

Horrors 481

Chapter 481: All Kill [2 in 1]

Wang Dan looked at the tunnel behind the closet and felt flustered. The impression that the few doctors had left on him earlier was very weird. They had initially been kind and friendly, but their tone had changed conspicuously after they found out that he had skipped class.

Did I say something wrong? Skipping class is not something serious right? Without skipping class, one's university life is not complete. Many seniors have said that.

Wang Dan moved one step deeper into the tunnel. The temperature inside the tunnel was much higher than the temperature outside. After a long moment of hesitation, he retreated backward.

"What's wrong?" Xiao Lee stuck close to Wang Dan from behind. He could not wait to leave that godforsaken place already.

"It's nothing. I just have this feeling that those doctors from before feel so similar to our disciplinary teacher." Wang Dan's feelings were complicated. "This is just impossible. I've imagined the many different scary things that might happen to us here, but I really did not expect to run into a school teacher while skipping class. Could it be that so many students have come to visit Boss Chen's haunted house that the university was worried about its students, so they sent over some of the lecturers to come catch us?"

"You're not making sense. This has to be your first experience skipping class, right? It's normal to feel nervous. You'll get used to it after several more times." Xiao Lee urged Wang Dan to move. "Both of us fainted at the same time, but you were placed on the clean bed with two mattresses placed under you whereas I was directly dumped on a wooden board. From how they treated us, it is clear that those few doctors know you, so they would not lie to you."

"I also sensed a certain familiarity from them, but I could not place it."

The holes in the pool in the middle of the room kept bubbling, and the lights on the wall flickered. The steel doors in the corridors creaked slightly, like people were moving them back and forth. Under the circumstances, Wang Dan did not dare drag things on for too long. He was afraid that the lights might go off and the monsters would start chasing them again.

"Let's go. If you're afraid, I'll walk ahead, and you only need to help me remember the route that we should take." Xiao Lee had been at this job for quite some time. He was smart and sharp. He would be one of the futuristic theme park's most important workers in the future, and he courageously volunteered to take the lead this time.

Wang Dan did not reject Xiao Lee's kindness. He leaned back for Xiao Lee to walk past him. He saw Xiao Lee crouch and enter the tunnel. "Be careful."

"I know." Xiao Lee took out his phone and used the flashlight to guide his way. "Come on, let's get moving. I don't want to open my eyes and see the doctors again."

The two entered the tunnel one after another. The tunnel became narrower as they moved forward. There was something that looked like moss growing on the wall.

“Why haven’t we reached the end yet?” The more they moved forward, the more unsettled Wang Dan felt. The tunnel was large enough to only allow one person to pass through at a time. This meant that it was unavoidable for him to brush up against the ‘moss’ on the wall. His clothes got wet, and his skin became itchy. He followed closely behind Xiao Lee, feeling incredibly nervous.

“This should be the way that will lead us outside.” The complete opposite of Wang Dan, Xiao Lee was very confident. “Did you notice we can barely smell the formalin in the air anymore? Instead, there is a nice floral scent in the tunnel.”

He sniffed the air, and indeed, Wang Dan did smell a pleasant smell, but he was not as optimistic as Xiao Lee. “Is it because of the moss on the wall?”

He reached out to touch the wall, and the hard walls were covered in the moss, soft under his touch.

“Finally, we don’t need to suffer that weird stench anymore. This tunnel should lead us outside. The hidden passage is for the visitors to use. After all, this Haunted House is really not for everyone, and this hidden passage is like a surprise for people like us.” Xiao Lee bent lower. The tunnel became smaller, and the ground softened like it was covered with a thick carpet.

“I still think the smell of formalin is more familiar and comforting.” The fragrance that curled around his nose gave Wang Dan a nauseous feeling. “This is not a natural fragrance, but it doesn’t feel like it’s a chemical fragrance either. It smells very weird.”

Wang Dan tried to search through his mind, and he finally remembered it. “When I was studying the history of autopsy, it introduced something called cadaver fragrance, and the description is very similar to this smell.”

“Cadaver fragrance?” Xiao Lee shivered. This was the first time that he had heard of something like this.

“There are many types. The most famous is to harvest the oil from a beauty’s cadaver and then process it through a special method to create a candle-like substance...”

“Stop! Please stop!” Xiao Lee picked up his speed. He started to maintain a distance from Wang Dan. Normal people still had some reservations about things related to human bodies, and they were unable to talk about certain subjects with such insouciance like a medical student would.

Xiao Lee, from the futuristic theme park, continued to move forward, and Wang Dan could only follow. The two walked for several meters before Xiao Lee suddenly stopped.

“What’s happening?” Wang Dan used his phone to shine the light in front of him. Xiao Lee stood where he was, and after a long time, he forced out, “There’s no way to move forward anymore.”

By then, the two’s bodies were arcs, their faces almost touching the ground. The tunnel was so narrow that it was hard to even turn around. They were surrounded by the red ‘moss’, and their clothes were drenched. The air was filled with that strange fragrance.

“So... should we go back the way we came?”

“Wait a minute.” Xiao Lee was indeed courageous. He lifted his hand to press on the red-colored moss before him. His fingers increased in force, and his palm slowly sunk.

“It’s hollow behind this.” Xiao Lee cursed silently. He did not expect to come into such a trial so close to the exit. “Thankfully, I gave it a try. If we’d just turned back like that, I would’ve regretted it forever.”

He was proud of himself. He was going to turn around to tell Wang Dan the good news. His body leaned against the wall, and Xiao Lee tried his best to turn his neck around. “The moss is used to trick us. It is a disguise. The exit is just in front of us. We’ll be able to...”

When he spoke, Xiao Lee’s eyes swept the space behind him. He saw Wang Dan... as well as the person following behind Wang Dan!

Silently, quietly, and its face falling as it moved. Those things had been following them!

“What are you looking at?” Wang Dan used the phone to shine at Xiao Lee’s face. Before he could get a clear look, when the light from the phone swept the ceiling, a pale arm dropped down from the moss above them. The swinging arm fell right before Wang Dan’s face. His stunned face looked upward, and more arms fell down on him.

In the cramped passage, enveloped by the soft red moss were the passionate and warm ‘dead bodies’ that Boss Chen had completed the night before.

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At the edge of the central hub, Yang Chen, Lee Xue, Ol’ Zhou, and Duan Yue stood together, looking at the two editors who were standing two feet away from them.

“Three people have disappeared, but why are the two of you completely fine?” Yang Chen’s voice was shaking. He had already seen through the boss’ ploy and was familiar with the two editors’ real identities.

“How is their disappearance related to us?” Ah Nan thought that Yang Chen was being unreasonable. “When the lights went off and the footsteps started, I even told them to not run away, but they refused to listen to us. Now that they’ve disappeared, you turn around to pin the blame on us?”

“You’re still acting?”

From the depths of the corridor earlier, he had heard Wang Dan scream, “I will never skip class again!”

It had sounded so raw and desperate; it did not sound like it was fake. It was because he had heard Wang Dan’s scream that Yang Chen had started to get panicked. He did not plan to wait anymore and decided to expose everything.

“We’re acting?” Hu Ya frowned. “Do you have some kind of misunderstanding?”

“Drop the act. I’ve already seen through your ploy. Actually, I have to admit that you are quite professional.” Yang Chen took one step forward to shield Lee Xue, Ol’ Zhou, and Duan Yue behind him. “You two are the Haunted House’s paid actors, right? This is a setup organized by Boss Chen, isn’t it?”

Hu Ya and Ah Nan's lips twitched. In the end, it was Ah Nan who lost his patience and turned to look at Yang Chen. "Have you lost your mind?"

"I'm right, aren't I? You must be surprised it only took me nineteen minutes to expose you." Yang Chen stood together with the rest of the group, and his voice turned cold. "The three of you editors, as well as the chef and his little brother that disappeared earlier, all of you are hired actors belonging to this Haunted House. The pictures on the wall should be the five of you! You are the ghosts that have mixed into the group of visitors. You are the dead victims!"

The place was quiet. Not only Hu Ya and Ah Nan, even Ol' Zhou and Duan Yue took in a deep breath. How were they supposed to continue this conversation? This was a scenario that they had not imagined!

"You suspect there are employees mixed into our ranks? Someone has been acting?" The two editors seemed to realize that something was wrong. The two had read many crime and supernatural novels before, so their logical thinking was much stronger than normal. They had not noticed this problem before because they had not considered this possibility. However, with the reminder from Yang Chen, the two of them seemed to realize something.

"The ghosts are among us!"

Ah Nan and Hu Ya stood together. "Listen to me. I think there are indeed ghosts among us. However, these 'ghosts' aren't the three of us but someone else."

"Yes." Hu Ya tried to think back to the start. "The ghost should be that Bai Qiulin. I also thought he was acting weird when he entered the Haunted House. Why would the man keep his hand inside his pocket and refuse to take it out? At the time, I thought it was his force of habit, but now I realize how weird that is!

"When the accident happened earlier, Bai Qiulin disappeared. The footsteps were messy, and that was probably his doing! If we move further back, when the accident happened to the chef and his brother, Bai Qiulin was standing at the door of the warehouse. He expertly chose the position between the corridor and the warehouse. That way, he would be able to buy the monsters time if they needed it!"

"That person is very problematic! He has to be the ghost, and he has more partners!" Ah Nan's mind was clearer. His way of analysis was different from Yang Chen's. He did not carry any prejudice when he studied all of the visitors—he was only studying them the most rational way.

"If the ghost is Bai Qiulin, then his partners will not show off any evidence that they are close to him, so Xiao Lee is basically not the ghost. Of the remaining people, removing the ones that have been 'victimized', we are all that's left." Ah Nan's eyes danced between Ol' Zhou and Yang Chen. Both of them had their suspicious points, and he could not tell what was the truth.

Duan Yue grabbed Ol' Zhou's hand and asked softly, "What is happening?"

"I'm not really sure. I believe there is an actor employed by the Haunted House among us." Ol' Zhou lowered his head to answer Duan Yue. The two were close to Yang Chen, so Yang Chen heard their conversation.

"Believe me, those two are the actors. I have the critical evidence." Yang Chen revealed the issue about the disclaimer quietly to Ol' Zhou and Duan Yue. The two were shocked when they heard him.

Ah Nan and Hu Ya had originally thought that Yang Chen was probably not the ghost, but when they saw how convinced he was and the way Ol' Zhou reacted when Yang Chen told him something, their conviction was shaken. They could not hear what Yang Chen said, but they thought that it was very suspicious.

"There are ghosts mixed into the group. Staying together with them is too dangerous. We should split off to find Tails on our own." Hu Ya turned to walk down the corridor. "When I first arrived at the junction, I believe I saw Tails walk this way."

The editors did not stay and left directly.

"They cannot keep up the acting anymore," Lee Xue added on Yang Chen's behalf. No matter what happened, she had absolute faith in Yang Chen.

"It's good that we're getting separated. We need to take this opportunity to go look for the photos to prevent them from doing anything stupid." Yang Chen chose the direction opposite from the two editors and led Ol' Zhou and Duan Yue deeper into the corridor.

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Screams echoed through the scenario. The first two screams were from Ol' Zhou and Duan Yue. They sounded pitiful like they happened across something very horrible. The latter two shouts were issued by Yang Chen and Lee Xue. Other than fear in their screams, there was also a thick sense of despair in them. The four screams occurred almost at the same time. Since Hu Ya and Ah Nan had not wandered too far off, so they heard it clearly.

"All four of them have been assaulted?" Ah Nan's heart shook. His earlier speculation seemed to be mistaken. Based on their earlier analysis, the remaining ghost should either be him or Hu Ya, but how was that possible?

"Now, there's only two of us left." Hu Ya's smile was forceful. "A team of twelve, but only two remain, and it took the boss less than twenty minutes to do that. This boss is too familiar with the twists and turns of the human heart."

"Perhaps there wasn't a ghost among us from the very beginning..." Ah Nan shook his head. His mind was a mess. He felt like not only his body but also his mind had fallen into a maze.

"Let's forget about them. We need to find Tails first. I remember that she was heading this way." Hu Ya and Ah Nan leaned against the wall as they moved forward. They reached the end and saw a steel door that was closed. "This door isn't locked."

Somewhat agitated, Ah Nan shook the door heavily. "It feels like it was blocked from the other side."

"Could this be Tails' doing?"

"Probably."

The steel door shook, and the lights in the corridor flickered like they were about to go out again.

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Tails was hiding inside the unknown room at the end of the corridor. She hugged the phone and tapped on the number madly.

Why isn't anyone picking up? Please pick up!

The steel door was shaken loudly. The rust fell, creating a loud noise. Tails' heart raced. Her baby face was as pale as paper. Her fingers gripped the phone tightly, and the blood vessels on her neck pulsed. She was truly afraid.

Those things have found me! It must be them!

The door shook even harder. Tears were coming to her eyes. She curled up inside the closet, and her pupils that stared at the door narrowed.

What should I do? What should I do?

BANG!

The wooden table that blocked the door was pushed down, and the steel door fell open. Her heart jumped to her throat, causing Tails to almost faint from asphyxiation. She bit on her lips, and her hands squeezed together.

"Tails?" The familiar voice came from the door. Tails was stunned. The happiness came so suddenly that it felt surreal. The lights flickered at the corridor, so she could only see the person's frame. However, from the frame alone, she was sure that it was Hu Ya.

With her hands on the door, Tails' tears were rushing out. She was too excited. This feeling of flying from hell to heaven was hard to describe. However, just as she was about to push the door open, the phone display lit up. The call that she had been unable to make earlier was finally connected, and it was Hu Ya's name on the display.

But isn't she at the door?

Tails' finger went to the accept button, and Hu Ya's urgent voice came through.

"Tails, we've already left the Haunted House. Stay where you are and don't move! The police are going in to get you. This Haunted House is very problematic! Remember to stay where you are, and don't move!"

Already left? Police? Tails listened to the familiar voice on the phone and the familiar frame of the person at the door, and her mind went into shut down.

Chapter 482: Two Trolleys

On the phone, Hu Ya had said that she had already left the Haunted House, so who was the person standing at the door?

The lights went off, and darkness arrived. Tails curled up in the closet and shook endlessly. The employee would not have the heart to come after her. Her eyes were filled with tears, and her lips were

bitten. She hugged her arms together and did not make too much noise with her breathing. Hu Ya's phone call ended, and the phone returned to normal. The house returned to silence.

Several seconds later, the footsteps showed that someone had entered the room. With the sound of shoes brushing against the sandy surface, Tails heard every step clearly.

The first freezer that was nearest to the door was forced open, and the smell of disinfectant drifted out.

"Not here." Hu Ya's voice sounded different from normal. She sounded stressed. Then again, who could blame her after all that she had been through?

The second freezer was also pulled open. They were forceful and violent. Some of the doors were already rusted, and they yanked them open with force. The sound moved closer to Tails. She was hiding behind the last freezer. If they walked to the side, they would see her.

"Come on, let's go. This might be another trap. If she heard our voice, there is no reason for her not to answer unless she has already fainted." Ah Nan and Hu Ya had already opened four freezers, and they did not spot Tails, so they chose to give up.

"Where could she have gone?" Hu Ya looked deeper into the room. Between the last freezer and the wall was a gap that was just large enough for a small figure to hide. She walked toward it, and just as she was about to get close, her phone vibrated. A message came in. "It's from Tails?"

According to the message, Tails said that she was trapped inside a secret tunnel that was overgrown with red moss, and the tunnel was inside the room with the cadaver pool.

"Don't be afraid, we'll be there now." Hu Ya did have an impression of such a room in the middle section. She stopped and called Tails' number. She turned and left the room with Ah Nan. The footsteps disappeared, but Tails still did not dare leave. She was undecided and called Hu Ya again.

However, this time, the call was not connected. The phone operator told her that the number was busy; Hu Ya was on the phone with someone else.

Just now, the person that looked like Sister Hu Ya was calling someone. Now that I'm calling her, she is also on the phone. What is going on?

Tails held her phone and slowly walked out from the room. She followed the two editors who left the room urgently from a distance.

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Both hands held the heavy steel door, and Chen Ge entered the underground in full dress up. He found a trolley from the nearby storeroom and slowly wandered into the underground morgue.

One cart should be enough. With the doctors from Western Jiujiang Medical University holding the fort, this time, there shouldn't be that many fainted people. Chen Ge continued forward with a smile. The biggest reward from completing the underground morgue's trial mission should be the group of doctors. With them around, the safety of the visitors will be guaranteed.

At the end of the corridor, a ball-like object bounced up and down like it was waiting for Chen Ge. Seeing that, Chen Ge was not afraid. *Please lead the way.*

The ball-like object was the model head that Chen Ge had brought back from the underground morgue. The model had stayed in the underground morgue for decades. Every day, it was in company of those negative energy, so it had slowly been influenced. However, the model was really not that evil. It was only too lonely and wanted to find a friend.

Those were the things that Yan Danian had told Chen Ge. During the mission, Chen Ge had pushed the head into his backpack with the comic, recorder, and white cat. They had quite a good time in there, so Chen Ge decided to adopt this homeless model head.

With the head leading the way, Chen Ge first found Fan Dade and Fan Chong lying in the middle of the road. The brothers felt like they were neither conscious nor unconscious, like they could not decide whether they should wake up or not.

It's already a great achievement that they did not faint directly. No wonder they're visitors that have survived the two-star scenarios.

Chen Ge hauled the brothers onto the trolley. The wheels rolled, and Chen Ge arrived at the middle section. Yang Chen and Lee Xue were placed side by side, leaning against the wall. Probably afraid that the ground was too hardy, someone had been kind enough to push some pillows underneath them. The service was top notch.

"Not bad, this is the way to treat customers. While scaring them, we have to show some care toward them."

Gaining Chen Ge's approval, three shadows came out from the corridor and ran into the comic.

These two should be Ol' Zhou's group's handiwork. Chen Ge placed Lee Xue onto the trolley and looked at the fainted Yang Chen. He shook his head. *Ultimately, you got the experience you wanted. This time, you really did run into an actual worker.*

With four passengers, the trolley was full. Chen Ge found another trolley inside the scenario and walked to the secret tunnel at the middle section with the model head leading the way.

Someone really came here? What were they thinking?

Boss Chen entered the tunnel, and the first person he saw was Tails. The girl was collapsed on the ground. Probably afraid that she might injure herself from the fall, one of the mannequins was holding her.

The three editors were together, so there should be more.

The more Chen Ge headed into the tunnel, the weirder he felt. This group of visitors were like crazy, one by one falling into the trap that he had set up.

Are the visitors these days so wild?

After dragging out all five people, Chen Ge looked at the two full trolleys, and he felt quite embarrassed.

This shouldn't be! Before the visitors came in, I told the doctors to rescue any fainted visitors if they came across them.

Chen Ge wheeled the two trolleys out and looking at the visitors, he suddenly took in a cold breath.

This is bad, I forgot to tell the doctors to send them to the exit after saving them. The doctors have probably saved them multiple times already.

It was too late to say all that. Chen Ge quickly pushed the visitors to the room where the doctors stayed. After confirming that everyone was fine, he pushed the two trolleys out of the underground morgue.

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When the Haunted House's curtains were pushed open, the noise outside dwindled. The visitors acted like their ability of speech had been stripped as they all turned to the entrance. The wheels rolled, and Chen Ge walked into the sunlight with the two trolleys of visitors.

The sun fell on his body, and his smile was as bright as ever. His muscular arms pushed the trolleys, and the visitors inside the cart looked so peaceful.

"Uncle Xu, I'll leave the rest to you. They are not in any danger; I've already asked people to check them. They'll wake up on their own after some time, don't worry."

Handing over the trolleys to Uncle Xu, Chen Ge waved at the visitors. "There are many Haunted Houses on the market that boast about their scares to attract visitors, but my Haunted House is different. The thing that we value the most here is the visitors' safety, so please come visit us. We have the best service. To facilitate a good experience, we even have professional doctors and many items to transport the visitors. Don't worry. We are not like other faithless places; we do not charge extra for these services."

Chapter 483: Boss Chen's Personal Charm

His hands in the pockets, the sun extended Chen Ge's shadow. This was a man who had normal looks but oozed charm. After Chen Ge returned to the Haunted House, the stunned visitors exploded. The sound of discussion threatened to swallow the whole theme park.

"All nine visitors have been pushed out? This is a wipeout!"

"This has to be a four-star scenario, right?"

"My legs are already weak even though the game hasn't started, what do I do?"

"Listen to yourself, it's just nine fainted visitors, what is so surprising about that? Boss, I just bought the ticket to the underground morgue, but can I change the ticket? I'm really not afraid. I just think the Third Sick Hall is more suitable for me."

The visitors crowded around the entrance, and the situation was getting out of control. Uncle Xu was swallowed by the wave of people, and he could not move even if he wanted to. He yelled at the top of his lungs, "Where are the doctors? You don't need to bring the stretcher—just roll them away like this!"

"Boss, can we swap our tickets here?"

"This is too much!"

“Can we take a picture with the nine visitors?”

“Yang Chen! My god, I saw people from our school!”

“It’s really our school’s students! Wait a minute, why do these trolleys look so familiar?”

The crowd rushed forward, and Uncle Xu screamed, “Chen Ge! Chen Ge! Get out here!”

The heavy curtains were already closed. Chen Ge sat next to the table and poured himself a glass of water. *This time, they really misunderstood me. Technically, the place shouldn’t be that scary. Is it because the Haunted House has been upgraded to Maze of Terror? Does that make it easier for the visitors to get scared?*

Unlocking the black phone, Chen Ge found the explanation for Maze of Terror. As the Haunted House continued to expand, the visitors would get lost both physically and mentally. *After the House of Horrors upgraded, it became a Maze of Terror. What is after Maze of Terror? A scary theme park? How come it fits my aim of creating a terror-based theme park so perfectly?*

The appearance of the underground morgue gave Chen Ge a breather. This one scenario was enough for Chen Ge to explore for a long time.

All nine visitors who have survived two-star scenarios were taken down. In the future, this three-star scenario might become a local legend.

This batch of visitors were powerful, but they had all fainted before they reached the central hub. All the scares that Chen Ge had prepared there were wasted.

Temporarily, I have more than enough scenarios to use. The thing that I need to focus on is to expand the other functions to unlock the Haunted House’s full potential to deal with the futuristic theme park.

Chen Ge pretended to not hear the noise coming from outside and studied the black phone. *I haven’t gotten the chance to see the item that I got from completing the Third Sick Hall’s hidden mission. I should make use of this chance to go take a look.*

After the ghost stories society was eliminated, Chen Ge got the reward from the black phone—the chairperson’s letter of appointment. He entered the Props Room and found an envelope inside the wooden box left in the corner. He opened it to see a letter written with familiar handwriting.

“When I’m walking in the darkness, I’m the scariest ghost story in this city.”

It was not signed, but Chen Ge believed that it had been written by Doctor Gao. Chen Ge placed the letter next to the patient’s list, and he could clearly sense the mad souls of these patients calming down.

All these patients have unlimited potential. I should try to summon them in the future.

Putting away these things, Chen Ge returned to the entrance because there was a new batch of visitors waiting.

The visitors woke up at around 2 pm. Everyone felt like their head was heavy, and they were tense. The cute girl among them smashed her phone after she woke up. The few others seemed to have some scars

left in them about doctors. Whenever they saw people in white coats, they would subconsciously shy away.

Chen Ge cared about his visitors. After he heard that they had woken up, he immediately ran to the infirmary.

The three editors woke up first. They chatted for a long time with Chen Ge and invited Chen Ge to come to their office in Eastern Jiujiang. They believed that the designer behind such a Haunted House had to be a storied person.

The three medical students' situation was not that serious. In fact, when they were still inside the Haunted House, they had already been checked by the group of doctors. Doctor Wei and Mr Liu had only let them go after confirming that they could still go back to class like usual and did not need to take a day off.

"Boss Chen..." Yang Chen was young, and he was naturally arrogant. He was the top of his class, and he had always been praised since he was young. He rarely got beaten like this, and that was why he was so adamant to clear the Haunted House.

"What is it that you want to tell me?" Chen Ge had no idea what the child had experienced in the Haunted House.

Yang Chen opened his lips but did not know what to say. Finally, he gripped his fists and stared at Chen Ge. "This is just a temporarily set back. I will definitely return!"

"I admire your courage, and I will give you a twenty percent discount for your future tickets, but remember you're still a student, don't lose sight of that." Chen Ge also considered that Yang Chen was a student and thus had limited funds, so he added that.

Hearing that, Yang Chen's fists slowly released. He looked at Chen Ge, and his heart was conflicted. He knew that the man had toyed with him for the whole day, but facing Chen Ge, Yang Chen was unable to hate him.

Walking past the three students, Chen Ge turned to look at Xiao Lee. "You cleared all the one-star and two-star scenarios alone in just one morning, then you quickly followed them to challenge the newly released three-star scenario. Actually, I noticed you when you came in for the first time—you are different from others. Other people came to enjoy the experience—they were either nervous or excited—but you look like you're forced."

When Xiao Lee was challenging the one-star scenario, he had already been detected by the phone spirit, so Chen Ge had known about him from the start. Since the guide for the earlier scenarios was already on the internet, Chen Ge did not mind him.

Xiao Lee did not dare to raise his head to meet Chen Ge's eyes.

"The reason you're here should be related to the futuristic theme park, right?" The smile on Chen Ge's face had not changed. He sat down next to Xiao Lee. "Don't worry, I will not expose you. No matter your intention, as long as you're in my Haunted House, you're my guest, and for that, you deserve the best service we have to offer."

Chen Ge looked out the window. "Haven't you people been wondering why my Haunted House has so many visitors? The answer is actually very simple. I sincerely want to give my visitors their best experience, and to that end, I do my best every time."

Xiao Lee nodded like he somewhat understood it. Then he quickly shook his head. The clumsy way that he reacted made Chen Ge smile. "If you were my worker, I would have followed you to do the visitation, not dumped you to face the ordeal alone and refused to show up to bring you back."

Standing up, Chen Ge still did not mention the word 'phone'. "Take good care of yourself."

He turned to walk to Fan Dade and Fan Chong. Xiao Lee looked at Chen Ge's back, and he held the phone that was hidden under his pillow, feeling uncomfortable

Chapter 484: Midnight Hearse

Chen Ge finally stopped next to Fan Dade and Fan Chong. These two visitors' situation was more serious than others. Fan Dade's eyes were unfocused as he stared at the ceiling. It looked like he was contemplating his life and future. His brother, Fan Chong, had returned to normal, but his body would spasm occasionally, and it looked quite scary.

"Feeling better?" Chen Ge sat down next to the bed with a thermos of hot water. Fan Dade looked at Chen Ge, and he really could not believe that this unassuming man was the culprit behind all those things that they had experienced.

"Thank you, we're feeling much better." After being scared so many times, Fan Chong seemed to have walked out from the haze of the break-up and found a new lease on life.

"Good." Chen Ge poured two cups of water and left them on the table. He planned to leave right after. The business was still running, so he could not be away for too long.

"Boss Chen, wait a minute." Fan Chong sat up in bed and looked at Chen Ge.

"Yes?"

"Can I ask you a question?" Fan Chong's chubby hands held the edge of the bed. He thought about it for a long time before asking, "You've designed so many ghosts and monsters at your Haunted House, so do you personally believe in the existence of ghosts in this world?"

"Many visitors have asked me that." Chen Ge looked at Fan Chong with some surprise. This large child seemed to have an unknown past. "I don't know the real answer. Perhaps there are ghosts, but in any case, I have not seen any."

"You have not?" Fan Chong looked quite saddened.

"Why would you suddenly ask that?" Compared to whether there were ghosts in this world or not, Chen Ge was more curious about what had happened to Fan Chong. The man looked normal, but he had managed to retain his sanity after so many repeated scares. That was quite impressive.

“Actually, it’s nothing. Recently, I’ve been playing a game that is said to have been created by a murderer, and the game is supposed to contain hints of his murders.” Fan Chong used one sentence to attract the attention of everyone in the room.

“A game designed by a mad murderer?” Chen Ge’s interest was piqued. “But how is that related to the existence of ghosts in this world?”

“Perhaps it was the sound effects, but after some time playing the game, I began to hear the sound of children crying. I like to wear earphones when playing games, and that is a source of curiosity because even after I took the earphones out, I could still hear the sound of crying.” It was the first time Fan Chong said these things, and his expression was strange. “I suspected that I was hearing things, but after examination, the doctor told me that my body was fine. So, those children crying must have been real.”

“Can you tell me what the crying said?” Chen Ge stopped at the door.

“She kept crying and only appeared at night.”

“What is the game generally about?” Chen Ge asked another question.

“On the surface, it is a clothes-changing game. You can pretty up your avatar daughter in the game and use her to complete various missions. After completing the mission, you’ll be awarded with more clothes and accessories. Things like school uniform, sun dress, things like that.”

“Daughter? Dress up?” Chen Ge looked at Fan Chong with suspicion. “Why would you play a game like that?”

“That’s not important. The important part is that after I cleared all the missions, the game gave me the very last reward—it was a piece of clothing.” Fan Chong hugged his head, and his fingers poked through his hair. “The clothing was named ‘Mummy’s Pajamas’. After I got that outfit, a window appeared on-screen, and it said that Xiao Bu had found a key that leads to the dungeon in Mummy’s Pajamas.”

“Xiao Bu was the name that you gave your daughter in the game?” Chen Ge asked.

“No.” Fan Chong shook his head. “At the time, I had just broken up with my girlfriend of four years. I named the avatar in game after her, Liu Jiaru.”

“You named your virtual daughter after your real girlfriend?” Chen Ge was just beyond speechless. He sat back down and decided to ask for more.

“Don’t mind those details. At the time, I was confused. My daughter’s name was Liu Jiaru, but why would the game change the name on its own to Xiao Bu? I googled the game online but could not find any information on it.” Fan Chong saw the question on Chen Ge’s face, so he explained, “I found the game on a small gaming forum. The forum has plenty of indie games and mod files for mainstream games.”

“In essence, you completed the game and got a key that led to some dungeon. What happened after that?” Chen Ge took a sip of the warm water and continued to listen.

“The setting of the game is not big; it’s just a small town, and all the missions can be completed in said town. After I got the key, I had the girl whose name had already changed, put on Mummy’s Pajamas, and exit the room to look for the dungeon entrance.” Fan Chong curled up on the bed, and his

expression slowly changed. “The game’s style is very warm and kid-friendly, filled with sun and flowers. Every character in the town is kind and helpful. Actually, it is because of how warm the game felt that I chose to play it after the break up. I thought that the game might be a good distraction, but something scarier than the break up happened.”

“Don’t need to explain so much. Just give me the result.” Chen Ge was eager to find out what happened.

“I spent one week and used the mouse to click on every inch of the town until I eventually found the entrance in one of Xiao Bu’s friend’s houses behind a dresser.” Fan Chong raised his head to look at Chen Ge. “The window popped up to inform me that I had already found the entrance of the dungeon and asked whether I wanted to use the key or not.”

His hands closed and opened; it was clear that Fan Chong was very nervous. “After I clicked yes, the door opened. I controlled Xiao Bu to enter the space behind the dresser. My computer went blank instantly, and about two seconds later, when the screen returned, the style of the game became completely different.”

“Was it a blood red world behind the dresser?” Chen Ge was reminded of the ‘door’.

“No.” Fan Chong shook his head. “The world behind the dresser was dim. There were dead sunflowers littering the ground, and the walls were thick.

“There was a grey road, and there were streetlights on the side of the road, but the distance between them was very far. It was recognizable that I was still inside the town, but night had arrived. The surrounding buildings looked so different compared to how they had looked in daylight.

“I controlled Xiao Bu to walk down the road and eventually came across a bus stop. Waiting at the bus stop was a rather old, worn public bus.”

Chapter 485: Red Raincoat

“There were no other roads. When I controlled Xiao Bu to walk past the bus, I saw a woman standing at the bus stop, a woman in a red raincoat.

“The whole world was gray, so the woman’s red raincoat was very conspicuous. I used the cursor to click on the woman, and a message popped up—Have you seen my child?

“That should be the woman’s speech bubble, and no matter how many times I pressed, she kept repeating the same question.

“The game changed too much, and I was feeling scared. I continued playing simply because I was curious. I ignored the woman and wanted to move forward, but Xiao Bu refused to follow my control; her body stopped moving.

“I leaned closer and saw that the woman in the raincoat had grabbed Xiao Bu’s arm, and the scary thing was that the woman’s body was shaking. A bug seemed to have corrupted the game because the windows kept popping out saying—Have you seen my child?

"I clicked on the cursor crazily. Finally, I clicked on the bus, and the girl managed to get away from the woman by running into the bus. The vehicle started and drove down the road.

"I had no idea how long it had been driving when Xiao Bu, who was wearing her Mummy's Pajamas, started to pace inside the bus. She heard the sound of children crying."

Fan Chong did not continue for a moment. His emotions were jangled, and his hands held his chest. "It was from then on that I started to hear the voice clearer. That day, I played until 3 am. I was afraid, so I turned off the computer directly. However, after I crawled into bed, I could still hear the crying of the child. The sound seemed to come out from the computer, but when I turned to look, the source changed direction again. It felt as if the child had crawled out of the computer and into my room."

"When did this begin?" Chen Ge took out his phone to exchange WeChat IDs with Fan Chong.

"Around one or two weeks ago. No wait, I can't remember clearly." Fan Chong's face scrunched up in pain. "You can come over to Eastern Jiujiang to find me next time, and we can talk this out."

"Okay, where is your home?"

"The first apartment at Eastern Jiujiang's Li Wan Town's West street."

Chen Ge memorized this address and left after chatting for a while longer with Fan Chong.

Recently, all the strange things have been happening in Eastern Jiujiang. Looks like that place is quite messy and not as quiet as it appears on the surface. Chen Ge returned to the Haunted House to work. A few visitors were scared dumb, but no one complained or argued with Chen Ge.

For those real adrenaline seekers, they would never be angry because it was too exciting; they would only complain when it was not exciting enough. However, there were few such visitors. Most of the visitors would regain their senses after trying out the one-star or two-star scenarios. In their eyes, only those who had lost their mind would challenge three-star scenarios.

Chen Ge's House of Horrors ended its business at 6:50 pm. After sending away the last batch of visitors, the few employees could finally leave their own scenario.

"Thank you for your work today. The weather forecast said that there could be rain tonight, so you'd better leave while it's still bright." After cleaning the place, Chen Ge followed Xiao Gu and Xu Wan out the haunted house.

"Boss where are you going?"

"There are some materials left at the workshop. I plan to make some extra limbs; the new scenario still needs some more additions." Chen Ge locked the door.

"More additions?" Xiao Gu widened his eyes. "Boss, I heard you scared nine visitors until they fainted today. That is enough to get you on the news. Are you sure you want to add more stuff to the new scenario? Why don't you show some pity to the visitors?"

"I can't do that." Chen Ge denied it without thinking. "You don't understand the human heart. The more they could not get it, the more they wanted to fight for it. We must be able to guarantee that we have a scenario that can never be cleared at our Haunted House. With this scenario, the visitors will return to

challenge it again and again. If all our scenarios could be cleared easily, then our Haunted House would be no different from all the others on the market.”

“Yes, to create a Haunted House that the visitors will never clear, that should be our focus.” No matter what Chen Ge said, Xu Wan would support it unconditionally. She walked next to Chen Ge with her head lowered and concurred with Chen Ge’s words every so often.

“I seem to understand it now.” Xiao Gu nodded with a semi-blank expression.

“Make sure not to leak this information to outsiders—this is the secret of our Haunted House,” Chen Ge reminded with a light smile.

“Of course.”

The three walked down the road and soon reached the workshop. Xu Wan and Xiao Gu did not leave and wanted to stay to help Chen Ge. Chen Ge had already informed Boss Qian, so the three walked into the workshop directly.

At 8 pm, considering his two employee’s health and the fact that they still needed to work tomorrow, he told them to go home first. “I still have too few members of staff. There is too much pressure on Xiao Gu and Xu Wan. After the impact from the futuristic park is over, I should bring all of my employees out for a trip.”

Boss Qian had already left, so Chen Ge closed the door. He planned to spend a whole night there. After all, the materials would have gone to waste left at the workshop, so he planned to give them a new ‘life’.

After Xu Wan and Xiao Gu left the workshop, since their homes were at different place, after saying goodbye, Xiao Gu walked to the countryside alone.

“It’s only 8 pm, so there should be enough time for me to catch up to the last bus.” Xiao Gu walked to the nearest bus stop to look at the bus stop. “The place I’m staying at is too far from the city. After I get this month’s pay, I should find an apartment closer to New Century Park. But if I move out before finishing the three months, I probably won’t get my deposit back...”

Calling a taxi would waste too much money. Xiao Gu looked at the bus route as he waited for the bus to arrive. As he stared at the glass panel, he suddenly realized that the panel reflected the shadow of a woman. The woman was standing at the opposite bus stop, and she was silently looking at him.

“She sure is dressed strangely. The weather forecast did mention rain, but it’s not yet raining, so why is she wearing a raincoat already?” Xiao Gu was uncomfortable being stared at by the woman. He took out his phone, wanting to snap a picture of her. However, when he turned around, the woman had already disappeared.

“Her reflection was in the glass, so she was just there. Where did she disappear to?”

Xiao Gu held his phone and looked left and right. The woman disappeared like she had never been there in the first place.

The thunder rumbled in the night, and the rainclouds hung low in the sky. There would probably be heavy rain that night.

Just as Xiao Gu was spacing out, a bus came toward him from afar. The bus was driven slowly, and there were few passengers.

Chapter 486: Have You Seen My Child?

Route 17? Xiao Gu turned back to look at the bus route map. The bus for Route 17 would not pass his apartment. *I need to take Route 104 to the end and walk for another two blocks.*

According to the map, the last bus for Route 104 would be at 9 pm. Xiao Gu sighed in relief when he saw that. He leaned against the bus stop and waited patiently for bus on Route 104 to arrive. The bus for Route 17 stopped by the bus stop. The driver was a middle-aged man with little care for his appearance. After the passengers got off, the bus did not leave and waited where it was.

What's the meaning of this? Xiao Gu did not plan to take this bus. He lifted his head to look at the driver and saw the driver staring at the space one to two meters in front of him like there was someone standing there.

After about seven seconds, the driver grumbled with impatience, *If you want to get on, then get on. If you don't want to get on, then stand back. Don't block the door!*

The door closed, and the bus trundled away, disappearing down the road.

Who was he talking to? Xiao Gu looked around; he was the only one waiting at the station. The rainclouds pooled above him, and the stars were eclipsed. It made him feel quite alone. At 8:20 pm, the rain started to fall. People on the road started to rush to their destination, and the originally quite busy street became quite deserted.

It feels quite cold. Xiao Gu, who was rather bored, went online to look at the latest news around Jiujiang.

“Latest update on the cadaver theft cases at Central Hospital. The surveillance caught some possible suspects and has already denied the possibility of an inside job.”

“A famed livestream host disappeared at Mu Yang High School in the middle of his stream last night. According to our sources, there have been multiple disappearances at Mu Yang High School since its abandonment.”

“A Schistosomiasis Control Station’s employee, surnamed Wang, was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Thirty percent of the victim was drained, and there was a wound in the shape of a rose on the victim’s back.”

“Three men drowned when they were out swimming near Eastern Jiujiang’s dam. The weather lately has been warm, but due to the geographical nature of Jiujiang city, which has had plenty of rain and water, the local government would like to remind the public not to play in the water at open water locations to prevent accident.”

“Jiujiang Update: A couple was found dead from self-immolation at Li Wan City’s shopping center. It’s suspected that this was some sort of ritual.”

“There has been another serious car accident involving the last bus ride on Route 104! The minister of traffic promises to improve the route map.”

Putting away the phone, Xiao Gu looked at the empty bus stop and shivered. He had no idea when this had started, but the news had stopped being about celebrity gossip and more about the supernatural cases that happened around the city. *How come it feels like the world has gotten more dangerous?*

Xiao Gu squatted down as the rain continued to pour. He did not carry an umbrella so he could only hide inside the bus stop.

Other than Brother Chen and Sister Xu Wan, I have no other friends at Jiujiang. It's already too late to call them for help—after all, we've all been working for a whole day already.

Xiao Gu was a kind person, and he was a straightforward thinker. For those who treated him well, he would treat them back in kind. He was not one to harbor hidden intentions. The bus stop was caught in the storm. The rain fell down the roof. Xiao Gu wondered when the rain would stop.

Where is the bus?

The shape of the buildings from afar looked blurry due to the rain. The cars on the road dwindled. The only company that Xiao Gu had at the bus stop was the street light next to him.

The yellow light dimmed after it filtered through the pouring rain. Chills climbed into Xiao Gu's sleeves. He poked his head out to look down the road. There were no cars or trucks, much less a public bus.

The road was empty, washed clean by the rain. Every few dozen meters, there was a street light, and it was these lights that warmed Xiao Gu's heart in this lonely night. The rain turned heavier, and Xiao Gu became increasingly worried. He paced under the bus shelter, thinking that if a taxi passed by, he would just flag it down. The street lights dimmed. He waited for another ten minutes. When it was almost 9 pm, Xiao Gu saw a bus coming from the end of the road, heading slowly to the stop.

Perhaps it was the rain, but while Xiao Gu could see the bus coming, he could not hear any noise made by the vehicle.

That looks like it's for Route 104.

Xiao Gu searched for change inside his pocket, and as he turned around, he saw someone standing at the bus stop!

Standing not far from him was a woman in a red raincoat. She seemed to be waiting for a bus as well.

Wasn't this lady on the opposite side of the road earlier? When did she get over here?

The raincoat was wet, and the woman had her head lowered. The exposed hair stuck together to cover the view of her face.

She doesn't seem to be wearing any shoes... could she be a mad woman?

Xiao Gu carefully edged away. He stood at one side of the bus stop, but the woman stood right in the middle.

The rain became heavier. The bus slowly entered the station, stopping between Xiao Gu and the woman. Xiao Gu, who had already prepared his change, charged toward the door, but to his surprise, the woman who kept her head lowered suddenly moved. She reached out to grab Xiao Gu without warning, and her wet hair fell on Xiao Gu's arm.

"What are you doing?"

The woman slowly raised her head. Hair covered most of her face, but through the gap between the hair, one could almost see a pair of eyes that did not seem to have black pupils.

"Have you seen my child?"

"No, I have not." Xiao Gu was given a fright by the woman. He wanted to struggle loose, but the woman's thin hands held onto him tightly.

"Have you seen my child?" The woman took another step forward. There was a large stain on the red raincoat. Since the stain had a dark red color, Xiao Gu had not noticed it initially because it blended perfectly into the color of the raincoat.

"Big sister, I really have not seen your child!" The door of the bus had already started to close. Xiao Gu did not want to continue his tussle with the woman. He tried his best to struggle loose and jumped onto the bus. He put in the coins and found a seat by the window to sit down. Through the window, Xiao Gu saw the woman still standing in the middle of the bus stop. Her head was lowered, and her hair was dripping wet.

She too is a sorry character. She probably lost her child, and her mind broke from the overwhelming sadness. Xiao Gu's eyes were shining with pity.

The rain seeped through the gap in the roof, and a few drops fell on the woman. It slid down her raincoat to create a red puddle around her feet.

"The vehicle will start soon. Please take your seat. Welcome to the driverless bus for Route 104. Dear passenger, please move closer to the backdoor. Our next stop is Central Hospital."

The cold operator voice came from the front of the vehicle. Xiao Gu stretched lazily and leaned against the car seat.

What is this sticky feeling?

Xiao Gu turned to look around. The middle of the backseat was wet like someone had just taken this seat not that long ago.

Did some passenger sit here earlier with their wet clothes from the rain?

Xiao Gu touched the seat; it felt wet but not like water. He could not really describe it.

I'd better switch seats.

The bus drove safely. The sights on both sides flew past very fast, and he could not feel the bus tumble. Standing up, Xiao Gu looked around. There were few people on this last bus—including him, there were only six of them.

The first three rows on the left were empty, and an old lady sat on the fourth row. She kept looking out the window like she had something on her mind.

A woman sat on the same row on the right, and she kept her head lowered as she played on her phone. She looked about thirty and dressed fashionably. Xiao Gu believed that she was an employee from nearby company and had been working overtime until she had to take the last bus.

Xiao Gu sat in the middle of the bus alone. Behind him was a woman around forty or fifty who was hugging a young child on her lap. The woman was seriously obese, and her face was filled with freckles, but the child on her lap looked handsome and beautiful, completely unlike her.

Looking further back, there was a student sitting at the last row. He carried a school bag, and his uniform was drenched. He looked like he had just finished tuition.

Students nowadays sure are under a lot of pressure.

Xiao Gu was about to turn his head away when the student suddenly raised his head to meet his eyes before quickly averting his gaze.

His face looks so pale, and his body is shivering—is he sick?

He changed his seat and sat near the back door. Playing a crazed murderer inside a Haunted House was hard work. He needed to run back and forth, and sometimes, to create a surprise, he needed to follow the boss' orders and run the long route to block the visitors' way on the other end of the path. After a whole day of work, Xiao Gu was feeling tired. He leaned against the seat, and his eyelids became heavy.

Just as Xiao Gu was about to fall asleep, something hit him lightly on the back of his head. He turned to look and saw a ball of paper on the ground. "Was this from that student?"

Xiao Gu picked up the paper. He thought it was a prank, but on second thought, thinking back to how the student looked, he did not think that was it. Holding the paper, Xiao Gu turned back to look. The student had his head turned downward. There was no sign that it was him who had tossed the ball of paper.

Xiao Gu opened the paper and saw a sentence that had hastily been written on it.

'Don't fall asleep or you'll miss your station.'

It was a normal reminder, and Xiao Gu knew that the person who wrote it had written it out of kindness. He kept the paper and turned to smile at the boy at the last row, and he said softly, "It's okay. I'm going to get off on the last stop."

He purposely lowered his voice, but because there were no other people on the bus, it was very quiet, and his voice came out much louder than he expected. When the words 'last stop' left his lips, the bus suddenly turned. Gu Feiyu glanced at the driver's seat, and he realized that the driver was actually watching him through the rear-view mirror.

The driver was wearing the uniform from Jiujiang's public transport company. The jacket looked old, and his Adam's apple jumped up and down. His face was filled with sweat—he looked nervous and scared. He had both hands on the steering wheel. Like the student, the driver quickly moved his gaze away.

What is he afraid of?

Xiao Gu was confused. The way the driver looked at him was weird, like he was trying to tell him something.

The rain turned heavier. It was two different worlds inside and outside the bus. Xiao Gu lost his desire to sleep and turned to silently study the other passengers on the bus. The bus flew in the night, and it soon arrived at the next station. The bus entered the station, and when it was safely stopped, the electronic voice said, "Ding! We've arrived at Central Hospital. Departing customers, please make sure that you have all of your belongings with you, and please alight from the back door."

Both front and back doors opened at the same time, and the rain outside dripped into the bus. Soon, a middle-aged man with a red thread around his wrist stepped onto the bus. He was wearing a white coat, so he was probably a doctor at Central Hospital.

The doctor rummaged through his pocket for a long time to look for change, but he could not find it. The driver saw that it was raining, so he waved for the man to get in first, and he could look for the change at his seat.

The front door closed, and the doctor walked onto the bus, holding the rails. When he passed Xiao Gu, he paused and turned to look at him. Sitting in his seat, Xiao Gu raised his head to look at the doctor. He realized that the doctor had a strange look. His brows were thick, and when he looked at people, his eyes would bulge like they were going to fall out.

"Hello..." Xiao Gu felt awkward, being stared by the doctor. He stood up and prepared to leave at the next stop.

Seeing Xiao Gu stand up, the doctor moved backward and smiled apologetically at Xiao Gu. He sat on the seat on the other side of Xiao Gu. The bus was dark, and Xiao Gu believed that he had seen that the doctor's mouth had no teeth when he smiled earlier. He held the paper in his pocket and did not stay long at his seat. He moved to the backdoor directly.

Maybe I should just call for a taxi.

Holding the rail, Xiao Gu moved to the door, and when he arrived, his body froze, and his face filled with disbelief.

Standing at the bus stop was a woman in a red raincoat. The woman had her head lowered, and her wet hair stuck together to block her face.

The same woman from before? Why is she here? This isn't the same stop, right?

Gu Feiyu was stunned when the cold voice began again. "The vehicle will start soon. Please take your seat. Welcome to the driverless bus for Route 104. Dear passenger, please move closer to the backdoor. Our next stop is Hong Si Restaurant."

The backdoor slowly closed, and Xiao Gu snapped back to reality. *Why would the woman in the raincoat appear at the station near Central Hospital? And she was closer to the door compared to before! Is she following me?*

With sweat sliding down his face, Xiao Gu's expression was no different from the driver's earlier. He held the railing tightly and did not return to his seat instantly.

"Are... you feeling okay?" A chilling voice suddenly came from behind him—the doctor was staring at Xiao Gu.

"I'm fine." Xiao Gu went back to his seat, and he lowered his voice to ask, "Sir, did you see a woman in a red raincoat standing near the backdoor at the stop earlier?"

"Red raincoat?" The doctor shook his head. "I don't think so."

"Impossible." Xiao Gu turned to ask the student at the last row. "Did you see that woman earlier? She was standing at the bus stop!"

The student ignored Xiao Gu. He did not even turn his head to him. He kept his face on the rain outside the window, but his hands kept moving inside his bag like he was looking for something.

Chapter 487:

She Has Been Following me

Did some passenger sit here earlier with their wet clothes from the rain?

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Chapter 488: Three or Four People

He pulled the bag half open, and the student looked very nervous. His hand held something, but he did not pull it out of the bag.

A fruit knife?

Xiao Gu saw something reflective from the opening, but it was unclear whether it was a mirror or a knife. The bus started moving, and Xiao Gu went back to his seat. His eyelid kept twitching—he was feeling anxious. The rain outside continued to pour, and it was so heavy that he was unable to see the buildings that lined the road. Inside the bus, it was so quiet. No one spoke; it was a strange atmosphere.

Every one of the passengers is acting weirdly.

Xiao Gu leaned his body against the car window. The doctor that was across the aisle from him kept glancing his way with an unreadable smile on his face. It felt like he had found an interesting piece of art.

Taking out his phone, Xiao Gu activated the camera and chose the selfie setting. He raised the phone and glanced at the student at the last row using the camera. The boy seemed to suffer from carsickness. He placed the bag on his knees, and his face turned paler by the minute. Sweat kept forming on his forehead, but he never once took his hand out from his bag.

Is he not feeling well?

Xiao Gu was worried about the boy. However, before he stood up, the student realized that Xiao Gu had been watching him from the camera. The boy seemed like he did not want to be on camera. He used his hands to cover his face, silently used his finger to point at the doctor in the white coat next to Xiao Gu, and waved his hand back and forth.

Is he hinting at something? The doctor is dangerous?

After that small gesture, the student lowered his head to hug the bag.

Xiao Gu put down his phone and studied the doctor from the corner of his eyes. Suddenly, he was reminded of a new article that he had read getting on the bus—"Latest update on the cadaver theft cases at Central Hospital. The surveillance caught some possible suspects and has already denied the possibility of an inside job."

Opening the link, the article attached a very blurry picture—it was believed to be the picture taken by the hospital surveillance. A man in white coat was crawling rapidly on the ground before disappearing into the morgue.

"White coat?" Xiao Gu enlarged the photo. The light was weak inside the bus. He focused on the picture. "The face is too blurry, but the frame is very similar."

Suddenly, a phone rang. Xiao Gu, who was extremely focused, jumped in his seat. He put his phone away and raised his head. The ringtone came from the purse of the woman in the professional dress. She took out the phone and glanced at the caller ID—her face dropped.

As she answered the call, an anxious male voice came from the other side. “Huang Ling, where are you? Are you still working? The lights at your office have all gone off already.”

“I’ve already left. Where were you? You said you were going to come to pick up, but I didn’t see you even though I waited for half an hour!” Huang Ling did not have it good either. It was raining, and she had worked until so late. She had waited so long for the man, but he did not arrive.

“You’ve already left? How come I didn’t see you?”

“Stop pretending, this is not the first time you’ve been late. You never commit to the promises that you’ve made—I’ve had enough!”

“I know I was bad before, but I swear, this time, I wasn’t late. I waited at the door to your company at 6 pm and saw the lights at your building go off one by one, but I didn’t even see you.” The voice on the phone became hurried. “Where are you now? I hear something is wrong with your voice. Is it because that old hound is making things hard for you again?”

“He did not do something like that. I just feel very tired.” Huang Ling slowed down. She looked at the city covered in rain outside the window. “Jia Ming, I’m not afraid of working hard with you, but you have to at least work together with me. I’m almost thirty, and I don’t want to work until 8 pm every day and then take the last bus with three or four people and return to your rented room to make dinner for you.”

“Xiao Ling, I’ve found the way to make money. We’ve both moved from our old home to Jiujiang and have survived so many years. Please give me some more time.”

Huang Ling took at the rain outside the window, and her eyes were dull. “If you say so.”

“Where are you now? I’ll go pick you up...” Before the man finished, Huang Ling ended the call and shoved her phone inside her bag.

It’s not easy for couples these days... Xiao Gu sighed internally. When he saw Huang Ling earlier, since she dressed so fashionably, he assumed that the woman was rich. Upon closer inspection, he realized that her attire was mostly fake, and she looked so pretty because she herself was pretty.

“Ding! We’ve arrived at Hong Si Restaurant. Departing customers, please make sure that you have all of your belongings with you, and please alight from the back door.”

The bus had arrived at its next destination, and both doors opened. This time, no one got on the bus. Xiao Gu glanced outside at the bus station. The mad woman in the red raincoat was really standing at the bus stop, and she seemed to have moved even closer to the bus.

This is really something else.

Xiao Gu was panicking. He sat close to the back door. If the woman got on, she would see him first.

Don’t tell me she’ll follow me home? If she appears at every stop, then won’t she be waiting for me at the last stop?

The doors closed. Suddenly, there was a child's coughing coming from the middle of the bus. It was the middle-aged woman holding the child. She patted the child's back lightly, but it was to no avail. If anything, it only made the child cough harder.

"Sounds like he has a fever. Do you even know how to take care of a child? The difference in temperature from day to night is so big, but you only give him a thin shirt to wear?" Huang Ling heard the coughing, and she got annoyed.

"I'm just helping my relative look after his child..." The middle-aged woman's voice was coarse—she sounded like a man. She forced a smile. She did not feed the child water or medicine. Instead, she just kept patting his back. The child coughed harder, and his body was shivering.

"I think you should bring him to the hospital." Xiao Gu stood up and removed his own jacket to pass it to the woman. "Use this to wrap around the child first."

"Okay." The woman hesitated before accepting the jacket. Even with the jacket, the child kept coughing. Xiao Gu held his phone and the change that he had taken from the jacket's pocket and went back to his seat.

The door closed, and just as he was about to reach his seat, there was a sound coming from the backdoor. A thin person slapped her hand against the door.

"The vehicle will start soon. Please take your seat. Welcome to the driverless bus for Route 104. Dear passenger, please move closer to the backdoor. Our next stop is Li Wan Mall."

The bus started, and the hand soon disappeared.

Xiao Gu went back to his seat. He turned to look at the stop, and the red shadow was turning blurry.

Can the other passengers really not see the woman in the raincoat?

Chapter 489: Chen Ge's Message

"Have you seen my child?" a voice said in Xiao Gu's ear. Within his view, the woman from afar turned her head like she was looking into his eyes. Shivering, Xiao Gu involuntarily staggered backward.

"Are you okay?" The doctor stood up and very kindly went to hold Xiao Gu. There was a weird smell on the man.

"I'm fine, thank you." Xiao Gu turned back to look. Because he was so close, he realized that the doctor wore nothing under his white coat. Xiao Gu's expression changed, and he quickly introduced some distance between him and the doctor.

"Good, good." The doctor maintained the smile on his face. He stood next to Xiao Gu for a while before returning to his seat. Forcing a smile, Xiao Gu hugged his arms, which were covered with goosebumps. "The man is a pervert. Just what kind of person I've met tonight?"

Xiao Gu wanted to leave, but once he remembered the woman with the red raincoat waiting for him, he started to have second thoughts. Between the pervert and a ghost, he thought about it and felt like it was safer to stay in the bus. Even though the passengers were weird, at least they were human.

Along the way, Huang Ling's phone rang several more times. The man on the phone kept asking where she was even though Huang Ling had told him many times already. Whenever her phone rang, it was the man asking for her location. This repeated several times until Huang Ling thought that the man was toying with her, so she switched off her phone directly.

"You've failed so many of the promises that you've given, now do you finally regret it?" Huang Ling seemed to have many things in her heart. Through the conversation, Xiao Gu had a brief idea of Huang Ling's situation. Her husband was not working. On the surface, he told others he was a freelancer, but in reality, it was Huang Ling who held up the whole family on her own.

After the phone got switched off, the bus became quiet again except for the occasional cough from the child. The rain flooded the city. The bus raced down Route 104—no one had any idea where its final destination would be.

The bus is supposed to drive around the city, but how come it feels like we're leaving the city? There are no people around, and the surroundings look so deserted.

The lights in the buildings outside were off, and the place felt strange.

Several minutes later, the bus arrived at Li Wan Mall, and the doors opened. Xiao Gu leaned against the glass to look. The woman in the red raincoat was standing right at the edge of the station, looking at the bus silently.

At the next stop, she'll be showing up at the door. Should I wait until she gets on first before I get off?

Xiao Gu was coming up with an escape when an argument came from the other side of the bus stop. They were being very loud. The woman's voice was shrill, and the man was not holding back; it felt like they were going to get physical.

Turning to look, Xiao Gu saw a man and a woman hugging each other tightly but caught in the middle of a big argument. The man wanted to get on the bus, but the woman tried her best to make him stay. She scratched, pawed, and screamed, basically going anything she could to make him stay.

What is up with them? Xiao Gu pulled his head back. Already in such a big argument, why are they still stuck together? They can't tear themselves apart from each other?

The bus stopped for a full minute. With the woman's madness, the man failed to get on the bus. The bus moved away from the bus stop slowly.

"The rain has been falling for an hour already, but the two's clothes were dry. Looks like they have been arguing here for a long time already." Xiao Gu turned to look back at the stop. The arguing couple had already disappeared—only the red shadow was left.

"Where did they go?" He stood up to take a better look. He wanted to open the window, but he was unable to get it to open. The lock seemed to be broken.

This is too weird. Xiao Gu was getting more and more uneasy. Could that couple be ghosts, too? But they acted so normally...

Holding the phone, Xiao Gu looked down, and he was reminded of the articles that he had read earlier.

Li Wan Mall? Something happened here too! Xiao Gu looked through his phone and found the news about the couple committing self-immolation at Li Wan Mall. The picture attached had blurred out their faces, but the couple hugged each other tightly in the fire like they did not want to be separated even after death.

Isn't this too much of a coincidence? The doctor and couple are the same as the news—are they all ghosts? Do ghosts also need to take the bus?

Xiao Gu glanced at the doctor across from him. The man in the white coat kept his eyes glued on Huang Ling like he was having some dirty thoughts in his mind.

Nah, this man is probably just a pervert, not a ghost.

The bus continued to move forward. No one got on the bus, but Xiao Gu noticed something weird. The bus would stop for a full minute at every stop. Xiao Gu intended to leave several times, but his courage would disappear whenever he saw the woman at the station. The situation was different from what he thought. The woman got closer and closer to the bus, but she did not look like she was getting on. She only stood at the backdoor like she was waiting for someone.

Why is she so hung up on this bus?

The more Xiao Gu thought about it, the more afraid he became. In the end, he took out his phone and searched for Chen Ge's number.

Directly calling Brother Chen might not be a good idea. If I'm really haunted, then I'll only drag Brother Chen down with me.

Xiao Gu hesitated. In the end, he decided to message Chen Ge. He wrote down everything that happened that night, and after confirming he did not leave anything out, he sent it to Chen Ge.

While he was writing the message, the bus stopped at its next station—Eastern Jiujiang's Dam.

The bus stopped, and there were footsteps coming from the platform. Three soaking wet men got on the bus. They had their heads lowered, and their clothes were dripping wet. They were silent and shuffled onto the bus without paying the fare. The driver pretended to not see the three, but from the sweat that trailed down to his chin, it was clear that he was very nervous.

After the three got on, they sat around Xiao Gu. One of them even sat next to him. A smell of decay drifted into his nostril, and Xiao Gu leaned closer to the window. Since they were so close, Xiao Gu could see that the three looked like they had just been hauled out of the water. Their skin was pale and wrinkled.

Xiao Gu did not dare to look any closer. He took out his phone to send the message to Chen Ge. The bus started again. Probably because they had entered the countryside, the bus wiggled. Slowly, they left the dam and officially entered Eastern Jiujiang.

Water dripped from the men's bodies. The eyes of the three men slowly pushed out from their sockets. Their bodies swayed along with the bus, and they slowly leaned toward Xiao Gu.

After the bus left the station, Xiao Gu's phone vibrated. It was Chen Ge's reply. "Can you call me now? It's very important!"

Chapter 490: Follow My Instruction

The boss has replied! Xiao Gu's heart felt a lot better reading the short message on his phone. He took out the earbud from his pocket, connected it to his phone, and called Chen Ge. It was picked up after one ring, and Chen Ge's voice came through.

"Don't talk and starting from this moment on, just follow my instructions."

"Okay." Xiao Gu leaned against the window and used his arm to block the view of the earbud line. His body swayed along with the bus.

"I've seen the message you sent me. Whether you believe me or not, I have to tell you something." Chen Ge kept his voice calm and steady. "Before I tell you that, I want you to be ready—do not visibly react. If you're ready, then send me a message."

"Okay, boss. Tell me." Xiao Gu sent the message and took in a deep breath. He was still feeling afraid.

"I just investigated the bus that you're on. The bus ran into three accidents within one month, and the latest accident happened last night. When the bus passed Eastern Jiujiang Fresh Water Plant, it ran into an accident. It skidded and almost went into Bai Long Lake. Because of that, the people on top gave an emergency order to temporarily change the Route 104, and the bus is not going to Eastern Jiujiang anymore."

"Not going to Eastern Jiujiang?" Xiao Gu could not help himself and ask, "Then what about this bus that I'm currently on?"

"Route 104 has not long changed its route. The last bus at 9 pm has also been ordered to stop. So, the bus that you're currently on is probably not the real bus but a hearse specifically for dead people." Chen Ge used a flat tone to describe something really scary. Resisting his urge to shiver, sweat poured out of Xiao Gu's forehead. He did not dare turn his neck to look at the other passengers. His hands gripped the phone tightly like it was his only hope.

"What... what should I do now?" Xiao Gu wanted to write a message, but his fingers kept shuddering. Chen Ge had once saved his life, so he trusted Chen Ge unconditionally. However, it was also because of that he knew that Chen Ge had no reason to lie to him.

"Calm down, you have to calm down at a time like this." There was no additional emotion in Chen Ge's voice. "Do not speak in case the other passengers hear you. Use written messages to communicate with me. How far are you from the next stop?"

"The next stop will be Eastern Jiujiang Fresh Water Plant. The distance between stops is rather far since we're at the countryside. I suppose it'll take another seven to eight minutes before it arrives." Xiao Gu used his frozen fingers to type this reply.

“That water plant is the place where the bus came into the accident. That stop will be your last chance. You have six minutes to prepare. Tell me how far you are from the backdoor, and how many passengers are in your way?”

“My seat is close to the backdoor, but there is a drenched passenger sitting next to me.” Xiao Gu glanced next to him silently. The man with his head lowered had his body leaning toward Xiao Gu. His whole body was dripping, and there seemed to be a dirty spot around his shirt pocket that was not cleaned.

“Since you’re close to the backdoor, you shouldn’t worry that much. Once the bus stops, you have to try your best to escape from the backdoor.”

“Don’t need to worry? But I still think I’m in a dangerous situation.” Xiao Gu hugged the phone and sent another message to Chen Ge after some thought. “Boss, there’s a woman wearing a red raincoat, and she’s been waiting at every stop! It’s real! I’m not lying! I suspect the woman is not a human.”

Xiao Gu took in a deep breath and found the courage to admit that possibility. At Fang Hwa Apartments, he had seen a ghost once, but that memory was buried deep inside his heart. He kept lying to himself, but what had happened that night revived that memory again.

“Boss, at least my safety is somewhat guaranteed on the bus. Once I leave, I’ll need to face her alone, face the ghost in red raincoat alone.” Xiao Gu’s palms were filled with sweat. He did not have much time left.

“I understand your thoughts—there is only one ghost outside the bus, but there are probably still humans on the bus. So, in terms of bigger picture, it might be safer on the bus.”

“Yes, that’s my current situation. I’m trapped.” Xiao Gu felt like crying. He just wanted to go home, but who would have thought this might happen to him?

“You’re not trapped—you just haven’t looked at it objectively enough.” Chen Ge used the fastest speed to help Xiao Gu analyze the situation. “From your earlier message, it is observable that the female ghost on the platform wasn’t after you. She just kept asking if you have seen her child. This proves that at least for now she is not going to harm you; she just wants to find her child.”

“That’s right.”

“Have you wondered where her child could be, and why she kept standing at the bus stops?”

Xiao Gu seriously had not considered that. Who would really put himself in a ghost’s shoes? Furthermore, he was scared out of his mind seeing that ghost—where would he have time to think about these things?

“The woman in the red raincoat has been following this bus on Route 104. This means that her child is probably on the bus.” Chen Ge tried to rationalize it the best he could. “The red raincoat cannot get on the bus for some reason, but you are on the bus—that could be the key to solving this issue!”

“The woman’s child is on the bus...” Xiao Gu looked at the middle-aged woman. She did not seem to care about the livelihood of the boy in her embrace. He could be suffering from a high fever or coughing fit, but she just kept on patting his back with impatience on her face.

“Boss, I think I know where the raincoat’s child is.”

“Don’t broadcast that knowledge. When the bus reaches the station, grab the child, and leave the bus with him! If you can fulfil the woman’s wish, I’m sure she will not harm you.”

“But she is a ghost—will she let me go even if I help her? She is a ghost, not a living human!” The more Xiao Gu thought about it, the more scared he became.

“It was humans who killed them, so why do you have such deep prejudice against ghosts?” Chen Ge kept his tone light. “Just follow my instructions—this is the only way you can save yourself. Remember, do not stay on the bus for too long!”

“Understood.” Xiao Gu’s heart raced uncontrollably. He was getting more nervous.

“There is more than one ghost on the bus. Perhaps other than yourself, all the other passengers are ghosts. When you leave the bus, you have to be resolute—do not let them hold you back, other than that...” Chen Ge paused. “After you get off the bus, do not give the child over to the red raincoat immediately. Watch her reaction first before you come to a decision.”