

## Horrors 501

### Chapter 501: Bad Endings

The corridor returned to normal. The old lady looked at the opposite door and sighed with pity. "Lost the house and the child, no wonder she went crazy. Poor Xiao Jia."

Outside the building, the taxi driver heard the call being ended, and he still had not recovered from the shock.

"What is the meaning of this? Have I been dragged into a murder? What about the mention of mental illness?" The driver's mind was blank. He had just woken up and found his car parked at an unfamiliar place. He did not even know where he was.

"I should call the police."

With shaking hands, the driver called the cops and told them how he had been kidnapped.

...

Chen Ge rested outside the last classroom for a while before reentering the room. The dark winds had disappeared, and the bodies of the few mental patients were close to being transparent. However, they were still as ferocious as ever and refused to communicate.

"They sure are mad." Chen Ge summoned them back into the patient's list. He left Mu Yang High School and entered the Third Sick Hall. He found a random bed and went to sleep without removing his clothes. The next morning, Chen Ge was woken up by the alarm on his phone at 8 am.

"That was quite a good sleep." Chen Ge rubbed his eyes as he opened the sickroom's door. "It's quite a waste to have so many empty beds. Perhaps I can open a hotel that only operates at night."

Exiting the underground scenario, Chen Ge cleaned himself up and ran to the staff breakroom.

"It's time for work." Chen Ge was worried that Xiao Gu might have been bullied by the white cat and Xiaoxiao, but he realized that Xiao Gu was sleeping nicely. "The guy sure is brave, but this type of person will have an easier time accepting new things."

After waking Xiao Gu up, the two worked together to clean up the Haunted House and prepared to start a new day of work. Opening the gates, the sun fell on Chen Ge. *Ever since I came back from the underground morgue, my body temperature has still been dropping, but the rate seems to have lessened.*

"Boss, you have been getting later at opening the gates." There was a girl with impressive upper body that walked from the resting hall. She held a box of breakfast in her hands. "This is for you."

"It's barely 8:20 am; it's you that's too early." Chen Ge accepted the breakfast when Xiao Gu exited the Haunted House.

"Good morning, Sister Xu Wan!" Xiao Gu was quite dim-witted at social events. He waltzed out from the Haunted House and looked at Chen Ge's breakfast with some envy. Xu Wan greeted Xiao Gu, and she

was about to walk away when her pupils suddenly danced. She stopped where she was as she glanced at Xiao Gu.

“The gates just opened. This means you did not go home last night.” Before Xiao Gu responded, her expression became weirder. “Why are you wearing boss’ clothes?”

“It was raining last night, and when I was going home...” Xiao Gu stopped himself when he was halfway through explaining because he suddenly remembered that Chen Ge had told him not to tell anyone what had happened the previous night. He turned to look at Chen Ge. Xu Wan also looked at Chen Ge with some complaint like she was asking for an explanation.

Sensing the curious atmosphere, Chen Ge was stunned. “Why are the both of you looking at me?”

The entire Western Jiujiang’s House of Horrors only had three living people. Chen Ge did not want any misunderstandings between them, so he quickly explained, “Xiao Gu was unable to find a taxi home last night, and it was raining heavily, so I had him stay at the staff breakroom for the night. I busied myself inside the scenarios. Right, I almost forgot. Xiao Gu, I’m giving you a half day off. You go back to pack your things and move to a place near the park. I’ll help you cover the down payment.”

“Thank you, boss.” Xiao Gu did not really understand what was happening, but he was glad. He went to the dressing room happily.

Hearing Chen Ge’s explanation, Xu Wan’s mood turned better. “Boss, I shall go to the dressing room as well. Remember to come help me with the make-up later.”

“Okay.” Seeing the happiness on his workers’ faces, Chen Ge felt comforted. The park opened at 9 am, and the visitors swamped the place. However, the curious thing was that no one dared to challenge the underground morgue again.

He kept himself busy until twelve noon. When the employees went for their lunch break, two shadows, one small and one big, came out from the resting hall. When Chen Ge saw them, he put down his lunch and rushed back into the Haunted House.

“Boss Chen! I have something important to tell you!” The large shadow used an agility that did not match his size to catch up to Chen Ge.

Knowing that he was unable to avoid them, Chen Ge turned back with a friendly smile as he grabbed the man’s arm. “Fan Chong? Why are you here? Come and take a seat, we’re considered friends now. What scenario would you like to challenge today?”

The ones who blocked Chen Ge were Fan Chong and his brother—the chef at New East International Hotel, Fan Dade.

Fan Chong’s hands were cold, and he had two large dark circles on his face like he had not slept for a long time. “Boss Chen, I really need your help this time.”

He sounded so serious and that caused Chen Ge to turn serious as well. “What happened?”

“Do you still remember the game that I told you about last time?”

In the park's medical room, Fan Chong had described the weird game for Chen Ge before. He suspected that the game was based on a real murder.

"I remember, the main character's name is Xiao Bu." Chen Ge had a lasting impression of the game, and the reason was simple. Fan Chong had said that the style of the game changed after the main character opened the door to the basement. The first thing that the main character saw was a bus stop. There was a red shadow and an old bus at the bus stop.

This matched what had happened to Xiao Gu perfectly!

The red shadow represented the woman in the red raincoat, and the old bus was the last bus on Route 104. In other words, the game creator had perhaps experienced that.

"Good that you still remember it." Fan Chong rubbed his hands. After a while, he added, "I've cleared the game, but..."

"Don't worry, just tell me everything." Chen Ge was more nervous than Fan Chong. By now, he was certain that the game was hiding a big secret.

"I've cleared the game four times, sacrificing my sleep for the past two days, and I got four different endings." The flesh on Fan Chong's face scrunched up together. "But the four endings were all bad endings. Xiao Bu died four times in different ways, but I suspect there are more endings, meaning more ways for Xiao Bu to die. This is a game without hope, or I can't find the hope."

"Don't rush, take it slow." Chen Ge had Uncle Xu take over, and he pulled Fan Chong to the resting hall. "Tell me the whole process, or if possible, you can bring me over to your place to see the game tonight."

## **Chapter 502: The Murder Inside the Game**

Fan Chong was very unstable; it was obvious that this had affected him deeply. "Boss Chen, the game is really too much. Whenever Xiao Bu dies, I feel like she's looking at me like I'm the one who killed her."

Taking a breath, Fan Chong took out his phone. "Whenever I clear the game, I record the game process so that I can select a different route to go for a different ending next time."

Swiping on the screen, Fan Chong opened the note on his phone—it was filled with words. "Unlocking all the achievements in the game, the system awarded me with Mommy's Pajamas, and the key to the basement was found inside the pajamas. It was after the discovery of the key that the name of the main character was changed to Xiao Bu.

"The entrance to the dungeon was hidden behind the closet at a friend's home. After using the key, the style of the game changed completely. I've told you what happened next. I controlled Xiao Bu to go through the dungeon, and she saw a bus stop. To evade the red monster, she was forced to get on the bus."

So far, it matched what Fan Chong had said earlier.

“The bus started its engine and moved on the road. Xiao Bu, in her mother’s pajamas, wandered up and down the bus. Some time later, the sound of a child crying come from the game. Then, two options came on screen: Find the source of the crying or ask the driver.

“The first time, I chose to ask the driver. However, when I reached the driver’s seat, I realized that the bus had no driver. In fact, the whole bus was empty. The crying became louder and it felt like it appeared next to my ears and not from the game.

“The bus soon reached its first stop—Li Wan City. A line appeared on screen then: I have to leave this place.

“I controlled Xiao Bu to leave the bus. She turned back to look, and the scary part happened. The windows were filled with human faces, and they stared at me through the computer screen. Before I could react, a red shadow appeared. It was the scary woman in a red raincoat. To evade her pursuit, I ran into the nearby Li Wan City.

“The city was the map where the main character did her mission. The building and layout were all the same, but the style had completely changed. From a city filled with warmth and sunlight, it turned into a city of fear, dullness, and terror.

“The woman chased after me. I controlled Xiao Bu to run down the street. Words kept popping up—Help me! Help me!—but there was no one in the city. In the end, I was forced to hide inside an old building with no other escape.

“The woman got closer and closer. The screen focused on her face until it was fully dominated by it. The sticky hair parted to the sides, and the woman revealed her real face. Her eyes were filled with blood, and her mouth was sewn shut. It looked so scary.

“A very scary smile issued from the computer, and then a sentence appeared on screen—Xiao Bu has become her new child.

“Xiao Bu’s head was covered by the red raincoat woman’s hair, and I lost control of her.”

Fan Chong took a deep breath after that. The image was too scary, and just thinking about it made him scared.

“Was this one of the bad endings?” Chen Ge got a bottle of water from the worker and handed it to Fan Chong.

“Compared to the other endings, this might be the best one.” Fan Chong did not reach for the water. His face was pale as he continued his story.

“After Xiao Bu was taken away, the screen went dark. The sound of children laughing and crying came from the computer, and then a row of gray words appeared—Why did you kill me?

“The handwriting was like the child’s dark and helpless eyes. It made me feel so guilty. After a long time, the words disappeared, and the screen returned to normal. Xiao Bu woke up in her own room, wearing her mother’s pajamas.”

At this point, Chen Ge raised his hand to interrupt Fan Chong. “Sleeping in her own room? Meaning after the character’s death, the game reloaded at the bedroom?”

“Yes, she was lying in bed, like what had happened earlier was just a nightmare. The sun outside the window was still shining. People hurried to work, and they greeted each other.” Fan Chong did not think too much of it. “The game restarted. I controlled Xiao Bu to enter the dungeon and got on the bus, but this time, I made a different decision.”

“You chose to search for the child’s crying on the bus?” Eastern Jiujiang was different from Western Jiujiang. All the ghost stories seemed to be connected, and the trigger of one would create a domino effect. Therefore, Chen Ge memorized everything Fan Chong said—he felt like the game was hiding a very important clue.

“Yes, I controlled Xiao Bu to walk to the last row on the bus. She found an old school bag. Then a sentence popped up—Xiao Bu found a wet phone inside the bag. Xiao Bu activated the phone, and then a few more windows popped up. It looked like Xiao Bu was reading the content of the phone.”

“There was a phone inside the bag? At the last row? What did it say?” Chen Ge remembered Xiao Gu say that there had been a high-schooler at the last row on the bus, and the student had kept hugging his bag. His hand had been inside the bag like he was holding something.

“I’ve jotted it down. These few words were the reason I came to find you today because I think this has gone beyond just a simple game. There has to be something more.” Fan Chong passed his phone to Chen Ge. Three paragraphs were written on the note.

“1st September, my mother and I moved into a new apartment. Our neighbor is a young man who lives alone. He rears a large dog. It looks so tame—its name is Xiao Bu.

“7th September, when I came back, I saw the neighbor walking down the stairs hugging a big black plastic bag. He looked so sad and said the pet that he had looked after for so many years had left him. The dog seemed to have ingested some poison and died at home.

“At the end of October, the young man moved away. The landlord found a fridge filled with dog meat in his home. The neighbor must have been devastated when Xiao Bu died.”

The three sentences might look normal, but upon closer inspection, they read so weirdly. The neighbor carried a large bag down the stairs, saying his pet was dead, but then the landlord found a fridge filled with dog meat. Then what was really inside the man’s plastic bag on the night of 7th September?

Fan Chong slid the display downward. “I checked the news around Jiujiang in September, and there was indeed a similar murder around the time. And the crime scene was in Li Wan City as mentioned in the game.”

### **Chapter 503: All Xiao Bu**

The information left on the mobile phone matched a case that had happened in real life, and this made Fan Chong fearful. “I’ve investigated all the news. According to the article, the dead body was wrapped inside a black plastic bag, the time of death was 7th September, and the dumping site was close to Li Wan City.”

“You came to find me because of this?” Chen Ge also realized the gravity of the situation. “Why didn’t you go to the police directly?”

“I don’t dare. The cases that this game is involved in is more than one.” What Fan Chong said surprised Chen Ge.

“More than one case?” Chen Ge signaled for Fan Chong to continue.

“After I controlled Xiao Bu to grab the phone, there were no more pop ups. The bus soon arrived at Li Wan City. After she got off, the woman in the red raincoat chased after her, but this time, the situation changed.” Fan Chong frowned. “This might be a small bug. After Xiao Bu handed the student’s bag to the woman, the mad woman stopped chasing her, hugged the bag like it was her child, and left.”

What Fan Chong did not understand, Chen Ge did. The owner of the bag had probably once saved the woman’s child on the bus, so when she saved the bag, she chose to let Xiao Bu go. The previous night, the same thing had happened to Xiao Go. The woman in the red raincoat was probably a Red Specter, but she was different from other Red Specters. Underneath her cruel exterior hid a heart pining for her child, and that was a strong emotion that could not be replaced.

“After the woman left, I controlled Xiao Bu to head back into Li Wan City. Without someone chasing after me, I felt so relieved, but after entering the city, I realized how naïve I was. I underestimated the madness of the game creator and underestimated the evil in people’s hearts.” Fan Chong’s eyes reddened. What happened next made him very uncomfortable.

“After dropping Xiao Bu off, the bus continued to move forward. The bus was still echoing with the sound of children laughing and crying. I have no idea where the bus was heading. From Xiao Bu’s perspective, the bus was eventually swallowed by a ball of gray mist and disappeared. I believe the bus is like a hearse for lost souls, sending them to some place.”

Fan Chong kept his voice low. Even though it was noon, the time when the sun was the harshest, he looked so cold. When he spoke, his body shivered. “After the bus left, I controlled Xiao Bu to continue walking. The fog covered the gray streets, and the buildings on both sides were pale. Walking down the road, it felt like I was travelling in a different world.

“There was no one else on the road. All the shops were closed, and each house had some white paper pasted on the door. Some weird signs were painted on them. I felt like it was some kind of nightmare. I saw something symbolic on the buildings, and everywhere I turned, there were creepy pictures.” Fan Chong slowly slipped down into fear. Other people had a hard time sharing his fear.

“Don’t worry. Just tell me what you’ve seen.” Chen Ge tried to console him.

“I controlled Xiao Bu to walk to the center of the street. Then a question popped on screen. It asked me to choose: East Street or West Street?”

“What did you choose?” To resolve the phone spirit’s wish, Chen Ge had personally been to Li Wan City. He knew the difference between East Street and West Street.

“I chose the West Street, which looked livelier.” Fan Chong chuckled bitterly. This seemed to be the moment when the nightmare started. “After making the choice, I controlled Xiao Bu to head down West Street. All the shops were closed, and I wandered about until I reached a small area.

“The place looked old as the walls were peeling. The windows on the buildings were all closed, but one could see eyes peeking out from behind the windows. This seemed to be Xiao Bu’s imagination, or perhaps there was a special meaning to it. The eyes followed Xiao Bu as she walked through the neighborhood.

“When I was controlling Xiao Bu, suddenly a chat box appeared at the bottom of the screen. ‘Xiao Bu feels like someone is watching her. The eyes are like that of a beast, a hungry beast that wants to swallow her whole.’

“Clicking the window made the chat disappear. A middle-aged man wandered out from the neighborhood. He looked unkempt and rather drunk. After the man got close to Xiao Bu, the window appeared again. ‘The man is coming over. He is holding a beer bottle, and there is a blood stain on his pants.’

“I controlled Xiao Bu to avoid the drunk, but the drunk chased after her. With no other choice, I controlled Xiao Bu to run. Even after running around the neighborhood, the drunk was still following behind her. In the end, I remembered perhaps the most dangerous place is the safest place, so I made the decision to run into the neighborhood.

“The drunk wandered around the entrance. Suddenly, a different girl appeared from inside the building. She seemed to be very afraid of drunken man as well. She jogged past the man, but the man’s mind seemed to be consumed by alcohol, and he hounded the girl relentlessly.

“Several minutes later, the drunk dragged the girl back into the building and slithered down one of the corridors.

“Then, another option appeared on screen, whether or not to follow the drunken man into the corridor.

“I wanted to save the girl, so I chose to follow. However, what happened next was really hard to accept.” Fan Chong could barely continue. “I controlled Xiao Bu to follow the man into the corridor to Room 104, and another sentence showed up—‘You saw with your own eyes that Xiao Bu was made into a clay sculpture. Your body is frozen in fear.’”

“Xiao Bu?”

“Yes, all the victims in the game seem to share the name, Xiao Bu.”

“Understood, then what happened next?”

“The damn game keeps trying to challenge the player’s humanity. I could only see as the drunken man closed in on Xiao Bu, and then the screen said—‘Xiao Bu felt the cement solidify her body, and she was changed into the artist’s newest creation.’”

Fan Chong paused, and he raised his head. His eyes were red. “After the previous experience, after Xiao Bu’s death was announced, I went online to search the news. As I expected, on 11th October last year, in Room 104 of a certain building on Li Wan City’s West Street, a strange art piece was discovered! The killer was apprehended. However, the police did not catch the artist but the owner of Room 104, the landlord.”

“They got the wrong person?”

“At least that’s what the game said. I tried to go anonymous to reflect on this online, but there was no response.” Fan Chong had a sad face. He still had things that he had not gone through.

“Two murders already... too many things are involved in this.” The more he listened, the more Chen Ge felt this game was different.

#### **Chapter 504: Key Detail!**

“The first ending, Xiao Bu was taken away by the woman in the red raincoat and became her daughter; the second ending, Xiao Bu was turned into a sculpture, becoming the artist’s creation. These two were undoubtedly bad endings.” There was a helplessness in Fan Chong’s voice. “The save reloaded, and Xiao Bu woke up again in her room. I controlled her to begin the game for the third time.”

Fan Chong was a gamer lover, and this game had a weird attraction to him. He was both afraid and curious about it. “Unlike before, I chose to turn to the East Street, which was comparatively older. The buildings on the side were gray, the walls were spotted, and the roads were complicated.

“The game was incredibly free. It was an open world where deadly traps were laid everywhere. As the player, you have no idea what kind of scary things you might run into or how you will die.

“After playing the game for some time, I realized a problem. In this game, humans are scarier than ghosts. Running into ghost might not mean absolute death, but running into a human definitely led to death.” Fan Chong shared his thoughts.

“The game maker’s thoughts are rather narrow. Perhaps this is related to his personal experience.” Chen Ge told Fan Chong to continue. “What happened to Xiao Bu on her third try?”

“I controlled Xiao Bu to wander the street. When she passed past an apartment building, a very thin man ran out from the stairs. He seemed to be in a hurry to leave the town. If this was any other game, this would have been a very normal NPC, but in this game, as long as the character was alive, there had to be something wrong with them.

“The person ran past Xiao Bu, and a window appeared. ‘Why would they need so many children? Damn, the police are coming. I knew I should not have accepted this case.’

“After the man left, two choices appeared on screen again—enter the stairs or continue moving past the building.

“Due to curiosity, I chose to enter the stairs. The apartment’s corridor was filled with rubbish, and the place looked old. I controlled Xiao Bu to get to the rooftop and realized that the door to the rooftop was open.

“There was a small garden on the rooftop, but all the vegetables and flowers were all dead. There were several large water tanks next to the garden. They were perhaps used by the tenants to pickle stuff, and each water tanks had a large boulder resting on top of them.

“Initially, I did not think too much of it. The rooftop was windy, so perhaps the boulders were used to stop the lids from flying away. However, when I passed the one of the tanks, there was another window on screen. ‘Xiao Bu heard the sound of a phone coming from inside the water tank.’



“I knew I had probably triggered some kind of event. I controlled Xiao Bu to find the tools to move the boulder away.” Fan Chong’s expression became sad. “You have no idea what is inside the water tank.”

“Is it a boy?” Chen Ge’s expression also changed. This third story was exactly the phone spirit’s story! The poor boy that was stored inside the water tank at the rooftop, that was the phone spirit.

Fan Chong looked at Chen Ge with surprise and then nodded. “There was a boy whose body got twisted when he was shoved into the tank. The boy was hugging a phone.

“The face was green and purple, and his skin was greyish white. When Xiao Bu found him, he was already dead. I controlled Xiao Bu to remove the phone from the boy’s body. The call was from the boy’s mother. At the time, I accepted the call, and perhaps this action triggered some event. Footsteps came from the corridor, and the man who had run out the building earlier poked his head out from the door. The expression on his face was scary. He strangled Xiao Bu and shoved Xiao Bu into a water tank.

“Xiao Bu was shoved into the water tank—that was the third bad ending.” Fan Chong did not want to continue anymore. He felt like this game was a torture and used the worst method to interrogate humanity.

After hearing Xiao Bu’s third ending, Chen Ge thought for a long time. He put the water in his hand away and told the man seriously, “Fan Chong, I think you should report this to the police. I’ll go with you.”

The boy whom Fan Chong had found in the water tank was the phone spirit. All the details matched perfectly. Chen Ge also noticed another thing. When the phone spirit’s murderer ran into Xiao Bu, he said one thing. *Why would they need so many children?*

This sentence revealed a very important detail. There was a darker secret behind the child kidnapping! The real culprit was probably the person who had turned the whole of Eastern Jiujiang into a ghost town!

*The creep who killed the phone spirit should still be inside the jail. Looks like I need to travel to the police station today.*

Chen Ge needed Captain Yan’s help if he wanted to meet the murderer.

*A game is hiding so many cases; Eastern Jiujiang is much scarier than Western Jiujiang.*

After comparing the two places, Chen Ge realized that all the scary scenarios at Western Jiujiang were limited to a particular location. This might have something to do with his parents. It was different for Eastern Jiujiang; all the scenarios were interconnected, and they kept expanding in the dark. It seemed that there was even a hidden force that was pushing it along. The final result was, in the day, Eastern Jiujiang looked normal, but at night, the line between man and ghost started to blur.

*I just want to stably expand my Haunted House, but if I allow them to expand freely, it’ll eventually affect me. Chen Ge gave himself a reason to strike first. There are good and bad people, and it is the same with ghost. After the Haunted House upgraded to Maze of Terror, it can now house more Red Specters and baleful Specters. After dealing with all the bad ghosts, I can provide a place to stay for the good ghosts.*

Chen Ge and Fan Chong fell into thought, but they were thinking different things. Several minutes later, Fan Chong opened his lips to say, "Boss Chen, I need some more time before reporting this to the police."

"Why do you need more time? The game is hiding murders; this is very serious." Chen Ge was confused.

"Let me think about it." Fan Chong seemed to be hiding some more secrets, and it was probably due to this secret that he had gone to Chen Ge first and not the police. The sun fell on his body, but Fan Chong could not feel warm.

"Okay then, take your time, but give me an answer within three days. If it's later, I fear something bad might happen." Chen Ge was really worried that Fan Chong was being targeted by something. After all, this game had recorded many cruel and realistic events.

"Okay." Fan Chong bit his finger. During his earlier visit, Chen Ge had noticed this habit about Fan Chong. He would bite his finger whenever he was nervous.

#### Chapter 505: Meeting

Chen Ge did not force Fan Chong to go to the police. He had to have his reason. The only thing that he could do was explain the situation, and it depended on Fan Chong to go to the police.

"Can you tell me about the fourth ending?" Chen Ge was interested in the game.

Standing under the sun, Fan Chong was quiet. His mind was a mess. "The fourth ending is more complicated. After experiencing three deaths, I had basically mastered the game's rules and setting. I explored the town for half an hour before I was killed. This fourth ending needs some time to explain. How about you come to my place tonight, and I'll let you see it for yourself?"

"That works." Chen Ge nodded. "Then you should rest here first. If you need anything, just call me anytime."

Then Chen Ge headed to the Haunted House. After completing the Nightmare Mission at Eastern Jiujiang's tunnel, the black phone had rewarded him with a new talent—Ghost Ear. So, even over such a distance, he could hear the conversation between Fan Dade and Fan Chong.

"Xiao Chong, do you really plan to hide the thing that happened at our place from him?" Fan Dade was worried. "The ghost in the game seems to have escaped. Even if we go to the police with something like this, they will not believe us."

"We'll wait and see what happens after Boss Chen comes tonight. I don't dare play the game anymore. Perhaps we can find a new owner for it." Fan Chong bit his fingers, and his brows were locked together. The brothers did not know Chen Ge had overheard their conversation. They were seated at the corner, quietly talking among themselves.

Lunch break was over, and Chen Ge threw himself back into work. At 6 pm, the Haunted House closed. Chen Ge had Xiao Gu go and find a new place nearby to move to while he stayed with Xu Wan to clean the Haunted House. When they were done, it was almost 7 pm.

After removing her make-up, Xu Wan picked up her bag, and as she walked past Chen Ge, she casually asked, "Boss, there's a new restaurant that opened up near our park, would you like to go with me?"

"I can't make it tonight; I need to go to the police station." Chen Ge saw no change in the girl's expression, so he did not think much of it. "I'll treat you next time."

"Okay, that's a promise."

"Of course."

After sending Xu Wan away, Chen Ge returned to the staff breakroom. He placed the comic and the recorder inside his bag. "Bringing the hammer to the police station doesn't sound so good. After all, I'm just going to ask some questions."

Holding the bag in one hand, Chen Ge locked the door and ran out of the park. When he was waiting for his car, Chen Ge took out his phone to call Captain Yan. The call was answered after three rings, which showed Chen Ge's importance to Captain Yan. "Captain Yan, this is Chen Ge. Did you catch the killers for the previous cases?"

"The cases with the eye-gouging have been cleared, and the culprit for the body inside the statue has surrendered, but the main suspect, Doctor Gao, is still missing. However, it's just a matter of time before he is caught. The whole city is under our watch, so he will fall into our trap eventually." Captain Yan was so busy, and it was not until two days ago that he had gotten the chance to rest.

"In other words, most of the earlier cases have been cleared?" Chen Ge saw a taxi coming, so he quickly waved.

"Why? Sounds like you plan to give us more things to do..." Captain Yan became alert. This fellow, Chen Ge, was too cursed; cases followed him everywhere.

"It's just a small thing. Captain Yan, do you mind if I come to the station to meet now?" Chen Ge entered the taxi.

Hearing Chen Ge, Captain Yan paused for three seconds before reacting. Even though he had predicted as much, he still found it unacceptable. "Wait a minute. Don't you think you have been paying the station too many visits recently?"

"Captain Yan, you don't know the issue. Earlier, I discovered a murder at Eastern Jiujiang, and the suspect has been surrendered to Eastern Jiujiang's law enforcement, but then I realized that the case is not that simple—it might be related to other cases." Chen Ge thought about it and added, "It's related to disappearances and child abductions."

When the words child abductions were mentioned, Captain Yan changed his mind instantly. "I'm at home now. I'll see you at the station in fifteen minutes."

"Okay." Chen Ge hung up and told the driver, "To the police station please."

After he said that, the driver started the engine slowly, but he kept glancing at Chen Ge through the rear-view mirror.

"Boss, is there anything on my face?"

“No, no...” The driver quickly turned his eyes away like it was a scary thing to talk to Chen Ge.

“Then why have you been looking at me?” Chen Ge did not think the driver would harm him—he was just curious about his attitude. The driver did not reply and focused on driving.

After paying, Chen Ge just got out of the car, and the driver quickly escaped.

“It feels like he doesn’t want to ferry me. Did I do something in the car that caused some misunderstanding? Is it because I’m coming to the police station?” Chen Ge thought about it, and it made sense. From a normal citizen’s eyes, who would go to the police station for no reason?

“Xiao Chen, an emergency came up for Captain Yan, so he might be late. Why don’t you brief me on what’s happening first?” Lee Zheng from Team one was asked to intercept Chen Ge. He was familiar with Chen Ge already although he had no idea why an inspector would get so close to a normal citizen.

Lee Zheng led Chen Ge into his office. He opened the computer and prepared a recorder and pen. “Tell me all the important things you know. If the reason is not enough, we won’t be able to help you meet the criminal.”

“Understood.” Chen Ge did not tell Lee Zheng about the game. Instead, he just described how the murderer kidnapped and murdered Tong Tong. When the police investigated a case, they found the murderer through clues, but Chen Ge’s investigation was the opposite. He had asked the phone spirit directly for the murderer. After knowing the murderer, he had collected evidence with that target in mind.

Lee Zheng, of course, did not know that Chen Ge already knew the killer from the beginning. He thought Chen Ge’s analysis was too creative, but the seemingly unrelated events were connected in some mysterious ways and managed to create an ironclad evidence chain in the end.

When Chen Ge was almost done, Captain Yan arrived. He came with good news. “I’ve already contacted the people at the prison. They’ve scheduled for us to meet the killer tomorrow 8 am.”

“Thank you, Captain Yan, but is it possible to move the meeting forward? I just have a few simple questions for him; I just need ten minutes.”

There were too many variables at Eastern Jiujiang. Chen Ge did not want to wait any longer; he planned to go there tonight.

## **Chapter 506: Reap What You Sow**

“That’s not impossible. We have procedures to follow.” Captain Yan picked up the record that Lee Zheng had made. “On the way here, I logged into the case file on the server, and the case you mentioned did have many loopholes.”

“There are many things hinging on this case, and I fear it is related to a large child kidnapping ring. That is why I’m so worried.” Chen Ge rushed through his words, but he did not reveal everything that he knew.

“It is because this case is so big that we have to be careful.” Captain Yan looked at the record, and his fingers tapped the table absent-mindedly. “The situation in the case is similar to what you described, but there is something that confuses me. When the killer was dropped at the door of the station, he was fully unconscious, and the doctor said that he suffered from great mental trauma...”

Chen Ge realized what Captain Yan was getting at, and he stressed firmly, “Perhaps that came from all the times he has kidnapped children, and the guilt has been eating at him.”

“Sounds like he was already half-mad when you caught him,” Captain Yan added this observation to the record.

“No matter who asks, that is my answer because that is the truth.” Chen Ge’s reaction was fact, and he knew what Captain Yan meant.

Nodding, Captain Yan put away Chen Ge’s written record and passed it to Lee Zheng. “Bring this along. I’ll go make a few more calls.”

Taking out his phone, Captain Yan left the office to make some calls.

“The old ginger is the spiciest.” Chen Ge looked at Captain Yan, and he realized something. When he was dealing with other officers like Lee Sanbao or Lee Zheng, when they came into a problem that they were not certain with, they would say that they had to wait for orders from above, but Captain Yan had never said something like that.

Three minutes later, Captain Yan pushed the door open. “Lee Zheng, go and get the car. We’ll go with Chen Ge.”

“Okay.” Things went smoother than Chen Ge expected. At 8:30pm, they reached Eastern Jiujiang’s prison. After showing the necessary documents, they were led by an officer to a prison cell.

“Ma Fu is temporarily in isolated quarantine. He’s half dumb and half mad, probably knowing he is going to get the chair.” The officer also knew why Ma Fu had been sent there, so he had no pity for freaks like that. “Be careful of your safety during interrogation. People on death row have nothing to lose.”

The few shared some words outside the cell. Ma Fu probably heard them because there were footsteps from the room and then loud banging sound on the door. “Help me! Let me out! They have returned! Ghosts! There are ghosts in this room!”

It was a middle-aged man’s voice, and the parts of his sentence did not add up.

“You’ll get used to it. When the man was first sent here, he did not even dare to use the covers and wear the clothes. Every night, he would lean against the wall and fall asleep buck naked.” The officer frowned at the memory.

“Didn’t dare to use the covers, afraid of wearing clothes?” This was the first time that Lee Zheng had heard something like that, and he turned to Chen Ge subconsciously. Chen Ge shook his head silently even though he knew what had really happened to Ma Fu. That night, after Chen Ge found Ma Fu, the phone spirit had used his power on Ma Fu to amplify the deepest fear in Ma Fu’s heart.

At midnight, Ma Fu, who was asleep in bed, had felt something moved under the cover. In his half-asleep state, he had looked under the cover seen an ashy child staring at him. He had woken up

immediately and pulled the cover back. His bed had been surrounded by children, all of them his previous victims.

The many faces and many hands had reached toward him and crawled under his skin. Soon, his whole body had been covered in children faces. The screams had echoed through the night. Those whom he had once hurt would eventually return.

“Stop making so much noise! Stand back!” the officer yelled into the room. “You might want to stand aside first. We’ll apprehend him for you.”

Three officers stood next to the door to prevent a possible accident.

“Please let me out! I beg you! Let me out! There are ghosts! There are ghosts in this room!” The middle-aged man kept using his head and his hands to knock against the wall. His mind was completely broken.

“What’s the point of knowing fear now? Why didn’t you think of this when you did the crime?” The officer held his fists, considering there were outsiders present. “Why don’t you wait outside? I’ll have people send him to the interrogation room in a bit.”

“You have an interrogation room here?” This was the first time that Chen Ge had spoken since he entered the prison.

“This is?” The officer did not have any memory of Chen Ge. The order that he had received was to aid the city police the best they could.

“My name is Chen Ge.” Ignoring the officer, Chen Ge walked to the door and looked inside through the steel window on the door. His pupils narrowed, and in a voice that was barely audible to the people around him, he said, “So, your name is Ma Fu.”

The middle-aged man suddenly stopped moving when he heard Chen Ge’s voice. He slowly raised his head, and when his eyes caught Chen Ge, he screamed like he was shocked and staggered back several steps.

“Ghost! Ghost!” His eyes filled with terror. His lips quivered, and he repeated the same word.

This shocked everyone present. Just one glance managed to scare the man so badly. Just who was this young man?

“Please open the door, I wish to have a chat with him.” Chen Ge stood at the door. The officer hesitated; he was afraid that something bad might happen. He worried that Ma Fu might die from fear inside the prison before the sentence arrived. The door open, and the three officers rushed into the room to apprehend Ma Fu.

“Ask your question. You only have twenty minutes.” One of the officers stood between Chen Ge and Ma Fu. “Make some distance. Here is good enough.”

“Okay.” Chen Ge knew more information from Fan Chong—Ma Fu probably had seen the mastermind at Eastern Jiujiang before. “Have you abducted a boy called Tong Tong a few years ago?”

“I can’t remember.” Ma Fu shook all over. He did not look like he was lying.

“Then, can you remember killing a boy and shoving him inside a water tank? You then used a large boulder to block the lid, right?” Chen Ge spoke slowly. His words were like a sharp saw, cutting through Ma Fu’s thread of sanity.

“I remember...” Ma Fu’s expression was conflicted.

“Tell me, who bought this boy from you? Tell me everything you know about this person!”

### **Chapter 507: Buyer**

The cell became really repressed, and the few officers felt uncomfortable. Honestly, they had quite a good first impression of Chen Ge, but why would the personality of this polite and sunny young man suddenly change?

“Answer me, do you still remember the buyer’s face?” Chen Ge rarely used this type of tone. His face was expressionless as his eyes zeroed in on Ma Fu. Ma Fu was curled up in the corner with his body shaking. He seemed to have remembered something scarier. His fingers dug into his skin, and he banged his head against the wall like he was trying to kill himself.

“We’ve asked him the same thing before, but whenever we brought up the buyer, he would become like this.” The officer placed his palm behind Ma Fu’s head and pressed down to stop the man from hurting himself.

Seeing the condition of Ma Fu, Chen Ge thought of a possibility—the buyer had done the same thing he did to Ma Fu. However, Chen Ge was trying to take revenge on the phone spirit’s behalf, whereas the buyer simply did this to stop Ma Fu from ever selling him out.

Walking into the cell, Chen Ge squatted down next to Ma Fu. Looking at this half-mad human trafficker, he whispered into his ears, “Did you remember something scary? I can see that your life is a whole misery, and death would be a release for you, right?”

Chen Ge’s voice lowered until only Ma Fu could hear him clearly. “If you don’t come clean, those children that you killed will come back to get you. I can already hear their voices, and they’re coming from inside your body. They are watching you every second of every day. Their faces look at you from under your skin. The sin that you have committed, they will make sure that you pay for them.”

Ma Fu desperately wanted to get away from Chen Ge, but since his shoulders were being pressed down by the officer, he could not move.

“Still refuse to say anything? In that case, I can only find ways to delay your punishment and stay a lot longer in this tiny room with them. Enjoy your life, we shall meet again.”

Just as Chen Ge was about to stand up, Ma Fu raised his head. The blood vessels on his face were popping, and his eyes were bloodshot. “I remember it now.”

“You remember it now?” The few officers were caught by disbelief.

“Lee Zheng, go get the recorder.” Captain Yan was the first to recover. He entered the room with Lee Zheng, and they surrounded Ma Fu. “Start talking.”

Ma Fu was collapsed on the ground, and he spoke with his head lowered. "I once talked on the phone with the buyer. The man was very cautious, and he was likely using some kind of voice changer because he sounded like a boy around eight on the phone."

"A boy?" Ma Fu's first words shocked everyone present.

"Yes, I don't know how he managed to get my number, but I was sure it was a customer." Ma Fu stuttered through his confusion, and his face was blanched. "He sounded like a boy, but the words he said were definitely not something a child would say. I have no idea whether someone was feeding him those words or he had practiced them before."

"You've not met in real life?" Chen Ge was more concerned about that.

"He's very cautious and changed several locations before telling me to bring the children to Li Wan City. When I arrived, he made a strange request. He agreed to raise the money, but he wanted me to stay in Li Wan City for three nights." Ma Fu did not sound like he was just telling a story.

"What happened next? Why did you kill that innocent child?" With Captain Yan there, no one dared interrupt the questioning.

"It was not easy bringing the kids to Li Wan City, and it was too big a loss to just leave. I thought about it for a long time before accepting the request." Ma Fu's expression was weird like it was a mixture of fear and many negative emotions. "During the first night, I had a dream where all the walls in the room were filled with children's handprints. Something was running before they coagulated into a shadow and stood beside me."

"Stop messing around." The officers thought that Ma Fu had gone insane.

"Let me talk." Captain Yan waved his hand. "The size of the shadow, height, and what it did inside the room, can you still remember?"

"The shadow..." The fear in Ma Fu's eyes heightened. "The shadow was as tall as I was, almost the same as well. I felt like it was just me. The dream felt very real, but when I tried to look at the face closer, it vanished.

"When I woke up the next morning, everything returned to normal. I thought it was just a dream, but the next night, the same dream happened. The shadow appeared again, but the scary thing was it came out directly from behind me like it had morphed into my own shadow.

"I saw it clearly, and I tried to call for help, but my body won't move. I could only watch as the shadow walked down from the bed to open the closet door. The kids that I had brought were locked in the closet. The shadow looked at the kids silently until I woke up.

"The morning of the third night, the buyer called again and told me to transport the kids to Eastern Jiujiang Ming Yang Residence Unit 3, Room 104. The residence was just next to Li Wan City, and it was not yet built. According to rumors, many weird things had happened since the project started, and for the sake of good luck, the residence was called Ming Yang<sup>1</sup>. You know what happened later. The police suddenly stormed the city, and the kid started crying nonstop like he was cursed..."



Ma Fu was lying on the ground and looked at the people out of the corner of his eyes. His story ended there.

“Lee Zheng, contact the people at the station immediately and tell them to check the address that he gave.” Captain Yan left the cell. He was afraid that he might hurt Ma Fu if he stayed. “In ten minutes, I need the details of all the tenants.”

“You done?” The officer turned to Chen Ge. Only he remained unmoved. After hearing what Ma Fu had to say, Chen Ge was reminded of the shadow monster that he had met outside of the fresh water plant. It was a reflection of Chen Ge like it had the ability to become a person’s shadow.

“Zhang Ya is hiding inside my shadow, could the monster have fought her that night?” Chen Ge did not have a clear answer. He did not plan to summon Zhang Ya for a small question like that either. What if she refused to return after that?

After leaving the cell, they did not walk for that long before Captain Yan received the call from the station. The information had been gathered.

“Ming Yang Residence is still under construction after seven years?” Captain Yan stopped moving as he read the message on his phone. He waved at Chen Ge. “Found the tenant of Room 104, his name is Jia Ming. We will investigate this further.”

“You already got the name? The efficiency...” Chen Ge paused in shock.

*Wait, Jia Ming? Isn't that Huang Ling's 'ghost' husband's name? But that isn't right! The thing with the phone spirit happened seven years ago, and at the time, Jia Ming hadn't been possessed yet...*

## **Chapter 508: Eastern Jiujiang Police Station**

“You know this man?” Captain Yan saw something on the change to Chen Ge’s expression.

“Last night, it rained heavily. One of my employees was stranded at the bus stop with Jia Ming’s wife. He called me for help, so I called a taxi to go fetch them and helped take Jia Ming’s wife home. That was how I met the man.” Jia Ming’s situation was rather unique, and he was related to the last bus on Route 104, so Chen Ge did not go into detail. Instead, he quickly changed the topic. “Can I see the information on Jia Ming?”

Captain Yan passed his phone to Chen Ge. It not only had Jia Ming’s phone but also his work history and the comments that his employers had for him. “Jia Ming once came to the station due to an altercation with a client, so we have his information in our system.”

Chen Ge accepted Captain Yan’s phone. Jia Ming was just over thirty this year. He had arrived in Jiujiang around ten years ago, and he had done many jobs in the past, but none of them had lasted long. However, the reason for his dismissals were not because he was not good nor because he had problematic personality. In contrast, Jia Ming, who had just arrived in Jiujiang, was honest and hard-working. His only weakness was that he was too stubborn.

The young Jia Ming was similar to Xiao Gu in a way, a straight shooter who did not know how to adapt. Because of that, he would accidentally offend people. When he was sent to the police station,

technically speaking, the fault did not lie with him. At the time, both he and his wife worked at an insurance company. One of the clients got into car accident, and the family demanded a settlement. However, based on the report of the accident, the client got into accident because he was driving under influence. Because of that, the company could reject the settlement.

Jia Ming followed the company's rules closely, but the client's family did not understand that. They would call daily to scold and insult him. In the end, they called people to create a fight at the insurance company. The client's family came from power. The manager closed the door and hid in his office. He tossed Jia Ming out to be the scapegoat. After he was beaten up and humiliated, out of self-defense, Jia Ming grabbed the scissors on the table and accidentally slashed the client.

That was when things had gone from bad to worse. The wound was very light, but the client called the police immediately. The police came to mediate, but it failed. The client would not rest until Jia Ming was arrested. The injury on the client was not serious, but the family refused to let it go. The company refused to compensate them, so this dragged on. The worst victim of all this was none other than Jia Ming.

To save him from the police station, Jia Ming's wife, Huang Ling, practically travelled to the station daily. After he left the station, Jia Ming quit his job out of anger. After that, Jia Ming's working life dropped into a weird cycle. He kept looking for work and kept quitting. He hated human interaction and became increasingly resistant to human conversation.

The misery did not stop there. Jia Ming got into a car accident and broke one of his legs. Since then, he had remained cooped up at home and refused to go out for work anymore. The information provided by police gave Chen Ge a fuller understanding of Jia Ming. Before he dealt with the ghosts, even though Jia Ming's life was not perfect, at least he had good morals and would not do something like child kidnapping.

"Did something go wrong? Why would the buyer select Jia Ming's home as the address?" Chen Ge returned the phone to Captain Yan. He was not defending Jia Ming; he was merely viewing this from an objective view. "Could this be a coincidence? At the time, Ming Yang Residence was still under construction, and few people stayed at the place. Could it be that the buyer just needed a random place to complete the transaction?"

"It's hard to say. Tomorrow, we will send someone to follow up on this case." Captain Yan put away his phone and led Chen Ge and Lee Zheng outside. When they were at the door, they saw an officer holding a bag of sweets as he headed to Ma Fu's cell.

"You guys even feed the criminal sweets?" As it was Chen Ge's first time at a prison, he thought that this was the place's rules.

"Why would we be so free?" the officer answered casually. "After Ma Fu recovers from his mania, he will ask for sweet. If we refuse, he will try to peel his skin off. After experiencing that a few times, everyone on duty now keeps several bags of sweets in the office just in case."

"Sweets can help with his symptoms?" Chen Ge thought about it and realized it probably had something to do with Ma Fu's past. Perhaps the children in his body were asking for sweets. After taking another

step, the phone in Chen Ge's pocket suddenly rang. "Huang Ling? Why would she call me at a time like this?"

"Your friend?" Captain Yan thought the name was familiar like he had seen it somewhere before.

Chen Ge shook his head. "She's Jia Ming's wife. The woman I dropped at her place with my employee last night."

"Why would she call you?" Lee Zheng asked.

"Perhaps just to thank me?" Chen Ge accepted the call before Captain Yan and Lee Zheng. "Hello? How can I help you?"

"Are you Chen Ge? Last night, did you call a taxi to head to Eastern Jiujiang?" An unfamiliar male voice came from the phone.

"I did call a taxi to Eastern Jiujiang last night. What's wrong?" Chen Ge thought the man's voice was very unfamiliar. He had not heard it before.

"We've finally got you. I'm calling from Eastern Jiujiang's police station. Please come over to us immediately!" The man on the phone was tough and loud. Even Captain Yan and Lee Zheng could hear him.

"You have to give me a reason for summoning me, right?" Chen Ge felt this was strange. He had been honest lately. Why would Eastern Jiujiang's police station summon him?

"You need us to remind you what you have done? Get over here now to assist the investigation!" Chen Ge planned to visit Ming Yang Residence that night, and he did not want to waste time. "I'm afraid that's not possible. I'm now at the prison, and this is not somewhere that I can leave just like that."

"The prison?" The officer did not expect such an answer from Chen Ge. "Okay, then you tell the people to call the prison director, Director Wang. No matter what, you have to come tonight."

"The prison director is not Director Wang but Director Bai." Captain Yan already recognized the person on the phone. He took Chen Ge's phone and said, "Tian Lei, this is Ol' Yan from the branch station. Chen Ge is now with me, what crime has he committed?"

"Captain Yan?" The man on the phone-startled, and his tone softened plenty. "Last night, when it was almost dawn, there was a taxi driver that called us saying he was abducted. He was supposed to be in Western Jiujiang, but when he woke up, he was in Eastern Jiujiang. The camera and driving record were all ruined, and we suspect that the culprit is someone antisocial but with high intelligence. After a brief investigation, we suspect the culprit is Chen Ge."

"Where are you getting all this information? Don't randomly accuse people without a clear investigation. This should be a misunderstanding. I'll bring him there with me in a bit." After hanging up, Captain Yan returned the phone to Chen Ge.

"Captain Yan, what happened?" Lee Zheng asked softly. He was quite good with Chen Ge.

“It was a call from Eastern Jiujiang police station.” Captain Yan’s expression was weird as he turned to look at Chen Ge. “A few days ago, Ol’ Lee complained to me that work at Western Jiujiang was too harsh, and he wanted to transfer to Eastern Jiujiang.”

### **Chapter 509: That Is the Man!**

Lee Zheng drove Chen Ge and Captain Yan to Eastern Jiujiang police station. On the way, Chen Ge did not say a word. Eastern Jiujiang police station had used Huang Ling’s phone to call him, meaning they had already interrogated Huang Ling, and Huang Ling had probably sold him out. He just worried that Huang Ling had also told them about the last bus.

The previous night, Huang Ling had driven the taxi back to Eastern Jiujiang, and the taxi driver had stayed inside the car. What happened to them later, Chen Ge did not know. Now that the driver had called the police, Chen Ge had to be prepared to not let things go down a route that would be unbeneficial to him. The three arrived at their destination in less than twenty minutes.

“Ol’ Tian, you sure are a hard worker. Even now, you’re still at work.” Once Captain Yan stepped into the room, he saw a group of officers chatting among themselves. He turned to address the officer who looked the most muscular.

“I’m sorry to have you make this journey.” Tian Lei told the officers next to him something and then walked to his office. “We’ll talk inside.”

“Okay.” Captain Yan and Lee Zheng followed while Chen Ge stood for a while in the lobby. The atmosphere there was different to Western Jiujiang Police Station where Uncle San Bao was posted. The place was neatly arranged, and there were two rows of chairs placed in the corner. Leaning unsteadily against the corner was a drunkard while there was an old man with a blank expression on the other side.

Of the two officers that had spoken to Tian Lei earlier, one of them was patiently conversing with the old man, asking him for his address, but the man only mumbled incoherent nonsense.

The other officer rolled up his sleeves and grabbed the mop to clean up the drunkard’s vomit. With a frown, he grumbled, “People in Western Jiujiang have heavy crimes every few days, and here, we are cleaning up vomit and taking care of drunkards and old people. We’re the police, not a nursery.”

“Pipe down. If the director hears you, you’re going to get it. You’re complaining that there’s no serious case? You have no idea how much people from Western Jiujiang envy us.” The other officer rubbed the old man’s frozen hands to help soothe him to increase the blood flow. It looked like this was not the first time that he had come across something like this. “Xiao Qing, after you’re done, go help me pour a glass of warm water for the old gentleman and grab me the blanket as well.”

“Don’t call me Xiao Qing!” The young police man placed the mop back and continued to grouse. “This is different from what I imagine a police officer’s life would be like.”

He walked to the water machine and saw Chen Ge. “Why are you still standing there?”

"I'm just looking around." Chen Ge walked past the young officer and added casually, "Actually I don't think you need to envy Western Jiujiang's police station. I have a feeling that things are going to get quite busy around here."

"I sure hope so, or else my limbs are going to get so rusted." The young officer looked at Chen Ge, and he felt he looked so familiar. As he opened the office door, several eyes fell on Chen Ge. Instantly, a familiar voice said, "That's him! That's the person who called my service last night! He wanted to go to Eastern Jiujiang's fresh water plant around midnight. I knew something was wrong with him!"

"If you knew something was wrong with me, why didn't you say it sooner?" Chen Ge was rather speechless. He was one of the victims as well.

"Police officer, you see? You see how arrogant and proud this man is!" The driver was not that old. He had been so scared back then, but he had calmed down now.

"Stop arguing." Tian Lei was tired. He did not expect Captain Yan would show up; this disrupted his plan. "Captain Yan, you've seen the written record, and we've checked the video surveillance at New Century Park's entrance. Last night, Chen Ge did hail a cab to get to Eastern Jiujiang."

"What about the video after that? Now the biggest problem is at the fresh water plant. The driver said that Chen Ge used some special method to knock him out, but what kind of method, he could not remember. If the driver cannot tell us what really happen, the entire accusation barely holds water." Captain Yan looked at the record and easily picked out the problems.

"The surveillance at the fresh water plant was all destroyed beforehand. I feel like this is a premeditated crime." Tian Lei took out another document. "This morning, we had the people from the tech department look over the driving record and camera inside the taxi. The damage was expertly done. The machine itself wasn't damaged, so this could be a high-tech criminal."

Captain Yan turned to look at Chen Ge and put the document down. "Does he look like someone who knows how to do that to you?"

"One can never tell. We cannot judge a book by its cover." Tian Lei insisted on his conclusion. Captain Yan knew that he would not be able to convince Tian Lei, so he turned to the driver. "On the record, you said that you fainted at the fresh water plant but woke up at an old residence in Eastern Jiujiang?"

"Yes." The driver was a good observer. He saw that Captain Yan was the leader, so his tone was reverential. "When I woke up, there was a paper note next to me. It had a phone number and these few words—My name is Huang Ling. I live on the 4th floor."

"This means you did not lose your money or your phone? The person was even so kind as to leave you a note and did not run from the responsibility?"

"Hey, you can't just brush it off like that!" The driver sweated. "I'm just a normal taxi driver. I was waiting in the car, and suddenly, I fainted. When I woke up, I was at a strange place. Who would be able to accept that so easily? And the person on the call, just talking about it made me mad. I never thought to call the police. At the time, I was so afraid, so I made the call. Guess what happened?"

Everyone turned to look at the driver. "What did the person on the phone say? Threatened you? Refused to give you compensation?"

“This is already beyond that. My god. I just made the call and barely said anything, and it sounded like there was a murder. A woman was screaming for help at the top of her lungs. Then before I can say a second word, the call was ended. Tell me, wouldn’t you be afraid if this happened to you?” The driver was agitated, and he got up from his seat.

“You said you called the lady? She was asking for help?” Chen Ge’s eyes turned serious and he also stood up. “Did you go upstairs to see if something had happened to the woman?”

“I don’t have the courage to do that. This is the thing that made me angry the most. I thought that there was a real murder, and when the police arrived around dawn, they went to the house to check. The wife suffers from a mental illness, and she was acting up last night.”

“I can prove that. We communicated with the woman’s husband.” Tian Lei told the driver to sit down and took out a bag from his drawer. There was a phone inside. “This is the mad woman’s phone. All the phone records have been deleted, but we discovered something weird.”

He looked at Chen Ge. “Why would the patient have your number as her first speed dial? What is your relationship with her?”

#### **Chapter 510: Ming Yang Residence [2 in 1]**

Chen Ge was silent as he fell under Tian Lei’s scrutiny. Then, he said something that shocked everyone there. “Last night, when my employee and I dropped Huang Ling at her home, she revealed to us that her husband was a mental patient with serious control issues.”

“The crazy person is not her but her husband?” Tian Lei put down his phone. “What evidence do you have to make that claim?”

“Huang Ling has been working to support the whole family. Her husband cooped himself up at home and rejected human communication. From how they both carried themselves, it is clear that Jia Ming is the one that has a bigger possibility of being a mental patient.” Chen Ge turned to Captain Yan. “Before this, I asked Captain Yan to investigate Jia Ming; you can ask Captain Yan for the details.”

“You have not seen them in person and barely investigated, so how could you make such a rushed conclusion? I’ve met both Jia Ming and Huang Ling already. Even Huang Ling herself thought she was sick, but you said it was her husband that is sick. Don’t tell me you know the patient better than she knows herself?”

Worried that there might be an accident, Tian Lei had rushed to Huang Ling’s home early in the morning after getting the report from the taxi driver. He did not see the so-called murder, and there was no domestic violence. There was not one trace of injury or wound on Huang Ling’s body.

“I still insist on my point of view. I feel like you have been tricked by Huang Ling’s husband. He was once a kind and gentle person, but people change. After being let down by life again and again, there is now a demon living inside his body.” Things had developed out of his expectations. Before Huang Ling could investigate, she had been taken over by the ghost. This triggered a sense of alarm within Chen Ge. “The opponent this time is very cunning; I shan’t let my guard down.”

Chen Ge and Tian Lei argued nonstop, and the taxi driver was confused. Who was the real mental patient? Who was lying? He never once considered that, but there was one thing that was certain—he was never going to drive to Eastern Jiujiang in the middle of the night again.

“Please, both of you. Quiet down.” Captain Yan wanted Chen Ge and Tian Lei to stop arguing. “Do you have the written records from Huang Ling and her husband?”

“We only have the one given by her husband. Huang Ling suffered from a mental breakdown last night. We were afraid of triggering her, so we just asked a few simple questions.” Tian Lei was stationed in Eastern Jiujiang, so he was more attached to the citizens there compared to those who came from Western Jiujiang. However, at times, attachment and kindness could cloud one’s objective analysis.

“The direction of your investigation was wrong from the beginning. It was Huang Ling who was with Chen Ge last night, and it was also Huang Ling who drove the taxi and left the note for the taxi driver. This woman is the most crucial part of the entire case.” Captain Yan dropped the record that the officers from Eastern Jiujiang had collected on the table. “Come, we’ll go to Huang Ling’s place now. I also wish to meet them in person.”

“You also wish to go? There’s no need. Just leave this case to us.” Tian Lei did not realize the severity of the issue that was hiding behind this case. He believed that their own officers could handle this case perfectly fine.

“Since I’ve run into this case, then I’ll just take a look. I can’t just walk away—that is not what a police officer should do.” Captain Yan opened the office door and walked out immediately. Lee Zheng and Chen Ge followed closely behind him. Soon, only Tian Lei and the taxi driver were left inside the room.

“Sir, what is happening now? Can I leave already?” The driver had already gave up hope that he would get any more compensation.

“Why don’t you come with us? You’re the victim; you should be there.” Tian Lei put on his cap and also walked out of his office. “Xiao Qing, Xiao Wen, stay back to look over the place. We might be working late tonight. If there’s an emergency, just call me.”

“Captain Tian, where are you going?” Xiao Qing had just cleaned up the floor, but the drunkard vomited once more.

“To solve a case.” Tian Lei waved his hand and led the driver out of the police station.

The two police cars arrived at Huang Ling’s place around 9 pm.

“Captain Yan, isn’t it a bit rude for us to show up like this without informing them?” Tian Lei jogged over after he got out from his car.

“Haven’t you informed them this morning already?”

“But the rules...”

The group reached the fourth floor and knocked on the door for a long time before they heard footsteps coming from inside the room.

“Who is it?” The man was very cautious and did not open the door immediately.

“We’re the police. Please open the door now to assist in our investigation.”

“Inspector Tian?” The door was pushed open, and a haggard looking middle-aged man pushed his head out. “Why did you come back? Didn’t you ask everything in the morning?”

“We’ll talk inside.” The few people all entered the room. Chen Ge followed at the back and kept his presence low. The place was not big, and it looked very spartan. The couch was old, likely a second-hand purchase. There was a stain on the coffee table, and a bag of fruit candy was sitting on top of it.

“Sit anywhere you want.” The middle-aged man looked much older than he actually was. He walked into the kitchen and came out with several glasses of water.

“Where is your wife? Is she doing better? Actually, we have a few questions to ask her.” On the surface, Captain Yan asked about Huang Ling, but in reality, he kept his gaze on the middle-aged man’s face to focus on the changes to his expression.

“She is feeling much better. I’ll go get her.” The middle-aged man walked to the bedroom door and knocked on it lightly. “Huang Ling, the police officers want to ask you something.”

Several minutes later, a woman who looked like she had lost all will to live dragged herself out from the bedroom.

“You’re Huang Ling?” Captain Yan studied the woman before him for a very long time. How she looked in person was so different from the picture. “Where did you run into Chen Ge last night? Why would you set his phone number as your no. 1 speed dial?”

“I cannot remember anymore. I cannot remember anything that happened last night.” The woman sat on the sofa, and she did not even look at Chen Ge to acknowledge his presence.

“You don’t have any memory at all?”

“No! No! No!” Huang Ling suddenly raised her voice, and she used both of her hands to knock heavily on her head. Jia Ming, who was closest to her, did not rush over to help immediately, but it was Chen Ge and Tian Lei, who were further away, that stepped up to the plate. They grabbed Huang Ling’s arms at the same time. “Please calm down!”

“I did not see anything! I did not see anything last night!” Huang Ling was weirdly agitated.

“This was how she reacted when we arrived this morning. She would act up whenever we brought up anything related to last night.” Tian Lei leaned back to inform Captain Yan after Huang Ling calmed down slightly. “She was already a sick person. She probably was traumatized last night, and it exacerbated her condition.”

“There has to be a trigger that caused this change in her.” Captain Yan turned to look at Jia Ming, who stood to the side. “What did you do last night?”

“I was staying at home the whole night. When Huang Ling returned, she was already acting strangely like she was being threatened by someone. The condition was similar to what happened earlier. Whenever I tried to ask her what happened, she would hit her own head heavily.”



After Jia Ming said that, he silently looked around the room and added, "What happened to them last night, you should ask the taxi driver and the creep called Chen Ge. They were together last night."

Jia Ming was very familiar with his wife's condition. After Huang Ling stopped struggling, he picked up a candy from the table and placed it in Huang Ling's mouth. Weirdly enough, once the candy entered the woman's mouth, Huang Ling calmed down almost immediately.

"She likes candy?" Captain Yan and Chen Ge noticed this detail, and they were both instantly reminded of Ma Fu, whom they just met at the prison. When Ma Fu was acting up, only by feeding him candy would he be able to calm down.

"But the candy is not medicine, right? Why would it have this calming property?" Captain Yan was confused, but Chen Ge next to him had a brief idea already. Ma Fu was able to calm down after eating the sweets because several children's souls had entered his body. The children seemed to be interested in the candy. Following that vein of thought, Huang Ling's body might be playing host to one or several 'children'.

"It's just a very normal candy. If you don't believe me, you can take a few to conduct tests on it." Jia Ming then picked up the bag of candy and gave it to Captain Yan. Captain Yan did not accept it but reached out to pick out one candy. "One is enough. Thank you."

Huang Ling finally settled down. Captain Yan did not have any questions for her anymore. He had Lee Zheng help her back to the bedroom to rest. He and Tian Lei asked Jia Ming a few more questions. They only prepared to leave around 11 pm.

"Thank you for your cooperation. We will definitely uncover the truth." Captain Yan walked at the front. After the other officers left the room, Chen Ge only moved away his gaze that had been staring at the bedroom door. Now, only Jia Ming and Chen Ge remained in the room, and the room temperature was drastically dropping.

"My friend, how can I help you? Do you have any question you want to ask?"

"It's nothing. It's not simple for you to take care of a mentally-unstable woman by yourself." Chen Fe tapped Jia Ming's shoulders lightly. He did not say anything else and headed out the door. After they were downstairs, Lee Zheng took out his phone and silently walked near to Captain Yan. "When I sent Huang Ling back into the bedroom, I snapped a few pictures of the interior. There doesn't seem to be any problems. This Jia Ming doesn't have a motive to commit this crime."

"Jia Ming is definitely related somehow to Huang Ling's mental illness," Captain Yan said firmly. "When Huang Ling was acting up earlier, Jia Ming was closest to her, but he just stood there, not doing anything. There were many similar details."

"However, based on Tian Lei and his team's investigation, all of the neighbors only had good thing to say about Jia Ming. They thought that he was a very good guy. Haven't we looked through this man's working history? No matter how you look at it, he is a good person. Why would someone like this torture his wife until she went crazy?" Lee Zheng had studied criminal psychology before. The change in human character has a process and symptoms. Jia Ming's performance was different from the thing that was described in the books.

“Will a good person be good forever?” Captain Yan looked at the candy in his hand before opening the wrapping.

“But a good person will have a moral compass in their heart, and they will not do things that are too over the line.”

“That’s where you’re wrong. When a good person loses their moral compass, they will become even worse, falling into the endless abyss.” Captain Yan placed the candy inside his mouth and added an observation seemingly out of nowhere. “This is because he knows the candy is no longer sweet.”

Opening the door of the police car, Captain Yan gave Lee Zheng one final order. “Your team has done a very good job solving the case of the eye-gouging murderer. Team two can temporarily take over the rest of the case. I want you and your team to silently investigate the case of Jia Ming and Huang Ling.”

“Captain Yan, isn’t this case under the Eastern Jiujiang’s police station’s jurisdiction? Isn’t it a bit over the line if we go ahead and butt in?” He did not think that the case was small, but Lee Zheng said so because he was worried that the people from Eastern Jiujiang Police Station might have some comments.

“That is why I told you to carry out your investigation in the dark.” Captain Yan’s fingers tapped the edge of the car window, and his countenance slowly turned serious. “Keep your eyes open. I have a feeling this is related to a very big case.”

“It shouldn’t be. Eastern Jiujiang has always been peaceful.” Lee Zheng also turned serious. He knew that Captain Yan was not one to joke around. “It has been peaceful, yes, but now...”

Before Captain Yan could finish, the door opened, and Chen Ge, who had just gotten down the stairs, very expertly crawled into the police car. “Sorry I’m late.”

“It’s fine. Lee Zheng, we’ll go back to New Century Park to drop Chen Ge off first.” Lee Zheng and Captain Yan both stopped talking about the earlier topic.

“Thank you, do you mind driving faster?” Chen Ge said. He still had something else to do that night. After the police left, he had touched Jia Ming’s body. He wanted to use the ghost on his person to test out the enemy. However, after he laid his hand on Jia Ming, Chen Ge had realized that other than Zhang Ya in his shadow, he did not carry any other employees with him. He had left his backpack at the haunted house.

Chen Ge was unable to command Zhang Ya, and he was afraid that his action might alert Jia Ming, so he prepared to return to New Century Park to grab all of his equipment and turn back later, using the most direct method to get to the bottom of the truth.

The police car had not started when an old lady walked out from the stairs. The old lady walked slowly to the car and tapped lightly on the car window.

“How can I help you?” Captain Yan opened the car door and stepped out.

“Sir, my son bought me an apartment at Ming Yang Residence. It has been several years already since then, but I still am unable to move into that house. Can you ask around to find out when the place will be completed?” The old lady sounded so saddened that one was unable to say no.

“Ming Yang Residence? Okay, I will help you ask around. Please return to your room. It’s getting late, and the winds are strong.” Captain Yan walked the old lady back to her room and returned to the car. “Go and get Tian Lei. He should be more familiar with this place.”

Lee Zheng called behind him, and Tian Lei got out from his police car and raced to Captain Yan. “Captain Yan, are you looking for me?”

“How much do you know about Ming Yang Residence?”

Tian Lei shook his head. “The Ming Yang Residence project has been inactive for many years already. The tenants come and create trouble every year, and we have to send out our people to talk to them and tell them that we pity them. We know that most of them have used all of the saving to buy this place, but this is something that can’t be helped.”

“Something that can’t be helped?” Captain Yan raised his head.

“There have been three investors. The first one died from illness, the second one got into a car accident when the place was half-built, and the third one decided to commit suicide by jumping off the half-finished building in the middle of the night. Rumors started flying around that the place is cursed, so no one dares to take over anymore.”

“All three investors met a bad end; this shouldn’t be a coincidence.” Captain Yan thought about it and told Lee Zheng, “When we get back, go and pull all the records on Ming Yang Residence.”

“Okay.” Lee Zheng gave an okay sign.

“Captain Yan, I suggest you stay away from this. That Ming Yang Residence is a hot mess; anyone who gets too close to it will be unlucky.” Tian Lei seemed to have experienced that himself.

“Also, you. I need a file from you as well.” Captain Yan raised the car window and ignored Tian Lei, who stood next to the car with an unhappy face.

The car engine started. After they left the area, Captain Yan suddenly turned to look at Chen Ge and tossed out a random question. “Chen Ge, did you know Jia Ming before this?”

“No,” Chen Ge answered on reflex.

Captain Yan nodded, and his expression softened. “You’d better watch over yourself. I have a feeling that Jia Ming has a strange hostility against you. During the questioning, he kept coming up with ways to push the blame on you.”