

Horrors 491

Chapter 491: They Are All Ghosts!

Xiao Gu listened to Chen Ge's words on the phone, and he was confused. Why was his boss so familiar with ghosts? He was not only not afraid of them, and he even taught him how to acquire the ghost's affection, each sentence shining with intelligence and experience.

Xiao Gu was curious but not suspicious. It never crossed his mind that Chen Ge would harm him. To him, Chen Ge was a very unique presence. This boss that looked so normal had saved him from the brink of death twice.

The first time, he had been drugged by the mad woman and was about to cut into two. At the time, it had been Chen Ge who saved him from the mad woman. The second time had been at Fang Hwa Apartments again. He had entered the third building and realized that a faceless white shadow had been following him. He had fainted, and after he woke up, the police had said that it was Chen Ge who saved him.

This is already the third time.

Xiao Gu put the phone back into his pocket. He suddenly realized how dangerous his life was, and only by sticking to Chen Ge would his life be safe. He did not end the call. Xiao Gu wore the earbuds and leaned against the bus window. He memorized every instruction that Chen Ge gave. The rain fell harder. It was completely dark outside the window—he could not even see the road. Xiao Gu counted the time silently. He confirmed the child's location and prepared to run at the first's notice.

Five minutes later, the bus slowed down. Xiao Gu's calves tensed, and he spoke very softly. "We're almost to the stop."

"After the door opens, do not hesitate and move immediately. Do not give the middle-aged woman any chance to react," Chen Ge said on the phone.

"Okay." Through the window, the shape of the bus stop could be seen. The red shadow was still standing there. The bus stop at the countryside was not equipped with a roof. The woman in red raincoat stood in the rain all alone; she looked so obvious in the rain. The bus slowed down, and suddenly, a phone rang.

Huang Ling, who sat at the front, opened her phone. Her husband had called her again. Perhaps she was feeling better as she did not end the call directly but answered it.

"Huang Ling! Get off from the bus now!" A man's yell came from the phone. Huang Ling ended the call before the shouting continued.

Honestly, she was quite spooked. "Has he lost his mind?"

The call had just ended when the ringtone began again. It was still her husband. Huang Ling lowered the volume to its minimum. She looked around apologetically and realized that all the passengers were staring at her. The many faces carried varied expression. They looked at her with half-smiles, and she was creeped out by it.

"I'm really sorry..." The phone in Huang Ling's palm kept vibrating.

"Why don't you answer the phone?" The old lady who sat behind the driver spoke for the first time. The layers of wrinkles were thick on her face, and her eyes were covered by a layer of white film. When Xiao Gu first got on the bus, the old lady had not looked like that, and he had no idea when the change had happened. The old lady looked scary. Huang Ling held the phone and could not understand what the old lady was trying to say, so she apologized profusely.

"I think you should answer his phone. The more you don't answer it, the more he is going to be worried about you," the man in the white coat commented darkly. His eyes moved between Huang Ling and Xiao Gu. The red thread around his wrist had disappeared, and in its place was a brownish-red wound.

Huang Ling ignored the doctor. The child behind her started to cough again. The middle-aged lady's patience was wearing thin. Her already ugly face twisted, and the features tilted to the side. She glared at the child fiendishly like she was planning to kill him. The atmosphere in the bus became tense.

At that time, the robotic voice on the audio said, "Ding! We've arrived at Eastern Jiujiang Fresh Water Plant. Departing customers, please make sure that you have all of your belongings with you, and please alight from the back door."

The bus pulled up at the stop, and the doors slowly opened. When the bus stopped, Xiao Gu stood up. He brushed past the passenger next to him and walked down the aisle. Following Chen Ge's earlier instructions, he headed directly for the middle-aged woman. Xiao Gu stopped next to her. "I want to take something, do you mind returning me my coat?"

When the child was coughing earlier, Xiao Gu had lent the woman his jacket. The middle-aged woman was in a bad mood. She lifted her head to glare at Xiao Gu. With one hand holding the child, her other hand went to grab the jacket. Xiao Gu's Adam apple quivered, and he slowly raised his hands.

At the same time, Huang Ling's phone started to vibrate again. Her husband seemed to have lost his mind, and he kept calling her like there was really something urgent. The jacket was slowly removed from the child. The middle-aged woman held the child with her right hand and handed the jacket back to Xiao Gu with her left hand.

Everything was going according to plan, and Xiao Gu's heart rose to his throat. He saw the approaching jacket and kept his eyes glued to the woman's other arm. His legs moved, and Xiao Gu's body leaned forward. He also raised his arm. Time seemed to have slowed down. As Xiao Gu's fingers were about to touch the cloth, Huang Ling answered the call again. "If you have something to say, leave it at home, don't..."

"Get off! The bus that you're on is filled with ghosts! They are all ghosts!"

All the passengers heard the voice on the phone clearly. It was too late for Huang Ling to turn off the phone.

"Ghost?" She did not expect her husband would say that. She turned back to look, and many expressionless faces looked at her. The bus shuddered, and the driver was filled with terror. He seemed to be seeing how he died, and he kept his eyes on the road as sweat dripped down his face.

The middle-aged woman who held the child had her facial features tilting even more. Her body grew larger like a balloon.

The passenger who had been sitting next to Xiao Gu earlier started to vomit. He reached his finger into his throat, and balls of weeds fell out of his lips like hairballs.

“How can we be ghosts? We’re all alive, aren’t we?” The old lady who sat at the front turned around to speak. The thick glaucoma covered her pupils that her eyes appeared fully white. All the passengers had changed. Chen Ge heard these things on the other end of the phone, and he told Xiao Gu to leave immediately. “Run!”

Xiao Gu’s arms that went to the jacket increased in speed. He reached past the jacket to grab the child. As his fingers touched the child, he realized that the child’s body was surprisingly cold and lifeless.

“This...” In that split second, the middle-aged woman saw through Xiao Gu’s plan.

“You want to steal my child?” The woman’s chubby hands reached for Xiao Gu, and her face turned incredibly ugly.

Chapter 492: Give Her the Phone

The woman’s face kept expanding within Xiao Gu’s eyes. He had never seen such a twisted face before, and his mind was blank from fear.

“Get off the bus!” At the crucial moment, Chen Ge’s voice in the phone reminded Xiao Gu. The brain regained control of the body. With the reaction power trained at the Haunted House, Xiao Gu successfully evaded the middle-aged woman’s hand. He missed the dead child, his fingertips just barely had time to grab his own jacket.

“Just run as fast as you can!” Holding the jacket, Xiao Gu pulled it out. When he turned back to look, the woman called Huang Ling was still seated where she was. The phone in the woman’s palm kept eliciting her husband’s scream, but the woman herself seemed to be stunned. She did not even shout or make a noise.

“That should be a living human as well.” The bus shook. Inside the crowded bus, some area started to leak. The three monsters with their heads lowered stood up from their seats. Their mouths regurgitated more hair, and their eyes rolled backward. Their arms shook like they were in some sort of spasm as they tried to grab at Xiao Gu.

It was too late to rush to the backdoor. Xiao Gu decided to make a bet and change his escape route. He jumped to the front door, and when he passed Huang Ling, he grabbed the woman’s wrist without hesitation. “Come with me!”

The doors started to close, and the terror-filled driver had his eyes glued to the road. His feet stepped on the gas pedal. He seemed to see something horrifying, and his body reacted on instinct. The bus swayed even harder. At the last minute before the door closer, Xiao Gu dragged Huang Ling out from the front door of bus on Route 104.

The two collapsed in a pile of mud, and the heavy rain instantly drenched both of their bodies. Beside them, the bus whose doors were now completely closed suddenly sped up.

On this stretch of road, only one street light was still on, so it was hard to see the road in the darkness. The bus sped forward and soon disappeared into the night. "It did not turn, but I remember there's a river not that far ahead."

Xiao Gu did not have the time to help Huang Ling next to him before Chen Ge's voice came through the phone. "Xiao Gu, are you alright?"

Hearing that, Xiao Gu's heart was filled with warmth, "I injured myself a little bit, but I got off the bus."

After saying that, Xiao Gu was about to stand up when he felt the hair stand up on the back of his neck. He turned back to look and saw the rain was trailing down the head of black hair before it fell on the back of his neck. Slowly raising his head, Xiao Gu looked at the woman in the red raincoat standing behind him, and the edge of his eyes twitched. "Boss, what should I do now?"

"Have you seen my child?" A pair of woman hands gripped Xiao Gu's shoulders. The large Xiao Gu was thus picked up from the ground by the pair of thin hands. The hair fell, and the woman's eyes that were filled with blood looked at Xiao Gu through the gap in the curtain of hair. She seemed to have started losing her rationality since she sensed her child's presence on Xiao Gu.

"Have you seen my child?"

"You must have seen my child!"

Her lips fell open, and the curtain of hair parted. It was then that Xiao Gu saw that the woman's lips were sealed together by threads! As she screamed, her lips cracked, and the threads snapped one by one!

Pain came from his shoulders. Xiao Gu was scared dumb. The scene before him was way beyond the threshold for a normal person. If he had not received the special training from Chen Ge, he would have already fainted.

The woman's body kept changing. The sound of joints cracking issued from underneath the raincoat as her body kept growing. The color of the raincoat deepened like it was slowly being dyed by blood.

"Xiao Gu? Gu Feiyu! Hang in there! Try to communicate with her! She is looking for her child! Haven't you seen her child on the bus? Tell her that! Tell her all that!" Chen Ge screamed.

Hearing the voice on the phone, Xiao Gu's wandering gaze started to focus. With quivering lips, he uttered, "I... I saw your child. He was on that bus. He was being held by a middle-aged woman..."

"Stick to the main point!" Chen Ge was being nervous for the man. "You have to let her know that you tried your best to help her! Stress the fact that you did try to save her child, and you almost lost your life because of it!"

Xiao Gu nodded quickly, but he did not dare look at the woman before him. His eyes kept moving away, and he uttered through chattering teeth, "I did try to save your child... I was so close."

The pain on his shoulders grew. Xiao Gu felt like his shoulders were about to be shattered. He groaned in pain and his arms fell away weakly. The jacket that he had once lent to the child slipped from his fingers.

Just as the jacket was about to fall into the mud, the woman suddenly released her hand to reach for Xiao Gu's jacket. Without the grip from the woman, Xiao Gu collapsed to the ground. With his life intact, Xiao Gu staggered backward, trying to get as far away from the woman as he could.

This impossible! The method taught by the boss really did work!

With shivering body, Xiao Gu only stopped when he was next to Huang Ling.

The woman in the red raincoat held Xiao Gu's jacket like she was holding her precious child. Seeing this, the hair on Xiao Gu's body all froze and stood up.

"Xiao Gu? Are you still alive?"

"Boss, she seems to have forgiven me!" Xiao Gu climbed up from the mud. His legs were shaking.

"Should I just run home now?"

"Do you want to be haunted by her forever?" Just a sentence from Chen Ge turned Xiao Gu's face green.

"Then what shall I do now, boss? I'm really afraid." Xiao Gu saw the woman in red raincoat caress the jacket he had worn softly and lovingly, and his heart was chilled.

"Don't be afraid, remain calm." Chen Ge seemed to be thinking. After a while, he told Xiao Gu, "Let's see... give her your phone and let me talk to her."

"Give her my phone?" Xiao Gu was surprised.

"Just follow my instructions."

Under the curious gaze of both Huang Ling and the raincoat woman, Xiao Gu removed the earbuds with shivering hands and walked to the raincoat woman with the phone and raised his hand. "My boss has something to tell you."

His eyes twitching, Xiao Gu's arm that held the phone was shaking violently. The woman stopped her movement and tilted her head to look at Xiao Gu. Her cracked lips had not recovered, the threads mixed together with her hair.

"My boss... boss said he wants to talk to you."

The woman in the raincoat held the jacket and stood where she was. Xiao Gu took a deep breath and another step forward. He gathered his courage and placed the phone next to the woman's ears. "Boss, I've turned on the speaker phone. You can speak now."

There was a child's crying coming from the phone, but it soon returned to normal, and finally, Chen Ge's voice came through.

"I'm the leader of the ghost stories society, Chen Ge. I can help you find your missing child! If I fail to do that within one week, you can come to claim my life any time you want. In return, I only have one request—please let my employee go."

Chapter 493: Children

With the phone on speaker mode, Xiao Gu heard Chen Ge's words clearly. When he heard Chen Ge request that the ghost spare him, his hands tightened.

He had always felt that he was an unlucky person. No matter where he went, he had been a trouble to others—it was that way at Fang Hwa Apartments, and that had not changed when he moved to the Haunted House. However, even so, his boss had not once complained about him. In fact, he said something like that at the crucial moment.

The rain was falling heavily, but his heart was warm. He felt like he had found a home at Jiujiang.

The woman in the raincoat heard Chen Ge as well. She stood in the rain, and her body slowly returned to normal. The rain slid down her blood red raincoat. After a long time, the woman turned her head to face the phone. She leaned close to the speaker and asked, "Have you seen my child?"

"I'll let you reunite with your child within one week," Chen Ge promised. The woman did not say anything else. She slowly lowered her head and left Eastern Jiujiang Fresh Water Plant with Xiao Gu's jacket. It seemed like she was heading to the next stop. Seeing the woman's disappearance, Xiao Gu slid down to the muddy ground like all his energy left him.

"Boss, she left! I'm saved!" Xiao Gu's voice was shaking since he had just survived an impossible ordeal.

"Stay where you are and find a place to hide from the rain. I'll fetch you in a bit. Also, make sure your phone is charged and set my number to speed dial."

"Okay."

"Talk to you later. Remember, we have to complete the thing that we promised."

After hanging up, Xiao Gu did what he was told. Once he had done everything, he put the phone away and walked to the other unlucky passenger, Huang Ling.

"It's fine now." He reached out toward Huang Ling. The woman who was spooked took a long time before she grabbed Xiao Gu's hand and climbed up from the ground.

"Earlier... what was that?" Huang Ling did not even know what to say. Her eyes were filled with terror. She had a hard time believing that just two hours ago, she was being scolded at the company, and then she got on a bus filled with dead spirit to come to the countryside.

"I also can't tell. Let's wait for my boss—he'll explain it to you." Xiao Gu led Huang Ling to the water plant and found an awning to hide from the rain. Huang Ling's clothes were drenched, and her make-up was ruined. However, she did not care about all that. She grabbed her phone and kept calling one number, but there was no answer.

"Are you calling your husband?" Xiao Gu heard the conversation between Huang Ling and her husband on the bus. The two were in a huge argument, and Huang Ling had even threatened divorce.

Huang Ling nodded. She felt weirdly uneasy and afraid. This sensation was different from before—it was mixed with uncertainty and pain. “Why isn’t he answering? What is he doing? Answer the phone.”

Xiao Gu looked at Huang Ling, who was breaking down, but he did not say anything.

On the bus earlier, Huang Ling’s husband had kept calling her, asking her where she was and then calling out directly that she was on a bus filled with ghost. Her husband was not on the bus, so how did he know Huang Ling was on a hearse? And how did he know that all the passengers were ghosts?

Huang Ling probably knew the answer herself, so she had been trying so hard to reach her husband. Xiao Gu watched Huang Ling silently—this woman, who was much more mature than he was, leaned against the wall and slowly slid down to the ground. Lightning flashed, and the light reflected in the tears and rain that fell down the woman’s face.

...

After hanging up, Chen Ge stood in the workshop alone. He took out an obsolete phone that operated on large sim card. “Tong Tong, the ghost on the other end earlier was a Red Specter, right?”

After Chen Ge knew that Xiao Gu had run into some accident, he immediately summoned the ghost spirit to follow Xiao Gu’s movement. The phone spirit acted strangely. He did not answer Chen Ge’s question and picked up the old phone. Several seconds later, Chen Ge received a message from the spirit. It only had two words. “Don’t go.”

“She’s very dangerous? A Red Specter?” Chen Ge felt like the phone spirit did not know much about the power of his ghosts, so he tried to stop him. “Even if it’s a Red Specter, it’s fine. There’s only one of her.”

The phone spirit shook his head and sent another message. “I’ve seen her before. She died in Li Wan City, and it’s very dangerous there.”

Seeing the message, Chen Ge was reminded that the boy’s body had also discovered at one of the buildings at Li Wan City, so the boy seemed to know the small town well.

“Are the ghosts that die in Li Wan City different from other ghosts?” Chen Ge was curious about Li Wan City. Before Doctor Gao committed suicide, his dying request was for Chen Ge to deal with the door that had gotten out of control in Li Wan City. “Is it because of the door that the ghosts are different?”

The phone spirit shook his head. He did not seem like he knew how to describe it. Chen Ge looked at the boy and felt uneasy. “Li Wan City is in Eastern Jiujiang, and the memory that I saw at the tunnel also happened in Eastern Jiujiang.

“At the time, I was still a child, and someone wanted to kill me, but said person failed. The game that Fan Chong was describing this morning, its setting seemed to be Eastern Jiujiang as well, and the main character is a child. Wait a minute, I seem to notice a connection.

“The woman in the raincoat’s child also disappeared in Eastern Jiujiang, and the phone spirit was kidnapped at Eastern Jiujiang. In fact, in the picture that Doctor Gao showed me, my parents were also talking to a girl in a red dress in Eastern Jiujiang. How come it feels like everything is related to children?”

The phone vibrated. The phone spirit sent Chen Ge another message. "I cannot say for sure, but you can bring me with you. I'll help you lead the way."

"Okay." Chen Ge pocketed the phone and locked the door. He ran back to the Haunted House in the rain. He packed lightly, grabbed his backpack, put on the raincoat, and left. Chen Ge waited for fifteen minutes before he found a taxi. Even wearing the raincoat, waiting in the rain made his clothes wet. This increased the man's desire to find an affiliated vehicle for his Haunted House.

I need to go fetch Xiao Gu first. Eastern Jiujiang's investigation can be conducted slowly.

Sitting in the taxi, Chen Ge communicated with the phone spirit on his own phone. They headed down Route 104. The rain continued to pour. After they entered the countryside, the number of streetlights dwindled. It felt like they were driving into a blanket of darkness.

The peace in Eastern Jiujiang seems to be an illusion. The situation here is probably much worse than it appears.

Chen Ge had never handled a door that had gotten out of control before. He looked out the window expressionlessly. No one could tell what was on his mind.

Chapter 494: I'm the Child That You've Killed

Sitting inside the taxi, Chen Ge spoke twice on the phone with Xiao Gu. After confirming that the woman in the raincoat had not returned, he sighed in relief. "The main mission tonight is to bring Xiao Gu home safely. I'll deal with Eastern Jiujiang later."

Chen Ge had his own hesitation. Both the taxi driver and Xiao Gu were normal people, and Chen Ge did not want to drag them into this mess. The rain fell on the car window, and it blurred the view. The rainclouds hung low in the sky, and it felt like the sky was falling.

"The weather forecast has never been accurate; they said it was going to be a light drizzle, but this rain has been falling for how long already?" The driver was a young man. He looked about the same age as Chen Ge. He focused on driving. Due to the weather, he did not dare lose his focus.

"I'm going to fetch a person, and then we'll take your taxi back. Don't worry, we won't waste your fare." Chen Ge pulled his gaze back.

"I'm not worried about that." The driver did not turn around. "Don't you think the rain tonight is very weird? The further you go into Eastern Jiujiang, the heavier it becomes. The road is almost flooded."

"How is that weird? It's just a heavier rain. You're being too sensitive," Chen Ge joked.

"Sometimes, it's better to believe something than not." The driver pointed at the religious bracelet hanging by the rearview mirror. "I once fetched passenger from Eastern Jiujiang before. The people there are very superstitious and have many rules. Like if there's a newborn in the house, the man has to stomp his feet at the door before entering; if there is a nightmare, they have to turn the pillow around after waking up; if you receive a phone after midnight, do not speak first; if you see some strange vehicle at the site of a traffic accident, do not get too close. Initially, I did not believe these things, but over time, you get convinced."

The streetlights dimmed. The driver looked through the sweeping wipers and felt nervous. “There is a scary urban legend here. It is easy to get lost if you take the road during heavy rain. You look like you’re heading home, but eventually, you’ll end up at an unfamiliar location.”

“There’s a legend like that?” Chen Ge was interested. Many urban legends had traceable origins, and they could be based on reality instead of being fully fictional.

“Even though there hasn’t been any big news in Eastern Jiujiang, of all the disappearances throughout Jiujiang, twenty percent happened in Eastern Jiujiang. It’s like the place can consume people,” the driver said darkly, and Chen Ge memorized everything that he said.

“Keep your eyes on the road. If we run into anything weird, we’ll call the police directly.”

“Call the police?” The driver was not used to the jump in Chen Ge’s thought. “I guess that could work. I’m just reminding you out of kindness. Don’t come wandering in Eastern Jiujiang alone at night. This place is rather isolated...”

Half way through his sentence, the driver suddenly shut up. He narrowed his eyes to look ahead and then suddenly turned the steering wheel! The taxi turned, and Chen Ge slammed into the door. He did not say anything as he reached into his backpack to activate the recorder. The car slowed down. The driver gasped greedily for air, and his forehead was covered in sweat.

“What happened?”

“There was someone standing in the middle of the road earlier.”

“You probably saw wrongly. It’s raining so heavily, and it’s so dark—who would stand there in the middle of the road?” Chen Ge’s hands searched inside his backpack before curling around something.

“That’s true...” The driver wiped his sweat. He looked to the side, and all he saw was darkness.

“Can you describe the person’s appearance? Was she wearing a red raincoat?”

“It was nothing like that. It was just a shadow... perhaps I really saw wrongly.” The driver scratched his head. He removed the bracelet from the mirror, put it on his wrist, and continued driving.

“Don’t drive so fast. There are many rivers in Eastern Jiujiang. Safety first.” Chen Ge was not afraid of ghosts, but he was afraid that the ghosts might come after the driver. If the taxi skidded on the road, then he would die inside the vehicle. The sound of static echoed in the small space. The rain outside the car seemed to purposely avoid the taxi.

The two reached Eastern Jiujiang Fresh Water Plant safely. Chen Ge told the driver to wait at the entrance. He put on his raincoat, opened the door, and got out. Once he was outside, Chen Ge felt weirdly pressured like something was watching him.

The place felt weirdly familiar, like he had been there before perhaps in the past or in his dream. Standing in the rain, the sound of falling rain started to disappear into the background. Chen Ge frowned slightly as he took out his phone to call Xiao Gu.

The dial tone entered his ear, but there was no answer. The rain poured, but Chen Ge could not hear the sound of rain. All he heard was the dial tone of the phone. He felt isolated from the world. Darkness

came from all sides, and all that remained in his sight was the old door leading inside the plant. Moved by the wind, the steel door creaked. From the inside drifted out the laughing and crying of children.

Little footprints appeared on the water puddles. Something came out from the plant. They ran and skipped before surrounding Chen Ge. His body froze, and the memory inside his heart slowly surfaced.

When he was young, Chen Ge's parents had reminded him multiple times not to come to Eastern Jiujiang, but one of the school trips had brought them to Eastern Jiujiang.

When he was playing next to one of the dams, he had heard someone call his name. With his teacher's accompaniment, they had walked past the small forest and spotted a blood red house at the end of the road. Many children had been playing around the house. They were crying and laughing. It felt weirdly similar to now.

Looks like many things that happen at Eastern Jiujiang are related to that red house. Could the door in Li Wan City be related to it as well?

The footsteps slowly inched forward. Chen Ge narrowed his eyes. Even with his Yin Yang vision, he could not see them clearly.

The kids seem to have perfectly melded into the environment.

The children's crying and laughing came closer. They hugged his legs and slowly crawled up his body. Chen Ge gripped the hammer. Just as he prepared to summon Xu Yin, the chilling sensation disappeared. The voices of the children escaped. At the same time, a familiar voice came from afar.

"Chen Ge..."

Raising his head, Chen Ge saw a human shape standing inside the plant. He looked as tall as he was.

"Who are you?"

"Me?" The shadow raised his hands to slowly reach into his chest, and then he pulled out yet another child from inside him. The child's face was blurry, and he looked quite similar to a young Chen Ge. His neck was titled like someone had snapped it with pure force.

"I'm the child that you've killed..."

"The child that I've killed?" Chen Ge dragged the hammer and thought for a long time. "But how come I have no recollection at all? Why don't you come closer so that I can take a better look of your face?"

Chapter 495: Scariest Story in Eastern Jiujiang

Chen Ge's voice was calm as he seriously questioned the person.

"You've forgotten everything? Then I shall give you a hint." The child with the blurry face reached out to strangle his own neck. "At that time, you tricked me into entering some abandoned tunnel with you. You said that you heard someone calling your name. However, once we entered the tunnel, you stood next to me like this and then suddenly reached out to strangle my neck!"

The child's head lolled to the side, and the hands slowly twisted the neck. His face turned purple, and veins popped on his forehead. "Do you remember it now? At the time, your fingers slowly reached into my skin as you increased your force..."

The child's voice echoed in Chen Ge's ears, and some isolated images appeared in his mind. This scene really did appear real. To make things stranger, when he saw the child strangle himself, his body shied back like this was a familiar feeling, like the murderer was really him.

"I've killed someone?" The rain wetted his hair. Chen Ge shook his head. He was reminded of something else. When he conducted the fourth Midnight Mission earlier, he had seen his young self enter a tunnel with an adult. The image before his eyes was familiar but different from what the child said—the victim then was Chen Ge himself. It was not him killing someone but someone trying to kill him!

If he had not done that Nightmare Mission earlier and seen that memory, Chen Ge might not really have believed that he was a murderer, but his conviction would have been shaken.

"Perhaps he is the killer, or else he would not have remembered these things," Chen Ge mumbled to himself. He nudged toward the child, trying to get closer.

Seeing Chen Ge maintain his serenity, the child removed his hands, and his head went back to normal. "Looks like you've really forgotten everything."

Rain slid down the boy's face and it slowly became clear. The expression on his face was weird. Seeing him, Chen Ge felt like he was looking at himself in a mirror. "It was you who killed me—you killed me with your own hands. I will never forget that feeling, and soon, you'll experience it as well."

The child slowly retreated, and the shadow stuffed the boy back into his body, silently standing where he was. Chen Ge was about ten meters away from the shadow. Just as he prepared to move closer, a very pale hand slowly touched him on his shoulder.

The static came from the recorder. Xu Yin had suddenly appeared in red shirt next to Chen Ge. He shook his head, stopping Chen Ge from moving forward.

"Is he that dangerous?" Chen Ge had his own suspicion. As he went to move his leg, someone hugged it. He looked down, and a little boy around the age of three pulled on his leg tightly.

"Men Nan?" After the child had been brought away from the Third Sick Hall, he had never had the chance to return, or perhaps Chen Ge had selectively forgotten about that. So, Men Nan had remained inside the comic.

Stopped by two Red Specters? But the shadow doesn't look like a Red Specter. He's just a shadow. Chen Ge stopped moving.

After a while, children's footprints started to appear around the shadow. The children's laughing and crying slowly disappeared, and the shadow started to solidify. When the last cry disappeared, the shadow looked at Chen Ge. He was as tall and as big as Chen Ge. In fact, it felt like he was Chen Ge's shadow.

“It was you who killed me.” The body was that of an adult, but the voice that came from the shadow’s lips was juvenile. It was dark, cold, and filled with resentment. After he said that, he looked past Chen Ge at the space behind Chen Ge before turning to disappear into the rain.

He left, just like that? Chen Ge followed the direction that the black shadow had looked earlier. Under the light of the phone, he could see somewhat his shadow changing into the shape of a girl.

Is he worried about Zhang Ya? It doesn’t look like it. He seems to be worried about something else. The sound of the rain returned, and everything returned to normal. The rain washed over the land, and the black shadow had already disappeared.

Two Red Specters stopped me, and even Zhang Ya felt threatened—what was that? Chen Ge only had one concept when dealing with ghost. If it was a Red Specter, run; if it was not, run after them. Now, he had met a third type of ghost, a shadow that claimed that Chen Ge had killed him.

This ghost is rather special. Perhaps the disappearances in Eastern Jiujiang are related to him. The scariest ghost story in Eastern Jiujiang mentioned by the driver is probably him.

The shadow had left, so Chen Ge did not waste time. He called Xiao Gu and ran to the plant. “Xiao Gu, I’m here, where are you?”

“You’re here?” Xiao Gu’s voice was filled with surprise. “Is the person standing still at the door you?”

“Yes, where are you now?”

“We’re coming now!”

The phone hung up, and Xiao Gu and a woman, who were completely drenched, ran out from a bush next to the plant. “Boss!”

Xiao Gu was happy, but the woman was unwilling to follow. She looked at Chen Ge, who held the hammer standing in the rain, and she was feeling nervous. In the middle of nowhere, with the rain pouring, she held her arms to her chest, and her body kept shivering.

“Why is there a woman with you?”

“She was one of the passengers on the bus.” Xiao Gu explained Huang Ling’s situation briefly to Chen Ge.

“There were other living humans other than you on the bus.”

“It was not only me and Sister Huang Ling. There was also a student on the back row. He helped me once on the bus before—he didn’t seem like a bad person.” Xiao Gu felt regret. “I was too far from him when I got off, or else I would have dragged him with me.”

“Those who helped you might not be humans, and those who harm you might not be ghosts.” Chen Ge looked at Huang Ling for a long time before waving his hand. “The taxi is just over there, come on.”

Back at the taxi, Chen Ge realized that the taxi window was covered with children’s muddy footsteps, and the poor driver had already fainted in his seat.

“Don’t worry, he is still breathing. He’s just fainted.” Chen Ge moved the driver to the backseat, and then he stood outside to think. Finally, he turned to Xiao Gu and Huang Ling. “Do either of you know how to drive?”

Xiao Gu shook his head. “Boss, don’t you know how to drive? I remember you drove the park’s van last time.”

“I know how to drive.” Chen Ge paused. “But I don’t have a driver’s license. The taxi is fixed with recording equipment and a camera. If the driver reports it to the police, this will be very hard to explain.”

“Er... how about I drive?” Huang Ling walked to the door and added with hesitation, “I can drive you back, but before that, do you mind coming over to my place? I’m worried about my husband.”

Chapter 496: Not His Calls

Chen Ge nodded and did not reject the offer. “Let’s get in the car.”

“Thank you.” Huang Ling climbed into the driver’s seat. “My home is not far from here; we’ll reach it in ten minutes.”

The lights came on, and Huang Ling drove down the road through the rain. Inside the car, no one spoke; everyone had something on their mind. The taxi reached Huang Ling’s rental at 1 am. The place was deserted and close to Li Wan City.

“In the past, the city tried to expand Eastern Jiujiang, but for some reason, they stopped. This plot of half-finished buildings is one of the aftereffects, and most of the original tenants have moved away due to traffic and living arrangements.” Huang Ling drove the taxi into the residential area. In the large area, none of the lights were on, and it felt like they had entered a ghost town. “A few years ago, when Eastern Jiujiang was expanding, the real estate was so expensive, but now, the place is so deserted because only the few of us who were tricked stayed.”

After the conversation, Chen Ge found out more about the woman’s past. She and her husband pooled their money together a few years ago to buy a house in Eastern Jiujiang. Initially, they had been happy about nabbing a good place. They only needed to wait for the development to come to Eastern Jiujiang, and the real estate value would rise. However, not long after that, the developer failed to live up to their promise due to a lack of funds and debt.

To buy the house, the couple had expended all of their funds, and they even had some debt. They worked together with other tenants to demand an explanation from the developers, but the appeal was still ongoing. The project had been called to a stop, and the house that they bought was a building that was not safe for living. The couple could only survive on rental. Life was not easy, and during this period, the husband got into an accident. Now it was basically Huang Ling who held up the family alone.

“We’re here.” Huang Ling parked the car, grabbed her bag, and ran upstairs. Chen Ge and Xiao Gu followed behind her. In the building, only the lights on the first floor were usable. The walls were dark, probably from the moisture, and there was a musty smell in the corridor.

“Jia Ming!” Huang Ling arrived at the 4th floor. As she opened the door with the key, she yelled into the room. She was afraid, scared that the thing she was worried about had become reality.

Looking at the panicking Huang Ling, both Chen Ge and Xiao Gu did not speak. From their perspective, since Huang Ling’s husband chose to call at that time and knew that all the other passengers were ghosts, this proved that he was most likely dead and that he himself had turned into a ghost.

Huang Ling’s hands were shaking too much to be able to insert the key into the hole, but suddenly, a man’s voice came from inside the room.

“Why have you only just got home? Where have you been all night? I called your company earlier...” The door was opened from within, and a haggard looking man with a broken leg appeared before them.

“Jia Ming?” Huang Ling was very ecstatic when she saw the middle-aged man. She reached out to hug him, but the man silently but expertly escaped the hug. “You’re all wet. What happened to you?”

“I’ll tell you later. It’s more important that you’re fine. You really gave me quite a scare today.” Huang Ling choked. “I’ll go change first. These two are my saviors. I’ll drive them home later.”

Huang Ling entered the room, and the man blocked the door, showing no sign of inviting Chen Ge or Xiao Gu into the room. Chen Ge and Xiao Gu had a weird impression of the man as well. The man was alive, so how did he communicate with Huang Ling on the phone? And how did he know that the passengers on the bus were all ghosts?

“Your wife ran into some bad people, and it was us who saved her.” Chen Ge glanced inside the room. The room was tidy, and the man was a typical home maker—there was nothing weird about him.

“Hey! What are you looking at?” The man was very alert around Chen Ge.

“I’m sorry, can I borrow your phone? My phone is dead, and I want to call my family to tell them I’m safe,” Chen Ge said.

“Then, wait here.” The man limped back into the room before coming out with a phone for Chen Ge.

“Thank you.” Chen Ge looked through the phone records quickly. The man did call the woman many times, but none of the calls had been picked up. *It was not him who made the calls?*

Chen Ge pretended to send some messages and then deleted the record before handing the phone back to the man.

Huang Ling had changed. The woman in the casual dress radiated a mature beauty. “Honey, you stay at home. I’ll drive them back; this is what I promised them.”

“No way!” The man denied it without giving it any thought. “It’s already 1 am—I’m worried about you going with them. Tell them to get a taxi on their own; we’ll pay for the fare.”

“How do you expect us to find a taxi in this rain?” Chen Ge turned to look at Huang Ling. “What do you think?”

Huang Ling hesitated before leaving the room. “Honey, it’s complicated. I’ll come back and explain it to you later.”

“You’re not going anywhere tonight! You’re going out at 1 am? Have you lost your mind?” The man reached out to grab Huang Ling’s shoulder but was blocked by Chen Ge. The man was obviously afraid of Chen Ge, and there was a slight quiver in his voice. “What are you doing?”

Holding his backpack, Chen Ge’s eyes narrowed as he stared at the man’s face. “I’m a man of my word. I’ve completed her request, so if she does not complete the part that she promised, then I’m sorry, I might have to do something.”

The atmosphere was tense. In the end, it was Xiao Gu and Huang Ling’s combined persuasion that made the man scoff and give his consent.

“I’m sorry. My husband is a bit of a worrier. He’s always been like that.” Huang Ling passed the umbrella and towel to Xiao Gu. “I haven’t had the chance to thank you for everything on the bus.”

“It’s okay, I understand.” Xiao Gu accepted the towel with a smile and rubbed his face.

“Stop wasting time. We can talk downstairs.” Chen Ge walked downstairs expressionlessly and did not add anything else.

Chen Ge crawled into the taxi. He opened the backpack and took out something. After Huang Ling saw that her husband was fine, her heart had relaxed. Only after losing something would one learn to cherish it. She promised not to fight with her husband again.

The taxi drove into the rain, and Chen Ge, who had been silent, finally opened his lips.

“Huang Ling, did you discover that your husband changed into a different person from a certain point onward?”

The rain fell on the window. When Huang Ling heard Chen Ge, she went silent to think before answering, “I don’t think so. Why would you say that?”

Chen Ge paused before answering slowly.

“I suspect that man from before is not your husband.”

Chapter 497: Stranger Husband

“Are you kidding? I should know whether he’s my husband or not!” Huang Ling thought Chen Ge was joking.

“I looked through his phone earlier, and he called you seven times.” Chen Ge lowered his head and kept his hand in his bag.

“Doesn’t that show that he’s worried about me?” Huang Ling thought that Chen Ge was weird, in more than one respect.

“However, none of the calls were connected. It was a different person who talked to you on the bus.”

“A different person?” Huang Ling turned around to look at Chen Ge from shock. “Impossible!”

“Focus on driving.” Chen Ge pointed at the road and said, “I have no intention of lying to you; I’m just telling you out of kindness. It’s up to you whether to believe me or not.”

After that, Chen Ge went quiet, and the taxi fell silent. Huang Ling’s lips were pressed as she drove. However, her hands that gripped the steering wheel tightened. Several minutes later, Huang Ling stepped on the brake without warning. The taxi stopped in the middle of the rain, and the atmosphere was weird.

Huang Ling looked at the steering wheel for a long time before slowly turning around to look at Chen Ge. “Jia Ming was indeed different from before. Ever since the car accident, he has become a lot quieter, rarely communicates with me, and suffers from insomnia. According to the doctor, he probably suffers from depression.”

“Meaning the change in your husband was instigated by that car accident?” Chen Ge did not look at Huang Ling and kept his head lowered.

“Do you understand what I said? Jia Ming suffers from depression due to that car accident—he fell sick.” Huang Ling held the steering wheel and forced a smile. “Considering how difficult things are for our family, he volunteered to give up the treatment and stopped the medicine after a while. This is because the medicine costs quite a lot, and I am the only one supporting the family. I know that he felt guilty about it, and I can understand these changes happening to him.”

“Think about it closer. Other than feeling down, are there any other weird things that he has done? I mean things that are not related to his illness.” Chen Ge gave a few random examples. “Like you realized he was staring at you in the middle of the night when you woke up, or there was another voice that came out from his lips, or he killed some small animal without you knowing and hid the bodies in the room.”

Huang Ling listened to what Chen Ge said, and she turned to look at Xiao Gu at the back. She was starting to become fearful of Chen Ge. “No, the things that you mentioned did not happen at all.”

“You can look at your own phone records and think about it closely. This thing could be related to your life.” Chen Ge was not that interested in the man at Huang Ling’s home. He was more interested in the person that called Huang Ling on the bus.

“My phone records?” Huang Ling took out her phone to take a look. There were seven calls, but it did not show the call that she had with her husband on the bus.

“You may think that I am lying, but your phone won’t.” Chen Ge looked at rain outside the window. “I ask you to not hide anything from me. The person at your home might already suspect something. The next time you stay in the room with him, he might do something weird.”

Huang Ling held her phone and said after a long time, “After the car accident, Jia Ming became very averse to children and things like toys and dolls.”

“What do you mean?” Chen Ge’s eyes lit up.

“A long time ago, he gave me some stuffed animals. Even though I’m already past the age to enjoy those things, since those were my memory with him, I didn’t throw them away. I put them inside a cupboard and would occasionally take them out to reminisce about old times.

“One day, I realized that one of the dolls had gone missing. Initially, I did not even notice, but a few days later, another doll went missing. I asked Jia Ming, and he said that he did not know anything.

“One month after that, I went home early because I had fever. When I reached home, the door wasn’t locked. I thought that there was a thief, so I shuffled in quietly. I saw that the stove in the kitchen was on, and there was a pot sitting on it like someone was cooking soup.

“A thief wouldn’t have come to someone’s home to cook, so I called Jia Ming’s name several times. No one answered. I went into the kitchen to see what kind of soup he was cooking. However, when I opened the lid, I was shocked.

“There was a tattered doll inside the pot, and the plastic face was bobbing up and down. I quickly turned the fire off, and the door was then pushed open. I saw Jia Ming, who was holding a cleaver, walk in, and he was also holding a large black bag, coming in from outside.

“To this day, I cannot forget that scene. I remember asking why he would he cut up the doll and cook it. He mumbled to me that there was a spirit living inside the door and only that way would chase it away.

“There were many things like this that are related to children and dolls.

“A few months ago, our neighbor had a newborn in the house. It is common for babies to cry in the night, but the child would cry the entire night until morning like there was something scary in the house.

“Whenever the child cried, Jia Ming’s mental state would deteriorate. He kept getting into arguments about it with the neighbor. In the end, it was the neighbor who relented and moved to Western Jiujiang.”

After Huang Ling finished, she put her phone away. “Before this, we did not have a child because we could not afford one, but now, it is because he doesn’t want one.”

“After the accident, your husband became afraid of children and dolls. This doesn’t sound like depression to me.” Chen Ge called Huang Ling to continue trying. “Do you mind telling me what happened on the day of Jia Ming’s accident?”

“Jia Ming’s working place, like mine, is close to where we stayed. Normally, Jia Ming comes to fetch me on his e-bike, but that day, the client kept me at the company until very late. It was raining heavily that night, just like tonight in fact. I waited for a long time, but Jia Ming did not show up. In the end, it was the police who called, telling me that Jia Ming had gotten in an accident.

“According to the video, he ran into the bus on Route 104 when he was crossing the street. From the video, it looked like he could not see the bus at all. He kept his gaze fixed in a certain direction as he kept riding.” Huang Ling shivered, thinking about that video. “I was so scared when I got the call. I rushed to the hospital. Jia Ming’s leg was cracked, and for some reason, he did not wake up until the next day.”

“You said Jia Ming was hit by bus 104?” Chen Ge interrupted Huang Ling. He had found the information he needed. “In other words, the thing that is possessing your husband’s body now probably came from the bus on Route 104.”

Huang Ling and Xiao Gu did not react for a long time, but in the end, they felt chills run up their spines.

Chapter 498: Objective of Ghost Stories Society

Huang Ling and Xiao Gu had just escaped from the bus on Route 104, so they were familiar with the type of passengers it carried. When Jia Ming got into the accident, the camera had shown that he was walking toward the bus. A lot of anomalous behavior showed that there was something strange about his accident. It was indeed this accident that triggered the change in Jia Ming to do something as strange as cooking chopped up dolls.

“You’re trying to say that my husband is possessed by the ghost on the bus?” Huang Ling was silent for a long time before forcing herself to accept reality.

“Possessed? You’re being too optimistic.” Chen Ge looked at the woman’s phone. “You received calls from your husband when you were on the bus. The person who called you was most likely your real husband. He knew that you were on the bus and knew that the passengers were all ghosts, so this means that he was also on the bus with you, or rather his spirit was trapped on the bus, trading places with the thing that calls himself your husband now.”

Huang Ling had a hard time processing what Chen Ge said. If she had not just gotten off the bus and seen the ghosts for herself, she would have thought that Chen Ge was crazy. Her lips fell open. Huang Ling had many things to say, but in the end, she only uttered, “What should I do?”

She gripped the steering wheel helplessly. Thinking about the man who slept next to her at night and might not be her husband, her breath caught in her throat.

“Do you want to find your real husband?” Chen Ge took his hand out from the backpack. From Huang Ling’s tone and reaction, he had confirmed that she was a victim.

“Of course.” Huang Ling turned her head around.

“To find your real husband, we have to start with the fake husband. He should know a lot about that last bus. Your real husband is on the bus—only by knowing everything about the bus can we find it and save him.” Chen Ge’s lips curved into a smile. While it seemed like he was simply dealing with a bus, he had not forgotten that there was a locked two-star scenario on the black phone, the name of which Midnight Hearse.

In terms of difficulty, the Midnight Hearse was similar to Mu Yang High School, but since it was mobile, it was harder to find.

“You want me to trick Jia Ming?” Huang Ling understood Chen Ge’s meaning instantly. She shook her head lightly. She refused to believe these things even though she had her suspicion.

“That’s not my intention, and I hope you won’t act too recklessly. I just need you to silently observe Jia Ming and tell me all about his weird actions.” Chen Ge left his contact details with Huang Ling. “You can consider me your lifeline. Perhaps in the future, only I will be able to help you.”

Huang Ling repeated what Chen Ge had said in her mind before she understood what he meant. In her heart, the man, as weird as he appeared, radiated a sense of trustworthiness.

“Remember to keep in touch. Also, do not tell anyone what happened tonight, including your husband and parents.” Chen Ge wanted to turn the car around and interrogate Huang Ling’s husband, but the effect would not be good, and it might cause Huang Ling to turn on him.

“I know.” Huang Ling put her phone away and focused on driving. Chen Ge’s lips smiled. He did not share his real thoughts.

This is the first time that I’ve come across a mobile scenario. There’s no way I’m letting this escape. But thinking back, the bus, the passengers, the child, and the woman in red raincoat, these few things should be connected somehow.

The taxi continued to move in the rain. Chen Ge leaned on the chair and closed his eyes to rest. Huang Ling sent Chen Ge and Xiao Gu back to New Century Park at 2 am. When he got out, Chen Ge inspected the driver’s body again. After making sure he was fine, he paid twice the fare.

“Be careful on the road, and set my number as your speed dial to make it more convenient.” After reminding her of a few more things, Chen Ge left with Xiao Gu.

After Huang Ling drove away, Xiao Gu opened the umbrella and ran to walk beside Chen Ge. “Boss, do you really want to help Huang Ling? This sounds quite scary.”

“Helping her is just a convenience. My real goal is to find the raincoat woman’s child. Didn’t you say her child was on the bus?” Chen Ge was just concluding the event, but it caused Xiao Gu to blame himself.

“This is all my fault.”

“Don’t dwell on it. You’re my employee, so I have to take care of you.” Chen Ge walked ahead and allowed the rain to splash on him.

Following behind Chen Ge, Xiao Gu looked at the man’s back and hesitated for a while before asking, “Boss, when you were on the phone with the woman, you introduced yourself as the chairperson of ghost stories society. What kind of society is this? How come it feels like you’re not that afraid of these things?”

“Are you really that curious?” Chen Ge had saved Xiao Gu’s life more than once. Plus, Xiao Gu was a straightforward person and did not have ulterior motives, so Chen Ge was still relaxed around him.

“A bit. Actually, the things that happened for the past few months have scared me.” Xiao Gu pouted. “One month ago, I was drugged by a madwoman and almost got dismembered. Two weeks ago, I’d just got out from the hospital and was sent back to the emergency room due to fainting. Combining tonight’s episode, this is the third time that these things have happened. I feel like if this continues, and I don’t take any counter measures, it’ll only be a matter of time until something serious occurs.”

Xiao Gu looked so down, and his usual liveliness was absent. “Perhaps I’m cursed.”

“If you move near New Century Park in the future, I’m sure you’ll be fine.” Chen Ge did not know what to say, but he knew Xiao Gu—other people would have gone mad already.

“Boss, I have a feeling something else will happen, so I wish to know more about these things. Do you think I can join that society of yours?” Xiao Gu said something that surprised Chen Ge. He stood beside Chen Ge shyly.

“You want to join the ghost stories society?” Chen Ge stopped moving to size Xiao Gu up. Then he shook his head. “The society might not sound like it, but it’s actually a support group for mental patients, to reignite their desire for life.”

“Is that so?” Xiao Gu felt like what Chen Ge described did not match the idea that he had in his mind at all.

“Yes, don’t read too much into it.” Chen Ge shoved the handle of the hammer that poked out back into the bag and zipped it up. “The ghost stories society has three objectives—to respect and care about people, to show understanding and acceptance toward others, and to have appreciation and thankfulness for the gift of life.”

Chapter 499: A Pot of Soup

“I suppose if you put it that way...” Xiao Gu was rather disappointed.

“If you stand straight, you will not be afraid of your shadow being slanted. As long as you do not do anything wrong and live your life openly and freely, then even if you run into a ghost, they will be the one afraid of you.” Chen Ge shared the lesson with Xiao Gu, and the young man listened closely.

“I understand now. Thank you, boss, for the lesson.”

“You still have many things to learn in the future. I will help you see more things that you will never believe.” Chen Ge did not have a useful person next to him, and many things were quite inconvenient for him. Xiao Gu’s appearance made Chen Ge realize that this might be his perfect chance. He planned to cultivate an actual Haunted House employee in the young man.

“Do not tell anyone what happened on the bus, and this includes Xu Wan.” Chen Ge opened the door to the Haunted House and waved for Xiao Gu to follow him. “Tonight, you can stay inside the staff breakroom. Remember, do not leave the room and wander off on your own. Especially remember to stay away from the scary scenarios.”

“Boss, where will you sleep? I’m sure the two of us can share the same bed if we just move around.” Xiao Gu was quite embarrassed to take advantage of Chen Ge’s kindness.

“I have my ways. Later, I’ll accompany you to the bathroom to change. After that, remember to stay inside the staff breakroom until the sun comes up.”

“I can go to the toilet on my own; I’m not a child anymore.” Xiao Gu still had not realized that he was currently standing inside the scariest location in Western Jiujiang. According to the assessment on the black phone, Chen Ge’s House of Horrors could be considered a three-star scenario already.

“There are some props that I’ve placed inside the bathroom, and I’m afraid you might mess them up.” Chen Ge found a random excuse and quickly moved away from this topic. He entered the staffroom and took out two sets of his own clothes. He handed one set to Xiao Gu. “Put these on. Give me your wet clothes.”

After he was done with everything, Chen Ge closed the door to the staff breakroom. “Have a good sleep. I’ll come find you tomorrow morning.”

“Okay.” The door closed. Xiao Gu sat beside the bed, and his heart was feeling quite embarrassed. He slept on the bed, and the boss slept on the floor. This was the first time that he had run into a situation like this. *Brother Chen has a sharp tongue but a soft heart. Even though he doesn’t mention it enough, I can see from his actions that he is a good man.*

He pulled the thin cover off, and Xiao Gu was about to lie on the bed when he suddenly heard a cat meow. He quickly stood up. Underneath the cover was a big white cat with a pair of multi-colored eyes. It glanced lazily at Xiao Gu. The gaze seemed to say, *Who are you, and where did you come from?*

“Nice to meet you.” Xiao Gu held the cover and stood next to the bed. He did not know what to do. The white cat did not bully Xiao Gu. It bit on a cute doll and jumped to the study table next to the table agilely. The cat scratched the light switch, and the staff breakroom fell into darkness. Holding the cover, Xiao Gu stood where he was dumbly.

My god, he even knows how to turn off the lights on his own...

Chen Ge stood outside the door for a while. He left after he saw the lights inside the room go off. He also changed into the new set of clothes and carried the half-drenched backpack into the props room.

The situation in Eastern Jiujiang is quite complicated. This probably related to the door in Li Wan City that has gone out of control. Doctor Gao said that the door was once under the ghost stories society’s control. If I wish to gain more information on this door, I can try to get some from the members of the society.

Rummaging through the drawers, Chen Ge finally found the chairperson’s letter of appointment and the patients’ list for Third Sick Hall. He took these things and entered the underground scenario.

He activated the recorder and pushed open the door to the last classroom at Mu Yang High School. The mannequins in the school uniforms sat at their tables obediently. They looked so serious like they were preparing for an imminent and important exam.

“Don’t worry, I just want to introduce some new friends to you.” Chen Ge stood on the podium and tried for the first time to communicate with the spirits inside the patient’s list. He released the souls of the mad people all at once. In life, they had been the most twisted maniacs. In death, their souls had refused to leave, and they had all turned into baleful spirits. The classroom was filled with dark winds, and the table, chairs, door, and windows rattled noisily. Screams and wails echoed in the room, and vengeful eyes charged at Chen Ge directly.

“Xu Yin.” Dripping with blood, Xu Yin materialized next to Chen Ge. All the sounds and screams in the classroom were silenced instantly. When the few spirits finally quieted down, Chen Ge walked past them one by one. The group of spirits was indeed different from normal spirits. Even with a Red Specter staring them down, their eyes were radiating a dangerous glow as they glared darkly at Chen Ge.

“We’re unable to communicate?” Chen Ge took out the chairperson’s letter of appointment again. He showed Doctor Gao’s handwriting to the spirits, and when they saw the handwriting, dark red blood vessels appeared in the spirits’ eyes. In just a few seconds, all the spirits bowed down before Chen Ge.

Still unable to communicate? Or do they refuse to communicate with me because they have some issues with me?

As the new chairperson of the ghost stories society, Chen Ge had some connections with these old members. He summoned all of the employees at the Haunted House to surround the patients and then left the classroom.

...

The rain started to lighten. Huang Ling drove the taxi, and the car was nearing her home, but the speed was slowing down. Her heart was knotted in a conflict. Whenever she remembered what Chen Ge had said, she would be afraid. *Should I return home tonight or not?*

Before this, she did not know anything, so she had not been afraid. Now, Huang Ling did not know whom she should trust. Chen Ge's points were valid and logical, but ultimately, he was just an outsider. Jia Ming was her husband, and they had shared a life for so many years already.

After giving it some more thought, Huang Ling still could not come to a decision. *Perhaps I should go back home, but if I don't go back, where would I go? Stay inside the taxi throughout the night? But how will I explain myself should the taxi driver wake up?*

The taxi reached the entrance of the residential area, but Huang Ling still had not come to a decision. Suddenly, she saw a man holding an umbrella, waiting anxiously at the stairwell. "Jia Ming? Is he waiting for me?"

His shirt was wet, and Jia Ming looked quite look shabby.

"Why are you only coming back now?" Jia Ming's voice sounded quite angry. Huang Ling parked the car, and she only pushed the door open when Jia Ming held the umbrella at the door. "Come back home with me now!"

"Let me leave my phone number with the driver first. If he wakes up, he can contact me." Huang Ling found a note inside the taxi and wrote a memo for the driver.

"What happened to you today? Why did the driver faint? Should we drive him to the hospital?" Jia Ming saw the driver that was still fainted on the backseat and was worried.

"My friend said he's fine. He was just shocked, so he'll be fine after some time."

"Your friend? You'd better stop hanging out with those strange people. From their appearance, the two that came today do not look like good people." Jia Ming held the umbrella and supported Huang Ling as they headed upstairs. The room door was open. The warm light from inside the room cleared the fear and anxiety inside Huang Ling's heart.

"I've reheated the food around seven to eight times already, but you are so late." Jia Ming pointed at the dishes on the table. "I even purposely stewed a pot of soup for you."

"Thank you, but I don't have much of an appetite." Seeing the table filled with food, Huang Ling was still quite touched. However, once it crossed her mind that this man standing beside her might not be her husband, all the warm feelings turned into an indescribable terror.

"Okay then, I'll clear the table. You'd better go and sleep; you still need to work tomorrow morning." Jia Ming was rather angry, and he had to rein it in to not explode in his wife's appearance. Huang Ling

entered the bedroom, but she did not remove her jacket and pants. She pulled the cover over her body and lay down in bed.

In the other room, Jia Ming was clearing away the table. The sound of the plates falling into the sink kept echoing through the room. After who knew how long, the lights in the living room finally went off. Someone entered the bedroom and lay down next to Huang Ling. There was a small gap between the two.

Inside the cramped room that was shrouded in darkness, even though Huang Ling was tired, she was unable to fall asleep. The more she allowed her mind to wander, the more afraid she became. Her palms kept sweating.

About ten minutes later, when Huang Ling heard the light snoring from her husband and confirmed that the man had fallen asleep, she finally sighed in relief. After a whole day of work and the long drive, she was already at her limit. Her eyes slowly closed, and Huang Ling had no idea she was falling asleep. The fatigue from the eventful night was slowly catching up to her.

About one or two hours later, Huang Ling found herself inside a very scary dream. Her own husband stood at the door with a glinting cleaver in his hands, mumbling about the type of ingredients that he would use that night to cook soup with.

Cold sweat slid down her face, and her head jostled. After some struggle, her eyes flew open. The bedroom was completely dark and incredibly quiet. She confirmed that there was no one standing at the door.

“That was too scary.” Huang Ling rubbed her head. She grabbed the phone that she had left on the bedside table. She found Chen Ge’s contact number. She wanted to check whether she had set his number as speed dial or not. To prevent herself from accidentally waking up her husband who was sleeping, Huang Ling curled her body under the covers.

The phone screen’s light fell on her face. Huang Ling opened the phone record, and her eyes followed on the list of numbers that had called her that night.

“These came from my husband.” Her eyes slowly moved downward. Huang Ling focused completely on the display. However, suddenly, a finger appeared in her sight to press on her display, like it was trying very hard to call a particular number. Looking at that finger that appeared out of nowhere, Huang Ling shivered and jumped up in bed!

The phone fell in the middle of the bed, and the light from the display hit her husband’s face. His face looked so familiar, but the expression was so strange. “Why aren’t you sleeping? Is it because you’re hungry?”

“I’m fine.” Huang Ling hugged the cover and got up to turn on the light. However, weirdly enough, she gave it several tries, but the lights refused to turn on.

Her husband sat up in bed like a robot, and his voice became increasingly weird. The man mumbled to himself like he was unable to process what Huang Ling had said earlier. “If you’re hungry, let’s go and eat. I even stewed a pot of soup for you.”

Chapter 500: Scary Husband

With the combination of the strange expression as well as the weird tone, Huang Ling's husband looked and sounded like he was sleepwalking. He stood up in bed and stood on his tiptoes. There seemed to be something tied around his neck even though there was nothing there, and he glanced down right at Huang Ling.

His eye lids were peeled back, and his eyeballs bulged outward. Inside the bedroom that was suffocated by darkness, the husband whom Huang Ling had shared the bed with for more than a few years stared at her darkly and creepily. "The soup that I specially cooked for you is in the kitchen. You'd better savor it while it is still piping hot."

The place that they rented was not big. The bedroom was very small. Huang Ling leaned against the wall with her back and her fingers curled tightly around the phone. There was a very bad feeling in her heart. If she made a call, this man that she called her husband might just reach forward to kill her.

"I... I'm not that hungry." Huang Ling moved to the door of the bedroom. She grabbed the door handle, but before she could pull the door open, her husband jumped down from the bed. Jia Ming's body was very stiff. None of his joints seemed like they could bend normally. It gave the impression that he was a puppet pulled along by strings.

The scarily white hands grabbed Huang Ling's arms, and a rush of iciness overwhelmed her. This was the first time that Huang Ling had discovered that she could feel no warmth at all from her husband's palms. She was so nervous that she lost the ability to talk. Her body shook slightly, and her pupils darted about nervously. She was on the verge of collapsing.

To make matters worse, her husband's face leaned close to her. His eyelids were fully peeled back, and most of his eyes were dominated by the white of his eyes. The pupils had practically disappeared. "I've already cooked it, so why don't you just have a few sips of it? Are you that afraid of my cooking? I assure you, it's very good."

"Okay, I'll drink the soup..." Caught in that situation, Huang Ling did not dare say no; she was afraid that she might die inside this little, dark bedroom if she made the wrong decision. The husband opened the bedroom door for her. The familiar yet strange man stood on his tiptoes and used a very strange pose and gait to drag Huang Ling out of the bedroom and into the kitchen. The door and windows of their rental home were all closed. It felt like they were inside a different dimension, detached from the rest of the world. It made Huang Ling feel isolated and alone. Normally, she would not have felt that way because she had the company of her husband, but that night, it was exactly because of her husband's presence that she felt so strangely unsettled.

Huang Ling did not dare to resist, and she allowed herself to be dragged by her husband into the kitchen. Once she walked in, she saw a pot that was used for boiling soup sitting on top of the stove. "I made sure to stew it for a very long time, so the ingredients are soft and tender. Quick, come and have a taste of it."

Jia Ming stood on his tiptoes and very awkwardly raised his hands to remove the pot from the stove. This was because his elbows were unable to bend. He then placed it on the dining table. After Jia Ming opened the lid, the temperature in the room seemed to have lowered even more. He found two sets of

bowls and chopsticks and placed them next to the pot. Then he stared right at Huang Ling, adding darkly, "Quick, come and have a taste. I'm sure the soup is very nice."

"Er... okay." Huang Ling nodded slightly. She glanced inside the steel pool. There was a torn-up doll floating inside. Various tattered parts floated on the clear soup, and the most conspicuous part was definitely the plastic doll face. The doll's face was partially melted, but Huang Ling managed to recognize with a glance that this doll was the first doll that Jia Ming had given to her.

It was very cheap. At the time, the two had just moved to Jiujiang, and they were still dating, not yet married. They had been young and in love, full of hope for their future together. Seeing the doll floating inside the pot, Huang Ling felt like a part of her heart and her memory was yanked apart and brutally chopped into pieces.

"How could you use this doll to make soup? How could you do something like this?" Huang Ling could not resist it and complained.

Yet, Jia Ming did not answer Huang Ling's question. He found a ladle to scoop up the soup and fill up a whole bowl for Huang Ling. "Come, have a sip. It tastes so good."

"This is the memory between the two of us!" Huang Ling stood next to the man, and she felt like the energy within her body was slowly seeping out of her.

"Memory?" Jia Ming looked at the doll inside the pot and used a very confused tone to give a scary answer. "Isn't this our child? What does it have to do with memory?"

He swallowed a mouthful of saliva, and a very ugly laughter issued from his throat. "There are so many children. Even after tossing them away, they still return, so the best solution is to consume them all!"

Huang Ling held a spoon in her hand. She looked at the broken pieces and the doll's face inside the bowl, and she felt like vomiting. Her fingers touched the screen of her phone. She wanted to call Chen Ge's number, but then she had a different thought. What good would that do? Chen Ge could not rush over immediately, and when he arrived, she would most likely be dead already.

"Why aren't you eating it? Is it not good? Do you not like the taste? But listen! Don't you hear the sound of children crying? That is such a wonderful sound. It is music to my ears." Jia Ming picked up the ladle that was still inside the pot. He drank directly from the ladle. The soup was nothing more than boiled water, but from the way he reacted, one would think that he was drinking some kind of incredible broth. He looked so satisfied and happy. "I hate children the most, especially those horrible kids that ran out from the red house. They have stolen stuff from behind the door—how I wish to eat them and put them in my stomach."

After having his fill, Jia Ming's pupils, which had rolled upward, slowly returned to normal. He turned to look at Huang Ling. "Why aren't you drinking? Or do you want me to feed you?"

Gripping the spoon, Huang Ling tried her best but was unable to put the spoon to her lips. The conflict that was apparent on her face fell into Jia Ming's eyes.

"You don't know how to eat it? Come, let me help you." Jia Ming picked up the fruit knife that was left on the dining table. "Let me help you cut it open. Don't worry, very soon, you will be able to finish this

whole pot of soup. In the future, I will make more delicious soups for you, using even fresher ingredients. You will never be able to resist them once you have a taste.”

Jia Ming walked toward Huang Ling on his tiptoes, and his words and tone sounded incredibly scary. Huang Ling could not help it anymore. Things had gotten way out of control. She threw the soup spoon in her hand away and quickly pressed speed dial number 1. Coincidentally, when she was about to press the one button, the display on her phone changed. Someone was calling her at a time like that. Before her finger landed on the number 1, her finger pressed the accept button to answer the call.

“You are the passenger who took my taxi ride tonight, right? You have ruined my car, and you think you can sweep the issue under the rug by tossing me 200? If you do not give me a valid explanation and enough compensation tonight, then I will...”

“Help me! Help me! Please call the police! I’m staying on the fourth floor! My husband has gone insane, and he’s trying to kill me!” Hearing the voice coming from the other end, Huang Ling immediately lost control. She held the phone in her hands and screamed at the top of her lungs as she ran to the living room door. Like a drowning person coming across the last straw, the potential within Huang Ling exploded. She ran so very fast.

There were two layers to the living room door. She pulled the inside door open easily, but the outside door was locked. She needed to find the key if she wanted to open it. “Help me! Please someone, come and help me!”

Huang Ling’s voice echoed down the corridor. The chilling wind rushed into her sleeves as she shook at the door lock violently. Perhaps she thought that by shaking the lock hard enough, it might unlock on its own.

“I am warning you, don’t play games with me. Don’t try to scare me into submission. I will still require an answer from you.” The young driver’s voice was shaking on the phone. He had been unconscious for almost the entire night. He had just woken up and seen the note that someone had left next to his phone. It was the reason he had made this call. He wanted to ask for a clarification about what had happened that night and, if possible, get some more compensation.

Huang Ling was still screaming at the top of her lungs. She rammed against the door, and the door shook violently. It could be heard echoing throughout the entire building.

“Come and just take a sip. Just one sip.” The husband appeared behind Huang Ling silently and without warning.

“Help me!” Huang Ling tore through her throat as she continued to scream. She slammed into the door using her back, and her phone shone its light on Jia Ming. The scene that she saw made her mental state collapse even further!

Jia Ming’s head was lolled weakly on his shoulders. His pupils had already disappeared, and his eyes were bulging. He appeared like he was standing on his tiptoes, but in reality, that was not the case. It was the shadow behind him that was holding him by his neck, and he had been moved across like that. “Come, take a sip.”

“Help! Don’t come any closer! I’m warning you!” Huang Ling’s voice travelled very far down the corridor. Several seconds later, the door of the family across from Huang Ling was suddenly pulled open from the inside. An old lady poked her head out to look around. By then, Jia Ming had already managed to shove the soup inside the bowl down Huang Ling’s throat. He watched as Huang Ling’s body softened and lost its power. The woman’s eyes slowly turned dull and lifeless.

The old lady from the opposite room seemed to be familiar with this happening. She opened the door and walked to Huang Ling’s door. With a trace of pity in her voice, she asked, “Xiao Jia, is Huang Ling acting up due to her illness again?”

Jia Ming held Huang Ling in his arms, and his lowered head slowly rose. His face looked perfectly normal, but his expression was rather awkward. “Sigh, she always suffers from nightmares at night, but she refuses to take her medicine.”

“This must be so hard on you as well, taking care of a patient alone.” The old lady shook her head. “I think you should take her to an official state hospital to have the doctors check up on her. This is the third time she has reacted this way this month. If you let this go on, it will only get worse.”

“Of course, you have a point.” Jia Ming took the phone away from Huang Ling and deactivated it. He dragged Huang Ling back into the room and closed the door.