

Horrors 461

Chapter 461: The Man

“Are two Red Specters that scary?” Chen Ge continued eating without raising his head.

Hearing that, Doctor Chen was speechless. He had heard some rumors about Chen Ge before, and he shook his head with a bitter smile. “That is very scary for me already.”

“Doctor Chen, I still have other things to do, but I’ll come back later to ask you some questions. Hopefully, you’ll answer them honestly since I’ve saved your life.” Chen Ge put down the boxed lunch and took a sip of the water. His action and expression was different from what he was going to say next. “Down at the underground morgue, you once told me, your surname is not really Chen Ge. You only go by that name because someone asked you to use it to do something for him in Western Jiujiang.”

“I told you that?” Doctor Chen hesitated but did not deny it. “That’s right.”

“Who is that person? Why the surname Chen? What is the favor that he asked of you to do in Western Jiujiang?” Chen Ge asked three questions at the same time.

Doctor Chen thought about it, and he gave Chen Ge the reply. “I knew the old director from the Third Sick Hall and once worked under him. When the door there first appeared, the old director approached me. I personally went to look around the door and even went behind it.”

Doctor Chen lowered his head in thought. “I should be the first person to have entered the world behind the door other than Men Nan. I’ve seen many things there; it was like a nightmare. I’ve only told this secret to two other people—the old director and my best friend, Doctor Gao.

“The three of us decided to seal up the door with cement, but the effect was not so good. The door would still appear, and the blood would seep through the adjacent walls at midnight.

“Perhaps because I’ve been to the world behind the door, I felt like it was being possessed by something. Whenever midnight arrived, I could hear the scratching of nails underneath my bed. There was no one in the toilet from the half-open door, I could see a black shadow in the mirror. It was facing my bed like it was trying to crawl out from the mirror.

“I was a psychology student, so when these things first appeared, the first thing I did was diagnose myself to ensure that these were not part of a hallucination. There have been cases of psychologists ending up in the psychiatric ward before, so I thought something had happened to me. However, a series of things that happened later changed my mind.

“On the third night after coming out from the blood door, I saw a man standing outside the window, his head facing my bed. My house was on the third floor, and there was no security net on the second floor—that was not where the air-conditioning machine was placed. After taking away all the possibilities, the only conclusion was that the man was at least three meters tall. The man looked at me for a long time before crawling into a family’s apartment on the second floor.

“I immediately called the police, but they couldn’t find that suspicious man on the second floor. With the complaints from the downstairs neighbor, the police brought me away to be interrogated instead.

The next morning, when I was at the station, I heard the news of my downstairs neighbor committing suicide. The victim's death was very strange. His shoulders were sunken, and his expression was filled with terror.

"I suspected that the man's death had something to do with that man I saw. I told the police everything, but the police officer suggested I go for a psychiatric consultation. I remember showing him my ID.

"The police still refused to believe me. Instead, a brother at the station who looked friendly got interested in my story. Initially, I thought he was also an officer, but after a long conversation, I realized the man was just released from lockup due to impersonating law enforcement, speeding, and so on."

Doctor Chen sighed. "I didn't dare go home and tried my best to figure out a way to stay at the station. It was not until rumors about my mental state started to do the rounds at my workplace that I had to leave the police station.

"After I went home, the man's shadow kept appearing at the window. I was afraid that I would be the next victim, so I directly moved to the most crowded and populated hotel in the city.

"That continued for a month. The man stopped appearing, and my life returned to normal.

"However, it was not a solution to stay at the hotel forever, so I planned to sell my old home and buy a new one in the city. Actually, I had planned that for a long time already. After paying the down payment, I contacted a moving company in Eastern Jiujiang and planned to move some important stuff during the day.

"The new place was fifteen floors tall, and I purposely chose the top floor. After all the furniture had been moved, it was already late afternoon. I treated the moving workers to dinner and had a few drinks myself. I was ready to move into a new place to start a new life."

Here, Doctor Chen paused. "Returning to the new home, I lay in the familiar bed and soon fell asleep. At around midnight, I woke up from the chill. I curled up in the mattress, and when I turned my head to the side, I suddenly realized that there was a man in the room. I was awakened by the shock instantly. Upon closer inspection, the man in the room was the monster I'd seen before!

"He was more than three meters tall. His upper body was straight, and his lower body was still crawling out from underneath the bed. There was a strange smile on his face, and his lips said, 'You've finally returned.'

"I did not expect that the monster would be hiding under my bed, and I ran out like crazy. I did not stop to put on my shoes as I charged out the door. I did not dare turn back to look. I ran down the corridor and cried for help, but there was no response.

"My shoulders became heavier like the monster was standing on my shoulders. A laughter came from above me, and my sight turned blurrier. The corridor seemed to have twisted, and I knew that I was about to fall.

"Resisting the nausea, I reached the mouth of the stairs. When I felt like my five senses were about to be taken over, I heard the sound of a lighter.

“A dancing flame appeared in my sight, and I soon saw a man leaning against the wall of the stairs, lighting the cigarette on his lips. This man was familiar. It was the man whom I saw at the station, the one that had been brought in due to his many criminal activities.

“His cigarette burned slowly, and as the ash fell, I heard begging noises coming from above my shoulders. The cigarette burned to its end, and the monster on my shoulders completely disappeared.

“It was he who saved me. I had a long chat with him that night. He told me about the hidden world and taught me how to close the door in the Third Sick Hall. He was the one who asked me to use his surname to do something for him in Western Jiujiang.”

Doctor Chen stopped to take a sip of the water. He looked at Chen Ge and said, “The man looked very similar to you, and the request he asked of me is related to you.”

Chapter 462: We're a Family of Lawful Citizens

“Looks like me, the favor he asked is related to me, smokes cigarette, and is happy go lucky.” Chen Ge did feel like Doctor Chen was describing his father, but then he thought about it and realized that was not right. “I am such a big helper and lawful citizen; how could my father impersonate the police and speed drive? There has to be some misunderstanding.”

Doctor Chen looked at the bloodied tape that was turning in the recorder, and he did not comment but just nodded slightly. “That is what I thought as well. Whether that was your father or not, the favor he asked was definitely related to you.”

“Tell me.”

“For that, we have to go back to the Third Sick Hall. I followed the man's instructions, and with Men Nan's main persona's help, we successfully closed the door. However, about half a year later, I realized that the door was opened again.”

“Was it the old director?” When Chen Ge completed the mission at the Third Sick Hall, he had found out that the old director was suffering from cancer. He did not want to die, so he had escaped into the world behind the door.

Doctor Chen shook his head. “The director was too old, and he did not have the guts. It was Doctor Gao who opened the door, and it was him who was talking into the old director's ears.”

Sighing, the emotions in Doctor Chen's eyes became complicated. “I treated Doctor Gao as my dearest friend, so I understood why he did that. If I was in his shoes, I perhaps would have done the same thing because I know how much he loved his wife.”

Finishing the water, Doctor Chen described what had happened over the past few years. “On how to deal with the door, there was a difference of opinion between me and Doctor Gao. I believe that the door is misfortune, an omen of tragedy, a problem that needs to be fixed immediately.

“However, Doctor Gao's opinion was different from mine. He believed that the door could be used. Emotions like despair, pain, and anger could be manipulated. At the time, I didn't know he had already opened a door of his own. Due to the difference of ideals, we eventually broke off.

“In the end, when I was forcing my way to close the door, I realized that he not only had a very good understanding of the door, he even owned a Red Specter. I was not his match, so I went to the man for help. From his perspective, we probably looked like two children arguing.

“He did not accost Doctor Gao. Instead, he went into the door at the Third Sick Hall. He seemed to make an important discovery inside that world, and that was related to his later disappearance.”

Doctor Chen suddenly paused. He looked at Chen Ge as if wondering whether to tell the rest.

“Don’t hesitate—just tell me everything you know.” While Chen Ge was listening to Doctor Chen, he had already finished the boxed lunch.

“You should have been to the world behind the door at the Third Sick Hall already, but I wonder if Men Nan’s main persona has told you that the window in one of the rooms can’t be closed.”

“Window?” Chen Ge thought about it. When Chen Ge recently visited the Third Sick Hall, Men Nan did appear like he had been busy fixing the windows. “Yes, I do know that.”

“The man crossed swords with a monster behind the door, and they broke the window. I do not know what happened, but when the man left the door, there was a frown on his face. Then he asked me of this favor.”

Doctor Chen stood up from the bed, and his expression was serious. “He gave me three scenarios, and the favor would be different depending on these three scenarios. If you did not take up the Haunted House and chose to enter another field, then I was supposed to help you from the dark; if you took up the Haunted House but the results were not great, I was supposed to write you a letter every year with Mr. Chen’s name to tell you to give up; if you took up the Haunted House and did a good job, I was supposed to find you and tell you something in person.”

“What is it?” Chen Ge had a feeling that his parents had already predicted that he would take good care of the Haunted House.

Doctor Chen’s expression turned the most serious that it had been so far. He looked into Chen Ge’s eyes and said, “Do not go looking for them.”

“Do not go looking for them?” Chen Ge narrowed his eyes, smiling, but did not add anything beyond that.

“It’s such a shame because I failed to help you and even ended up needing your help.” Doctor Chen did not know what to say. Chen Ge’s parents probably would not have predicted this as well.

“What were they doing before they disappeared? Anything weird they have told you or done, tell me everything.” Chen Ge’s words sounded more like an order than a question.

Doctor Chen was afraid that Chen Ge might do something stupid, so he answered honestly. “They stopped contacting me after telling me this. I know that they had been going to Eastern Jiujiang before their disappearance like they were looking for something.”

“If they stopped contacting you, how do you know they had been to Eastern Jiujiang?” Chen Ge placed his finger on the recorder, and the bloodied tape turned slowly.

“These things are easy to find out. Eastern Jiujiang was relatively quiet, but for a period before your parents’ disappearance, mysterious cases of ghost arson, ghost highways, cursed hospitals, water ghosts, cursed babies, and many other things were revealed.” Doctor Chen shivered just talking about them. “Whenever midnight arrived, something would happen in Eastern Jiujiang. After your parent’s disappearance, Eastern Jiujiang became quiet again.”

“You suspect that those things have something to do with my parents?”

“I’m ninety percent sure.”

“Are you kidding?” Chen Ge held the recorder and frowned. “We’ve always been a family of lawful citizens—why would they be involved in those things? Were they perhaps dragged into a big conspiracy?”

“That shouldn’t be the case. Eastern Jiujiang used to be quiet like it is now. There haven’t been any big case or too many supernatural happenings.” Doctor Chen subconsciously lowered his voice.

“Something is up. After I’m done here, we shall both go to Eastern Jiujiang to take a look. There has to be a storm under the calm surface,” Chen Ge told Doctor Chen. “You can stay here for now; I’ll bring you out when the night falls.”

“Okay.” Doctor Chen sneaked a look at the recorder. “I will not run away, so you can take that recorder with you.”

“You’re my guest; how can I leave you here alone?” Chen Ge exited the room and placed the recorder by the door. “If you have any demand, just tell the Red Specter. I’ll come back at 7 pm.”

“Then... thank you.” Doctor Chen picked up the boxed lunch and started to eat. Watching Chen Ge disappear down the corridor, he shook his head with a bitter smile. “This feeling sure is familiar...”

Chapter 463: Where Are You Going?

After moving the trash out of the Third Sick Hall, Chen Ge went to the toilet to wash his face and threw himself back into work. At 6:30 pm, the Haunted House closed down for the day. Chen Ge had Xu Wan and Xiao Gu clean up the place while he went to look for Uncle Xu to borrow the park’s van. He wanted to use it to transport the mannequins back from the workshop. When he was done with all that, he entered the underground scenario to find Doctor Chen.

They exchanged contact details. Then Chen Ge used the black cloth to close Doctor Chen’s eyes and led him out of the Haunted House. He left the doctor in Western Jiujiang’s countryside. It did not take that long because Chen Ge returned to New Century Park at almost 7 pm. Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu had already cleaned the Haunted House by then.

“Thank you for your hard work. Leave the rest to me.” Chen Ge accepted the broom and took out his phone to call Qian Guigen.

“Boss Qian, please prepare the materials now. I might spend a whole night at the workshop to rush the first batch of mannequins.”

“Okay, I’ll wait for you at the workshop,” Boss Qian answered easily. Just as his little shop was running out of business, it was Chen Ge who gave him hope.

After hanging up, Chen Ge turned around to see Xu Wan and Xiao Gu, who were still standing there. “Is there anything else?”

“You’re the boss, but how come I feel like you have it worse than the employees? It feels like you’re always working through the night right now.” Without the dead people’s make-up, Xu Wan was cute, but compared to when she first arrived at the Haunted House, she had a maturity about her now.

“Brother Chen, is there anything the two of us can help with?” Xiao Gu also walked over. “After all, there’s nothing important waiting for me at home anyway.”

The employees volunteered to work extra time, and that was quite touching for Chen Ge. He thought about it and realized that carrying twenty mannequins alone was quite tiring, so he did not reject their help. “Okay, you two come with me then. We’ll try to finish everything by midnight.”

Closing the door, Chen Ge hopped into the park’s van and drove Xu Wan and Gu Feiyu to the workshop. Chen Ge had already done the base that morning, so he gave his employees a brief lesson and handed them work like transportation and filling, which did not require much skill. At 11 pm, the twenty mannequins were all done.

The mannequins used the best material and were human-size. However, to save time, Chen Ge did not put make-up or clothes on the mannequins yet. The group worked together to move the mannequins into the van and back to the Haunted House. “I’ll work on the rest myself. You can go home now.”

Chen Ge looked at the time. The Haunted House would welcome its third expansion at midnight, and it would upgrade to a Maze of Terror. He was afraid that the sudden change might arouse Xu Wan and Xiao Gu’s suspicion.

“Boss, there are so many mannequins here. How long will it take you to carry them yourself?” Xiao Gu looked at the mannequins lined up in the corridor, and it did look quite scary in the dark.

“I’ll need to put some make-up on them so that we can put them into use tomorrow.” Chen Ge thanked the two and closed the Haunted House’s door.

“Do you plan to do that alone?” Gu Feiyu still wanted to say something, but Chen Ge had already started working. “So hardworking. Success in this world really only comes to those who work hard for it.”

“Well, that’s a life lesson for you. Anyway, I’ll see you tomorrow morning.” Xu Wan shrugged and left. Gu Feiyu was left alone in the park.

Compared to the rowdiness in the morning, the park at night was dark and silent. The image of the mannequins collapsing over one another appeared in his mind, and he shivered. “The boss is ultimately the boss. If it was me, I would have run out after the first night.”

Xiao Gu walked out from New Century Park. It was already 11:30 pm, and the bus had stopped running. His rental was quite far from the park.

“Should I call the cab?” Gu Feiyu reached into his pocket and felt sorry for himself. He had lived in the city for months already, but Chen Ge was the only boss who had paid him his salary. The rent and

hospital had taken up quite a large amount of money. Normally, he would not even call for take-out; he had been cooking for himself to save money.

“Since I have nothing better to do, I could try walking home. I should cover as much distance as I can before I need to call the cab—that’s the best way to save money.” Gu Feiyu plugged his earphones in and started to walk down the road. The chilly night breeze crawled through his sleeves. There was no one else on the road, and the lights on the sidewalk were getting dark.

He walked for around forty minutes, and at around midnight, Gu Feiyu suddenly heard someone ask him for his destination and whether he would like to hop into his car.

He pulled his earphones out and looked around, but there was no one there.

“That’s weird. Did the sound come from the earphones?” He put the earphones back in and repeated the previous song, but he did not hear anything unusual. “That was weird.”

Gu Feiyu did not understand it. The lights by the street dimmed, and he walked ahead on his own. The buildings became smaller and the road quieter. He used this road when he returned home every day, but that day, something was different. He walked for another ten minutes when he reached a junction. One was the normal road that he used to head home, and the other looked so unfamiliar like he had not seen it before.

“Where are you going?” That voice appeared in his ears again. Gu Feiyu removed the earphones and looked to the side. He realized that a bus was stopping behind him. The bus itself looked old, and it did not even have the headlights on. There were a few passengers on it—they had their faces lowered, probably looking on their phone.

“There are still buses running at 1 am?” Gu Feiyu was weirdly worried. He walked back to the wall, and right then, his phone suddenly vibrated. Opening it, Gu Feiyu realized that it was a bonus from Chen Ge. It was attached with a voice message. “Thank you for your help earlier, Xiao Gu. This is your bonus for the overtime.”

Chen Ge’s voice was warm in the cold night. Xiao Gu was about to tell Chen Ge about the weird things that night, but before he could make the call, he turned around to look, and the bus had already driven away. It entered the road that he felt was very unfamiliar. Standing at the junction, Gu Feiyu saw the bus leave. The lights returned to normal, and he no longer felt as cold.

“That was strange.” Gu Feiyu did not dare to wander about anymore. He waited at the junction and called a passing cab.

“Where are you going?”

“The apartment next to Ming Hwa Zhuang.” Gu Feiyu was still thinking about the bus. He asked the driver with some uncertainty, “Boss, did you spot a bus when you were coming over?”

“No.” The driver glanced at Gu Feiyu through the rearview mirror and grumbled, “What is wrong with you youngsters lately? A few days ago, I picked up a passenger in Eastern Jiujiang, almost the same age as you. The first thing he asked was whether I’d seen a moving company’s truck when I was driving on the road. The road is big, can you tell whether a vehicle has passed or not for yourself?”

Chapter 464: Welcome to the Maze of Terror!

“You didn’t see it?” Xiao Gu turned back to look, and the buildings on the side of the road seemed to change again. “That’s weird; the bus was still there earlier.”

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Inside the dressing room of the Haunted House, after sending the bonuses to Xu Wan and Xiao Gu, he tossed the phone aside and focused on putting the make-up on the mannequins. With Mortician’s Make-up, he reconstructed the cadavers’ most realistic look. Their eyes were popping and filled with envy toward the living.

I should hollow out the faces for these few, maybe I can make them detachable. The face will turn and shatter when the visitors get close.

Chen Ge tried his best and worked until 2 am, when he finished the make-up on all twenty mannequins.

By then, Chen Ge was feeling tired. He set his alarm and went to sleep. He had just lain down when the phone in his pocket vibrated. In his blurred state, he sought out his phone and realized that it was a new message on the black phone.

“Congratulations for completing the third expansion! The Haunted house has been upgraded to a Maze of Terror! The maximum number of ownable Red Specters has increased! The limitation on the number of employees has increased!

“Maze of Terror’s Special Effect: Lowering of sense of direction (The rest of the special effect will unlock after the fourth expansion; it will be a process of the body and the soul being lost).

“Specter’s Favored, congratulations for upgrading the Haunted House to Maze of Terror. The random unique construct won is ‘The Screaming Door’!

“The Screaming Door: When you’re all prepared to scream, you’ll be able to push open this door! Third expansion completed; three-star scenario underground morgue has been unlocked!”

Chen Ge woke up instantly from the successive messages. *The expansion is already done?*

He put on his jacket and ran out the staff breakroom. When he prepared to go underground, he realized that the wooden boards next to the entrance to Night of the Living Dead had disappeared. In their place was a pure-black, steel door that was carved with the faces of various baleful Specters!

This is the new reward? The Screaming Door? The solid door blocked the only entrance and exit. Chen Ge walked to the door and touched the realistic carving, and the screams echoed in his mind. He held the door handle and pushed it open.

After the upgrade, the underground scenario looked creepier. Walking in it, it felt like someone was calling his name and he was almost convinced to follow it.

There should be other hidden effects. He walked down the stairs. The left path led to Mu Yang High School, the right led to the Third Sick Hall, the road forward led to Coffin Village, and the newly unlocked underground morgue was directly behind.

Chen Ge took a spin, and with the black phone's help, he checked all the scare points. After confirming that there were no security threats, he returned to the ground floor to move the mannequins into the scenario.

The mannequins can house several ghosts. After they get used to this tempo, this should come as quite a surprise to the visitors. Oh right, where should I put the doctors? Scaring people is not their specialty—maybe I should set up a special medic room for them to stop them from running about.

Chen Ge designed the scenario, and when he was done, it was already dawn. He slept for as long as he could, and he woke up punctually at 8:15 am. He opened the door. *A new day has arrived. Hopefully, the visitors will love the new scenario.*

He took out his phone and released the information on the new scenario on the app designed by Director Luo for the Haunted House. When this new introduction appeared in the app, it immediately attracted the attention of all the online users.

Many were surprised at how fast Chen Ge's Haunted House was expanding. Their clearing speed was slower than the boss' expansion. Many people left messages that they were going to challenge the new scenario, and some pointed out that Chen Ge really did love his job or else he would not have worked so fast to make such great quality content for them to enjoy.

"This system designed by Director Luo sure has its uses." Chen Ge snapped a few pictures of the new scenario and uploaded them. Seeing the reception, he logged off. "The warm reception is to be expected. Today will probably mark the return of the fervent aficionado."

Xu Wan entered the park at 8:20 am. Chen Ge helped her with the make-up, but even after Xu Wan got into the scenario, Xiao Gu was still not there. "Stuck in traffic?"

He tried to call, but no one answered. At around 9 am, Chen Ge saw Xiao Gu run into the park.

"Boss, I'm so sorry!" Xiao Gu gasped for air, and his face was rather pale.

"Did something happen to you?" Chen Ge looked at Xiao Gu and felt that something was wrong.

"I returned too late last night and did not have a good night sleep, so I woke up late this morning." Xiao Gu apologized multiple times. "Boss, I'll go do my make-up now."

"Okay, no need to rush." Chen Ge looked at Xiao Gu, who ran into the Haunted House, and could not shake the feeling that something was off. He reminded himself to pay him extra attention.

The park opened at 9 am. The visitors rushed in, and Chen Ge could clearly tell that the holiday was coming—the number of visitors had increased so much. *When the holiday arrives, the real battle between us and the futuristic park will begin. As long as we do not lose too many visitors, there's a chance we can win this.*

Chen Ge had seen the inside information of the park, so he was familiar with their strength.

In just five minutes after the park opened, there was already a long queue at the Haunted House. Some had even started lining up before the park even opened. They rushed toward the Haunted House when the gate opened.

“Please don’t push!” Uncle Xu and the workers came to help maintain the order. Chen Ge entered the resting hall to use his phone to enter the intro that he had written for the new scenario into the screen.

“Weird noises came from the morgue, and the trolley that transported the dead bodies moved up and down the corridor. Formalin was thick in the air. To leave this place, you need to make a choice—a choice between red or white corridor.

“There is a group of immortals living under the biggest underground morgue in Jiujiang. Their eyes open when they smelled the formalin. This is the latest three-star scenario at the Haunted House—The Underground Morgue.”

The intro managed to grab the attention of many visitors, but they were clever now. No one was willing to be the first test subject.

“Like usual, since today is the first day for the new scenario, the ticket price for the new scenario will be halved!”

Chapter 465: More People Could Be Safer

A new scenario was open, but no one was willing to come visit. From the interaction of the visitors on the app, they were curious about the new scenarios, but only experienced visitors who had survived a two-star scenario could withstand the terror of a three-star scenario. Every one of them was more cautious than the last; they waited for others to scout the road ahead for them and bring back firsthand information. Some who were familiar with Chen Ge’s Haunted House had even found seats at the resting hall to wait for the show to begin.

This batch of visitors sure is lacking; they are too cowardly. None of them are willing to come forward. Chen Ge took his phone and walked back to the Haunted House. After he left, the situation became excited. The visitors whispered to one another, talking about the new scenario.

Every scenario in Chen Ge’s Haunted House felt very realistic; they were the boss’ labor of love. Three three-star scenarios, each offering a different experience. This made the visitors’ hearts all conflicted. They were curious and wanted to try them out, but they were afraid of the possible scares.

“Mr. Mu, it was this Haunted House that sent Brother Wong to the hospital. Even now, he’s still recovering.” There was a young man in jeans in the crowd, whispering to the middle-aged man standing next to him. “He opened a new scenario in just a few days. I believe they have already prepared everything beforehand and are just waiting for the holidays to unveil everything to fight with us. This latest scenario is quite possibly not the last scenario that he has prepared.”

“Of course, people will keep the best for last. However, it is still too difficult for New Century Park to fight with us with just a Haunted House. They’re walking on the edge of the knife; it is very problematic for them to position their theme park thusly. The focus is too singular,” the middle-aged man explained.

“Then, should we just ignore them? Let them die out on their own?” The young man thought that the middle-aged man had a point.

“We cannot do that either.” The middle-aged man looked at the excited visitors around them and lowered his voice. “One theme park is more than enough in Jiujiang. We only need to incorporate New Century Park’s uniqueness into our own. Then, this place will have no reason to exist.”

“Incorporate their uniqueness into our own?” The young man nodded like he understood somewhat. “Meaning we should open a Haunted House of our own? I seem to remember Brother Wong saying something like that when he came last time.”

“Our technical ability is at least five years ahead of New Century Park’s. We have stuff that they don’t, and we can easily copy what they have. Therefore, they have technically zero chance of winning.” The middle-aged man had already come up with a plan. “However, before that, we have to solve a problem, which is to figure out why this place is so popular. Based on my understanding, New Century Park’s House of Horrors managed to create unprecedented popularity on the internet. The good reviews are so high that it is something that has not been achieved by other Haunted Houses before.”

“Understood, shall we visit the scenario that Brother Wong experienced before?” The young man glanced at the screen in the hall. “But it feels like his new scenario is quite interesting as well.”

The middle-aged man considered it seriously. “Xiao Lee, you are the most courageous person our team has. Today’s mission will be very important. I will cooperate with you from the outside. Remember to send me all the important details.”

“You’re not coming with us?” The young man was startled.

“There has to be someone who stays outside. I heard that Brother Wong recorded important footage last time, but unfortunately, it was deleted. We cannot allow that to happen again. After you finish the recording, send it to me immediately, and I will upload it to the company’s server.”

Mr. Mu’s words were very convincing, but Xiao Lee was not feeling comfortable. Only when a person fainted could others delete the stuff on their phone without being discovered. Listening to Mr. Mu’s plan, the company sounded like they were prepared to sacrifice him. “Then, let me start with a one-star scenario.”

Many visitors were curious with the arrival of a new scenario, but they were lacking a leader. Chen Ge stood inside the Haunted House, observing the situation outside. He wished that he could summon some ghost to take the lead for them. It was not until 11 am that someone in the lines finally lost their patience.

“We have already visited the Third Sick Hall and Coffin Village—the requirement to pass is to find a specific item. To find something in such a large area is too difficult. Wait for me while I go ask the boss. If the clearing requirement for the new scenario is not a treasure hunt, I think perhaps we still have some hope of clearing it.” The person who spoke was Yang Chen from Western Jiujiang Medical University. He had seen the introduction to the Haunted House’s new scenario that morning. He had skipped school and come with two of his friends to come visit.

“Are you sure you want to try that new scenario? Boss, did forget how the three of us were sent out of the Haunted House before?” The one speaking was Wang Dan. He was still running that mouth of his.

“We should think this through.” The last to speak was Lee Xue, the girl who looked so studious. The three of them had visited the place before. When they visited, they happened to be with the same group as the members of the ghost stories society. After Chen Ge dealt with the members, he had given the three free tickets for their next visit.

“We came because this is a new scenario. If you surrender now, what’s the point of us skipping class?” Yang Chen looked at the line that was approaching the Haunted House. “How about this? We’ll buy the ticket first but not go in yet. When there are more than enough visitors to go with us, we can go in together. The bigger the group, the harder it’ll be for us to get scared.”

The two friends agreed. Under Uncle Xu’s pity-filled gaze, they bought the ticket to the new scenario and moved into the Haunted House.

“Sign the disclaimer first. The pen and paper are on the table.” Chen Ge lifted his head, and when he saw it was his old customers, he immediately turned friendly.

“Boss, we’re here to try out the new scenario.”

Hearing the words ‘new scenario’, the smile exploded on Chen Ge’s face. “The new scenario has a half-price promotion today; you came at the right time.”

Seeing the smile on Chen Ge’s face, Yang Chen’s hair stood on end. He quickly explained, “We want to wait for more people before we go in.”

“No problem. Go and rest over there for now. I’ll go get some drinks for you.”

“There’s no need, boss. We’re not that thirsty...” Yang Chen still wanted to say something but was interrupted by Chen Ge.

“There’s no need to be so polite around me. We’re family, right? I feel so close to you students from the university.” Chen Ge passed water to the three. “Wait here, I’ll go look around outside.”

Chen Ge walked out and yelled at the visitors, “Does anyone else want to experience the new scenario? Now, we already have six visitors registered for this session. Since this is the first time, to give everyone a chance to get used to things, I will allow ten people to go in together!”

Chapter 466: Come Together!

The sudden announcement from Chen Ge spooked Uncle Xu. From Chen Ge’s tone, he could hear the excitement in this Haunted House boss who did not know the meaning of the phrase ‘bottom line’.

“The new scenario is very scary and is only open to visitors who have challenged a two-star scenario. Are there any courageous visitors who are willing to give it a try? We’re having a half-price promotion, and we already have six participants!”

Using the loudspeaker, Chen Ge repeated the promotion. With his Yin Yang Vision, he could see the interest on some of the visitors' faces.

"I'll go!" When most were hesitating, a young man in jeans walked out. His face was rather pale, and when he left the crowd, he turned back to share a look with a middle-aged man in the crowd.

"How shall I refer to you?" Chen Ge looked at the young man and nodded. With someone leading the way, the rest of the visitors were swayed.

"My surname is Lee." The young man had just come out from the one-star and two-star scenarios. He really could not connect the experience that he had just been through with this smiling boss before him.

"Okay, Mr. Lee, please hold on for a moment." Chen Ge picked up the loudspeaker and shouted again, "We already have seven participants! We need three more, and the underground morgue will be officially open! This is an extremely meaningful day! All of the participants' stories will be written into the app's introductory page!"

Finally, another group of visitors came forward. "Boss, count the three of us in."

Two girls and one guy walked forward. These three were quite unique. The man was pale and very thin. He looked very polite and shy. There was a large bag on his arm, filled with food and drinks. The girl on his left wore sports sneakers, and she looked very outgoing. Her hair was tied in a ponytail, and there was a certain air about her. The girl on his right was the complete opposite of the other girl. She was only 1.6 meters tall, and she had a cute face. She looked so young like the friendly girl next door.

The three did not look like siblings or partners. They walked to Chen Ge and started their self-introduction. "We are editors from a supernatural magazine and your Haunted House's loyal fans. We've already visited all of your scenarios."

Chen Ge had no recollection of these people, but he pretended like he just remembered them. "Now that you mention it, I think I can remember."

"Your Haunted House's design is very good. How did you come up with these ideas? If you have time, we have to sit down and talk." The man wanted to exchange numbers with Chen Ge, and although Chen Ge initially rejected it, after seeing that the introduction of their company that was situated at Eastern Jiujiang, Chen Ge changed his mind. Perhaps he might run into them again in the future.

"Alright, ten people, this is perfect. What are your names?" Chen Ge was very polite to his customers, with a sincere smile on his face always.

"My name is Ah Nan, and this big sister is our main editor, Hu Ya. The girl on the other side is called Tails. Don't be fooled by her appearance; all the innocence is just a front." The man held two large bags, and ignoring the eye-rolling from his colleagues, he continued the introduction.

"Hu Wa¹? Tails? Those sound like pen names." Chen Ge glanced at the big sister. The woman was wearing sportswear, and her presence was something that radiated from within. Perhaps from her job scope of managing writers, she gave the impression that she was not to be messed with, but she looked pretty when she smiled.

“Hu Ya does have canine teeth, but why is Tails called Tails?” Chen Ge glanced at the girl and thought the girl was quite cute. “The four of you, please come with me.”

Just as they were turning to go, someone in the crowd screamed, “Wait a minute! Boss, you allowed more than ten people to enter Mu Yang High School, and this is a three-star scenario; can’t you allow more people to go as a group?”

The one who spoke was a man who was about 1.9 meters tall. His sleeves were rolled up, and even though the day was not that hot, he was sweating profusely.

“You also want to visit the new scenario? Sure!” Chen Ge preferred this type of visitor—straight forward and open with his demands.

“We’re partners.” The tall man walked toward the Haunted house and dragged a fatty with a drawn face behind him. “Do you mind adding two more people?”

“Even adding three more is fine! Let me tell you, there’s no need to worry so much. The most important thing from visiting a Haunted House is to have fun!”

“Boss Chen is awesome!” The man gave Chen Ge a thumbs up, thinking that Chen Ge was a forthright man.

“Other visitors have said that, but I just try my best.” Chen Ge waved at them. “Follow me!”

Other visitors had just completed their tour and were running out. Chen Ge had the six visitors wait outside while he went in to sign the disclaimers. Entering the Haunted House, he ran to the ghost’s changing room to grab a few outfits. At the corner of the corridor, he summoned Ol’ Zhou, Duan Yue, and Bai Qiulin.

“Wear these clothes. Make sure not to expose your heart that is dyed.” Chen Ge thought about it closely. After the employees put the outfits on, he ran to Yang Chen’s place to grab several disclaimers. Chen Ge had Bai Qiulin’s group sign the disclaimers and then went to the door to give the disclaimers to the rest. After they signed them, Chen Ge collected the disclaimers and put them away.

“Alright, let’s go meet up with the other visitors.” Chen Ge led the six visitors deeper into the Haunted House, where the temperature was much lower than it was outside.

“Give me your disclaimers as well.” Chen Ge collected the paper from Yang Chen’s group. After making sure that everything was in place, he led the twelve visitors to the scenario entrance. “This is the first time that the underground morgue has been open to the public; there are many things that might not be completed yet. If you see anything weird or aren’t sure if they are props, you’d better turn and run.”

“But wait... Boss, what do you mean by that? Is there stuff here that is not part of your Haunted House’s props?” Yang Chen knew how scary Chen Ge’s Haunted House was and paid attention to every single word that Chen Ge said.

“Of course. Other than props in the new scenario, there are many surprises waiting for you.” Chen Ge sped up. “The underground morgue’s clearing requirement is different from the others. I have pasted five pictures of the victims on the wall in the central hub. You don’t need to go look for them—I’ve

already told you their location—but remember, there are only five pictures, and only those with a picture will clear the scenario.”

Chapter 467: Why Is This Place So Familiar?

“Only five pictures? Then what about those without pictures?” Yang Chen felt very strong negative emotions from the rules set up by Chen Ge; this was encouraging competition between the visitors.

“Those without a picture will just fail the scenario. Don’t worry, there’s no punishment for those who fail.” The more Chen Ge said so, the more afraid Yang Chen became. This was not the first time that he had interacted with Chen Ge. Due to curiosity, he had approached the famed criminal psychological professor at his university to discuss Chen, Ge and the lecturer by the name of Gao only had two words to comment on Chen Ge—Stay away.

With Chen Ge leading the way, they all walked down the corridor.

“Come this way. Go down the stairs, and the entrance to the scenario will be behind you.” Chen Ge looked at the twelve visitors following him. “I repeat again, safety first. When you come across anything weird or cannot be certain if it is a prop, you’d better stay away from it.”

His hands on the heavy Screaming Door, Chen Ge pushed it open. Screams echoed in his mind, and a blast of cold wind came at them!

The temperature dropped even more. The few visitors squeezed together, and Chen Ge stood at the dark entrance, smiling at them. “The visitation time is thirty minutes. Have fun and good luck.”

After the visitors walked down the stairs, Chen Ge closed the door. He locked the door with chains, and it could not be opened from the inside.

“Those who visit three-star scenarios have survived the trials of a two-star scenario. They have a higher stress resistance level and should be able to visit the entire scenario.” Chen Ge entered the dressing room and put some make-up on. He opened the door to the changing room and selected an outfit that was suitable for him. “The new scenario has just been released, so I shouldn’t go overboard. Some background music and the phone spirit should be more than enough.”

...

The solid door slammed shut, and the sound of the lock moving made their skin crawl. The visitors stood on the stairs, and it felt like they were being imprisoned. A sense of helplessness rose in their hearts.

“Whenever we come here, it’s like we’re entering a different world.” The man from the supernatural magazine walked ahead. “My name is Ah Nan. These two are my colleagues...”

“Nice to meet you, I’m Yang Chen. These are my friends, we’re students from Western Jiujiang’s Private Academy. This is our fourth time visiting this Haunted House.” Yang Chen shook Ah Nan’s hand. He understood the importance of working together.

“Three editors from a supernatural magazine and three students from a medical university. With the six of you, I have a feeling we’ll succeed this time!” The large man wiped the sweat from his forehead. “My

name is Fan Dade; I'm a chef at New East International Hotel. This is my younger brother, Fan Chong; he just came out from a break-up and cooped himself up at home, so I dragged him out to give him a distraction and relax."

"You came to a place like this to relax?" The young man in jeans had a pale face. This was his second time coming underground. If not for the order from the futuristic park, he would not have come back to this place.

"How about the rest of you?" Fan Dade was friendly and reliable with his large physique.

"You can call me Xiao Lee. I... I'm a maintenance worker for robotics." Xiao Lee put his hands inside his jeans. Thinking about the upcoming challenge, he felt like he was even stuttering.

"My surname is Zhou. I'm in real estate. This is my girlfriend, Duan Yue." Ol' Zhou picked up Duan Yue's hand under her wrathful gaze as he patted her palm lovingly. Duan Dade's little brother hugged his large stomach and felt that it was warm.

Everyone's eyes eventually fell on the thin man that was at the back of group. He had one hand in his pocket and a face that told others to not get too close to him. Sensing everyone else's gaze, he dropped his name. "Bai Qiulin."

"Alright, now that we know each other, let's get moving—we don't have much time." Fan Dade thought that he was quite lucky. Be it the editors or the students, they were people with strong hearts.

"Wait a minute, we have something to share with all of you." Yang Chen took out a small notebook from his pocket. He shared the experience that his seniors had collected at the Haunted House with everyone else. Different from before, this time, everyone was a veteran, and they knew the terror of the Haunted House, so they paid him full attention.

"This information is so important; it must have taken you a lot of time to collect it, yes?" Ol' Zhou nodded his thanks at Yang Chen.

"Of course, this is the precious experience our seniors gained from sacrificing themselves. Don't spread this news or upload it on the app to prevent the boss from changing things," Wang Dan said. He sounded unwilling, like he thought it was a bad idea to share this inside information with outsiders.

"Don't worry, I will not leak it." Ol' Zhou held Duan Yue's hand as they walked forward. Thinking about the notes, he said, "This Haunted House sure is scary. There is already a full notebook just on the things that people need to pay attention to."

"The scarier things are still waiting for us. This time, we're trying out a new scenario, and we're the first batch of visitors. The experience of our seniors might not be able to be of much use, and we'll need to depend on ourselves." Yang Chen put the notebook back into his pocket. "Let's prepare to go in now. We'd better switch our phones to silent mode, and do not use your phone in the middle of the visitation."

"What will happen if you use it?" Xiao Lee was reminded of the mission that he had been given. He was there that day to take pictures and videos.

“Something scary will happen. I advise you not to try your luck. Once something happens to you, all of us will be affected.” Yang Chen knew that very well.

“Is it something that serious?” Xiao Lee grumbled and switched his phone to silent. The twelve visitors walked down the stairs and stopped at the entrance to the underground morgue. Before them was a rusted steel door, and behind it was a dark corridor.

“Why is there a room here?” Tails glanced to the side and saw a door next to the corridor. She pushed the door open, and the room was decorated like a crime scene. Things were cluttered, and there was a large blood stain.

“Don’t get separated. During the visitation, our biggest enemy is ourselves. Try to keep your curiosity in check and focus on the mission,” Yang Chen explained to the girl whom he saw as being younger than him.

“Okay.” As Tails pulled her gaze away, she saw the statue in the room blink. She was about to say something when Yang Chen and Wang Dan pushed the steel door to the underground morgue open.

There was a wall sconce every few meters in the corridor, and the walls were painted white. There was a weird smell in the air. When Wang Dan and Yang Chen smelled it, they were shocked. This was a familiar smell.

“This smells like... formalin?”

Chapter 468: First Split in the Road

Wang Dan and Yang Chen shared a look. As forensic students, they knew this smell too well.

“Isn’t this too realistic? It’s just a Haunted House, but it has applied actual formalin. Does Boss Chen not even care about cost?” Wang Dan stood at the entrance and did not enter.

“Underground morgue, formalin, corridor that is painted white...” Yang Chen glanced down the corridor, and he also stopped. “How come it feels like I’ve returned to school.”

“Have you two entered your university’s underground morgue?” Ah Nan walked over. He frowned slightly when the smell of formalin hit him. “I hear that when you students attend autopsy classes, the teacher will personally lead you to collect the cadaver, so you students should be more familiar with this underground morgue, right?”

“Who told you medical students have to be familiar with the underground morgue?” Wang Dan recovered and took several steps back. “In any case, I have not been to the underground morgue before. How about you ask the two of them?”

Lee Xue shook her head, but Yang Chen’s reaction was weird. He walked into the corridor alone and sniffed at the wall. “The stench of formalin leaks directly out from the wall; this means that it has been soaked fully into the wall. This is not achievable by just splashing the wall with formalin. I now suspect that Boss Chen has broken down the morgue from some university and moved it here.”

“This smell is not directly harmful to the human body, right?” Xiao Lee looked down the corridor but refused to take the first step.

“We smell it daily, and we’re just fine, right? Furthermore, this smell is really not that strong.” Yang Chen touched the wall and used his finger to lightly scrape the white paint. “I once heard from a senior who said that the underground morgue at our school is also painted white. According to legend, those corridors that are painted white are specifically for cadavers, while the unpainted corridors are for students and staff.”

“There’s such a story?”

“I thought that was a unique situation at our school, but based on what we’re seeing, I guess it is the same for all morgues.” Yang Chen called after Wang Dan and Lee Xue. “The three of us will walk ahead; no matter what, the rest of you’d better stick close to us. Don’t split up no matter what happens! Only by sticking together will we be able to clear this scenario.”

“I agree with your suggestion, but how do you suggest we split the pictures? The boss has said that there are only five pictures available.” Bai Qiulin’s face was drawn like the whole world owed him money. “I’ve visited this place before. The boss often says the opposite. He said the pictures are not that useful, so this proves that the pictures are the key to clearing this scenario!”

“Five pictures, but since the three of us move together, we only need one.” Yang Chen made a huge concession. “The aim is to clear the scenario. Boss Chen said those things probably to drive a wedge between us. Based on our understanding of the man, before we enter the central hub, nothing too scary will happen. However, that will change once we get our hands on the picture.”

“I also think so. Perhaps the picture is nothing but a red herring.” Ah Nan agreed with Yang Chen. “The three of us editors are just here for the experience. We also only need one picture.”

“Five pictures, and the six of us have already taken two. I came in alone, so it’s not too much to ask for me to have one, right?” Bai Qiulin looked at others, and before he finished, the chef Fan Dade spoke.

“My little brother just has a break-up. I’m going to fight to get one for him.”

“Big brothers, I’ve challenged two one-star scenarios and one two-star scenario already. The aim is to clear a three-star scenario. I’m begging you to give me one picture.” Xiao Lee was quite helpless. He had the futuristic theme park to answer to. He had come here to look for something useful. From the sound, the picture it was cursed, but it seemed to be important as well. To complete the mission given to him by Mr. Mu, he had to get one picture somehow.

The pictures had all been assigned, and only Ol’ Zhou and Duan Yue did not get one. The rest of the visitors turned to the two of them. With a smile, Ol’ Zhou grabbed Duan Yue’s hand and said, “It’s alright. The two of us will follow the rest of you. As long as we don’t get separated, everything should be fine.”

Ol’ Zhou did not create an issue due to the picture, and this improved the other visitors’ impression of him.

“We still have not reached the central hub yet, so what’s the point discussing all this?” Wang Dan felt that their group would contribute the most, but they only got one picture. That felt wrong, but he did not point it out even though his tone was rather rough.

“Then, everyone, please follow closely.” Yang Chen walked at the forefront. The deeper they went, the darker it got. Without the aid of lighting, they needed to be within six meters of each other to see each other’s faces.

“Bro, should we just give up?” Fan Chong stopped at the entrance. The fat on his body jiggled like he was shivering from fear.

“That would be so much of a waste since we’re already here.” Fan Dade looked at his brother and placed his arm over his shoulder. “You always coop yourself up at home. You have to come out to experience some new things. Don’t just keep yourself locked up at home. I know you’re not feeling the mood, but a break-up is not the end of the world, right? Life moves on.”

“I’m really not staying at home because of the break-up.” Fan Chong sighed. He seemed to have his own secret, but since he could bring himself to say it, he had no choice but to allow himself to be dragged down to the morgue.

The chef and the brother walked at the back, and before them were Duan Yue and Ol’ Zhou. The single visitors, Xiao Lee and Bai Qiulin, walked side by side, and ahead of them were the editors and Yang Chen’s group.

The party soon reached the first split; one was unpainted, and the other was painted white. On the corridor that was painted white, blood red letters read—No Living Humans Allowed.

The unpainted corridor, in comparison to the white corridor, looked rather dark and creepy.

“The white corridor is used for cadaver transportation, so we should use the unpainted corridor.” Yang Chen did not hesitate and walked forward. However, he stopped once he took several steps.

“Ol’ Yang, what’s wrong with you?” Wang Dan ran into Yang Chen. He followed Yang Chen’s gaze, and he also stopped. The few visitors all surrounded him. In the unpainted corridor, they could clearly see a ball-like object bouncing up and down.

“Is that a human head?”

“Too dark to tell.” Yang Chen did not expect to come across something so weird at the start of their visit.

“Don’t worry, there are many of us. Let’s go take a look.”

Chapter 469: Starting Now! [2 in 1]

After Yang Chen said that, he took several steps forward. He felt cold wind caressing his back, and when he turned, he saw the other visitors still standing where they were earlier, including Wang Dan and Lee Xue.

“Why aren’t you guys moving? Let’s go together!” Yang Chen was not that courageous of a person in reality—he was just comparatively more rational than others.

“Based on the personality of the Haunted House’s boss, the most dangerous place is often the safest place. Based on your earlier analysis, the white corridor is to transport the cadavers, so it should be the dangerous path, but I feel like the unpainted corridor that you chose is the real dangerous one. We cannot use a normal way of thinking to dissect the boss’ design,” Bai Qiulin said. His voice was cold and made some of their hearts tremble, but they could not deny that the man had a point.

“Then how do you suggest we carry on?” Wang Dan’s tone was pointed. His group of three friends had contributed the most, but they only were given one picture—he was still hung up over that.

“It doesn’t matter which path we choose; the most important thing is that we do not split up from one another.” An Nan from the magazine walked forward. “As long as the twelve of us stick together and don’t panic unnecessarily, we have a good chance of clearing this scenario.”

He looked at the object that bounced up and down inside the corridor, and his expression became rather unnatural. “The exploration time is thirty minutes, so we have time to go down both paths. There is no reason to argue due to a small issue like this.”

Ah Nan tried to mediate the situation. Bai Qiulin looked at the three medical students like he muttered like he was talking to himself, “This is just weird. Why do the three of them insist on leading us down that path?”

His volume was so soft that only Fan Dade, Fan Chong, and Xiao Lee, who were standing beside him, heard him.

With the three medical students leading the way, the twelve visitors officially entered the corridor. The lights on the wall flickered nonstop, and there was a faded smell of formalin in the air. The corridor narrowed as they moved forward, and the floor became more dirtied and stain. They had no idea what they were, and it was sticky when they stepped on it.

“Bro, should we just return and leave?” Fan Chong suggested again. He really did not understand why his big brother would bring him to a place like this to relax.

“Don’t be scared, I’m here for you.” Fan Dade himself did not notice that when he spoke, his expression was nervous like he was a thief who had broken into someone’s home. Wet handprints started to appear on the wall, and the ceiling above their heads seemed to have gotten lower. The tallest among them, Fan Dade, could touch the ceiling just by raising his hand.

The few continued to move forward. After they walked another ten meters, it was Ah Nan who first realized that something was wrong. “Wait a minute, we have been walking for so long, but how come it feels like the distance between us and that ball object hasn’t changed?”

Now that he mentioned it, the others came to the same realization. They realized that he was right. The bouncing object seemed to be moving at the same speed as them, and it maintained a constant distance behind them.

“There is still time to walk away now.” Bai Qiulin stood in the middle of the group, where it was the safest. “You all know that is probably not some kind of ball, but a human head that is moving on its own. This has to be something designed by the Haunted House’s boss, just waiting for us to scare ourselves.”

Bai Qiulin seemed to have a lot of experience visiting the Haunted house. He placed his hand inside his pocket. He did not go after anyone, just explaining the situation, "Think about it, when we were distracted by the human head and continued to move into the corridor, what if the human head suddenly increased in speed to move toward us? Will we be flustered? If some other monsters come from the other end of the corridor then, the twelve of us will be surrounded and probably separated in the chaos."

Ah Nan nodded and agreed with Bai Qiulin. He shouted at the visitors behind him, "Please remember to stick close together, and don't run off on your own. It is safest when we stick together."

"It is futile to say something like that. We all know what we're supposed to do, but when the real terror arrives, the thing that decides what we'll do is not rationality but human instinct. The body will move before the brain thinks." Bai Qiulin's tone was detached and straight-forward, but other people could not find a counter-argument. "If I'm not mistaken, if we continue to move forward, there will most likely be another split in the path, and the corridors will become more and more complicated. The human head and monsters will appear then. The Haunted House's aim is to heighten the fear in everyone's heart, and to do that, it tries everything within its power to separate us. At the split, when people are scared, they might run down different corridors. The layout here is so complicated that once you run down a corridor, it'll be hard to get out."

"You've said so much, but that is all your imagination." Wang Dan was not feeling well. They were so kind to bring other visitors with them and had shared the knowledge of their seniors. They were even the ones leading the way. Yet, someone kept trying to go up against them.

"Indeed, that is just my speculation, but I hope everyone will be ready when the time comes. If there's a split coming up ahead, everyone must pay attention and follow me." Obviously, Bai Qiulin was trying to wrangle the leadership away from Yang Chen's group.

Wang Dan still wanted to say something but was interrupted by Yang Chen. "He's only looking out for all of us. There's no need to argue over this."

Yang Chen felt unnerved. He sniffed the formalin in the air, and his eyes scanned the group of visitors. There was something that was not right. "When we came to visit this place before, something similar happened."

As they moved forward, steel doors that were sealed up started to appear on both sides of the corridor. They looked old and rusted. "Where did Boss Chen get all these things?"

The human head continued to bounce forward. It kept a certain distance from the group of visitors. They walked for another minute before they came across a four-way junction. The corridor on the left was painted white, and it was covered with many blood letters; the corridor on the right was unpainted, but the human head turned and entered it; the corridor right in front of them was also not painted, and there was a room down the corridor that was open.

"This place is just like a maze; we have been down here for less than a minute, and we've already come across two junctions. If we continue to move forward, it is guaranteed that we'll get lost." Fan Dade had a bad sense of direction. He was the largest, but he was also the most cowardly. He kept talking to Fan Chong and Ol' Zhou to distract himself from the surroundings.

“I still say we follow the human head. First, I can promise that our seniors once said, if we get lost inside the underground morgue, we need to follow the corridors that are unpainted. They will eventually lead us out; this is the design of the morgue before it was built. Second, there’s no need for us to make this into something that is so complicated. We’re just here to visit a Haunted House; we’re not going on some kind of exploration and adventure. In fact, this human head could very well be a guide.” Yang Chen believed in what he said.

“I think we should go look inside the room where the door is open. Perhaps we can find some useful clues there.” Ah Nan did not agree with Yang Chen this time.

“I don’t care what kind of choice you make. I just want to remind all of you to not stay so long in the junction. It is very dangerous here.” Bai Qiulin did not look at Yang Chen or Ah Nan. Instead, he kept turning his head to look behind him, like there was something scary approaching them from the dark and eerie corridor. He did not say anything scary, but his one small motion also made the rest of the visitors turn their heads to look back down the corridor. Inside the dark corridor, it really seemed like something was moving, and there was more than one of them!

“We have been walking for so long already.” Fan Dade laughed drily as he dragged his little brother to the front of the group. So far, it had been the two of them who stood at the back.

“Er... I’m sorry.” Tails, who stood next to Ah Nan, raised her hand. The girl’s voice was soft, and it was impossible to tell her real age from her appearance and her voice. “Have you guys discovered something? That human head keeps on moving, but I’ve been looking around. There is no mechanism controlling it inside the walls, and look at its movement pattern—it went up and down, up and down. That doesn’t look like it was pulled along by a string.” Tails explained her keen observations.

“Perhaps the mechanism is hidden inside it? Perhaps the boss is giggling while he looks at us from the surveillance camera.” Xiao Lee shrugged. He was an employee at the futuristic theme park, so he knew a thing or two about devices at the park. He knew that with current technology, many things that seemed impossible could be done

“But look closer.” Tails used the cutest expression to say something that made the rest of the visitors so uncomfortable. “The degree that it moves up and down is different each time. It doesn’t look like a programmed thing. In fact, it looks more like an invisible person is bouncing the thing repeatedly against the ground, or the human head is moving on its own.”

Before the visitors could recover from the shock of the shadows coming from the corridor behind them, their focus turned to the human head inside the corridor to their right. They looked at it long enough, and it really did feel like the human head was bouncing on its own. It bounced and laughed, and the distance between them seemed so close.

Fan Dade wiped the sweat from his forehead. Suddenly, he felt like standing in the middle of the group was not that safe anymore.

“We should ignore the human head for now. We should go straight ahead to inspect what is behind that open door.” Ah Nan looked at Yang Chen. “Based on your speculation, the human head is a guide. If that is the case, when we exit the room, it should still be here waiting for us, so there is no reason for us to hurry and leave.”

"I also think it is better that we check out the room first." Hu Ya had been silent throughout, but when she spoke, it meant that the three editors would be following her direction. Yang Chen felt like arguing his case, but he surrendered after Hu Ya stated her stance. The beautiful main editor had a mature and warm voice—it was a completely different style from Tails. In fact, she reminded Yang Chen of Chen Ge. Yang Chen felt this was a very well-hidden, black-belly big sister and not someone he could cross.

"Then, we will do that first." The twelve visitors walked past the junction and squeezed themselves before the open door. This was a wooden door, and the bottom end was dug out. The door itself was covered with scratch marks. There was a sign written on the side of the door in pen that read 'Paradise'.

"A paradise inside theme park?" Yang Chen walked at the front of the door. He used his hands to touch the deep gouges on the door. Inside the grooves, there were blood stains and some brownish-black substance. "Do you think these marks were made by human hands?"

After entering the underground morgue, everything that he saw was so authentic to a point where he almost forgot he was visiting a Haunted House. Pushing the door open, the room was filled with many different items. There were bottles and vials arranged on the racks. Various organ models were soaking with yellow liquid inside the containers.

"What kind of paradise is this?" The room was very small, and it could not fit all twelve visitors. As Ah Nan entered the room, he told the rest of the visitors, "The rest of you should stay outside. Don't wander off on your own. Wait for us to come out, and we will move out together."

The three students from Western Jiujiang Medical University and the three editors entered the room. To complete the mission handed to him by Mr. Mu, Xiao Lee also entered the room. After they entered, Bai Qiulin very naturally stood guard at the entrance to the room.

Fan Dade, who was more cowardly, dragged his little brother and squeezed next to Ol' Zhou. "The two of us should just stay here. When they're done with the search, we'll just continue to follow them."

When he finished his sentence, he turned to smile at Ol' Zhou with an embarrassed smile. "We don't visit place like this often. When we move in deeper, do you mind if we stick with you?"

"Of course not." Ol' Zhou looked like such a friendly person. Kind, passionate, and loyal. Inside the dark and eerie corridor, Fan Dade was surrounded by Ol' Zhou, Duan Yue, and Bai Qiulin. He felt safe. These three were more trustworthy compared to the young'uns inside the room.

"We sure are lucky this time. We've found ourselves good company to party with—perhaps we really can clear the scenario this time."

While the big brother was happy with their luck, the little brother had a bad feeling growing in his heart. The meat on his body jiggled as Fan Chong turned back to look down the corridor that they had come from. The lights that were attached to the walls had been extinguished. He had no idea when that had happened.

The scariest thing was that the lights continued to get extinguished starting from the furthest one every few minutes. The corridor became darker, and the thing hiding inside the darkness seemed to be moving forward.

"It really feels like something is coming."

...

Yang Chen, Ah Nan, Wang Dan, Lee Xue, Xiao Lee, Tails and Hu Ya ransacked the place, and other than the dust that covered their hands, they did not come up with any worthwhile discoveries.

“The haunted House’s boss would not have wasted such a huge amount of energy to create a useless room. There has to be a big secret hidden inside this room.” Ah Nan led the two female editors to walk through the racks. “This place looks very much like an abandoned warehouse.”

There were some ruined tables, chairs, and society equipment left in the corner. Ah Nan went to pick up one of the costumes from the pile. He discovered that the costume was wet like someone just had a bath and then put the clothes on. Putting the costume down, Ah Nan moved his finger to his nose, and he smelled a weird stench.

“This doesn’t smell very much like water.” While Ah Nan was caught in his thought process, Hu Ya walked deeper into the warehouse alone. She opened the cupboard that was placed at the corner and looked through the weird paintings that were stored inside.

Tails followed behind them. Since the path was blocked, she leaned against the printer that was by the wall. She accidentally hit the switch, and a rather pudgy face appeared on the printer.

Chapter 470: Start?

The light on the printer suddenly came on. The first piece of paper fell next to Tails. The girl, who was an editor at a supernatural magazine, had quite a strong heart. Her first reaction after seeing the sheet of paper was not to get scared but to pick it up. “Did I trigger some mechanism? So lucky?”

She picked up the white piece of paper to take a look. There was a rough frame on the A4 paper.

“What is this?” Tails looked at it for a long time but could not get it. “Ah Nan, come and take a look at this. It suddenly fell out from the printer, and there is a vague pattern on it.”

Ah Nan, who was researching the costume, took a look. He was confused, studying the pattern on the paper.

“There’re no letters and numbers, so it shouldn’t be a code.” Ah Nan flashed his phone at it. “It’s just a normal piece of paper.”

He used his saliva and rubbed it on the pattern. “The color doesn’t change; it doesn’t look like it has been chemically treated.”

He tried every method that he could think of, and the conclusion was that it was a very common piece of paper.

“I’ve tried all the methods I’ve learned from detective novels.” Ah Nan handed the paper back to Tails. “Why don’t you keep it? Perhaps we might need it later.”

“Okay.” Tails folded the paper. Before she pocketed it, the printer ‘spat’ out another piece of paper. It was the same size, and there was also a pattern. However, compared to before, the pattern seemed to have gotten clearer.

“Is someone controlling this printer?” Ah Nan opened the printer’s lid to inspect it. He did not discover any problems; it was just a normal printer. “This is weird. These are things that we use in everyday life, but how come it becomes so cursed when they’re moved inside this Haunted House?”

Pulling out the printer’s plug, Ah Nan ignored the second piece of paper. He was feeling nervous. “We have spent quite some time here already. It’s time to move on.”

Hu Ya, who was at the deepest part of the warehouse, was still studying the few paintings. Her expression was off, like she was stunned by the paintings’ weird style.

“Sister Hu Ya? We’re leaving,” Ah Nan urged.

“Come and look at these paintings. They look like they’re painted from the angle of the cadavers. Even I can feel the desire that is seeping through the painter’s hands. It’s hungering for life, like it was close to crawling out of these paintings to drag the viewers into it.” Hu Ya wanted to take out her phone to snap some pictures, but considering that they were inside a Haunted House, she resisted the urge. “If there’s a chance, I wish to speak with the artist. If possible, I want to hire him to come draw for our magazine.”

“If you let our art team hear that, they’re going to be so pissed.” Ah Nan smiled. Hu Ya and Ah Nan walked out of the warehouse. Tails followed behind, and she was about to leave when the printer issued a sound, and the computer next to it was switched on.

The sound was amplified in the quiet surroundings. Tails had been watching the computer, and she was sure that no one had touched it.

“Is the boss controlling it remotely?” Tails stood where she was, and her mind started to wander. “The boss could not have created this space for nothing. Could the secret of this warehouse be hidden inside the computer?”

When they entered the warehouse, Tails had already been curious about why the place was called paradise—there had to be a reason.

Her large eyes widened as she neared the computer. The screen gave out a weak light, and the screen was still black. However, a person’s face could roughly be seen on it. Initially, Tails thought that it was her own reflection on the screen, but the more she looked at it, the more she felt that was not the case.

“That’s a man’s face, right?”

There were many things inside the warehouse, and the place was chaotic. The three editors were at the deeper part of the room while Yang Chen’s group was closer to the door. There were some broken cupboards lying between them.

“Lee Xue, look at these organ models inside the glass containers—they are perfect replicas of the ones we have at our school.”

“They are even to scale.” Even a medical student could not tell the difference with these props, and this unhinged Lee Xue. After all, they were supposed to be inside a Haunted House, not a medical hospital.

“People that don’t see human organs on a daily basis will not be able to replicate them so perfectly.”

Organ models were different from mannequins. Only by splitting an actual human open would one be able to see them. Furthermore, human organs were different from animal organs. Yang Chen could confirm that all the containers there were holding human organs.

“During our last visit, I already sensed that the boss is very familiar with human anatomy. Only two types of people will have that—either they are doctors that save lives or murderers that take lives.”

“You’ve been watching too many movies, haven’t you?” Wang Dan was chilled by what Yang Chen said. “The boss pays attention to details. He probably hired someone to custom make these things.”

“I feel things are not that simple.” Yang Chen moved his gaze away and headed out the room. “There’s a different experience every time we visit this place. Each scenario is different from the last, but they are all so real like they have been moved from the real world into this place.”

The three students prepared to leave the warehouse. Xiao Lee held the phone in his hands, but he could not find the chance to snap some pictures. Behind him was Bai Qiulin, who stood at the door. He had one hand in his pocket and glanced at Fan Chong.

The man’s large stomach moved. Fan Chong had no idea that he had already been targeted—all of his focus was on the corridor. The lights went off one by one, and the rate at which they were being extinguished had picked up. It gave the impression that the darkness was moving faster. His fingers tightened subconsciously, and his eyes widened. There seemed to be shadows in the dark, and some of them looked like they were crawling on the ceiling.

His heart raced, and Fan Chong grabbed Fan Dade’s arm. “Bro, careful! Something is coming!”

“What thing?” Fan Dade was a rather dull person. He only started to look around when he was reminded by Fan Chong.

“Right there! Quick, call them to come out!” Fan Chong remembered what Ah Nan had said. No matter what happened, they had to stick together.

“Don’t panic, I’ll go take a look.” Fan Dade walked to the junction. He was cowardly, but he would not show that before his little brother. He walked several steps and stopped. He reached out his neck and tried his best to look down the corridor.

The lights went out faster and faster, and the place dipped into darkness. Fan Dade started to panic, too.

After Fan Dade left, Ol’ Zhou and Duan Yue retreated to the back. They worked together with Bai Qiulin to surround Fan Chong in the middle of them.