

Horrors 511

Chapter 511: Room 104

“Blame me?” Chen Ge felt like it should be because Jia Ming felt threatened by him, and that was why he used these dirty tactics on him.

“Just be careful. We’ll handle the bigger picture, and more than that, the trust I have in you is not something that can be shaken with a few words.” Captain Yan’s words were a huge comfort to Chen Ge. “Please don’t intervene in the things in Eastern Jiujiang. Leave it to us.”

Probably he was still worried, Captain Yan added, “I’ve already arranged special people to take over. Just wait for the good news.”

Chen Ge nodded, but he was already planning the action tonight. Huang Ling was innocent. Letting her stay with the devil worried Chen Ge. The man might do something even worse to her. The police car drove out the residential area. They drove for about a hundred meters when Tian Lei’s voice came through the walkie-talkie.

“Captain Yan, I just communicated with the officers at the station, and we found something weird.”

“Speak.”

“Nine years ago, Jia Ming was working at Qin Tai Insurance. The client that he had the altercation with was one of the three investors for Ming Yang Residence—Jiang Long.” Tian Lei sounded weird on the phone. It was different from before. “Several years ago, Jiang Long’s car got into an accident with the last bus on Route 104. Jiang Long died on the spot, and I’ve informed you earlier, the second investor that died in an accident was him.”

“But how is that related to Jia Ming?”

“Let me continue. The coincidence is that, several years later, Jia Ming got into an accident as well, and the accident was again with the last bus on Route 104. We saw the video from back then and realized that it was Jia Ming who voluntarily walked forward to be hit by the bus. And the location that he was hit was exactly the same as where Jiang Long was hit!” Tian Lei’s voice slowly grew like he had made some great discovery.

“In other words, this Jia Ming is the actual mental patient?” Lee Zheng did not quite get what Tian Lei was saying.

“That I can’t tell. What I know is that Xiao Jing just looked through the registration for the tenant, and the address for the second investor, Jiang Ling, has been changed to Ming Yang Residence Room 104. The actual owner of this place was Jia Ming.”

“Someone changed Jiang Long’s registration?”

“Who would be so bored to change a dead person’s registration? Plus, the man is dead—why would someone care about his address?” Neither Tian Lei nor Lee Zheng understood it. Of everyone there, only Chen Ge who looked out the window had a flash of understanding cross his eyes.

The address on Jiang Long's registration changed to match Jia Ming's; this could represent that the ghost that escaped from bus 104, the ghost that took over Jia Ming's body, was none other than Jiang Long. He became the new owner for Room 104.

Jiang Long got into an accident with the bus on Route 104; that should just be a coincidence. After the accident, Jiang Long's soul was trapped on the bus, and he wanted to use Jia Ming as his replacement. That would be how a normal person think, but having completed many missions on the black phone, Chen Ge had a more rounded thinking compared to most; he would not give up any small details.

All three investors of Ming Yang Residence met bad endings. If these were all accidents, then it would be too much of a coincidence. This means that all that killings are probably premeditated. Chen Ge was more and more curious. *Why would Jiang Ling target Jia Ming? Is there something special about Jia Ming, or was he just unlucky to have bought Room 104?*

Jiang Long and Jia Ming were like Heaven and Earth in terms of background and wealth, so Chen Ge could not understand why Jiang Long would choose Jia Ming.

"Room 104? Someone has entered the registration server? Stop the car!" Captain Yan had been silent, and he rarely made his thoughts known, but once he did, there was no need for discussion. "Tian Lei, help me drive Chen Ge back to New Century Park. Lee Zheng and I will go to Room 104 to check the place out."

"Captain Yan, it's too dangerous to go to that place now. I feel like we should make a decision after daybreak." Chen Ge's fingers fidgeted. Without the hammer, he just felt like something was missing.

Captain Yan shook his head. "Never underestimate your opponent. If Jia Ming is really problematic, then when we showed up earlier, we will have already tipped our hands. He might do something tonight to destroy the evidence."

"But we're not familiar with Eastern Jiujiang, and there were so many weird things happening at Ming Yang Residence. Isn't it a bit reckless to go there with just the few of us?" Chen Ge asked.

"You know the meaning of the word, reckless?" Captain Yan turned to look at Chen Ge before turning away. "This should be you goading me into action, right?"

Chen Ge really did not expect Captain Yan to view him in such a manner; he was feeling quite helpless.

"Enough, you go and take Ol' Tian's car, leave the rest of us." Captain Yan had Lee Zheng open the door, but Chen Ge refused to leave. They were all adults, and they were quite helpless seeing Chen Ge act like this.

"The damn young man doesn't look so muscular, but why is he so powerful?" Tian Lei tried to yank Chen Ge out of the car, but he was unable to move the man.

"Captain Yan, please let me go with you. I really am afraid that you might run into danger."

"No matter the case, we always put the citizens' safety first. In other words, your safety is more important than the case, understood?"

"Quick, get out from the car. This is the first time I have seen someone refusing to leave the police car."

After two more minutes of back and forth, and under Chen Ge's insistence, Captain Yan finally relented. The two police cars turned to head to a more isolated part of Eastern Jiujiang. Ten minutes later, they arrived at Ming Yang Residence. This place was close to Li Wan City.

"This sure is in the middle of nowhere." Once he got out from the car, Chen Ge sighed. The area was covered with grass the old buildings stood in the dark. The front two buildings were almost ready, and the two buildings at the back were mostly just starting the construction.

"This is such a waste." Tian Lei pulled out the police-use flashlight. "I've been here before, so I'll lead the way."

They had just moved in with Chen Ge felt something wrong. "Isn't Ming Yang Residence completely abandoned? Why would there be light?"

With his Yin Yang Vision, even over such a distance, Chen Ge could see the lights coming from the building at the forefront.

"This place has no water and electricity. Who would live here?" Tian Lei was equally confused.

"Stop guessing, we'll know once we get there." Captain Yan and Tian Lei walked into the residential area. Chen Ge looked at the weak light and fell into deep thought.

Chapter 512: The Dolls Inside the Room

"The construction was stopped halfway, and the electrical circuit has not been completed, so there isn't electricity. Then, what is giving out light in the building?" The four buildings stood in the dark. The lights that came from the building were like eyes that were looking at the approaching people.

Lee Zheng saw that Chen Ge did not follow, so he turned back to yell, "Chen Ge, don't stay too far from us, and keep your guard up!"

"Understood." Chen Ge knew that Lee Zheng was only worried about him, so he rushed to his side. "I just thought it was weird. The buildings have no electricity, so why are lights coming out from the room?"

"There could be many reasons. It could be reflection of the moonlight, or perhaps there are squatters. No matter the reason, we have to be careful when exploring abandoned buildings like this." Lee Zheng seemed to have a bad memory. "Abandoned factories or warehouses in the countryside for the favorite places for people with illegal backgrounds to hide. There are also crazy madmen who prefer these kinds of places to conduct their weird rituals. I once oversaw a case where the killer has been stealing dead bodies from the hospital, attempting to summon a legendary monster from a myth. In the end, we apprehended the person inside an underground sewer."

"Summoning a ghost inside an underground sewer? Has he considered how the ghost feels?"

Chen Ge's answer stumped Lee Zheng. He did not know how to continue. "You sure have an interesting mind. Never mind, I'm not going to chat with you anymore. Just understand that it's dangerous here."

Ming Yang Residence was huge. The four unfinished buildings stood before their eyes, and they looked like four tombstones. The night breeze swayed the grass and leaves. Looking up from the ground, there was an ominous feeling, like the four buildings could collapse at any moment and bury them alive.

“Shall we head toward the light first?” Lee Zheng suggested. “The closest light is on the second floor of the first building. Since we’re going to pass it anyway, why don’t we go check it out?”

“Yes, Room 104 is on the tenth floor. As we go up, we can check all the rooms once. Perhaps we might find some clues.” Tian Lei was very familiar with Ming Yang Residence; he had once handled the cases of the investors.

“Room 104 is on the tenth floor, huh? How did they arrange the room number?”

“The front two numbers are the floor number, and the third number is the room number, so Room 104 is the fourth room on the tenth floor,” Tian Lei explained to Chen Ge.

“But there are four buildings here. Does that mean that there are four ‘Room 104’s?”

“The numbering of the four rooms on the tenth floor of the first building is one to four and the second building is five to eight, so the condition you mentioned doesn’t happen.”

“The room numbers of the different buildings are linked together?” Chen Ge was just curious, but what Tian Lei said gave him some idea. “Why would the designer do that?”

“Apparently, it was a request of the investor. They even planned to build bridges between the buildings to connect the four buildings. They planned to make Ming Yang Residence the landmark in Jiujiang, but that obviously did not come to be.”

“Shush, we’re preparing to enter the building now.” Captain Yan held the flashlight and was the first to enter the dark building.

“To join four buildings together?” Chen Ge remembered this. There had to be a reason behind the death of all the investors.

After they entered the stairs, the temperature noticeably dropped. There was a chill in the air like every breath that they took was filled with cold air. There were many rivers that cut through Eastern Jiujiang, so this place had comparatively more moisture than other places in Jiujiang. Lichen grew on the walls, and the plaster was wrinkled. As one’s finger cut across it, one could peel back a large piece.

“The light came from this room.” The group turned the corner of the second floor and stopped before one of the rooms.

“Lee Zheng, go in first. Tian Lei will cover you.”

“Yes.”

The three officers did not carry their weapon, so they were very careful. Lee Zheng entered the room with the flashlight raised. There were weird pictures on the wall, and trash littered the ground. These things proved that someone had been staying there.

There was a small sound coming from inside the bedroom. A glass bottle tipped over.

“Come out now! I’m the team leader of investigation team one—Lee Zheng! Come out of the room now and cooperate with the investigation!” Lee Zheng shone the light into the room, and soon, a homeless person walked out from it. He looked around sixty, and his beard and hair grew together. He was wearing a tattered sweater and coat. Even with two layers, he was still shivering. He was wearing a frayed cap and gloves with his fingers showing.

“Name and age, why are you here?” Perhaps Lee Zheng’s uniform was useful because the homeless person did not resist and act honestly.

“My surname is Zheng. Full name... cannot remember anymore. I’m the seventh of the family.” Probably because he did not speak often, the man spoke very slowly. “I just want to find a place to hide from the rain. Since the building is abandoned, I stayed here. If you want me to move, I will leave now.”

“Lee Zheng, put the light down.” Captain Yan walked into the room and looked at the man for a long time. “The weather is so hot, but you’re so wrapped up—aren’t you hot?”

“No, I’m very cold.” From the man’s answer, his mind was still working. He did not appear to have any mental problems. However, he was wearing so many layers like he was already in the winter.

“Cold?” Captain Yan looked into the bedroom that the man had vacated. “Stand there by the wall. We won’t hurt you. For the sake of your safety, I suggest you don’t live here alone. Jiujiang has many shelters; you can seek help there.”

Captain Yan took one step forward, and the man became nervous.

“You’re afraid?” Captain Yan moved his eyes away from the man’s face and suddenly picked up speed to run into the bedroom.

“Don’t!” The man wanted to stop him, but it was too late. Lee Zheng and Tian Lei stopped him. “Don’t go in! You’ll all die!”

“Be quiet!”

The man screamed, and his face filled with terror. He was unable to stop Captain Yan and Chen Ge. The bedroom was small, and it was thick with a bad stench. Broken dolls were piled up in the middle of the room.

“It wasn’t me who killed them. I just accidentally found them; I have not killed anyone.” The man started to struggle like he had gone insane. “I didn’t kill anyone! It’s not me!”

“These are all dolls, so of course, we know you didn’t kill them. Quiet down.” Tian Lei pressed the man against the wall, and when he turned around to look at the broken toys, he also took in a cold breath.

Chapter 513: Cooked

“Are you blind? Those are not dolls; those are dead bodies! Let me go!” No matter how hard the homeless man tried to struggle, he was unable to escape from Lee Zheng and Tian Lei’s grasp. He finally quieted down after a few minutes.

“No wonder he’s homeless—the man is mad.” The man stopped resisting, so Tian Lei relaxed. However, Lee Zheng acted different from Tian Lei. He took out a handcuff to apprehend the man.

“Hey, Ol’ Lee, it’s just a mad homeless person. Is that really necessary?”

Lee Zheng kicked the trash next to them aside to reveal several hidden, sharpened metal sticks. “Don’t let your guard down. These people could do anything when they’re pushed to their edge.”

Seeing those hidden weapons, Tian Lei stopped talking. He remembered that the man had been trying to move that way when he was struggling earlier.

“I’m not crazy! I’m trying to save you!” the man screamed stubbornly.

“Stop wasting our time. You picked these broken parts from the landfill, right?” Lee Zheng looked at the dolls. After the toys were abandoned, they had lost their charm. They turned weird and ugly. The broken faces were filled with loneliness and sadness.

“No, they’re not toys. They were already here when I came! They have nothing to do with me!”

“You’re still trying to argue?” Tian Lei kicked the metal rods aside to make sure the man would not be able to reach them. “There are so many rooms here—why did you stay in one that is filled with broken toys? You are a sick man.”

The man looked like he was really wronged, and he did not sound like he was lying. “Many have died here, so Ming Yang Residence is cursed. All the tenants that moved here became cursed; everyone in Eastern Jiujiang knows that. If not for the storm and the lack of any other shelter nearby, I would not have come here.”

“Stop trying to change the topic! Answer my question! Was it you who collect these dolls?” Tian Lei’s voice turned up.

“No, when I entered the room for the first time, the room was already filled with dead bodies.”

“Then why did you stay here?” Tian Lei already stopped correcting the man.

“You can’t leave after you’ve seen the dead bodies! They will follow you, and it’s pointless to run!” The man screamed like mad. “Now you’re stepping on their bodies, but one day, they will step on your cold, dead bodies!”

“Ol’ Lee, what do you think?” Tian Lei was perturbed by what the man had said. If they were someplace else, he would not have felt that way, but standing there, he just felt unsafe.

“You believe a mad person? Keep a close eye on him. I’ll go ask Captain Yan.” Lee Zheng entered the bedroom where Captain Yan and Chen Ge were investigating. “Captain Yan, the man is mad. He said that these dolls are dead bodies and touching them will get you cursed.”

“Well, it’s too late for that.” Captain Yan pointed at Chen Ge helplessly. This boss of a Haunted House was more zealous than a cop. Without flashlight, he squatted down to inspect each doll closely. With a light cough, Captain Yan asked, “Xiao Chen, did you find anything?”

“Most of these dolls are made by plastic, and the date of production ranges across many years. They should have been collected from all over the place by the homeless man. But I’m curious, why would he break them?” Chen Ge picked up the head of the doll. “Look, the cut is obviously made by knife, or else it would not have been so clean.”

“Perhaps it’s to vent?”

“It’s not that simple. I studied toy design in university, and I know a thing or two about the materials. These parts have problems from the material to the coloring.” Chen Ge placed the head next to Captain Yan. “Look closer, what is wrong here?”

Captain Yan looked at it and eventually said, “The color is faded?”

“Yes, these parts appear like they have been cooked. The color fell off, and the edges were messed up from the heat.” Chen Ge looked at the room of dolls and said to himself, “Who would cook these dolls for no reason?”

Captain Yan did not get it either. After taking the pictures, he walked out of the room. “Let’s go to Room 104. That room is the key to solving the issue.”

The homeless man saw Captain Yan walk out, and he screamed again, “You saw the dead bodies. They will find you tonight!”

“You keep saying they’re dead bodies. Then does this mean that this is a human dead in your eyes?” Chen Ge took out the doll head, and when the man saw it, he slammed against the wall. His arms were in a defensive posture before his chest, and his expression was frozen in fear like he was really looking at a decapitated head.

“Take it away! Take it away!”

The man did not look like he was acting. This was out of Chen Ge’s expectations.

“Can he really see something?” Chen Ge initially did not think much of the homeless man, but when he saw this reaction, he thought about it again. He moved the head away and followed the man’s line of thinking. “If these are all dead bodies, do you know who killed them?”

“I didn’t kill anyone! I don’t know anything! He only asked me to stay behind to watch over these bodies; I don’t know anything else!”

“He?” Both Chen Ge and the three officers were shocked before surrounding him. “Who is he? Why would he ask you to look after the bodies?”

“I can’t say, or I’ll die! I will die! He will kill me and all of you!” The homeless man collapsed to the ground and started wailing.

“The murderer sure is something else to threaten a homeless man that is already so senior in age.” Tian Lei looked at Lee Zheng and Captain Yan. “Shall we bring him in?”

“Have an officer from your station to bring him back for interrogation.” Captain Yan looked at the homeless man. “I’ve seen such a reaction many times from murder witnesses; he might not be lying to us.”

“Mur... murder?” Tian Lei did not imagine a report from a taxi driver could lead to a murder. He quickly called Xiao Qing, who was on duty.

“Lee Zheng, remember to take all the picture evidence. Give me the flashlight. We’ll go to Room 104 first.” Captain Yan and Chen Ge walked out of the room and walked up the stairs. From the stairs, Chen Ge saw an electric bike move past the two parked police cars as it entered Ming Yang Residence.

“Captain Yan, I saw someone enter the area. The person was riding an electric bike. Doesn’t seem like he’s here to avoid the rain.”

“Be careful. After we confirm Room 104 is fine, we’ll leave immediately.” Captain Yan walked ahead. No one stayed, and soon, they arrived at the tenth floor.

Chapter 514: He Arrived

“Stay close to the wall and away from the rails. Be careful of your step.” Captain Yan found Room 104 and entered it. The biggest difference about this room was that there was plenty of old furniture inside, and the wall had many children’s drawings.

“It feels like a family of three once lived here.” Chen Ge followed behind Captain Yan. With his Yin Yang Vision, he did not need the flashlight and started wandering about the room. “What is this?”

Beside the wooden table, which was missing a leg, there were many dried apples, and there was one under the table that had a bite mark on it. “The tenant here must have loved apples.”

Chen Ge used a piece of paper to pick one up. The apple had gone rotten, and seeing this, he was suddenly reminded of the apple that he had seen inside the underground morgue. *Apples seem to have a special meaning to dead people. If I have time, I should consult the few doctors.*

“Look at this!” Tian Lei, who had been silent, suddenly opened his lips. He shone the flashlight on the left wall of the living room. The cracked wall had a weird painting on it. Two adults and a girl were talking, and not far away from them was a boy drawing.

“These two adults should be the parents, and that makes the girl their daughter. The boy was the one who painted on the wall.” Lee Zheng tried to analyze the painting. “So, it’s actually a family of four.”

“When we interviewed Jia Ming, didn’t he say that they didn’t want kids because of Huang Ling’s physical condition?” Tian Lei raised his brow. “Did this man find a mistress, or was he lying to us?”

“He definitely lied to us, but he probably wasn’t lying when it comes to the issue of children.” Captain Yan walked out from the kitchen. “The house isn’t completed. It wasn’t Jia Ming and Huang Ling who lived here, and the kids probably had nothing to do with them.”

“Are they homeless children?” Lee Zheng stood next to the window and looked out. “But why would they choose this room? The building does not have elevator—wouldn’t it be easier to stand on the ground floor?”

“The answer is probably hidden in this room.” Chen Ge tilted his head back to look at the ceiling, and he did not look away. The three officers saw that and also looked up. On the ceiling of Room 104, someone

had used a sharp stone to carve out four human faces. They were placed at all four cardinal directions. They surrounded a girl in the middle, and the four faces bit on her limbs. "What is this painting trying to represent? It doesn't look like a children's painting."

The faces of the two adults had the names Jiang Long and Zhang Chuyu. The two children's faces had the names Jiang Bai and Jiang Xiaohu. "Jiang Long? Isn't that the name of the investor who jumped from the building? Why would his name be here?"

"This looks like the name of his family." Tian Lei thought about it and said, "This was probably the owner venting their frustration on Jiang Long. After all, he is the developer."

"As angry as people can be, they would not vent on a dead person. Furthermore, in this picture, it is Jiang Long who bites someone else." Captain Yan looked at the painting. "The handwriting looks young, like it's written by a child. But a child wouldn't have reached the ceiling, and there are no stools in the room."

The three officers were thinking of various possibilities while Chen Ge entered the bedroom alone. He had to control his expression. Only he knew that Jia Ming had been taken over by Jiang Long, and the discovery of Jiang Long family's name in this room only heightened that suspicion. Jiang Long had taken over Jia Ming's body for this Room 104.

But what is so different from this room? Chen Ge looked for a long time but found nothing. He stood up and looked out the window. Standing there, he could see the buildings in the distance.

Li Wan City?

In the dark, Li Wan City had no lights, like a dead city.

I really don't understand what Jiang Long is after. If Captain Yan did not insist of coming here, I would have detained Jiang Long already. Chen Ge looked at the other buildings, and he realized a problem. Four buildings were placed at the four cardinal directions, and they all had nineteen floors. The tenth floor was the middle and had four rooms, and Room 104 was on the westernmost side.

The layout of the four buildings matched the location of the four faces perfectly. Jiang Long's face was at the western side, and it matched the location of this Room 104 nicely. Chen Ge walked out to look at the painting. *Why would they bite the girl? If each face is related to a building...*

Chen Ge did not understand it, but he walked to the most west side of Room 104. After moving the trash away, Chen Ge realized that the color of the ground was different. He found some items to clear the area, and under the clueless gazes of the police, he cracked the top layer of cement.

It really is hollow. Chen Ge reached his hand into it and felt like he had touched something. It was not soft but not hard either. He pulled the thing out. When he raised his hand, everyone was stunned.

The shadow morphed into the shape of a woman, but Chen Ge did not realize that. He looked at the thin arm, which was wrapped in food wrap, that he had pulled out. With difficulty, he turned around to look at the officers. Honestly, he did not expect that it would be hiding an arm.

"Don't move! Put it down slowly!" Captain Yan took over the scene. He walked closer to Chen Ge with the flashlight raised. He took the arm, and with just a glance, he was certain about something. "Tian Lei,

have your people come here in twenty minutes! Lee Zheng, contact team one and have them come over to Eastern Jiujiang Ming Yang Residence now to take over the body dismemberment case!”

“Yes, sir!”

After giving the order, Captain Yan’s face softened. He asked for a cigarette from Lee Zheng and passed it to Chen Ge. “Are you okay? Why don’t you go for a smoke break?”

“I’m fine.” Chen Ge did not accept the cigarette, and his face was ugly. “Captain Yan, do you still remember the question that I asked Inspector Tian when we first arrived here?”

“What question?”

“Why the number for this room is 104 when it’s on the tenth floor. If that’s the arrangement, how are the rooms for the other buildings numbered?”

“Yes, I remember. What about it?” Captain Yan was befuddled.

“Four buildings, and all have nineteen floors. Each floor has four rooms, and normally, they should be numbered with four digits. Like the first room on the eleventh floor at the first building should be 1111, but according to Inspector Tian’s explanation, these four buildings are one entity, and the developers even planned to connect them with bridges. This means that the numbering is completely messed up.” Chen Ge tried his best to explain.

“What are you trying to say?”

“Look up.” Chen Ge pointed at the painting above them. “We found the body’s left arm at this building that was on the west side. It matches the painting perfectly. If the four buildings are a whole entity, then doesn’t this mean that Ming Yang Residence represents the girl that was bitten by human faces in the picture? And her other parts are hidden in the corresponding rooms of the other buildings?”

Chapter 515: Professional

Hearing Chen Ge’s analysis, the officers were shocked. Chen Ge did not normally act like he was much of a quick thinker, but whenever he was at a crime scene, he would come up with discoveries like he was born to fight crime.

“Go, we’ll need to go to the other buildings to see.” Captain Yan took the arm. They rushed down the stairs to get to the second building. Like Chen Ge expected, they found another arm in the room on the tenth floor of the second building.

“Take the picture first; don’t ruin the scene. When the killer buried the body, they might have left some evidence behind.” After Lee Zheng took the pictures, they rushed to the third building. The building was only half completed, and the stairwell did not even have a railing—one wrong step, and it would be a long way down.

“Be careful!” The group climbed up the stairs, and it took them quite some time before they arrived at the tenth floor. When they did, they were greeted by a surprise. They searched all the rooms but could not find the body. However, they did find signs of the wall being pried open in one of the rooms.

“Someone came before us?” Chen Ge touched the edge of the wall and was reminded of the e-bike that came earlier. “Captain Yan, do you remember I told you someone arrived on an e-bike? That person could be the killer! It was him who took the female body’s legs away!”

“Go to the fourth building now!” The group ran to the fourth building, but they were still too late. The killer’s target was clear and knew what was important. After he took the legs, he had left immediately and given up the arms.

“Risking the chance of being exposed, he came back to take the legs. Looks like there is conclusive evidence on the legs,” Tian Lei analyzed, but Captain Yan stood in the middle of room with a dark face.

“Stealing the body parts while the police is around, this killer sure is brave.”

Chen Ge picked up the pieces from the ground and tried to piece them back. “The person came with professional tools. There’re hammer and gouges. But the question I have is, how did the killer know we’re coming tonight? Does he have a spy at Ming Yang Residence, or was the killer one of the people whom we’ve met tonight?”

Chen Ge had ninety percent confidence that it was Jia Ming who came to steal the body parts. Only Jia Ming knew that the police were going. There was another detail; Jia Ming’s home had an e-bike. He had gotten into the accident when riding one.

Captain Yan understood Chen Ge’s hint, but he had his own consideration. “The eye-gouging case and the dismemberment case, both these cases have a similarity—they’re both very ritualistic. Could the culprits be related somehow?”

“There shouldn’t be a relation. The MOs are so different.” Chen Ge was surprised by Captain Yan’s instinct. Li Wan City’s door going out of control had something to do with ghost stories society, and the change to Ming Yang Residence was technically due to Li Wan City, so if they were really splitting hairs, this case might really be related to the society.

Twenty-five minutes later, the people from Eastern Jiujiang Police station arrived. Four police cars stopped within the area. Since this was the first murder within the past year, many officers arrived, and almost all the officers on duty were called over.

“Inspector Tian, we’ve arrived!”

“Get into groups and listen to Captain Yan’s orders.” Tian Lei walked to Captain Yan. “Captain Yan, my people have arrived. There are three teams in total.”

“Team one, go and look up the nearby surveillance; focus on someone riding an e-bike. Team 2, stay to seal up the crime scene and start collecting evidence. Team 3, I need you to go keep a surveillance on these people.” Captain Yan gave a list, and it included Jia Ming and Huang Ling.

Chen Ge was standing right next to them. He planned to add more blame onto Jia Ming, but after seeing Captain Yan’s arrangement, he held his tongue. “Captain Yan, what do you need from me?”

“We’ll inform you when we have the result tomorrow. After all, this is the police’s job. You have done more than enough tonight.” Captain Yan turned to tell Tian Lei, “Get someone to drive Chen Ge home. There are no taxi at this place, and he has worked hard tonight.”

“Xiao Qing! Come over here. I have a mission for you.”

“Yes, sir!” This was Xiao Qing’s first heavy crime case, so he was rather nervous.

“You see that man? Drive him home.” Then Tian Lei left with Captain Yan, leaving behind the young officer.

“We meet again.” Chen Ge greeted the young man with a smile. “Told you things will start to get busy.”

Xiao Qing thought Chen Ge’s smile was rather scary. “Stop joking. Where is your home? The inspector told me to drive you home.”

Chen Ge looked at the time. His life officially began after midnight, so he might not be able to sleep after he got home. “Wait a minute, let me make a call.”

According to Chen Ge’s original plan, he had intended to meet Fan Chong after dealing with Ma Fu. Who would have thought so many things would happen? Taking out his phone, Chen Ge messaged Fan Chong.

To his surprise, Fan Chong was still awake, and his reply came several seconds later. He said that the game would be creepier after midnight, so if Chen Ge was not afraid, he could go now. After getting Fan Chong’s agreement, Chen Ge had Xiao Qing drive him to Fan Chong’s place.

“The first residential area at Li Wan City’s West Street? There is such a place? You don’t know the name of the residential area?” Xiao Qing looked online for a long time before he found the exact location and drove Chen Ge there. The place was close to the countryside, so it was quite isolated. The only good thing was the fresh air. The car drove into Li Wan City, and at the end of the road was a series of old buildings.

“You live here?” Xiao Qing looked at the empty Li Wan City, and he felt weirdly unsettled.

“This is my friend’s place. Since I’m in Eastern Jiujiang, I decided to pay him a visit.”

“Visiting at midnight? You sure your friend won’t get mad?”

“It’s fine. Thank you for the ride. Be careful on the way back.”

Chen Ge waited until Xiao Qing left, and he thought, *Now that I think about it. It is quite interesting that Fan Chong’s home is in Li Wan City.*

He made the call, and with Fan Chong’s directions, he entered the first building.

“Boss Chen, you really have come. Quick, come up.” In a tank top, Fan Dade came down to welcome Chen Ge. “My brother has been playing for a whole day already. I feel like he’s coming down with addiction. You have to help me.”

“Okay, I will.”

The two came to the top floor. The family on the right had a mirror the size of one’s palm on the door while the door on the left was half-open. Fan Dade led Chen Ge to the left door. He yelled into the bedroom, “Fan Chong, Boss Chen is here!”

Hearing that, there was a commotion from the bedroom; it sounded like something had fallen. Then the door flew open, and a Fan Chong with dark circles poked his head out. He looked so tired. Chen Ge closed the living room door. He raised his head to look at the mirror on the opposite door. He took a picture on his phone and entered the room. "Fan Chong, how is the game coming along? Any new discoveries?"

"The plot jammed. This game is really not for humans. I feel like I'm coming down with depression playing it." Fan Chong dragged Chen Ge into the bedroom, grabbed the can of cola that was left on the table, and took a healthy gulp.

"Jammed?" Chen Ge thought about it. "How about you let me try? I can be considered someone who designs real life horror games. Tackling it from the perspective of a designer, perhaps there might be a breakthrough."

Chapter 516: Scarier Than a Murderer (1)

Inside the cluttered bedroom, there was hardly a place to stand. The floor was covered with clothes and books, and the coffee table was piled high with empty cans and food boxes. The only place that was relatively clean was the computer table.

"Fan Chong, you've been playing for too long. Try to do some exercise by cleaning the room."

Chen Ge walked to the computer table carefully and looked at the screen. The dark screen had a sentence written in blood—You killed Xiao Bu.

"This looks like it's written by a child." Chen Ge had seen similar handwriting in Room 104.

"Don't wear the headphones when you're playing; the music will just disturb you." Fan Chong was very experienced. He clicked on the screen, and the words slowly disappeared. With a flicker, the screen returned to normal. "The controls are very easy; you just need to click with the cursor. Do you want something to drink? How about a can of coke?"

"Sure, thank you." Chen Ge's attention was fully focused on the game. The game's style was clearly aimed at very young girls; the main color palette was pastel, and it looked very cute and warm. "It's quite amazing that you were able to clear a game like this."

"I was just bored." Fan Chong looked rather embarrassed. "Bro! Help me get two cans of cold coke!"

A while later, Fan Dade came in with a tray. "I made two dishes of simple food. You can eat it if you're hungry."

After putting down the tray, Fan Dade did not look like he was leaving. He also turned to look at the computer screen. "Boss Chen, you have to be careful when you play. The game has many jump scares—don't be fooled by the cute images."

"Don't worry." Chen Ge did not touch the things on the tray. He had a habit of not eating other people's food after he left the Haunted House. Moving the mouse, Chen Ge soon got used to the control. He controlled Xiao Bu to get out of bed and leave the room.

With Fan Chong's explanation, Chen Ge very quickly grasped the map of the game. The town in the game was almost identical to Li Wan City in real life. After ten minutes, Chen Ge found Xiao Bu's friend's home. He was about to open the door to the dungeon when a chat box appeared—"The friend's house is so big. Should I go take a tour of the second floor?"

This should be Xiao Bu's inner monologue. After Chen Ge saw that, he turned to ask Fan Chong, "Have you been to the second floor?"

"The only thing noteworthy is the friend's certificate from winning a contest. I've clicked the entire surface using a blanket search." Fan Chong sounded very certain.

Chen Ge thought about it and still controlled Xiao Bu to go to the second floor. The wall with the brightest paint had a certificate hanging on it. Clicking it with the cursor, the chat box popped up again—"The certificate is awarded to student Jiang Xiaohu for his good performance and good behavior."

Jiang Xiaohu? Isn't that name of Jiang Long's child? I saw this name inside Room 104 earlier! Chen Ge stared at the screen for a long time before he recovered. "Only a certificate in such a large room, what is the purpose of this?"

He could not understand it. He controlled Xiao Bu to go back down to the first floor, opened the hidden door, and entered it. The cute style immediately turned creepy and dark. The floor was filled with the petals of wilted sunflowers. Between the crevices of the tiles on the ground, there seemed to be pairs of eyes looking at him. It felt like a sweet dream turning into a nightmare.

"Boss Chen, you have to be careful starting from now. Danger can come from anywhere, and you'll die if you're not careful." Fan Chong started to worry. Gripping the can, his eyes were glued to the screen. After exiting the dungeon, there was the bus stop and the woman in the red raincoat. Fan Chong had already cleared this part, so Chen Ge only needed to follow his guide.

"You said that you got stuck—what part is it?" Chen Ge passed the few challenges successfully. Escaped the woman in red raincoat, hid himself from Ma Fu, lost the drunken artist—under his control, Xiao Bu seemed to come alive and moved agilely.

"After dark, it's better to not wander the street, or you'll die from mysterious circumstances. It's better to hide inside the buildings." Fan Chong pointed at the top of the screen. "You see the color of the sky? It's gray now. When it's completely black, then it's dark. The game pays close attention to such details."

"Then what should I do now?" Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu and stood at a junction. She seemed lost.

"Based on my precious experience, there are ten minutes until night. You have to find a safe place for Xiao Bu before dark. I got stuck here." Fan Chong put down the can and scratched his head. "You can't enter normal houses. I tried many places. After dark, you can only enter the hotel and Xiao Bu's own apartment building in this city."

"Then, couldn't you just let her go home?"

"There's a dead body at her home. There's a female ghost living next door. Inside the grass at the bottom of the house, there's a murderer dismembering his victim. I've tried many times, and there's only one ending if I go home, death." Fan Chong's eyes were red. "After dark, the game's difficulty increases tenfold; there's no way of escape!"

“That’s rather harsh. Then we’ll go to the hotel.” Chen Ge kept calm. He was counting the time.

“It’s even worse at the hotel. The owner is a crazed murderer in disguise. The chef is also a mental patient. Other than Xiao Bu, all the tenants there are insane.” Fan Chong vented everything. “This afternoon, I tried to choose the hotel. In the end, I was chased by the boss for twenty minutes. The game designer is heartless. Once Xiao Bu is touched, she’ll die, and the player only has one life. After you die, you need to start again.”

“Therefore, this is a game that is working against itself?”

“The only way that I can think of to clear this game is to play a night of hide and seek with the boss and leave the hotel at dawn. Other than that, there is no other way,” Fan Chong suggested.

“Let me try.” Chen Ge looked at the watch. “There is seven minutes until night fall. Let me go to Xiao Bu’s home to take a look.”

He controlled Xiao Bu to come to a rather high-end residential apartment. After the style changed, the warm area became dark and cold. All the friendly neighbors had disappeared.

“You’ll die if you go home.” Fan Chong did not have the heart to look. Whenever Xiao Bu died, he had an indescribable sadness in his heart like the game had affected the man in real life.

There was rustling coming from the brush, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to move away from it. She entered the building directly. The elevator opened, and a person in a black rain coat came out. The man kept his head lower. A chat box appeared—‘You didn’t see his face, but you remembered his body size.’

Taking the elevator to her home, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to open the door. The box reappeared—‘You saw your stepfather lying in a pool of blood in the middle of the room.’

Entering the room, three options popped up.

- 1. Call the police immediately and ask the neighbor for help.*
- 2. Find a needle and thread to close the wounds and turn your stepfather into a doll.*
- 3. Ignore him and go to sleep.*

Chen Ge thought about it and chose the third option.

“Bro, be careful.” After he made his choice, Fan Chong quickly stood up. “Are you sure you want to pick three?”

“You already said that the neighbor is a female ghost, so one is out. Option two doesn’t match a normal person’s way of thinking, and in comparison, three sounds more normal,” Chen Ge answered seriously.

Chapter 517: Scarier Than a Murderer (2)

“Then you think that option three matches a normal person’s way of thinking?” Fan Chong held his forehead with both of his hands, and that pushed his hair up.

“It’s okay. Spending a night with a dead body, that’s still quite unacceptable for most people.” Chen Ge signaled for Fan Chong to sit down. “The real gentleman doesn’t speak when he watches others play chess. Stop talking, I’m going to be serious.”

The game did manage to arouse Chen Ge’s attention.

“Don’t play it willy-nilly! I suspect there’s a ghost living inside the game, and if you let it out, what are we going to do after you leave?” Fan Chong had a crying face. When he saw Chen Ge’s serious expression, he was worried.

“It’ll be fine.” Chen Ge ignored Fan Chong and controlled Xiao Bu to walk around the room. Her step-father’s body was in the living room, and it was still bleeding. After choosing three, Xiao Bu in the game seemed to not see the body anymore and started to walk around the room.

“Her home is quite big? I wonder what her parents’ occupations are, and why would her mother’s pajamas contain the key to the dungeon?” Chen Ge was more and more curious about the plot. He controlled Xiao Bu to walk into the toilet and the chat box appeared—‘You look at the mirror, and your reflection is missing from the mirror. You escape immediately.’

“The mirror doesn’t show Xiao Bu’s reflection... Is Xiao Bu a ghost, or is there a ghost living inside the mirror?” Chen Ge did not dwell on that for long. He went to the bedroom. The chat box reappeared as he opened the door—‘You hear the sound of someone tapping on the wall; it seems to come from the next door. What do you plan to do?’

- 1. The person sounds like she’s asking for help. Call the police immediately.*
- 2. Jump through the window to take a look.*
- 3. Ignore her and go to sleep.*

“Boss Chen, it is the female ghost who’s making the sound. Her head keeps bouncing on the wall. If you pick one, the female ghost’s voice will appear on the phone; if you pick two, half-way there, the female ghost will open the window to capture you; so you can only pick three, but three is a dead end as well. At midnight, the sound will disappear, and you’ll open your eyes to see the ghost’s head pass through the wall.” Fan Chong explained the plot to Chen Ge. “I’ve tried all the choices, and there’s no way you’ll survive.”

Chen Ge thought about it and chose three. “The ghost’s head will come over at midnight, so there’s still chance to struggle.”

After choosing three, Chen Ge found thread and a needle on the bedside table, the tools to make the step-father into a doll. “The details are very spot-on. Even now, I’m curious about the second choice.”

Chen Ge was feeling regret when another chat box showed up—‘The bell rang. Someone is standing outside the door.’

“Who would come at a time like this?” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to walk back to the living room door, and the box popped up once more—‘The person announces himself as the police. He received a report from the neighbor saying that there was a murder in the area. Someone witnessed a murder and he requested for your cooperation. What will you do?’

- 1. Open the door and help the police capture the killer to take revenge for step-father.*
- 2. Tell him you've already saved your step-father by turning him into a doll.*
- 3. Ignore him and go back to sleep.*

Seeing the options, Chen Ge thought about it before concluding, "The person outside the door probably isn't the police. He's probably the man in the raincoat from before, the real killer of her step-father."

"Impressive, no wonder you're a Haunted House designer." Fan Chong had played it through a few times before he realized that. He noticed that there was a big difference between him and Boss Chen. The difference was not in terms of intelligence but the agility of the mind. Boss Chen could always easily put himself in the shoes of the crazed killer.

"The man in the raincoat ran into Xiao Bu at the elevator, and now he wants to take care of the loose end, so he's come back to kill Xiao Bu. This matches how the game is set up." Chen Ge moved the cursor to the second choice. "If the step-father is saved, this might anger the killer, and after hearing that he's been exposed, he will go insane and force the door open. Xiao Bu is just a child, and there is no way she will survive. For the sake of safety, we'll go with three."

After hearing Chen Ge's analysis, Fan Chong had to nod. "Option three is best for now, but when midnight comes, the female ghost will come over from the other side, and there will be nowhere for you to run. You can only escape from home, and once you open the door, you'll realize that the murderer has not left."

"Meaning, after I chose option three, the murderer who pretended to be the police didn't leave and waited for me to come out at the door?" Chen Ge looked at the screen. "The design of this game sure is harsh."

"Yes, all the options lead to death; there is no survival." Fan Chong pulled on his hair in frustration.

"That's not entirely true." Chen Ge thought about it and controlled Xiao Bu to open the balcony window. He clicked on the backpack and dropped the thread and cloth that he had just obtained out the window.

"What are you doing?" Fan Chong was confused.

"Attracting the attention of the other murderer. Didn't you say there's a crazed murderer dismembering his victim in the grass?" Chen Ge abandoned the items calmly. He was unable to shout in this game, and there was nothing else around him, or else he would have dropped something heavier.

"Attract the attention of the other killer?" Fan Chong and Fan Dade were lost. This way of thinking was way beyond theirs.

"Most serial killers are lone wolves because they have a flaw in their personality. They will feel unsettled around other people; the only person whom they can trust is themselves. If two murderers cross paths under such circumstances, the biggest outcome is that they'll get into a fight between themselves." Chen Ge dropped many items when a man in a factory outfit got out from the grass. He raised his head to look at Xiao Bu.

After sharing a look, Chen Ge immediately controlled Xiao Bu to retreat. "Now it is the most crucial time."

“Are you sure that he will come up?” When Fan Chong played the game, he did not do this, so he had no idea what would happen.

“You don’t understand murderers. In that shared look, he was probably confirming the floor and the room that Xiao Bu was in. He will definitely come up to silence the witness.” Chen Ge realized something when he said that, and he added, “I am just familiar with a murderer’s MO, don’t get any misunderstanding.”

It was fine if he did not explain himself because once he did, both Fan Chong and Fan Dade shivered. Fan Chong was better, but Fan Dade was completely wrought with worry. He felt this the most as the spectator.

It was the same game. His own brother had played it, and he had almost gotten depression from the pain and despair; however, when Chen Ge played it, it was a different style completely—he was calm and confident. In fact, it felt like he found joy when he was playing the game.

Chapter 518: Scary Control

“When I entered the building, I memorized all the routes. There are only two ways to move up and down the floors—the elevator or the stairs.” Chen Ge looked at the screen and was very calm. “In a bit, we’ll see what happens, and we’ll pick the route that is further from the killers. Of course, the best result is they both kill each other.”

Then, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu into the kitchen.

“What are you looking for?” Fan Chong’s heart was at his throat. The game had entered a phase that he had not experienced before. This made him excited and worried.

“I’m looking for weapons like a cleaver or fruit knife. After the tussle between of the two murderers, the survivor will probably be injured as well. If we have a weapon with us, there’s a greater chance of survival.”

Fan Chong did not know how to reply to Chen Ge’s explanation; this man felt like he was playing a survival game rather than a horror game. Looking around the kitchen, Chen Ge did not find any sharp objects; there was only thread and cloth in the room. “Looks like the game prevents resistance from the player; the player can only hide and try their best to survive.”

The graphics of the game were so-so, but the attention to detail was impressive, allowing the player to enter the role of Xiao Bu seamlessly like they were the poor, defensive girl in the game. When Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to return to the balcony, the man in the factory outfit had already disappeared.

Several minutes later, there was a chat box—‘The sound of fighting comes from the door. The knife cut through skin, and it sounds like it punctured through a bag filled with water. Someone is running, and someone is chasing.’

“The two murderers are fighting among themselves!” Fan Chong was more excited than Chen Ge when he saw the chat box. “The two killers are too busy fighting among themselves; this is our chance!”

The killer that blocked the door had left. Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to open the living room door—the corridor was dyed red by blood.

“The blood trailed toward the stairs, so they went toward it. We’ll leave with the elevator!” Fan Chong’s heart jumped to his throat. This was not the time to dawdle—the killer could return at any moment.

“There’s no need to hurry. The sky is already dark outside. Even if we leave this place, where can we go? Didn’t you say that you’ll die mysteriously from walking through the street at night?” Chen Ge’s brain was turning. “Furthermore, if we take the elevator, the murderer will definitely come after us if he realizes that; it’s too dangerous.”

“Then what do you suggest we do?” From Fan Chong’s perspective, the ending was definitely death. The most that they were doing was delaying the time of death.

“The killers running to the stairs is within my expectations because taking the elevator requires waiting; he had to take the stairs if he wants to escape.” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to walk out from the room. Under the shocked gaze from Fan Chong and Fan Dade, they saw Xiao Bu stop at the door of her neighbor.

“What are you planning to do?” The brothers fixed their eyes on the screen.

“I plan to deal with the other killer as well.” Chen Ge clicked on the backpack and dropped the remaining thread and cloth by the door of the ghost neighbor. This shocked Fan Chong and Fan Dade. After a long time, Fan Chong asked, “Do you plan to create the impression that Xiao Bu has gone hidden inside the neighbor’s home, tricking the killer to go into the ghost neighbor’s place?”

“That’s the ideal situation.” After dropping the stuff, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to head to the stairs. The two killers ran down the stairs, and Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to stand at the corner of the landing. In other words, if the killers turned back, they would have a hard time seeing her.

“You sure are courageous.” Fan Chong sighed sincerely.

“There’s no other choice. You’ll be discovered if you stay at home, and the killer will chase after you if you take the stairs, so I have to take matters into my own hand.” Chen Ge looked at the screen. Ten seconds later, the man in the factory outfit ran up the stairs.

“Looks like the man in the raincoat lost.” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to lean against the wall. From this angle, he had a good view of the killer. What happened next surprised Chen Ge. The man was cleverer than Chen Ge expected, unlike a designed NPC. In fact, he felt like a real, cold-blooded maniac.

He did not enter Xiao Bu’s home immediately. He rushed to the elevator and kept his head on Xiao Bu’s home’s door. After some minutes, he returned from the elevator. No one had used the elevator, so he was certain that Xiao Bu was on that floor.

Holding a sharp knife, the man entered Xiao Bu’s home. He opened the door and saw the dead body. Interestingly enough, the chat box appeared at a time like this; it seemed to be the killer’s mumbling—‘F*ck! I have to deal with four bodies tonight even though I only wanted to kill one!’

The man entered the room. He could not find Xiao Bu, and the chat box reappeared—‘Where did the little girl wander off to? She saw me dismember the body, so she should still be in this building.’

The murderer searched the place but was unable to find Xiao Bu. He walked out from the room and discovered the broken cloth on the ground—'The girl has left the room? There is blood on this cloth. Did she try to bandage the dead person's wound? The trail of cloth stops here...'

The killer stopped for a long time before the neighbor's door, then he knocked on it—'This is the police. I received a report from the tenants that there has been a murder. Please open the door to assist with the investigation.'

The door did fall open. The murderer had a wicked smirk and entered the room, holding the sharp knife.

"It's time for us to make our move." Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to exit the stairwell. He clicked on the neighbor's door, and Xiao Bu closed the door.

The chat box bounced up—'You can hear screams for mercy from inside the room, but you are unaffected.'

Ten minutes later, a new tapping sound came from the door. On the screen, Xiao Bu stood at her neighbor's door. The girl in her mother's pajamas looked so innocent and cute, a complete contrast to the world around her. However, from Fan Chong and Fan Dade's perspective, this little girl was the scariest presence.

"You even closed the door?" Fan Chong drank the coke, needing to calm down. Fan Dade thought that Chen Ge was someone not normal, and he did not dare to breathe anymore watching him play the game.

"Don't worry, I'm just helping society clear away the rubbish." Chen Ge did not waste any time since night was falling. He controlled Xiao Bu to enter the stairwell and find the dead body of the man in the raincoat. He kept clicking on the body.

"What are you doing now?" Fan Chong had given up guessing Chen Ge's thought.

"To find the key or something useful. There's a ghost living next to Xiao Bu's home, so going back is impossible. If we can find the key on this man's body, then we'll go spend a night at the killer's home."

Chapter 519: Danger in the Dark

"Staying at the killer's place?" Both Fan Chong and Fan Dade turned to look at Chen Ge in unison.

"The most dangerous place is also the safest place." Chen Ge clicked on the dead man's body madly. When the cursor fell on the man's shirt pocket, a chat box popped up—'You ransacked the dead man's clothing and found a room card in the man's blood-soaked pocket.'

"You really found something!" Fan Chong leaned forward to the screen, and his face was colored by curiosity.

Putting the card in the backpack, Chen Ge kept clicking until the sound of a human head banging against the door became louder in the background. With regret, he walked down the stairs. "There's no weapon. An opportunity like this is not going to come again in the future."

Chen Ge clicked on the backpack to look at the room card. The pure black card was dyed with blood, and there was a number four written on the back. "Fan Chong, how many hostels and hotels are there in this town?"

"There's only one. The small hotel that I told you earlier where the owner is a killer and the chef is mental. All of the other tenants have been killed."

"Is the hotel far from the residential area?"

"Not far, it's just a street away, but are you sure you want to go there?" Fan Chong did not quite understand Chen Ge's thoughts. "Haven't we just killed all the murderers at the residential area? All we need to do now is stay put and wait until dawn breaks."

He saw that Chen Ge was still hesitating. He reached out to touch Chen Ge's shoulder. "Don't tell me... you're planning to use this little girl to deal with an entire hotel of crazed people?"

"How are we supposed to do that without even a fruit knife?" Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to walk down the stairs. The weird thing was that the banging sound in the background did not soften due to the distance but instead became louder.

"Then why are you leaving?"

"Focus on the background music. The tapping sound is made by the ghost; it has become more rapid. This means that after we lured the murderer into the neighbor's home, the ghost inside it has gone rampage." Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to come to the ground floor. He looked at the dark street. "Why would you die when walking down the street at night? When you were playing, was there any warning before you die?"

"There was no warning. You just die like that, like that is an invisible killer roaming the streets."

"Invisible killer?" Chen Ge shook his head. "The many scenarios of this game are inspired by things that happened in real life, so it shouldn't be too fantastical."

"Bro, the whole town is filled with ghosts and killers, isn't that fantastical enough?"

"That is still acceptable. At the very least, it doesn't go against the game designer's setting." Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to walk back and forth between the landing of the first floor and second floor. Fan Chong really did not understand what Chen Ge was up to. After holding it in for quite some time, he finally asked, "Boss Chen, what are you doing this time?"

"Things are not looking great." Chen Ge looked at the screen and commented, "A game's control normally decides how it will scare the player. Did you notice as the time of survival increases, the speed of Xiao Bu's movement increases?"

"Isn't that a good thing?" Fan Chong looked at Xiao Bu running back and forth and realized that she did move a little bit faster.

"The creator won't be so kind for no reason. This is a game where you can't run away from despair. The increase in Xiao Bu's speed means that we will run into something faster and scarier later." Chen Ge held his chin with one hand. "If I'm not mistaken, we'll be running away from more than murderers after midnight."

What Chen Ge said chilled Fan Chong's heart. "Killers, ghosts, traps, and death mechanisms that will trigger randomly, the creator doesn't want any player to clear the game."

"Don't just see this as a mere game, try to figure out why the creator created this game. Only by understanding what the creator is trying to express and by following his train of thought will we be able to find the answer." Chen Ge had been trying to do that. Fan Chong was playing the game, but he was trying to see things from the creator's perspective.

Every game would express an emotion, be it rage, resentment, or sadness. However, to his surprise, even though the game was deeply despairing, there was no emotion; Xiao Bu was like an emotionless robot. She would not feel fear or pain, nor did she worry about her family. She was very detached.

This main character, Xiao Bu, is very interesting. After seeing her step-father's body, she even thought of changing him into a doll; this isn't a normal child, but what exactly happened to her that made her this way? Is what I'm experiencing a reflection of what Xiao Bu experienced before?

Chen Ge was deep in his thought when Fan Chong drew him back to reality. "Then what should we do now?"

"Our most important mission is to survive this night. The stairwell is temporarily safe, so we should stay here for now. After the ghost from the neighbor's home comes out, we'll go to the hotel." Chen Ge's mind was sharp. "The only thing that worries me now is triggering the death mechanism when we cross the street."

"Do you really think that way? How come I feel like you're waiting for the ghost to come out and use your own body to lure it to the hotel?" Fan Chong asked softly.

"Well, you gotta do what you gotta do." Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to walk back and forth; he had mastered Xiao Bu's speed and walking method. "This is an open world game, so we can't stay here the whole night. After luring the ghost away, this area will be safe, and we can come back if necessary."

Through the background music, the sound of banging increased. Chen Ge moved the cursor to a comfortable space. "She should be coming soon."

As he finished, on the screen, a woman holding her own head appeared on the second floor's corner, and her shirt was red with blood.

A Red Specter? Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to run out the stairs. He did not forget to adjust the angle to observe the female ghost holding her own head. *Counting the woman in the red raincoat, this is the second Red Specter in this town.*

In the game, the ghost moved fast. Chen Ge became serious and controlled Xiao Bu to run crazily. Chen Ge managed to escape the residential area in a few seconds. There was no light on the street. Chen Ge narrowed his eyes, and he managed to see the roads with the use of his Yin Yang Vision.

He controlled Xiao Bu to run toward the hotel. When she passed a window, the window suddenly opened, and an arm reached out, attempting to grab Xiao Bu. Thankfully, Chen Ge had Yin Yang Vision. When he saw the arm, he changed direction immediately and escaped narrowly.

“The danger is lurking in the dark!” Sweat slid down Chen Ge’s face. Fan Dade and Fan Chong saw the dark screen and could not understand why this man was crazily moving the mouse and typing madly on the keyboard.

Chapter 520: Hotel

“What is he doing?”

“I have no idea.” Neither Fan Dade nor Fan Chong dared interrupt Chen Ge; they felt like Chen Ge had entered a certain state. In reality, Chen Ge did not have time for the brothers as well, he was fully focused on controlling Xiao Bu to escape the dangers hiding within the darkness.

The game creator was definitely insane. There were many threats hiding in the dark—the arms that suddenly reached out from the windows, the murderers that hid around the corner, the female ghost that chased after her, and the sound of laughing and barking coming from the some place. If it was just those things, Chen Ge would not have been so worried; the real thing that concerned him was something else.

After running for about half a minute down the dark street, Chen Ge saw something behind Xiao Bu standing up.

It looked like her shadow.

Has something entered her shadow? Or can the night in the small town awaken one’s shadow?

Chen Ge was in a highly intense state. He did not dare split his focus, but his mind kept flashing back to what had happened that night at the fresh water plant. All the ghosts in Eastern Jiujiang seemed to be related to that shadow.

When Xiao Bu’s shadow in the game stood up, it leaned on Xiao Bu’s shoulder to whisper something, and Xiao Bu’s speed started to slow down.

“Fan Chong, how far are we from the hotel?” Chen Ge asked in a hurry without turning his head.

“It’s just in front, the only building that you can enter at the end of the street!”

“It dares to be open at midnight; this hotel is also something else.” Chen Ge could already make out the shape of the old building in the dark. He controlled Xiao Bu and dashed left and right, the sound of mouse and keyboard reverberating across Fan Chong’s room. On the fifty-seventh second after she left the residential area, Xiao Bu arrived at the hotel. The female in red holding her head stopped outside the hotel and did not follow Xiao Bu.

“The female ghost doesn’t dare to come in?” When Chen Ge saw the ghost stop, he also paused Xiao Bu immediately. He controlled Xiao Bu to wander up and down the hotel entrance, trying his best to lure the female ghost in.

“Boss Chen, what are you doing? Taunting her?” Fan Chong really could not understand Chen Ge’s actions.

“If I don’t pull her into the hotel, how do you think we are supposed to deal with the owner? Xiao Bu is just a harmless child—how is she supposed to fight with these crazed murderers?” Xiao Bu danced at the door. The female ghost wanted to charge forward. The expression of the head that she was holding was conflicted.

Even as a Red Specter, she is so careful. The quality of the ghosts in Eastern Jiujiang sure is impressive.

Chen Ge tried for a long time, and eventually, the Red Specter lost her patience and prepared to head into the hotel. However, before she got in, a rotund man from the room next door suddenly charged out and slammed the front door shut.

At the same time, a chat box came up—‘There was a tapping sound on the hotel’s wooden door. It was unclear when the customer outside would have the chance to come in.’

Clicking the chat box, the second sentence appeared, and this time, it came with the profile of the fat man. It seemed to be him talking—‘Every night, some weird customers come visiting. They are very dangerous. I only have one bullet left in this hunting rifle left behind by dad, so we have to be careful.’

“Is this the mad owner that you mentioned? He looks quite friendly.” Chen Ge pointed at the screen. After entering the hotel, Xiao Bu’s shadow had already returned to normal. Based on Chen Ge’s analysis, this was a trigger added by the game designer. After dark, they were not supposed to wander the street for more than one minute or they would be killed by their own shadow.

“Don’t be fooled by his façade; this mad man has killed all the guests in his hotel. After you check in, there’s no checking out.” Fan Chong’s voice was trembling—this hotel owner had given him quite a deep mental scar.

“Tell me when the owner will go mad—at least I can be prepared.”

“I didn’t receive a room card. When I arrived at the hotel, the owner kindly gave me a free room.” Fan Chong started to explain his experience. “I stayed quietly in my room, thinking that I’d just stay there until dawn. However, several minutes later, the room door creaked open. I saw the owner standing outside the door with a cleaver. The insane thing was that he did not move, and he had a smile on his face. If you ignore him, he will open the door wider and wider until he charges into the room and stabs you!”

“That scary?” Chen Ge clicked on the screen. The owner had asked him whether he had a room card or not. Chen Ge clicked on the backpack and showed the card for Room 4, which he had taken from the man in the raincoat. The owner glanced at the card and told Chen Ge that there would be supper at midnight, and he hoped that all the guests would come.

“Supper at midnight? Are the ingredients the guests?” Chen Ge turned back to look at Fan Chong. “Have you experienced this scenario before?”

“I didn’t possess the room card, so our plot is completely different. I have seen all the other tenants, but when I saw them, they were already dead.” Fan Chong shrugged helplessly. He wanted to help Chen Ge, but he could not.

“What do you know about the other guests?” Chen Ge was quite surprised; this was an important find. “Tell me everything you know. Perhaps I can cooperate with the other tenants to find a way out.”

“The owner’s father has Room 1. There is a picture of him and the owner in his room. The man seems to possess the spare keys for all the room. There’s a woman in Room 2; she has a revealing outfit on, and if I’m not mistaken, she’s a woman of the night. Room 3 has a student who carries a school bag, and there’s a phone inside the bag. Room 4 is empty. Room 5 has a guest wearing a police uniform, but it’s unclear whether he’s a real cop or a fake one.”

“There’s even a police officer?” Chen Ge nodded. Fan Chong had given him plenty of clues.

“If there are other guests, the chance of surviving tonight has gotten much bigger.” He controlled Xiao Bu to go the room, but once he closed the door, there was a gun shot. Then the chat box popped up— ‘You heard the sound of gunfire. There seems to have been a murder at the hotel. What will you do?’

1. Find the owner to ask what happened.

2. Find the police to ask for his help.

3. Ignore them and go to bed.

The cursor wandered back and forth between the three choices, and Chen Ge prepared to choose the third choice after some hesitation.

“Why would you go to sleep at a time like this?” Fan Chong quickly stopped Chen Ge. “Don’t be reckless. This third choice is rather weird, and I fear it might affect the future plot.”

“There’s no need to think. The gunshot came from the hunting rifle, so it should be the owner who fired it. The first choice is a dead end.”

“Then, we can go find the police!”

“What police?” Chen Ge picked the third choice. “The owner only has one bullet in his rifle, and in these circumstances, he will definitely kill the police. In fact, he might be at the police officer’s room now.”

“The owner is inside the police officer’s room?”

“You need to see this from the perspective of the killer. The police officer might have a gun, and after obtaining that, he can continue to massacre the rest of the hotel guests. So other than the third choice, the other two are not acceptable.” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to open the door of Room 4 and run to Room 1, which was furthest from the police officer’s room.