

Horrors 541

Chapter 541: Give Me the Child

“What is that?” The doctor frowned. From the name alone, he felt like the society was not that friendly.

“A support group that is formed through mutual support. The members are people like us, people with stories.” Chen Ge wanted to say that it was a support group for mental patients, but he realized how that sounded, so he changed his mind.

“I’m not used to crowds.” Various rumors had forced his lover to her death, so ever since then, the doctor did not like to communicate with other people. The only reason that he talked so much to Chen Ge was because he was the one who had approached Chen Ge, and he felt the passengers on the bus might have worse stories than he did.

The doctor denied the offer. Chen Ge did not force him. After all, anyone would be suspicious when they were invited to join a strange society.

“If you ever find yourself unable to carry the burden anymore but you still wish to see your wife, you can call me.” Chen Ge left his phone number with the doctor. The doctor thought that he was weird, but he still memorized Chen Ge’s number.

“Brother, you mentioned the ghost apartment at Li Wan City earlier, can you tell me more details about it?” Chen Ge wanted to find out more information from the doctor. This was also a way to help the doctor.

“You need to search for the building on your own when you arrive at the city. Sometimes...” The bus suddenly lurched to a stop. All the passengers leaned forward, and it also interrupted the doctor.

The e-bike leaned to the side and knocked into a woman who wore a patient’s garb with her head lowered. The black hair covered her face fully. After the bike knocked into her, she maintained her pose, completely immobile.

“I’m sorry. Did it hurt you?” Chen Ge quickly moved the bike back. He looked at the four women in patient’s garbs, and he tilted his head to the side and slowly squatted down. He wanted to see the four women’s faces to confirm their identity. With one hand on the bike and another on the back of the seat, Chen Ge adjusted his angle, but he still could not see the woman’s face. Hair seemed to grow out from the women’s entire head. However, Chen Ge still got away with a clue. He saw the name of the hospital from the woman’s garb.

It was a hospital with four characters, but the first character was blocked. The last three words were ‘Xin Yi Yuan’¹.

Chen Ge cross-referenced with the local hospitals in Jiujiang—the more famous ones were Central Hospital, the People’s Hospital, and Jiujiang’s Female and Children’s Hospital. He could not figure out which hospital had the word Xin in its name.

Why did they leave the hospital in the middle of the night?

These four women were definitely not living humans. When Chen Ge approached them, his hair stood on end on reflex. He had even gotten used to this feeling.

Four ghosts sitting in a row, but why are they heading to Li Wan City? Chen Ge already understood why living humans went to Li Wan City, but he still did not understand why the dead were going to Li Wan City.

I'm already so close to her, but how come they still haven't responded in the slightest? At least give me a glance.

Ghosts were different from normal humans; he could not just drag any ghost back to the Haunted House. He needed to understand them and observe them for a long time before he felt comforted enough to allow them to reside at the Haunted House.

When Chen Ge wanted to get more information from the four female patients, the announcement rang—they had arrived at the next stop. The doors opened, and the wind carried the rain into the bus. It fell on Chen Ge's back.

Why is it raining so heavily? How come the weather forecast was so far off?

Chen Ge turned around. He only glanced at the bus stop, but he found himself unable to move his eyes away. The rain fell like the heavens had opened up. A woman in a red raincoat stood alone in the middle of the bus stop. The rain slid down the rim of her cap and wetted her hair.

"Were you the one on the phone with me that day?" Chen Ge stood inside the bus and looked at the woman outside the bus. Hearing this familiar voice, the woman slowly raised her head. A pair of strange-looking eyes looked at Chen Ge through the gap in the hair.

"I promised to find your child within a week, so I risked my life to get on this hearse. I have not forgotten the promise that I've made you." Chen Ge sounded confident and trustworthy. The way that the woman looked at Chen Ge was different from how she looked at Xiao Gu. She stood where she was and did not nudge forward.

The announcement began again. The driver, Tang Jun, saw Chen Ge conversing with the woman outside the bus, and cold sweat slid down his face. He pressed the button to close the door. He hurried to the next station.

"Wait!" Just as the backdoor was about to close, Chen Ge used his backpack to block the door. "I have something I need to do."

"This... is not so good. Everyone has right to ride the public bus. We can't ask the whole bus to wait for you alone, right?" The driver was worried that Chen Ge might do something stupid. Whenever he heard Chen Ge's voice, he would panic.

"You still remember that this is public transport, huh? Then why didn't you stop to let me get on earlier?" Chen Ge walked toward the front of the bus. He did not argue with the driver anymore but stopped next to the middle-aged woman. The whole bus was looking at Chen Ge, waiting for what he was going to do.

“What do you want?” The large middle-aged woman moved deeper into her seat, and her voice dropped. Chen Ge did not waste time with her; he was not one to drag things out. Since the woman in the red raincoat had shown up, he could not delay the things with her child anymore.

“Is the boy next to you yours?” Chen Ge rarely used this type of tone. It was devoid of emotion and chilling.

“Ye... yes.” The woman placed herself between Chen Ge and the boy to stop Chen Ge from getting closer to the boy.

“I’ll ask you again, is the boy yours?” Under the shocked gaze of the other passengers, Chen Ge took out the hammer from his backpack. The middle-aged woman looked around the bus with a pleading look, but none of them dared say anything.

Her lips opened, and after a long hesitation, she said, “This is my relative’s child. They are working in Jiujiang, and they’re so busy, so I was asked to look after him.”

“So now, he’s your relative’s child?” Chen Ge swung the hammer. “Wake the boy up. I have a few questions to ask him.”

The commotion was so loud, but the boy continued to slumber; he showed no trace of stirring. The middle-aged woman’s face was conflicted. She pushed the boy, but he gave no response. “He’s quite a heavy sleeper...”

“He’s a heavy sleeper, or have you slipped him some drugs?” Chen Ge held the hammer with one hand. “Let me take a look at the child.”

The middle-aged woman’s face slowly lowered. Her expression was changing. She seemed to know that there was no escape. She reached into her pocket to grab something.

“Xu Yin!” Chen Ge did not give her the chance. When he noticed the change of expression on the woman’s face, he immediately summoned Xu Yin. “I’ll repeat myself one last time, give me the child!”

Chapter 542: Get On

The space inside the bus became cold and oppressive like something was standing next to Chen Ge, but he could not see it clearly. The middle-aged woman slowly removed her hands from the pocket, and her body was shaking. Without waiting for another order from Chen Ge, she moved the boy to the seat next to the aisle.

Chen Ge picked up the boy from the seat. He still had some warmth, and Chen Ge could hear the heart beating. The boy was alive.

Why would the woman bring the child to Eastern Jiujiang? Is it because they believe a child has an easier time to become a door-pusher?

Having witnessed many tragedies in Eastern Jiujiang, Chen Ge had noticed that the main characters of these stories were mostly children, but he still had not figured out why yet.

Chen Ge walked to the backdoor. He did not get off nor did he hand the boy over to the woman in the raincoat directly. He had heard Fan Chong say that one of the endings of the game was Xiao Bu being taken by the woman in the red raincoat. The woman was not Xiao Bu's mother, but she had still taken Xiao Bu with her and treated Xiao Bu as her child's replacement.

Chen Ge was unsure whether this ending was good or bad. Compared to death, it was better, but this was unfair to Xiao Bu. This situation that he was facing then was similar to the game. The boy was unconscious, and no one could tell whether he was the woman's child. If he handed the boy to the woman in the raincoat, she would not reject it and would probably treat the boy as her child's replacement.

Touching the boy's face, Chen Ge asked the woman outside, "Is he your child?"

The woman's gaze softened. She did not answer Chen Ge's question but took one step forward.

"Looks like he's not." Chen Ge had been staring at the woman. A mother who would stand in the heavy rain to wait for her child would definitely not act so calmly if the child that she had lost had been found. Chen Ge took one step back and placed the boy on the seat next to him.

When the woman in the red raincoat saw that, her mouth that was sewn shut by red threads started to growl. The gentleness in her eyes disappeared instantly, and blood poured out from her eyes. It looked scary.

"I only promised to help you find your child—I did not say I would give you another person's child." If this was one month ago, Chen Ge definitely would not have been brave enough to tell a Red Specter off, but things were different now. He was on the hearse, and he had Xu Yin. Even though Zhang Ya was injured, she was not asleep. She could be summoned anytime.

"You don't look that happy." Chen Ge held the hammer and looked the woman in the red raincoat up and down. "I'm curious, since you know your child might be on the bus, then why don't you come in to inspect it yourself? What are you afraid of?"

The lips that were sewn together could not speak. The lips moved, and the blood started to twist. The woman's emotions were agitated. Chen Ge could see her pain and anger.

"You've been standing at the bus stop to look for your child, so did you get separated from him at the bus stop? Your body is injured. After you lost your child, what happened to you when you were searching for him?"

Chen Ge's words reminded the woman of the past, and the painful images flashed across her mind. The rain fell on her body, and the droplets turned into blood when they hit the floor. In the rain, the woman stood alone at the bus stop, and blood pooled around her.

A dark blood vessel was popping on the pale face. The woman lifted her head. She wanted to open her mouth, and the threads on her lips were slowly being pulled taut. Her face was torn by the action. She took deliberate steps toward Chen Ge. Standing at the door, Chen Ge stood in front of the boy, and he looked at the woman silently. "You're afraid—I can see the fear in your heart. It's not that you don't want to get on this bus, but you're afraid to do so. You're fearful of the real owner of this bus, aren't you?"

A living person was speaking to a Red Specter so calmly about the fear in her heart. This was a very scary thing for the other passengers. The woman ultimately stopped before the door. She knew that the bus belonged to something else, and stepping onto it would be a violation of that something's rules.

"Your child disappeared on this bus, but for some reason, you lack the courage to even step on this bus. How do you expect to find your child like this?" With the other passengers watching him, Chen Ge extended his hand toward the woman. "Get on, we'll look for your child together."

The blood soaked the platform. The woman stopped at the door, and her expression was conflicted. She was a Red Specter in Eastern Jiujiang. If she got on the bus, she would break the contract that she had with another being, and they would end up in an opposing situation. Chen Ge could see the anxiety and pain within the Red Specter; he took a step forward and placed his hands lightly on the woman's shoulders.

The rain drenched his clothes, but he ignored it. He looked right into the woman's eyes. "Stop hesitating. I'm sure when your child wakes up from his nightmare, the first person that he'll want to see is you."

The driver stared at the backdoor through the rearview mirror. His heart raced as he watched the interaction between Chen Ge and the Red Specter. His leg was hovering over the gas pedal. If they got into a fight or Chen Ge left the bus, he would leave this place immediately. However, what happened next was outside his expectations.

The Red Specter, who was losing her control, started to calm down. She raised one hand to reach into the bus; this was something that had not happened before. The Red Specter had been watching outside the bus, and she had never once touched the bus before.

"Another one is getting on?" The driver's Adam apple shook. He suddenly realized that the lives of all the passengers were on his shoulders, and the pressure was huge.

Under Chen Ge's persuasion, the woman finally made a decision, but just as her hand was about to reach into the bus, the sound of children crying came from both sides of the road. Hearing this, the woman seemed to be reminded of something incredibly scary. The hand that reached out immediately pulled back. Her bloodied eyes looked at Chen Ge. She stopped for several seconds before turning and leaving the bus stop.

"What happened?"

The door closed, and the bus continued to move. Chen Ge looked at the empty bus stop and felt quite confused.

He walked to the driver's seat while dragging the hammer. Before he said anything, the driver quickly said, "I don't know anything, I'm just the driver. I swear!"

Since the driver had said that, Chen Ge did not give him more trouble. He put the hammer back into his backpack. He hugged the boy and took his seat next to the doctor.

Well, at least the relationship between the woman in the red raincoat has improved.

Chen Ge turned and saw the doctor looking at his backpack with fear, like he had not recovered from the things that happened earlier.

Chapter 543: The Disappearing Bus Stop

"I'm out and about in the middle of the night by myself. I have to bring something to protect myself in case of danger, right?" Chen Ge gave his explanation.

"You have a point there." After a brief moment of hesitation, the doctor asked, "The members of the society that you mentioned earlier, are they all like you?"

"Compared to them, I'm the more rational one."

"You're the more rational one?" The doctor coughed. His body was failing him.

"Yes, call me if you have the time. We can sit down and discuss this slowly." Chen Ge felt like he had good rapport with this good doctor, and the feeling seemed mutual. The bus moved in the rain. It soon arrived at the next station. Chen Ge stood up to glance out the window and did not see the woman in red raincoat.

Where has she disappeared to? Did something happen to her? There were children crying at the previous stop, and I heard that sound at Eastern Jiujiang Fresh Water Plant before. Did the shadow show up earlier?

When the shadow showed up, Men Nan and Xu Yin had appeared to stop Chen Ge. This went to show how scary the shadow was.

I hope that woman will be alright. Chen Ge was worried about the woman in the red raincoat, but he soon traced the thought back to himself. This bus connects Eastern and Western Jiujiang to collect all the despairing souls from the city. The woman merely attempted to break the rules, and something happened. If I drive the whole bus away, will the culprit show up directly?

Chen Ge thought about it and figured the chance of that happening was very low. *The culprit is probably busy with something else, or else he would not have used his shadow to handle everything. Then again, there's also a possibility that the shadow itself is the culprit. It has no body, or the body is seriously injured, and everything it's doing is trying to fix its body.*

Chen Ge was not going to risk it. He decided to drive the bus away to test the enemy's reaction. *Even if it's an existence above a Red Specter, it won't have come to Western Jiujiang to seek me out for no reason, right? If it really comes to that, I'll just hide myself inside the Haunted House until Zhang Ya is fully recovered.*

As someone who was optimistic, only a personality like that enabled him to survive against the wave of complicated scenarios. The bus passed several stations before it reached the final destination—Li Wan City.

The bus stop was next to the mouth of West Street. It was very simple. The bus stopped, and to Chen Ge's surprise, the woman in the red raincoat showed up again. However, she looked rather winded like she had just experienced a horrible battle.

The bus stopped at this last bus stop for three minutes, but none of the passengers moved. Three minutes later, under the watchful gaze of the woman in the red raincoat, the bus drove into Li Wan City. The situation was similar to what Chen Ge had experienced in the game. After struggling loose from the woman in the red raincoat's assault, Xiao Bu had gotten onto the last bus and headed into Li Wan City. The blurry buildings became clearer, and the bus trundled down the deserted street. The whole city felt empty; there was no light or sound.

"We've already passed the bus stop. Where are you taking us?" Chen Ge held his backpack and walked to the driver.

Now, whenever he heard Chen Ge's voice, the driver would be scared. "The last stop is inside the town. We haven't reached it yet." He just wanted to finish the route and drop Chen Ge off. However, weirdly enough, he drove around the city for a long time but failed to find the bus stop.

"Are you lost?"

Hearing the annoyance in Chen Ge's voice, the driver started to explain, "I'm not lying to you. There was a bus stop here—it's the last stop—but that place disappeared today." The driver pointed at an empty space next to the junction. "How is it going to benefit me by lying to you? I also wish for all of you to get off my bus as soon as possible, but we have a rule that we can only stop by bus stops, or bad things will happen."

"If there's no stop, do you plan to continue driving aimlessly around town?" The doctor stood up. He had been silent because things had nothing to do with him, but now that the bus could not stop, he was unable to get to the ghost apartment to hear his wife's voice.

"I also want to stop, but I just stop anywhere—something special will get on the bus!" The driver turned the car around. "The only idea that I have now is to return to the earlier stop and park there. If you want to enter Li Wan City, you can walk there."

The driver glanced at Chen Ge when he spoke—he was worried that Chen Ge might have a different opinion. Reality proved that his worry was founded.

"Just stop here." Chen Ge pointed at the empty space. In the game, the bus taken by Xiao Bu had stopped there. Everything so far matched the game, so the place where the bus stop should be a piece of empty land.

Once Chen Ge said so, the driver did not even resist and park the bus. "We've reached the final stop. Please get off now. I cannot stay here for too long." Then, he turned to look at Chen Ge with a polite smile. He sighed like a great burden had been lifted. "Have a good journey."

"Thank you." Chen Ge held the bag with one arm as he turned toward the driver. "Since we're here, why don't we get off together?"

"Together?" The smile froze on the driver's face. "My job is to transport you all here safely. I still need to drive the bus back, so I can't accompany you."

"Just park the bus here, there's no need to rush." If there were no living people on the bus, Chen Ge would have taken out his comic and started a massacre. Seeing the persistence from Chen Ge, the driver

relented and cursed his back luck internally. He realized that compared to angering Chen Ge, it was better to just follow his orders.

“Fine, I’ll get off with you.” The driver pressed the button, and all the doors opened at the same time. Just as that happened, the four women in patient’s garbs who had been so silent throughout the journey suddenly went mad and rushed out the backdoor with incredible speed. Chen Ge was standing by the driver’s seat, so when he recovered, the four had already disappeared into the dark city.

It was too late to give chase, but Chen Ge did not mind it. *Have fun running. After all, I’ve already found out the name of your hospital. There’s nowhere else you could have run off to.*

He had Xu Yin look after the backdoor to prevent an accident from happening again. Chen Ge allowed the mentally-challenged father and doctor to get off first. Then he closed the bus doors.

Don’t worry, we will have many chances to see each other in the future.

Chapter 544: The Story of the Driver Ghost

After the living humans left, Chen Ge took out his comic to summon all his employees. He did not explain that much and strode directly to the back of the bus. The crowd of ‘people’ swarmed the tight space. The couple was scared. They did not expect to run into something like this. “It will get dangerous here. You should come with me for now.”

Chen Ge did not ask for the couple’s opinion and had Yan Danian pull them into the comic directly. The couple was just stronger lingering spirits—they were similar level with Duan Yue and Ol’ Zhou—so Chen Ge was not worried about them creating trouble.

After dealing with the couple, Chen Ge led his people to surround the driver, Tang Jun.

“Speak, why wouldn’t you let me get on the bus at the bus stops?” The driver did not expect Chen Ge to be so resentful and would not forgive him after they had reached the last stop. The driver cowered into himself, sensing the pressure coming from all sides, and he uttered softly, “Red Specters are not allowed on the bus. The bus is only for despair-filled people and spirits.”

“How did you know that I have a Red Specter with me?” Chen Ge glanced at the driver, but he did not dwell on that and instead asked, “Who asked you to drive this bus?”

“I don’t know,” the driver answered carefully. He had not been surrounded like this before. Without waiting for Chen Ge to ask, he told him everything, “I was just a normal bus driver; I used to drive the last bus on Route 104. Our company had many ghost stories related to this last bus, saying it would run into many strange things, so many people refused to drive it. In the end, the leader had no choice but to offer extra money for those who were willing to drive it. I was rather brave, so I took up the offer.”

“Then, what happened to you?” Chen Ge looked at the driver’s face. The man was probably not lying.

“Route 104 is very long; it cuts through Jiujiang, joining Eastern and Western Jiujiang. When I reported for work on the first day, the old driver who got off his shift gave me a few pointers.” The driver looked at Chen Ge, and regret overwhelmed him. “He told me, whenever I reached a bus stop, regardless of whether there was anyone on the bus or at the bus stop or not, I have to open both the doors and wait

several minutes. Other than that, he warned me from stopping at any place that doesn't have a bus stop sign and told me to not stay at a bus stop for more than three minutes. The last tip, which was also the most important, was to drive as slow as I can on rainy days."

The sweat collected on the driver's face. He kept using the towel on his shoulders to wipe it, but it was no use. After a while, Chen Ge realized that it was not sweat but water. As the conversation continued, the driver's face paled. His skin started to bloat like it had been submerged in water for a long time.

"I remembered the pointers by heart. For the first few weeks, I followed his orders to the tee. No matter what, I would stop the bus and wait at the bus stop. It was not until one month later that things changed. It was raining that night. After entering Eastern Jiujiang, no one got on the bus.

"I was the only one on the bus. I followed the old driver's advice for the first few stops, but after a while, I thought, if there was no one on the bus and the bus stops was empty, why should I open and close the doors? It was a waste of time.

"The day was similar to today. The rain continued to pour, and I was in a rush to go home, so when I passed the later bus stops and saw that they were empty, I would drive past them. When I passed the bus stop for the fresh water plant, I suddenly heard someone talking inside the bus. I couldn't tell for sure what they said, it sounded like they were telling me to stop.

"The world outside was so dark, and I was nowhere near a bus stop, so I did not stop. After driving for a while, I realized that something was wrong. There was no passenger on the bus! So, where did the voice come from?"

At this point, the driver's shoulders started to shiver. He lowered his head, and his hands gripped his hair. The 'sweat' from his forehead slid down his face. "I felt like my whole body was frozen. I raised my head to look at the rearview mirror, and I saw someone standing behind me. His skin was white and bloated; his eyes were popping out of their sockets."

The driver slowly raised his head. His skin was blanched, and his eyes were popping, similar to his own description.

"In my panic, I turned the steering wheel, and the bus flew into the river." The driver had a talent for story-telling. After he finished, he glanced at Chen Ge, he realized that Chen Ge did not go on the offensive, so he continued, "I saw myself fall into the water. Then after who knows how long, when I opened my eyes, I realized that I was still on this bus. There was a shadow standing next to me, and it told me that I would get my freedom after ferrying one thousand passengers."

"A shadow? Describe it for me."

"The shadow was my size, it felt like my own shadow had come alive. I could not describe its voice, or rather, I forgot all about it after hearing it." Based on the driver's tone and expression, he did not seem to be lying.

This ghost sure is something else. It's much more cunning compared to the other ghosts I've faced.

"If you want to investigate that shadow, I can provide you with one extra piece of information." The driver's face was expanding and scary—he had shed his disguise. "But you have to promise me one thing."

“What is it?”

“Let me go.” The driver looked at Chen Ge expectantly. “My family must be worried about me. I want to go back to take a look at them.”

“I will definitely accompany you to go back home. Tell me if you have any other wish, I will do my best to help you fulfill them.” Chen Ge’s attitude softened aplenty; he already treated the driver as one of his own.

“You will follow me home?” The driver had no idea what Chen Ge was up to. He had a feeling that this man before him might go after his family. After a long hesitation, the driver sighed and gave up on his struggle. “I once asked the shadow why it needed me to transport the passengers to Li Wan City. It told me it was rearing something there, and it needs a constant supply of pain and despair.”

“Making a door lose control and sending all the pained souls from Jiujiang to this place just because he’s cultivating something?” Chen Ge remembered what the driver said. He asked a few more questions before pulling the driver into the comic.

The middle-aged woman was the only passenger that remained. She had witnessed Chen Ge’s ‘acts of violence’, and she was shivering like a leaf.

“Don’t waste my time. Tell me everything you know.”

Chapter 545: New Trial Missions!

Having seen the passengers disappear one after another, the anxiety in her heart grew.

“I was only responsible for sending the children to Li Wan City; I don’t know about anything else!”

“You don’t know about anything? Then I have no reason to keep you around.” Chen Ge had Xu Yin and the other employees surround her. The woman screamed, and her ugly face started to shift. The clothes that looked so old-fashioned started to leak out with blood. They formed into small children’s handprints.

“Let me off the bus!” The voice was hoarse, and the woman’s body creaked and cracked as she expanded in size. Seeing the changes, Chen Ge and the surrounding passengers were calm. They were like visitors watching the beast roar from outside the cage.

“If you want to get off the bus, then you just need to tell me where all the children have been taken.” Chen Ge had promised the woman in the red raincoat to find her child within one week, and three days had already passed.

The woman did not appear to hear Chen Ge’s voice, and she continued to lash out at her surroundings. Interestingly enough, Chen Ge did not seem to be able to witness the changes on the woman. He kept his voice calm and even. “It was you who kidnapped all these children, wasn’t it?”

He pointed at the boy who was still unconscious with an innocent-looking face. The woman seemed to realize that Chen Ge was the center of all the ghosts. Chen Ge had just placed the hammer inside his

backpack, and he was empty-handed. She did not hesitate. Her venomous eyes focused on Chen Ge, and she charged forward!

Chen Ge looked at the woman who charged at him, but he did not even pretend to evade. "A half Red Specter, looks like you're the strongest presence on this two-star mission."

The woman stopped in the middle of her charge. Her body was frozen due to fear. There was someone else that appeared between her and Chen Ge. The red on the clothes fell like rain. Without an order from Chen Ge, Xu Yin already appeared before him

"The last bus on Route 104 is a two-star scenario, and the strongest enemy here is a half Red Specter. Now that I think about it, there should be a similarly strong presence at Mu Yang High School." Chen Ge was still hung up on the old headmaster. Considering that he might be a half Red Specter, Chen Ge's interest heightened. After having Xu Yin detain the woman, Chen Ge did not kill her directly; he planned to hand this woman over to the woman in the red raincoat. "Karma always catches up to you."

The woman had no idea what Chen Ge was thinking, but seeing the smile on Chen Ge's face, terror gripped her heart. After putting the other employees away, Chen Ge picked up the unconscious boy and got off the bus. When both his feet touched the ground, the black phone vibrated.

"The mission has been completed?" Chen Ge turned back to look at the bus. The whole bus was empty. At the end of the mission, he had been the last passenger to descend.

"With my current capability, I should be able to challenge a more difficult mission." Chen Ge was familiar with the changes to his ability. A few months ago, a two-star mission would have been a struggle to even survive, but now, things had completely changed.

"Looks like all my effort so far has paid off." Chen Ge took out the phone and clicked the new message to read.

"Congratulations, Specter's Favored! You've successfully completed the two-star Trial Mission—The Hearse!

"Mission completion rate is one hundred percent! Congratulations for obtaining the hidden item—The last bus on Route 104!

"Last bus on Route 104 (A hearse signifying misfortune and tragedy, it's involved in many accidents. It can only go on the road on the morning after a rainy night).

"Warning! Now you have two choices!

"1: Unlock the scenario 'The Hearse' inside the Maze of Horror. After unlocking this scenario, the hearse will be unable to leave the Maze of Horror!

"2: Keep the hearse, the vehicle that can only go on the road on the morning after a rainy night. When you pass a bus stop, there's a chance to attract special passengers."

After reading the message, Chen Ge chose the second one without hesitation. There would be plenty more scary scenarios but only one hearse, and the special power matched Chen Ge's desire perfectly. A specific chance to attract special passengers. Once such passengers got on Chen Ge's bus, there was no chance that they were going to leave the bus after that.

After making his choice, the black phone vibrated again.

“Two-star scenario ‘The Hearse’ has been completed. The Castle of Nightmares will now unlock new Trial Missions!

“New unlockable scenarios increased!

“Twin Water Ghosts (Big sister tied the rock to my feet, and as my body sunk, I saw a lot of dark water grass dancing in the dam. Scream Factor: 2 stars).

“Ghost Fire (There are constantly weird noises coming from the neighbor’s home, but the place is supposed to be vacant. Scream Factor: 3 stars).

“End of the Tunnel (What is at the end of the tunnel? Scream Factor: 3 stars).

“Ghost Town, Li Wan City (Mummy, I’m Xiao Bu... Scream Factor: 3.5 stars).

“Ghost Fetus (One day, I will become you! Scream Factor: 4 stars).

“The Game of Curse at Xin Hai’s Central Hospital (There’s a game of curse and death going on at this abandoned hospital. Scream Factor: 4 stars. It will only be unlocked after you complete the preceding missions).”

The black phone updated with six new Trial Missions, and the easiest one had a two-star difficulty. The thing that made Chen Ge frown was that the only two-star mission seemed to be underwater.

He knew how to swim, but it was still inconvenient. *The mission is called Twin Water Ghosts, so there should be more than one enemy. Also, the mission description is weird—is the water grass that ‘I’ saw actual grass or the hair of dead people?*

The difficulty of the missions had increased drastically, and of the two newly unlocked three-star scenarios, he had just heard about the Ghost Fire for the first time while the End of the Tunnel should be related to his previous Nightmare Mission.

Chen Ge had met the Red Specter at the tunnel once, and he felt like this should be the easiest mission. *If there’s a chance, I should go and complete this tunnel mission first. Perhaps my Haunted House will be able to welcome a new Red Specter.*

It was worth noting that the mission that Chen Ge was currently doing, The Ghost Town, Li Wan City was 3.5 stars. Chen Ge predicted that this was due to the door that had gotten out of control.

After the door went out of control, the difficulty increased to 3.5 stars. Then again, this also means that the situation at Li Wan City was not as scary as a four-star mission!

The last two missions were both four-stars—Chen Ge did not expect that. Eastern Jiujiang was much more dangerous than he had thought.

Now, there are three four-star mission on the list. There’s no need to rush; I need to prepare first.

Chen Ge was calculating the opening date for the new futuristic park. He wanted to do a four-star mission and come out with a big announcement right before the new park opened.

Chapter 546: Persuasion

After the hearse connected Western Jiujiang to Eastern Jiujiang, Chen Ge did not expect the black phone to unlock two 4-star scenarios and one 3.5-star scenario.

The few missions are probably related, and the culprit in Eastern Jiujiang might be hiding at one of the scenarios.

Chen Ge looked at the mission information on the phone and had a hard time calming down.

Xin Hai Central Hospital, I have not heard of this place. And the ghost fetus, there's no way I can tell the mission content from the name alone.

Conflicted, Chen Ge thought about the situation. The previous three-star scenario had led him to face a weird individual like Doctor Gao, then the four-star scenario might have a presence more powerful than a Red Specter. Chen Ge was familiar with the difference between a normal spirit and a Red Specter.

Similarly, the ghost above Red Specter would be far more powerful than a normal Red Specter. Even a top Red Specter like Zhang Ya might not be able to fight them. Chen Ge thought back to all the ghosts that he had encountered since obtaining the black phone to try to speculate the power of a ghost above Red Specter.

Lingering spirits cannot be communicated with—they're just a thought that refuses to leave. They are even afraid of people with too much Yang energy.

Normal baleful Specters will not appear in broad daylight, and they normally possess a certain object for survival. However, rare-type Specters are completely different. Each of them possesses a special power, and even though their spirit might be limited, they are able to toy with human beings with their power.

Above that will be a half Red Specter—these are baleful Specters that have the potential to become Red Specters. All of them are cruel and violent monsters. After finding their heart, half Red Specters will become real Red Specters, and they can control these weird blood threads along with many other weird powers.

I've seen the way Zhang Ya fights people—it was similar to other Red Specters, but the only difference is that her black hair appeared endless, like once touched, you'd be dragged into an endless blackened sea of despair.

Zhang Ya was undeniably the strongest Red Specter that Chen Ge had currently; however, her attack method was still quite singular. She was merely the strongest among the Red Specters, and there was no tactical change about her.

The black blood stain that the ghost stories society obtained from behind the door seems to be useful to Zhang Ya. However, Zhang Ya became obviously more ruthless after she consumed it. If she continues to consume those black blood stain, she might one day run amok.

Regarding this top Red Specter that lived in his shadow, Chen Ge really did not know what kind of attitude he should use to face her.

There's no use cracking my head over it now. I'll think about it when I chance upon the black blood.

Li Wan City's mission was 3.5 stars—it was half a star more difficult than the underground morgue. Zhang Ya was injured, and Xu Yin still had not found his heart. Chen Ge thought about it and decided that it was not yet time to start this mission.

I should try to finish the first few three-star missions first and come back to this mission after I obtain more Red Specters.

Chen Ge looked at the empty space where the bus was parked. The driver had said that there was supposed to be a bus stop there, and he had seen it in the game. However, in real life, the bus stop had disappeared. This went to show many things. The ghosts that were hidden deep inside Li Wan City were probably cautious of Chen Ge as well.

The driver said that his mission is to send living humans to Li Wan City because the shadow is rearing something at Li Wan City. The culprit is probably afraid that I might show up to ruin his plan completely.

The plan had been started several years ago, to siphon all the despair to a small town and then purposely make a door go out of control. To commit to such a large scale, this was definitely more than cultivating a Red Specter.

Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of the many children who had met grisly ends in the game at Lin Wan City. His eyes moved to the four-star Trial Mission—Ghost Fetus. “These two missions are probably related—could the ghost fetus be the thing that the shadow is cultivating in Li Wan City?”

The ghost fetus was rated a four-star mission by the black phone, so there had to be something scary about it. However, Chen Ge currently had too little information to come up with a useful hypothesis.

I need to find Xiao Bu first! Before clearing the game, I shouldn't start the trial mission in Li Wan City.

The game reflected reality, and the plot in the game reflected the actual murders that happened in real life. Chen Ge believed that by completing the game and mastering all the side quests, it would be greatly helpful when he tackled the mission in Li Wan City in real life.

But I'm still lacking power.

His heart was unsettled. The appearance of two four-star scenarios made Chen Ge feel a sense of danger.

I cannot give up any chance to improve the Haunted House's power.

Reminded of something, Chen Ge picked up the unconscious child to return to the bus. Sitting at the driver's seat, Chen Ge tried to operate the bus. He realized that the bus was seriously outdated like it could crumble at any minute.

Stepping on the pedal, Chen Ge turned the bus around. The large Li Wan City had no trace of light. Chen Ge drove the bus alone down the road. He drove the bus to the entrance to Li Wan City. There was a singular red shadow standing at the bus stop by the roadside.

The bus stopped, and Chen Ge had Xu Yin escort the middle-aged lady off the bus. Once the middle-aged lady was carried off the bus, the woman in the red raincoat's eyes turned red immediately, and she almost lost control.

"If you kill here, the clue to your child's location will be lost." Chen Ge stood before the woman, the desire to kill that radiated from the woman overwhelmed Chen Ge. "She sent your child into Li Wan City, so we need her to give us the exact location."

The woman slowly calmed down. Her eyes moved from the middle-aged woman to fall on Chen Ge.

This was the first time that Chen Ge had seen the woman's face up close. There were small nicks on her cheeks and neck. Her lips were sewn shut by blood threads, and they would tear whenever she wanted to speak.

"Life sure is hard for you as well, and I sincerely want to help you. I will leave you to deal with this middle-aged woman—I hope you can get the location of your child from her." Chen Ge sighed. "I know that you have your own reason for not entering Li Wan City, but if you wish to find your child, you will have to enter it. I don't ask that you listen to my command—I just want to tell you that I will accompany you to help you find your child."

The woman in the red raincoat was shaken, and Chen Ge added while the iron was hot, "After you get your child's location, you can come find me at Western Jiujiang's New Century Park. I promise you in the capacity of the chairperson of the ghost stories society, no matter how dangerous Li Wan City is, I will accompany you into the city to help you find your child."

Chapter 547: First Building First Floor

After that, Chen Ge had Xu Yin hand the middle-aged woman to the woman in the red raincoat. "I'll wait for your news."

He did not stay at the bus stop but led Xu Yin back onto the bus. The woman's screams came from the bus stop. Blood pooled around the raincoat, and it crawled into the middle-aged woman's body like snakes. Hearing the cries for mercy from the woman, the lady in the red raincoat did not appear happy. Her red eyes looked at Chen Ge on the bus, and the emotions in them were complicated.

Chen Ge did not use the middle-aged woman as a bargaining chip to force her to do something but handed her over to her directly. This action made the woman in red raincoat's impression of him improve by a lot.

The bus left the stop and headed directly for Fan Chong's home. The rain started to lighten, and Chen Ge carried the e-bike from the bus and up the building. After an eventful journey, Chen Ge arrived at Fan Chong's place at around 2 am. He was afraid that Fan Chong would already be asleep, so he sent him a message first. After some time, Chen Ge's phone started to vibrate. Fan Chong called him directly after seeing his message. "Boss Chen, are you downstairs?"

"Yes, I hope I didn't wake you up. I guess you aren't sleeping yet."

"It's raining outside! I'll come get you immediately."

“There’s no need. I came today to ask you some things.”

The phone hung up, and Chen Ge placed the e-bike at the parking lot and then entered the building with the keys. He reached the top floor, and the door to Fan Chong’s place was open.

“My brother is sleeping in the other room; he needs to work tomorrow morning.” Fan Chong was excited when he saw Chen Ge. “Boss Chen, I got a few other endings. The game has quite a few Easter eggs ¹.”

“This time, I’m not here for the game.” Chen Ge had not forgotten what had happened at Jiujiang’s Mental Asylum. He wanted to go take a look at Jiang Long’s apartment. In the game, after Xiao Bu opened the door behind the closet in her classmate’s home, the style of the game changed. If the game was a reflection of real life, then the ‘door’ that had gotten out of control in Li Wan City was probably in Jiang Long’s home. Chen Ge wanted to see the difference between the door that had gotten out of control and a normal door.

“You’re not here for the game? You came so late at night just to return the e-bike?” Fan Chong was confused.

“That is one of the reasons. Let’s go in first, and I’ll tell you.” Chen Ge stood in the corridor, and he had a bad feeling about the place like something was eavesdropping on them. After closing the door, Fan Chong handed Chen Ge a towel. “You’re so soaked. Why don’t you change into some of my clothes first?”

“Thanks, but it’s fine.” Chen Ge cut right to the chase. “Fan Chong, you have played the game before. Did you realize that the building where Xiao Bu’s classmate lived was very similar to the first building of your residential area?”

Initially, that did not even cross Fan Chong’s mind, but once Chen Ge brought it up, his eyes slowly widened. “Now that you mention it, the residential area where Xiao Bu’s classmate stayed is rather similar to the layout here.”

“I plan to visit Xiao Bu’s classmate’s home tonight.” Chen Ge stood. Because his clothes were wet, he did not want to stain the furniture.

“Xiao Bu’s classmate’s home? In real life?” Fan Chong had trouble following Chen Ge’s thought.

“I’ve already contacted the police. Xiao Bu’s classmate is now a mental asylum patient, and I know his home’s exact location.”

With that, Chen Ge confused Fan Chong even more. “Boss Chen, aren’t you a Haunted House operator? Why would you have a relation with the police?”

“Don’t worry, I didn’t reveal anything about the game, and the connection to the police is due to a dismemberment case.”

“Dismemberment case?” Fan Chong’s face paled immediately.

“Yes, it’s at Ming Yang Residence not far from here.”

“It’s not far from here?”

“Yes, the murderer is still currently on the loose, but I already have a few suspects in mind.” Chen Ge did not consider Fan Chong’s feelings when he said those things. He forgot how terms like murder, dismemberment, and killer might affect a normal person.

Fan Chong also got nervous hearing what Chen Ge was up to. “What do you need from me?”

“Based on my previous investigation, I confirmed that Xiao Bu’s classmate’s home was this residential area’s first building’s first floor, and first unit. You and your brother have stayed here for so long already, did you notice anything weird?”

The first building was just opposite from Fan Chong’s building—he only needed to pull back the curtain to see it.

“I don’t think there’s anything weird about the place, but now that you put it that way, it does look quite creepy,” Fan Chong answered with a bitter smile.

“There’s no need to hurry, give it time to think. When your brother wakes up tomorrow, you can ask him as well or ask the other old tenants at the area.” Chen Ge did not expect to have a result on day one. “This is the key to your bike; I’ll place it on the table. Your bike was the MVP tonight.”

Fan Chong did not know what Chen Ge was talking about. He thought about it and then waved at Chen Ge. “Come with me. I’ve thought about it and realized that there was something weird about that building.”

The two entered the bedroom, and Fan Chong pulled back the curtain.

“Li Wan City is the easternmost side of Eastern Jiujiang, so the traffic here is very inconvenient. Many people have moved away because of that, and the tenancy rate here today is only one third.” Fan Chong pointed at the building opposite. “When we first moved here, we planned to stay at the first building because the rental there is much cheaper compared to the three other buildings. However, our current landlord told us that the place is not safe, and many tenants that moved into that building would disappear due to mysterious circumstance.”

“Disappeared?” Chen Ge was immediately reminded of the ‘door’; he suspected that these people had entered the ‘door’.

“Yes, we saw people move in, but one day, they stopped appearing. No one knew whether they had moved or something else happened.”

“Did no one call the police?”

“It’s no use calling the police. Eastern Jiujiang is near the countryside, and most of the people here are not locals, so they move about a lot. The police would come to check whether it was a big case like murder. They realized that there was no sign of fighting inside the home, and everything looked normal, so they left. After this carried on for a while, everyone sort of got used to it.”

“Other than that, what else happened?” Chen Ge looked at the first floor of the first building. All the windows had tape seals on them. “Was it the police who put those seals up?”

“Yes, there was once someone who lived on the first floor. It was an old lady who lived alone. She often said that there was a little child standing outside her window at night. The people around her knew that

she was not a liar, and they even came up with a group to ambush the child who wanted to scare the old lady.”

“And then what happened?” Chen Ge was intrigued. The mention of the child connected his thought to the ghost fetus directly.

Fan Chong shook his head. “There was no child. The old woman was probably too old and confused. The people squatted there for a whole night and saw no child. In the end, they entered the old woman’s room to inspect and realized that the window in her room was caked with grease and grime, so standing inside, there was no way she could have seen anything that was outside.”

“Couldn’t see out the window?” Chen Ge thought about it and asked, “Could it be that the child has been standing inside the room?”

Chapter 548: The Room

The bedroom suddenly became quiet. Fan Chong looked at Chen Ge’s face, forgetting what he was going to say.

“No, that can’t be right...” After a long time, Fan Chong forced a smile. Every time he was with Chen Ge, he had to remind himself to be quiet and calm, but he often found himself being stunned by the words that left Chen Ge’s lips and the things that he did. “The door and windows of the old lady’s place are unharmed, and the child wouldn’t have shown up inside the room.”

“Could it be that the child sneaked into the room when the old lady was out and had been hiding inside the room? And he’d only appear after the old lady crawled into bed and fell asleep.”

“How come you’re making it sound so scary?” Fan Chong could not catch up to Chen Ge’s train of thought. He did not think that this would be that scary, but once Chen Ge gave his thought, his heart quivered.

“I just stated the most possible scenario with the limited clues.”

“Even so, what was the child doing at the old lady’s home at night? Prank? To steal stuff?”

Chen Ge looked at the building opposite, his eyes focusing on the tapes. “It’s quite a heartless for a child to prank an old lady. The chance of it being a thief is bigger but not by much. By the way, was the child that the old lady saw a girl or a boy?”

“Is that important?” Fan Chong combed his memory. “It should be a girl.”

“A girl?” Chen Ge turned around and looked at the game that was playing on screen. “Could it be that Xiao Bu has returned?”

The leap in Chen Ge’s thought was big. Before Fan Chong could get it, Chen Ge continued. “The first floor of the first building was where Xiao Bu’s classmate’s house was. If the game reflects reality, then Xiao Bu would show up there. After all, that is the door’s location.”

He did not hesitate. “I wish to go over to the building to take a look. Do you want to come with?”

“Now?” Fan Chong shivered. “You’re going there at 2 am?”

“There are too many people in the morning, and that will limit our actions. It’s better at night.”

“Boss Chen, it’s not that I’m a coward.” Fan Chong took up the cola from the table and took a sip. This seemed to be the way the man calmed himself down. “The old lady passed away soon after she saw the girl—she died from a sudden heart attack. When the ambulance arrived, they were already too late.

“At the time, I was also there. I heard the medical people say that the old lady was too old, and the sudden heart attack meant that she shouldn’t have been able to make the emergency call. I didn’t think too much of it at the time, but after what you told me tonight, the more I think about it, the more confused I am. The old lady stayed at her place alone, so when she lost her mobility due to the heart attack, who was the person who called the emergency number for her?”

“Didn’t this show that the child did not have any intention of harming her? Perhaps she was just passing by.”

“Brother, aren’t you being a bit optimistic?” Fan Chong shook his head. “I don’t feel that safe going there now.”

“Never mind then, you can stay here. We will keep in contact over the phone. If you see anything weird from the window, remember to tell me on the phone.” Then Chen Ge picked up his backpack and headed out. Fan Chong tried to stop him, but looking at his back, he did not know what to say. Chen Ge stood alone in the darkened residential area.

Li Wan City’s difficulty is 3.5 stars. The final enemy is more powerful than Doctor Gao. If I can find Xiao Bu and combine the help of all the victims, the success rate of this mission will drastically increase.

From how Chen Ge saw it, it was just a coincidence that Xiao Bu opened the ‘door’. Even though the door was ultimately the reason Li Wan City had become how it was, the culprit was not Xiao Bu—she was technically also a victim.

Chen Ge reached the first building. The first floor had two rooms, one on the left and the other on the right. The old lady’s home was the one on the west side, and Jiang Long’s was on the east side. Studying the rusted door, Chen Ge opened the backpack, activated the recorder, and pulled out his phone to call Fan Chong. “Fan Chong, I’ve entered the building. Now I have a question for you.”

“What is it?”

“Are there still tenants living in the first building?” Chen Ge gripped the hammer. If this place was already abandoned or all the tenants were on the top floor, then he was going to rely on violence.

“A few days ago, I ran into the mother on the third floor at the market. There are still tenants but probably just two or three families.” Fan Chong’s answer disappointed Chen Ge. He released the grip on the hammer and zipped up the bag.

“Why did you ask that?”

“If there are still tenants, I have to be more careful.” Chen Ge walked toward the window. He held the bag, leaned against the window, and looked in.

“Boss Chen, it’s 2 am. You’re leaning against the window. What if someone sees you? How are you going to explain this?”

“If you keep this up, I’m going to hang up.” Chen Ge’s pupils narrowed. He used Yin Yang Vision to look inside the room. The place had two rooms and one living room. It was probably around eighty meters wide, and the decoration was very simple, but there were many handcrafted art pieces. It was very stylistic, and the people who lived there seemed to have a passion for life, happy people. The decoration was different from the story that Chen Ge knew and did not fit Jiang Long’s identity.

“To open the door, one has to be completely wrapped in despair, from the heart to the body.” Chen Ge felt like when Jiang Long first met Xiao Bu’s mother, he probably promised something to make Xiao Bu’s mother fall in love with him. When the woman was feeling the haze of happiness, he changed into a different person, lavishing her with endless cruelty and despair. Chen Ge moved his gaze and saw the closet in the living room.

The world outside the closet was filled with happiness, but behind it was torture and torment. This contrast was just like Xiao Bu’s game. Before the style changed, it was filled with color and sunlight, but once the style changed, the game became filled with ghosts and murderers.

“The ‘door’ should be here.” Chen Ge walked past the few windows. He noticed the window at the bathroom was cracked. It had probably been hit by the children when they were playing with a ball.

“I can get in through here.” Chen Ge used the hammer to make the hole bigger. He reached in to open the lock of the window. He jumped into the room. He summoned Xu Yin to follow behind him as he entered the living room and pushed the closet aside.

“It’s similar to the game.”

Underneath the closet was a wooden board that shared the same color as the tiles around it. After lifting it up, there was a hidden passage that led downward.

“The space underneath here is quite big.”

Chen Ge studied the wooden board. He felt like this probably was not the door that Xiao Bu opened. He prepared to enter the hidden dungeon to take a closer look.

Chapter 549: The Missing Door

Having Xu Yin lead the way, after making sure there was no danger, Chen Ge entered the place. He followed the wooden stairs to get to the bottom of the room. Chen Ge ended the call and used the flashlight function on his phone. He bent down and crawled forward. After three or four meters of walking, there was a steel door with police tape.

Probably due to the moisture underground, the door was covered with red rust. Chen Ge tried to push the door and discovered something surprising. The door seemed to have grown into the surrounding soil and formed a whole entity. No matter how hard he pushed, the door did not budge.

Is it locked?

Chen Ge inspected the door. There was no even a keyhole, so the possibility of it being locked was zero.

Looks like I have to use another method.

After taking out the hammer, Chen Ge did a quick calculation between the tunnel and the surface.

If I start working here, I don't think the tenants above will be able to hear me.

He took several steps back and raised the hammer to hit on the edge of the door heavily.

The impact caused the rust to fall, and dust from above him fell on his shoulders. It gave him the sensation that the place was caving in

BANG! BANG! BANG!

When Chen Ge ended Fan Chong's call, he had already been prepared. He swung the hammer multiple times before the door was cracked open. Clots of soil fell out, and Chen Ge felt the ground under his feet move. The place was dangerous, but since he was there, not going in to look was not Chen Ge's style.

He looked at the door that he had cracked open, and he reached out to touch the edge. At the place where the door was connected to the soil, there were many plant roots that looked dried and dead. Most of them were gray, but some were blood red.

Are these the blood vessels that crawled out from behind the door? What's the difference between a normal door and one that has lost control?

The longer Chen Ge inspected the door, the more confused he became.

The whole door was encased into the tunnel, and it was hard to open. An adult like myself had a hard time opening it, much less Xiao Bu.

Chen Ge suspected that this door was not the door that Xiao Bu had opened but was one that was added on later by the police to prevent people from trespassing into the dungeon.

The door had a police seal, and there was no keyhole. Instead of a door, this was more like a partition to block people's way. If this door was installed by the police, then where is the real door to the dungeon?

Studying the edge of the steel door, Chen Ge soon discovered something. Inside the steel door, somewhere further away was a wooden door frame that was bright red. However, weirdly enough, while the frame was there, the door itself had disappeared.

There should be a second door to the dungeon, so where is the door? Did the door disappear after going out of control, or have the police taken it away as evidence? Did they discover something on the door? Chen Ge thought to himself. He raised his phone, and when the light fell on the space behind the door, his heart skipped a beat.

There was a hidden room around thirty meters behind the steel door. There was a large cage in the middle of the room, and inside it was a mound of wooly doll's clothes. Right in the middle of the doll's dresses stood a little girl.

"Xiao Bu?" Xu Yin did not react, and Chen Ge walked closer with the hammer. He moved one meter forward, and when he was close enough to the 'girl', he realized that it was a mannequin. The

mannequin's face was scrawled fully with the name 'Jiang Bai'; it looked quite scary since the marker used was red.

Jiang Bai is Jiang Long's daughter. Why is her name written on the mannequin's face?

The iron cage was not locked, and Chen Ge soon made a new discovery. All the doll's clothes had the name 'Zhang Chuyu' written on them with color pencils. Chen Ge was familiar with this name as well; that was Jiang Long's official wife.

Did Xiao Bu have Zhang Chuyu put on all the doll's clothes and trap her inside the cage for revenge?

Xiao Bu had pushed the door open, and there was no chance of her surviving behind the door with her young age. Based on Chen Ge's speculation, when Xiao Bu exited the door, she was already a Red Specter.

From the Jiang family of four, Jiang Xiaohu was sent into a mental asylum, Jiang Long died in a car accident, and the wife and daughter went missing—was all that Xiao Bu's doing?

Red Specters were normally made from the intensification of a particular feeling, often pain or resentment. They were more powerful than normal ghosts, but they were still limited by emotions. They would act more recklessly and crazily. Chen Ge was not surprised by what Xiao Bu had done, but he was confused about one thing—how did Xiao Bu lure Zhang Chuyu and Jiang Bai to Li Wan City?

Unlike normal Specter, Red Specters did not need to possess something to survive, but they could not leave their place of origin. For example, Zhang Ya had been trapped at Western Jiujiang's Private Academy until Chen Ge won her love letter. The only reason she could wander about was because she had made Chen Ge's shadow her home of sorts. In other words, Chen Ge was her vessel, and that was the reason she was able to follow Chen Ge to wander all around Jiujiang.

Did someone help Xiao Bu drag Zhang Chuyu and Xiao Bu here?

From his experience dealing with ghosts, Chen Ge knew that ghost could sometimes communicate with one another. He now suspected that the culprit had a deal with Xiao Bu. They would sacrifice Jiang Long's family to Xiao Bu, and in return, they needed Xiao Bu to do something for them.

The ghost stories society once controlled the door at Li Wan City before. According to Doctor Gao, they even pushed some of the stuff the society has collected behind the door. Could it be that Xiao Bu cooperated with them?

Chen Ge thought about it, but the chance of that was low.

The ghost stories society was probably tricked by the shadow. The door here is different from the Third Sick Hall. This one was purposely created; it was one of the shadow's plots.

From the perspective of an outsider, Chen Ge could see the situation clearly.

The society limited its activity to Western and Northern Jiujiang, but they happened to chance upon this door in Eastern Jiujiang. Perhaps it was the shadow who was behind this—he probably wanted to swallow the society whole.

At its prime, the society had many normal ghosts and several Red Specters. Other than that, they had Wu Fei, the mad genius, and Doctor Gao, the maddest of the madmen. But even so, they had the rug pulled out under them by the shadow. This made Chen Ge even more cautious of the culprit in Eastern Jiujiang.

Before Doctor Gao's death, he mentioned the door in Eastern Jiujiang. Looks like this place left a huge impression on him. He probably fought the monsters here before but did not get a victory.

Chen Ge actually wanted to borrow Doctor Gao's power, but since the man was barely a human now, he thought about it and abandoned this dangerous idea.

Chapter 550: How Many People Are in My Room?

The soil at the ceiling continued to peel. This place appeared very unsafe, like it could fall at any moment. With no other discovery, Chen Ge prepared to leave.

The door that connects both worlds often appears for a minute after midnight. I wonder if this door retains that property. Perhaps I can find the time to come back to look.

The police had sealed the door and did not discover the secret of the door. It was probably because they had missed the opening. After all, the police had regular working hours, and no one would go back to the crime scene for no reason at midnight.

Calling Xu Yin, Chen Ge exited the tunnel, closed the door, and replaced the closet. Looking at the art pieces inside the room, and thinking about the dolls' clothes inside the iron cage, Chen Ge's mood began complicated.

Despair is something natural, and life is already hard enough. Why are they doing something as meaningless as this?

Chen Ge checked the room again, but he came up with nothing. He jumped out from the window and then closed the window that had lost the glass.

I've completed the mission for The Hearse, returned the e-bike, and inspected the secret room at Jiang Long's place—that's everything that I set out to do. Guess it's time to go home.

Looking at the time, Chen Ge realized that it was 3 am, the time when the night was darkest.

I'd better drive the bus back before the sun comes up. If I run into any traffic police, so much trouble will follow.

The black phone had said that it was best to use the hearse after midnight on a rainy night. Chen Ge remembered that closely—he did not want the police to tow his bus on his first day on the road.

Fan Chong's home was on the top floor. Chen Ge found it too troublesome to climb up again, so he used the phone to call Fan Chong down instead. The phone rang once before it was answered. "Brother, why did you break the man's window! Didn't you say you just wanted to go take a look?"

"I checked the surroundings—there was no surveillance." As Chen Ge stood by the building, the rain began to ease up.

"No, how is that related to surveillance?"

"I also wanted to clear the murder case; the family of the victim need their justice. And most importantly, the murderer is still on the loose, and new victims might soon appear. Think about it, you're living in this type of danger every day, aren't you afraid? Furthermore, if I break one piece of glass to save one or more lives, compared to human lives, is a simple pane of glass more important?"

Fan Chong did not know how to counter Chen Ge. He thought about it and somewhat agreed with the man.

"By the way, before I cracked the glass, I ended the call, so how did you find out about that?" Chen Ge was one who paid attention to details. It was the reason he had managed to survive so many Trial Missions.

"I've been watching you from upstairs. If something happened to you, I was ready to call the police."

When Fan Chong said that, Chen Ge lifted his head to look up. The room that was on the leftmost side on the opposite building had a faded light coming from the window. Fan Chong was standing next to the window, and he held the phone in his hand. When he saw Chen Ge look up, he even waved at him.

"Boss Chen, I'm really impressed. You dared to jump into a cursed home at 2 am," Fan Chong said and waited, but there was no reply from Chen Ge. He looked down. Chen Ge had the phone beside his ear, but the man looked petrified. He stood where he was with his head titled upward.

"Boss Chen? Why aren't you saying anything?" Fan Chong noticed the anomaly about Chen Ge, and he started to panic. "Don't scare me! Are you alright? F*ck! I told you not to go to that place already!"

"Stop talking for now." Chen Ge's voice came from the phone. Perhaps it was psychological, but Fan Chong felt that Chen Ge's voice seemed different from before.

"What's wrong?"

"Maintain your posture and remember, do not turn back no matter what happens!"

This was the first time that Fan Chong had heard Chen Ge use such a stern tone, and he promised quickly. "Okay, I will not turn back."

He said so, but his heart could not resist the urge to turn back. Fan Chong felt a chill run up his spine, crawling right up to his brain.

"Boss Chen, is there something behind me?"

"You're fine. Now use your hand that is holding the phone and slowly reach behind you."

"Like this?"

"Yes, go a bit further. Perfect. Maintain that posture, don't move." Chen Ge stood under the building, and his eyes were narrowed as he kept his gaze on Fan Chong's room. The weak light came from inside

the room, and Fan Chong stood at the window. He gripped his pajamas with one hand, and his other held the phone that he had extended behind him. Not far away from his phone was a girl in a red shirt.

The black hair fell on the red shirt. The girl did not have any clear facial features but several dark holes. She had no eyes, nose, or teeth. Her limbs were covered by the shirt. There was no way of telling her age, appearance, or height. Everything about her about was a mystery.

“Red Specter...”

“Red? Boss Chen, what’s going on? Don’t scare me! I promise that I will not tell anyone about your trespassing!”

“Stop talking! Let me try to communicate with her.” Chen Ge arranged his thoughts. The Red Specter that had suddenly appeared in Fan Chong’s room was probably Xiao Bu. Chen Ge already had the suspicion that the child was hiding at the deepest part of the game.

“All the children in the game are called Xiao Bu, and all the tragedies happened to Xiao Bu—there has to be a reason for that.” Chen Ge took up the phone and stated his stance. “Don’t act recklessly. What do you want? What do you desire? You can tell me.”

In the bedroom, neither Fan Chong nor the Red Specter behind him moved. Time seemed to have stopped. Realizing that the girl did not have any intention of harming Fan Chong, Chen Ge continued. “I have not experienced your pain before, so I cannot say I can understand you fully, but I beg you to give me a chance. Perhaps we can sit down together and talk this out.”

Fan Chong’s body was shaking. He listened to Chen Ge on the phone and felt like either he had gone mad or Chen Ge had gone insane. “Brother, who are you talking to?”

Chen Ge ignored Fan Chong. He would not dare stay in the same room with a Red Specter without help, but Fan Chong had done that.

“I’ve seen many children like you, or perhaps their experience was nothing compared to yours, but with my help, they found a new direction in life.” Chen Ge had played Xiao Bu’s game before. He looked through his backpack and found an old phone and called out the phone spirit, Tong Tong.

“Can you see the boy beside me? His story is included in that game, so you should know about him. I helped him fulfilled his wish and helped punish those who hurt him. You can ask him to confirm these details.” The phone spirit understood what he was supposed to do. He nodded and tried to smile, but probably because he had not smiled for a long time, the smile was rather ugly.

Listening to Chen Ge, Fan Chong looked at the empty space next to Chen Ge. “What do you mean? How come there’s another one? How many people are in my room?”

The girl seemed to have met Tong Tong before. She tilted her head to the side. After a moment of consideration, she lifted her sleeve. There was no hand. One could only see her sleeve wave several times at the window.

Minutes later, blood started to leak on Fan Chong’s window, and the blood slithered to form words.

“You will die if you come back to Li Wan City.”

