

Horrors 411

Chapter 411: Charity and Sin

"It's only 2 am; there's still time." Chen Ge took out his phone to look through the stuff that he had recorded. He was considering how to complete the mission at the underground morgue.

The passenger wanted to go to an abandoned school in the middle of the night, and that caused great pressure on the driver. With sweat running down his face, he kept studying Chen Ge through the rear-view mirror.

Chen Ge felt uncomfortable being scrutinized so closely. He suspected that if he continued to do this, he might be going on the blacklist of the taxi company at Jiujiang.

"Looks like I should consider buying a car, but I don't have a driver's license. Or I should try to find a Specter that knows how to drive." The truck driver that Chen Ge had met in Eastern Jiujiang flashed across his mind; the man was quite suitable. "After completing the mission at the underground morgue, I should pay Eastern Jiujiang a visit. If the truck driver is willing to join the Haunted House, I can save the money on buying a car."

Finding a potential employee, Chen Ge could not help but smile. Chen Ge arrived at Mu Yang High School at 2:40 am. He waded through the brush and soon found the school hiding in the darkness.

"This place is only a two-star scenario, but how could it feel creepier than the Third Sick Hall?" Chen Ge pulled open the backpack. He was there to ask the old principal for his help, so he did not want to make it look like he came with aggression in mind. However, without the hammer in his hands, Chen Ge could not calm down. Holding the hammer, Chen Ge pressed the recorder and entered the school. "The old principal once appeared in the sealed classroom."

The bodies inside the well had been discovered, and after the police left, it had been a long time since a living person returned to this place. The grass had swallowed up the school grounds, and Mu Yang High School had returned to its original state.

Walking down the charred corridor, Chen Ge entered the education block. He pushed open the door to the sealed classroom and looked inside. The tables and chairs were arranged neatly, and like how he did on his first visit, Chen Ge sat in the middle of the room.

There was weird writing on the blackboard, various senseless requests were carved on the table, the windows rattled slightly, and the wind blew into from the cracks on the glass. Nothing had changed, but the questions in Chen Ge's mind were different from the previous time he was there.

"Where could the old principal be hiding?" Chen Ge did not have any bad intention toward the old principal—he just wanted them to have a reunion. After thinking for a while, Chen Ge removed the ballpoint pen from his backpack. Sitting there, Chen Ge started playing the Pen Spirit game.

"Pen Spirit, Pen Spirit, you are my spirit from my previous life, and I am your spirit in this life. Can you tell me where Mu Yang High School's first principal is?"

The ballpoint pen stood perpendicularly on the table, and after some hesitation, she wrote, "Office."

Chen Ge nodded when he saw the word. He felt like the Pen Spirit had found a sense of belonging in the Haunted House and even pride; he felt comforted by that. He stood up and left the sealed classroom. Chen Ge walked to the office block. He looked through every room and found the principal's room at the end of the corridor.

To leave a good impression on the principal, Chen Ge knocked on the door five times, and after hearing no answer, he used the hammer to knock it down. Chen Ge then realized that the room was quite empty. "The old principal built Mu Yang High School from the ground up, so he shouldn't have left this place."

Perhaps the timing was not right, or perhaps he had some reasons to not show up. "In his life, the old principal was a nice person. After death, he came back to take care of the students because he was worried. Now that I'm taking care of the students, could he have moved on before he had no other reason to stay in this world anymore?"

Chen Ge thought about it and realized that the possibility of that was not zero. Chen Ge stepped into the room. The principal's office was tidy; other than the table, chair, and a shelf, there was nothing else.

"The Pen Spirit must have her reasons for telling me to come to this office. Could it be that the old principal knows that I'm looking for him so he left already?" The image of a fat old man appeared in Chen Ge's mind, and he was wrought with uncertainty. He walked to the table to pull the drawers open. The first drawer had several certificates for city-level competitions. Mu Yang High School had few students and teachers, and the students did not really score good marks. Normally, when they were invited to competitions, they were there to take up the last place. The number of certificates that they had won was little, but the old principal had kept every single one of them. "The old principal really did want to build a good school, but he couldn't do it alone."

Chen Ge opened the second drawer. It was filled with appreciation letters. Most of them came from students, and some were for donations of outside parties. "He even kept these things."

After rummaging through those letters, he did not find anything useful.

He pulled open the last drawer. It had a pair of reading glasses and several thick account books. "Contribution and donation statistics?"

Chen Ge flipped through the books, and when he saw the name on the first line, he was stunned.

"Jiujiang Mental Illness Research Center, Doctor Gao?"

To make sure that this was the Doctor Gao whom he knew, Chen Ge went online to search for it. "Indeed, this is Gao Ru Xue's father."

Flipping through the books, Doctor Gao had always been the top donor every month, and this changed Chen Ge's impression of the man again. There were donations from different organizations in the latter half of the book. Chen Ge knew about those because they always made a big deal out of the donations like they could not wait for the whole world to know about their charity. However, in reality, their donations were much lower than Doctor Gao's.

Doctor Gao did not once mention that he was so charitable. "Could someone like this be the chairperson for the society?"

Chen Ge stood next to the table. If Doctor Gao was really the chairperson of the ghost stories society, then he had to be the most complicated person that Chen Ge had ever met. "On one hand, he is supporting charity, helping patients, but on the other, he murders and aids the monsters behind the door. What is his real purpose?"

Chen Ge could not fathom Doctor Gao's thoughts. The best psychologist in Jiujiang had his own thoughts buried deep in his heart. The last account book contained the replies that Doctor Gao had written to the children. These were all kept by the old principal. Chen Ge found a picture that was slid between the pages.

The picture was blurry, but he could recognize it with one glance. Doctor Gao was in the picture. He was standing next to a young man and surrounded by children. Standing not far from them was a shy woman. The woman's face was blurred, but from her frame and size, she seemed similar to the strange woman that Chen Ge had run into at Western Jiujiang Medical University.

Chapter 412: That Sense of Familiarity

"This woman is Doctor Gao's wife?" The woman's face was extremely blurry, and as Chen Ge tried to study the picture, his gaze slowly fell on a different person. The two young men that stood in the middle of the photo—one was Doctor Gao, and the other also looked very familiar. "This person who is standing next to Doctor Gao looks like Doctor Chen from Jiujiang's Children's Home."

On the night that he visited Coffin Village, Jiang Ling and Fan Yu had disappeared alongside Doctor Chen, so at the time, the police had suspected that it was the doctor who kidnapped the two children. "Doctor Chen and Doctor Gao are friends, and it looks like they have both worked at Jiujiang's Mental Illness Research Center before."

Looking at the picture in his hand, Chen Ge sat down in the chair. The old principal had really given him a surprise. The appearance of this picture solved a problem that had been troubling Chen Ge. "At Coffin Village, the Zhu woman said that No. 10 got into a fight with an outsider, and it was because of that outsider that No. 10 did not have time to enter the blood door with Wu Fei."

Chen Ge thought back to how the Zhu woman described the outsider. He was wearing a white coat and looked like a doctor with children surrounding him. That mysterious outsider, Chen Ge believed, was Doctor Chen. "Looks like there is more than meets the eye about this Doctor Chen, but why would he get into a fight with Doctor Gao? From this picture, they should be friends."

Doctor Gao and Doctor Chen seemed to be complete opposites. One was someone mature who could handle everything thrown at him perfectly while the other was a doctor who could not survive in a large hospital and was forced to take up a job at the children's home.

"The old director mentioned a Doctor Chen in his letters, and that Doctor Chen is probably not my father but the Doctor Chen at the Children's Home, but why would the old director address his letters to Linjiang New Schistosomiasis Control Station? Did Doctor Chen once work at Linjiang New Schistosomiasis Control Station? But wasn't he a psychologist?"

“The old director started the communication with Doctor Chen, so how did it end up with Doctor Gao liaising with the patients at the Third Sick Hall? Did the conflict between the two doctors started at the Third Sick Hall? Their opinions on how to deal with this issue split?”

Chen Ge wanted to ask the old director, who was now just a head, but the door only opened at midnight. Once he missed it, he would need to wait another twenty-four hours.

“My parents also left some information about Third Sick Hall. Director Luo once mentioned that he overheard them talking about the Third Sick Hall before they disappeared, so what is the role my parents play in this whole situation?”

Chen Ge had been looking for information on his missing parents, and he had a feeling that Doctor Chen and Doctor Gao should know something. Leaving the principal’s office, Chen Ge wandered around Mu Yang High School. He wanted to thank the old principal in person, but the man did not seem like he was going to show up. “Where else could he be hiding?”

With some regret, Chen Ge left Mu Yang High School. He arrived at the Haunted House around dawn, and as he stepped through the door, the black phone vibrated. It was to inform him that the set-up for the one-star scenario Wife’s Room had been completed.

“One-star scenarios are not that useful for me now.”

With the responsibility toward his visitors, Chen Ge entered the underground scenarios with his backpack. With the stairs as the center, to the left was Mu Yang High School, to the right was the Third Sick Hall, straight in front was Coffin Village, and behind the stairs was the new Wife’s Room. “The House of Horrors is starting to shape up. After the underground morgue has been completed, it will be about time to expand the place for the third time.”

The third expansion was a benchmark. After that, Chen Ge’s Haunted House would upgrade to become a Maze of Terror!

As for what kind of reward or functions would be added, Chen Ge had no clue. Based on the introduction on the black phone, he just knew that he would be heavily rewarded after the upgrade.

Standing in the underground tunnel, Chen Ge looked at the new scenario, the isolated room. Opening the door, the room looked similar to Room 3004. However, the walls, the kitchenette, and the coffee table were covered with blood, giving a huge visual impact. “The Wife’s Room should be a reconstruction of the crime scene for Ma Yin’s sister’s death.”

Chen Ge did not look uncomfortable. Holding the hammer, he walked around the room and soon discovered something weird about it. The room was decorated with many broken art pieces, and as he entered, the pieces seemed to turn to focus on him.

Chen Ge summoned Ol’ Zhou’s group to let them get a sense of the place, and the three ghosts’ reaction was weird. They were sure that there was a ghost hiding in the room, but they could not tell where the ghost was hiding. They could sense its weak presence like it was still asleep.

When Chen Ge heard that there was a ghost hiding in the room, his eyes lit up. He pushed open the bedroom door, and the expression froze on his face. There was a long noose hanging in the middle of the room, and there was a bloodied bedsheet poking out from the closet. There were some blood stains

on the ground, and sitting on the headboard was a very ugly statue. “This room is completely identical to the room in Ma Yin’s video.”

Chen Ge walked to the bed and studied the statue for a long time. He held the statue’s chin and said the sentence that he had uttered several days ago. “You can verify the validity of my every sentence, yes?”

Hearing his voice, something inside the statue seemed to come alive—the presence around it was different from before, like a person had been wakened up from their sleep. The ugly face revealed a shocked expression, and blood tears fell down the statue’s eyes.

“This is such a coincidence. We meet again.” By then, Chen Ge already knew it was Ma Yin’s sister’s soul that was trapped inside the statue, so he did not want to torment her. “This will be your new home in the future. Don’t worry, I know what happened to you and will treat you like family.”

Fingers sliding across the cheek, Chen Ge helped dry the statue’s tears. His action was so gentle and soft. “The murderer who killed you has already been captured by the police. If you have any other needs, feel free to tell me.”

The blood tears kept falling, but Chen Ge could not tell whether it was due to fear or excitement.

“I feel like there’s a small misunderstanding between us. Actually, I’m not the kind of person you think I am.” Chen Ge knew that he should not force himself forward, but he had confidence that he could change the ghost’s impression of him. Was the Pen Spirit not the perfect example?

“Why don’t you three try to persuade her? I’ll wait outside.” Chen Ge tossed Ol’ Zhou’s group a look, and then he exited the bedroom. He closed the door and stood beside it, and soon Ol’ Zhou’s group’s voices came from inside.

“In the future, we’ll be colleagues, and you might not believe me, but this period when I’m at the Haunted House is the happiest moments of my life.”

“Our boss might look scary, but he is a good and kind person. He respects us and understands us.”

“You will slowly learn to like this place. We have many different types of ghosts here, and we are all friends. Everyone has their own unique power, but we are all honest and hardworking people.”

Chapter 413: Security Pass

Even Chen Ge, who stood at the door, was feeling embarrassed. “Should I tell them that the statue can verify the authenticity of their sentences? Oh well, it could be worse.”

Leaving the underground scenario, Chen Ge returned to the staff breakroom. He opened the door and crawled into bed. “Ran to three places in one night. I sure have a vibrant night life.”

Removing his jacket, Chen Ge fell asleep when it was almost dawn. Chen Ge was woken up by the alarm at around 8 am. He brushed his teeth and washed his face before starting to clean the Haunted House. Xu Wan arrived at the Haunted House with breakfast at 8:30 am. She had a brief conversation with Chen Ge before going to the dressing room. The moment he finished the breakfast brought by Xu Wan, Gu

Feiyu arrived. The young man looked spirited and bright. Without make-up, one could not tell that he worked at the Haunted House.

“Good morning, boss!”

“Quick, go and get your make-up done. The visitors will be coming soon.” Chen Ge sat on the steps and put the finished breakfast away. When he saw the smile on Gu Feiyu’s face, he asked, “Did something good happen to you?”

“No, I just found something interesting.” Gu Feiyu squatted down next to Chen Ge and bounced lightly into Chen Ge. Then he asked in a conspiratorial tone, “Boss, do you have a thing with Sister Xu Wan? She brings you breakfast daily, and that one time, I even saw her arguing with the boss that sells breakfast, telling him to skip the spicy stuff cause you always sleep late so you cannot have anything spicy.”

“I always sleep late? How does she know that?”

“She cares about you.” The smile on Gu Feiyu’s face grew bigger. “Actually, I come very early every morning, but I walk very slowly because I don’t want to disturb you two.”

“That is not an excuse for you to be late. If you don’t report to work by 8:30 am next time, I’ll reduce your salary.” Chen Ge stood up.

“Please have mercy!” Gu Feiyu followed behind Chen Ge. “Boss, I just think you have many admirers, and I wish to be as popular as you.”

Xiao Gu followed Chen Ge into the Haunted House, and he sounded sincere in wanting to learn. “When my uncle got discharged from the hospital, he told me to learn from you, but I’m dumb, and I don’t know where to start.”

“You want to learn how to become a popular person from me?” Chen Ge thought about it for a while, thinking back to the stuff that he had done, and he felt like if he told Gu Feiyu everything, his image would crumble instantly. After some hesitance, Chen Ge patted Xiao Gu’s shoulder lightly. “Be calm, hardworking, and fearless; that’s all I can tell you.”

Gu Feiyu ruminated on Chen Ge’s words, thinking that Chen Ge had wisdom.

“You’re still young, plenty of things to learn.” Chen Ge looked at the young man. “Since you work at the Haunted House during the day, why don’t you go attend some classes at night. One day, if the Haunted House closes, at least you’ll have a skill you can sell.”

Entering the dressing room, Chen Ge helped Gu Feiyu get into the Doctor Skull-cracker’s outfit. After sending the man away, he started to do the make-up for Xu Wan. Looking at his employee in the mirror, Chen Ge’s lips moved like he wanted to say something.

“Boss, if you want to say something, just say it.” Xu Wan knew Chen Ge well. After all, they had been through the Haunted House’s hardest times together.

“It’s nothing serious. I just feel like it’s embarrassing for me as a boss to be taken care of by my employee daily,” Chen Ge said as he continued the make-up.

"I saw how tired you were and just wanted to help you, but I don't know how to, so I can do something minor like bringing you food." Xu Wan looked at her reflection in the mirror, and she felt satisfied. "I shall enter the scenario now."

"Okay."

Chen Ge sat on the chair that Xu Wan had just vacated and watched the girl walk away. "How did she know that I was about to talk about the food before I even said anything?"

Shaking his head, Chen Ge stood up. He did not think that Xu Wan would ever harm him—he just got an increased interest in the girl.

Exiting the dressing room, Chen Ge pushed the gate open, and the warm sunlight showered his body. He stretched lazily. The theme park opened at 9 pm.

Due to the new introduction of the horror app, many old visitors returned, and the ranking on the screen kept changing. The theme park's workers handled the lines, and Chen Ge only needed to look after the underground scenarios. Each scenario had visitors, and Chen Ge was under great pressure. Director Luo was worried about Chen Ge, so he set up a special emergency rescue center at the resting tent. Regardless of whether they would need it or not, the fact that several doctors and nurses were standing on duty gave the visitors a different experience.

To facilitate the transportation of fainted customers, Director Luo even had someone design a special trolley, and it was painted with the words 'Specially for Fainted Visitors'.

With Director Luo and Uncle Xu helping him with the admin stuff, Chen Ge was not worried. His focus was on unlocking new scenarios. The day flew by. After sending away the last batch of visitors at 6:30 pm, Chen Ge had Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu, who had been busy as well, get off work, and then he grabbed the tools and started to clean the Haunted House.

He busied himself until 7 pm, and the people at New Century Park had almost all left already. Compared to the rowdiness in the day, the theme park was scarily quiet at night. After cleaning, Chen Ge entered the scenarios to take a spin. Interestingly enough, whenever he entered the scenario, the ghosts would place the stuff that the visitors had left behind at the Haunted House at the entrance.

Chen Ge collected the items and labelled them before sending them to lost and found. This was something that he would do daily, but this time, when he was going to the lost objects, he found something weird. "A security pass?"

Staring at the picture and name, Chen Ge was shocked. "Why would Zhang Li's security pass be here?"

Zhang Li was the security guard who had horrible reputation at Western Jiujiang Medical University; Chen Ge had met him once.

"He came to visit the Haunted House today?" After some contemplation, he pocketed the pass. After sending the stuff to lost and found, Chen Ge entered the surveillance room holding the security pass. He focused on the footage in Minghun and Murder by Midnight. Chen Ge knew everyone who visited the underground scenarios, so if Zhang Li had come to visit, he would have visited a one-star scenario aboveground.

Chen Ge glanced through the video, focusing on the faces. He spent half an hour before he found Zhang Li on screen. This guard who had a bad personality was together with a young girl. They visited Minghun and Murder by Midnight respectively.

Chapter 414: I Want to Help You

From the footage, Chen Ge could clearly see that Zhang Li and the woman next to him stayed away from the students from Western Jiujiang Medical University. They did not seem to not share a good relationship. Zhang Li did not have any close interaction with the woman; they did not look like lovers, more like siblings. "Could this girl be Zhang Shihan?"

Lee Zheng had once mentioned this girl to Chen Ge as well. She had been in an altercation with Ma Yin's sister before her appearance, and that was why she was also on the suspect list. In the video, they looked like normal visitors. They would run when something scary happened and they would scream at the expected spots. However, as time went by, Chen Ge noticed something strange.

Zhang Shihan initially walked in front of Zhang Li. She was a forensic science student, so it was expected she had a stronger heart than Zhang Li, the security guard. However, at the last scene of Minghun when Xu Wan appeared, Zhang Shihan almost collapsed to the ground. When her body fell backward, it was Zhang Li who held her from falling. From the expression, it was also noticeable that when Zhang Shihan was almost dazed from terror, Zhang Li was still very calm.

"How come a forensic doctor who faces dead bodies daily is more scared than a normal security guard?" Then when Zhang Shihan and Zhang Li entered the Murder by Midnight scenario, when they were chased by Xiao Gu, Zhang Shihan showed nervousness and terror, but Zhang Li was very calm. "It feels like this security guard has been through something big."

The two visitors left the Haunted House after Murder by Midnight. Chen Ge pulled out the surveillance by the door. Zhang Shihan and Zhang Li stood by the corner of the resting tent. Even though Zhang Shihan's face was white, she was excited. Her hands waved animatedly while she told Zhang Li something. Zhang Li also showed a rare smile; it was as if whenever his sister was happy, he too would be happy.

It sounded like Zhang Shihan wanted to try out the two-star scenario. She pulled Zhang Li along to the back of the line, but Zhang Li resisted. No matter what, he refused to move. "Why wouldn't Zhang Li visit the two-star scenario? Could he tell that there are real ghosts inside the two-star scenarios?"

The pair of siblings stayed inside the tent for a long time before they moved onto other attractions. "Zhang Shihan is acting normally, but this Zhang Li sure is suspicious."

Chen Ge thought about it. He shoved the pass into his pocket and left the Haunted House with his backpack. "Before Lee Zheng calls, I need to collect as much information on the underground morgue as I can."

When he arrived at Western Jiujiang Medical University, Chen Ge ran to the security stop. He glanced into the place, but Zhang Li was not there. "I'm sorry, but I'm looking for Zhang Li. I work at New Century Park. When he visited us this morning, he left his stuff there."

"You personally came to return the item?" The one who spoke was a rotund guard. He looked friendly, and his stomach was huge; his guard outfit could barely fit his large body.

"It's what we should do." Chen Ge glanced at the fat guard's security pass; his name was Wang Erbao. "Do you mind telling me where he stays? I wish to hand him his stuff personally to make sure there is no mistake."

"With his strange personality, Ol' Zhang cannot mix with the rest of us. He moved out on his own. You can find him at Hai Ming Apartments."

"Hai Ming Apartments?" Chen Ge was startled. That was where Men Nan's side persona had once stayed.

"It's normal if you have not heard of it. The building is old and dirty. Other than the low rent, there's nothing good about it."

"What room is he staying in?"

"Room 403." Then, Wang Erbao added with concern, "Ol' Zhang is a weird character. If he is rude toward you, please don't take offense, he was just born that way."

"Okay, thank you." Chen Ge called a cab to rush to Hai Ming Apartments. Inside the car, Chen Ge was considering one question—was it a coincidence that Zhang Li was staying at Hai Ming Apartments, or was there a deeper reason?

"Men Nan said that he saw the rental message on the school forum. Could that person who spread the news be Zhang Li? If it's him, why would he do that?" Chen Ge arrived at Hai Ming Apartments with the question unsolved.

Knocking on the door to Room 403, Chen Ge waited for a long time before a suppressed voice said, "Who are you looking for?"

The door did not open, and there were no footsteps. The owner seemed to have moved to stand beside the door carefully and glance at the guest outside before he answered the knocks.

Is he afraid of something?

Chen Ge tried to make himself sound friendly. "I'm from New Century Park. Your security pass was left inside the park. I asked about you from your colleague before I found this place."

There was no reply. Several seconds later, the door opened. "Give me the pass."

The door was only opened a sliver, and Zhang Li's body was hiding behind the door. Chen Ge was even more suspicious upon seeing how cautious the man was.

"Fine, but you at least need to let see what you look like, right? I don't want to get scolded for giving the pass to the wrong person." Chen Ge took out the pass to show the man behind the door. The man hesitated before he opened the door.

Tall and thin, with sunken eyes, Zhang Li was wearing a pair of sports shoes. He wore a pair of normal gray jacket, and his pockets were full. He looked like he was about to go out. "Now can you give me the pass?"

"Not yet." Chen Ge looked at Zhang Li's expression. The man should have recognized him by now. Anymore deception would have been pointless. "Other than to return the pass, I still have a few questions to ask you."

Zhang Li's face fell, and without warning, he closed the door. Chen Ge reacted fast to block him. "I don't have bad intentions; these few questions are crucial to you and me!"

Zhang Li glared at Chen Ge and warned, "Let go!"

"I know there is a problem in your heart. Think about it. Perhaps I can help you."

"I told you to let go!" Zhang Li raised his voice, and his face twisted. "I don't need your help, let go!"

Seeing the insistence on Zhang Li's face, Chen Ge did not force the man. He dropped his backpack to the ground and pulled out the half-meter-long hammer. When the hammer showed itself, the stench of blood flooded the corridor, and one could even hear the sound of wailing souls.

"It is my intention to help you, but whether you want my help or not, that is not my concern."

Staring at the weapon in Chen Ge's arms, Zhang Li's eyelids twitched. After a long time, with a straight face, he forced out, "Come in."

Chapter 415: Informant

Zhang Li moved his steps slowly; he did not dare expose his back to Chen Ge. When Chen Ge entered the room, he added in that dark and suppressed voice of his, "Keep the door open for air ventilation."

BANG!

Chen Ge locked the door and dragged the hammer into the room. He looked around. The room was simple with little furniture, and there was a pungent smell of subpar cigarette smoke in the air. There was a metal plate on the coffee table, which was filled with cigarette butts, and there were holes on the couch that were probably cigarette burns.

"You're a heavy smoker?" Chen Ge acted like he had returned to his own home. He grabbed a chair and sat in the living room close to the door.

"Does that count as a question?" Zhang Li crossed his arms and stood beside the coffee table. He looked very guarded.

"Just answer the questions that I ask. This is for your own good." Chen Ge glanced at the cigarette butts; they came from various brands, but they were all cheap brands.

"For my own good?" Zhang Li retreated several steps to lean against the window. "What do you want?"

Chen Ge placed the security pass on the table and put the hammer away. "Who is the girl that came to the Haunted House with you this morning?"

"My little sister. She just got fired from her job. She wasn't feeling great, so I asked for a day off to accompany her to the theme park."

"When the two of you entered the Haunted House, why did you purposely evade the students from Western Jiujiang Medical University? Were you afraid of being recognized?" Chen Ge kept his questions broad. When Zhang Li fell into the trap, he would then tighten the scope.

"The students don't like me. If they recognized me, it might be troublesome." Zhang Li took a deep breath. "But my sister and I have gotten used to it already."

Realizing that there were words left unsaid, Chen Ge asked, "Gotten used to what?"

"My sister used to study at the university, but she got into an argument with another girl at the school due to some conflict. Coincidentally, the girl disappeared the next day." Zhang Li's fingers tightened. "Then someone created a rumor at the school, saying that the girl's disappearance had something to do with my little sister."

The thing was indeed quite a coincidence, or else Lee Zheng would not have listed Zhang Shihan and Zhang Li as suspects. Chen Ge nodded. "What did the rumor say?"

"Initially, those jerks would at least gossip behind my sister's back then, but then they came to confront my sister, saying the girl committed suicide because her depression triggered after she had a falling out with my sister. Some even called my sister a murderer, and it was her who hid the body." Zhang Li paused to grab a cigarette from his pocket and light it. After a puff, Zhang Li felt better. "Many of my sister's friends left her, and my sister was at her lowest point of her life then. She even walked around the school personally to find that missing girl, but unfortunately, she couldn't find her."

"No wonder you're so cold to the students at the university." Chen Ge looked at Zhang Li and after a while, he said, "The police once contacted me, saying in that missing girl's case, you and your sister were both serious suspects, and their suspicions were not unfounded. From motive, time, and ability, you two were the biggest suspects."

"We did not kill anymore! The girl's disappearance had nothing to do with us!" Zhang Li was annoyed, but he did not dare show it. He could only chew on the cigarette to vent his anger.

"I know you two didn't kill anyone, and you're not the real killer; you've just been used." When Chen Ge heard the details from Zhang Li, he understood how careful the mastermind was. He not only dealt with all the clues, he even made use of these students and came up with two scapegoats to confuse the police. When Zhang Li heard Chen Ge use a confident tone to say that they were not the killers, the man looked at Chen Ge with surprise, and he realized that perhaps this man was not so bad.

"You took a day off from work today, so you might not have heard the news. The body of the missing girl has been found, and her killer has turned himself in." Chen Ge did not hide anything from the man.

"Who is the killer?" Zhang Li squeezed the cigarette out and walked to Chen Ge.

"It's the staff from your university who always dresses smartly. I think his name is Liu Zhe."

“Liu Zhe?” Zhang Li stood there stunned like he could not accept this reality.

“Liu Zhe is just one of the killers. There is still another one that is missing. We only know that he is related to the underground morgue.”

“We?” Zhang Li felt Chen Ge’s term was curious.

Chen Ge’s face turned serious. He pointed at the door. “Do not tell anyone what I’m going to say.”

Zhang Li nodded quickly. “I’m the only tenant on this floor, so there’s no need to worry about eavesdropping, and I will not tell a third person.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge told out his phone to show his conversation with Captain Yan, Inspector Lee, and Lee Zheng, then he added, “Actually I’m an informant planted by the police. I’ve helped them with many cases before.”

Zhang Li nodded dumbly. For some reason, he was slowly convinced by Chen Ge.

“The condition of you and your sister is still dangerous.” Chen Ge then dropped another bomb. “The other killer is still out there, and things are still dangerous. He is very familiar with Western Jiujiang Medical University and should be hiding in plain sight. Temporarily, we have no idea who he is, and to stop people from panicking, I came to see you privately to find out some information.”

“I will tell you everything I know.” Zhang Li no longer sounded that guarded. He sat down next to Chen Ge, his attitude completely different from before.

“We need information on the underground morgue, the more detailed the better.” Chen Ge voiced his need.

“Didn’t the school provide some to the police already when you came last time?” Zhang Li was suspicious, but he still chose to believe Chen Ge. “There is a blueprint for the morgue inside the library’s database. If you need it, I can snap a few pictures for you.”

“That’s a good start.” Chen Ge was not satisfied. “You’ve been working at the school for so many years already, have you discovered anything weird at the underground morgue or run into something not explainable by science?”

Chapter 416: Expansion of the Morgue

The reason Chen Ge came to find Zhang Li was because the security guard had been acting weirdly inside the Haunted House, and Chen Ge believed that the man had experienced something unique before. Zhang Li’s somberness came from his soul; he should be hiding many secrets that he could not share with others in his heart. Being stared by Chen Ge, Zhang Li was nervous. His lips opened several times, but he made no sound.

“Please don’t be hesitant, tell me everything you’ve seen and heard.” The more Zhang Li acted like this, the more curious Chen Ge became.

"It's not that I don't want to, but I'm afraid you won't believe me even if I do." Zhang Li took out a cigarette from his pocket and asked, "Do you mind?"

"Of course not, this is your place. Don't mind me."

After he got Chen Ge's approval, Zhang Li lit the cigarette and took a deep puff. He enjoyed the feeling of the smoke filling up his lungs; it was as if only then would he be able to forget these annoying problems. The smoke escaped from his lips, and the first words Zhang Li said already grabbed Chen Ge's attention. "The cadavers down in the underground morgue know how to move on their own."

"Moving corpses?"

"That's not even the scariest thing." Zhang Li's arm trembled slightly. "When I first took up the guard post at Western Jiujiang Medical University, the school was in the middle of expanding the underground morgue. The pools that were originally used to store the cadavers had to stop their usage, and the admin planned to make a more advanced mortuary. The morgue is underground, so the work was hard.

"Initially, the school planned to transform the largest morgues at the deepest part of the place, they wanted to crack open the cadaver pools and redo everything. They hired a professional team to handle it, and the renovation was scheduled to finish in less than half a month. However, on the second day of the renovation, an accident happened.

"When one of the workers was cleaning the Formalin inside the pool, he accidentally fell into the pool. The pool was not deep, but the worker was simply unable to climb out. He said there were many hands holding him back, refusing to let him go." Zhang Li soon finished the cigarette. He shrugged and said, "The large cadaver pools were similar to the open bathing pools that were common in the past; however, the liquid in the pool was brownish in color and opaque. You could only see the cadaver's limbs, back and hair floating above water."

"What happened to the worker that fell into the pool?" Chen Ge was more curious about that.

"There was a metal hook used to fish the cadavers out from the water. The workers who were present dropped the hook into the pool and had the man who fell in grab the hook. With the cooperation of many people, they finally fished him out of the water." Zhang Li lit another cigarette. He was a heavy smoker, especially when he was thinking about those dark memories stored in the back of his mind. "When the man fell into the pool, he accidentally swallowed a mouthful of the formalin, and thus, he was quickly rushed to the hospital to have his stomach pumped. The man was fine, but I heard that after he recovered, something was wrong with his mind. He was simply not the same anymore."

"Do you still have contact with that man? Did he say anything before he went insane?"

"I'm not sure, this was already so long ago. But if you really need to know, I can help you ask around at the school. Don't keep your hopes up though."

"Okay, do continue." Chen Ge took out his phone to record any details that he deemed important.

"After the man was sent to the hospital, the renovation work continued as normal, but on the night after that, another strange event happened." Zhang Li's expression was one of distress like he still felt uncomfortable thinking about it. "The number of cadavers that had been moved out by the team in the morning changed."

“This is what you meant by moving corpses?”

“I suppose so, but the scariest thing happened later.” Zhang Li was telling the stories of others, so he did not explain how he became like this. His voice dropped, and Zhang Li took another puff of the cigarette. “The team went deeper into the morgue on the third day. After they dealt with all the bodies inside the first morgue and moved away the pool that was built more than twenty years ago, all the workers were stunned by what they found.

“At the bottom of the pool, just like in a human body, the ground was covered with blood vessels. When light hit them, they quickly squirreled away.” Zhang Li had a frown on his pale face. “At the time, I was present, and I also looked in. How shall I put this? It felt like the pool was alive.”

“Blood vessels underneath the pool?” Chen Ge recorded Zhang Li’s words.

“The person responsible for the team found the school admin to report this, but the school didn’t have a good explanation. In the end, they said that it was some kind of extremely rare fungus.” Zhang Li shook his head. “Even an uneducated man like myself knew they were lying. The renovation team said that they want to stop the work, but after the school offered to double the salary, the team continued.

“That afternoon, the team dug deeper into the pool because they wanted to expand the space, but the more they dug, the more worried they became. The soil underneath the pool reeked of formalin, and the soil was reddish in color. One could also spot lines that were dark brown, and they broke once you tried to touch them. No one knew what they were; they did not look like plant roots or insects.

“The team relayed the situation to the school. They even collected some soil samples and sent them to the school. The school could not give a clear explanation—they just rushed the team to move faster.

“To calm the people from the renovation team, the school arranged for someone to accompany them, telling them not to worry and everything that they had come across so far was something normal.” Zhang Li seemed to have plenty of issues with how the school handled the situation. His tone shifted slightly. “At the time, I was a newbie, and no one wanted to enter the underground morgue, so the task naturally fell on my shoulders. I was just a lackey for the school, and I didn’t know anyone from the renovation team, so I was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

“The renovation speed was very slow because weird things kept happening. The team members kept getting injured, and eventually, they all gave up and refused to work. The school eventually relented, and after some discussion with the foreman, they changed the plan.

“They planned to expand the mortuary outwards and stopped using the original morgue, abandoning it completely.

“However, there was a condition to the school’s compromise. They needed the team to finish the work within a month. If the renovation couldn’t be completed within the time limit, then it would be viewed as a violation of contract.”

Chapter 417: Scary Night

“The renovation team already did not want to stay inside the deeper part of the morgue, so they sealed up the road that led into the morgue and started expanding outward, following the blueprint. After we left the deeper part of the morgue, the accidents stopped, and the renovation started to rush for the deadline. When they were close to the deadline, to rush the progress, they worked into the night.

“The school also knew how hard it was for the team, so they would assign people to send them water and provide aid.” Zhang Li’s teeth gritted as he continued. “The school handed this chore to the teachers that stayed at the school dormitory and the security team. Initially, everyone would go together, but after a while, the teachers would leave early since everything was going well. Other people from the security team took this opportunity to push all the work onto me.

“The underground morgue had been renovated many times, so the internal routes were very complicated. I was new, and even with the map, the chance of getting lost was still high. Three days to the deadline, the people from the team were nervous, and they had to hire a new batch of workers to hurry up the process. They worked day and night, so I had to stay to accompany them. It was fine during the day, but the place changed after the sun fell.

“It was middle of summer at the time, and outside was as hot as an oven. However, once you entered the morgue, it was not only not hot, you would shiver uncontrollably for no reason. The new batch of workers did not know about the things that happened in the deeper part of the morgue and they thought the working environment was alright. When some of them got tired at night, they laid a mattress on the floor and slept just like that.” Zhang Li squeezed the cigarette against the metal plate as his story was reaching its end.

“The underground morgue was different at night, but how different, I could not really tell. In any case, that night, the strange thing happened again.

“I received a call at 1 am saying that someone on the team had disappeared. I quickly called everyone else and headed to the underground morgue. When we were halfway there, the people called again, saying that the man had been found. At the time, I was so angry, but I was even angrier at the teacher who was responsible for watching over the renovation. The man berated me, saying that I had disturbed his sleep and worried him before I understood everything.

“I could not say anything to explain myself. So, I returned to my bedroom. Not long after that, the people from the renovation team called again, saying that a different person had disappeared. This time, I asked the man for more details. The man said, when the first person disappeared, he said that he heard someone calling his name and he raised his head to see someone waving at him, so he had followed the person. When he was halfway down the corridor, he had realized that the corridor led deeper into the morgue. At that moment, he knew that something was wrong, so he quickly ran back.

“The second person disappeared after he went out in search of the first man. His phone was not reachable, and no one knew where he was. The incident sounded serious, so as I rushed to the morgue, I called the teacher. After the teacher knew the gravity of the situation, he told me to calm the people first, and he would arrive shortly.

“That night, I stayed with the renovation team in the underground morgue, and around dawn, we found the missing man inside the deeper part of the morgue. He was lying next to the half-dug pool, unconscious.

“No one could explain this situation, and anxiety spread through the team. They refused to stay there any longer, but since the deadline was coming soon and their work was almost done, it would be a waste to give up then.

“In the end, it was the school who settled the problem. They assigned the security team to stay with the renovation team in the underground morgue to ensure that the project could be finished on time. That night, two guards and I stayed back so that the team could come to us directly if there was any problem.

“I really could not stand it anymore after midnight, so I found a corner to take a nap. It was quite peaceful that night; there was no accident. The project was reaching its end. After spending so much time in the morgue, that morning, I hit the bed and slept.

“On that last night, we returned to the underground morgue. Everything was going fine, and I believed that the peacefulness would persist through the night, so I found an isolated room and covered myself up with several old cement bags as I tried to sneak a bit of shut eye. Perhaps my mind had been too stressed at the time—sleep came quickly.

“When I opened my blurry eyes, the underground morgue became so dark. The lights brought by the renovation team had all been switched off, and only the old-fashioned lights on the wall were still on.

“I curled up in the corner and looked outward. People were moving in the outside corridor, and it sounded like the team was still working. I had just woken up, so my mind was not that sharp. I took out the phone to check the time. Before I got a clear look at the time, I suddenly heard footsteps. Someone was coming into the room. I was sleeping while people were working—that wasn’t good, so I hid myself deeper and kept myself quiet.

“The person walked around the room and left. I glanced at the time; it was 3:40 am. There were several unanswered calls and unread messages on my phone. I clicked the messages open and realized that they were from my teammates, asking me where I was.”

The smoke in the room had not dissipated, but Zhang Li took out another cigarette. He lit it and puffed on it.

“At the time, it really did not cross my mind, so I replied to him—‘I’m still in the morgue. Where are you guys? Did you two sneak back into the bedroom already?’

“I was a newbie, so I’d been trying to buddy up to him. I even joked about how they left without telling me.

“About ten seconds later, the man replied, telling me to show myself instantly because people were looking for me.

“I was confused. The team was still working outside, and these two had run away from their post. Yet, they told me that people were looking for me.

“Just as I was about to send a reply, the man called. After I answered it, I realized that things were different from what I thought.

“The man immediately told me that the renovation had finished a long time ago, and the team had already all retreated. They wanted to know what I was doing inside the underground morgue.”

Zhang Li bit the cigarette in his mouth into half, and his hands gripped his knees. "When he said that, I glanced out the room. One of the people walking on the corridor seemed to have heard me and was walking toward the room that I was hiding in."

Chapter 418: Heavier than Living People

"If the renovation team had all evacuated, who were the people walking in the corridor? I hung up the phone and moved the cement bags to cover my body even more, only exposing my eyes. The footsteps came closer, and I turned my eyes to look. The light was dim, and a blurry shadow walked to stand beside me. The way he moved was weird, like he could not coordinate his limbs. I held my breath and did not dare to move. The man walked around the room and prepared to leave. I edged the cement bag slightly away, and what saw will follow me forever."

Zhang Li's lips were purple, and he finally voiced the nightmare that had followed him for so many years. "The man's face was empty; his whole face had been picked clean."

The cigarette dust fell on the couch, and Zhang Li's arms could not stop shaking. "Way before body donor was a thing, the medical university used dead bodies from the penitentiary. After a criminal died from a gunshot, their head would look like that." Zhang Li had problem continuing.

This time, Chen Ge did not dare force the man. "Why don't you take a rest? Have some water."

"It's fine." Even though it had been years, thinking back, Zhang Li was still very afraid. He finished the cigarette and continued. "When I saw the criminal, I knew the problem. The people who entered the room and the people in the corridor, they were all dead bodies used for autopsy classes."

What Zhang Li described was indeed scarier than moving corpses. At the time, there had been a party down in the morgue, and Zhang Li had been the only living human guest. He had survived at that party until morning—no wonder he ended up in this state.

"I really did see it, and I kept it in my heart. I didn't dare tell anyone, not even my sister." His pupils danced, and Zhang Li's frowned creased deeply. His expression was filled with pain. "A few years ago, when the girl who had the argument with my sister disappeared, my sister suspected that she might have wandered into the underground morgue. She planned to expand her search there, but I stopped her firmly. The place was not somewhere a living person should go."

After sharing the thing that was trapped inside his heart, Zhang Li did feel better. He touched the box of cigarette and realized that he had already finished the whole box.

"Maybe you should stop taking so many cigarettes—it's not good for your body." Chen Ge sat in the chair and recorded everything that Zhang Li said on his phone.

"It's fine. After that night, I no longer cared about these things." Zhang Li crumbled the paper box, and without the cigarette, he was feeling rather unnerved. "Do you think I have lost my mind? Was I hallucinating that night?"

Chen Ge shook his head. He knew about the danger in the underground morgue. The black phone hinted at a group of people who were in search of immortality.

“Actually, I myself suspect that I was hallucinating that night.”

“Do you still remember how you escaped that night?” Based on what Zhang Li had said, there should be in an insurmountable number of dead bodies.

“When I was hiding underneath the bags of cement, my body felt like it was frozen. I didn’t even dare move an inch. I stayed in that position until 5 am, and the thing in the corridor started to move deeper into the morgue.”

“Didn’t you ask for help through the phone that night?” Chen Ge put down his phone. He was interested in the school’s response.

“When I had just woken up, I already talked on the phone with that security guard. I told them that I was still in the morgue, but they didn’t send anyone to come find me. I didn’t know what was up with them.” From Zhang Li’s tone, it sounded like he was still mad about that.

“Then did you discover anything weird when you left, like a big stain of formalin in the corridor or scratch marks on the wall.”

“I waited until 8 am and crawled out when I couldn’t hear any movement anymore. My body was pulsing with pain, and there were many bruises. I was in a hurry to escape, so I didn’t pay attention to such details.” That was where Zhang Li’s story ended. After that, he saw the underground morgue as a banned location, and his personality turned bitter. “I advise you to stay away from that place. But if you insist on going, call people to accompany you and go during the day.” Zhang Li told Chen Ge other things that he had heard about the place.

“The corridor connecting the lab and morgue normally wasn’t locked because even if it was, the door would be opened.

“During the previous expansion, the school added seven new morgues, but when people went to retrieve the bodies, they came across an 8th morgue. The morgue was closest to the original morgue, and it doesn’t have a number.

“The roads that lead deeper into the morgue have been sealed many times, but no matter what, there is always a problem. I remember one time the school used bricks to seal up the corridor, but only two weeks later, the walls crumbled. When the admin went to check, they found out each brick was reeking with a thick stench of formalin.

“There are many similar legends. The migration of the old campus is related to this as well. I hear Western Jiujiang Medical University is also moving next year September. After that, this campus will be locked down.”

Chen Ge did not expect the school to move. Things were getting quite serious.

“The information that you’ve given me is very useful. I’ll pass it on to the other officers. Also, it would be great if you can give me the map of the underground morgue tomorrow.” Chen Ge planned to leave after that, but when he was at the door, he suddenly remembered something. “Zhang Li, why are you staying at Hai Ming Apartments? I’ve heard rumors about this place, and it happened in the room just below yours.”

"Some madman committed suicide, I know that. I'm already an old tenant here." Zhang Li's expression did not change. It appeared to be a mere coincidence that he was staying here.

"Then do you a student by the name of Men Nan who also used to stay here?" Chen Ge asked as an added thought.

"I know, the kid just wanted a cheap bargain and stayed inside the room next to the dead man. The room is cursed. A doctor once stayed there, but he moved away after one night."

"How did you know he was a doctor?" Chen Ge paused to ask. "Doctors wouldn't wear their white robes outside of the hospital, and he only moved in for one day. No offense, but based on your personality, you wouldn't have gone forward to greet him, I don't think."

"I've seen him around the campus before, that Doctor Gao. He is rich, so I wondered why he would move to such a dilapidated building." Zhang Li was confused. "When I went downstairs to purchase cigarettes that night, I saw Doctor Gao standing in the corridor alone, doing God knows what."

Chapter 419: Helper

"Before Men Nan moved in, Doctor Gao once spent a night in that room?"

"Yes, don't you think that's weird? He has so many assets at Jiujiang, so why would he purposely stay a night at a cheap apartment?" Zhang Li's words caused alarm bells to ring in Chen Ge's mind. The first person to discover something wrong with Men Nan was Doctor Gao; the person who took care of Men Nan was also Doctor Gao. That could all have been a plan set up by Doctor Gao. Men Nan had moved into this place due to a thread that he had seen on the school forum, and now that he thought about it, that thread was also highly suspicious.

People from Hai Ming Apartments would not have purposely come to the medical school's forum to post a thread. The thread was probably published by Doctor Gao, but why would Doctor Gao do something like this? What is he trying to accomplish? What is he trying to get from Men Nan's second persona?

After giving it some thought, Chen Ge realized that the only thing that could have attracted Doctor Gao's attention was Men Nan's connection to his main person. When the ghost stories society was at its full glory, they could have easily killed Men Nan's main persona, but they did not do that—they just made him fall into a coma.

Is Doctor Gao trying to figure out how to control the door-pusher? Chen Ge repeated the conversation that Doctor Gao had with Men Nan in his mind. If Doctor Gao is really No. 10 from the ghost stories society, did Men Nan's main persona know about that?

Chen Ge wanted to complete the Trial Mission at the underground morgue, but that was hard with his power alone. If only he could drag Men Nan down with him, after all, Men Nan's main persona was also a Red Specter.

Whether Doctor Gao is the chairperson or not, I can make use of this point to convince Men Nan. He won't want to see his other persona fall into the hands of the enemy.

With his mind made, Chen Ge planned to return to Third Sick Hall that night. “Zhang Li, you need to fetch me the map as soon as possible—it’s very important.”

Chen Ge was about to leave when his phone rang. It was from Lee Zheng.

“Do you need me to give you some privacy?” Zhang Li asked.

“No need.” Chen Ge answered the phone before Zhang Li. “Inspector Lee, how can I help you?”

“Doctor Gao is the most cunning and careful person I’ve met in my years of being a cop! He has already noticed our plan, and two hours ago, he left Jiujiang.”

“He left Jiujiang? Are you sure?” Doctor Gao leaving Jiujiang was good news for Chen Ge—it meant that there would be one less variable to worry about when he visited the underground morgue.

“How come I hear excitement in your voice?” Lee Zheng was confused. Doctor Gao’s sudden departure meant that all their preparation had been wasted.

“This only means that he is really hiding something, looks like he’s scared.” Chen Ge said that on his lips, but his real plan was to make use of this opening to complete the mission at the underground morgue.

“I don’t think you understand the situation. Based on our investigation, we’ve discovered more and more problems with Doctor Gao.” Lee Zheng lowered his voice. “There is no one around you, right?”

“What’s wrong?”

“Based on our investigation, Doctor Gao might be related to several murders. He was not a direct participant, but he was always involved somehow.”

“Several?” Chen Ge still had a hard time believing it. “Could it be that he was framed?”

“With his intelligence, all over Jiujiang, the only person who could frame him is himself.” There was a tiredness in Lee Zheng’s voice. “I cannot deny the fact that he is a good doctor, but under that façade hides a madman. There is some information that I cannot reveal to you. the main reason I’m calling you is because I want you to prepare to make contact with Gao Ru Xue tomorrow night. Other than that, I’ll send you some information. I want you to take a look at it.”

“Okay, no problem.” Chen Ge hung up and left after telling Zhang Li a few more things.

Doctor Gao leaving Jiujiang is the perfect chance for me. When I get the map, I’ll start the mission.

For this mission, Chen Ge had prepared a lot, but he was still worried. Compared to completing a mission by the breath of a hair, he preferred to have a landslide victory.

Looks like I still need a few helpers. The door at Third Sick Hall would only open at midnight, so Chen Ge did not rush there. Instead, he called a cab to get to Jiujiang’s Children’s Home. When the guard saw Chen Ge, he was agitated and stood up to lock the door.

“Uncle!” Chen Ge ran over and forced his way in. “Are Jiang Ling and Fan Yu around? I have something important to discuss with them.”

"The police just dropped them back here yesterday. The two children are tired, so please just leave them be and let the children's home have some time to recuperate." Before Chen Ge's arrival, the children's home had been so peaceful. However, after his appearance, two kids had gone missing, their only doctor had disappeared, and they were now under great public pressure.

"It won't take too much time." Chen Ge strode in after that. The Children's Home was the same as before. There were flower pots along the path and paintings of cartoons on the wall. The uncle could not stop Chen Ge, so he called the nurse to come help him.

However, the nurse had a good impression of Chen Ge. She told the uncle, "He was the one who found Fan Yu and Jiang Ling in the mountains. If not for him, we would have closed down already."

With the nurse leading the way, Chen Ge came to the room where Fan Yu and Jiang Ling stayed. He pushed the door open, and the scene was quite friendly. A single table lamp was open in the bedroom, and Fan Yu sat at the table drawing while Jiang Ling watched him draw while standing on her tip-toes.

"Fan Yu, look who came to visit you." The nurse called into the room. If this was other children, they would have run out happily, but to make things awkward, Fan Yu and Jiang Ling ignored her. The nurse smiled embarrassedly at Chen Ge. She wanted to say something but was stopped by Chen Ge. "Let's go in and take a look."

Inside the room, the warm light fell on Chen Ge. Everything here felt comfortable and warm until he saw the painting on the table. On the white paper, a black man walked ahead while various scary red shadows followed behind him.

Fan Yu's painting ruined the friendly atmosphere, and when he finished the painting, he turned to look at Chen Ge. "You're here."

"Hmm." Chen Ge had never treated Fan Yu as a normal child. He squatted down beside Fan Yu and glanced at his wrist. "Fan Yu, I have something to discuss with you. Do you mind if you lend me your wrist bangle for one night?"

Chapter 420: Departure!

"Sure, but the bangle only seems to work when I'm wearing it." Fan Yu removed the bangle given to him by the ghost in Coffin Village. When the bangle left his wrist, the red blood vessels disappeared, and it looked just like a normal bangle. When he put it on again, the red blood returned. "If you need my help, you can bring me with you."

"I don't think so." Chen Ge did not want to put Fan Yu in danger and had to take care of the boy. He scratched his chin and moved his gaze to settle on Jiang Ling. After the ghost from Coffin Village left her body, she was just a normal child. When Chen Ge looked at her, the girl almost cried.

The girl hid behind Fan Yu, and this made things awkward for the two adults there. Chen Ge did not know how to make his request, and the nurse felt like she had been ignored. After a small cough, Chen Ge had the nurse leave the room first. Then he came up with the kindest expression that he could.

"Jiang Ling, I'm going to do something big tomorrow night. Please can you lend me your sister?"

Chen Ge tried his best to sound nice, but when Jiang Ling heard him say that, she still cried.

“Am I that scary?” Chen Ge did not know how to deal with kids. He felt children like Fan Yu and the phone spirit were easier to communicate with. Jiang Ling cried louder, and eventually, it was Fan Yu who leaned into the girl’s ears and made her stop crying. Her teary eyes looked at Chen Ge.

“Is that a yes? What did you tell her?”

“I said you’re her sister’s best friend. You’re a nice person and can make her sister happy.”

“Well said.” Chen Ge nodded. He felt like Fan Yu was picking up the good quality from him; the child was improving fast. Jiang Ling jogged to the sofa to pick out a plastic can from behind the cushion. Unwillingly, she handed it to Chen Ge.

“Don’t worry, I just needed her to fill up the numbers; I will not let her get injured.” Chen Ge accepted the can. There was a very small spider inside. “Is your sister inside here?”

Jiang Ling nodded with uncertainty. She felt like she had been tricked. His goal completed, Chen Ge did not stay any longer. He left the Children’s Home and returned to the Third Sick Hall. He waited until midnight and sneaked into the door after it appeared.

When Chen Ge showed up next to the old director, the lonely human head was about to cry because he noticed a different ghost behind Chen Ge. Chen Ge did not waste time with the old director but went directly to find Men Nan. He exaggerated the story and told Men Nan everything. After Men Nan heard him, he started feel conflicted. After leaving the blood door, his power would greatly decrease, and from his perspective, the threat that Chen Ge represented was no smaller than Doctor Gao. Men Nan was afraid that he might escape from a wolf’s den into a tiger’s cave. “Let me think about it.”

...

Chen Ge left the Third Sick Hall at 1 am. He turned back to look. If everything was fine, this would be the last time that he visited the place. Returning to New Century Park, Chen Ge arranged all the information on the underground morgue.

“Be careful of red corridors, and be extremely quiet inside them.

“There are only seven morgues—do not enter the 8th morgue.”

He memorized all the details before going to bed. The park opened at 9 am. At almost the same time, Zhang Li sent the map to Chen Ge. There were ten pictures and two one-minute videos. *Did the man really think I’m a police informant?*

Since Doctor Gao was not in Jiujiang, Chen Ge planned to activate the Trial Mission in the underground morgue that night. He sent the visitors into the scenario and sat down to study the pictures. The underground morgue was large, and it had been updated thrice. The first expansion’s date and blueprint could not be found anymore, the second expansion was when the two medical schools at Jiujiang joined together, and the third expansion was the one Zhang Li was a part of. *This place covers the entire western side of the campus. It’s so damn big.*

The underground morgue could basically be categorized into three parts. The outer perimeter was for various transport corridors and two storerooms as well as five morgues. The middle section was where

the abandoned cadaver pools were; this place had been abandoned years ago. Based on what Zhang Li had said, there was a central hub at the deepest part of the morgue. It was recorded on the paper, but no one could find the path that led that way. Zhang Li noted specially that he suspected that something had happened there before, and that was why the paths leading there had been fully sealed.

Chen Ge looked through all the videos and pictures. There was only a map for the outer perimeter; the middle section's map was not there. It had probably been removed by someone already. "The underground morgue's biggest secret should be hiding at the central hub; I need to find the way to get there."

He memorized the map in his heart, and he looked through it for the whole afternoon. Chen Ge worked for the whole day until 6:30 pm. After Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu left, Chen Ge locked himself inside the staff breakroom. He took several deep breaths. After making sure he had everything, he took out the black phone.

The underground morgue is the eighth side mission to the four-star School of the Afterlife. After completing this, I have the right to unlock the four-star mission.

Sitting next to the table, Chen Ge's finger danced over the screen before he pressed on that mission.

"Do you accept the 8th side mission for School of the Afterlife?"

"Yes!"

"Side Mission 8: Eternal Life (In an undisclosed underground morgue, there's a group who seek eternal life).

"Mission Location: Western Jiujiang Medical University.

"Mission Hint: Life's meaning is not whether you can breathe or not but something else.

"Mission Requirement: Enter the underground morgue's central hub before midnight and survive until dawn!"

Based on the information on the black phone, Chen Ge's expression was dark. *If I need to get into the central hub before midnight, I'll need to get moving now.*

Chen Ge's eyes focused on the last few words. *This kind of requirement that needs me to survive until dawn normally means a hard mission. Thankfully, I'm fully prepared.*

Picking up the backpack, Chen Ge exited the room. Like his visit to the Coffin Village, he planned to take all the employees with him.

Even without fighting power, at least they will be able to fill up the numbers.

Pen Spirit, Xiaoxiao, Xu Yin, the hammer—Chen Ge poured everything that he could think of into his back, and when the white cat was not paying attention, he also picked it up.

Have I forgotten something? Right, there's still that statue in the underground scenario.