

Horrors 441

Chapter 441: Am I Dead?

In the fleshy corridor, the organs pulsed inside the wall, various vessels crossed the ceiling, and occasionally, blood would seep through. Compared to when Chen Ge first entered the place, the world behind the door started to change like a sleeping person slowly waking up. Walking down the hall, Chen Ge heard the conversation between two people coming out of Morgue No. 7.

"I hear the experiment failed again."

"Yes, they're all dead. No one survived to leave that room. It's so scary. I hope it's never my turn."

"You wish, I predict we'll be part of the next batch. Did you realize there have been a lack of newcomers lately?"

"I did. Perhaps that's the reason the experiments are getting more frequent—something has happened outside."

"Actually, I pity that body. Loved by a madman and has to endure the torture even after death, never to acquire actual peace."

"Shush, that is not something we can discuss. Focus on the work."

Chen Ge glanced into the room—it was two monsters chatting. They had the shape of a human and face of a human, but their bodies were glued together like putty. If not for the red threads, they would have crumbled already. When Chen Ge saw the two monsters' faces, he was quite shocked.

Even though the bodies were probably an amalgamation, the faces were theirs. Chen Ge had seen them inside the room filled with pictures. Both of them were the society's victims. One of them was Patient 41's father, the middle-aged man who had tortured his child.

Chen Ge did not rush into Morgue No. 7. His brain turned—what he had seen confirmed his speculation. These two should be the general staff mentioned by Liu Zhengyi—they were formed from the lingering spirit of the society's victims and served the 'headmaster'.

From how Chen Ge viewed it, the ghost stories society was an organization with no bottom line. Even after death, they captured the victim's lingering spirit to force them into labor.

Wait a while longer. I will save all of you. Chen Ge gripped the hammer and squatted down on the corridor. He focused on Morgue No. 7 with his Yin Yang Vision. The two monsters pulled up the blood cloth covering the ground. Underneath it were plenty of cadavers. They looked like they had been transported here from outside. They placed the cadavers on the trolley, facing the door of the freezer.

"Ready, open the freezer." One of the monsters stood next to the freezer nervously. It took a deep breath, extended its arm that had plenty of sewing marks, and pulled open the lock on the freezer.

When the lock slid off, the thick door of the freezer was shoved open, and countless thick blood vessels sprung out like giant cobras. The other monster, who was experienced, immediately pushed the trolley

forward. The vessels covered the cadavers like octopus tentacles and dragged the cadavers into the darkness.

“Quick close the door!”

The two monsters cooperated to close the door, but an accident happened then. One of the blood vessels slithered out from the gap and curled around one of the monsters’ arm. The vessel had something like looked like a teathed orifice on its tip, and it munched the monster’s arm right off.

There was the sound of slamming on the door like there was a beast trapped inside the freezer. The monster did not scream even though its arm was pulled out. In fact, it treated this like it happened daily. When the blood vessels retreated, it quickly locked the door. About ten seconds later, the morgue became quiet again, and the monsters prepared to open the second freezer. When all the cadavers were sent into the freezers, the two sighed in relief. By then, they were already fully wounded, with scars all over their bodies.

“Finally done.” The two monsters left Morgue No. 7, pushing the trolley. Chen Ge followed them silently.

They sent the cadavers in real life inside the freezers, allowing the blood vessels to absorb them. Is it a way to feed the blood world? Chen Ge looked at the thick vessels above him and the blood threads that flowed through them and he got even more confused by this world.

The society discovered the ‘door’ five years earlier than me, and they seemed to have mastered the way of transforming the ‘door’. Chen Ge glanced into the room when he passed Morgue No. 7. This place was looking less and less like a blood school and more like a blood factory. *Doctor Gao is scarier than the monsters here. The man has lost his mind; there’s no telling what he’s thinking.*

He walked forward, and there were two doctors wearing white coats arguing at the door to Morgue No. 6. Many professional terms were tossed around, and Chen Ge could not understand any of them. Doctors seemed to possess great ranking in this world—the two general staff did not dare get close to them like close proximity could be treated as an offense.

After the argument finished and the doctors left, the two monsters only dared to whisper softly to voice their disgruntlement.

“Looks like the experiment has failed again. That room has already consumed more than one hundred people.”

“Actually, it’s not really a failure. Didn’t the body move some time ago?”

“What do you know? The body is alive, but the soul has already disappeared. The madman wants to find his wife’s soul—only by combining the soul and the body can the thing be counted as a person.”

“I don’t know anything since it has nothing to do with me, but let’s get moving. We’re close to that crazy old man’s place, and if we run into him, something bad is bound to happen.”

“You’re right. I almost forgot about that.”

The two monsters shut up. When they passed Morgue No. 4, they slowed down, afraid of making any noise. However, to their surprise, an old man was just standing behind the door. When he saw someone pass, he yanked the door open.

“You two, stop right there!” The old man’s voice was strict and stern. It could strike fear into people.

“Doctor Wei, are you looking for us?” The two monsters squeezed together and did not dare get too close.

“Answer my question.” The old man had a pair of eagle eyes.

The monsters did not dare to say no, so they nodded unwillingly. “What do you wish to ask?”

The old man asked with confusion, “Am I dead?”

When the answer was revealed, the blood in the vessels sped up, and the organs inside the walls pulsed harder.

“You’re alive of course!” The two monsters forced a smile.

“But I remember dying very clearly.” The old man’s brows creased, and he started to think.

One of the monsters pulled on the other, and they slowly retreated down the corridor and ran away.

Chapter 442: The Key Person

The door was open, and the old man stood beyond it—there was befuddlement in his eyes. “Am I not dead?”

Chen Ge had seen this old man before, also within Morgue No. 8. His body had been just next to Liu Zhengyi. Soaked in formalin, he had looked so peaceful, completely different from how he was now.

Looks like everyone in Morgue No. 8 retains their memory and personality. They are not affected by the blood world.

The world behind the door was filled with many negative emotions. Staying here for a long time would cause one to be assimilated into it, and only those with strongest conviction would be able to survive.

It was that way for Liu Zhengyi, whom Chen Ge had run into earlier. When he heard his student was bullied, he prepared to stand up for the student. It should be the same for this old man. Combined with what happened to Liu Zhengyi, Chen Ge understood something. *Perhaps the blood world cannot assimilate them, so it forcibly controls them every few hours to make them forget certain things to preserve the order here.*

Chen Ge was a calm man, and another observation appeared in his mind.

Compared to mind-controlling them, killing them should be easier, but the blood world didn’t do that. There is no pity or protection here, and since they’re still alive until now, this means that they serve some purpose!

The monsters referred to him as a doctor, be it Liu Zhengyi or this gentleman, they should be the best in their respective field. The owner of the door sounds like he's trying to revive someone. He kept these two doctors alive probably to aid him in completing that revival experiment.

Through the conversation of the two monsters and the clues gathered, Chen Ge came to a conclusion.

The two monsters refused to interact with the old gentleman because they were afraid of trouble, but it's different for me.

Chen Ge placed the white cat and hammer into his backpack and walked along the corridor openly.

Hearing his footsteps, the old gentleman slowly raised his head. When he saw Chen Ge, he was startled like he had seen a ghost.

I wonder how I look like in their eyes. Chen Ge walked to the old man and asked politely, "Sir, I have a few words to discuss with you—can you give me a few minutes of your time?"

"It should be lecture time now. Which class are you from?" The old gentleman glanced at Chen Ge a few more times like he was slowly getting used to the sight, and his expression returned to normal.

"Sir, I heard your conversation with the two people earlier," Chen Ge said directly. He did not plan to waste any more time.

"So what? You think I'm mad?" The old man held the door and prepared to return to his room.

"You're not mad. Actually, you're indeed dead." When Chen Ge said that, the whole corridor became quiet. He could clearly hear the sound of the blood flowing through the vessels. The old gentleman focused his gaze on Chen Ge. He did not speak but nodded slightly and allowed Chen Ge to follow him into the room. Chen Ge did what he was told. Morgue No. 4 was a small morgue. Due to wiring, Morgue No. 4 had stopped being used, and it had been turned into a sample room.

The door closed, but the old gentleman still did not say a thing. He walked to the racks that carried multiple samples. Chen Ge did not know what the old man was up to, but he still followed him silently.

The old man led Chen Ge to the inner part of the racks. "If you have something to say, we can discuss it here—this place is hidden from outside view."

Chen Ge nodded. "Sir, can you describe what I look like in your eyes?"

"Your features are placed at impossible places. The fact that you're alive is a miracle," the old man said directly.

"Then how do the surrounding walls and racks look in your eyes?"

"The walls?" The old man knew that Chen Ge was hinting at something. "They are painted white and look new."

"Do you know how they look in my eyes?" Chen Ge pointed at them. "Their surface is covered with a transparent membrane, blood vessels of varying sizes run through them, and they pulse like living organs."

Then Chen Ge pointed at his face. “The world in my eyes is the real one. I believe you’ve noticed that already.”

The stronger one’s will, the harder it was to control them behind the door. The old gentleman was this type of individual. He was not influenced by the negative emotions, and while he fought with the blood world, he slowly got tipped off to certain things.

“I know you might not be able to accept this so suddenly, but that is the truth.” Chen Ge had a close watch on the old man. Once he acted strangely, Chen Ge would act quickly. “I saw you once in Morgue No. 8 at the underground morgue. Your real body is soaked inside formalin, and you look peaceful.”

“You mean, I’m not only dead, but I’ve also donated my body to the university?” The old man tried to force himself to remember. He did remember something, but right then, things changed. Blood vessels leaked out from the walls and ground—they charged at the old gentleman all at once. Chen Ge had seen this before, so he came prepared. When they appeared, he took out his hammer and beat them off.

However, more blood came from the surrounding. There were so many of them that it was scary.

“Sir! Think about what you’ve done in the past! Everything you see is fake!” He protected the old man from the encroaching threat, but Chen Ge only managed that for a few seconds. There was heavy breathing from the outside corridor—‘security’ had been informed as well.

“What I’ve done in the past?” The old man’s eyes glowed, but right then, the blood vessels slid past Chen Ge and attacked the old man. The man’s eyes changed between red and white, his expression one of torment. Just as he was about to collapse, his body reacted like it had been programmed to do so. At the height of pain, he reached his arm into his sleeve. In the end, the old man failed to resist the control. When the blood vessels disappeared, he collapsed to the ground weakly.

“Sir?” Chen Ge squatted down to help the old man up from the ground. “Can you remember who I am?”

Holding his chest, the old man stood up from the ground. He looked at Chen Ge blankly and shook his head. Then, he appeared like he had remembered something and pulled down his sleeve. On his thin wrist, there were plenty of wounds gouged out by nails.

He looked at the latest wound and asked, “When did the new scar appear?”

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Chen Ge did not expect the old man to use this type of method to jot down the recording. When the blood vessels were crawling all over his system, when he was in the deepest depths of pain, he could still do something like this. It went to show how strong the old man’s will was—much stronger than a normal man.

“Sir, you dug out these scars yourself. You can compare them to your own nails. I saw with my own eyes earlier that you used your other hand’s middle and first fingers to scratch them out.”

“This is my own doing? How come I have no recollection of this?”

While the two were speaking, heavy breathing came from outside the door. The monster with the empty face had arrived. The creepy face leaned on the window of the door to Morgue No. 4. Its gaze was blocked by the racks filled with samples. When it could not look into the back of the room, it sounded like it was going to barge its way in. The door shook and trembled—the monster was incredibly strong.

“Stay here, and don’t move.” The old man pulled down his sleeves and walked out from behind the racks. He walked to the door and pulled it open. The large monster that was sewn together from various dead bodies poked its head into the room. It had no face, and the skull was clean and shaven. It was anyone’s guess how it sensed the surroundings.

“Who let you in here?” the old man demanded in a stern voice. In terms of size and frame, the old man was just half of the creature, but in terms of presence and aura, they were not even on the same level. The old man’s gaze was sharp and penetrating. When he realized the monster was not moving, he raised his arm to block the monster. “This is not a place that you can enter. Get out!”

Hiding behind the racks, Chen Ge also thought this scene was quite amazing. The power level behind the two was night and day but their presence was the complete opposite. “The world in the old gentleman’s eyes is probably different from mine. Perhaps in his eyes, the monster is just a normal dude with malicious intent.”

The monster was blocked at the door by the old man. It seemed to have sensed Chen Ge. A large crevice appeared on its stomach and its large palm pulled out a rope filled with blood stain from behind him. The stench of blood and something else filled up the room. The monster gnashed its teeth, but the old man did not retreat. In fact, he took a step forward. He yelled at the monster, his voice rising. The two were at a standstill at the door. The stomach of the monster peeled open, and it created a sound that was similar to breathing. It was angered beyond belief, but there was nothing it could do. In the end, it left unwillingly.

When the monster disappeared down the corridor, the old man closed the door. He returned to the racks and pulled up the sleeve of his shirt. “Let’s continue our earlier conversation. You said that you saw me leave this wound on my arm, but how come I have no memory of it at all?”

“Sir, do you have any memory of wounds, blood vessels, and death in your mind?”

“Now that you mention it, I have been suffering from this recurring nightmare. When I close my eyes, I can see many blood lines curling around my body. I try my best to struggle, but I cannot resist being pulled into the darkness by them. After that, I wake up.” The man touched the scars on his arm. “When did I leave these wounds? I cannot remember them at all.”

Chen Ge told the old man what had happened earlier. However, he was only halfway through it when the organs in the wall started to react violently and the heavy breathing outside the corridor returned. With no other choice, Chen Ge had to stop.

“We’ll need to wait a little longer. Now we have no means to protect ourselves, so it’s pointless to reveal these things to you.” Chen Ge finally understood something. If the old man remembered something important, the blood world behind the door would forcibly control him, and the monsters that were patrolling the corridor would congregate. The old man had been able to save him this time,

but Chen Ge did not want to test his luck. Compared to recovering the old man's memory, removing the blood membrane was more important.

"Sir, do you have anything else that you need my help with?" Chen Ge's sudden offer confused the old gentleman. He thought about it for a long time, and his eyes eventually focused on Chen Ge. "I want you to bring me to Morgue No. 8."

"Morgue No. 8?" Chen Ge was surprised the old gentleman would make such a request. "The morgue was sealed shut by someone—why would you want to go there?"

"I can't really tell, but I have a feeling something dear to me is locked inside there. Perhaps I've been there before and left something important there."

"Do we have to enter Morgue No. 8?" Breaking the lock would require plenty of time, and that process might attract more than one monsters. In that case, they would put themselves in grave danger.

"Yes." The man nodded. He could be quite stubborn, but he was certain this was the only and last favor that he needed from Chen Ge. Entering Morgue No. 8 would be dangerous, but since Chen Ge could not find a second 'person' to help in a short amount time, he would have to do it. He knew the blood world was onto him, and if he dragged this out, it would be dangerous to him.

"Staying in this place will continue to thicken the membrane on the skin surface. There are two more unfortunate souls in the room at the central hub. If I drag this any longer, the two of them might just die from asphyxiation." Chen Ge finally nodded. "Okay, I will bring you to Morgue No. 8."

After getting the confirmation from Chen Ge, the old man's expression softened. His eyes that landed on Chen Ge filled with admiration. For some reason that he could not understand, he felt the young man was quite friendly and nice. Actually, the reason the old man felt that way was because Chen Ge was an outsider. Different from the people inside the door, there was humanity in Chen Ge. If it was Ma Wei or Li Jiu who came over, the old man might have felt even closer to them.

"The key to Morgue No. 8 should be in the headmaster's room, but it is not going to be easy to go there. I know many ways that lead there. The closest route has the most security, and the other route is more deserted, but..."

"There's no need to go through so much trouble; there is more than one way to open a door." Chen Ge assumed he only needed to complete the old man's wish to clear the blood membrane, so he did not want to make things too complicated. "You can just follow me to Morgue No. 8."

Chen Ge walked to the door and the old man reminded him with uncertainty, "Whenever I leave this room, a bad feeling forms in my heart. I don't know why, but you'd better be careful. Also, there's one other thing—we mustn't be spotted by others."

The old man seemed to have the experience of running away before. However, he could not remember what had happened then—his memory was blurry.

"Don't worry, I'll be there." Chen Ge's body only had a thin layer of blood membrane left. After completing the old man's wish, he should be able to get the full approval, and after that, he would not need to run and hide anymore.

Opening the door, Chen Ge walked out of the room. Nothing happened. However, when the old man left the room, the whole corridor shook slightly, and the organs on the wall pulsed faster.

“Let’s not waste time, we’ll go there directly! Quick!” The underground morgue’s outer perimeter had a complicated layout because it was connected to many buildings. Chen Ge was glad that he had taken a picture of the map and memorized it in his head before he started the journey. Holding the hammer, Chen Ge weaved through the corridors to head to Morgue No. 8. The old man followed closely behind him with conviction shining in his eyes.

After the old man left the room, the blood world started to change. If before it was the calm before the storm, now, the storm was arriving. With no return route and no other choice, Chen Ge led the old man quickly through the corridors. He had done all the preparation; no matter who blocked his way, he would force his way through!

There was a strange smell in the air. The blood that flowed above their heads started to speed up. The freezers in the morgues on both sides echoed with the slamming sounds as if the cobra-like blood vessels felt hungry again. After turning another few corners, Chen Ge heard footsteps coming from the other end. He gripped the hammer tightly but did not slow down. In fact, he ran even faster.

The person at the other end of the corridor heard his running footsteps. They were more cowardly and stopped immediately. Turning the corner, Chen Ge saw two general staff that looked like a pile of decaying mud fixing the corridor. They were pushing a trolley that was filled with broken carcasses. They placed the body parts into the gaps of the walls and then used a red thread to sew them back together. The two monsters worked seriously. They did not give Chen Ge much heed, but when they saw the old man behind him, they started to worry.

“We’ve been discovered.” Chen Ge raised the hammer to plan to silence the witnesses but was stopped by the old man. “Ignore them, these people are too cowardly to report us. If you harm them, the security will rush over immediately.”

The old man then stared at the two monsters. The two creatures very tactfully turned their heads away to continue working like they could not see Chen Ge and the old man. “I have interacted with them a fair bit, so I know them well.”

Chen Ge already knew these ‘monsters’ were quite afraid of the old man. “Sir, you must have been quite a vicious character.”

“You flatter me. We should get to Morgue No. 8 first; we can continue the conversation there.”

It was not looking great in the corridors. The organs in the wall started to leak blood, and the situation was quickly turning south. After a few more corridors, Chen Ge and the old man finally arrived at the entrance to Morgue No. 8. By then, the walls, floor and the blood vessels on the ceiling had started to leak blood, and the surrounding blood mist had gotten a lot thicker.

“The door is locked. How are we going to open it without a key?” The old man stood in the mist. Ever since he left the room, a headache had been following him. It felt like there was something that was trying to crawl its way out of his head.

“Leave it to me.” With no other option, Chen Ge focused on the lock on the door and raised his hammer high!

BANG!

The door shook, and the shockwave caused the walls next to it to bleed. “Sure is tough.”

Gritting his teeth, he smashed at the thing like his life depended on it. He aimed at the place where the door was joined to the wall. When he passed the door for the first time, he had planned to smash through the door already.

No matter how tough the door was, Chen Ge was not afraid. At most, he would knock a hole through the adjacent wall. If there was a way in, he would find it.

As Chen Ge continued to demolish the place, more blood vessels continued to pour out from the grooves on the hammer, and they made the weapon look scarier. After about ten more hits, Chen Ge realized that the blood was not just a decoration—it seemed to have a special effect. It was as if due to these blood vessels that it increased the damage effect of the hammer against anything inside the blood world.

Chen Ge had no idea how many strikes he had made. The place was chaotic, and this was different from the old man’s plan. He wanted to have Chen Ge steal the key and then come over to silently open the door and retrieve the important thing that he had lost. However, Chen Ge’s action was so beyond the normal realm of human actions that perhaps even the ‘headmaster’, who was hidden at the deepest part of the underground morgue, did not expect someone to be so crazy.

The door shook, and the lock rattled noisily. The lock was coming loose, and the scariest thing was the adjacent wall was coming loose as well. Chen Ge almost smashed his way through. Heavy breathing came from both sides of the corridors; ‘security’ was on their way.

“Are you done?” The old man was in a shocked state, seeing this from the back. His admiration toward Chen Ge earlier had now changed into something else.

“Soon!” Chen Ge bit on his teeth, took several steps back, and used the running start to swing the hammer one last time!

BANG!

The door of Morgue No. 8 slammed into the wall. The hammer landed on the edge of the wall, pulling off a huge chunk of flesh. The locked door was blasted through by Chen Ge. Now, the security from both sides were running at them. They were tall and large since they were made from multiple cadavers. With resentment and pain, a hole opened on their stomachs, and various arms reached out from them.

“Come in here!” Chen Ge entered Morgue No. 8 with the old man. The old man’s wish had been fulfilled, and the blood membrane on Chen Ge’s body started to thin. He slammed the door shut and used the hammer to block the door. “Hopefully, this can last until the blood membrane disappears...”

Chen Ge did not care much about this Morgue No. 8, but when he raised his head to look around, he was stunned. Morgue No. 8 behind the door was only slightly different from the one in the real world.

There was an additional unique container made from flesh and blood in this Morgue No. 8. It was holding a man who looked around forty wearing a white coat.

“Doctor Chen?” The man who was trapped here was Doctor Chen from Jiujiang’s Children’s Home. At the last minute of the trial at Coffin Village, it was this man who had chased away No. 10 of the ghost stories society. “Why is he here? Did he lose during that battle?”

When Chen Ge was thinking, something slammed heavily into the door behind him. Many arms covered with blood tried to force their way through the cracks. The two faceless monsters had arrived!

“Sir, have you found the thing you have lost? I cannot hold on much longer!” There was still a very thin layer of membrane on Chen Ge’s skin. He could not rub it off no matter how hard he tried. He started to call for his employees’ names, but there was still no reply.

“Don’t panic.” The old man walked before the many empty tubes. He finally stopped at the glass tube that carried his dead body in real life. His palm fell on the glass, and his eyes fell on the introduction that was before the glass tube.

“Wei Jiuqin, Western Jiujiang Medical University’s Professor, the man who built Jiujiang’s Life Science Research Center. He donated his body for the pursuit of science after he died at the age of seventy-three from lung cancer.”

Reading the letters on the tube, various memories exploded in his mind. Various images of his life and research flooded his mind before the last memory fixated on the last moment of his life.

Inside the sickroom, he prepared to donate his body to the university. At the time, his children had tried to stop him, and with the last bit of strength in his body, he had written, “I’d rather they leave millions of wrong cuts on my body than make one mistake on their patients.”

Chapter 444: Who Has More People?

Memories flooded his mind. The headache was mounting but his gaze was peaceful. Blood vessels squeezed out from the walls and ground to curl around his body. The old man did not move, still standing before the glass tube. The blood drilled into his body and pulsed under his skin. They looked like snakes travelling to his brain. Just from the look of it, Chen Ge could imagine how painful it must have been, but the old man did not even frown. Chen Ge wanted to go help the old man, but he was in a less than positive situation himself. The monsters slammed crazily into the wall, and the arms with sewing marks tried to reach into the room to grab his body.

“Sir, you have to make it!”

The blood vessels still made their way to the old man’s brain, but unlike before, the old man’s eyes did not get overtaken by the blood immediately. He retained his consciousness. His face was filled with popping veins; the pain was unimaginable. However, the old gentleman suffered through it, standing quietly next to the glass tube.

His not-so-tall frame stood upright like nothing in the world was going to make his body bend. The organs on the wall vibrated crazily, and the blood vessels above them expanded. The blood rushed through them, and endless blood threads leaked out.

The blood world did not expect an accident like this, and it was trying its best to fix itself. More blood came out from the corners of the room, and the place looked like hell. Compared to those blood vessels, the old man was slender and thin, like an inconspicuous rock caught in a heavy storm.

More blood curled into his body, but the old man seemed to have noticed them—no one could tell what was going through his mind then. Standing from afar, Chen Ge noticed that the old man kept his gaze on the glass tube. His body looked like it was about to be torn open by the blood vessels, but he was unfazed. His palm still on the cold glass surface, his gaze was complicated. He was yearning for life, but he was not afraid of death.

“Looks like I should be in here.” The old man finally remembered everything about himself. His fists tightened, and a low growl came out from his throat. The pain and torture faded to the background, and his eyes glowed brightly.

The blood expanded his body, making him look scary, but his expression was so peaceful and kind. Other people definitely would not have expected the stern old man to have such a side to him. He moved his eyes away from the glass tube and shook his head lightly. “What are these kids up to? I donated my body not for them to prop me up like a display, how pretentious! After I’m out, I’ll have to go teach them a lesson!”

With anger in his voice, the old man suffered through the endless pain and recovered all his memories. When the blood vessels realized that they could not influence the old man, they upped the ante. The whole room was shaking, and the organs in the wall and the blood vessels above them creaked open, blood dripping everywhere.

Standing in the downpour of blood, the old man maintained the same pose. It was clear that he was in great pain, but he did not surrender. If anything, there was condescension in his eyes!

The blood world and the old man’s will were battling within the old man’s body, a battle that could not be intervened in by outsiders. Chen Ge could not help; all he could do was block the door to prevent the security from harming the old man.

Chen Ge gritted his teeth and gave it his all. There were cracks forming on the walls next to the door, and the organs above him leaked. The surface was wrinkling, and like leaves in fall, they started to fall. The cracks on the wall widened. It did not take long for one of the security guards to poke one of his arms and head through.

Its stomach split open, and it was heaving heavily. When it saw Chen Ge, the heaving became rapid just like a glutton finding its favorite food.

BANG!

The door shook, and two monsters rammed at the door. Chen Ge was in a dire situation, and it almost reached the end for the old man as well. Due to the rapid acceleration of the organs on the walls, the blood vessels on the ceiling had expanded to their maximum size, but even so, it could not bend the old

man's will. Compared to the power of the blood world, the old man was nothing. However, he had somehow managed to stop the blood world from controlling him.

His short life flashed across his mind, and the old man's eyes glimmered. The blood vessels reached their limits, and they started to crack before exploding with a snap. A rain of blood occurred in the room, and the room made of flesh started to darken. The vessels that curled around the old man lost their life, and they collapsed to the ground like died vines.

"Is that all?" The old man stepped over the dried vessels, his will as strong as diamond. When the old man forced the vessels to explode and shielded his own memory, the blood membrane on Chen Ge also disappeared. Chen Ge took a deep breath, and air thick with the stench of blood entered his nostrils. He had never felt better!

Like someone who had been submerged in water for a long time breaking through the surface, that feeling could not be put into words!

The door was slammed open, and the monsters tried to squeeze their way in. The body made from flesh and blood was pulled apart and the arms reached for Chen Ge. Seeing this, there was a smile on Chen Ge's face. He knew that, from that moment onward, he was no longer fighting alone. Activating the recorder, when the static noise appeared, Chen Ge gripped the hammer and opened the morgue's door.

"Xu Yin!" The blood red shadow appeared beside him, and Xu Yin's murderous gaze studied the monsters that approached Chen Ge. The red shirt was dripping with blood, and he flexed his arms with his knuckles cracking. There was now a third breathing sound in the corridor; the monsters had started to gather.

"Flesh and blood make up everything; nothing here is right. So, I've been living in a place like this." After the old man recovered his memory, he no longer saw the fake view. He soon understood everything after combining the memories he had before and after his death.

Walking next to Chen Ge, the old man softly reminded him, "We should leave now. I know a way out. There are too many monsters here—there's no need to fight them head on."

Moving his limbs, Chen Ge felt so refreshed after the blood membrane was shed. He looked at the monsters behind the door and had no intention of running.

"More monsters will gather; it'll be too late for us to run then." The old man was calmer.

"Don't worry, leave this to me." Chen Ge put the white cat aside and took out the comic. Then many figures appeared around him. "In terms of numbers, I don't believe I'll lose!"

Chapter 445: Doctor Chen With a Surname That Is Not Chen

Chen Ge had felt restricted with the blood membrane covering his body. When the blood membrane burst open, he could finally move his muscles. Just in case the membrane returned, Chen Ge called out all the ghosts in the comic. It was a wave of blackness. There were people from various ages and size, and even the old man was shocked by this.

“They’re all nice people.” After Chen Ge told the old man that, he whispered to his employees, “That is your future coworker, so make sure you leave a good first impression.”

The old man heard that as well, but he did not understand what he meant. However, the workers understood what Chen Ge meant, and their eyes that looked at the old man became different. The sudden appearance of so many people gave the security guards pause. They started to feel unnerved.

“Want to run now? It’s too late! Weren’t you having so much fun chasing me around earlier?” Once Chen Ge finished, the smell of blood around him thickened. Xu Yin moved his arms, and the red shirt cracked to form wounds as he pounced like a leopard.

“Go and help him.” Chen Ge stood at the door to study the battle. The security guards were more powerful than the thin monster at Third Sick Hall but not by much. However, they were much harder to kill than the thin monster.

“Don’t let any of them run away!” The underground morgue was a three-star scenario, and Chen Ge’s own Haunted House could be counted as a three-star scenario as well, so Chen Ge had confidence. With all of the employees hungering after them, none of the three security guards managed to escape. Their ugly souls became the food for the employees. Temporarily, no one could tell the change, but if this was allowed to continue, perhaps the Haunted House might have a new Red Specter. Chen Ge knew that the chance was low, but there was no loss in trying.

After dealing with the three security guards, the blood world started to change again. The flesh on the sides started to wilt, the vessels above them burst, and the blood slid down the wall.

“Should we go now?” The old man’s body shook along with the corridor.

“No need to rush, we still need to rescue a friend.” Chen Ge called Xu Yin into the room and stopped before the container made from flesh. The vessels in Morgue No. 8 had been destroyed, so the surface of the container looked drabber. Chen Ge had Xu Yin open the container, and a horrible stench drifted out. Chen Ge suspected that the man might already be dead.

Blood mist rushed into the container, and the middle-aged man, who had a tense expression, suddenly peeled his eyes open. The eyes were red, and he roared like a beast. That lasted for some time before he stopped. When the man calmed down, Chen Ge pulled the blood vessels around him off and then yanked him out of the container.

Doctor Gao and Doctor Chen were childhood friends and fell in love with the same girl. They’re also both psychologists, but their lives are so different.

Rescued from the container, Doctor Chen’s eyes slowly returned to normal, and Chen Ge’s shadow reflected in his gaze. After he got a clear view of Chen Ge’s face, he shivered slightly but slowly returned to normal.

Chen Ge caught all of those details. He squatted down next to Doctor Chen and asked, “Doctor Chen, are you that surprised to see me?”

After some time, Doctor Chen croaked out the reply. “I thought this looked familiar, and they keep calling me Doctor Chen, but my surname is not Chen.”

“Then, why do you call yourself Doctor Chen?” Chen Ge thought this man was rather amusing. Doctor Chen did not reply. He held the broken container and slowly stood up. Throughout the whole process, he kept his eyes on Chen Ge’s face, and this made Chen Ge feel rather uncomfortable.

Chen Ge did not dare lower his guard around this Doctor Chen. Doctor Gao should be the door-pusher for the underground morgue and had probably controlled the door for more than six years. He had many ghosts and bodies. Under such circumstances, Doctor Chen had managed to fight Doctor Gao to a draw—this man was not to be underestimated either.

“The reason I call myself Doctor Chen is to complete someone’s favor. They want me to use this surname to do something in Western Jiujiang.” Doctor Chen’s body was weak. He had trouble even standing. After a pause, he added, “That man has the surname Chen too.”

Hearing this, Chen Ge knew something was up. However, no matter how hard he pushed, Doctor Chen had nothing else to say. Chen Ge did not force Doctor Chen; he did not like to force people. “It’s fine if you don’t want to share, but I will escort you out safely.”

There was still an arrest warrant out on Doctor Chen due to ‘kidnapping’ children. He definitely would not have been to escape in his state, so Chen Ge planned to drop him at the Haunted House after they left this world. After Doctor Chen recovered, he could leave then. Having Ol’ Zhou support Doctor Chen, Chen Ge collected the ghosts that had no combat ability back into the comic, and a space immediately opened up.

“Sir, you know the way to the headmaster’s office, yes? Let’s go there now.” Chen Ge raised the hammer and looked different from before.

The old man did not get it. “Why are we still going there when the door is already open? We don’t need the key anymore.”

“It hasn’t been easy for us to get here, so how can we return empty-handed?” Chen Ge’s face had a smile that the old man did not quite understand. “You just need to tell me what kind of monsters we might face and what to be cautious of.”

“Don’t be rash. I’ve remembered many things. This place is more dangerous than you think.” The old man was worried about Chen Ge’s safety.

“I know it’s dangerous here, but this is something I have to do.” Chen Ge put away his smile and looked down the wandering path. “The blood world has entrapped more than you, Doctor Wei. I can’t just leave them here.”

He tried to brush up the old man’s good impression of him. After hearing that, the old man nodded. “Okay, I’ll lead the way.”

“Thank you, sir.”

“You have to be prepared. The deeper we go, the more dangerous it gets. There are things scarier than that security monster.” The old man thought about it. “This place is similar to the underground morgue. The bodies here can be separated into two types—one is like me, who volunteered their body, and the other type consists of criminals on death row that were purchased from alternative channels. The second type are harmful and dangerous.”

“Can you tell me in more detail?”

“The faceless monsters you saw earlier are the death row inmates. After the gunfire, the bullets shattered the skull and exploded inside the brain. They were already carrying resentment, but normally, they are put into their place by people like us. However, in this world where negative emotions fester, they become even crazier and more uncontrollable.”

Chapter 446: I’m Also a Doctor!

“These dead people hate everything living. They are not satisfied with their current state and desire to be reborn. Their eyes are filled with nothing but venom and hate. Following that, their bodies also start to twist, reflecting the ugliness of their heart!”

After getting all the information from the old man, Chen Ge had a gauge in his heart. The blood door at the central hub had already closed, so if they wanted to leave, there was no other option than to capture the door-pusher to get him to open the door.

If Doctor Gao is the door-pusher, there’s a great chance that he’s currently not inside this world, so capturing the door-pusher is impossible. Then again, the door-pusher is the scariest presence here. If he’s not around, doesn’t that mean I can do whatever I want here?

Chen Ge looked down the red corridor, planning to search through the rooms one by one. Perhaps he might run into ‘potential employees’.

After clearing away as many obstacles as possible, when the door-pusher returned, Chen Ge would have one less thing to worry about.

“Our power is pooled at one spot, but our enemy hasn’t realized that; their people are spread at various corners. With the old sir leading the way, I still have the greater winning of chance.” Chen Ge still had trump cards that he had not used yet, so he was confident. “Sir, let’s go to where the headmaster could be. Perhaps there might be a surprise reward.”

The old man could not persuade Chen Ge otherwise, so he agreed. The blood vessels on the ceiling started to crack, and the blood dripped on their bodies. This blood looked different from normal; it was formed by the smaller blood threads.

“Let’s move fast.” The old man’s shirt was soaked. “I once saw a general staff accidentally cut a blood vessel when he was fixing it. The blood splashed on him, and although we didn’t think much of it initially, when I returned about one hour later, I realized that his body had become a warm bed for the blood threads. Innumerable blood threads crawled out from his body and dragged him into the cracks on the wall.”

“Meaning at most we have forty minutes left?” The burst blood vessels caused the whole world to rain—they could not avoid it. “This feels like a planned cleansing. The whole world will probably be affected.”

Chen Ge and the old man walked away while the other ghosts protected Doctor Chen, who was at the back. Soon, they walked past the several morgues and reached the end of the outer perimeter.

“The headmaster could be in any of three places—the lab, surgery room, and office. I know the location of the lab and surgery room, but I’ve only heard about the office from the general staff.”

“Meaning the general staff might know the location of the office? No problem. In that case, we can go to the other two places first. If there’s nothing there, we’ll catch a few general staff to interrogate them.” Chen Ge twirled the hammer in his hands. The old man trusted that he had enough power, but he was afraid that they did not have the time. The group ran down the corridors and soon arrived at the lab.

No one could tell what the room had originally been. The blood vessels covered the door, the blood and flesh squishing together. The old man pushed the door open, and the blood vessels on the door was pulled apart. The room was big and had a lot of medical equipment.

When the door was open, there were two doctors arguing in the room. Their eyes were red, and they looked unhinged. The old man coughed, and hearing that, the two doctors turned around. When they saw that it was the old man, they stopped arguing, and the blood in their eyes lessened.

“Doctor Wei? Why are you here?”

“You came at the right time; the experiment has failed again.” The two doctors pulled Doctor Wei into the room. Chen Ge wanted to stop them, but the old man waved his hands. The two doctors pulled the table in the middle of the room open, exposing the blood vessels and trough that was made from flesh.

There was a living person encased in the trough. He had many wounds on his body, and he still had his last breath in him. His chest rose and fell, dancing on the line of death. The two doctors pointed at the person like they were saying something, but the old man ignored them as he studied the person in the trough.

To ensure that he stayed on the brink of death, the doctors would rescue him and control his injury while adding wounds to his body. Chen Ge looked from a far with his Yin Yang Vision. He seemed to have seen the man on the wall of victims before. He was a victim of the ghost stories society. The man had enjoyed bullying his classmate when he was twelve. He had used a pencil to poke his friend’s leg and pull on the friend’s hair. These were just pranks, but in his friend’s eyes, he was a monster; it had deeply affected his growth.

“The picture looked new, but with the recent movement of the society, they completed this ‘hunt’ at least three weeks ago, meaning the guy has been stuck in the trough in this state for three weeks already.”

The two doctors were still talking, but Doctor Wei ignored them. He turned to Chen Ge. “The aorta has been burst, so there’s nothing I can do. I planned to save him.”

The two doctors also noticed Chen Ge. They followed behind the old man and looked at Chen Ge cautiously. “Who are you? How come we haven’t seen you before?”

Chen Ge ignored them and asked the old man, “Are you familiar with them?”

“These two have already lost their humanity, I remember now.” The old man still had not looked at the two. “The tall one is Wei, a renowned surgical specialist. However, after he was exposed to be involved in selling organs on the black market, he spent his life on the run. The short one is Wang, also a brilliant

doctor. He has an explosive personality, and while he looks kind on the surface, he's really a creep. I have no idea where the headmaster found these people."

"So, two madmen." Chen Ge heard the disgust in the old man's voice, and he knew what to do. "Sir, do you mind leaving first and giving me one minute?"

"What do you plan to do?" Before he got an answer, he was pushed out by Chen Ge.

Actually, the old man's question was the exact question on the two doctors' mind. They looked at Chen Ge as he closed the lab door and felt the temperature in the room dropping.

"Are you one of the general staff? How come you look different from others?" The two doctors were unnerved. The man felt off.

Chen Ge shook his head. He pointed at the lab coat that he was still wearing. "I'm also a doctor."

"A new doctor?" The two were even more confused.

"You can say I've invited myself." Chen Ge called Xu Yin and raised the hammer. "My treatment method is simple. Many of my patients like to call me Doctor Skull-cracker."

Chapter 447: A Picturesque Contrast

Blood expanded on the hammer like spider web. Chen Ge's fingers grabbed the handle that looked like a human spine. He stood in the middle of the room, his feet on the flowing blood. "Is there anything else you two wish to say?"

The doctors retreated at the same time. In their eyes, Chen Ge was not a normal man. "If there's nothing else, we shall start the treatment. Don't worry, it won't be painful."

Chen Ge and Xu Yin rushed forward. The two doctors who had done bad things in their life received karma in their death. One minute later, Chen Ge opened the door and walked out with Xu Yin. "We can now move on."

The old man looked into the room. The two doctors had disappeared. He did not ask Chen Ge about the two doctors, and he moved forward like nothing had happened. The vessels above them pulsed harder. The white cat poked its head out from the backpack. It seemed to sniff the thing that had attracted it, and it kept meowing at Chen Ge from inside the backpack. Whenever they rounded a corner, it would create a small chaos inside the bag.

"This cat sure is cunning." The white cat could probably sense the negative impact of the blood, so it hid inside the backpack. Chen Ge looked at its watery eyes and sighed. After asking for the old man's opinion, they tried their best to follow the route demanded by the cat. The corridor shook, and heavy breathing came from the end of the corridor.

"Finally, couldn't resist it anymore?" Chen Ge had the old man stand behind him, and he walked ahead with Xu Yin. One of the vessels burst, and the blood slid down the cracks. Between the organs, various teetering shadows appeared at the end of the corridors.

Sewn from various cadavers, the blood vessels twisted and turned within the faceless skull to transform into an ever-changing façade. The arms were combined together from various body parts. The fingers were missing, and the fingernails were blackened flesh. The heaving came from the open stomach, and it sounded like there was a different monster living inside them.

“No wonder we didn’t run into them after the earlier ones—they have been gathered here. Is this the order of the blood world?”

The appearance of all the security guards meant that the surgery room was the last oasis of the blood world. It also went to show the importance of the location. It was probably hiding something important.

“This is more than I expected.” The old man did not retreat. Instead, he stood beside Chen Ge. “You’d better deal with them as soon as possible. This is a flesh factory, and these monsters were made from various ‘abandoned meat’, a material that is bountiful in this underground morgue.”

Chen Ge nodded. After the earlier altercation, he understood the make-up of these monsters. They were constructed out of different cadavers and joined together by threads. The core was the soul of one or several death-row inmates, filled with resentment and hatred. “From outside to inside, it is an amalgamation of trash, completely worthless.”

The two drew closer, and the brawl was about to break out. Only Chen Ge would be able to analyze the situation at a time like this. The underground morgue was a top three-star scary scenario, so Chen Ge had endless anticipation for this world behind the door. However, when he was really inside, he realized that most of the monsters could not be brought out with him. They were different from the ghosts of Coffin Village. These monsters made from dead bodies were too aggressive. They could not be communicated with anymore.

“Such a shame they’ll never experience the warmth of the human world.”

To leave a good impression before the old man, he did not charge ahead but pulled out the comic to push his employees forward.

“Seeing how troubled you are, how about I give you an early release?”

With a Red Specter leading the charge, the other employees became courageous and brave. However, most of them just huddled around Xu Yin. After Xu Yin dealt with the monsters, they did the follow-up.

The corridor was thin, and Xu Yin stood in the middle of it. As long as he was not taken down, no matter how many monsters there were, they would only be torn apart. The red on his shirt brightened, but the wound around his heart was not affected. He was mad in the massacre but could not find his heart.

The chaos ran down the corridor. The walls started to crack. Xu Yin morphed into a blood red shadow; wherever he looked, blood would flow. He was so fast, and his fingers were like the sharpest knife—this was his grand feast. Facing the endless security guards, Chen Ge’s group was slowly moving forward.

The blood world’s consciousness realized the problem, and heavy breathing came from the deepest part of the corridor. This sound was different from the sound made by the security guards’ stomachs; it was much more powerful. In fact, the whole corridor shook as it breathed.

Xu Yin, who was covered in blood, finally ended his massacre. He flung the blood on his fingers away and stood in the middle of the flesh corridor alone. His lowered head slowly looked up, and his pale face was calm and collected as his bloodshot eyes looked down the end of the corridor.

He had heard this breathing before. When Chen Ge entered the education block for the first time, tricked by the phone spirit, he had heard this sound once at the third underground floor. At the time, there had been other sounds like slithering fish accompanying this voice.

“Looks like the monster is huge. I wonder if it’s a Red Specter.”

The cooperation of Xu Yin and the other employees cleared the security. After consuming so many souls and spirits, the employees gave Chen Ge a surprise. Bai Qiulin, who had the missing hand, had a blood stain that could not be removed on the sleeves where his hand was supposed to be. This faded blood stain proved that he had the potential to be a Red Specter!

The gambler?

Thinking about Bai Qiulin’s past, the man was quite a character in all honesty. To clear the debt, he had chopped off his hand before his debt collector. He was a ruffian and a thug, but it was also undeniable that there was a shining redeeming quality—that was his guilt toward his mother.

I should focus on cultivating him next. He’ll be my third Red Specter.

Chen Ge planned to pour all the resource on Bai Qiulin to speed up his growth.

It is such joy to be my employees. There’s no need to worry about anything but eating and having fun.

The surgery room was at the end of the corridor. After the security was cleared away, the path was clear. “This is it.”

The old man pointed at the door at the end of the corridor. To Chen Ge’s surprise, the door to the surgery room was not made from flesh but looked similar to the one in the real world. Chen Ge was unnerved by such normalcy in this blood world. He walked to the door, and the door was closed. The door itself was painted with different colors.

This should be Doctor Gao’s room. Fruits and half-read books were placed on the coffee table, and an advertisement played on the television. The remote was placed on top of the couch, and the clock beside it showed the time as 3:15 pm. The painting was detailed and beautiful like the image was etched in the painter’s mind. A serene afternoon and warm scenario, this was a fresh contrast to the world of flesh and blood around it.

“Surprised? I had the same expression as you when I saw it for the first time.” The old man sighed. “This painting shows the headmaster’s former home. He hopes for this to be the first thing his wife sees when she wakes up.”

“Looks like he knows home is warmer than flesh and blood.” His hand on the handle, Chen Ge pushed the door open. The surgery room was very large, about triple the size of the lab. This was the source of all the blood vessels, so it was the equivalent of the heart.

Many blood vessels congregated here at the center of the surgery room. There was a pool that was much bigger than a normal cadaver pool, and right there was a middle-aged man in white robe standing at its edge.

He was tall and strong, mature and rational. His eyes were holding a world. Hearing the door, the man lifted his head like he had anticipated everything.

Chen Ge stopped, and when he saw everything, he realized that he could not stop his heart from racing.

“Doctor Gao, we meet again.”

Chapter 448: What Is a Human? [2 in 1]

The thick blood vessels covered the entire surgery room. They were like the roots of an old tree, ringing everything and everyone within it. The organs on the wall shrank and expanded. Human faces were incased in the ceiling, and from a far, it looked similar to a large puzzle fitted with human bodies. Chen Ge had imagined meeting Doctor Gao again. There had been many scenarios, but he had not once expected that they would meet again in such circumstances.

The blood dripped on the white coat, but it slid off without leaving a trace. Doctor Gao was the most unique presence in this world. He stood amid the blood, flesh, and dead bodies, but he was wearing a white coat that signified hope and salvation. Doctor Gao looked at Chen Ge with a calm and collected expression. “You have arrived later than I expected.”

“You knew I would come here?”

“I knew it would eventually come down to this. When I first saw you on the 24th floor of Fang Hwa Apartments, I already knew this would happen. You gave me a deep and acute sense of danger.”

“Is that why you kept coming to my rescue then, to prevent me from coming into conflict with the other members of the ghost stories society?” Chen Ge thought back to the incident back then. No. 10 had been helping him, and at the end, he had eventually left a hint underneath the table, giving him the location of Linjiang New Schistosomiasis Control Station.

Doctor Gao nodded. “You are all my patients. Isn’t it normal for the doctor to look out for his patients?”

“Patients?” Chen Ge shook his head. “You have no right to label other people that because, in my eyes, you are the one who suffers from the most serious illness. The world behind the door does not lie. This nightmare that is completely twisted and constructed from flesh and blood is a true reflection of your heart.”

“A soul and heart filled by carcasses is not an illness. Everyone has something twisted in their hearts. If this is an illness, then all of us are sick, including you.” Doctor Gao smiled. He seemed to enjoy chatting with Chen Ge. This young man before him, be it in terms of thoughts or understanding of people and situations, was different from most. Doctor Gao found something like a ‘kindred spirit’ within Chen Ge. “I am a psychologist and thus have seen many twisted souls. The reason they become like that, most of the time, is not their own doing.”

The voice paused, and the smile on Doctor Gao's face slowly disappeared. "When you arrived, you should have seen the pictures on the wall already, right?"

Chen Ge nodded. "Those are the victims of the ghost stories society for the past five years? The sins that they have committed?"

"Victims?" Doctor Gao lifted his head to look at the puzzle of human faces above him. "From my perspective, they are the real offenders. They did what they liked with no consideration for others or the consequences. They live around us, wearing a human skin, but like the devil, they kept creating endless misfortunes. Every one of them had a reason to die, and what I've done is merely make their death more meaningful and valuable."

"But is this fair to them?" Chen Ge stood from the viewpoint of an outsider and tried to play the devil's advocate. He was not particularly partial to anyone. "I ran across a man who was barely alive in the lab. According to what the doctors here said, they had purposely suspended him in that state for the sake of an experiment. While they rescued him, they also added new wounds to his body. He suffered such endless torture mainly because of pranks that he committed when he was a child. So, he bullied his friend? Admittedly, it should not have happened, but does that deserve a punishment so cruel? Is that fair?"

"You can stand there and question the fairness because you are not taking the perspective of the victims. You cannot see the wounds in their hearts, so you cannot understand the despair that they have faced. You cannot understand the pain that caused them to suffocate, the pain that makes them want to tear themselves open." Doctor Gao spoke faster, as if he had been reminded of himself. "That kind of pain is permanent, a pain that seeps into every single cell of your body. It will torment you endlessly. It follows you like a shadow, like bugs that crawl into each inch of your body. You know they are there and have dominated every part of your body and soul, but you cannot release them.

"No matter what you do, they will follow you, breed, and fester inside you. They feast on your soul, and you can hear them tear through your memory until every part of your brain and memory is filled with these disgusting bugs. You'll see them when you close your eyes and will never forget about them when you're alive.

"Can you understand this feeling? This is the pain that every patient who suffers from a mental illness has to face twenty-four hours daily. Do you still think what I did was wrong?" Doctor Gao looked into Chen Ge's eyes. "Even with such an amount of pain, they tried their best to live, to be alive. However, ignoring the pain is not going to give them salvation; if anything, it is only going to heighten the pain.

"Human beings are called human beings because we have self-consciousness. When a person can use 'I' to refer to themselves, they are considered a human. However, my patients, they have been slowly losing their self-identity because the pain has been slowly consuming their 'I', their self-identity."

This was the first time that Doctor Gao had shared these things with Chen Ge. His argument not only included psychology but also sociology and philosophy. "Human beings are a life form made up from multiple contradictions. Human being is not a simple noun because the experience and pain every one of us is expected to suffer through life cannot be summed up by these two simple words, human being."

After hearing what Doctor Gao had to say, Chen Ge gripped the hammer tightly. Perhaps due to the discrepancy in cultural level, he did not really understand what Doctor Gao said. With pleading in his eyes, Chen Ge turned back to look at Doctor Wei. This seemed to be the first time that the senior doctor had heard any of that as well. He coughed lightly and told Chen Ge, "Don't mind what the mental patients say too much. Don't fall into their worldview, or else you'll end up as crazy as them."

"Don't use crazy as an excuse to devalue us. You are only doing yourself a disservice," Doctor Gao snapped. "When you see something you cannot understand, you'll always use abnormal to define it, but have you once considered who came up with the standard to define what is normal and what is abnormal?"

Doctor Gao stood beside the blood pool. In a way, he was the center of this world. This blood world that was constructed of abandoned flesh and blood would shift and change according to Doctor Gao's every whim and fancy. "When your eyes fall on a person, what are you looking for? How would you study said person? Humans are called humans, not because of the sound that they make, not because of their actions or looks, but because of their soul. Everything is surrounding the soul. The soul is the center of a human."

Even though Chen Ge did not quite understand what Doctor Gao was saying, he felt the man had his point. Chen Ge realized that this was an extremely dangerous thing. When a person accepted the worldview of a madman, they were not far from being a madman themselves.

"Doctor Gao, no matter how hard you try to convince yourself, there is one point that you cannot deny. They died because of you. Your hands are covered with blood, and that means you have violated the law." The blood threads started to crawl underneath his skin. Chen Ge was running out of time. He flipped through his comic to release all of his employees. "You are one of the few people I have admired in my life, and because of that, I cannot allow you to continue this anymore. Doctor Gao, you're already sick. Since pushing the door open, you've not been yourself anymore. Even if you manage to revive your wife, when she opens her eyes and see the state you're in, she will not be able to recognize. This is not the man that she married."

Doctor Gao stood where he was and did not move. He was calm, but the blood vessels underneath his feet started to pulsate violently. The same was happening to the flesh on the wall. The human faces on the ceiling all showed expressions of terror. The world behind the door was a reflection of Doctor Gao's heart. Everything there was related to the man. When the man's mood changed, so would the whole world.

"You are not her, so how would you know what she feels?" Doctor Gao was a master at hiding his emotions, but the world that was changing belied them. This top psychologist of Jiujiang was starting to lose his cool. He might have looked collected in person, but the world that represented his heart was bubbling. In this case, the latter was a clearer representation of Doctor Gao's emotions than the former.

"Actually, you know it yourself." Chen Ge took one small side to the side to reveal the door behind him. "The entire world is filled with rotten meat and dirty blood, but this door that is facing the blood pool is the most normal. If I'm not mistaken, your wife should be inside the pool, right? You hope that the first thing she sees when she wakes up is the home that you once shared, not this whole world that is twisted beyond belief."

“Doctor Gao, stop running from the truth. Only when one is at the deepest depths of despair will they be able to push open the door, and the door doesn’t lead to salvation but a world of deeper despair. You wish to use more despair to give yourself salvation—that is impossible.”

Chen Ge still wanted to say something, but he was interrupted by Doctor Gao. “You don’t need to continue anymore. I’ve understood what you’re trying to express.”

He returned to his original emotion with an added detachment in his eyes. “I told you all that because I hoped you would understand my feelings.”

Doctor Gao trained his eyes on Chen Ge and revealed the last secret. “When I first saw you, I used every connection and power I had to investigate your history. I realize that we are very similar, and in a way, that is very true. You think it is crazy for me to spend five years down here in the morgue with the accompaniment of dead bodies, but do you know, in my eyes, you are also an undeniable madman?”

Chen Ge did not expect that he would have such a high appraisal in Doctor Gao’s eyes. He had always thought that he was just a normal man; there was nothing particularly special about him.

“The deeper the investigation went, the more problems I found with you. Perhaps you have not realized this yourself, but I can tell you clearly, the madness hibernating in the deepest part of your heart is even scarier than mine. That is a fire that cannot be quenched and will consume everything in its path.”

“Are you sure you’re talking about me?” Chen Ge did not quite understand why Doctor Gao was telling him all this, but the man had no reason to lie to him either.

“It is fine if you don’t want to believe me, but it is very simple to prove it. There is a ‘door’ inside the toilet at your Haunted House. Open it, and you will be able to see the real you.” Doctor Gao’s eyes were still as cold as ice, but there was a smile on his face. “That night, I entered the door. I’ve seen your world, so I know very clearly. When we are placed next to each other, you are the real madman.”

“That door is related to me?” Chen Ge did not know whether Doctor Gao was purposely leading him down a rabbit hole or being sincere. “Based on what you’re saying, I’ve opened a door before?”

Only those in deepest grasp of despair had the chance to open ‘doors’. Chen Ge did not think that he had experienced something that traumatic before, and he had always believed that the door had been pushed open by someone else.

“I am sure of that. You are the door-pusher because I’ve seen the real you inside that door.” Doctor Gao had an unreadable fear in his smile. His lips looked quite unnatural.

“I am the door-pusher?” Chen Ge’s heart sunk. “What else do you know?”

“I still know many things. As long as you promise me three things, I will not only tell you everything that I know, I will even help you enter that ‘door’ and help you find the thing that you are looking for.” The blood vessels were bubbling, and the floor was filled with blood threads that seemed to expand on their own. The blood pool behind Doctor Gao was also bubbling. Obviously, Doctor Gao’s emotions were changing like he was anticipating Chen Ge’s answer. “This is a transaction that is mutually beneficial. There is no reason for you to reject it, right?”

Chen Ge was indeed curious about the world behind the door. When he was thinking, his eyes kept wandering to the blood pool that was changing.

When I first entered, the color of the pool was not as vibrant as this. Chen Ge looked at other places. The flesh on the wall seemed to have wilted like flowers—it had become darker in color, and things were continuously dumped into the pool through the many blood vessels. It looked like Doctor Gao was planning to soak up all the ‘nutrients’ of this blood world and channel them into the blood pool.*Is Doctor Gao trying to buy time?*

His mind turned, and Chen Ge came to a more stable solution. As long as he managed to detain Doctor Gao or the wife that he loved the most, then he would definitely have the upper hand.

“What are the three things? Tell me about them first, and I will consider whether to accept the conditions or not.” Chen Ge purposely took three steps forward when he said those words as if to prove that he was being sincere.

“When you took those steps, your gait was 0.2 times smaller than usual. This means that you are planning to complete something within your heart, but you are not certain it will succeed. The grip of your hands on the hammer is tighter than usual. Even though you’re trying to make it seem as natural as possible, before your consciousness caught up to this problem, there were about 0.3 seconds when your pinkie subconsciously curled tightly around the handle.” Doctor Gao took out a black wooden box from his pocket. “Looks like you have discovered I am trying to drag the time out. Then again, this might be better. I am not doing all this because I have no confidence in winning. I just wanted to give you a chance, a choice.”

The wooden box opened, and the thick smell of blood flooded the stench that was inside the room. The surrounding blood vessels started to collapse, and innumerable blood threads came out from them and gathered inside the wooden box. About one or two seconds later, a blood red palm that was filled with wounds reached out from inside the wooden box.

Covered with vengeance and fury, a monster that was half twisted and half covered with wounds crawled out from inside the box. The red eyes focused on Chen Ge, and the face that looked like half of it was licked by the flames revealed an ugly smile.

Without any order from Doctor Gao, it charged madly at Chen Ge.

“Xiong Qing?” Chen Ge gripped the hammer with both of his hands, but he did not take a step back. “You are just on time. After consuming you, I will gain another Red Specter! It is time for a feast!”

Chapter 449: How Many Spectres Does He Have?

Half of Xiong Qing’s body morphed into blood threads like a wing that was pulled out from his body. Resentment and vengeance filled his gaze. Whenever he saw Chen Ge, he would lose control, and the desire to tear this seemingly harmless man into pieces filled his mind. It was unimaginable that a living man would be a Specter’s nightmare, but Chen Ge had somehow managed that. It was Chen Ge who had chased him around the hospital with the hammer that night. Running away like a rat, he had lost all of his pride.

His fury burning, the memory at Coffin Village also appeared in Xiong Qing's mind. He had been tricked again and again. Chen Ge, and Chen Ge alone, dominated his red eyes. There was only one thought in Xiong Qing's mind—Kill him! Kill him with the cruelest method possible!

The roar echoed in the surgery room, and Xiong Qing rushed at Chen Ge instantly. The blood red wing opened, and an arm that was filled with wounds reached out for Chen Ge's eyes. The Red Specter was just inches away from him, but there was no reaction in Chen Ge's eyes.

The fingers that were missing skin were surrounded by blood. They were so close that Chen Ge could see the missing flesh between the man's fingernail and finger, but he did not evade. When Xiong Qing's hand was ten centimeters away from his face, it stopped; the wounded hand was held in place by a pale hand. The blood spread, and Xu Yin stood before Chen Ge.

"Is it painful?" The five fingers tensed, and they poked into Xiong Qing's arm like knives. The red flowed like rain, and Xu Yin and Xiong Qing got into each other. Cruel, mad, and holding nothing back, the battle entered the highest part almost instantly!

The blood threads from the world kept crawling into Xiong Qing's body, while Xu Yin had not found his 'heart', so he was technically not a real Red Specter.

"Looks like your friend is not in a good state. He'll be eaten in about ten minutes." Doctor Gao was very familiar with Chen Ge's ability, and he had come up with the solution already.

"It is not going so well, yes, but ten minutes is more than enough." Chen Ge held the hammer, and when he spoke, he already walked to within five meters of Doctor Gao. "I actually don't like to rely on others. When you need to get something done, you need to do it yourself."

In terms of physique, he was much better than Doctor Gao. With the hammer, if they were involved in a physical fight, the prospects were not good for Doctor Gao. Seeing Chen Ge walking toward him with the hammer, Doctor Gao frowned. "Before you arrived, I envisioned twenty-four different scenarios and came up with twenty-four different solutions..."

Before Doctor Gao finished, Chen Ge charged at him with the hammer. He was not going to give the man any chance to speak—his thoughts had been completely read. Facing an opponent as scary as this, the best solution was to talk with the fist. If he was not going to win the battle of the wits, then there was no point coming up with a plan.

"9 minutes left!"

The hammer headed for Doctor Gao's skull. At this stage, Chen Ge had no reason to hold back.

The hammerhead knocked into Doctor Gao's shoulder before slamming on the edge of the pool. The blood splattered everywhere. Doctor Gao was still calm, but his face was paler. If he had not evaded it earlier, his head would have caved in already. "Earlier, you were still talking about humanity and justice, and now you viciously charge at me; is this the fairness you speak of?"

Chen Ge raised the hammer again. He had no idea why Doctor Gao was saying these things, but he knew that if he did not apprehend the man soon, he probably would not leave that place alive. Without stopping to think about what Doctor Gao had said, Chen Ge glared at the man. He raised the hammer and charged at him again.

“Evolving from beast to man, we have taken thousands of years, but regressing from man to beast often takes only several minutes. Chen Ge, you shouldn’t have acted so rashly.” Doctor Gao did not evade this time. He waved his hand lightly. The flesh above them started to move, and the tortured monsters fell down like rain. They were all victims of the ghost stories society. Their resentment was high, and they tried to attack Doctor Gao instinctively, but they could not control their bodies.

The blood threaded through their bodies, joining the flesh and blood. They were controlled to surround Chen Ge. Doctor Gao did not order them to attack but just had them stop Chen Ge. He understood that if he allowed the battle drag on, he would be the ultimate victor.

More monsters fell from the ceiling. This flesh factory had stored all of the dead bodies. After so many years, even Doctor Gao had no idea how many carcasses this place had.

“You are indeed prepared, but you’re still one step behind compared to me.” Chen Ge took out a plastic bottle from his backpack and let out the spider that had been dead for a long time. “You severely injured this girl at Coffin Village—it is now time for payback.”

Many arms reached out from the blood mist and tore apart the carcasses to clear out an empty space. The girl’s pretty face was a direct contrast to the twisted arms coming out of her body. She was also a half Red Specter. When her clear eyes landed on Doctor Gao, her expression started to twist like she had remembered something awful.

This new Specter was Jiang Ling’s sister, Zhu Xinrou. When they were in Coffin Village, Doctor Gao had broken half of her arms. Specters were all vengeful entities. They would always take vengeance. Once targeted, they would never let go!

A screech echoed through the room. Zhu Xinrou placed her arms on the ground and crawled forward like a spider. The scene looked weird and scary.

“Stop her!” Doctor Gao’s expression still had not changed much—it was so hard to read. While Doctor Gao gave his order, Chen Ge also called out all the ghosts to help Zhu Xinrou clear the way. Neither party stepped back while speculating how many trump cards the other party had.

The cadavers that fell from the ceiling were mostly the society’s victims. Their resentment was directed at Doctor Gao. Furthermore, they were just normal ghosts, so they were powerless before Zhu Xinrou.

It did not take long for Zhu Xinrou to charge her way through. To make things worse for Doctor Gao, Chen Ge was hiding behind Zhu Xinrou with the hammer. This man who had spoken of fairness and justice earlier seemed to have forgotten his own speech. From the looks of things, he was looking for an opportunity to launch an ambush.

“Just how many specters do you have? This is the first time I’ve met such a troublesome person.” Doctor Gao looked at Chen Ge, but the latter was not up for a conversation. As the battle continued and more trump cards were revealed, Doctor Gao had a harder and harder time reading Chen Ge.

Chapter 450: Trump Cards

“Six more minutes!”

More cadavers fell from the ceiling, and the bodies teetered as they tried to stand up. Their bodies filled the room with a disgusting stench. They were not afraid of death, and they followed Doctor Gao's orders to assault Chen Ge.

The employees surrounded Chen Ge to protect him. Among them, the boy with the stench gave Chen Ge a great surprise. As he consumed the stench of decay, he kept growing, and his own scent also became more obvious.

The smell seemed to have affected the dead bodies around him as well. They were controlled by the blood thread, but once they were inside the zone of the boy's stench, their movement slowed down, and the madness in their eyes was slowly replaced by disgust. The victims' original target was not Chen Ge to begin with, so after they felt disgusted, their resistance to Doctor Gao's orders became more obvious.

The bodies started to slow down, and the resistance against Zhu Xinrou felt became smaller. The half Red Specter showed her true power. Her arms opened, and like a large spider, she charged through the crowd, creating chaos and massacring!

"Time's up!" Chen Ge hid behind Zhu Xinrou, but his eyes were locked onto Doctor Gao. He dragged the hammer, finding the time to charge forward. Doctor Gao stood next to the blood pool, and he was expressionless, facing the sea that seemed to have no bottom.

"Chen Ge, it still came to this. Ever since I first met you, I've tried to stop us from getting to this stage, but fate cannot be changed." Doctor Gao sighed. This was the first time since Chen Ge knew Doctor Gao that he had heard him sigh. "Since conflict cannot be avoided, I will use my own way to resolve this."

Doctor Gao looked at Zhu Xinrou, who was still growing, and he raised his hand again. "It is time to end this petty game."

Zhu Xinrou got closer to Doctor Gao, but the doctor did not panic. As his arm slowly raised, the blood in the pool continued to rise. It looked like there was a scary monster living inside it.

"This is my world." The expression on Doctor Gao's face slowly changed; it spoke of absolute confidence. "This place is mine!"

The pool churned to form a whirlpool. At the deepest part of the pool lay a woman in a blood red wedding dress. Her skin was glowing red. Other than that, she looked perfectly normal, sleeping on a bed of blood and dead bodies.

She looked so pure and innocent, but underneath her were endless body parts! It felt like she was still alive and using the dead bodies as a bed and pillow.

"Chen Ge, this is my wife, the core of this door and my entire world."

When Zhu Xinrou was two meters away from Doctor Gao, the woman inside the pool seemed to have felt something. Her lashes twitched before her eyes peeled open!

The blood flushed, and everything started to boil!

The woman's presence was stronger than all of the Specters that Chen Ge had ever met. She was part of the blood pool, and when she awakened, so did the entire blood world. The organs danced, and the

blood vessels expanded. This woman was the heart of this world; everything there was possible because of her. The blood red dress dragged out from the pool. The blood formed into steps as she walked toward Chen Ge.

The indescribable pressure made Zhu Xinrou stop. She did not dare move, as a single wrong step would cause her to be demolished.

“Only a Red Specter can fight a Red Specter.” Doctor Gao seemed to have planned everything. Only when his eyes fell on the woman would they soften.

“Chen Ge, you’ll never win. Once you stepped through that door, you’d already lost.” Doctor Gao’s expression returned to normal, like everything had returned to his expected tracks. “I know you well, and it’s because I know you well that I felt so uneasy. The ghosts around you are growing at an unprecedented speed. If this had dragged on any longer, the situation would only have gotten worse for me.”

“So, you created this illusion of leaving Jiujiang to make me lower my guard and enter the underground morgue?”

“I knew that you might have guessed this beforehand, but based on my understanding of you, even if you knew this might be a trap, you would still come. There is a demon living in your heart that will only continue to lead you deeper into the abyss.” Doctor Gao looked at Chen Ge, and this was the first time that there had been uncertainty on his face. “The confusing thing is that you seem to like this experience.”

“Why would you say that?” Chen Ge thought Doctor Gao was past trying to drag the conversation; he sounded sincere. Chen Ge himself was feeling nervous, being diagnosed of this illness by a top psychologist.

“You are the strangest patient whom I’ve met. You make me curious and excited. I will make sure to preserve your soul and then conduct the treatment.” Doctor Gao thought he had the victory, and while he was distracted, Chen Ge took two more steps forward to close the gap between them.

“It’s useless. No one can overpower the Red Specter.”

Doctor Gao knew that there was another Red Specter on Chen Ge, and it was the strongest Red Specter that Chen Ge had.

“No one can fight the Red Specter?” Chen Ge grabbed the hammer. He did not slow down but charged full speed ahead with the Red Specter watching him!

The woman looked at Chen Ge, and multiple blood threads weaved into chains to rush out from the pool. They were like blood constrictors as they tried to yank Chen Ge into the pool. The air was filled with the smell of blood. The chains rattled, but Chen Ge did not retreat, instead continuing forward.

“Men Nan!” The blood chains that came at Chen Ge were stopped by an invisible force. A five-year-old boy came out from Chen Ge’s side with a dark face.

“Using my own life to force me out, you sure are something else!” The day before Chen Ge came to the morgue, he had visited Third Sick Hall again. Using the reason that Doctor Gao would control him through his side persona, he finally convinced Men Nan.

“You throw me to fight this type of opponent immediately. Chen Ge, the biggest mistake of my life was trusting your words!” Men Nan roared as he blocked the woman’s chains. He was slammed into by the chains, and with just one hit, his body lightened greatly.

“Help me hold on for three minutes!” Chen Ge charged at Doctor Gao without turning back. This was his last chance. As long as he managed to kill Doctor Gao, everything would be over. All the ghosts had been stopped, and this was a perfect chance for Chen Ge. He charged at Doctor Gao like a madman, but to his consternation, even at a stage like this, Doctor Gao was still so calm.

“Chen Ge, you’ve surprised me, but you have overlooked one thing.” The white coat that he was wearing started to surface with blood threads to knit into a complicated picture.