

Horrors 401

Chapter 401: Truck

Chen Ge maintained his pose for a full minute before he dared look behind him. His shadow had returned to normal like everything that had happened earlier was a dream. Chen Ge did not let his guard down. He tried to call Zhang Ya for several times, and after confirming that she had gone back to sleep, his heart finally relaxed. He collapsed to the ground, completely drained.

The stars lit up the sky, and Chen Ge did not know what to think. After a while, the white cat came over, and it placed its furry paw on Chen Ge's forehead like it was trying to see whether Chen Ge had gotten a cold. "You sure run fast earlier. What about our pact?"

His heart was still racing. Chen Ge felt like he had used too much of his brain power that night, and he was suffering from a lack of oxygen. The white cat's multi-colored eyes were dancing with condescension as if it was saying, "If you have the capability, why don't you stand up and tell me that?"

He ruffled the cat's head and ignored the expression on its face. Lying on the ground, he pulled out the black phone to go through the message.

"Congratulations, Specter's Favored! You have completed the Nightmare Mission and gained the reward—Elementary Talent, Ghost Ear.

"Ghost Ear: Before you accept this talent, I hope you think about it because, from this moment onward, you will hear the voices from the other world."

The message was short. Chen Ge touched his ear after reading the text, but he did not feel any change. He closed his eyes and focused on his hearing. Somewhere deep inside the tunnel, someone was whispering, and something was running through the bushes. Even though they were several meters away, he could hear them clearly.

"Sounds like something is coming." Chen Ge realized the thing crawling the bushes was coming close, and he used his Yin Yang Vision to look in the direction that the sound was coming from.

Around eight meters away, something that looked like a woman crawled out from the bushes. It was wearing a tattered jacket, and its head was lolling to the side. It was looking at Chen Ge from a confusing angle, and it appeared like it was trying to ambush Chen Ge. "It's you!"

When Chen Ge had arrived in the taxi, he had seen something similar lying on the ground. When the car passed, the thing had quickly retreated into the bush. The monster did not expect Chen Ge's ears to be so sensitive. It tried to ambush Chen Ge from behind, but it was still exposed. It gave up immediately and slithered away like there were no bones in its body.

"What the hell is that thing?" Chen Ge stood up from the ground. He was not sure if the thing that escaped was the same as the one that he had encountered earlier. "Their existence should be related to this tunnel."

Patting away the dust on his clothes, Chen Ge decided to leave this place first. "After Zhang Ya awakens, I shall return here with all of my employees. Perhaps I might meet some friends with similar ideals. In that case, I will invite them to come join me at the Haunted House."

Carrying the white car, Chen Ge walked back to the main road.

"You seem to have gotten heavier. Next time, if you need to bite me, try not to bite so hard. You see? I'm bleeding. Now I don't even know whether I need to take a shot or not."

Chen Ge walked down the road for thirty minutes, but he did not see any cars pass by. This place was too isolated. It was not until 4 am that a truck affiliated with a moving company passed by. The truck was heading toward Jiujiang City, and Chen Ge cried loudly for the driver to stop.

Thankfully, the driver was a nice person. He slowed down but did not open the door directly. He rolled down the window and studied Chen Ge cautiously.

"Boss, can you give me a lift? I wish to get to the city."

While the driver was studying Chen Ge, Chen Ge was also studying the driver. The driver looked around forty, and his face was pale. He looked weak, and his eyes were rimmed with dark circles, probably because he had driven through the night.

"Why are you all alone at a place like this so late at night? And why are you hugging a cat?" The driver thought Chen Ge was suspicious. There was just something off about this man.

"I'm the proprietor for a Haunted House and a famed host online. I like to do supernatural series, and I'm here to look for inspiration for my Haunted House." Chen Ge's unique self-introduction surprised the man, and he did not respond for a long time.

"Look, this is my online profile and the reports on how I have assisted the Jiujiang law enforcement." Chen Ge tossed his phone through the gap to the driver. The man looked through the articles before believing Chen Ge.

"This is a moving company truck. If you don't mind, then you can crawl inside the cargo, and I'll drive you back to the city." The driver passed the phone back to Chen Ge.

"Thank you." Chen Ge did not hesitate. He opened the door and jumped in. "Boss, you can drive now."

"Remember to close the lock or else the stuff will tumble out."

"Don't worry." After Chen Ge locked the door, the car started. Standing inside the back, his body swayed alongside the other stuff. He wanted to find something to sit on, so he turned his flashlight on. He discovered that the cargo had many ropes lying around. The ropes should be used the driver to tie down the furniture—they were normal—but Chen Ge notice that parts of the ropes were dyed with blood. He used his finger to touch them, and the blood had already dried.

"Boss, where are you coming from? How come you're still working so late at night?" Based on the voice, one could not hear anything weird. It sounded like Chen Ge was just trying to make conversation.

"Don't remind me. Yesterday, we ran into a very weird client. He paid us double to help him move at night," the driver answered.

“Moving at night? We?” Chen Ge focused on the curiosities in the man’s reply almost instantly. “But boss, you’re the only one in the car. Where’s your colleague?”

“They’re still at the man’s house. The client is very generous. Every one of them was given a three hundred tip.” There was envy in the driver’s voice.

“Is this common for moving companies? To move at night?”

“It’s just to move furniture into the house. It’s very normal.” The driver did not think too much of it. If anything, he thought that Chen Ge was acting quite weird.

“Boss, I see that you’re a good man, and that’s why I’m telling you this.” Chen Ge snapped a few pictures of the ropes. “When you helped move the furniture, did you discover anything weird?”

“We’re there to lend our muscles; why would we care about such details?”

The car sped up, and the road became narrower. With no other questions, Chen Ge gave up his questioning and thought that he was perhaps overthinking things. When he planned to close his eyes to rest, his phone vibrated. It was a call from Lee Zheng.

“It’s probably some very important discovery.” Chen Ge answered the phone. “Captain Lee, how can I help you?”

“The coroner found epithelial cells of a missing person on the interior of the statue. A few years ago, someone used that statue to move a dead body!”

Chapter 402: Patients, Doctors [2 in 1]

The police’s discovery was similar to Chen Ge’s previous speculation—the statue had been used as a transport mechanism. After getting Lee Zheng’s reply, Chen Ge’s mind cleared. “After the suspect killed the victims, he hid them inside the statue and then had someone move the statue into the underground storeroom. When no one was looking, he sneaked back into the storeroom to deal with the dead body. Then the body was dragged into the underground morgue, and the crime was completed without a trace.”

Jiujiang Medical University was special because the area underneath the western part of the school was a morgue. Without wasting much energy and effort, one could take care of a dead body easily. “There shouldn’t be anyone who would consider going to look for missing people inside the underground morgue, so reality proved that the culprit is a really smart person.”

Chen Ge stated everything Lee Zheng had on his mind. Lee Zheng, on the other end of the phone, was silent for a while. “It is still unclear who the owner of the statue is, but the suspect pool is narrowing. After our detailed investigation, we can confirm that the statue does not belong to Jiujiang Medical University but appeared one day inside the Arts Society without warning.”

“Sudden appearance?”

“We managed to find the man who was the chairperson at the time. He could remember how he felt when he entered the activity room and found a new statue. At the time, most of the members thought

that it was a new purchase by the school, so they did not think much of it. Since the school campus was also moving soon, in the end, the thing was moved by several male students into the underground storeroom.”

“This means that the killer was not a part of the moving process.” Chen Ge thought about it. “The killer probably knew about the imminent campus movement and that those unusable items would be sent to the underground storage. In fact, he might even have been present then to silently insinuate things to his liking.”

“I was thinking the same. The killer can move in and out of the campus freely late at night and knew about all this information with regards to the university. So, chances are high that he is a student, a teacher, or some other staff at the university.” Someone was talking to Lee Zheng, so he replied the man before turning back to inform Chen Ge. “After our investigation, we have narrowed down our pool to four suspects.

“The first one is the male counselor that you told me about yesterday. His name is Liu Zhe, and he’s a popular figure at the school. He’s a sharp dresser and quite handsome, so you can imagine his popularity with the female students. However, as our investigation deepened, we found that the man is really not as he appears. He has not been to a reputable school, and the university was unable to provide a clear answer to how he managed to become a counselor. The only thing we found out is that the reason is related to his brother-in-law.

“The second suspect is the night security guard at the old campus—Zhang Li. The man is thirty-five years old this year, and he is a private person. The complete opposite from Liu Zhe, the students shy away from him, and for some reason, he is weirdly hated.

“The third suspect is an original member of the Arts Society and the only female of the four suspects. Her name is Zhang Sihan. She is Zhang Li’s little sister and had a tense relationship with Ma Yin’s sister. Before the sister’s disappearance, many people remember her having many ugly confrontations and arguments with Ma Yin’s sister.”

Lee Zheng stopped at this point, and Chen Ge was deeply intrigued. “The security guard, Zhang Li, has the ability and means to be the killer while Zhang Sihan has the motive and timing; however, neither of their lifestyles have any connection to a western sculpture. I still think the first suspect is the most likely killer. By the way, didn’t you say there are four suspects?”

“Actually, according to our investigation, the chance of the fourth suspect being the killer is the highest.” Lee Zheng sounded weird on the phone like he did not want to reveal the name of the fourth suspect. “You are familiar with this fourth person; it’s Doctor Gao.”

“Doctor Gao?” This answer was quite surprising to Chen Ge.

“Just as you said earlier, be it Zhang Li or Zhang Sihan, their lives have nothing to do with the statue. However, it is different for Doctor Gao.” Lee Zheng lowered his voice. “I first met Doctor Gao about five years ago. I was asked to go on a psychological assessment after using my gun to kill a criminal. During the two weeks of conversations, we became friends.” Chen Ge listened closely; he was surprised that Lee Zheng had known Doctor Gao for five years.

“To be honest, Doctor Gao can be considered the perfect man. In my eyes, he has no weaknesses. In fact, I can list the good points about him, and it would take all night.” Lee Zheng’s voice sounded depressed, and Chen Ge understood why the man had chosen this time to make this call. “I admired the man, but this does not mean that I won’t do my job. During my therapy sessions, I found out many things about him. This includes his hobby of collecting artwork—for instance, he likes to collect paintings by Van Gogh.”

“Being an art lover doesn’t make him a killer, or have you seen that statue before at Doctor Gao’s place?” Using the statue to hide and move the body looked like a brilliant plan, but when it was put into action, there were many loopholes. If Doctor Gao was the real killer, Chen Ge believed that he would have utilized a more perfect method to conduct the crime.

“I have not been to Doctor Gao’s home, but I do know that he appreciates artwork that has conflicting contrast, those that have stunning visual impact. I also know that the few nights before Ma Yin’s sister disappeared, Doctor Gao’s car was caught on camera around Jiujiang Medical University.” Lee Zheng sounded tired on the phone. “He knows the school inside out and managed to avoid all the surveillance. It was not until we broadened the scope of the search that we noticed his car showing up in the area around the school. We compared all the footage from the nearby cameras, and the final conclusion was, in that twenty-seven minutes where he disappeared from screen, he was actually inside the school.”

“Wait a minute, could there be someone who was driving his car? Using his car to conduct these crimes?”

“That is what I was about to say.” Lee Zheng’s tone slowly turned serious. “There might be two killers to this case.”

“Two killers?”

“Whether Doctor Gao is the killer or not, it is an undisputed truth that his car was inside the campus during that sensitive period of time, and there were only two people who could drive his car into the campus—one was Doctor Gao himself, and the other person was Liu Zhe.”

Lee Zheng’s words made Chen Ge’s eyes widen. “Wait, you’re telling me Liu Zhe’s brother-in-law is Doctor Gao?”

“Indeed! This was a crime committed by two people. The person who killed Ma Yin’s sister and wanted to move the dead body through the statue was Liu Zhe, and he should be the one who did all the dirty work.

“However, the man was dumb and exposed too many clues. If he committed the crime alone, it would have surfaced in a matter of days. However, weirdly enough, when we looked through the files on the case, all the clues that the police could come up with were silenced. It felt like an invisible hand was snuffing out these trails before the police could get their hands on them.” Lee Zheng sighed. “Liu Zhe would not be able to do something like that. I’ve been a police officer for almost a decade already, and in my mind, there is only one person who is capable of doing something like that—Doctor Gao.”

“But why would Doctor Gao do all these things to protect Liu Zhe, to help him cover up the crime?” Chen Ge voiced the biggest question that he had.

“Liu Zhe is the little brother of Doctor Gao’s wife and the only family she had that is still alive.” Lee Zheng seemed to know what Chen Ge was about to say, so he pointed it out first. “Doctor Gao’s wife died in a car accident about seven years ago. Asking him to take care of her family was her dying wish.”

Chen Ge was not Doctor Gao, and he did not understand that feeling, so he chose to be silent.

“Chen Ge, I know you are close to Doctor Gao, but I hope you will be rational at a time like this. I made this call because this is an order from Captain Yan. We suspect that Doctor Gao is involved in this somehow, but all the clues and trails have been cleaned up, and everything that we currently have is just a suspicion.”

“What do you want me to do?”

“Gao Ru Xue is Doctor Gao’s only daughter and the person he loves the most in the world. If we contact Gao Ru Xue without any warning and evidence, it would only tip off Doctor Gao. Only you can do that.” Lee Zheng stated the real intention of his call in a roundabout way. “Gao Ru Xue is an opening; you have saved her life once, so she will not be cautious around you. Therefore, we need you to approach Gao Ru Xue to find out more about her father.”

“Why me?” Chen Ge had always ‘volunteered’ to help the police. This time, he was requested by the law enforcement to help in a case, and that made him rather uncomfortable.

“Because you are the only available candidate.” Lee Zheng chatted some more with Chen Ge, but he did not force Chen Ge; he merely suggested it. After hanging up, Chen Ge sat in the dark truck, and his expression was complicated. If Liu Zhe’s brother-in-law was Doctor Gao, then the real owner of Room 3004 at Fang Hwa Apartments was Doctor Gao.

The laptop that contained all the information on his Haunted House was Doctor Gao’s, and the person who stole the video footage from his visitors was Doctor Gao. Chen Ge did not have the brain power to consider helping Lee Zheng because there was a bigger question occupying his mind. *Is Doctor Gao really the chairperson of the ghost stories society?*

His body moved along with the car; the road condition was not so great. Chen Ge took out his phone to check back the information that Doctor Gao had sent to him when he first went to the Third Sick Hall. At the time, he had known nothing of the Third Sick Hall and asked Doctor Gao for a list of patient records. Now that he thought about it, the records were definitely suspicious. The records were not accessible to anyone, but Doctor Gao produced them in minimal time.

Why would he help me back then? Chen Ge looked at the records and could not figure out Doctor Gao’s mind. *Did he just think it was exciting, or did he want to use the Third Sick Hall as a test for me?*

After Zhang Ya made short work of the Third Sick Hall, the communication between Doctor Gao and Chen Ge had drastically decreased. Before this, be it Men Nan or the Pen Spirit’s friend, it was Doctor Gao who had acted as the bridge.

This is what I know about No. 10: he has seen my Doctor Skull-cracker’s mask, is familiar with the movement of the police, has long fingers, is close to me, knows Jiujiang Medical University very well, and calls the dead body on his back his wife. Chen Ge realized that Doctor Gao fitted all the characteristics of No. 10 perfectly. He was not sure whether it was positive reinforcement or not, but when he thought

about it, Chen Ge realized that No. 10 sounded a bit like Doctor Gao. The height and body shape of No. 10 in the black robe slowly overlapped with Doctor Gao.

Could it really be him? Chen Ge's fingers were intertwined together. He thought back on the visit he made with Doctor Gao to the home of Pen Spirit's friend. The friend had suffered from serious depression, and after Chen Ge brought the Pen Spirit over to help ease the guilt in her friend, Doctor Gao had thanked Chen Ge on the patient's behalf. The thank you came from his sincere heart, and even now, Chen Ge could still remember the words that Doctor Gao said. He really could not believe someone like that could be the chairperson of the ghost stories society.

Patients, doctors... However, as he thought about it, the basis for the founding of the ghost stories society was to help those special patients relieve their pain. They used extreme methods to heal themselves to seek salvation, to try to be normal people. However, the final result was that they sunk deeper and deeper into the depths of hell until they could not be called normal human beings anymore.

Was this all Doctor Gao's plan from the beginning? Chen Ge had heard from one of the members that they had once tried to save a person who was afraid of water by making her face the source of her fear. They had made her overcome it by personally drowning her father. The treatment method was inhumane and could never be accepted by the society, so it could only be carried out in the shadows of the city. Holding the phone, Chen Ge felt conflicted for the first time.

He could whack any of the patients from the Third Sick Hall with the hammer without hesitation, but he was not sure that he could do that to Doctor Gao. Whether it was when he was treating Men Nan or his other patients, Doctor Gao was flawless. If he was acting, he was a very good actor. However, it did not feel like he was. Chen Ge could sense that he really did want to help those people.

Human beings sure are complicated. Chen Ge leaned against the wall of the truck. Hugging the white cat in his embrace, he glanced out through the gap in the wall. *It's almost dawn.*

The truck drove for another hour, but it did not enter the city. The driver drove Chen Ge to the edge of town when he said that he had something urgent to attend to and had to go somewhere else. Chen Ge's mind was muddled by the phone call from Lee Zheng, so he did not think much of it. He thanked the man and got out of the truck.

As he watched the moving company's truck drive away, the cold breeze touched his face, and Chen Ge felt his mind brighten and clear. *Something is wrong with this truck driver.*

When he first got into the car, the truck had been shaking violently. This proved that the driver had not been using the flattened main road. In fact, it felt like he was driving them further away from civilization, using the small roads.

The change happened when he received the call from Lee Zheng. The truck driver probably heard the phone call between Chen Ge and the police, so he changed the direction and drove the truck back to the main road.

Was he trying to silence me? Did he change his mind after hearing my phone call with the police?

When Chen Ge was trying to figure out this issue, a taxi came from the road that the moving company's truck had disappeared down earlier.

Chen Ge waved his hand to stop the taxi. He climbed in. "Boss, drive me to Western Jiujiang's New Century Park please."

"Is the theme park open so early in the morning?"

"I'm one of the workers there." Chen Ge smiled. He pointed at the road that the taxi had come from. "When you came from that road, did you see the truck of a moving company? That driver..."

"Truck? There was no such thing. I was the only car on the road." The taxi driver was even more confused than Chen Ge.

"No truck?" Chen Ge touched the white cat's head. "Then who gave me the lift? But the white cat did not warn me."

Chapter 403: The Phone Spirit's Request

Chen Ge held the cat in his arm. He wondered if it was because the white cat had stopped caring about normal ghosts since it had seen too many powerful baleful specters. The white cat did not get Chen Ge's meaning. It moved its head as it struggled to escape from Chen Ge's grasp.

"Perhaps I haven't been paying any attention." The taxi driver thought about it. "I came over from the industrial area. There is a junction there. If the truck went east, then I would have missed it."

The driver was quite optimistic and did not think about the supernatural possibility.

The truck driver just drove me over from Eastern Jiujiang, so why would he drive back there after dropping me off? Chen Ge committed the driver's face to his memory. Did he feel unsettled after hearing my conversation with the police and go back to deal with some unsightly things?

Afraid that the white cat might ruin the taxi's cushion, Chen Ge hugged the white cat in his arms. "Boss, have there been any serious events in Eastern Jiujiang? Like murders and stuff?"

The driver glanced at Chen Ge through the rear-view mirror, and he looked panic. He had never seen a customer that started a conversation with a topic like this. "There hasn't been anything like that in Eastern Jiujiang, but Western Jiujiang has been quite unsafe lately. There have been a few serious cases in the past two months."

"Western Jiujiang?" Chen Ge felt that sounded weirdly familiar. "I think Western Jiujiang is still rather peaceful."

Since he could not get any more news from the driver, Chen Ge took out his phone and went online to search. As the driver had said, other than the articles on the Futuristic Theme Park, there was nothing big happening in Eastern Jiujiang.

The undercurrent flowing beneath this calm surface is rapid and dangerous. I'll need to investigate this further.

After shifting into a more comfortable position, Chen Ge opened the video recording software to inspect the video that he had recorded that night. He had begun recording before he entered the tunnel, and in the video, he was calling out his own name as he stepped into the tunnel.

Without any post-editing, the realistic video was already scarier than most scary movies. From Chen Ge's expression, it was clear that the man himself did not know what to expect, and the fear of the unknown was often most alluring to the viewers. After he walked ten steps, the light darkened, and the screen blurred.

From the video, one could hear the sound of another person's footsteps. However, Chen Ge was calm on camera. It created a great contrast to the flighty white cat. This was a unique viewing experience. The white cat scratched his clothes madly like it was trying to warn the man about the encroaching danger. However, as the main character, Chen Ge was unfazed. This was a common trope in scary movies, and if the viewers were pulled into Chen Ge's perspective, they would be worried for him.

As he walked deeper into the tunnel, the scare level heightened. In the video, Chen Ge seemed to have spotted something. His expression changed, and he kept turning his head to look in a particular direction. However, in the video, there was nothing there.

When he made the 42nd step, the light suddenly went off, and Chen Ge's yelp and the white cat's shrill hiss were all captured on camera. Several seconds later, the video returned to normal, but Chen Ge in the video looked like he was possessed. He talked to the air alone and finally bent down like he was trying to carry something on his back. The ending of the video was Chen Ge carrying that thing out of the tunnel.

"I have a feeling this is going to be another popular video." Looking at the video, Chen Ge felt nervous for himself, much less those viewers. Attaching the logo of his Haunted House, Chen Ge gave the video a good title and uploaded it on the app.

"Shocking! Unknown Man did WHAT inside a tunnel at 3 am?"

Once his video was released, all the fans that followed him would receive notification. It did not take long for his comments section to explode. Exploring a tunnel at 3 am was something intriguing, so most came to check it out due to curiosity. Early morning was when the app had the least traffic, and Chen Ge believed that the video would gain traction when morning came.

He updated the information about the Haunted House on his profile page to include the various promotions of theme park. When he was done with all that, he exited the app.

My videos and livestream can help me find popularity, and Yan Danian's serial comic will maintain that popularity. If this continues, I can even create a super terror theme park that has an online presence.

Chen Ge had confidence in his future. It would have been difficult to complete this alone, but thankfully, he had many good employees.

Be it Yan Danian, Pen Spirit, or even Ol' Zhou and Bai Qiulin, each of them had great potential.

When I have enough money, I can even shoot scary movies and dramas.

With the aid of his employees, Chen Ge would save plenty of money on special effects. His workers would need to play themselves.

I have too many good employees. I wonder who would take the center spot.

Chen Ge put this phone away. Employees like Yan Danian and Ol' Zhou were good employees for Chen Ge, so the more the better. Sitting inside the taxi, Chen Ge looked at Eastern Jiujiang and muttered, "I've explored almost all of Western Jiujiang. Perhaps I can find more valuable workers in Eastern Jiujiang."

Then he closed his eyes to rest. The driver gripped the steering wheel tightly. He glanced at Chen Ge through the rearview mirror. For some reason, he had a feeling that Eastern Jiujiang was going to get very busy soon.

"I have said something wrong..."

Chen Ge reached New Century Park at 5 am. He walked into the staff breakroom and fell asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow. However, he only slept for two hours before being shaken awake. The comic that he had left on the table was making plenty of noise. Yan Danian seemed to be looking for him.

Climbing up from bed, Chen Ge communicated with Yan Danian and realized that the phone spirit had been 'persuaded'. He was willing to join Chen Ge, but he had one small request.

The phone spirit was very useful to Chen Ge, and he valued this ghost a lot. Chen Ge was afraid that the sun might hurt the phone spirit, so he walked into the underground scenario with the comic before he let the phone spirit out.

After being educated by the other ghosts inside the comic, the phone spirit saw the fault of his ways. He looked like he was just seven or eight. He had his head lowered and looked scared, like he was afraid of Chen Ge.

"I'm different from the ghost stories society. I'm someone who can be reasoned with." Chen Ge looked at the boy. He was overly thin, and there was an old-fashioned telephone hanging around his neck. "Tell me, what is your wish? If it is not too unreasonable, I will help you fulfill it."

Chapter 404: I'm Sorry [2 in 1]

The phone spirit looked at Chen Ge shyly and fearfully. He picked up the old phone around his neck with both of his hands. The display that was glowing weakly had ninety-nine unanswered calls, and every single one of them came from the same registered number—Mom.

Chen Ge felt like the phone spirit was not an evil spirit; he could not feel any vengeance or venom from him. If anything, the phone spirit felt like a boy who did not know anything.

"You want me to help you find your mom?" The phone spirit nodded. He raised his thin arms and waved them before Chen Ge, trying to tell him something. However, Chen Ge could not get what he was trying to communicate. The phone spirit then grabbed the phone around his neck and wrote a message to send to Chen Ge. His phone vibrated, and Chen Ge read the message that he had just received.

“My mom has been searching for you. I want you to use my phone to send a message to her. My phone is in Eastern Jiujiang’s Li Wan City.”

“Your wish is for me to send a phone message to your mother?” Chen Ge nodded. Each of the ghosts had their own story, and it was because of unfulfilled dreams that they remained in the human world. Chen Ge put the phone spirit back into the comic. He planned to help him fulfill his wish that day. *The ghost stories society has wasted such a special spirit. Only I will be able to support him to his full potential.*

The phone spirit would be immensely useful to Chen Ge’s Haunted House. If the phone spirit was willing to help him, the number of visitors using their phones to take pictures and videos inside the Haunted House would drastically decrease.

After taking a cold bath, Chen Ge changed into a set of clean clothes and then cleaned the Haunted House for a while. The theme park opened for business at 9 am. The sky was rather dim and cloudy, but that did not dampen the visitors’ passion. Compared to the previous few days, the number of visitors had increased a lot.

One-star scenarios had already lost their attraction to the returning customers. Most of the visitors had started to challenge the two-star scenarios, and the most experienced visitors were already challenging three-star scenarios. In just one morning, six to seven batches of visitors entered Coffin Village and Third Sick Hall. The visitors’ adaptive skill toward the new scenarios was much greater than Chen Ge had expected.

Everyone had a threshold for fear inside their heart, and as they experienced more scary scenarios, the threshold would slowly increase, which created pressure for Chen Ge.

The reward for the Third Sick Hall’s Trial Mission was the ten mental patients. If I really place them inside the Third Sick Hall, even without the other set-ups, I will be able to scare the visitors until they pee their pants. However, the key problem is that I cannot guarantee that the souls of these mental patients will listen to my command. They are mental patients after all.

To ensure the patients’ safety, Chen Ge did not use the patient’s list for the Third Sick Hall.

There is temporarily no better solution. When someone is close to beating the scenario, I’ll just have to ask Ol’ Zhou and his friends to go ‘help’ the group of visitors. Chen Ge’s concern for the visitors’ enjoyment was multi-faceted. While he was thinking about ways to scare the visitors, he was still concerned about their safety as well. *Nowadays, it is certainly hard to do business.*

Sitting inside the Haunted House, after Chen Ge sent the visitors in the underground scenario, he grabbed a chair and sat down to rest. His current biological clock was almost similar to Zhang Ya; his day was night, and night was day. He had tons of activities at night, and in the morning, he needed to find time to sleep. Taking out his phone, Chen Ge went online to look for information on Li Wan City. It was just a normal small town.

The phone spirit’s phone is in Eastern Jiujiang, so he should have been haunting Eastern Jiujiang. How did he end up in the hands of the ghost stories society? Does this mean the society is also somehow related to Eastern Jiujiang? Chen Ge shook his head. He believed that the chance of that was very low.

After a whole day of working, the Haunted House only stopped operations at 6:30 pm. After Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu got off work, Chen Ge first gave Lee Zheng a call, asking how he was supposed to cooperate with them. The answer given by Lee Zheng was for him to not do anything for now and wait for their update. Since the police had said that, naturally, Chen Ge would not go and stir the pot.

He entered the staff breakroom to put the hammer and the tape recorder inside his backpack. After making sure that he had not forgotten anything, he exited the Haunted House, closed the door, and hailed a cab to get to Eastern Jiujiang.

Unlike the previous night, Chen Ge felt confident. He did not feel any trace of fear in his heart. If anything, he felt anticipatory and excited. Li Wan City was not that isolated; the taxi drove for thirty minutes before Chen Ge arrived at his destination.

During the journey over, it started to rain. The rain was not heavy, but Chen Ge did not have an umbrella with him. After paying the fare, Chen Ge rushed into a mobile operation center that was close by.

Seeing how curiously dressed Chen Ge was, the person behind the counter eyed him suspiciously and asked with caution, "Sir, how can I help you?"

"It's okay. I'll just be looking around on my own." Chen Ge took out the comic and found a silent corner to communicate with the phone spirit. After a while, his phone received a new message from the phone spirit.

"Pu Ming Apartments' top floor on Li Wan City's East Street? Is this the address?" Chen Ge read the address on the phone and then turned to find that person who served him earlier. "I'm sorry, but how do I get to Pu Ming Apartments?"

"Just follow this street and walk straight until you see the oldest building." The person was quite nice, and she thought that Chen Ge was an outsider who had just moved to the city and was looking for a place to rent. "East Street is rather unsafe, and the place is not clean. I suggest you find a place at West Street. Yes, the rent might be higher but not by much."

"Thank you." Chen Ge carried his backpack and ran to Pu Ming Apartments in the rain. After about ten minutes of light jogging, he finally found the apartment building that was described by the phone spirit. The building looked like it was well over thirty years old—it looked old and decrepit. "Is this the place?"

Chen Ge entered the building, and the place looked vacant. Most of the room doors had a thick layer of dust. He climbed all the way to the top. The door that led to the rooftop was locked. The lock was rusted until the keyhole was completely rusted shut.

Looks like this place has been abandoned for a long time already. Chen Ge took out the hammer from his backpack to smash the lock away. He pushed the door open. The rooftop was filled with garbage, and there was a row of potted plants by the wall. However, the plants inside were all already dead. *The phone spirit's phone is here?*

Chen Ge looked around the place before focusing his attention on the few water tanks. The water tanks looked like they had been used by the tenants to marinate cabbage. The tanks were all sealed, and a boulder was placed on top of them. Chen Ge inched closer to them with the hammer in hand. He moved the boulder away and opened the first water tank. The tank was empty; it had nothing inside.

Then, Chen Ge moved the boulder away from the second water tank. Before he even opened the tank, a weird smell drifted out from inside. He flipped open the lid, and when he looked in, Chen Ge's eyelids twitched.

There was a desiccated child that was as thin as a twig trapped inside the tank. His facial features were similar to the phone spirit's, and there was an old-fashioned phone hanging around his neck. Chen Ge stood beside the tank for a long time until his hair was slick from rain. "Found you."

He took out his phone to prepare to call the police when the phone spirit sent him a message. "Before calling the police, I wish to use my own phone to send my mom a message. She must be very worried."

"Must we use your phone?" Chen Ge did not know why the phone spirit stopped him from calling the police, but he respected the boy's decision. "Okay."

He did not want to ruin the crime scene. He snapped a few pictures of the water tank and removed the phone from the boy's body. After so many years, of course, the phone could not be operated anymore. He replaced the tank's lid and prepared to return after he completed the phone spirit's wish.

Putting away the hammer, Chen Ge ran downstairs to return to the mobile center where he had hidden from the rain. The rain became heavier, soaking his shirt.

"Sir, how can I help you again?" The person had just met Chen Ge, so she was surprised to see him return so soon.

"Can you help me charge this phone? Is there still charger for this model? If the phone cannot be used anymore, then please help me remove the sim card." Chen Ge passed the phone to the woman. The woman looked at it, and her face scrunched up in difficulty. She rummaged through the counter but could not find a suitable charger. "Sir, your model is quite outdated already."

"I haven't used this phone for many years already. I understand the difficulty. If you cannot really turn the phone on, can you help me remove the sim card? I need to get the phone number." Chen Ge understood the phone spirit's thought. His mother had been looking for him, so he wanted to use his own phone to send his mother one last message.

"Hasn't been used for many years?" The person shook her head. "But sir, if you haven't paid the phone bill for more than three months, the number will automatically be deleted, so I believe your number has been deactivated already."

"Deactivated?" Chen Ge stood beside the counter; his hand subconsciously went to grip the comic in his pocket.

"Wait, let me check for you." The person was very patient and kind. She opened the casing and removed the sim card. She then copied the number on the card into the computer to pull out its information. Looking at the information that came on screen, the person was shocked. "Your card is still in operation."

"Really? But didn't you say the number would be deactivated after three months? The phone hasn't been used for years already." Chen Ge tried to glance at the screen. He also felt this was rather impossible.

“Yes, that’s if you haven’t paid for over three months. But since your number was activated seven years ago, every month, someone would come to pay the bill. Here is the payment record.” The screen showed all the payment records for the past seven years, and the latest transaction had happened the day before!

The woman looked at Chen Ge, and her face turned up into a smile. “Sir, even though you forgot about this number, someone did not. She held on for seven years—that is quite unbelievable on her part.”

“Thank you.” Chen Ge bought a new phone that could use the sim card from the woman and left the center. He slotted the card into the new phone. Looking at the dim sky, he walked into the nearby alley to summon the phone spirit.

“This is our deal.” Chen Ge passed the phone to the phone spirit. The small boy held the phone, and his body was shaking. The rain continued to pour. Chen Ge squatted down silently before the phone spirit and looked into his eyes as he asked, “How about I bring you to go meet her?”

The phone spirit shook his head. He held the phone but did not dare send the message. After a long time, he passed the phone back to Chen Ge.

“She is afraid that you will not be able to contact her after your number gets deactivated, so she goes to pay the phone bill monthly to keep your number activated. She has been waiting for you.” It was unknown whether it was Chen Ge’s words or not, but the phone spirit sent Chen Ge a message and disappeared.

Opening the message, it contained an address—thirty-seven Pu Yuan Road, Tong Tong Florist. Chen Ge did not stop to rest but called a taxi to drive him to the address given by the phone spirit.

At around 8 pm, Chen Ge reached thirty-seven Pu Yuan Road, and by then, it was pouring heavily. Chen Ge’s shirt was completely drenched. He leaned against the wall and studied the florist that was on the other side of the street. The shop was small, but the décor was comfortable and welcoming. When he walked toward it, he could even smell the flowers in the air.

He pushed open the glass door, and the wind chime jingled. A woman who looked about thirty was working on a flower arrangement. When she heard the wind chime, she stood up and quickly put the flower arrangement down.

Chen Ge studied the woman before him. She looked very normal. “Hi, I wish to buy a bouquet of carnations.”

“Is it for your mother? What type of carnations does she like?” The woman led Chen Ge deeper into the shop.

“I don’t quite know. How about you pick the ones that you think are pretty.”

“Okay, then you can come pick it up tomorrow morning. Or I can send you a picture, and if you’re satisfied, I can have it sent to you.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge looked around the shop and found a small wooden board on top of the cashier counter. There was a picture of a cute boy pasted on it. “Is that your son?”

The woman nodded, and the emotions in her eyes were complicated. "His name is Tong Tong. He disappeared around the shop about six years ago. The police suspect that he was kidnapped by human traffickers."

"Human trafficker?" Chen Ge did not ask for the woman to elaborate. When she was spacing out, Chen Ge left the money for the bouquet on the counter. "I'm sure your boy is fine, perhaps he is thinking about you now."

Chen Ge walked out the store, not wanting to disturb the woman anymore.

"Wait a minute!" The woman suddenly called after Chen Ge.

"What is it?" While Chen Ge was surprised, the woman came out from the shop with an umbrella. "It's raining outside, take this and use it. You can return it to me tomorrow when you come to collect the bouquet."

Chen Ge thanked the woman, but he did not accept the umbrella, striding right out of the florist. The sound of the wind chime was swallowed up by the rain. Chen Ge walked around the block before entering the café across from the florist. He picked a spot that was next to the window and summoned the phone spirit. "Talk to her. She has been waiting for you."

Chen Ge passed the newly bought phone to the phone spirit. The little boy, who looked thin and vulnerable, held the phone in his two arms and stood beside the window, looking at the opposite street.

The lights in the florist went off, and the woman came out with her bag and the umbrella. Like usual, she locked the door and walked away.

Seeing her shadow disappear into the distance, the phone spirit finally picked up the phone. He thought about it for a long time and used his phone number to send a message to the woman.

"I'm sorry."

Across the street, when the woman heard the message alert on her phone. She did not pay it any heed at first. She held the umbrella in one hand and pulled out the phone with another. However, when she saw the message on screen, her body seemed to freeze.

The umbrella fell from her hand, and she stood alone in the pouring rain with the phone in her hand.

Inside the café, the phone spirit leaned against the window, and the window reflected the tears that poured down his face.

Chapter 405: No One Can Bully My Employee

The rain continued to pour, and the sight was blurred. Chen Ge sat across from the phone spirit and watched this silently. The phone spirit was one street away from his mother, but those several meters was the distance between two worlds, viewable but not touchable.

"Do you want me to bring you to meet her?" Chen Ge asked softly. The phone spirit shook his head quickly. He used his hand to wipe the tears from his face, but the tears just would not stop.

After a long time, he sent a message to Chen Ge. "Call the police, she has waited long enough."

Through the window, the phone spirit looked at the woman who stood in the rain. His hand fell on the window lightly, and he said something before disappearing. The woman on the street seemed to have heard him because she turned toward the café as if subconsciously, but she could not see the person that she wanted to see.

After the woman left, Chen Ge walked out of the café. He looked at the city covered by rain, and his expression was complicated. He had been through many things lately; first it was Xiaoxiao and her grandfather, and now it was the phone spirit and his mother.

Some people had already departed, but the people living still missed them. Perhaps it was also because of this emotion that they had hope. Leaning against the wall, Chen Ge ignored the rain that fell on his body. He was contemplating a question that had been bothering him.

What exactly is a ghost?

After he gained the black phone, he had come across many different types of ghosts, but the more he encountered, the more confused he became. He glanced at Tong Tong florist, which had closed for the night, and walked into the alley with his phone.

"Captain Yan, I want to ask you for a favor. About seven years ago, a boy by the name of Tong Tong has disappeared in Eastern Jiujiang, the police suspected he was taken by human traffickers. Can you still find the file on that case?"

Captain Yan heard the unusual tone in Chen Ge's voice, and he thought about it before replying, "The case was probably handled by Eastern Jiujiang's police force; I'll call them in a bit to ask."

"Thank you."

"Are you alright? You sound disturbed."

"I'm fine." After ten minutes, Captain Yan called Chen Ge again. "Found the case file. There was no suspect. The only information is that the car that captured Tong Tong was from Eastern Jiujiang's Li Wan City. However, the police were unable to find Tong Tong there. They suspected that the culprit had already moved him elsewhere."

"Did they investigate Pu Ming Apartments?"

"Pu Ming Apartments? Let me ask." Captain Yan sent a message to the people at Eastern Jiujiang's police station, and after a while, he replied, "They did, but they did not see the kid or hear any crying."

"Okay, I understand." Chen Ge stood in the alley, his body swallowed up by darkness.

"Are you hiding something from me?" Captain Yan sounded worried.

"It's nothing serious, just that someone has wronged my employee."

"Employee?" Captain Yan could hear the ruthlessness in Chen Ge's voice, something that he had not heard before. "Chen Ge, no matter what happened, don't act recklessly!"

"I will not act recklessly; I'm just asking for justice." After hanging up, Chen Ge got the rest of the information from the phone spirit. The human trafficker stayed at Pu Ming Apartments. After the police entered Li Wan City, he panicked. The child was crying, so afraid of being discovered, he killed Tong Tong and shoved the body and the phone into the water tank at the rooftop.

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At 11:30 pm, Eastern Jiujiang's police station received a call saying that someone had discovered the human trafficker responsible for the missing child several years ago. The caller even reconstructed the whole case for them, including the capturing, the killing, and the hiding of the body.

The police mobilized immediately. When they left the police station, they discovered a man lying unconscious by the front door. After comparing details, they realized with a shock, this man was the human trafficker!

The police hauled the man away, and Chen Ge left in the taxi. He had completed the phone spirit's wish. The phone spirit's affection toward Chen Ge had greatly increased, and Tong Tong's name appeared on the black phone as an employee of the Haunted House.

However, Chen Ge was not that happy. He had suggested to reveal certain information to Tong Tong's mother several times, but he had been denied every time. The boy did not want to stop his mother from moving on.

Chen Ge finally had a good night's sleep that night. The next day, sunlight shone into the room. He stretched and looked out the window. "It's finally a sunny day."

At 8:15 am, Xu Wan arrived at the Haunted House with breakfast. She looked like she had just woken up. Looking at Chen Ge, whose hair was cowlicked, she shook her head. "Boss, this is for you. Eat it while it's hot."

"Thank you." Chen Ge brushed his teeth and started munching on Xu Wan's breakfast offering.

At 8:25 am, Gu Feiyu rushed over from theme park entrance. He wore the new worker's tag that Uncle Xu had given him around his neck. He greeted everyone that he met. It seemed he loved this job a lot.

"Go and start the preparation, the visitors will be coming soon." Chen Ge personally helped them with the make-up and sent him into the scenarios.

There was still fifteen minutes to opening time when Director Luo came over with Uncle Xu. Accompanying them were several other park workers.

"Director Luo, why are you here?" Chen Ge had done quite a few things lately, giving Director Luo plenty of trouble.

"I came to give you something good." Director Luo pointed at the workers, who were carrying several boxes. "Do you still remember the triangulation wristband and software app I told you about?"

Chen Ge nodded and then turned to look at the boxes. "The app is done?"

"It has passed the internal test; we can use them now." Director Luo had the workers pull over a table and place the boxes on it. Many wristbands sat inside. "These one thousand wristbands can be given

away for me. You can say it's for the open beta test. In the future, the visitors will have to purchase the band on their own. The front of the box and the logo on the side has a QR code—they can download the app by scanning it directly. There's a promotion going on: the first one thousand users can apply for a discount and enjoy a ninety percent discount when they come to visit next time."

The workers were busy, and the people walked in and out of the resting hall. It looked like they were setting up some electronics.

"I'll also help you acquire a bigger monitor that can show the progress of the visitors and a brief introduction to each scenario. The proposal for the multi-purpose hall has been approved, and work will start in three days." Director Luo felt like he was playing a very serious game of chess. "I plan to remove attractions like the merry-go-round and some others, which should make it more convenient for you to expand in the future. Secondly, our current technical level is still a distance away from the futuristic park, so I plan to purchase a batch of new devices to try to narrow down this distance."

Chapter 406: Surrender

He had not met the man for a few days, but Chen Ge realized that Director Luo suddenly had new confidence in New Century Park, and this confused him.

"Director Luo, you have to think about this closely. The distance between our New Century Park and the futuristic theme park in terms of technical power cannot be resolved by buying some new devices or attractions." Chen Ge believed that Director Luo should have been more familiar with that than he was.

"Updating the attractions is to shorten the distance. The influence of your Haunted House is still growing, so the park mustn't pull you back; we have to update accordingly." Director Luo knew what Chen Ge was worried about. "The budget is already there. Don't underestimate the power that the theme park has collected over the years."

Before the workers, Director Luo always maintained his look of confidence like everything was within his control. Of all the people there, probably only Chen Ge really understood Director Luo's difficulty. The theme park already had no money, and this new asset was probably something that Director Luo collected through his connections and channels with some sacrifices.

Updating the attractions and building the multi-purpose hall required a great amount of money, but since Director Luo had said that, Chen Ge would not counter him in front of the crowd. Everyone was working to save the theme park. The futuristic theme park in Eastern Jiujiang was opening in a few weeks, and this was the most crucial moment for New Century Park. Their morale could not be shaken at a time like this.

The park opened at 9 am, and Chen Ge's Haunted House had become the park's main attraction. Thus, he had the most visitors. In just a few minutes, a long line had formed in front of the Haunted House. The visitors realized the changes in front of the Haunted House, and many downloaded the app. Initially, they were merely curious, but they slowly realized that the app was quite interesting.

The visitors that came early in the morning were mostly the Haunted House's loyal fans. They had a shared interest, and after downloading the app, they started chatting on the forum.

“I, Ol’ Zhang, have returned! This time, I will clear this one-star scenario!”

“First group to challenge three-star Coffin Village today! Bringing two girls with me!”

“Mu Yang High School looking for teammate, no heart problem and will not abandon teammates during crucial moment.”

“Fighting for the dead, protecting the living! Communication thread for Jiujiang Medical School students!”

The forum quickly became rife with activity. The visitors were all very passionate—it felt like this one app had gathered everyone with the same interest, giving them a place to share their thoughts, thus cultivating loyalty in the fans of the Haunted House. As the visitors entered the Haunted House and the ranking on the big monitor changed, the visitors waiting also became more excited.

The points earned from clearing a three-star scenario was the highest, so the number of visitors wanting to attempt three-star scenarios increased. Chen Ge did not have time to rest; he kept moving between the few underground scenarios to prevent any accidents. He busied himself until noon when Director Luo came over again. After confirming the popularity of the app, he left with a satisfied smile.

Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu left for lunch, and Chen Ge left the underground at around 2 pm. He was rather tired from so many visitors. Most visitors just passed Mu Yang High School and directly moved to challenge Third Sick Hall or Coffin Village. This meant that the screams had not stopped from the underground.

Chen Ge ran back and forth between the few scenarios. He had just helped the visitors out from the Third Sick Hall when he heard the blood-curdling scream from Coffin Village. In the end, he had to ask help from Ol’ Zhou’s group. He did not need them to scare people but needed them as ushers to prevent the wandering visitors from running into accidents.

The moment they appeared, they were ready to do something big, but after strong persuasion from Chen Ge, they finally surrendered to his demand. Afraid that their faces might be recognized, Chen Ge ran to the changing room to pick out outfits that would cover up their faces before letting them go. Chen Ge sighed in relief with the help of the three ghosts.

No one cleared the three-star scenarios, and no visitors fainted from the scare—this was the best solution for Chen Ge so far. The few scenarios opened at the same time, and Chen Ge felt greatly pressured. He really needed a managerial ghost. “If I have nothing to do tonight, I should return to Mu Yang High School.”

Chen Ge sent off the last visitor at 6 pm. He called Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu, telling them to remove the make-up and leave work. After dealing with everything, Chen Ge returned to the staff breakroom and climbed into bed. “After a whole day of work, I don’t feel that tired. I wonder if my body is changing or if I’ve gotten used to this type of high-stress lifestyle?”

Just as Chen Ge was wondering what to do that night, his phone rang. He realized that it was a call from Lee Zheng.

“Do you need my help now?” Chen Ge was working with the police for the first time. He did not know what he was expected to do.

“Chen Ge, I have something to tell you.” Lee Zheng seemed to be at the office—the background was quiet. “Liu Zhe has just come to surrender.”

“Surrender?” Chen Ge sat up in bed. With Liu Zhe’s selfish personality, he would not do something like this.

“We suspect that Doctor Gao has realized something and decided to give up on Liu Zhe and push the blame onto him.”

“That’s impossible. That Liu Zhe has a lot of resentment toward Doctor Gao. If something really happened, he would have dragged Doctor Gao down with him.” Chen Ge managed the Haunted House and would come into contact with many people, so he was a good people reader.

“Let me finish. Even though Liu Zhe came to confess his crimes, his condition is very off. He looks very distracted like he is in a state of sleep-walking.” Lee Zheng also felt that something was off. “We are thinking along the line of hypnosis or mental suggestion, but Jiujiang doesn’t have this type of expert, and we cannot do anything for now.”

“Meaning the trail on Liu Zhe has gone completely cold?” Liu Zhe’s condition was similar to Liu Xianxian and Ma Yin that day when they returned to their bedroom. Chen Ge believed that this was the doing of that ashy-skinned woman.

“Unfortunately, that is the case until he recovers.” There was helplessness in Lee Zheng’s voice. This time, their opponent had covered up everything, not giving them a chance. “Therefore, we hope you can gain contact with Gao Ru Xue silently and the actual details that we need you to get from her. I will send you an email tomorrow; this call is just a reminder.”

“Of course, I understand.” After receiving the black phone, Chen Ge had troubled the police many times, and now that they needed his help, of course, he would not reject it.

Chapter 407: Four Strange Events

After getting the reply from Chen Ge, Lee Zheng sounded more relaxed. The man also could not understand why he would feel pressure whenever he talked to Chen Ge. “If there’s nothing else, I shall hang up. Rest early.”

Lee Zheng was about to hang up, Chen Ge said, “Wait a minute, I have a question.”

“Yes?”

“When Liu Zhe surrendered, did he give up the location where he hid the body, and was the body found?”

“It is as we thought. Liu Zhe was university staff, so he used the convenience of his identity to have the students move the statue into the underground storeroom. He went there later at night to remove the body from inside the statue and transport it to the morgue.” Lee Zheng’s voice lowered like he remembered something traumatic.

“Meaning you have entered the underground morgue?” Chen Ge listened closely. The underground morgue was a three-star scenario and was the last mission to unlock the four-star scenario School of the Afterlife, so any information related to the underground morgue was crucial to him.

“I entered the morgue with the university staff this morning and found the body in morgue no. 5. We ran a DNA comparison, and she was indeed Ma Yin’s missing sister.”

When Lee Zheng said that, Chen Ge’s black phone vibrated. He took it out and saw that there was a new message. He did not read it immediately but continued to question Lee Zheng. “Brother Zheng, can you tell me about the layout of the underground morgue? Or do you have the map?”

The underground had complicated terrain, and a map would be important. Lee Zheng was thirty so, it was not out of place for Chen Ge to refer to him as Brother Zheng. However, for some reason, when he heard that, the hair on the back of his head stood like something bad was about to happen. “We don’t have a map as we had the university staff with us, but I do know the rough layout. Why are you asking about this?”

“I’m just curious.” Chen Ge moved the topic around before Lee Zheng finally gave him the information he needed.

“The underground morgue at the university was the biggest underground morgue in Jiujiang, perhaps even in Northern China. It had been in use since the university started, so it had more than several decades of history already. When we entered, the staff told us not to wander off because the tracks were very confusing, but based on their function, they could be generally separated into three types.

“One was the white corridors that were used to transport the bodies, another was the unpainted corridors for people to walk, and the last type was painted red. The staff did not tell me what the red corridors were for, but he did remind us to not walk down the red corridors.” Lee Zheng’s words intrigued Chen Ge. He was hearing about these red corridors for the first time. “Could it be due to the influence of the ‘door’?”

“Hmm, what did you say?” Lee Zheng did not catch Chen Ge’s mumbling.

“Nothing, please continue.”

“How big the underground morgue was, the staff were not clear. There were six morgues on the records, but after we entered the place, we only walked a third of the distance, and we had already passed three small morgues and two middle-sized morgues.” Lee Zheng sounded like he had something to do because he picked up his speed. “The largest morgues are deeper in, and I hear they are body pools. Meaning it’s a big pool filled with formalin, and the dead bodies are left soaking in the pool. When they are needed for experiments, they have to be hauled up to land. However, that was something used many years ago; they have been abandoned. Nowadays, they use freezers to store the bodies.”

Lee Zheng gave Chen Ge a brief introduction of the morgue, but it was not of much use to Chen Ge. The place was too complicated and without a guide, Chen Ge felt like it would be very dangerous if he entered alone.

“Brother Zheng, when you all were down there, did you hear any weird noises? Or did anything weird happened?” The underground morgue was similar to his own Haunted House’s underground parking lot—the ghosts could come up in the day because the place was hidden from the sunlight.

“Anything weird?” Lee Zheng paused to think. “Now that you mention it, there are a few. We were passing through the unpainted corridors for people, but when we passed a white corridor, we heard something that sounded like clapping at the end of the corridor.”

Chen Ge was interested. “Can you tell me in more detail?”

“It sounded like something was clapping at the other end of the corridor, but when we passed it, there was no one. However, there was this weird observation where the white corridors were cleaner than the unpainted corridors, like people still used them to this day.” Chen Ge took out a pen and paper to jot down all the details that Lee Zheng gave him.

“The second strange event was, when we passed Morgue No. 1, a member saw someone moving inside the morgue, but the morgue was locked, and we should have been the only ones underground at that time. We asked one of the staff, and he said that the member was probably too tired. The underground morgue was stuffy, so the member probably mistook a shadow for a person. He even consoled my member, saying that he would get used to it.

“The third strange event happened after we entered Morgue No. 5. When everyone was looking for the body described by Liu Zhe, the door suddenly closed on its own. It felt like someone close it from the outside, trying to lock us in.

“The last thing happened when we prepared to leave with the body. We exited Morgue No. 5 and retraced our steps, but the time it took us to leave was twice the time it took us to enter.” The fourth strange event confused Lee Zheng the most. Even now, he could not figure out why. “You might not believe me, but it was a strange feeling, like the corridors had been stretched.”

“You make it sound so scary.” Chen Ge looked at the paper and the details that he had jotted down.

“Not quite scary.” Lee Zheng seemed to hear something in Chen Ge’s voice, and he changed his tone. “Chen Ge that place is particularly dangerous. Don’t you come up with some weird thought.”

“What kind of weird thought could I have?” Chen Ge was speechless. “Do you think I’m that kind of person?”

“I’m just reminding you not to go there alone. I still have something to do, so I’ll hang up now.” Lee Zheng then ended the call. Chen Ge sat in the room alone. He realized that he had underestimated the danger of the underground morgue.

“Both Coffin Village and the Third Sick Hall were three-star scenarios, but the scariest presence of the place had been removed due to some reason, and I was lucky in that sense.”

When Chen Ge arrived at the Third Sick Hall, of the ten patients only three remained, and it was even luckier for Coffin Village; the strongest ghost had been in Jiang Ling’s body, and she had meant Chen Ge no harm.

“A full three-star scenario is still too dangerous for my current state.” Chen Ge turned to look at his shadow, and he felt conflicted.

Chapter 408: Liu Zhe’s Special Hobby [2 in 1]

If this three-star scenario had been at an open space, Chen Ge would not have been so conflicted. With the help of his workers, if he could not win the fight, at least he could have made a swift retreat. However, the problem was, the morgue was underground. If something happened, there was no place for him to run, and there was a high chance that he might be trapped down there.

Holding the pen and paper, Chen Ge made a quick assessment of the baleful Specters that he had on his side. “Technically speaking, my Haunted House can be considered a three-star scenario. I have many ghosts and most of them have special powers, but generally, their combat ability is very weak.”

Eighty percent of the Haunted House’s combat power came from Zhang Ya, fifteen percent was Xu Yin, and the last five percent was everyone else. “I have the power to force my way through other three-star scenarios, but I’ll need to wait for Zhang Ya to wake up first.”

Honestly, there were ways to make Zhang Ya wake up sooner—Chen Ge only needed to find other female ghosts to chat with. However, should Zhang Ya wake up from that provocation, he might be the one who died. Chen Ge lay in bed. He told himself that he probably should not rely on Zhang Ya so much, but it felt nice having someone to depend on.

“The other Specters at the Haunted House have potential to improve. Xu Yin’s heart hasn’t been dyed red yet, and he is just one step away from becoming a real Red Specter. This last step should be related to the door.” Turning the pen in his hand, Chen Ge thought back to the door at the Third Sick Hall. “Should I go ask Men Nan’s main persona? That boy is a door-pusher, so he should know plenty of information.”

Chen Ge was subconsciously averse to the world behind the door, but he had already lost that choice a long time ago. “The chairperson of the ghost stories society has at least two Red Specters, Xiong Qing and his wife, so I have to be prepared to face two Red Specters at once.”

Chen Ge looked out the window at the darkening sky. “Since I have nothing to do tonight, I should pay the Third Sick Hall a visit.”

After packing his backpack, Chen Ge glanced at the black phone before he left. When Lee Zheng mentioned the missing person’s body had been found, the black phone vibrated, and Chen Ge had not read the new message. He clicked the message open.

“The Special Visitor’s Mission, The Missing Wife, has been completed. Specter’s Favored, congratulations for unlocking the scary scenario—Wife’s Room!

“Wife’s Room (One-star Scream Factor): I thought that he would marry me, but he shoved me inside the statue and placed me inside the morgue that could see no sun.”

The hidden mission for the special visitor Liu Xianxian had been completed, but there were many unanswered questions. For example, why would Liu Xianxian force herself to come into contact with these scary things? And why would she force herself to smile when she was fearful?

Chen Ge knew that Liu Xianxian was hiding something from him. The girl's relationship with Liu Zhe was not simple, so he might be able to get some information on Liu Zhe from her. "Now that Liu Zhe is mentally unstable, I should focus my investigation on Liu Xianxian. The weird reactions that she has been showing should be related to Liu Zhe. This might be a useful opening."

Carrying his backpack, Chen Ge stopped at the entrance to the Haunted House. After some thought, he changed his mind and hopped into a taxi to head to Western Jiujiang Medical University. When he arrived, Chen Ge walked into the campus like he usually did.

"Hey, what are you doing?" A tall and thin security guard stopped Chen Ge. The man looked like he was not in a good mood, and his expression was dark.

"Going to look for someone." Chen Ge's gaze scanned the tag that hung before the man's chest. The man was one of the suspects that Lee Zheng had told Chen Ge about, Zhang Li. Before Liu Zhe surrendered, Lee Zheng had also suspected Zhang Li. On the night that Ma Yin's sister disappeared, it was Zhang Li who had been on the night shift.

"The security at the campus is heavy lately, and outsiders are not allowed into the campus. You need to call that person out to meet you." Zhang Li was not going to give Chen Ge any leeway—that was probably one of the reasons he was not popular among the students.

Chen Ge did not waste time arguing with Zhang Li. He called Liu Xianxian and told her to meet him at the campus entrance.

"Boss Chen, you want to talk to me?" Liu Xianxian had a good impression of Chen Ge. He was a nice person, friendly and passionate, and most importantly, he had saved her life once.

Chen Ge nodded and led them to the teahouse that they had met up at the previous time. He asked for a private room. After the door was closed, the room became very quiet.

After a moment's silence, it was Chen Ge who spoke first. "How well do you know Liu Zhe?"

The mention of Liu Zhe's name made Liu Xianxian's face fall. The color seemed to seep from her eyes as she told Chen Ge of her story with Liu Zhe. Listening to Liu Xianxian's description, Liu Zhe was a perfect man. He had no weakness, but his overwhelming memory of his wife was the reason he was so hesitant to accept a new romantic relationship.

After hearing what she had to say, Chen Ge looked at Liu Xianxian and asked his second question. "That day, when we were inside the underground storeroom, Ma Yin risked her life to protect you, and when it was at the most dangerous, she did not give up on you. Now, I'm asking you a question. One day, if both Ma Yin and Liu Zhe fell into the water and you could only save one, who would you save?"

It was a very clichéd question, but Chen Ge sounded very serious.

"I don't know." Liu Xianxian picked up the tea cup from the table. She was feeling uncomfortable from Chen Ge's stare. It felt like Chen Ge's eyes were like knives, puncturing her heart.

“Liu Zhe has just handed himself in to the police.” Chen Ge cut right into the main reason she was there. “The killer that murdered Ma Yin’s sister several year ago was him.”

The tea cup clattered to the ground, and the scalding tea splashed all over Liu Xianxian, but the girl seemed like she could not feel the pain. Her eyes widened as she stared blindly at Chen Ge. “This happened two hours ago, and Liu Zhe is in police custody.”

“Impossible!” Liu Xianxian sprung up from her seat. The man that she loved was the killer of her best friend’s sister—that was quite hard for her to accept. Seeing Liu Xianxian’s reaction, Chen Ge sighed in relief. He was afraid that Liu Xianxian would choose to help the man cover up the truth even though she knew Liu Zhe was the killer.

“Things have not reached the worst situation yet.” Chen Ge tried to make Liu Xianxian calm down and told her the whole process of how Liu Zhe committed the crime. Before the truth, all arguments and lies were powerless, and Liu Xianxian sat across from Chen Ge dumbly.

“Actually, I believe you should have noticed the various problems surrounding Liu Zhe, or else you would not have gone to search for that statue to ask whether the man still loved you or not.” Chen Ge gave Liu Xianxian some time to process the truth before he continued with his questions. “When you entered my Haunted House for the first time, I noticed that when you were facing scary things, even if you were really terrified, you would not hide from them. In fact, you would try your best to smile at them. Ma Yin said that this change happened to you in the second year of university. Is this change related to Liu Zhe as well?”

After a long time, Liu Xianxian nodded, and she told Chen Ge everything. “Actually, when I saw Liu Zhe for the first time, I already had a crush on him. He is a caring man and knows how to take good care of others. When I was with him, I was very happy and very satisfied.

“Everything was going fine until the night of the second semester of the second year. We had just come back from a movie and parted at the campus entrance. I was halfway back to the dormitory when I realized he left his glove in my purse. I ran back to find him but found out he did not return to the place he was staying but sneaked into the western part of campus.

“The way he looked so nervous was different from how he was usually. I was worried that he was caught in something bad, so I followed him quietly. The night was exceptionally dark, and I saw him sneak into the lab building that was supposed to be sealed. When I got closer, I heard him in the middle of a conversation with someone with terms like dead bodies and blood vessels being thrown around.

“I climbed onto the window to sneak a look, and that was a scene that I would not forget for the rest of my life. Liu Zhe was standing in front of a specimen box, talking to a human head that was encased in it. I never thought that the man I love could be a madman, and I almost screamed.

“I bit on my fingers to stop the scream from escaping. The plan was to sneak away unnoticed. Liu Zhe was facing away from me, so he did not notice me, but the human head inside the box seemed to have stopped me!

“The heavy eyelids that were supposed to be close moved open an inch, and without any outside force, the human head bounced against the glass lightly. Then Liu Zhe seemed to have understood something,

and he turned to run out of the room. I knew then that I had been discovered. I tried my best to run out of the building, but I was still caught up by Liu Zhe.

"I was so scared, afraid that he might do something crazy like those mad people in movies. However, to my surprise, Liu Zhe stopped when he was about three to four meters behind me. Using a painful and hopeless tone, he told me his story.

"Seven years ago, after his wife's car accident, he had become a different person. He swore he could sense the presence of those things, and he could even hear his wife calling his name every morning like she used to do." Liu Xianxian looked at her hands that were red from the scalding tea, and her voice was raw. "I was touched by his loyalty. This type of man should not be judged by the world, so I promised to help him keep this secret."

"He has taken advantage of your kindness. Based on my investigation, Liu Zhe has not been married, and what he told you was what happened to his brother-in-law." Chen Ge pressed the service bell and had the server come over to help Liu Xianxian with her burned hands.

"I know, I realized some things after a while." After the server left, Liu Xianxian continued her story. "After spending some more time with Liu Zhe, I started to notice some weird things about him, like he would enter the underground morgue every Wednesday."

"Enter the underground morgue every Wednesday?" Chen Ge took a sip of the tea. Wednesdays were the day of the week when the ghost stories society would meet up.

"Yes, but no one knew what he was doing there. I tried to question him about it, but he would explode and get angry at me, saying that he did not want to do it either. He was forced; he was also a victim." Liu Xianxian took out her phone and found a recording for Chen Ge to listen to. "I didn't understand why he needed to get so angry so during one of our arguments, so I silently recorded it."

Chen Ge put on the ear buds and listened to the recording for a while. Other than anger, there was also traces of nervousness and fear in Liu Zhe's voice. He sounded like he was afraid of something. "Was there anything else curious about the man in his everyday life?"

Liu Xianxian thought about it. "Liu Zhe's closet radiates this formalin smell, and whenever he cooks, the dishes have a similar smell. The stench seems to have seeped into his body, so he has made a habit of putting on heavy cologne before leaving the house."

Liu Xianxian hesitated before she exposed something even scarier. "Liu Zhe is not a medical student, but there was a lot of research on autopsies and death study on his computer. His interests and hobbies are rather unique, or some would call it scary. It seems he is an adrenaline seeker. The more dangerous something is, the more excited he becomes."

Her face forced a smile, and Liu Xianxian touched the corner of her upturned lips. "You are right in the sense that this is also because of him. He once told me that there are many scary presences in this world that are beyond human comprehension. However, if we turn to smile at them, they will not harm us."

"Is that why you have been trying so hard to train yourself?"

“Liu Zhe has been very nice to me; he bought me many things and took good care of me. I lost my father when I was very young, and the feeling he gave me is very unique. Perhaps I was possessed at the time, but for his sake, I was willing to do anything.”

Chen Ge felt like he had found out everything he needed to on Liu Zhe, so he jumped over that topic.

“How well do you know Liu Zhe’s brother-in-law?”

“Honestly, not much.” Liu Xianxian shook her head. “He would go far away from me whenever he answered his call. He seems to be afraid of his brother-in-law. Oh, right, there was one time when Liu Zhe had an argument with his brother-in-law. At the time, Liu Zhe practically begged the man with tears in his eyes, saying he did not want to go through those red corridors anymore.”

“Then what did his brother-in-law say?” The underground morgue’s corridors were separated into three types; Lee Zheng had told Chen Ge that before.

“His brother-in-law’s voice was low, so I couldn’t hear it clearly, but he seemed to be saying that everything would be fine if he did not make a sound after entering the red corridors.”

“So, one needs to be quiet inside the red corridors. Okay, I understand it now.” Chen Ge nodded. Liu Xianxian had inadvertently revealed some important information to him. He asked some more questions, and after making sure that he did not leave out any details, Chen Ge sent Liu Xianxian back to the university. Before they parted, he reminded her to stay in the dormitory if she had nothing else to do and to not go anywhere with few people.

Chen Ge called the taxi to drive him to the Third Sick Hall. Inside the taxi, Chen Ge keyed in all the information on his phone. He was preparing a guide to take down the underground morgue. Chen Ge arrived at the Third Sick Hall at around 11 pm. This time, he had the whole group of employees with him, so he was not afraid of a fight with Men Nan’s main persona.

After paying the fare, Chen Ge hopped over the wall and ran to the third building. The last time he was there was several weeks ago, but the place had not changed. Pulling off the seal on the door, Chen Ge pushed open the steel door and stood before the door to Room 3.

Back then, Men Nan’s main persona had said that whenever midnight struck, the blood door would open for a minute, and if Chen Ge wanted to find him, he could come at this time. Standing outside Room 3, as time ticked by, Chen Ge became increasingly nervous. This was the first time he would reach into the world behind the door actively.

His palms sweated, and his heart raced. Chen Ge stared at the door of Room 3. When the first blood vessel appeared, he pressed the play button on the recorder.

Chapter 409: Aren’t We Friends?

Blood leaked out from the edges, dyeing the whole door red. Chen Ge held the hammer in one hand and pushed the blood door open. The world before his eyes turned cloudy, and his body was enveloped by a red mist; it felt like he had walked into a viscous liquid. Waving the hammer, Chen Ge took a shallow breath, and the smell of blood sucked into his nostrils, making him slightly uncomfortable.

“Whenever I enter the world behind the door, I’m weirdly worried like something inside this world is calling me.” Chen Ge called out Xu Yin to follow behind him before he felt better. “The world behind the door should influence Red Specters somewhat. This place is filled with various negative emotions, stacked with human despair. The longer one stays here, the greater the resentment will become, making it more difficult to seek salvation.”

With Xu Yin’s company, Chen Ge felt confident. He pushed the doors to each room open, but he could not find Men Nan.

“Where did he go?” Chen Ge walked to the end of the corridor and saw the door that led to the electrotherapy room. “Last time I was here, this is where I met Men Nan.”

He pushed the door open. The cold bed was covered with various blood red equipment, and all the equipment’s circuit was connected to an old man’s head. Chen Ge glanced at it and realized that the man was familiar. The old man was the former director of the Third Sick Hall. He had escaped to the world behind the door with the patients to ambush Men Nan because he suffered from a terminal disease.

“How are you doing, old director?” Chen Ge walked over with a friendly smile like he had happened across an old friend. The old man looked much weaker and tired, but even in his condition, when he heard Chen Ge’s voice, his eyes flew open.

“You...” He saw Chen Ge and remembered the incredibly violent female Red Specter, and the words that he wanted to say got stuck in his throat.

“What’s wrong? What do you want to tell me?” Chen Ge sat down next to the old man’s skull, and his tone was light like he was visiting a neighbor. The old man glanced at Chen Ge, and his eyes turned like he was coming up with a plan. However, he soon saw Xu Yin, who walked out from behind Chen Ge.

“Another Red Specter?” The red eyes glared at the old man—the evil intention in Xu Yin’s eyes was on full display. It felt as if with a command from Chen Ge, the old man’s head would be torn into pieces.

Collecting his thoughts, the old man looked at the pair of bandits, and his voice sounded even weaker. “Why are you back here?”

“Where is Men Nan’s main persona? I have something to ask him.” Chen Ge was not worried about the old director’s trick. He might have plenty of dirty tricks, but in terms of power, he was no match for a Red Specter.

“He should be on the fourth floor now. The windows there have been broken, so he’s fixing them.” The man spoke quickly like he was trying to make Xu Yin and Chen Ge leave as soon as possible.

“You should know the consequence of lying to me.” Chen Ge believed that the chance of the old man lying was low, but he was a cautious man.

“Why would I lie to you?” The old man sighed. He had a feeling that Chen Ge was merely seeking a reason to annoy him.

"If you say so." Chen Ge led Xu Yin out of the room and walked past the patients that filled up the corridor to the fourth floor. Once he exited the stairwell, Chen Ge noticed that something was wrong. The mist on the fourth floor was much thicker, and the smell of blood in the air was pungent.

"Has there been an accident? Have the people from the society been here?" Chen Ge pushed open the doors on both sides carefully. When he almost reached the end of the corridor, he saw a small figure walk out from one of the sick bays. The shirt that was dripping with blood was a great contrast to his babyish face. He was surrounded by the blood mist like he was the one that caused it.

"Chen Ge?" The mist gently dispersed, and when Men Nan raised his head and saw Chen Ge, he frowned. Honestly, he did not know why he frowned, but he knew that whenever he saw this man, trouble would not be faraway.

"I heard from the director that you're here, so I came to see you." Chen Ge glanced inside the room that Men Nan had just walked out from and saw the window in the room seem like it could not be closed.

"Just say whatever you want to." Men Nan might have looked like a child, but his IQ was beyond normal. He was a genius, but he had grown up inside a mental hospital, so his worldview was different from others.

"You're being too aloof now." Chen Ge led Xu Yin to walk toward Men Nan. "You do not have much family in Jiujiang, and I can be considered your only friend, so isn't it normal for me to come visit you?"

Stopping beside the boy, Chen Ge squatted down to put himself at Men Nan's eye level.

"We're not friends. I have no friend and don't need one." Men Nan took steps back like he was cautious of Chen Ge. "You came to find me because of that Specter behind you, right? He's missing a heart before he can become a Red Specter. You don't know how to do that, so you came to ask me."

Before Chen Ge said anything, Men Nan had already guessed everything. Men Nan took another few more steps back to maintain a safe distance from Chen Ge. "There exists a small set of normal Specters that have the potential to become Red Specters. Such ghosts normally have a great resentment at time of death and are highly aggressive. They are very murderous or in other words, extremely dangerous, uncontrollable maniac."

"But aren't you a Red Specter, too? How come I feel like that description doesn't fit you?" Chen Ge looked at Men Nan, who had sidled away from him like he was afraid of him.

"I was talking about ghosts like him who have the potential to become Red Specters. People like myself who pushed open the 'door' will naturally turn into a Red Specter after death." Men Nan let slipped a great secret.

"I didn't know that. Then doesn't that mean each door represents a Red Specter?" Chen Ge stood up. He had a feeling that he would be able to get a lot of useful information from Men Nan that night.

"I don't know how doors are formed, but I can be sure every door has at least one Red Specter behind it." Men Nan glanced at Xu Yin. "For people like him who are about to become a Red Specter, there are only two methods. Make him become the owner of a door or feed him a fully-established Red Specter."

“Isn’t that too difficult?” Chen Ge shook his head; both methods were too hard. He had a door at his Haunted House, but he did not know anything about the world behind it and did not dare explore it.

Eating a Red Specter was even harder. Other than the story, he only knew three Red Specters at Jiujiang—the female well inside the well at Coffin Village, the woman at the tunnel, and Men Nan.

Each Specter was more malicious than the one before it. Men Nan looked the weakest, but the boy was the cleverest. Even the reason he told Chen Ge this information now could be a test.

Chapter 410: The Spectre’s Heart

“Are there any other methods? The only spot that has not been dyed red for Xu Yin is his heart, so I’m sure this is a unique situation, right?”

When Chen Ge was speaking, Men Nan had been staring at him. After confirming Chen Ge did not have the intention to murder him, his expression softened a lot.

“There are indeed other methods, but compared to these two methods, it is more troublesome.” Men Nan only reached the top of Chen Ge’s knees, but he did not sound much different from an adult. “Normal Specters need to attach themselves to something to ensure that they will not dissipate as time goes by; however, Red Specters do not have this concern. The reason is because a Red Specter has a heart.”

“Heart?”

“Or the ghost’s equivalent of a heart.” Men Nan sighed. “Or anger, or vengeance, or resentment, when a certain emotion reaches its maximum, it will become a Specter’s heart. This heart will aid them in leaving the object of possession and enable them to exist in the physical world. The baleful Specter behind you has consumed enough ghosts, but he has not found his ‘heart’. If he can find that ‘heart’, then he can easily become a Red Specter.”

He glanced at Xu Yin, and the young face was filled with confusion. “The Specter you have is mixed with different kinds of emotions. There is despair, pain, regret, and a desire that I cannot understand. It is rare for a ghost to have so many intertwining emotions, and that should be the reason he is not yet a Red Specter.”

Hearing Men Nan say that, Chen Ge realized that Xu Yin was indeed different from other Specters. He listened to his order fully and did not ask for anything in return. At Fang Hwa Apartments, Xu Yin almost sacrificed himself to stop the society’s Red Specter. Chen Ge wondered, why would Xu Yin be so committed? Just because he had once saved him?

It appeared like Xu Yin was forcing himself to believe everything that Chen Ge said; he trusted Chen Ge unconditionally like he was trying to prove a point. Chen Ge could still remember the first time he saw Xu Yin. At the time, he had just been slightly stronger than a normal ghost, and he could not even defeat the thin monster from the society. However, even when he was at his weakest, as long as Chen Ge gave the order, he would follow it without considering the consequences like he was seeking death.

“The greater the pain, the stronger he becomes. Perhaps I’ve been underestimating Xu Yin.” Chen Ge felt like he had a need to have a chat with Xu Yin, but not there. Men Nan’s main persona was very clever. Before he joined the Haunted House, Chen Ge did not want to reveal too many trump cards to the boy.

“The simpler the emotions, the easier one can become a Red Specter. Similarly, when a negative emotion has reached its full potential, one can become a door-pusher.” Men Nan felt like he has said a lot that night, so he waved at Chen Ge. “I still have something else to do, so I won’t be walking you out. See you again.”

“It’s not often that I come to visit, why are you so insistent to chase me away? After all, I did save your life.” Chen Ge walked closer to Men Nan with Xu Yin.

“What are you doing?” Men Nan became alert immediately.

“Don’t worry, I just want to make a comparison.” Chen Ge pointed at his shadow. “There is another Red Specter living in my shadow. Can you tell how she became a Red Specter?”

Chen Ge had always been curious about Zhang Ya. Because of her disappearance, the scream factor for Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy instantly dropped by one-star. Therefore, before Zhang Ya swallowed the old director and the Red Specters from the society, she could already hold up the entire three-star scenario on her own.

Men Nan stared at Chen Ge’s shadow for a long time, and his face suddenly turned very nervous. “I can sense something familiar from the Red Specter in your shadow. She should be similar to me. We both pushed open a door when we were alive.”

“Zhang Ya is also a door-pusher?” Chen Ge thought back to Zhang Ya’s history, and he shook his head. “The place that she haunted doesn’t have a door though.”

After Chen Ge said that, Men Nan’s expression became even more nervous. He slowly retreated into the blood mist. “My feeling is never wrong. If she is not the door-pusher then she must have consumed a door-pusher!”

Men Nan’s body slowly dissipated. He realized that he was afraid of Chen Ge. This man was like a walking monster den. “I’m warning you, don’t have any silly ideas. The door-pusher can garner two hundred percent power in the world behind the door.” Men Nan thought about it and probably realized that number was still not enough to fight Zhang Ya, so he changed his words. “The door at the Third Sick Hall has been broken by those few mental patients. If I’m not here to watch over the door, the consequence would be unimaginable.”

Chen Ge had always been curious about the world behind the door, so he followed Men Nan’s words and asked, “What kind of consequence? The monsters behind the door will escape into the real world?”

“You’re underestimating the world behind the door. This blood red world is filled with various negative emotions and the memories abandoned by living humans. If the door is not closely watched over, these things will slowly seep into the real world. As the gap deepens, something very scary will appear.” Men Nan led Chen Ge into the room where the window could not close. The window frame was intertwined

with blood vessels that knitted into human faces. "I cannot mention their name in this world, but you only need to know they are different from normal Specters."

Men Nan pulled a vessel from the frame, and it made a human scream. He passed the vessel to Chen Ge as if he was trying to tell Chen Ge something. When he touched the blood vessel, a despairing and painful memory flooded his mind. The memory's owner had a face that was similar to the one formed by the vessels. He had been chased before being horribly murdered.

"Each blood vessel is a horrible memory." Men Nan leaned on the window and looked into the world. "This is a fully blood red world."

Men Nan tried to tell Chen Ge something, but he did not dare say it in detail. Chen Ge did not quite get it, so he could only commit what the boy had said to memory. Chen Ge still had many questions to ask Men Nan, but the boy did not have the patience and quickly sent Chen Ge out the door.

Whenever Men Nan opened the door, he would be vulnerable for a period of time. Chen Ge memorized that as well. That seemed to be the weakness for the door-pushers.

After leaving the Third Sick Hall, Chen Ge walked on the highway for a long time before he ran into a kind person. The man dropped him somewhere close to the city, and Chen Ge called for a taxi to drive him to Mu Yang High School.