

Horrors 521

Chapter 521: The One Trustworthy Person

The time between the choices being revealed and a decision being made was only several seconds. Chen Ge showed inhuman calmness. When Fan Chong finally caught up to his reasoning, Chen Ge had already controlled Xiao Bu to reach Room 1.

He used the cursor to click on the door, and the chat box read—'Your room card is unable to open this door. You leaned against the door and heard sighing coming from within.'

According to Fan Chong's description, the owner's father would die soon in Room 1. The old man probably knew the type of person that his son was and knew that his time was coming. Room 1 was locked, so Chen Ge did not stay for long. He rushed to Room 2, where a woman believed to be a lady of the night stayed.

He clicked on the room door, and this time, the door swung open without resistance. "Does this woman not lock her door when she sleeps?"

Entering Room 2, Chen Ge saw a woman in her undergarment kneeling next to a large box. It looked like she was picking her clothes.

"Boss Chen, be careful. When I entered Room 2 earlier, there was no box in the room," Fan Chong warned. Chen Ge stopped moving. All of the tenants of this hotel could be killers.

Chen Ge tried to use the cursor to click on the woman, and a new selection appeared on screen—'This woman who looked sexy and beautiful is selecting her clothes. Do you want to tell her about the murder that happened earlier?'

1. *Tell her that the hotel is very dangerous and she needs to be careful.*
2. *Grab the table light and swing it at the back of her head.*
3. *Ignore her and go back to sleep.*

Looking at the three choices, Chen Ge started to think. "Those who are kind will pick Choice 1, but going too close to her might be dangerous—the woman has not gained my trust. Those who are evil will probably pick 2, but after a rational analysis, with Xiao Bu's strength and the weight of the table lamp, no matter the angle, there is no way that the woman will be knocked dead or unconscious. The choice is rather fake—it would be better if there was a knife."

Chen Ge's analysis scared Fan Chong, and he silently moved the fruit knife that was on the table further away. After a brief hesitation, Chen Ge picked the third choice. When he made that choice, the woman squatting at the corner turned around to glance his way.

There was no skin on her face, and she had a knife in her hand. A silky white arm was poking out from the large box.

“Is she changing clothes or changing face?” Chen Ge hurriedly controlled Xiao Bu to leave the woman’s room and helped her close the door. “The hotel owner is a murderer, and the guests are either insane or maniacs; am I the only one that is normal at this small town?”

“Boss Chen, how about we leave the hotel? I think this place is more dangerous than the residential area.”

“There’s still a female ghost outside the door—how are we supposed to leave?” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to Room 3. “The high-schooler can’t be a murderer as well, right?”

He was afraid that the woman from Room 2 would come out, so he clicked on the door of Room 3 quickly. The chat box appeared again—‘Someone was talking on the phone inside the room. He spoke very softly, but you could hear terms like big brother, mother, hiding body, and hidden room.’

“This guest in Room 3 is very weird as well, who is he talking to?” Chen Ge looked at the screen and contemplated.

“Could it be his father? The phone mentioned big brother and mother but not the father.” Fan Chong made a prediction. “Boss Chen, this guest might be the only person who can help Xiao Bu.”

“Why would you think that?” Chen Ge was surprised.

“Didn’t you say to think from the perspective of the game creator? I’ve played this game for a few weeks already and have died several times, but that has given me a brief understanding of this world.”

With Chen Ge’s guidance, Fan Chong started to give his analysis. “All the adults are either ghosts or crazy maniacs, while all the children are victims. This could be how the creator views the world—adults are fake and scary, and the only place to find innocence and kindness is from children. The high-schooler is technically not an adult; he’s between a child and an adult, so I think you should try to approach him.”

Fan Chong knew that this game was not a simple game; it had a very deep layer to it, but with his current understanding, he could only understand so much.

“You’re underestimating the game. Xiao Bu’s worldview is filled with despair. To understand this game’s world, we have to understand Xiao Bu, this main character.” Chen Ge turned back to look at Fan Chong. “The name of every child in this game is Xiao Bu, and every child that died, killed, and ran into misfortune is called Xiao Bu. Would you call a child like this to be kind and innocent?”

Chen Ge turned back to the screen. “Actually, after playing for so long, the longer I control Xiao Bu in this strange world, the more unsettled I feel. You’ve done the research—all the tragedies that happen in this game is based on real life cases. Then have you considered a problem. If this Xiao Bu really does exist in real life, how did she manage to survive after experiencing so many scary and despairing tragedies?”

Chen Ge spoke quickly, and neither Fan Chong nor Fan Dade grasped what he was trying to say. “Boss Chen, what are you trying to say?”

“The things that I controlled Xiao Bu to do, Xiao Bu might have really done them in real life.” Chen Ge had a brief idea what the core of the game was. He still wanted to explain some more, but there was change on the screen.

Room 3 opened, and a student in a school uniform stood at the door. Then the chat box appeared—'It's dangerous outside. The guest of Room 3 was worried about your safety and invited you to join him in his room. You stood at the door and saw a family photo in the guest's hands. It was a picture of a father and mother standing happily together, and next to them was a pair of boys who looked suspiciously similar.'

Chen Ge clicked the chat box again, and there was new content—'You overheard the boy talk about hiding the body on the phone. You were afraid, and you refused to enter the room. Guest 3 swore to God that even though he had committed murder, he was forced. He was the only trustworthy person in that town.'

"See, I was right. This high-schooler will be our biggest aid." Fan Chong was happy that he had helped.

"Those who call themselves trustworthy are almost always not." Chen Ge shook his head. He clicked the chat box again, and the last sentence appeared—'You're curious about Guest 3, so you decide to listen to his story before coming to a decision.'

Chapter 522: Equal Share

"I have an older brother who looks very similar to me, but our personalities are very different. I'm reserved and obedient, but my older brother likes to create trouble no matter where he goes.

"One time, my brother and father got into a serious argument, and it got physical. In the panic, my brother accidentally slashed my father. At the time, I was there as well but did not expect this to happen. I tried to stop him, but he turned on me and tried to kill me. In that process, I accidentally stabbed him.

"When mother returned, both big brother and father were dead. A perfect family was shattered. Mother knows me well and understands that I would never lie and kill, so she helped me lie during the police's interrogation and pushed all the blame onto my brother.

"Everyone at this city is mentally deranged, but I'm the only exception because I never intended to kill anyone; it was just an accident."

Guest 3 told his story. When he was done, the chat box asked—'What will you do next?'

- 1. Enter the room and tell him about the danger lurking at the hotel.*
- 2. Do not enter the room and ask him to scout the other rooms for you.*
- 3. Ignore him and go to sleep.*

Entering the room meant leaving his life in the student's hands while asking the student to scout for him meant asking the student to go to die on his behalf. Choices one and two represented good and evil.

"Shall we take a risk? I don't think this student sounds like a bad person." Without knowing it, Fan Chang had already finished drinking the coke as his eyes wandered between Chen Ge and the computer screen.

"We're not taking any risk; this student is definitely lying to us," Chen Ge said confidently and chose the third choice.

“But it was due to self-defense that he killed someone. Plus, look at his mannerisms and reaction—he’s completely different from those murderers that we’ve met. He looks shy and reserved; a child like this probably wouldn’t kill someone.” This time, it was Fan Dade who spoke. He shared his brother’s view.

“The lack of confidence means a defect in his personality; most murderers spent their childhood in shame and fear. They are incredibly lacking in confidence, but at the same time, they desperately wish for respect, and that is why their personality gets twisted later in life.” Chen Ge got tired of explaining. “This student is very dangerous, but he is not strong enough, so he goes after targets weaker than him.”

“You mean, he’s lying?” Fan Chong opened another can of coke. It was already midnight, but he was not feeling sleepy.

“I can be sure that this student is lying. Think about it, if his mother really pushed all the blame onto the big brother, why would he appear in this town full of murderers at midnight?” Chen Ge’s voice was low. “Now, I have two speculations. One, he killed his big brother and father and then pinned everything on his brother. He made use of his mother’s trust to escape the persecution. Two, this student is the big brother. He killed his father and his little brother, and to escape the law, he assumed the character of his little brother.”

When Chen Ge was done, both Fan Chong and Fan Dade were silent, unable to find an argument to counter. They were covered in cold sweat.

“The possibility of it being the second speculation is higher.” Chen Ge looked at the screen, chose the third option, and controlled Xiao Bu to leave in a hurry. “Him appearing in this town means that he probably has killed his mother as well, and the reason for that is simple. Even if they’re twins, no matter how hard he tried, his mother would have been able to tell the difference.”

After getting to know the hotel’s layout, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to head to the entrance. He was prepared to let the Red Specter into the hotel. “There are no innocent people in this hotel, but they should be able to buy me some time.”

Chen Ge came to the door and saw a fatty standing in the lobby. He had a chef’s hat on and was arranging many pieces of cake on the dining table.

“That is the hotel’s chef. He’s crazy, but I’ve never seen him kill anyone,” Fan Chong whispered. Chen Ge nodded as he controlled Xiao Bu to stay away from the chef. However, whenever she neared the entrance, the chef would walk her way.

After wasting a few minutes at the lobby, Chen Ge tried to click on the chef with the cursor, and the chat box appeared—‘The tapping continues. It’s midnight, time for supper at the hotel.’

After the chat box disappeared. The old man, the woman, the student, and the hotel owner came out from the guest rooms. The police officer was nowhere to be seen. The owner stood next to the chef, and adjacent to them were four chairs. There were nine pieces of cake on the table.

After everyone came, four options appeared—‘Please pick a seat.’

1. Sit between the chef and the old man.

2. Sit between the old man and the woman.

3. Sit between the woman and the student.

4. Sit at the end of the table.

There was finally no ignore and sleep option, but Chen Ge did not know how to pick. “Why would the game suddenly ask me to pick a seat, and what’s the meaning of different seating arrangement?”

Chen Ge did not get it. For the sake of safety, he chose four and sat at the end of the table alone. After he made the choice, the other characters also took their seats. When Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to take her seat, the chat box appeared—’The chef placed the knife on the table. He and the hotel owner looked at the guests with bright smiles and posed a question: How do you split nine pieces of cake evenly among four guests with just one cut of the knife?’

“Four people sharing nine pieces of cake? Cut three pieces down the middle? That won’t work—the request is equal sharing.” Fan Chong and Fan Dade were deep in thought. Neither of them realized that Chen Ge, who saw the sharp knife, was completely excited!

“This should be the owner purposely making things difficult for the guests. No matter how you slice it, there can’t be equal sharing.” Fan Dade was a chef, and he could not come up with a solution.

“That’s right, no matter how you cut it, the icing on the cake will stick to the knife somehow. There can’t be an equal in this situation.” The brothers were discussing it when they saw the old man, woman, student, and Xiao Bu that Chen Ge controlled reach for the knife at the same time!

They were all different distances away from the knife. Xiao Bu was furthest, and the old man was closest.

“This is bad!” Chen Ge saw the old man pick up the knife, and he immediately controlled Xiao Bu to run away!

“Why are you running?” Fan Chong and Fan Dade were confused. “Aren’t we supposed to answer the question? Why are you running?”

Xiao Bu ran without even turning back. On screen, the old man who held the knife slashed at the woman next to him with his full strength!

“How do you share nine pieces of cake among four people with one cut? Simple, cut the four people down to three!”

Chapter 523: The Last Secret at the Hotel

The old man’s knife came at the woman’s neck. Before the knife fell, the woman quickly evaded, and the knife fell on her shoulder. Blood splattered on the dining table, and the old man, the woman, and the student got into a physical altercation.

The old man wanted to kill the woman, but the woman resisted. The student tried to grab the knife. Since the old man did not kill the woman with one cut, he had already failed, so it was now his chance.

Of the four guests, only Xiao Bu stayed away. “They’re really a bunch of crazies. If we could just sit down and talk this over, even if the owner has a gun, we would still have chance of survival. Such a shame.”

The owner and the chef watched happily as the three guests tried to kill one another. Chen Ge made use of this chance when their attention was distracted to walk to the entrance and click the cursor madly on the door.

He let the female ghost holding her head in. “This hotel can operate at night, so there has to be a dark secret hiding at this place. When the ghost chased Xiao Bu to the hotel, she hesitated for a long time before coming in. This means that she felt threatened.”

Standing in the dark street, the ghost who knocked her head against the door for a long time was filled with anger. When she saw Xiao Bu, she rushed directly into the hotel.

“What did I do to deserve such resentment? Could her death be related to Xiao Bu’s step-father? Since the man has already died and her resentment cannot find any release, is she channeling it toward Xiao Bu?” Chen Ge felt like the female ghost’s presence was more like a game mechanism aimed to make sure that the player did not stay in one place for too long.

Moving the mouse, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to run deeper into the hotel to introduce distance between them. He calculated the distance between himself and the hotel entrance. If there was a change to the situation, he would leave immediately. Three gunshots shattered the background music—the hotel owner fired at the female ghost.

“Fight, have fun fighting among yourselves.” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to hide in the corner. The female ghost’s head rolled on the ground as it chased the group of crazed murderers.

“Boss Chen, what should we do now? Leave the hotel now?” Fan Chong’s reasoning had really improved that night. After seeing Chen Ge work the controls, he had realized that there were different ways that the game could be played. The originally quiet hotel was now a mess, and Xiao Bu, who Chen Ge controlled, was the source of that mess.

“You told me earlier that the old man is the owner’s father, and he has the spare keys to the hotel, right?” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to lean against the wall and moved toward the guest rooms.

“Our plots are completely different. When I arrived at the hotel, the old man was already shot dead, and I found the keys in the drawer inside his room.”

“Let’s get the keys first then.” Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to enter Room 1. The room belonged to the old man, and there were many pictures on the wall. There was a picture of the old man with the hotel owner as well as a picture of the old man when he was young standing next to a woman. “Is the woman the old man’s wife?”

Chen Ge used the cursor to click on the drawer, and the chat box appeared—‘You saw a rusted key, many human teeth, and an old notebook.’

“The old man has the weird habit of collecting people’s teeth?”

Chen Ge clicked on the notebook, and the chat box scrolled down.

'1st March, my husband has gone mad. He trapped me inside the hidden room behind the kitchen refrigerator and only gave me three pieces of bread and one glass of water each day. He forbade me from leaving and forbade me from interacting with the guests. He has lost his mind.

'2nd March. The chef is making something tasty. I smell meat. So hungry. The mad man is purposely torturing me!

'1st April. I've been hungry for so long. I need to escape this place. Right, I'll sneak out tonight.

'2nd April. I was discovered, and we had a fight. The madman is so scary when he's angry. Like a crazed brown bear, he tackled me and pulled out my teeth.

'5th May. So hungry. I'll be tortured to my death if I stay here. I must find a way to leave!

'6th June. Who can save me? My husband is a devil. He tried to pull out all of my teeth, this insane man!

'1st November. I will never taste meat again. So hungry, so hungry...'

The content of the notebook was very weird. On the surface, it recorded the madness the old man when he was young, but after reading it closer, Chen Ge realized that things were not so simple. However, before he could figure it out, another gunshot went off again. Then three options appeared on screen—'You finished reading the diary of the old man's view and found out the hotel's biggest secret. Please choose one of the following to bring with you, the item that you think is most important.'

- 1. You choose the rusted key because you believe that this is the spare key to the hotel entrance.*
- 2. You choose the human teeth because you believe they are valuable mementoes.*
- 3. You choose the notebook because you believe it is hiding an important clue.*

Looking at the options, Chen Ge frowned. "Fan Chong, have you been given these choices before?"

"Yes, these three options pop out after you open the drawer. Back then, I chose the hotel key because you can enter and leave the hotel whenever you want with it even if it's locked." Fan Chong thought about it before shaking his head. He had a feeling that he might be thinking the same thing as Chen Ge this time.

"Looks like we can remove option one." Chen Ge seemed to be talking to himself. The cursor alternated between option two and three.

"Let's choose three. The notebook probably has its unique usage. I've seen many scary movies, and the notebook usually contains a message left behind by the murderer or victim." Fan Dade could only use his own life experience to make the choice.

"The notebook is indeed important, but haven't we already read its content?" Hearing what Fan Dade said, Chen Ge shook his head and chose the second option.

"The teeth? What use could they have?" Fan Dade and Fan Chong were confused, but they did not dare challenge Chen Ge openly, so they just whispered among themselves.

"It should be the teeth," Chen Ge explained. "When the options showed up, the question also attached the statement, 'you finished reading the diary of the old man's view and found out the hotel's biggest secret.'"

"But what can that prove?" Fan Chong still thought the key was the most important.

"The biggest secret at the hotel is about the old man's wife. In other words, the reason the hotel has become like this is because of his wife." Chen Ge used the cursor to click on the notebook to read it again.

"The old man's wife should be innocent." Fan Dade also could not understand Chen Ge's choice. "Both her husband and her son are maniacs. She was captured, detained, and had her teeth pulled out. She was tortured; she was just a victim."

Chapter 524: Clearing the Game with One Life!

"The birth of a murderer has plenty to do with his living environment. The hotel owner and the old man have such a cavalier attitude toward human lives—there has to be a reason, and that reason should have plenty to do with the old man's wife." Chen Ge's eyes darkened. "Pay attention to the notebook's content. On the first of March, the wife was captured. She said that her husband had gone insane and would only give her three slices of bread and one glass of water each day. For a normal person, that's enough food to live; the old man was probably purposely trying to limit her food intake.

"Then, you pay attention to the later content. The wife's diary circulates around the topic of food. The way the old man tortures her is not by breaking her limbs but by pulling out her teeth. This proves that he hates that she was consuming food.

"In a normal family, why would the husband hate his wife eating? Did the wife have an eating disorder? On the first of March, when the wife was captured, the husband stopped the wife from approaching other guests—why would he do that?

"On the sixth of June, the husband pulled out all of his wife's teeth. What could she have done to deserve such a punishment? What did she eat to make her husband commit to such a crazy act?"

What Chen Ge said made Fan Chong and Fan Dade fearful. "Could the wife be a cannibal? Did she consume a guest on the first of March?"

"That's possible." Chen Ge pointed at the last entry on the notebook. "On the sixth of June, all of the wife's teeth were removed, and the wife took down her last entry on the first of November. She said that she could not have meat anymore, and she could not survive a day without meat since the first of November, so she committed suicide."

"Suicide?"

"Yes, the wife's death is the start of the change in the hotel." Chen Ge did not say everything. He predicted that the wife had turned into a Specter after her death, and the old man and the owner were made twisted to fulfil the ghost wife's wish.

"But what does that have to do with you choosing to bring the teeth?" Fan Chong was still clueless about that.

"You'll see." Chen Ge had great experience dealing with ghosts. He knew that most ghosts had something that they would attach their spirit to. The wife had loved eating meat when she was alive, and even if she did not possess the teeth after her death, they would mean a lot to her.

"There has to be a reason that these teeth are hidden inside the old man's drawer." Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to run toward the kitchen. "The fact that the hotel dares to operate at midnight means that they're not afraid of normal ghosts. That confidence probably comes from the wife."

When Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to head into the kitchen, the bloodied man was crawling his way to Room 1. The other guests and the chef had been consumed by the Red Specter. Right now, she was chasing after the hotel owner.

"Sure is scary." Chen Ge did not waste any more time. He headed into the kitchen and stood before the refrigerator. "Inside the notebook, it said that the old man initially locked his wife inside the hidden room behind the fridge."

"Based on what you said, the old man's wife has already turned into a ghost. After you sure you want to attract her attention while you already have a female ghost on your back?" Fan Chong held the coke in his hand, and he found it difficult to calm down.

"Don't be afraid. She's the key to us solving this problem tonight!" Chen Ge used the cursor to click on the fridge. The door opened, and the back of the fridge was carved out. It was hiding a monster with thin limbs but a large stomach.

The monster had its mouth that was toothless fully opened. Its eyes were closed, waiting for people to feed her. Seeing the monster, both Fan Chong and Fan Dade nudged backward, feeling very uncomfortable, but Chen Ge acted differently. He moved the mouse to adjust Xiao Bu's position to make the girl look right at the monster. After noting the red outfit that the monster was wearing, a satisfied smile appeared on his face, and he mumbled something weird, like only a Red Specter could deal with a Red Specter.

"She should be able to wake up after replacing her teeth." Chen Ge clicked the backpack but did not put the teeth back immediately. He controlled Xiao Bu to run to the kitchen door and silently watched the female ghost chase after the hotel owner. After all the murderers in the hotel were taken care of by the ghost, Xiao Bu returned to the fridge.

When the teeth fell into the monster's gaping maw, the monster's eyes flew open and zeroed in on Xiao Bu. At the same time, the female ghost holding her head also spotted Xiao Bu.

The atmosphere was weird. Be it the two female Red Specters in the game or Fan Chong and Fan Dade in real life, every person and ghost remained still.

"She probably did not expect to run into her." Chen Ge moved his fingers. Before the two Specters came to, Xiao Bu ran away. The girl's movement cause the two ghosts to make their move.

The ghost holding her head had just killed the fridge ghost's husband and son; their fresh bodies were still on the ground. The fridge ghost's eyes were red as she charged at the enemy. The two Red Specters

fought among themselves. Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to run away. He sneaked to the owner's dead body and clicked on it madly. "Where's the gun?"

There was no message on the screen. Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to run to the dining table and pick up the knife used to cut the cake. "This should work."

Under Chen Ge's control, the cute and innocent Xiao Bu was like the darkest boss. She held the knife in her hand and stood at the entrance, watching the fight between the two Red Specters.

Probably because she had consumed more souls, the fridge ghost was more powerful than the ghost holding her head. Soon, the latter was overwhelmed, and the former swallowed the ghost holding her head.

"It's time to leave." Chen Ge was satisfied with this result. "After the ghost holding her head is taken care of, the residential area should be safe. There's a place that I can spend the night."

Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to leave the hotel and even kindly closed the door for them. Then she charged back home. When Xiao Bu returned to her room, the dark sky in the game slowly turned gray. Dawn was breaking.

"That was fun. The game was not as difficult as I thought." Chen Ge stretched lazily and realized Fan Chong and Fan Dade had moved far away from him. "What's wrong with the both of you?"

"Nothing, nothing. Don't mind us." Fan Chong looked at Chen Ge, and his face twitched. This man before him could no longer be described in terms of strong or weak. He had first had a murderer kill the other murderer and then had the murderer provoke the neighbor ghost before using the female neighbor ghost to kill the murderer and lure the ghost to clean up a whole hotel of murderers. Finally, he had used the ghost at the hotel to murder the neighbor ghost.

Not only had he survived a whole night, he had created a safe space and even managed to obtain a knife in a pure puzzle game!

Chapter 525: Taking Them Down in Real Life

After the dawn came, the chat box came up with three more options—'With your impressive luck, you managed to survive the first night. You were gripped by uncertainty and fear. You started to hesitate, not knowing whether to stay and look after your mother or return through the dungeon and leave this place.'

- 1. You feel at home in this place. You like the atmosphere of this small town and decide to stay to experience it for one more night.*
- 2. You miss your mother a lot, but you feel like you're already at your limit. You decide to leave.*
- 3. You are conflicted and in so much pain. Everything here is different from the real world, but you decide to stay until you find your mother.*

The cursor moved between the three choices. As a player who wanted to know more about the world, he was leaning toward the first choice, but if he was choosing for the sake of Xiao Bu, he had to choose the second choice. Xiao Bu would grow up safely after leaving this scary world.

After a long silence, Chen Ge moved the cursor to the third choice. "The first choice is the most stable, the second is best for Xiao Bu, and the third is probably what Xiao Bu would have chosen."

Not leaving until Xiao Bu's mother was found... if Xiao Bu's mother was harmed, then Xiao Bu would never find the person she was looking for, and she would be trapped there forever. Chen Ge clicked on the mouse, choosing the third one. "If we need to seek salvation for Xiao Bu, we mustn't lie to ourselves even in-game."

After confirming his choice, there was a new save point in game. The original save point was Xiao Bu's home in real life, and this new one was Xiao Bu's home in the other world. "With this new save point, I can get Fan Chong to explore the other side quests without worry."

Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to get to the rooftop. The sky was low and gray like a fog covering the whole town.

"I wonder how many stories this place is hiding. Solving it in one night is impossible." Chen Ge was clear that the method that he had used that night would not be repeated every time. "I'm curious... if everything did happen in real life, how did Xiao Bu survive until the end?"

"Boss Chen, I don't think you should think too much of it. Just play it your way." Fan Chong looked at Xiao Bu, who glanced at the town holding the knife, and realized that the game had truly changed.

"The new save file has appeared. The tempo of the game will probably slow down. I don't think I'll be able to clear the game tonight; I'll leave that in your capable hands." Chen Ge narrowed his eyes like he was coming up with a plan.

"Leave it to me?" Fan Chong rubbed his hands. After seeing Chen Ge play the game, he was too embarrassed to take up his mantle.

"It's alright, just relax. But you have to remember one thing. Record every death and case that you come across, and try to explore every inch of this map within these few days."

"Every inch of the place?" Fan Chong's lips moved, and he added softly, "Then that means I'll die so many times... Isn't that a bit too cruel?"

"Try your best." Chen Ge worked his fingers, and his eyes glowed. He was no longer satisfied with exploring the town in a game; he prepared to bring all his employees and find this town in real life. The game was reflecting real life, and with the knowledge of the potential danger, Chen Ge decided to strike first and conquer this small town with his power.

"It's dangerous to go out at night, so you have Xiao Bu stay at home when night falls. Keep the exploration mainly to the day." Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to leave the residential area. The town looked peaceful under the sun. The blood on the ground had been cleaned, and the signs of the terror from the night before had been swept away.

Xiao Bu found the key to the dungeon inside her mother's pajamas. After entering the dungeon, she came into a town that was completely different from the real world. The strange thing was, whenever Xiao Bu died in the town, the game would load at Xiao Bu's room in real life, and she would be lying in her bed like everything was just a dream.

Chen Ge thought about it for a long time and came up with a possibility.

The game world mirrors Li Wan City. Before Doctor Gao's death, he said that the door that had gotten out of control is at Li Wan City. Combining the content of the game, could it be taken that Xiao Bu opened the door at her friend's dungeon? She entered the world behind the door, so is she the door-pusher?

Controlling Xiao Bu to wander aimlessly down the street, Chen Ge's mind turned. *If Xiao Bu is the door-pusher, what has she seen at her friend's dungeon? What allowed her to push the door? Why was she wearing her mother's pajamas?*

Chen Ge wanted to summon Men Nan and ask him. After all, Men Nan was almost the same age as Xiao Bu, and they were both door-pushers, so there might be connection between them.

Xiao Bu must have some secrets as well if she was able to survive in such a dangerous environment. That secret could be that she is the door-pusher.

Looked at the innocent, cute girl who was holding a sharp knife in the game, a feeling formed in his heart—it felt like pity and care.

“Perhaps I understand the message of the game after all. It should be trying to tell the gamers that Xiao Bu is actually the most innocent victim.” Chen Ge suddenly commented, and it frightened Fan Dade and Fan Chong. They could not catch up to Chen Ge's thought but were too embarrassed to say that, so no matter what Chen Ge said, they would concur.

Making use of the daylight, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to walk around the city. He ran into many murder cases and saw many crazed murderers and ghosts, but beyond that, there was no other discovery.

The day in the game passed by quickly. Before the day ended, Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to return home. The sky darkened, and the second night arrived.

The street outside rang with a curious laugh and approaching footsteps. Chen Ge controlled Xiao Bu to close the door and sat beside her step-father's body while holding the knife. “The Red Specter at the hotel shouldn't come after me, but we have to be careful. After she consumed the ghost next door, she will need time to digest it. When she's hungry again, she will slaughter and consume as she mows down the road. After all, her feeders have been killed.”

“Then, won't it be dangerous in a few days?” Fan Chong was worried. Chen Ge decided to leave the responsibility to him, and he did not want to disappoint Chen Ge's trust.

“You'll be fine. The ghost at the hotel will need at least a week to digest the Red Specter. By then, you should have been able to fully explore the map.” Chen Ge stood up. He glanced at the time; it was 2:30 am.

Chapter 526: Uncle, I Have to Go Home to Fix the Window

"Sorry for disturbing you tonight, rest early." Chen Ge had been so focused on the game that he did not realize it was already so late.

"Are you really going now? Why don't you stay here for one night? There's more than enough space on my bed." Fan Chong moved the wrinkled clothes on his bed away.

"Thank you, but I still need to open my Haunted House for business tomorrow." Chen Ge rejected the kind offer and prepared to leave. "I remember you saying that there have been some weird happenings when you played the game. You felt like the thing in the game has come out, right?"

Fan Chong and Fan Dade shared a look. The two were confused as well. When they were playing, even after they turned the background music off and moved as far away from the screen as they could, they would still be scared. But when they saw Chen Ge play, the source of fear had moved from the game itself to the person who was playing the game. This had happened for the first time for them.

The brothers did not know how to explain, and it was Fan Dade who moved the topic away. "It's probably a psychological thing. Now that I think about it, how could something from the game come out into real life?"

"It never hurts to be careful. There is indeed something off about this game, so I suggest you only play it when there's daylight." Chen Ge told Fan Chong a few things and left after making sure that there were no more problems.

"Boss Chen, it's hard to get a taxi here, how about I drive you home?" Fan Chong chased after him. Chen Ge's gaming ability had greatly impressed him, and he had many things that he wanted to ask Chen Ge.

"Thank you, but I'll be fine." After playing the game, Chen Ge's relationship with the Fan brothers had improved a lot.

"There is no taxi at Li Wan City at night—you'll need to walk to Eastern Jiujiang Business Center to get car service." Fan Chong took out a key from his drawer. "Why don't you take my e-bike? I plan to visit New Century Park tomorrow, so you can return the bike then."

Chen Ge did not reject it this time and accepted the key from Fan Chong. "Then, I shall thank you."

Opening the door, Fan Dade and Fan Chong walked Chen Ge down the stairs. The whole area was dark, and only Fan Dade's home had light.

"How come there are so few residents at this residential area?" Chen Ge thought back to Fan Dade's neighbor, who had a mirror on the door to ward away evil spirits.

"This place is too isolated, and traffic is not convenient. Those who can afford to move have already moved." Fan Dade led Chen Ge to the e-bike. "Be careful on the road, see you tomorrow."

Chen Ge inspected the electrical meter and thanked the brothers again before leaving. After a while, the lights in Fan Chong's home went off as well, and the whole area plunged into darkness.

Eastern Jiujiang sure is creepy. Chen Ge turned back to look. *Shall I go visit the places pointed out in the game tonight?*

After thinking about it, Chen Ge gave up on the thought. *I should do this with more of a plan. After Fan Chong pinpoints out all the dangerous zones, I can start to look for the door that has gone out of control.*

Driving out of Li Wan City, it took him almost one and a half hours to reach New Century Park. Chen Ge's taut nerves finally relaxed after he walked into the Haunted House. Resisting the urge to sleep, Chen Ge found the backpack at the staff breakroom and opened the steel door to enter the underground scenario.

Sitting inside the last classroom, Chen Ge activated the recorder and then flipped open the comic to release Men Nan. The boy who was just slightly taller than Chen Ge's knees crawled out from the book and looked at Chen Ge with some resentment.

Chen Ge coughed from the embarrassment. "How are things?"

"When are you going to let me go back! If no one fixes the broken window of the door in the Third Sick Hall, many scary things will happen!" Men Nan talked like an adult, but the cute face looked at Chen Ge seriously.

"What will happen?"

"The door in the Third Sick Hall already has the symptoms of going out of control. During the period when I was unconscious, the world behind the door was slowly overlapping with the world outside the door! They are influencing each other, and if we leave them be, the door will never be closed again. The negative emotions behind the door will overflow into the real world." Men Nan tried his best to explain the severity of the problem to Chen Ge.

"The negative emotions behind the door will overflow into the real world?" Chen Ge thought of the scenarios that he had seen inside the game. The small town was filled with ghosts and crazed murderers—everyone had gone mad.

"Yes, if the door is left open for too long, it will slowly affect everything around it." Men Nan crawled onto the chair. He hated talking up to people. "Those who are within the vicinity of the 'door' will be affected. First, it's a small change to the psychology like a person turning silent and losing interest in life. Then, one's habits will change; for example, they might have liked ninety percent cooked steak in the past, but now, they prefer thirty percent cooked and later completely uncooked steak."

Men Nan described how a normal person might slowly become insane.

"Can this process be undone?" Chen Ge knew that the door in Li Wan City had already gotten out of control. This time, he was facing not only ghosts but also people who had been corrupted and monsters from behind the door.

"The best method that I can think of is to make sure that the door doesn't lose control. Of course, you can find them a good therapist to help counsel them one by one." Men Nan was dropping hints. He was desperate to return, but he could not beat the ghosts that Chen Ge had in a physical fight. This made him feel conflicted like he had been cheated to leave the Third Sick Hall.

"A door that has lost control cannot be closed anymore?" Chen Ge had his own plan, and he maintained his calmness at all times.

"You have to be certain about the sequence of events. A door is said to have gone out of control because it cannot be closed," Men Nan answered sadly.

"Even the door-pusher cannot close it?" Chen Ge leaned against the chair. He was rather sad. His original plan had been to find the door in Li Wan City, enter the door to find Xiao Bu, and use a reasonable method to convince Xiao Bu to close the door.

"The door-pusher might have the power to close it, but that is different for each pusher because everyone has different strengths and weaknesses." When Men Nan said that, his eyes darkened further. The reason that he did not sneak away was because he was not a fighter type. Even if he was inside the door in the Third Sick Hall, he was no match for Zhang Ya, so he had been staying obediently inside the comic.

"I've told you everything I know. Even if you ask me more, I can't answer you." Without waiting for the question from Chen Ge, Men Nan looked at him openly and said, "It's really scary if a door goes out of control. I have to return soon. Without me behind the door, Western Jiujiang will eventually become like Eastern Jiujiang."

"Western Jiujiang will eventually become like Eastern Jiujiang? You know about Eastern Jiujiang?" Chen Ge was surprised. In their conversation, he had never once brought up the words 'Eastern Jiujiang'.

Chapter 527: Dream

With that slip of the tongue, Men Nan knew that could not fool Chen Ge anymore.

"What's the difference between Eastern and Western Jiujiang? On the surface, Eastern Jiujiang appears to be more peaceful, and the public security there is better; this is observable from the working state of the two police stations." Chen Ge knew that Eastern Jiujiang was dangerous, but the danger was hidden. Until now, he had not caught a glimpse of the enemy.

"My advice is for you to not go to Eastern Jiujiang anymore." Men Nan hesitated for a long time before saying that.

"You have to give me a reason, right? The night before last, at the fresh water plant, both you and Xu Yin came out to stop me. Is that shadow really that scary? Are neither of you Red Specters his match?" Chen Ge had been meaning to ask Men Nan that.

Shaking his head, Men Nan looked at Chen Ge's shadow and worry crossed his eyes. "That night, if not for the person inside your shadow, it would have been over for all of us."

"Zhang Ya got into a fight with the shadow? How come I had no idea about that?" Chen Ge did not even realize that.

"The guy was too unlucky. He planned to take over your shadow and make you his puppet, but he did not expect the most powerful Red Specter to be living inside your shadow. Due to his carelessness, he

was injured by the Red Specter inside your shadow.” Men Nan did not dare call Zhang Ya by name because he was scared. Any normal ghost would be scared when they saw Zhang Ya.

“Then, was Zhang Ya injured?” Chen Ge was worried. He was familiar with Zhang Ya’s style; she was the kind who left no prisoner. However, that night, after the match with the shadow, Zhang Ya did not show up.

“The Red Specter inside your shadow was already injured before the fight started. One of her arms was filled with cracks.”

“Cracks?” Chen Ge thought back to the fight between Zhang Ya and Doctor Gao. No one knew what had really happened between them as the surgery room had been smothered by Zhang Ya’s hair.

“Your biggest reliance is injured and is currently resting, but that shadow is just a shadow. As for whose shadow it was and how strong the actual body is, we have no idea, so you’d better stay away from Eastern Jiujiang.” Men Nan reached out and climbed onto the table. Finally, he did not need to look up to Chen Ge anymore.

“Could the body be a presence greater than a Red Specter?” Chen Ge thought about it for a long time. The question sounded like it was for Men Nan but also a question for himself.

“No one knows what is above a Red Specter, or rather, no one has managed to survive to tell the tale.” Men Nan did not know the answer, but he did not deny the possibility that such a presence might exist in Eastern Jiujiang.

“All who have met one have died?” Chen Ge thought about Doctor Gao, who had committed suicide to become a ghost. The madman had once controlled three doors so that he could reach the limit of a Red Specter after death.

“Chen Ge, I’m just saying this for your own good. Eastern Jiujiang is different from Western Jiujiang. Haven’t you realized that none of the patients from the Third Sick Hall dared venture to Eastern Jiujiang?” Men Nan tried his best to explain; he was really afraid that Chen Ge might drag him to Eastern Jiujiang again. “The danger in Western Jiujiang is visible like the patients from the Third Sick Hall.

“The scariest thing about Eastern Jiujiang is that we do not know about the potential danger. You can read through Jiujiang’s local news. There are few cases coming from Eastern Jiujiang, but of the annual disappearance around Jiujiang, ninety percent happened in Eastern Jiujiang. This data is more than enough proof to show the danger of Eastern Jiujiang.”

“I know Eastern Jiujiang is dangerous, but I have to go. Before my parent’s disappearance, they once showed up in Eastern Jiujiang.” That was the reason that Chen Ge had started this adventure.

Since this was to find his missing parents, Men Nan was careful with his words. “I’ve only heard about the things in Eastern Jiujiang from the mental patients. If you really want to know about the place, you can ask them.”

“I also wish to ask them, but the key is that they do not seem like they have gotten used to their ghost identity.” Chen Ge had the patient’s list of the Third Sick Hall, but those spirits refused to communicate with Chen Ge.

After chatting with Men Nan some more, Chen Ge finally relented to the boy's pleas and decided to send Men Nan back. Chen Ge was actually worried about the door in the Third Sick Hall going haywire as well.

"The theme park and the Haunted House can only grow without worry if Western Jiujiang is safe." Chen Ge pulled Men Nan back into the comic and walked out of the last classroom. "Eastern Jiujiang is such a mess, but the futuristic theme park decided to open there—they sure are lucky."

Exiting the underground scenario, Chen Ge entered the staff breakroom and slept.

Chen Ge was woken up by the alarm at 8 am. After brushing his teeth, he started to clean the Haunted House. A new day was beginning, and the park opened at 9 am. The visitors swarmed in, and Chen Ge could feel the popularity of his Haunted House rising.

"The capacity of my Haunted House is still lacking... if only I have more scenarios." Standing at the door, Chen Ge suddenly noticed a few familiar faces. "He San? Why is that boy here today?"

He San also saw Chen Ge, and he waved his hands. "Boss, long time no see!"

"You're still as loud as ever." Chen Ge asked Uncle Xu to help him with the tickets, and he walked into the crowd.

"Boss, this time, our school has made all the necessary preparations and selected the most courageous students from each age group. Today, there is only one purpose for us being here, and that is to clear the game!" He San pointed behind him, and there was a group of people.

"Are they all from your school? Did you all skip class today?" Chen Ge had no idea what was wrong with Western Jiujiang Medical University's students—so many of them had come that day. "Clearing the scenario is one thing, but don't abandon your studies."

Chen Ge's real thought was: if this was found out by the doctors in the underground morgue, things might get really scary.

"Don't worry, we didn't skip class today," Yang Chen grumbled darkly beside He San. "Even our president knows about your Haunted House now."

"Even your president knows about this place?" Chen Ge felt weirdly ashamed.

"Yes, it's a weird story actually. Our president had the same dream for four consecutive nights. His teacher from when he was young scolded him while standing inside your Haunted House. There was no way he could have defended himself." He San lowered his voice. "Our president was scolded for four days, and now, whenever he closes his eyes, the old teacher will appear before his eyes; he couldn't suffer it anymore."

"Your president had the same dream for four days?" Chen Ge felt like laughing. "Was his former teacher someone called Wei Jiuqin?"

"Yes, that's the old man's name! How did you know?" He San was surprised. "Our president then had some discussion with the staff, and someone said that the old teacher was telling him in his dream that our students, who should not be afraid of dead bodies, are scared witless inside your Haunted House, and that is too embarrassing."

“So, your president allowed you to come visit me today, huh?”

“That’s basically it. The president said that a qualified medical doctor has to be calm no matter what. Even if the sky is falling, we shouldn’t panic. He encouraged us to come to your place to test our courage whenever we’re free. If we cannot conquer a Haunted House as medical doctors, how are we going to survive in our career in the future?” He San mimicked the way that the president spoke, and he had a knack for it.

“Your president probably misunderstood the old gentleman’s meaning.” But since they were there, Chen Ge was not going to chase them away. All he could do was to use his power to give the students one last piece of advice. “You can visit any scenario that you want, but remember to stay away from the underground morgue.”

Chapter 528: She Is Xiao Bu?

This was not the first time that the students of Western Jiujiang Medical University had dealt with Chen Ge. They knew for a fact that those who did not follow Chen Ge’s advice would end up in a horrible state.

“Don’t worry, we’re planning to challenge the Coffin Village scenario this time, and we have done plenty of preparation before we arrived.” After He San said that, he retreated into the crowd and several of his seniors came forward.

“It should be fine as long as you stay away from the underground morgue, but be careful when you’re in there. If you see anyone coming toward you wearing a medical uniform, wave at the camera for help immediately, and I will help you,” Chen Ge reminded them and led them personally into the underground scenario. The students were all returning customers, and their president was so kind. So, this time, Chen Ge did not make things difficult for them. He used normal background music and did not send out the trio to go in with them.

“Have a good time down there.”

About forty minutes later, there was chaos at the resting hall; the place was boiling with excitement. On the screen that showed the score, the scores of the students from Western Jiujiang Medical University soared as they became the first batch of visitors to clear Coffin Village.

When Yang Chen walked out from the village with the wedding dress, he had the urge to cry. Only God knew what he had experienced in the past forty minutes. All nine of his seniors had ‘sacrificed’ themselves, and they had placed their hope in him to escape the village with the wedding dress that carried the lingering spirit of the female bride.

“We did it!” Coffin Village was a three-star scenario, and clearing this scenario was different from clearing Mu Yang High School. This meant that the visitors had the capability of clearing three-star scenarios. Even though this was the first time, it was also a beginning. With more guides and inside scenes leaking on the internet, more and more people would clear it. Seeing the joy on the visitors’ faces, Chen Ge was full of smiles as well. He enjoyed this feeling a lot. It was his goal to provide the best service to his visitors.

The completion rate of Coffin Village was only seven percent—the ghost in the well is still alive, and the scenario is lacking. In terms of scariness, it's only just slightly scarier than Mu Yang High School.

At Chen Ge's Haunted House, the two scariest scenarios were the Third Sick Hall and the underground morgue, and they had completely different styles.

I have the patient's list for Third Sick Hall. If I can control these patients to help me scare the visitors, the scare level will definitely increase a lot.

Chen Ge had never underestimated his visitors. It had been a month since he had obtained the black phone, and the visitors had already managed to clear a three-star scenario.

I need to update the Haunted House often to keep up the mystery so that the visitors will be interested.

After taking out the black phone, Chen Ge looked at the four-star Trial Mission—School of the Afterlife.

I should wait. Zhang Ya is injured, Xu Yin is missing his heart, and Bai Qiulin has not completely digested Xiong Qing's soul; it's still too early to challenge a four-star scenario.

Chen Ge decided to collect more power first.

I only need to unlock the School of the Afterlife before the futuristic theme park opens for business. With this four-star scenario as my trump card, no matter what the futuristic theme park does in the future, it will not affect me. Now, I should focus on dealing with Eastern Jiujiang. At the very least, I have to obtain that last bus before moving onto something else.

Seeing someone clear Coffin Village, the other visitors were excited. Those who did not dare challenge the three-star scenarios before started to have the urge. The day soon passed. When the Haunted House closed at 6:30 pm, there were still plenty of visitors outside. In the end, it was the park workers who advised them to leave.

"The peak season is coming; I can consider opening the Haunted House at night. Then again, few people will dare to challenge that." Chen Ge and his two employees cleaned up the place, and Chen Ge allowed them to go home.

Returning to the staff breakroom, Chen Ge called for a take-out. He leaned on his bed. "I should call Captain Yan to ask about the update for the case at Ming Yang Residence. Not to mention the progress Fan Chong has made with the game as well as keeping an eye on Huang Ling's husband, Jia Ming..."

After dinner, Chen Ge called Lee Zheng.

"Inspector Lee, did you manage to find the remaining parts of the female body at Ming Yang Residence?"

"Not yet, according to our analysis, the girl's body should be hidden among the four buildings, but even after a long day with the police hounds, we found nothing." Lee Zheng's voice was hoarse like he was not feeling well. "However, we discovered something else. The forensic doctor compared the body with our internal data, and the girl's identity has been confirmed. Her name is Bu Yi. Five years ago, she had an operation at the People's Hospital due to a car accident."

“Bu Yi? Her surname is Bu?” This was the first time that Chen Ge had heard of someone with the surname Bu.

“Yes, the child disappeared from Eastern Jiujiang three years ago. Who would have thought someone would do such a cruel thing to a mere girl?” Chen Ge could hear the anger bubbling under Lee Zheng’s voice.

“Ming Yang Residence was built eight years ago. Jiang Long’s family was painted on the ceiling of Room 104, and Bu Yi’s left arm was hidden inside Room 104.” Chen Ge tried to line up all the clues. “Inspector Lee, do you know when the date of Jiang Long’s car accident was?”

“There are three investors for Ming Yang Residence. The first investor got into an accident six years ago. The second investor, Jiang Long, met his end three years ago, and the third investor committed suicide at the building site two years ago.” Lee Zheng had memorized all the data.

“The year that Jiang Long got into the car accident, Bu Yi disappeared.” Chen Ge held the phone, and a question was stuck in her mind—could this Bu Yi be Xiao Bu?

Chen Ge remembered the scene in the game where he controlled Xiao Bu to go to her friend’s home to open the dungeon. When she was on the second floor, she noticed the certificate on the wall. The recipient was Jiang Xiaohu, who was Jiang Long’s son. This meant that in the game, Xiao Bu and Jiang Xiaohu were friends and classmates.

“Other than that, Jiang Long has another layer of relationship with Bu Yi.” Lee Zheng’s team had done a thorough investigation. “Bu Yi’s father died when she was very young. Later, Bu Yi’s mother became Jiang Long’s mistress to support her family.”

Hearing that, the image of Xiao Bu wearing her mother’s pajamas to find the dungeon flashed across Chen Ge’s mind.

“Then where is Bu Yi’s mother now?”

“Before Bu Yi disappeared, her mother disappeared. If not for Bu Yi’s school reporting the girl’s disappearance to the police, we would not have known that about her mother.” Lee Zheng was flipping through the old case file, and the content was harrowing.

“Bu Yi’s mother disappeared, and Bu Yi disappeared after she went searching for her mother.” That matched the game that Chen Ge had played perfectly. His hands tightened, and the image of Jiang Ling’s family of four biting the girl’s four limbs appeared in Chen Ge’s mind.

Chapter 529: Bad Child

In the game, Xiao Bu found the key to the dungeon inside her mother’s pajamas. However, the entrance to the dungeon was not at her own home but that of her classmate, Jiang Xiaohu. The thing that worried Chen Ge was that Xiao Bu seemed to have opened that door at the dungeon inside Jiang Xiaohu’s home.

Only when one had lost all hope could one open the door. Then what had Xiao Bu seen and experienced in the dungeon?

"Inspector Lee, do you have any information on Jiang Long's family?" Only Jiang Long's family would have information about the things that happened inside the dungeon, and Chen Ge wanted to know that.

"Why are you asking that?" From Lee Zheng's perspective, Jiang Long's family had nothing to do with the case.

"I feel like Bu Yi's murderers could be Jiang Long and his family. Do you still remember the painting on the ceiling of Room 104? Jiang Long's family's names were written on it." Chen Ge dropped some hints for Lee Zheng. If he could get police cooperation, his life would be easier.

"The killers wouldn't be so dumb as to carve down their names at the crime scene." Lee Zheng had been a police officer for at least a decade, and he had not seen something like that. "Leaving their own names at the crime scene to purposely announce to the world that they're the culprits?"

"That painting could have been carved by someone else, or it might have some ritualistic significance." Chen Ge knew that as a police officer, Lee Zheng could not reveal certain information to the public, but he tried the best he could.

On the phone, Lee Zheng was silent for ten seconds before continuing. "Actually, we've already investigated Lee Zheng's family. His family situation is a bit complicated."

Chen Ge's heart had a bad omen. "Don't tell me his whole family has disappeared..."

"Before Jiang Long's car accident, Jiang Long's wife took their two kids to visit a therapist. Then, within one week, Jiang Long died in the car accident, and Jiang Long's wife, Zhang Chuyu, and their eldest daughter, Jiang Bai, disappeared. Of the family of four, only Jiang Xiaohu remains." Lee Zheng hesitated like he was not sure whether it was wise to reveal this information or not.

"Jiang Xiaohu is still alive? Where is he staying now? I wish to ask him a few questions in person." Chen Ge had a feeling this boy could be the key.

"The child has gone insane. He stabbed his therapist, and sometimes, he acts like a deranged beast. There is no way he can communicate with anyone. If you have to see him, then go to Jiujiang's Mental Asylum. We met him there this morning." The police had investigated everything that Chen Ge could think of, but they had failed to get any useful information from Jiang Xiaohu.

Hearing what Lee Zheng said, Chen Ge immediately thought, *Could the boy be pretending to be mad?*

He would not underestimate any adversary even if he was a child.

"Inspector Lee, can you get me to meet the boy?" Chen Ge pleaded for many times before Lee Zheng relented.

After he hung up, Lee Zheng called back immediately. "I've notified the asylum. We'd better go early; they do not allow visitation after 9."

"Thank you, Inspector Lee!"

“Chen Ge, listen to me, I have something that I need to warn you about.” Lee Zheng’s tone was off.
“Take care of your safety. Remember to stay a safe distance when you’re conversing with the boy, and be careful of getting harmed when he’s acting up.”

After that, Lee Zheng hung up. With the murders at Eastern Jiujiang, the man was very busy.

“Why would Lee Zheng warn me about that boy?” Chen Ge sat up in bed. He grabbed the backpack and inspected the content before leaving the Haunted House in a hurry. Jiujiang’s Mental Asylum was a government hospital. Different from the Third Sick Hall, it was closely monitored. If they were too late, they might not even get to enter the building.

At 7:20 pm, Chen Ge hailed a cab to get to the mental asylum. He gave Lee Zheng’s name to the guard, and then a doctor in a white coat came out to greet him.

“You’re Chen Ge, who Inspector Lee mentioned, are you?” The doctor was tall and thin. He wore black-rimmed glasses. The man was quiet like the kind that did not like to talk. “My full name is Pei Jiaoyang, but you can call me Doctor Pei. The patient has already been brought to the interrogation room that was used in the morning. Considering the issue of safety, the conversation has to end before 9.”

“Okay.” With guidance from Doctor Pei, Chen Ge entered the mental asylum. This place was so different from the Third Sick Hall.

“This is the room. The workers and I will accompany you, so you don’t need to worry about safety.”

“Thank you.” Chen Ge realized how useful the police’s name was. If he had come alone, he probably would have been shown the door.

“Human lives are involved, and it’s our duty to cooperate with the police.” Doctor Pei entered the room and pointed at the boy on the bed. “He’s Jiang Xiaohu. Later, people will send in his information.”

The room was simple with just a bed and three wooden chairs. The boy was sitting on the bed. His limbs were tied up with ropes, and his gaze was blank. Even if people went near him, he would not acknowledge them.

“Do you mind removing the ropes?” Chen Ge sat on the chair next to the bed. He noticed that the ropes had already cut into the boy’s flesh.

“Those are for your safety. When he acted up this afternoon, he bit whomever he saw. We expended a lot of energy before we could detain him.” Doctor Pei sat next to Chen Ge and added, “Don’t be fool by the boy’s appearance. He looks innocent and harmless, but when he acts up, we’ll need two adult males to apprehend him.”

When Doctor Pei was speaking, there was knocking on the door. A female nurse came in with a document. “Doctor Pei, the patient information that you wanted.”

Doctor Pei accepted the document and handed it over to Chen Ge. “Jiang Xiaohu came to us three years ago. The document contains all of his diagnoses from then till now. Take a look at it yourself. You can ask me if you have any question.”

Chen Ge looked through the document. He noticed that the doctor who had counselled Jiang Xiaohu three years ago was Pei Jiaoyang, and later, Doctor Pei also became the boy’s principle therapist.

“Three years ago, you counselled Jiang Xiaohu?” Chen Ge had found the person whom he was looking for. He desperately wanted to know what had happened three years ago. “Can you tell me more details about that?”

The room suddenly became quiet. Doctor Pei did not answer immediately. The diagnosis three years ago seemed to be a memory that he did not want to remember.

“I noticed that Jiang Xiaohu’s initial diagnosis was bipolar disorder, but then, it was changed to schizophrenia, and finally, it was edited to say that the patient’s personality was rather stable and had sufficient self-cognizance, that there was no sign of mental illness. How could one person have three different results from three diagnoses?” Chen Ge put down the document and looked at Doctor Pei. “What happened three years ago? And why would Jiang Xiaohu’s family send this boy over to the mental hospital over and over so many times?”

Chapter 530: A Whole Family of Crazy

After a whole full minute, Doctor Pei finally spoke. He looked at Jiang Xiaohu on the bed, and his expression was curious.

“From how I see it, the whole family is sick, and I don’t mean it in a demeaning way—that’s just my professional prognosis.” Doctor Pei stood up and walked around the bed. “Three years ago, Jiang Xiaohu’s mother came with his sister for his illness. I can remember that day like the back of my hand. His mother’s name is Zhang Chuyu. She was very pretty, and she wore a thick mist of perfume.

“From head to toe, there were many branded clothes, but I couldn’t feel a trace of happiness. She was thinking about something because she kept spacing out during our conversation. After a brief conversation, I had a rudimentary understanding of the family’s situation.

“The sister, Jiang Bai, suffered from paranoia. She felt like everyone was out to kill her, like everyone was a murderer.

“Jiang Xiaohu’s illness was rather curious. He would often do things that were very dangerous like turning on the stove on his own, splashing water on the electrical socket, playing with fire, and so on.

“Zhang Chuyu had scolded him more than once, but it did nothing to stop the boy. After her husband, Jiang Long, found out, he beat the boy several times, but the violence did not improve Jiang Xiaohu’s condition. If anything, it only exacerbated his condition.

“Reckless, irritable, and often getting into fights with his classmates. Sometimes, it felt like he was possessed as he tried his best to harm the people around him. That was my first time running into a patient like that. Considering his young age, I did not write a prescription for Jiang Xiaohu but encouraged his parents to communicate more with him.

“I was only being concerned for the child’s future, but Zhang Chuyu disagreed with me. She was adamant that since her child was sick, he needed the medication. There was a disagreement with the treatment method. As a psychiatrist, we’re always misunderstood, so I did not mind that.

“The change in a child’s personality often has much to do with his environment. From how I saw it, Jiang Xiaohu’s illness had plenty to do with his parents. To treat Jiang Xiaohu, I had his mother and sister leave the room so that I could communicate with the boy on my own. From our conversation, I realized something incredibly creepy and scary.”

Doctor Pei did not show concern for Jiang Xiaohu, who was within earshot, and he continued. “When I was talking to Jiang Xiaohu, the boy accidentally revealed some information to me—his mother was lying.”

“Lying?” Chen Ge was confused. “The mother lied to send her child to an asylum? That’s unlikely. Perhaps it was Jiang Xiaohu who was lying.”

Doctor Pei shook his head. “I also could not tell the authenticity of his claim at the time, but after Jiang Long got into the car accident and passed away, I realized that perhaps Jiang Xiaohu wasn’t lying to me.”

“What did he tell you?”

“Jiang Xiaohu told me in confidence that he did not want to do those dangerous things. He had been forced to do those things by his mother to create the impression that he had gone mad!”

“The mother forced her boy to do dangerous things?” Chen Ge got even more confused. “Then what was her purpose for doing that?”

“The purpose was to kill Jiang Xiaohu’s father—Jiang Long.” Doctor Pei looked at Jiang Xiaohu, and his eyes were swirling with complicated emotions. “The boy told me that the one that had gone crazy was his mother, Zhang Chuyu. After his mother found out that the husband had a mistress, she planned to create an accident to kill the father, collect the insurance premium, and consume Jiang Long’s company.”

“It’s hard to imagine a child would say such things. Things shouldn’t be that simple, right?”

“Yes, I had the same thought as you.” Doctor Pei leaned against the bedside, and his eyes were dark. “I didn’t think a boy could understand so many things, and perhaps someone told him to say these things. In this family of four, the father spent most of his time working outside, and the mother couldn’t have implicated herself, so the most possible candidate who could teach these things to Jiang Xiaohu was his sister, Jiang Bai.”

Chen Ge did not interrupt and allow Doctor Pei to finish.

“Then, I called Jiang Bai in to have a private talk with her; the result was unexpected as well.

“Jiang Bai told me that the real madman was her father—Jiang Long. After Jiang Long invested in the Ming Yang Residence project, she felt that her father had changed. He would often return late and do things that she could not understand. The way that he looked at his family had changed as well.

“One time, after Jiang Long got drunk, he got into an argument with the mother. Jiang Long, who had always been a gentle spirit, raised his hand to hit Zhang Chuyu and then ran into the kitchen to grab a knife.

“He waved it in the air and scolded at a spot where no one was standing. He was like a completely different person. After that, Jiang Long returned home even less. No one knew what he was up to. He even bought an apartment for himself in Eastern Jiujiang’s Li Wan City and moved out to live on his own.

“If that was all, Jiang Bai would not have thought that her father had gone mad, but something happened later that made Jiang Bai fearful of her father.

“It happened one month before they came to me for treatment. When Zhang Chuyu was pouring water for herself, Jiang Xiaohu accidentally ran into her, and they were both injured by the hot water. Jiang Bai sent both of them to the hospital. She called her father on the phone, but there was no answer. Then she ran to Jiang Long’s home in Eastern Jiujiang to see him in person.

“When Jiang Long heard that Zhang Chuyu and Jiang Xiaohu were injured, he grumbled a few words before saying that he was busy, so he wouldn’t be visiting them. Jiang Bai was angry when she heard that. She stayed at Jiang Long’s house and would not leave until her father agreed to come with her to the hospital. That night, Jiang Long received a call and left in a hurry, leaving Jiang Bai alone at his place.

“After midnight, Jiang Bai heard movement inside the house. She thought that it was mice. She followed the sound and found a secret room behind the closet. Entering the place, she saw a steel cage, and there was a large doll trapped inside the cage!

“There appeared to be someone sewn into the doll. The person couldn’t speak, and the body was weak. When the person heard the door open, they started to curl up in the corner due to primal fear.

“Jiang Bai did not go in. She was spooked. She closed the closet and ran back to the hospital that night. She told her discovery to Zhang Chuyu and Jiang Xiaohu.

“Jiang Xiaohu was too young to understand anything, but Zhang Chuyu’s reaction was weird. When she heard there was a large doll trapped inside a steel cage, she laughed happily.

“Based on Jiang Bai’s description, both her parents were mentally unstable, but here is the problem. Zhang Chuyu said that Jiang Bai suffered from paranoia, so everything that she saw was just her imagination.”

Doctor Pei finally finished the story. “In any case, that’s the situation with the family. The mother said that the brother and the sister are both crazy, the brother said the mother is crazy, and the sister said the mother and the father are crazy. I’m not afraid of you having a bad judgment of me, but even today, I cannot tell for sure who was really lying.”