should be the last survivor of the society.

He desperately needed to know the owner’s real identity. He clicked open the other folders to find for more clues.

Chapter 390: Xiaoxiao’s Special Power

The cursor clicked on the other files on the desktop. Most of them were in English, and Chen Ge could barely understand it. He opened the comic to summon the English teacher, but ghosts seemed to receive plenty of damage when they appeared in places where sunlight could hit them directly. Chen Ge looked at how fragile Duan Yue was and did not force her. Without any other solution, Chen Ge took out his phone to snap all the information. Chen Ge exited the camera app and called Inspector Lee.

“Uncle San Bao, I have a favor to ask.”

“Is it about the blood test result on the nail? I’ll go help you rush it in the afternoon.” Inspector Lee sounded like he was outside and not at the police station.

“No, I want you to help me investigate the owner of Room 3004 at Fang Hwa Apartments.”

“Why do you want to do that?”

“It’s related to the culprit. I feel like I’m close to catching the man!”

“Okay, I will try my best.”

After hanging up, Chen Ge thought back to everything that he had touched in the room. He cleaned up his fingerprints and left Room 3004. He called a taxi to get back to New Century Park—a new day had begun.

The one-star mission triggered by the Special Visitor, Liu Xianxian, had not been completed. Technically speaking, Chen Ge had already followed the black phone's requirement to find Liu Xianxian, but he did not receive the message that the mission had been completed. *I probably need to help her solve the issue in her heart.*

The mission would not be that difficult. The man that she loved might be a murderer, so if Chen Ge could prove that, Liu Xianxian should know what to do. After all, one of the man's victims was her best friend's older sister.

With his employees getting more familiar with the work, Chen Ge became freer. Since he had nothing to do, he called Lee Zheng during his lunch break to ask for an update on the case. In reality, he was more concerned about that statue. He wanted to sneak that statue to his Haunted House.

Lee Zheng was at the new campus, interviewing people. No one had any recollection of that statue. It felt as if the statue had walked to the underground storeroom itself. The case ended up in a standstill. Chen Ge gave Lee Zheng a hint, asking him to pay close attention to the man Liu Xianxian had a crush on.

There was no accident that business day. One thing worth noting was that some people had started to challenge the three-star scenario. This group had probably heard about how Coffin Village had caused five people to faint, so they very naturally avoided that scenario and targeted the Third Sick Hall.

They were so confident before they entered, but they all surrendered before they were even halfway through. However, this did raise an alarm in Chen Ge. As more visitors started to challenge the three-star scenarios, eventually, the scenario would be cleared.

I should pace myself. The most crucial thing is to deal with the ghost stories society and complete Third Sick Hall's hidden mission.

Sitting inside the room, Chen Ge took out his comic. He had Yan Danian and the other ghosts try to communicate the phone spirit. He allowed them to use any method to convince the phone spirit that it was such a wonderful and blissful thing to work for Chen Ge's Haunted House.

Time slowly passed. Chen Ge's phone suddenly rang at 4 pm. He thought that it was Inspector Lee calling him with an update, but when he glanced at the caller ID, it was an unfamiliar number.

"Why would a stranger call me?" Chen Ge accepted the call and placed the phone beside his ear.

"I'm sorry, but is this Mr. Chen?"

"Yes, it's me." It was the first time Chen Ge had heard the voice on the other side of the phone, and it was laced with sadness.

"Are you the one who helped solve the case at Ping An Apartments?"

"Yes."

"Do you have time now? The old gentleman's condition is deteriorating. I'm afraid he won't be able to stay with us any longer." Hearing that, Chen Ge was stunned. "Hello? Are you there? Can you please come over? The old gentleman stated his wish to see you in person."

"I'll be there in a minute." Chen Ge took out his phone to call Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu, who were working. He told them that they should close up after the current visitors left. They were not going to accept any more visitors.

He ran into the staff breakroom, holding the phone. Pushing the door open, he saw Xiaoxiao hugging the white cat's tail. They looked at one another like they were in some sort of fight. In the end, it was the white cat who surrendered. It allowed Xiaoxiao to hug its tail as much as she wanted. It revealed a haughty expression like it did not want to lower itself to a girl's standard.

Xiaoxiao snuggled herself face into the white cat's body. Smothered by the puffy white fur, she felt it was quite interesting.

"Xiaoxiao..." Chen Ge stood at the door and silently shoved the phone into his pocket. He walked to the bed and picked Xiaoxiao up. "Let's go pay your grandpa a visit."

This time, Chen Ge did not place her inside his pocket but held her in his cupped palm. Xiaoxiao seemed to sense something as she looked at Chen Ge with a strange expression. Closing the door, Chen Ge charged out of the Haunted House.

"Uncle Xu, we're closing early today. Please help me console the visitors. When Xu Wan comes out, please remind her to close the gate before she leaves." Chen Ge ran toward the park exit.

"You're closing at 4 pm? Where are you going?" Uncle Xu was completely caught by surprise. The visitors standing in lines were nervous, too, especially the few who were at the front of the line.

"Boss, how can you do business like this? The closing hour is 7 pm, but it's only 4 pm now!"

"I didn't have the chance to line up last time! This time, it's finally my turn. Can't we discuss this?"

"This is so rude!"

The visitors berated him. Chen Ge was surrounded in the middle, and in his arms, Xiaoxiao were shivering with fear. Chen Ge used his hand to caress Xiaoxiao's head, and he turned to tell the visitors, "This is my Haunted House's responsibility. If you have bought the ticket but haven't entered the scenario, then I'll compensate double the price."

Chen Ge turned to glance at Uncle Xu. "Uncle Xu, please help me record who needs compensation, I'll pay later."

"You can leave if you have an emergency, but we still have Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu. Couldn't we just let them carry on until you return?" Uncle Xu was confused. "Initially, only you and Xu Wan managed the place, and everything was fine, right?"

"It's different. Safety first. I don't want to risk it." Chen Ge's tone brooked no argument. "Just do what I ask."

Chen Ge did not hesitate and carried Xiaoxiao as he squeezed through the crowd. Perhaps because there were so many people, Xiaoxiao curled up in Chen Ge's embrace like she was afraid.

"It'll be fine, I'm here."

Chen Ge touched Xiaoxiao's face and called for a taxi to get to the hospital.

Chen Ge arrived at 4:30 pm. He called the doctor and rushed up the stairs.

When he pushed open the door to the second-floor corridor, two familiar faces walked toward him—
Doctor Gao and Ol' Wei.