

## Horrors 661

### Chapter 661: All Side Quests Completed

Chen Ge dragged the hammer and walked to the end of the corridor. He studied each of his teammates in his mind and realized that every single one of them could be suspected.

The drunkard had gotten onto the hearse accidentally, and he was the most normal of the group. He had hope toward life, fear toward death, and possessed the resilience of a normal human being.

Chen Ge had interacted twice with the doctor before. When the other passengers disappeared, the doctor who had been taking this bus miraculously survived.

The suspicion on Jia Ming could not have been clearer, but the person that alarmed Chen Ge even more was Lee Zheng. He had not forgotten about the messages that he had received on his phone before arriving at Li Wan City. The sender did not appear to be Lee Zheng. After he met Lee Zheng, he did not voluntarily bring this up because he wanted to observe the man some more.

For Chen Ge, the chance of the shadow assuming Scissors' identity was the lowest. He was trying his best to make himself look scarier and more unapproachable, and that was something incredibly difficult to mimic by others.

The identity of the smiling man was a total mystery. The shadow could have killed the man before he got on the bus and took over his identity. After all, since no one was familiar with the smiling man, no matter what the shadow did in the form of the man, everyone would think that was merely how the man was. He was the easiest to mimic, and because of that, he was the easiest candidate to suspect.

The sharp edges of the hammer created friction against the ground, creating a spine-tingling noise. Chen Ge walked alone into the darkness, and even the drunkard and Scissors did not dare to get too close. Chen Ge radiated a dangerous presence, and the man who had appeared so normal moments earlier took on a different kind of aura.

"I wonder what kind of surprises the shadow will have prepared for me..." The white cat leaned on Chen Ge's shoulders. Its ears were perked up, a sign that it was alarmed. However, Xu Yin had not given Chen Ge a warning. This could only mean that there was something very scary inside the building, but temporarily, it had not shown itself.

The building was not big, and Chen Ge soon reached the door to Jiang Long's family home. The door that had gone out of control was behind it.

"Soon, I'll realize what the difference between a normal door and an uncontrollable door is." Chen Ge raised the hammer and slammed the door down. Thick blood fog rolled out from the room. Strangely enough, the fog inside the room was much thicker than it was outside the town. A normal person could barely see three meters before them.

"I'll go take a look first." Chen Ge held the hammer in one hand and reached his other hand into the backpack to pick out a pair of red high heels. "Forgive me for this offense."

He tossed the heels into the living room and stood at the door to observe. Confirming there was no trap, he walked into the room. He felt weirdly uncomfortable when his body came into contact with the fog. Negative emotions rushed into his mind, and those without a hardened conviction would lose control easily. "I think the rest of you should wait outside for now. The fog inside here is very thick, and I'm afraid of collateral damage."

Picking up the red high heels, Chen Ge noticed that the fog would naturally thin when it approached the heels—it felt like the heels were absorbing the fog.

"This fog is beneficial for ghosts?" Chen Ge asked Bai Qiulin and got an affirmative answer. The blood around Bai Qiulin's heart had started to spread. However, Chen Ge did not summon all of his workers since he was not sure if there were going to be negative effects from consuming this fog.

"There's nothing here in the living room—the underground basement is behind the armoire..." Chen Ge was walking over when the white cat suddenly mewed. Chen Ge turned to look and noticed that the cat was hissing in the direction of the bedroom.

"If it is a Red Specter, the cat will be shaking in fear, but since it dares to put up resistance, it means that the Specter in the bedroom isn't too strong."

In any case, Chen Ge did not underestimate his opponent. He tossed the pair of heels into the room first before slowly entering it.

"Try to sense where it is hiding." The bedroom was small, but after they walked into it, the white cat seemed to be struck by confusion. It would hiss at the bed, and then it would turn to gnash its teeth at the window.

"Is it doing this on purpose to buy time?" Chen Ge felt like this might be a valid possibility. Just as he was about to leave, refusing to waste any more time, the bedroom door slammed shut. The sound of a music box echoed in the room, and the blood fog slowed down. The voice of a girl could be heard mixed into the music.

"Mother and Father have entered the basement. After Father came out, he locked the door. He carried a black bag with him. He touched my head and said, 'Disobedient children will be taken away by the ghosts.'

"I lay in bed, thinking back to what mother said.

"Before going to bed, I need to pull up the cover; before going to bed, I have to close the window; before going to bed, I need to check the armoire; before going to bed, remember to check the space under the bed... if I'm sleeping alone.

"Father left home carrying the bag, leaving me behind.

"I look under the cover, look out the window, look inside the armoire, look under the bed, but I cannot find mother."

The song echoed inside the room like it was detailing what had happened inside this bedroom.

"The father said that disobedient child will be taken away by ghosts, and the girl followed her mother's instructions. What is the song trying to express?" Chen Ge knew that this home had once belonged to

Jiang Long's family. "At the time, Jiang Long was possessed by the shadow, and it was expected that he'd do many strange things. The underground missing, the missing mother and elder sister, those are probably his doing."

The music box was still playing, but this time, it was the voice of another woman.

"Red eyes are watching you. You can't see me, but I can see you.

"I move with your gaze. I hide under the bed, inside the armoire, behind the window before crawling under your covers.

"I lay down behind you and above you, but you still cannot see my red eyes."

Chen Ge examined the places that the female voice mentioned as he waved his hammer around. "Looks like it has been confirmed that something happened to the mother. She was placed inside this room, but the daughter cannot see her for some reason. Since I can hear both the voices of the daughter and the mother, it can only mean that they have both left this world. This matches the result of the police investigation; Jiang Long's wife and daughter have gone missing and haven't been found to this day.

"It was Jiang Long who killed his family, or rather, it was the possessed Jiang Long who killed the family. This thing doesn't possess even a shred of humanity." Chen Ge had no clue whether the wife and the daughter were innocent or not, but he planned to bring them back to the Haunted House to get more information out of them.

"You'd better come out on your own. I've blocked the door, there is no escape."

There was no reply. The music box continued to play. Chen Ge decided to stop wasting time. He used the hammer to ruin the bed and the window. However, when he walked to the armoire, the sound of the music box suddenly stopped.

"This probably isn't a trap by the shadow—it's merely a trick to confuse me." Chen Ge held the red high heels and used the heel to pull the handle of the armoire open. An exquisite music box was placed inside the armoire.

The music box looked old, and a family picture was placed inside. The mother was hugging the little brother, and the sister was happily leaning against the mother. There was someone standing next to them, but that part of the photograph had been cut off.

Picking up the music box, Chen Ge tossed it inside his backpack. He planned to have his employees to deal with this thing.

"The red eyes in the armoire mentioned by the black phone should refer to this music box."

Chen Ge paused and realized that he had practically completed all of the isolated scenarios listed by the phone.

"Once the scenario of Li Wan City is unlocked, it'll probably cause great chaos. Playing hide-and-seek at the hospital, the doghouse, the red eyes in the armoire, human head mop, an apartment filled with murderers and ghosts.

“Even if they escape from the building, the streets are filled with shadows who wave and take on the visitors’ shape. This kind of scenario is perfect, and the scenario will no longer be limited to a single building and will expand toward a multi-directional development. If I include more mannequins and machines, I can replicate Xiao Bu’s game in real life and have the visitors experience that extreme joy themselves.”

Chen Ge could already see the commotion that would happen on the internet once the scenario of Li Wan City was unlocked. There had never been a Haunted House that would do things on such an enormous scale.

### **Chapter 662: Door That Cannot Be Closed [2 in 1]**

Back at the Haunted House, some of the visitors had already started to figure out the guide to clear three-star scenario. Chen Ge needed to come up with a new scenario to maintain the freshness of the Haunted House, to keep the visitor’s anticipation at an all-time high.

The 3.5-star Li Wan City was currently his best possible choice. As the bridge between three-star and four-star scenario, this special scenario would be able to provide his visitors with a much-needed buffer period. This was to avoid visitors who had just cleared three-star scenarios charging right into challenging a four-star scenario.

“Are you okay in there? Do you need help?” Scissors’ voice came from the door, and when he spoke, Chen Ge could hear the tattooed man speaking over Scissors. “Be quiet! Try not to scream at a place like this. You have no idea what things you might attract!”

Hearing the voices that came from outside the bedroom, Chen Ge replied succinctly. “Temporarily, there are no signs of danger inside the house. You can come in here.”

Picking up the pair of red high heels, Chen Ge walked out of the bedroom. Holding Doctor Skull-Cracker’s hammer with one hand, carrying the pair of high heels in another, and with a white cat curled around his shoulders, with how Chen Ge presented himself then, it was incredibly hard for others to treat him as a normal individual.

“What did you discover?” That tattooed man walked over. The reason that he was followed Chen Ge was because Chen Ge was very powerful, so the chance of him escaping when following Chen Ge was the highest. His purpose was pure and simple.

“The door has been hidden. There should be a secret room in this place.” Chen Ge walked to the cupboard in the living room and pushed it with the maximum of his might. The blood fog was palpable enough to look solid. It rushed out from the secret entrance, and like a wave, it shoved Chen Ge rudely back several steps.

“This is the source of the blood fog; we’d better be careful.” The blood fog left a sticky sensation on their skin, and it felt strangely uncomfortable walking through it. Their clothes stuck to their bodies, and the blood vessels in the air felt like they were trying to crawl into the people’s ears and nostrils.

“Are you sure we should be going down?” The drunkard’s Adam’s Apple was shaking. “How come it feels like we’re voluntarily walking into a trap?”

He shook his head and took a step back while carrying the doctor.

After Chen Ge saw everyone in the group come closer, he voiced his opinion. "No one knows what is inside this secret tunnel. Half of us should stay out to watch over the surrounding while the other half will follow me to go down here. That is the safest solution."

"The people who stay outside mustn't be too weak. They must at least be able to give out a warning when they are attacked, so I suggest Scissors and the police stay behind." Chen Ge had his own consideration. Of everyone there, he trusted Scissors the most. "One is a crazed serial killer and the other is a police officer armed with a gun. With them watching the exit, there shouldn't be too much of a problem."

"Can I please stay outside as well?" The drunkard raised his arm high. "I am carrying the doctor, so I won't be able to run fast. If I follow you, one death might lead to two bodies."

"Are you sure that is the correct way to describe your situation?" The tattooed man pursed his lips. Actually, he did not want to go down this path either, but he could not come up with a suitable excuse.

"Alright, the two of you can stay, but the rest of you have to follow me." Chen Ge then turned to look at the smiling man. Actually, this man was probably the strongest aside from Chen Ge, but to leave the safeguard of the only exit to a stranger, Chen Ge was too cautious to do something like that. Out of Chen Ge's expectations, the smiling man did not say anything. He walked to the door and appeared as honest as they came.

"What happened to this man? How come he is so different from the man who was on the bus?" Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision to study the man closely. With that, he noticed how awkward and frozen the expression on the man's face was. There were droplets of blood red sweat sliding down the man's sideburns. He seemed to have run into a monster that was beyond his expectations in Li Wan City, so he desperately wanted to leave this place.

Chen Ge did not ask for details. He and the smiling man had some sort of a mutually beneficial relationship. They were working together because they happened to have the same goal. However, if there was a split in their thoughts, they would not hesitate to sell the other person out.

"This is the criminal that I was tasked to apprehend, so I have to watch over him constantly. Therefore, I apologize, but he cannot follow you to go down this place." Lee Zheng pressed firmly on Jia Ming's shoulders and his tone was very unshakeable.

"You can find dangerous criminals everywhere in this place, but a police officer working for justice cannot be rarer here." The high-schooler revealed a mysterious smile, and the expression on his face made others uncomfortable.

"No problem." Chen Ge wanted to separate Jia Ming and Lee Zheng and then use his own method to discern whether Jia Ming was the shadow or not, but since Lee Zheng had showed such firmness in his attitude, Chen Ge did not push. After all, Lee Zheng was only acting within his accepted personality. If he handed Jia Ming over without hesitation, then Chen Ge would have been suspicious.

"Help us stay guard over the entrance. We'll be back in a minute." The tunnel behind the cupboard was incredibly narrow, and only one person could squeeze through at a time. Naturally, Chen Ge was leading

the group. He summoned Xu Yin, held the red high heels, and nudged forward one step after another. After moving about five meters, Chen Ge felt like he was no longer enveloped inside the blood fog but instead had fallen into a blood lake, and every single step was harder to make compared to the one before it.

*What kind of trap will the shadow set? Collapsing the entire building to bury us alive? Or detonate the door that has gone out of control and kill all of us in the process?*

Many different scenarios appeared in his mind, but before Chen Ge could figure out an answer, the door that had been pushed open by Xiao Bu at Li Wan City appeared before his eyes.

The door of the iron cage that was used to detain Xiao Bu's mother had been distorted out of shape. Thick vines of blood vessels crawled onto the door like they had a mind of their own. Compared to a normal door, there were several details that were unique to this door.

First, the door that was swimming with blood vessels was filled with cracks like it could crumble at any moment. Secondly, the four edges of the door were conspicuously ruined, and a large piece that was supposed to sit in the middle of the door was hollowed out. If the door was compared to a human being, it felt like a person's head and four limbs had been removed.

"Look at the bottom of the door." Chen Ge discovered the biggest difference with this 'door'—there were endless black-reddish fingers reaching out from underneath the door to pull at the wooden frame, preventing it from closing fully.

"I've seen many doors, but this is the first time that I've encountered something like this." The fingers had bumps and hollows like they were victims of boils and pox. In any case, they looked really scary.

"These fingers should belong to the lingering spirits of the hospital patients. When the epidemic swept Li Wan City, the death count that came from this place was undocumented, but it had shrouded the small town with a suffocating air of resentment." The tattooed man wiped at the cold sweat around his forehead. He made sure to stay as far away as he could from the fingers. "The shadow probably chose this particular door in Li Wan City because he wanted to make use of this pool of negative emotions."

Endless blood fog rolled out from behind the gap in the door. The fog was so thick with negative emotions that even Chen Ge who had nerves of steel would suffer from hallucinations when he went too close to the door, much less everyone else.

"We've found the door, but I don't think this is the exit." Chen Ge looked through the gap of iron cage; it was a total sheet of redness on the other side of the door. "How about we try to smash these fingers into the pieces? Will that release their power over the door?"

"We should ignore those fingers; they are merely a vessel for the pain and negative emotions. They do not affect us in any way." This was the first time that the smiling man had spoken in a normal tone. "The biggest issue here is that this is an incomplete door. So, if we wish to escape through this door, we need to fix the missing parts of the door."

"Li Wan City is too big for a treasure hunt like that." The tattooed man had already given up. "No wonder there is no one left behind to guard over this place—there is no need for that at all. The shadow has already planned everything—he is steps ahead of us."

“Don’t be so quick to give up.” Chen Ge studied the seriously-damaged door and suddenly turned to address the tattooed man. “You mentioned earlier that most of the outsiders came through the ghost apartment to enter this place?”

“Yes, but the ghost apartment is just a smokescreen.” The tattooed man was hit by the powerlessness he felt before the shadow. His years of investigation had amounted to nothing.

“No, the shadow will not do something that pointless. There has to be a purpose for him building that ghost apartment.” Chen Ge walked to stand before the door. “The ghost apartment is situated at Ming Yang Residence. I once followed the police to Ming Yang Residence on one of their investigations, and we discovered the cut up remains of a girl at the place. There were four limbs and a head. Her dismembered body parts were hidden in the four buildings at Ming Yang Residence, and her head was buried right at the center of the residential area.”

“What are you trying to say?” The tattooed man still had not caught up to Chen Ge’s intention.

“The girl who was killed was the person who pushed open this door. Her remains were dismembered and hidden in Ming Yang Residence, which is the location for the ghost apartment. And the most important thing is...” Chen Ge pointed at the blood door that had gone out of control. “Doesn’t this door look like a person who has lost their head and four limbs?”

That knocked the sense into the tattooed man, and he was the first to elaborate. “For the door-pusher, the door is the vessel of their spirit or their body! I think I get it now; you’re saying that the parts that are missing from the door have been hidden by the shadow at Ming Yang Residence! The girl’s remains correspond to the broken door!”

“It was not the shadow who pushed open the door at Li Wan City, but somehow, it was taken over by the shadow. To fulfil his own goal, he purposely made this door go out of control. If that is the case, then where is the original door-pusher? Has she chosen to surrender, or was she brought under the shadow’s control via certain means?” Chen Ge was not making a startling discovery, but most people would not have time to slow down and figure out these things under such extreme circumstances.

“Looks like locating the door is merely the beginning. I’ve underestimated the whole situation.” The tattooed man had a bitter expression on his face. “So, are you going to the ghost apartment now? Over the few years, there have been people who tried to go there, but none of them ever returned.”

“We need to find the missing parts of the door if we ever want to leave this place.” Chen Ge waved for them to move; it was time for them to leave. “This tunnel is too narrow. If the shadow has set up any traps here, we’ll have nowhere else to run. After we find the missing parts, I’ll have to open up this tunnel further.”

“The door that has lost control is the source of the blood fog covering Li Wan City. Actually, now that you mention it, I’m surprised we haven’t come into more resistance. Unless, of course, the shadow already planned to give up this place.” The tattooed man had a better understanding of the shadow. He moved cautiously, but before he finished, a scream came from outside the tunnel.

“That’s Jia Ming!” Hearing the scream, the people in the tunnel moved faster. When Chen Ge rushed out, he saw pairs of red hands grabbing Scissors and dragging him upstairs. When Chen Ge started to chase after them, Scissors had already disappeared down the corridor.

The surroundings were eerily quiet like what he had seen earlier was merely a part of his imagination. Lee Zheng, Jia Ming, Scissors, and the drunkard... everyone who had waited outside earlier had disappeared. It had only taken several minutes for the whole thing to occur.

“You sure know how to jinx things.” Chen Ge glanced at the tattooed man. The latter did not expect something like this to happen either.

“Then what should we do now? Go to the ghost apartment or go find them first?”

“We have to go rescue them.” Saving innocent victims would bring Chen Ge additional rewards, and he had confirmed that all the innocent victims had been captured—those who remained with him were monsters and murderers. Chen Ge gripped the hammer and ran in the direction that Scissors had disappeared earlier. The high-schooler and tattooed man followed closely behind him, but the smiling man stood where he was, unmoving.

“Are you all so desperate to die?” A chilling voice came out of the mouth plastered with a smile. The smiling man looked at Chen Ge. “This door is the source of the blood fog, and laying any trap here will cause unpredictable influence to the door. This is against the shadow’s purpose. So, he is more likely to use our discovery of the door to make us put our guard down and slowly lure us into the real lethal trap.”

“I have an opinion that is different from yours. The shadow is very good at psychological battles—he has given us endless hints to undermine our truce to achieve his own goal. For this kind of tactic, the more people we have on our side, the easier it will be for him to sow discord. There is no need for him to harm those people. If anything, I feel like he has started to panic because things have gotten out of his control. That is the only reason he would choose to intervene in such an obvious manner.”

The few had already disappeared down the corridor. Chen Ge, who was dragging the hammer, did not appear to be too much of a hurry. He checked one room after another. Since there was still space in his backpack and comic, he was going to take away anything that he thought might be useful.

“But neither of us has done anything, right? Is it because you have predicted the location of the door’s missing pieces and that unsettled the shadow?” In the tattooed man’s heart, the shadow was akin to Li Wan City’s god, and God would not make mistake or even panic.

“That should only be part of the reason. If I’m not mistaken, it might be because there are some other visitors who arrived at Li Wan City today, and the shadow had to exhaust part of his time to deal with said intruder.” Chen Ge had the feeling from the very beginning that the shadow had not come at him with its full strength. The shadow appeared to be busy with something else. Chen Ge had felt that feeling when he was dealing with the glutton monster at the hotel, and after he realized there were not as many dangers as he imagined at Fan Chong’s place, that suspicion only grew.

“No matter what, this is a good thing for us,” Chen Ge concluded. “I’m not afraid of the shadow coming for us. As long as he makes his move, his secret will be exposed. I’ll be more afraid if he keeps himself hidden. The deeper he hides, the more unsettled I’ll be.”

Mingling with the few real murderers, Chen Ge did not feel out of place. In fact, he did not notice that he had become the center of the group. Heading upstairs, Chen Ge noticed that there were many gray



human-shaped stains left on the walls. Their bodies were contorted in different postures, but all of them spoke of pain.

“This place was once the housing apartment for Li Wan City’s hospital staff, and it was built before the advent of the epidemic. However, could this place have once housed the patients of the hospital as well?” Chen Ge did not touch the stains. He suspected that the shadow’s trump card was somehow related to these patients of the disease.

### **Chapter 663: When a Ghost Story Encounters Another Ghost Story**

Eastern Jiujiang was so big, but the shadow had chosen Li Wan City—there had to be a reason for that. The human-shaped stains on the way had no pattern that he could discern, and Chen Ge had no idea why these imprints had been left on the wall. It felt like the patients had used this strange method to record the pain that they had been through.

“Are these lingering spirits?” Chen Ge stood next to the stain and used the red high heels to touch one. The heels, which had remained relatively passive, suddenly leaked out a blackish-red blood. It felt like someone who cried tears of blood after being humiliated. Seeing the response from the red high heels, Chen Ge immediately pulled them back. “The stains on the wall are more than they seem. Even the red high heels refuses to get close to them, so these must be more than normal lingering spirits.”

Chen Ge looked through all the room, but he still could not find the rest of his group. “The apartment is only so big, where can they be hiding? Or have they been pulled into the wall and made into these stains?”

The small group reached the top floor where the stains on the wall became more numerous, and their color darkened as well. It felt like they were going to escape from the wall anytime soon.

“The bodies of all the stains were heavily contorted. Just what kind of pain must they have been in before they perished?” Li Wan City’s history had been forgotten. Even on the internet, there was not much information on the small town. In fact, it felt like someone had purposely removed them from the record.

“If they’re not inside the building, then they have to have been sent out through some hidden channel.” The tattooed man was feeling unsettled. “We should leave this place first. As long as our lives are intact, there are options open to us. If something happens to us as well, then no one will be able to save them.”

“When one of the passengers was dragged away, I noticed that the hands grabbing him were similar to the stains on these walls, contorted and pockmarked.”

“What are you trying to say?” The tattooed man could not figure out Chen Ge’s train of thought.

“You’ve lived here for so long, but haven’t you seen these stains before?” Chen Ge tossed the question back.

“No! To be honest, I’ve only been here once before, but when I came, these stains weren’t inside the building.”

“Meaning they have just appeared here.” Chen Ge could not afford to lower his guard. He knew that these human stains that even the red high heels refused to approach were one of the shadow’s trump cards. Before Chen Ge showed his, the shadow had already been forced to reveal one of his.

“Something must have happened in Li Wan City, or else the shadow wouldn’t have done this.” Chen Ge ignored the stains on the wall and opened the door that led to the roof. He walked through it.

The wind howled and carried the feeling of suffocation away with it. Chen Ge looked at the sky behind the blood fog and slowly moved his gaze around. The blood fog at Li Wan City seemed to have been attracted by something, and it moved like a wave toward the eastern side of Li Wan City. It felt like it was forming a wall to stop something from entering.

“The fog has conspicuously thinned.” This was the second time that Chen Ge had gained a bird’s eye view of Li Wan City. Compared to last time, his sight was better because with the aid of Yin Yang Vision, he could look further.

“Do you have other helpers?” It was the smiling man who spoke. The situation had cleared. Like Chen Ge mentioned earlier, a third party had arrived at Li Wan City, and this party had managed to attract most of the shadow’s attention. Chen Ge’s prediction caused the smiling man to be alert. He was afraid that this new force was related to Chen Ge, and in that case, it would shatter the already fragile scale of balance between them.

“It shouldn’t be my helper, and if I’m not mistaken, this new party is also my nemesis. His desire to kill me shouldn’t be lower than the shadow.” Chen Ge very honestly voiced out his opinion.

“You sure have plenty of enemies. Even at a time like this, you’d be pursued by an enemy. I don’t even know whether I should say you’re lucky or unlucky.” The smiling man continued to smile. Chen Ge was able to attract the ire of so many scary characters, which showed that this man was not a simple character.

“That’s merely my speculation...” Chen Ge wanted to continue when a loud boom came from the eastern side of Li Wan City. Even though they were far away from the point of impact, Chen Ge’s group could feel the building that they were standing on shake slightly.

“Just what kind of battle is this?” The tattooed man reminded Chen Ge. “The shadow is now being distracted by your nemesis; this is the perfect time for us to go look for the door’s missing pieces. When we have them, we can leave at any moment; that should be the objective that we focus on.”

The blood fog rushed toward the eastern side of Li Wan City to enshroud the entire part of the small town. Even with Yin Yang Vision, Chen Ge could not peer through the fog. He could only tell that there was something attracting him inside the blood fog. Standing at the edge of the building, narrowing his eyes, Chen Ge saw chains lashing inside the fog. The thing that gave Chen Ge the sense of familiarity was inside the chains and fog.

“He seems to know that I’m here and is moving toward me.” Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of something and opened his backpack. With the smiling man and the tattooed man watching, Chen Ge pulled out a patient’s list, a love letter, a bunch of documents, and finally a flyer mentioning the ghost stories story.

“It is because of this!”

The original flyer had a dark red color scheme, and a half open blood red door was printed on it. However, that door that represented horror and despair was now not only pushed open, there was an arm twisted in chains stretching out from the gap.

The arm reached out of the door, gripping the door like it was trying to shove the door fully open!

“Why has this changed? Is it a sign that he’s returning?” Chen Ge had just produced the flyer, and his brain was still turning to figure out a solution, when the arm on the flyer reached out from the two-dimension without warning!

Bang!

Chen Ge was knocked back by a mysterious force. When he recovered, he saw that the arm was gripping Xu Yin’s arm. Without much hesitation, Xu Yin dissolved his entire arm, surrendering it easily, and used his remaining arm to fold the flyer up.

The scent of blood caressed Chen Ge’s nostril. Blood vessels crawled out from Xu Yin’s body to manufacture a new arm. Yet, to his surprise, on this new arm, there was a red handprint around Xu Yin’s wrist.

Xu Yin glanced at the handprint on his wrist, showing zero concern for it, before disappearing. A static appeared in Chen Ge’s ears, a sign that the recorder was working fine. It seemed like Xu Yin was using this method to inform Chen Ge that he was fine.

“You didn’t even stay for one moment longer. Is it because you have no idea how to accept my appreciation?” After Xu Yin put the flyer away, another few loud echoes came from the eastern side of town. It was clear that the fog was being pushed back, and the monster was slowly moving toward Chen Ge.

“A trap has been made in the flyer, and the door at my Haunted House has been marked. Looks like Doctor Gao did many things before he died—this old fox, just what was in his mind?”

Chen Ge confirmed that it was Doctor Gao who was in the battle with the shadow at the eastern side of Li Wan City. After all, the ghost stories society’s remaining members were Chen Ge and Doctor Gao. Chen Ge would not set the trap himself, so the only person who would do that was Doctor Gao.

When Chen Ge was contemplating, the blood fog was again forced back. The old and new chairpersons of the ghost stories society crossed paths at Li Wan City, and the first unlucky casualty was the shadow who was pressed in the middle.

#### **Chapter 664: The Scariest Ghost Story in This City**

“They’re coming!” Just the mere sight of the thick rolling waves of blood fog and a glimpse of the black chains inside it caused the tattooed man’s legs to go weak. He looked at Chen Ge who stood at the edge of the building alone, and he wished to ask if the man was born without a sense of fear.

“I have a plan that might greatly improve our chance of escape.” Chen Ge was very calm. “Both the shadow and the party who just arrived at the scene want to kill me, but the shadow temporarily does not know that I am actually the newcomer’s target. He is putting up this resistance to ensure that his own plan is not ruined. If he finds out the truth, he will be more than willing to help the newcomer come kill me.

“So, currently, the situation is good for us, and the longer this drags on, the better it’ll be for us.” Chen Ge paused and called for the others to join him. “I have something on me that attracts the newcomer. So, in a bit, I will lead him and the shadow away, while leading a trail of destruction through Li Wan City. While that is happening, you should make use of the opportunity to go explore Ming Yang Residence and find the missing parts of the door.”

“Okay.” The tattooed man agreed, but after giving it some thought, he noticed the plan’s flaw, so he quickly added, “But what about you? Being chased by these things, if you’re not careful, it’s over!”

He was not worried about Chen Ge per se, he merely thought that if Chen Ge’s plan was to distract these two scary monsters, with his current power, he would not be able to buy them much time.

“This is the best solution for now.” Chen Ge took out a flip-phone that had gone obsolete on the market to summon Tong Tong, the phone spirit. “Try and see if you can send me a message while we’re inside this place.”

Tong Tong gave it a try, and Chen Ge’s phone vibrated. A simple message appeared. “I can, but it will tire me greatly.”

Chen Ge nodded. He then summoned Men Nan and Ol’ Zhou. “I need you to watch over Tong Tong and follow them to go look for the pieces of the broken door.”

Men Nan was a Red Specter, and Ol’ Zhou was experienced and cautious. Combined with Tong Tong’s ability to communicate over a long distance, this was the best and most trustworthy group that Chen Ge could come up with.

Men Nan did not complain since he knew the gravity of the situation. He glanced at the blood fog and chains far away and wiped away the cold sweat that did not appear on his forehead. “What about you?”

“I’ll lure these things away to provide an opening for you.”

“My friend, the thing that the newcomer is coming for is that piece of paper, right? I saw a Specter take that paper away. You could have ordered him to distract the shadow while you follow us to find the exit.”

Chen Ge was surprised that the smiling man would call him a friend. After all, Chen Ge had done many things including tossing the red high heels at him to antagonize himself against the man before. “I can’t do that. Just follow my instructions.”

“I believe the Specter would willingly take the paper away and did not return it to you because that was the plan in his mind as well. This is his choice.” For the smiling man, Chen Ge would not be someone who was god awful since he was well-beloved by Specters—that was the reason his attitude toward Chen Ge had improved.

“He is like family to me. Would you send your family into danger for the sake of your own survival?” Chen Ge had a severe expression on his face. When he said that, the scent of blood around him thickened, and the sound of static appeared. Some blood appeared around Xu Yin’s empty heart, but he soon returned to normal.

“No matter what, I would not let him suffer the pain alone anymore. He has made his choice, but I have my principles to follow.” Actually, Chen Ge had long discovered the problem with Xu Yin. For every battle, Xu Yin held nothing back—it felt like the man was actively seeking death. There was nothing worth preserving in his life, and Xu Yin had no idea why his spirit had lingered in the world.

He had no idea what he desired. He had no compulsion to destroy and nothing to protect. So, why did he choose to protect Chen Ge? He could not answer that either. Perhaps because he treated Chen Ge as the only person that he could trust, or maybe he was merely finding a reason to justify his death-seeking tendency.

Death was a serious matter. Chen Ge understood that, which only made him want to help Xu Yin even more.

It was not a coincidence that Chen Ge was called the Specter’s Favored. He had something about him that could not be found in others. He could understand the truth of the pain that other people were feeling and use his own actual actions to help alleviate that pain, to give them a second chance at life after death.

“I will join him in luring the monsters away. Li Wan City is only big—I hope you’ll move as fast as you can and find all the missing pieces before the enemies catch up to me.” Chen Ge took out the hammer. “Leave now. I will run in the opposite direction from the one you take.”

If not for the fact that they had spent more than enough time together, Men Nan would have thought that this man before him was filled with justice, a good boss who was selfless and upright.

“Be careful. I’m still waiting for you to send me back so that I can fix the broken window.” The boy worked his short legs and left the building with the rest of his group.

Soon, Chen Ge was left alone on the roof. He leaned against the rails, and fire burned at the bottom of his eyes. “Doctor Gao who refuses to be a human and the shadow who wishes to be reborn as a human, the desires of these two are completely opposing. Either way, this should be fun. I wonder, in this city that is filled with terror and despair, who will be the scarier ghost story?”

The blood red moon shone its light on the road, and Chen Ge’s shadow spread like a pool of blood. The blood fog was roughly pushed back, and an extremely chilling aura, full of terror and madness, slowly surfaced but soon dispersed.

Chen Ge looked at the blood fog, and the chains and his real expression slowly appeared. The corner of his lips curled upward. He dragged the hammer and ran downstairs.

“Doctor Gao is the thing that is closest to the existence above Red Specter of all the monsters that I’ve encountered. Even though the ghost fetus is related to a four-star scenario, the shadow here is merely a small part of the ghost fetus’ true power. So, even with the local advantage, he is probably no match for

Doctor Gao.” Chen Ge ran out of the building and circled around Li Wan City as the blood fog around him slowly thinned.

“I need to be cautious of Doctor Gao. The biggest issue is I have no idea where he stands, and his true purpose eludes me even more. However, everything that he has seems to circle around my Haunted House.” Chen Ge raced down the streets, and strange noises came from behind him. Doctor Gao had probably sensed that he was moving and so picked up his own speed as a countermeasure.

The thinning of the blood fog made the echoes that came from behind him even clearer. The shadows in the nearby red building shuddered and swayed. The ghosts and murderers who were trapped there were astute enough to notice that something was wrong and all came out from their hiding place.

“It’s getting more and more exciting. Murderers, Specters, and ghost stories that you’d never imagine. This sure is a party meant for the darkness.”

Slipping down the streets, the smile on Chen Ge’s face grew brighter.

### **Chapter 665: The Shadow’s Trump Card [2 in 1]**

The fog thinned, and the blood moon hanging in the sky became clearer. The blood moon showered its crimson glow on the small town, casting strange and ugly shadows on the ground.

Bang!

A window close to Chen Ge was pushed open roughly from inside, and a strange man with his head completely wrapped up in gauze poked his head out. He had been eyeing Chen Ge for a long time, and he had been waiting for this moment to attack. He had no actual purpose to assault Chen Ge. He probably thought that the young man was blocking the view or that killing Chen Ge could bring him temporarily joy and relief.

Such was the logic of a murderous monster. The way that their brain was wired was different from a normal person—they never cared about others and never had any concern about the consequences of their actions. There was often no planning to their decision, and they were easily provoked and angered since they came with an almost natural sense of aggression.

Blood seeped through the gauze. Chen Ge had no idea what the man looked like underneath the bandage, but he could not have cared less. When the strange man extended his wiry, muscular arms toward Chen Ge, wishing to drag the latter into the room, Chen Ge took a small step sideways and raised his hammer in return.

Even in Li Wan City, this type of murder weapon was extremely rare. The shadow pushed those murderers into a corral of sorts to cultivate negative emotions, not to create some kind of coliseum, so the weapons used by these mad people to commit murders were often everyday objects.

The shoulder of the strange man caved inward, and the gauze on his face slipped down slightly to reveal two eyes that were filled with confusion. He had no idea from where Chen Ge produced such a large iron hammer. Indignation at his opponent cheating but him being able to do nothing about it arose in the man’s heart.

The man leaned backward and retreated into his hiding place. Normally, when a person was on the run for their life, they would not be distracted by unimportant lackeys, but Chen Ge was obviously an exception.

“I don’t care whether you are a man or a ghost, but since you wanted to kill, you have to be prepared to be taken away by me. That is only fair.” He jumped through the window into the house and continued the chase with the hammer raised. “Since you planned to kill me, you’re definitely not an innocent party. Saving you will not get me more rewards from the black phone. If anything, it’ll only cause more chaos in society, so I shall make use of this opportunity to deal with you.”

The previously quiet house was in an uproar once Chen Ge jumped into it. The normal wooden door was something that could be solved with a hammer for Chen Ge—even when he was stopped by a security door, the man brought it down with less than five swings.

The strange man had not seen this kind of reaction before. Chen Ge was already on his tail before he even got the chance to escape from the house. Jumping through the window on the left and crashing through the window on the right, the whole process took less than half a minute.

Holding the rough gauze that he yanked off the man’s face, Chen Ge studied it for a while before tossing it into his backpack. “Guess, I’ll keep this as souvenir.”

In Xiao Bu’s game, the streets would become very dangerous after dark, and it was not so different from what Chen Ge was experiencing now. However, the biggest difference was, in game, the main character was the weak and powerless Xiao Bu, but the person who walked down the street in real life was the new chairperson of the ghost stories society.

“The biggest issue at the moment is that I still have no idea what Doctor Gao’s goal is, so for now, I can only hope that they’ll continue to fight one another, exhausting themselves.” There was no observable pattern to the route that Chen Ge took. If someone or some ghosts attracted his ire, he would instantly change his route to chase after the offender, cutting his way through the small town.

Most of the buildings in Li Wan City were hiding baleful Specters and murderous killers. For a normal person, just the sound of that was scary enough, but for Chen Ge, it felt more like some kind of a lucky draw. Before he charged into the building, he would be overwhelmed by some kind of anticipation. He could not explain why—perhaps it was because he had a great sense of curiosity.

“I feel like some kind of street cleaner. If only the door in Li Wan City had not gone out of control, then I’d have been able to come back to clean up this place at constant intervals.” The blood moon shone, and the blood fog wavered. Chen Ge raced down the street under the scrutiny of countless evil eyes.

“The human-shaped shadows are still hanging around the junctions. The man with the tattoos once said that these shadows come from the shadow’s physical body. Therefore, there might be some kind of connection between these souls and the shadow.” Chen Ge understood that he had been given such a clear go at the monsters in Li Wan City only because the shadow was too busy dealing with Doctor Gao and could not distract himself to care about Chen Ge. If they found out that they were both pursuing Chen Ge, then the situation would drastically change.

“If I play this right, I should be able to drag this out further.” Chen Ge grabbed Doctor Skull-Cracker’s hammer and aimed it at a window. As long as he caught sight of human shadows in the building, he

would cut through the building. With the hammer, wherever Chen Ge decided to travel, there would be a path. In other words, the man was cutting his own way through Li Wan City.

In a way, the blood fog was representative of the shadow's presence. Now that the blood fog had thinned and there were strange echoes travelling through it, many trapped Specters and murderers realized that their chance had arrived. Initially, the strange noises only came from behind Chen Ge, but slowly, the whole of Li Wan City was filled with terror and screams.

The town was thrown into chaos. Li Wan City, which the shadow had managed for a long time, plunged into madness. The craziness that had been forcibly reigned in finally had a chance to explode as the maddened individuals crawled out from their hiding places.

Whether it was to escape or to release the darkness in their own heart, these human beings and Specters that represented the darker reaches of the human heart started to move. If the shadow had not been bogged down by Doctor Gao, he could have killed a few Specters to warn the rest and forcibly press them back into submission. However, he was unable to allow himself to be distracted, and the more he allowed this to happen, the more chaotic the situation became. The fear that the shadow instilled in their heart slowly dissipated as they gradually became consumed by negative emotions.

Wails and laughter echoed around the small town. The sound of fighting came from everywhere. The blood fog continued to thin, but the smell of blood only thickened.

"This is pure madness. It's quite unsettling." Chen Ge leaped over an unconscious murderer. At the same time, Xu Yin rolled up the lingering spirit that blocked their way into a ball. They split up their responsibility clearly—Chen Ge dealt with the living humans while Xu Yin faced off against the lingering spirits and baleful Specters.

In just a few minutes, many strange items were thrown into Chen Ge's backpack. For example, there was a detached showerhead that had been yanked out from a bathroom. It was possessed by a man's lingering spirit; he had a habit of leaning on the showerhead to sneak glances at other people when they were taking shower. His fighting ability was lower than zero, but the man looked scary. Chen Ge had a feeling that he had the potential to be a great employee, so he had decided to bring the man home.

Other than that, there were many other things, like a flashlight that would turn on by itself, the spirit hiding underneath the water glass, the female ghost that preferred to hide under the table, and so on.

Those easily portable, Chen Ge would collect as they were. Those less easy to handle like the female ghost who hid under the table, Chen Ge smashed the table into pieces and had the ghost possess a piece of the broken wood. He promised the woman that he would build her a new table in the future.

The reward from this mission was far greater than Chen Ge had anticipated. Opening the black phone, the page for the employee had a few new messages.

"Congratulations, Specter's Favored! You have just obtained a special-type lingering spirit—Lee Gui (Lingering spirit). Lascivious activities can lead to bitter consequences. He was electrocuted when he was trying to install a webcam inside the bathroom above the shower. His special power is Bad Karma, and it is able to influence the luck of himself and the people around him. Will you like to hire him as your employee?"



“Congratulations, Specter’s Favored! You have just obtained a special-type lingering spirit—He Beibei (Lingering Spirit). Killed in an accident by the water glass that fell down from the sky when she was walking through the residential area, she was very unsatisfied with her death. Until she finds her actual murderer, she can only hide underneath the water glass. When other people drink from the glass, she’ll be able to observe the person from underneath the glass. Special power, photoscope. Will you like to hire her as your employee?”

“Congratulations, Specter’s Favored! You have just obtained a special-type baleful Specter—Wang Mei (Baleful Specter). She suffers from a psychological problem where she prefers claustrophobic spaces over large, open areas. The smaller the space, the more secure she will feel. The cause of her death is a mystery. The police found her body inside a wooden box under a table, no one knew how she got in there, and they could not find a single fingerprint for a second person at the crime scene. Her special power is contortion. Will you like to hire her as your employee?”

“Congratulations, Specter’s Favored! You have just obtained a special-type Red Specter—??? (Red Specter)! Heavily injured and on the verge of disappearing. Real name unknown, power unknown, history unknown. Before you complete her quest, you are unable to hire her as your employee.”

Chen Ge glanced at the page and realized how big the reward was. There were at least three spirits with special powers and one headless woman who was a Red Specter.

“I’ll leave the question of hiring them after completing this mission.” To ensure the quality of a team, mere focus on the number alone would not work—the more important thing was that each member should be able to hold their own. Putting the black phone away, Chen Ge glanced around him.

Li Wan City was at the height of its madness—the shadow probably would not be able to tell where the origin of the problem was. The appearance of Doctor Gao was the factor that changed everything. As clever as the shadow might be, as careful as his planning was, he would not be able to predict that Doctor Gao would turn into a Red Specter and, more than that, show up at a time like this.

The information decided the direction that one took when coming up with a plan. The shadow had traded blows with Doctor Gao before. The shadow was a master at psychological manipulation, and coincidentally, Doctor Gao was the best psychologist that Jiujiang had ever seen. In the battle between the two, even though it was the shadow who secured a narrow victory, Doctor Gao must have left a deep impression on the shadow, and he was extremely cautious of this ‘man’.

Three quarters of the blood fog in Li Wan City was gathered at a specific spot. Flashes of blackish-red chains cut through the fog, leaving deep gashes on the surrounding buildings.

“The shadow is guarding a four-star mission behind him, so he must have other trump cards that he hasn’t used yet. I wonder how far Doctor Gao will be able to push the shadow.” Chen Ge paid close attention to the shadow and Doctor Gao’s fight. At that moment, a loud boom echoed out from the building where Fan Chong stayed. One could see that the blood vessels covering the surface of the building had started to shrivel up and die.

“Who did this? Their target seems to be the door that has gone out of control as well.” Chen Ge was quite surprised. Other than himself, Doctor Gao, and the shadow, there appeared to be a fourth force. “Is it the woman in the red raincoat, or have some of the murderers ganged up to form a group?”

The door was the source of all the blood fog in Li Wan City, so the shadow would never allow anyone to harm the door. A strange voice rang through the chains and the fog, it felt like it was calling a name.

“The shadow is finally going to reveal his second trump card?” Chen Ge was on high alert. He soon noticed that something was wrong. Even since the voice rang out, human-shaped stains had started to appear on the surface of the buildings of Li Wan City. It felt like they were the real occupants of these buildings.

“These look similar to the stains in Fan Chong’s building. Does the shadow plan to awaken all the people who have died a horrible death in Li Wan City?” Most of the murderers and Specters had been ferried there from other parts of the country. The human-shaped stains seemed to represent the actual locals of Li Wan City. They had died from an epidemic and been buried deep beneath the city.

The things all seemed to be moving. Chen Ge turned to look, and he saw a human-shaped stain behind him. It showed the shape of a girl, who looked around seven or eight and on the lanky side. Her hair was pulled into two ponytails.

Initially, it was just a faded shadow, but as time moved on, the shadow started to darken until Chen Ge could see the shape of the girl rather clearly. Her body was contorted into a ball. Perhaps to lighten to the pain, her arms hugged her body tightly, so tight that her bones had started to alter.

Creak, creak, creak...

The eerie sound kept occurring, and whenever it sounded, the stain on the wall would gain clarity like it was trying to peel off the wall. The static came from the recorder, and the white cat in the travel bag kept meowing at Chen Ge. They were both warning Chen Ge to stay away from this little girl.

“Why won’t Xu Yin allow me to stay near her?” The girl’s presence was far weaker than a Red Specter. In fact, she did not feel as strong as a powerful baleful Specter, but such a stain had alerted both Xu Yin and the white cat. The color was still darkening, and perhaps it was an trick of the eye, but Chen Ge felt like he could see the girl’s curled up body shudder. Then the girl lifted her head that was previously deeply buried inside her chest and slowly turned to look at Chen Ge.

It was a faceless face. However, being stared by that emptiness, Chen Ge felt like he had been dropped in cold water, and the hair on his body all stood on end. After being visited by specters, Chen Ge’s body temperature started to drop, and he had not experienced such a spine-piercingly chilly sensation in a long time already.

“This thing does not appear to be a Specter...” Chen Ge’s own definition of a Specter was that they were a kind of lingering spirit left behind by once living humans.

There were good and bad spirits, so there were understandably good and bad Specters. However, the human stain before his eyes did not appear to possess any emotion. Instead, it was filled with a pathological desire to destroy. Rather than saying it was a ghost, it was more like a living form of a curse. The purpose of its existence was merely to spread disaster and bad luck, to turn everything into a version of itself.

When the stain in the wall saw Chen Ge, the girl’s body slowly unfurled, and her distorted limbs started to expand outward as she walked out from the wall.

The faceless features looked right at Chen Ge. The girl took steps forward, and she started to pick up speed before suddenly leaping forward to fly at Chen Ge!

At the same time, endless screams echoed around Li Wan City. The shadow seemed to have started an indeterminate attack—all the murderers and Specters in Li Wan City were his targets.

“I should retreat for now.” Chen Ge had no idea what might happen should he come into contact with the stain. He did not even order Xu Yin or Bai Qiulin to deal with it, but he evaded the girl and decided to observe the situation first before making his next move.

## **Chapter 666: New Employees**

One of Xiao Bu’s hands was ingested fully by the shadow, while the other remained with the smiling man. When the big battle was happening, the smiling man had already disappeared, probably he had escaped during the commotion.

“Xiao Bu, now that you have gained most part of your body, can you regain control over the door?” Chen Ge was worried that the door at Li Wan City would continue to expand. Xiao Bu shook her head and the blood gathered to form these words on the ground—The door has gone completely out of control, the only thing I can do is to slow down the expansion speed. To have full control over it, I will need to find my entire body.

“Then, can you open the door to send us out of here?” Xiao Bu was at the very least, the door-pusher and Chen Ge believed she would be able to do something like that.

The blood flowed and a new sentence appeared on the ground, “Yes, but I can only keep the door open for one minute per day. The door has been under the shadow’s control for too long, I need some time to refamiliarize myself with it.”

“One minute is more than enough.” Chen Ge knew Xiao Bu was unable to leave this place with him. Just like Men Nan, she needed to stay behind the door to guard it. Understanding that, Chen Ge did not force Xiao Bu to leave with him.

Probably because she had seen through Chen Ge’s thought, the blood on the ground shifted again—You’ve killed your own shadow and based on the agreement, I should be your new shadow, I will never forget that. After I gain full control over the ‘door’, I will go find you.

Xiao Bu’s eyes wandered between Chen Ge and the shadow behind him, it was unclear what she was thinking.

“Okay.” Killing the shadow and then having Xiao Bu become Chen Ge’s shadow was Chen Ge’s parent’s plan but the actual development was far beyond everyone’s expectation. Compared to the more easily controlled Xiao Bu, Zhang Ya was like another extreme. To make her into his shadow, no one could tell what would happen in the future.

“Right, there is one more thing that I wis to ask you.” Chen Ge was suddenly reminded of the question. “The ghost stories society hid 1/3 of its treasures at Li Wan City, do you know where they might be?”

Xiao Bu shook her head again, Chen Ge did no press. Be it the shadow or Doctor Gao, they were both wily old foxes, they must have found a secret place to hide those things.

“Doctor Gao’s arrival might have to do with that. That madman is extremely scary and I fear he might return. You stay at Li Wan City and the woman in the red raincoat stays at ghost apartment. Both of you are my friends and the friend of my friend is my friend, so if you run into any danger, I hope you two will look out for each other, or you can come to Western Jiujiang’s New Century Park to find me.” After dealing with Xiao Bu, Chen Ge started to inspect his remaining employees.

When facing off against the shadow, the employees in the backpack all volunteered their help. Now, everyone was injured but thankfully, other than Xu Yin, no one else was ‘infected’ by the curse.

“Ol’ Bai, thank you for your help earlier.” Bai Qiulin was a gambler who finally saw the light, he had a heart that burned brighter than the icy exterior that he put on. Facing Chen Ge’s words of appreciation, he appeared rather flustered. Thinking back to his life of more than 2 decades, this was the first time, he had heard a word of thank from other and actually, it felt nice to be needed by others.

“I just happened to be around.” Bai Qiulin pushed his hands into his pocket like speaking one more word would claim his life.

“No matter what, if not for you this time, everyone of us would be harmed.” Xu Yin blocked the shadow and Bai Qiulin grabbed Chen Ge and the backpack to escape. They split up their work nicely, if there was a problem with any section, the one standing here would either be the shadow or Doctor Gao.

This type of high-intensity battle was beneficial to Bai Qiulin. The redness around his heart started to spread and he could unleash around 30 percent of Xiong Qing’s power. The corner of his shirt and pants started to color with blood stains, Bai Qiulin was steadily heading towards becoming a Red Spectre.

Compared to Xu Yin, his progress was a lot easier. He possessed Xiong Qing’s heart so he did not need to find a breakthrough. By consuming more baleful spectres, eventually he would turn into a Red Spectre.

Actually, after doing some inventory, Chen Ge had gained a lot from this mission. Xu Yin officially became a Red Spectre, Bai Qiulin evolved into a Half Red Spectre, Zhang Ya consumed the heart of the glutton woman and she also had in her possession half the heart of something which appeared to be greater than Red Spectre, when she reawakened, she would be scarier.

The power of his employees had improved and Chen Ge even gained a new batch of employees. A bunch of lingering spirits and baleful specters with special power and a Red Spectre who was ‘converted’ by Zhang Ya—the headless woman.

The key point was Chen Ge gained the friendship of Xiao Bu and the woman in the red raincoat, the Haunted House might welcome two new Red Spectres in the future.

“If I see my Haunted House as a mission scenario, then its current level should be around 3 star and 4 star, perhaps closer to 4 star than 3 star.” After checking up on his ‘ghost’ employees, Chen Ge ran to find the living employees.

To expand the Haunted House, overreliance on ghosts wouldn’t work, he needed a few living employees as well. The mixing of living and dead employees would definitely bring the visitors a wonderful experience.

Chen Ge found Scissors, the drunkard, the doctor and the unconscious Lee Zheng on the first floor.

“Where’s Jia Ming?” Chen Ge was cautious about that young man who was possessed by the shadow for multiple years. He must know a lot of the shadow’s secrets.

“When you were fighting, he dragged the police and started to run madly down the stairs. We saw how strangely he was acting so he followed him downstairs.” When the shadow summoned back his full strength to nurture the ghost baby, Scissors and the drunkard regained their freedom but there were black lines that represented the curse remaining on their bodies.

Chen Ge picked up the handcuff around Lee Zheng’s wrist. Thankfully, he had cuffed himself together with Jia Ming to prevent the latter’s escape. Or else with Jia Ming’s personality, he would not have dragged Lee Zheng to escape unless it was necessary.

“That man got the key and ran. He sure moves fast.” Jia Ming and the student known Bei Ye had escaped. Chen Ge felt like there was a need to detain them because they knew too many things that they shouldn’t. He might think that way but of course Chen Ge would not voice that in front of others. He used Yin Yang Vision to examine them and realized their condition was not that optimistic.

There were black lines moving in their eyes, it appeared like they were cursed.

Scissors and the drunkard’s situation was better. They had consumed the blood vessels prepared for Red Spectres at the hotel and their bodies had underwent some unique changes. Chen Ge could sense very clearly that their body temperature had dropped to a lower temperature than normal.

The doctor’s condition though was less than optimistic. The curse mixed together with the poison that he drank earlier. His muscles started to atrophied. Even though he could see walk, it appeared like he had aged for at least a decade overnight.

“In a way, we have survived a tragedy together. You know many things about me and I know about the secret in your heart. Currently, you guys are cursed and I can’t let you wander about just like that. How about this, you can stay with me for now and I’ll send you back to your home after I help you cure your body of the curse and after you feel better.” The responsible Chen Ge suggested.

“There’s no need for you to take on the responsibility like that. It was our choice to enter Li Wan City. Furthermore, if not for you, we would have died already. You’ve saved us so many times, we cannot repay you for what you’ve done, how could we trouble you anymore?” The drunkard had woken up from the alcohol a long time ago, his mind couldn’t have been clearer.

“If you do not remove the curse, your lives are constantly in danger. We’ve been through too many things together, I cannot sit idle, watching you being tormented by the pain and illness.” Chen Ge already collected all of his employees. He patted his backpack.

“We’ve been saved multiple times by you and now you’re asking us to occupy your home, it really does not sound right.” Scissors said. “How about this, if you need any help from us, we will stop at nothing to help you! Do not say no, this is the only thing we can do.”

“Yes, you’re going to help us remove the shadow’s curse, you’re going to save our lives again!” The drunkard and the doctor both turned to Chen Ge.

“I operate a Haunted House and as you must have noticed by now, I have the most ‘professional’ of ‘actors’ in my team, I don’t need anymore help.” Chen Ge appeared rather troubled.

“But we cannot just occupy your kindness without doing anything in return! At least give us some job that is within our capability!”

Since they had already said that, it felt wrong for Chen Ge to deny their insistence. He could only ‘force’ himself to accept. “Okay, but first thing’s first, you are not going to help me for free. I will provide all of you with the standard payment. After all, you need to look after your family and you’ll need money to survive. This is the only requirement I have, I hope that you would not reject it.”

Hearing that from Chen Ge, the few felt a warmth suffusing through their heart. Their appreciation towards Chen Ge was as sincere as it could be.

“Boss Chen is such a saint!”

### **Chapter 667: A Shadowless Child [2 in 1]**

The familiar cigarette evoked Chen Ge’s memory. He had never been an overly sentimental person, but at that moment, his footsteps slowed to a stop.

“Just how many things were you guys hiding from me to abandon me and come to such a dangerous place on your own?” Chen Ge knocked on the door, but there was no reply, then he called out softly, “Is anyone in here?”

As he finished saying that, a gasp of pleasant surprise came from inside the room. “Boss Chen?”

The iron lock behind the door slid out of place, and the intricate lock system started to move. After a long time, the door that looked so normal on the outside finally opened. Fan Chong dressed in his pajamas stood behind the door. There was sign of tears left on his face. When this overweight fellow over one hundred kilograms saw Chen Ge, he stampeded at the latter, preparing to bury Chen Ge in a bear hug.

“Please control yourself.” Chen Ge took a step back. He could see how excited Fan Chong was.

“I knew you would come! Boss Chen, you have no idea how close I was to not being able to see you again!” Fan Chong’s voice started to break when he was telling his story. He had many things to tell Chen Ge, but he did not know where to start. He paced back and forth in the room, the folds of fat on his stomach shuddering with his every step.

“Calm down first, do you have your phone on you? We spoke on the phone several hours ago, so let me check your phone records.” Chen Ge was testing Fan Chong. When Fan Chong disappeared, he had dropped his phone inside his room. In fact, it was Fan Dade who latter picked up Fan Chong’s phone and had a brief conversation with Chen Ge.

“I don’t have it with me. I was in too much of a hurry when I was trying to escape, and I dropped the phone in my room.” Fan Chong pointed at his extra-large pajamas that did not come with any pockets. Chen Ge nodded and looked into the room; this was a normal rental room. There were beds, tables, and electric fans—there was nothing that jumped out at Chen Ge.

“Why would you be hiding at a place like this? Who brought you here?” Chen Ge was under the impression that Fan Chong had been kidnapped by the shadow, but from the looks of it, that did not appear to be the case.

“Honestly, I have a hard time believing what happened myself.” Fan Chong nudged his oversized body to the side and walked to the window.

“This is the underground basement. What’s the point of building a window in the room? Is this some kind of self-hypnosis?” Chen Ge gripped the hammer tightly and stood at the door, afraid that this might be a trap.

“She brought me here.” Fan Chong pulled back the thick curtains. The cement wall outside the window had a painting that had been done with cheap crayons. There was a mountain, a river, a smiling sun, flowers that would never wilt, and a family full of smiles.

Chen Ge’s gaze followed the movement of the curtain before resting at the corner of the windowsill where a little girl was seated. She was in a red dress, staring at the painting on the cement wall like it was some kind of ageless art.

“Xiao Bu?” This was not the first time that Chen Ge had seen this girl, but every time, the feeling that he got from her was completely different. Sometimes, she came with a warning, other times detachment, and this time, there was a certain helplessness.

“It was she who dragged me away when we were on the phone earlier.” Fan Chong’s eyes twitched like he was still afraid when he thought back to what happened then. “Tonight, it was not my big brother who came home; it was someone else. I still have a hard time believing it. I failed to notice anything out of the ordinary and shared the same room with him for so long.”

“Your big brother was replaced by the shadow?” What Fan Chong said matched Chen Ge’s earlier suspicion. “Is this what Xiao Bu told you?”

“Yes, my brother did not come home tonight, and I am worried about him.” Fan Chong sat on the bed, and the old bedframe creaked under its weight. It felt like the thing could collapse at any moment. Compared to his size, the bed seemed so small.

“These beds seem to have been prepared for children,” Fan Chong explained as he sneaked a glance at Xiao Bu. He was worried that he might damage the bed as well.

“Prepared for children?” Chen Ge sensitively caught the key term that Fan Chong used. “On the phone, you told me that after clearing the game, Xiao Bu entered this building. What is so special about this building? It looks not so different from other buildings in Li Wan City whether you look at its interior or exterior.”

“I’m not sure, but I heard this from Xiao Bu as well. Many years ago, an epidemic swept Li Wan City, and this was the only building that was avoided by the infected.”

“Only building avoided by the infected? What do you mean?” Chen Ge still did not quite get it.

“It’s a long story. You’ll understand everything once you finish Xiao Bu’s game. The game uses Li Wan City as the setting and perfectly replicates what happened in Li Wan City at the time.” Fan Chong had

cleared all the side quests, so he was familiar with all the plot. “Human nature is a very complicated thing. It can shine like the sun to bring warmth and comfort to the weak and helpless, but it can also be a dark abyss, dark and cold, dangerously bottomless.

“The source of the epidemic was Li Wan Hospital. The doctors were at a loss, and they could not do anything to stop the spread of the disease. Some of the patients knew that they were not long for this world, so some of them came up with the idea of taking revenge. They contaminated several medical devices and food supplies with their own blood, and soon, the disease started to spread.

“First, it was mostly the other patients, but eventually, it caught onto the doctors before spreading to half of Li Wan City. The epidemic continued to grow, and people were living in constant fear. Many who caught the disease contracted symptoms like they had gone mad. Even though they did not commit direct murder, many innocent people died because of them, so in reality, they were not that different from actual serial killers.

“At the time, the whole of Li Wan City was thrown into chaos, and the only serene oasis was this very building.

“Before it was rebuilt, the building was once an orphanage. The developer thought that there would be quick development in Eastern Jiujiang, so they bought the land and built new apartment buildings. At the time, they gave wonderful promises. They would reserve part of the new houses for the orphans and orphanage staff to ensure that the children had a place to stay. However, after the buildings were built, the supposed orphanage was only limited to the first and second floor basement.

“During the height of the epidemic, all the staff at the orphanage forbade the children from leaving. Then they went to guard the passage that lead underground. They had made the decision to stop anyone from entering the orphanage, including themselves.

“One day and one night later, help came. No one knew for sure what really happened, and there was no information about this online. In the game, it was merely stated that all the orphans were rescued, and none of them were infected.”

At this point of the story, Fan Chong’s voice started to take on a different shade. “Honestly, I have serious respect for the staff of the orphanage. They are quite possibly the only force of good that Li Wan City had.”

Human beings were an interesting thing species. Even in the ugliest and dirtiest environment, some could still bloom into the most beautiful of flowers.

“No wonder other buildings are filled with human-shaped stains but this building is so clean.” Chen Ge had the answer to one of the questions in his heart, but that only led to more questions. “But how come Xiao Bu came to this place at the end of the game? Is it because it is supposed to represent her kindness?”

All the door-pushers were wreathed in the deepest despair—self-salvation was something that was almost impossible.

“You should have noticed the posters on the underground corridors, right? One of the side quests in the game involved a young husband and wife who arrived at Li Wan City. They sought out Xiao Bu and



constructed a haven for Xiao Bu with this building.” Fan Chong tried desperately to remember the last few scenes from Xiao Bu’s game. “They wanted to help Xiao Bu, but in return, Xiao Bu had to promise to do them a favor.”

“What kind of favor?” Chen Ge knew that the young couple in question was none other than his parents. The familiar cigarettes and the Haunted House posters everywhere pointed to that undeniable fact. Only his parents would be shameless enough to carry the posters for the Haunted House everywhere they went.

“Yes.” Fan Chong turned to look at Xiao Bu. Seeing no response from Xiao Bu, he continued. “They wished for Xiao Bu to become the shadow for their child.”

“Please explain that in detail.” Chen Ge narrowed his eyes.

“You’ve seen the fonts used in the game—they are incredibly hard to read. I believe the message was that the shadow of their child has gone missing, so they wished Xiao Bu could become the new shadow of their child. I know that is very hard to believe, but that is exactly what the game said. In the game, Xiao Bu did not agree to their terms immediately. Therefore, they built this haven in Li wan City. After Xiao Bu made her decision, she should come to this place to wait for them, and then they would help her deal with the shadow.” Fan Chong did not really understand the words that left his lips, and he had no idea how impactful these words were on Chen Ge.

“To make a Red Specter into a shadow, yes, this is truly an idea that only they’d come up with.” Now that Xiao Bu had entered the haven, it meant that the girl was willing to become Chen Ge’s shadow. However, his parents not only did not follow up on their promise to deal with the shadow but also disappeared. All this made Chen Ge feel awkward around Xiao Bu—he did not know how to face her. “Oh well. As long as the shadow is killed, no matter by whose hands, the promise should be counted as completed.”

Entering the room, Chen Ge walked to the window. Xiao Bu looked not older than eight. The red dress that flowed like blood formed a great contrast to her startlingly pale skin. Just getting close to the girl caused Xu Yin to elicit a great warning.

“She looks very powerful.” This was the first time that Chen Ge had dealt with a door that had gone out of control. He had no idea what kind of influence would befall the door-pusher once the door went out of control, but based on what he knew, the door-pusher seemed to get stronger once that happened.

“The people who made you that promise were my parents; I am the child who has lost the shadow.” Hearing this from Chen Ge, the eyelashes of the girl who had been spacing out moved. She slowly turned around, and a suffocating presence washed over Chen Ge.

“This...” The red dress floated in the wind. Xiao Bu was missing her arms and legs. There was a large missing gap at the spot where her heart should be.

*This child is a perfect replica of that door! Other than the head, which has been represented by the heart, all the other missing parts represent the door perfectly!*

Staring at the girl silently, Chen Ge finally understood why Xiao Bu would voluntarily enter the haven. No one would volunteer to give up their freedom.

Ignoring Xu Yin's warning, Chen Ge took another step forward. His heart winced with slight pain. "I'm not here for any kind of promise. You are too heavily injured, and I trust that I won't be able to understand even a fraction of your pain, so I will not stand at your perspective to provide you with empty consolation. I know the words must sound empty.

"But a promise is a promise. I will help you deal with the shadow so that you will never be alone again in the future."

Chen Ge stopped before Xiao Bu and slowly squatted down to look at the expressionless face at eye level. "The view outside this window is painted. After the shadow is done with, I'll bring you to see the world. We'll go to places you want to visit, to see the world that is waiting for you."

Chen Ge did not bring up the favor. He was not going to make Xiao Bu into his own shadow.

Perhaps sensing that Chen Ge was not lying, Xiao Bu blinked several times. Blood leaked out from the corner of her eyes, and the droplets of blood gathered to form a sentence.

"One without shadow is not long for this world. Are you sure you don't want me to be your shadow?"

### **Chapter 668: Doctor Gao! [2 in 1]**

Blood leaked out from the windowpane, contaminating the painting on the wall, making it look more sinister than before.

"Even if I am facing death, I am not going to deprive you of your freedom. Furthermore, I've been supposedly living without a shadow for so many years already, but haven't I been surviving just fine? There is a solution to every problem, and I'm sure that there are other ways to resolve this issue."

Chen Ge was an optimistic person. Even though he was not particularly handsome, there was something about him that attracted other people's attention, giving those close to him some semblance of hope.

The expression on Xiao Bu's face did not change. The blood on the wall repeated that question again and again like she was trying to make sure that Chen Ge had thought this through. For those who had been repeatedly injured, they would rather suffer more pain than choose to put their faith in other people. This was because they realized that the feeling when one realized that one's trust had been misplaced was far greater than the pain of knife cutting through one's body.

"Let's talk about that later. You have met my parents; did they tell you anything? Like what they planned to do next, the place that they might have been going to?"

At the very beginning, Chen Ge had invested everything that he had into the Haunted House because he wanted to keep the only thing that his parents had left him around. He wanted to protect it with everything he had. Searching for his parents had become his goal, so now that a lead was sitting before his eyes, he was going to grab onto it tightly.

Xiao Bu seemed to know that Chen Ge would ask such questions. More blood leaked out from the window, and another bloody sentence appeared on the wall. "They did not tell me directly where they were going, but they did mention Xin Hai Central Hospital during their conversation."

“The cursed hospital? One of the two four-star missions that was given by the black phone.” Chen Ge leaned against the wall and fell into deep thought. “The shadow is related to the ghost fetus, and my parent’s disappearance is related to Xin Hai Central Hospital. Both of these are four-star scenarios... I do not have any real need to tackle them yet. Other than that, the four-star scenario at Western Jiujiang—School of the Afterlife—is going to expire soon. After leaving Li Wan City, I should attempt that first.”

For the Trial Mission in the black phone, the rise of one-star meant a momentous increase to the mission’s difficulty. Honestly, Chen Ge did not have full confidence he was ready to tackle a four-star mission.

“Never mind, it’s not the time to deal with these things yet. I should focus on the issue at hand first.” Chen Ge moved toward Xiao Bu. He was already very close to the girl, but Xiao Bu showed no sign of evasion or even annoyance. This caused Fan Chong, who was watching from the side, to sweat profusely. After all, that was an actual Red Specter.

“Did my parent leave any information with you about the shadow? Something like his weakness or something similar?” Chen Ge wished to get more information from Xiao Bu, but Xiao Bu’s reaction gave him more disappointment. The blood on the wall started to move again before changing to form that fateful sentence. “One without shadow is not long for this world.”

*The child should know more than what she is saying. I wonder why she refuses to come clean with me.* Chen Ge stood up. Fan Chong had been baffled when he heard Chen Ge call Xiao Bu, but after he gave it some thought, it was true that the Red Specter was indeed just a young girl.

“What should we do now?” Chen Ge turned to look at Fan Chong. The latter had a helpless smile on his face.

“Don’t ask me. The question that you posed me earlier is one that I normally direct at you.”

Fan Chong had already told Chen Ge everything about the game; now he needed Chen Ge to make the decision.

“Those human stains are a big obstacle. Compared to Specters, they are more like evil intention that is purposely cultivated by someone. They are made from pure evil intention, and there is nothing human about them anymore.” These things had no value to them at all. Specters might be affected should they came into contact with the stains, so Chen Ge had been unwilling to have his employees take this risk.

“A Specter can consume and digest them. The stronger the Specter, the more curses they can consume without even being affected. If that is your concern, I can help you open the way.” The blood on the wall moved to form this sentence. Xiao Bu came up with the solution to deal with the human stains. “A small number of curses can be suppressed. Only a large number of curses will affect the Specter negatively.”

“You call them curses?” For some reason, Chen Ge was reminded of the four-star scenario given by the black phone—The Cursed Hospital.

“The thought that remains after death can transform into many different things—lingering spirits, curses, the supernatural, and so on. These stains are curses, built purely from bad luck and evil intention.”

“What will happen if a Specter consumes too many curses and assimilates with the curse?” Chen Ge asked.

“They will become a new curse. The stronger the Specter, the more sinister the curse that they will transform into.” The blood on the wall kept changing. Xiao Bu had not spoken a word, and she maintained this method to communicate with Chen Ge.

“Can something like a curse be controlled? Based on what you said, these curses will ruin everything in their sight. They cannot be manipulated at all, but somehow, the shadow has managed to do exactly that. How did he do it?”

“I have no idea. Perhaps the shadow has his own method, or perhaps the shadow itself is a curse.” The bloody words on the wall left Chen Ge with another shock.

“The shadow itself might be a curse?” The more Chen Ge thought about it, the more likely it became. His parents would not have lost his shadow for no reason. He had probably been cursed when he was young, and then his parent somehow channeled that curse into his shadow. However, he did not share his speculation with others—he kept them to himself.

“If the shadow itself is a curse, then it should be clear why he chose Li Wan City as his lair. He wants to make use of the deep curse and resentment buried underneath this small town.” The curse was the shadow’s trump card, and it was the problem that blocked Chen Ge’s way.

“You don’t need to be overly worried about this. Even the curse is unable to control itself, so the control that the shadow had over it is more likely some kind of trigger. It could not manipulate the curse to its heart desire. I told you earlier, the curse is made from pure evil. They will attack everything in sight until everything is turned into a curse. There are many strange and weird things in Li Wan City. They should be able to help us distract part of the aggression. So, we only need to depart from Li Wan City before everything is turned into the curse.”

Chen Ge looked at the bloody words on the wall, and the emotions in his eyes softened. Since Xiao Bu was willing to communicate so openly with him, it meant that their relationship was getting closer.

“Alright, we should leave this place first. We’ll decide what to do once we assess what’s happening outside.”

Inside the room, Fan Chong studied Chen Ge and Xiao Bu, and the fat on his body kept shaking.

He knew that Chen Ge was an ally, but he could not shake the fear from his heart. The sight that he was seeing was too peculiar. A man holding a murder weapon standing next to a Red Specter without her limbs. The Specter did not speak a word, and the man kept reading the changing bloody words on the wall with kindness and gentleness in his eyes.

“How did I get into this mess? I just want to go home...”

With Chen Ge leading the way, the group arrived at the elevator. “There are so many rooms here. Are we sure we haven’t missed anything?”

Looking at the closed doors, Chen Ge asked with a smile on his face, “Xiao Bu, you have stayed here for so long. Did you make any friend with the neighbors? We can bring them with us.”

Xiao Bu shook her head—she still needed time getting used to Chen Ge’s overt kindness. Chen Ge pressed the button to summon the elevator. Once the door opened, Fan Chong’s hands went to close his nose and lips. The interior of the elevator was filled with blood and knife marks, and the group from before had completely disappeared.

“It’s fine, you’ll get used to it.” Chen Ge had no idea why he would say that to console Fan Chong. The few entered the elevator. They slowly reached the surface, but the strange sounds from the surface had already disappeared. Returning to the first floor, as the elevator doors opened, Chen Ge armed himself with the hammer. The lobby was eerily quiet. There were no screams or cries for help. Strangely enough, there was no blood pool or dead bodies either.

“Where are all the people?” Chen Ge used his Yin Yang Vision to look around. The blood fog had gotten even thinner than before. Occasionally, he caught glimpses of shadows wandering the streets, and they were all moving in the same direction.

“Something is attracting these human stains.”

“All the curses are moving toward the door.” Xiao Bu still had not said a word. She raised her arm, and the words coagulated literally from the fog in the air. As the door-pusher, she was the real owner of the blood fog, but that had been forcibly taken away by the shadow.

“How much fog can you take back from the shadow?” A plan started to form in Chen Ge’s mind.

“About half. My limbs and head are hidden by the shadow outside of Li Wan City. It is outside of the territory that I can influence. Furthermore, the shadow is in possession of my heart, and he wishes to use that heart to control the door.” Every single word was pulsing with Xiao Bu’s pain. The readers, Chen Ge and Fan Chong, felt their hearts wrench from knowing her story.

“No wonder the shadow built the ghost apartment outside of Li Wan City. Li Wan City is used to collect despair and negative emotions while Ming Yang Residence is used to suppress Xiao Bu, to get Xiao Bu to follow his orders. He sure has ironed out the details.” Chen Ge told Xiao Bu to stop controlling the blood fog for now so that they would not attract the shadow’s attention. “A few of my friends have left Li Wan City to go in search of the ghost apartment. I believe that they will return with your limbs and head in no time. After that, you should surprise the shadow with your return, and we’ll work together to vanquish the shadow.”

Chen Ge’s plan was probable, but Xiao Bu did not appear to be that optimistic. “You are unable to kill him.”

“Why?” Chen Ge pressed to find out the reason, but Xiao Bu did not answer. No matter what Chen Ge asked after that, Xiao Bu stopped answering him. The few walked down the streets of Li Wan City. Xiao Bu was very familiar with the layout of Li Wan City; this was the door that she had pushed open, so theoretically speaking, the world behind the door was formulated from her memory.

With Xiao Bu’s aid, Chen Ge and Fan Chong avoided all the dangerous pitfalls and arrived at Fan Chong’s residential area. About eighty percent of the small town’s blood fog was gathered there, and the scary thing was that the curses that had gathered for who knew how long at Li Wan City was present inside the blood fog as well.

They morphed into black threads to entangle around a figure who was standing in the middle of the blood fog. The black threads chained said figure to the ground, refusing to let him to take another step.

“Xiao Bu, how many curses can a Red Specter support?” Chen Ge was afraid that Xiao Bu was not going to answer, so he added, “The man who is fighting the shadow now can be said to be the scariest presence among Red Specters. He once shouldered all the negative emotions behind the door on his own. Could a presence like that resist the accumulative curses gathered in Li Wan City?”

Xiao Bu shook her head. “No, but he should be able to resist the curses for an extended period of time.”

“Understood.” Chen Ge waved for Fan Chong to follow him. “Then, we’ll let them fight it out for now.”

“We’re only going to hide and watch from the sidelines?” Fan Chong was confused. “They are stuck in a stalemate. This should be perfect opportunity for us. Be it to escape or to launch an ambush, we should be doing something!”

Chen Ge came with promises of killing the shadow, but once they arrived at the scene, Chen Ge looked around and suggested that they find a place to hide. That did not feel right.

“We’ll make our move after they have finished the fight. These two have access to too many secrets. We mustn’t let our guard down. Furthermore, the longer they drag this out, the better it will be for us. Once we find the missing pieces of the door, we’ll have the upper hand. We’ll strike then.” Chen Ge looked at the blood fog that had gathered there. “Neither of them can be called an ally. Therefore, the only victory solution is to defeat both of them.”

“You plan to vanquish both of them at the same time?” Fan Chong held his heart. He did not dare to ask anymore question; things were fast getting out of his understanding.

“The shadow is able to contest Doctor Gao’s power by using the blood fog and the curses buried in Li Wan City. If he does not possess any other trump cards, he should be the first to fall.” Chen Ge understood that the curse needed some time to work its evil magic, and in that opening, Doctor Gao should be able to take down the shadow.

“The shadow? Doctor Gao? Sounds like you’re familiar with both of them.” Fan Chong did not expect Chen Ge to answer, and he kept his voice to a low whisper. The flyer for the ghost story society was on Xu Yin, but Doctor Gao probably felt the flyer’s approach, and he became more violent. In the blood red ocean, the chains continued to lash out, creating consecutive echoes of metal clangs.

“How did Doctor Gao become so strong? What did he experience behind the door? Has he consumed many Red Specters?” Chen Ge could not get it. When he was at Coffin Village, the ghost inside the well had also grown tremendously strong after she entered the door, but she was different from Doctor Gao. All she wanted was to be reborn as a human, so she did not focus completely on getting stronger.

While he was focusing on resolving that mystery, Chen Ge’s own phone suddenly vibrated. He quickly took it out to see. It was an unread message. “It’s from Tong Tong. Have they succeeded?”

However, after reading the message, all Chen Ge could do was frown. There was only a short message. “So many children! Quick, come!”

“Looks like something has happened over there.” Chen Ge put the phone away. Without wasting any time, he called after Fan Chong and Xiao Bu. They ran toward the outskirts of Li Wan City.

Just as Chen Ge made that decision, the blood sea behind them suddenly exploded. A shadow that looked suspiciously like Chen Ge slithered away, rushing toward the ghost apartment at the fringe Li Wan City.

The blood fog dispersed, and the voice that seemed to come from hell itself echoed in everyone’s ears. “Chen Ge...”

The white doctor’s coat was completely dyed red, and the red was even brighter than blood.

Heavy, thick black chains curled around the white coat. The man’s lower body was dissolving into blackish-red blood. He was heavily injured, but he did not seem to register the pain.

Slowly looking up, his eyes that had once been filled with brilliance were now completely red. Chen Ge and the shadow were both reflected in his pupils.

“Chen Ge...”

Doctor Gao!

Picking up speed, Chen Ge rushed down the distance. “It looks like he has lost his mind, but how did he manage to remember in his condition? Is it because I’ve left too deep an impression on him?”

-----

A dedicated reader, Яэки/RenArcadia, has made a wiki for the novel. They’ve done a really good job, so if any of you want to check some past info, do check it out: <https://myhouseofhorrors.fandom.com>

Also, if any of you want to collaborate with them on the project or just discuss the novel, join our Discord server: <https://discord.gg/E9N8KV3>

## **Chapter 669: Endless Rush [2 in 1]**

The shadow retreated, heading toward the outskirts of Li Wan City. Doctor Gao suffered all of the curses, and his condition did not look so good either. The blood fog dispersed, and the dress that Xiao Bu was wearing grew brighter. She tilted her head to the side to study Chen Ge. She felt like following this man might improve her luck.

“Let’s go!” Chen Ge carried his two large bags and started running. Fan Chong was the unluckiest of the group. Due to his size, all this running was literally killing him.

“Wait for me!” Fan Chong grasped his heart. At that moment, he had a sudden clarity about how funny destiny sometimes worked. The last time he ran like his life depended on it was at Chen Ge’s Haunted House, and this time, he was escaping with the man himself.

“Please do not stop! No matter what! I’ll go find a car or some kind of transport for you!” Chen Ge raced down the streets for a long time, but he could not find any means of transportation that he could use. With no other option, he had to stop and tell Xiao Bu, “When the doctor starts to chase after us, I need

you to take Fan Chong somewhere you two can hide safely while I lead the doctor away. But try not to stay too far away from me, I'll still need your help to deal with the shadow later."

Chen Ge was already halfway across town when Doctor Gao, whose lower body was dissolving, started to make his move. The chains surged through the fog, making a sharp sound as they ground against the surrounding buildings.

"Chen Ge..." The pair of blood red eyes looked at Chen Ge and the shadow who were escaping. Perhaps the question going through his mind at the time was—*Why do these two look so similar?*

The curses that had brewed for so many years in Li Wan City almost all surged into Doctor Gao's body. Black blood kept pouring out of the good doctor's body. The blood was mixed with black and gray substances. If one went close enough, one could even hear the sound of something wailing inside the substance.

Seeing Doctor Gao's condition, Chen Ge shivered in fear. "The shadow's trump card sure is something else. If Doctor Gao did not show up, then it'd be me and my employees who were suffering most of the curse. If that was the case, even if I managed to kill the shadow, I'd probably lose more than half of my employees."

There was a limit to the number of curses a Specter could digest. If it went over the limit, the Specter would turn into a new curse. Furthermore, after they digested the curse, the negative emotions in their hearts would be amplified and brought to the forefront. When that happened, it would have been impossible for them to keep their employment at the Haunted House. Without the actors, Chen Ge would have to temporarily close down all the underground scenarios at the Haunted House.

If the Haunted House could not run properly, it would negatively influence New Century Park. During this momentous period when the futuristic park was about to open, this might become the straw that broke the camel's back.

On the surface, everything might look like it was turning for the better, but only Chen Ge knew the difficulty that was involved in this process. If he was careless, all the effort that he had put in prior to this would go up in smoke.

"The shadow chose to retreat and hurry toward the ghost apartment, meaning that Tong Tong's group has obtained something very important to the shadow. This could be seen as good news for me as well." Chen Ge saw everything that might slow the shadow down as a good thing.

Behind him, Doctor Gao had started his chase. However, the man's situation could only be described as weird. Chen Ge had no idea why Doctor Gao had such a relentless insistence on chasing him. "Didn't we clear this up before he chose to commit suicide? I even promised to help him look after his daughter, Gao Ru Xue."

When he was alive, Doctor Gao was already at the verge of losing in mind. Now that he was dead and entangled by a small town's worth of curses, of course, Chen Ge was not going to stay to chat with the man.

"There's no time to draft a plan—I'll draw everyone to the ghost apartment. If there's a fight, the ghost apartment will be destroyed. Somehow, I'll have to ruin the shadow's plan." With Chen Ge leading the



way, Doctor Gao and Xiao Bu both moved toward the ghost apartment. The shadow noticed this and was enraged. He knew that Chen Ge was in Li Wan City, but he had not realized that Doctor Gao's actual target was Chen Ge.

Sensing a thick, sharp point of resentment, Chen Ge looked around and saw the shadow moving down the street that was adjacent to his. Pointing behind him, Chen Ge made a signal at the shadow. "You've guessed correctly. It was me who led him here."

The shadow gritted his teeth in anger, but he knew that Chen Ge had the protection of a Red Specter. He would not be able to take down Chen Ge in a short period of time. Therefore, he decided to adopt the tactic of 'see no devil' as he picked up his speed to rush to the ghost apartment.

"Looks like Tong Tong and the guys have really created a big problem for the shadow." Chen Ge signaled for Xiao Bu and Fan Chong to move along. He rushed as fast as he could, trying to follow the shadow. Soon, a strange sight appeared in Li Wan City.

As the culprit, the shadow was chased by a living man carrying two bags like he had just come back from a shopping spree. That man was followed by a crazy Red Specter, and at the end of this strange procession was a fat man who looked like he was going to collapse at any moment due to a lack of air and a little girl who had no arms and legs.

The shadow was too worried about the ghost apartment to care about Chen Ge. So, to an outside observer, it looked like Chen Ge was chasing after the shadow. The ghost apartment was located at Ming Yang Residence outside of Li Wan City. When Chen Ge came to the edge of Li Wan City, he could sense very clearly that the blood fog there had thickened.

"The blood fog outside of the small town seems to be different from the one inside the town. There seems to be something extra in this fog." Chen Ge used his heart to sense this strange fog, and he felt like something was calling his name from the western side. He looked in that direction and understood that somewhere around there was New Century Park.

The shadow did not give Chen Ge too much time to stop to think. He crossed the traffic-less street and rushed into the residential area. The blood fog covered up his tracks, and just like that, the shadow disappeared before Chen Ge's eyes.

The shadow had disappeared, but Doctor Gao was still following behind Chen Ge. He had to figure out a way to distract the doctor's attention. Chen Ge turned back to look—one of Doctor Gao's eyes had turned blackish-red. Endless black threads entwined together with blood vessels, and they flowed out of his eyes as ash-colored tears.

"Doctor Gao is becoming stranger and stranger. Xiao Bu once said that a Specter will be assimilated into the curse once they consume too many curses, and the stronger the Specter, the scarier the curse it'll turn into! If Doctor Gao becomes consumed by the curse, what kind of curse will this Specter that was the strongest Red Specter become?"

"There's no time to waste anymore!" Chen Ge reached into his backpack, and he yelled Yan Danian's name. "Can you sense Ol' Zhou's location? Quick!"

Ol' Zhou had lived inside Yan Danian's comic for many years, and they shared a good relationship. Actually, Chen Ge was merely giving this a try—he had no idea whether it would work or not.

The pressure from a Red Specter was suffocating. Understanding the gravity of the situation, the comic in the backpack started to turn on its own. Then a ballpoint pen that was taped together with clear cellophane tape started to draw a picture on the empty page. Ol' Zhou and Men Nan were hiding inside one of the rooms, and outside the window that was next to them, one could see the bus station that fringed Li Wan City.

"So, they're here?" Chen Ge tipped his head back to study the four buildings at Ming Yang Residence before rushing toward the one at the most left side. He had once entered this building with Captain Yan before. He remembered seeing the bus station through one of the windows. At this crucial moment, the Pen Spirit had worked together with Yan Danian to provide Chen Ge with this important clue. Summoning Xu Yin, Chen Ge rushed into the building.

"Ol' Zhou! Men Nan!" He screamed as loud as he could, but once the voice left his lips, Chen Ge noticed that something was wrong. The building that he was in was completely different from the building in real life!

In real life, Ming Yang Residence was an abandoned project. Some of the windows were not even fixed, and the floor was merely cement and undecorated. However, the building that Chen Ge was in had a clean, tiled floor with painted walls, and there was even lighting installed on the stairs and corridors.

"The door that Xiao Bu pushed open was in Li Wan City, and she already said that her power cannot reach this place, so Ming Yang Residence was not made according to her memory. Then, why is this place so different from its condition in real life?" If not for the fact that Doctor Gao was chasing after him, Chen Ge would never have entered such a strange place so recklessly.

The world behind the door was a reflection of the real world, the manifestation of one's nightmare. Upon closer inspection, he noticed that there were various pictures on the wall. There were children, animals, and various toys.

"These look like drawings by children. This is so strange. It feels like the feeling I had when I stepped into Jiujiang Children's Home for the first time."

There was no answer from Ol' Zhou or Men Nan. Doctor Gao was right on his tail. Chen Ge did not think that it was wise to head upstairs. He would be trapped up there if Doctor Gao decided to block off the stairs.

"I should limit my exploration to the first and second floors." With Chen Ge's current physical condition, as long as he was more careful, he would not be injured if he jumped down from the second floor, but he was not confident that he would be safe if he jumped down from the third floor.

"Doctor Gao is still quite a distance away. His speed is decreasing. But one good thing is that after the shadow left Li Wan City, it's clear that Xiao Bu has been getting stronger; the red on his dress is getting brighter and brighter."

As Chen Ge called Men Nan and Ol' Zhou's names, he charged into the building. Whenever he saw closed doors, without stopping to think, he greeted them with a hammer to the face.

Once the doors fell away, the scene behind the doors surprised Chen Ge. There were no ghosts and no horrible scenes, only a few children drawing. Their eyes were filled with innocence, not knowing what hatred and pain was. They gripped the crayons in their hands and looked at Chen Ge with confusion.

These children were like pieces of empty paper. Chen Ge was not complimenting their innocence but felt like something important had been taken away from them. They had lost something that made humans human. Studying them, it felt like they were more like human-shaped puppets.

A 'criminal' with a scary-looking weapon burst into the room, but they did not react in any way. They held the crayons with a blank expression on their faces, staring dumbly at Chen Ge.

"The shadow must have done something to them!" Chen Ge knew that Ming Yang Residence was the ghost apartment built by the shadow. He had been under the impression that the place was supposed to house scary ghosts and Specters. Now he realized just how innocent he was. The shadow would not be kind enough to allow Specters to live there, so the real tenants of Ming Yang Residence were these children who had some value to the shadow.

"Did any of you see anyone walk in earlier?" The children had no response at all to Chen Ge's question. They stared at Chen Ge for a while before returning to their drawing. It felt like their mental faculty had been taken away, leaving behind simple paintings in their mind, and the purpose of their existence was to use the crayons that they were holding to keep on drawing these pictures endlessly. Chen Ge looked through several rooms, and they were all filled with such strange children.

"In real life, Ming Yang Residence contains many broken dolls. Now that I think about it, each of those dolls probably represents an actual human life."

With no time to waste, Chen Ge hurried to the second floor. While he opened the door, he did not stop calling for Men Nan's name.

"The picture drawn by the Pen Spirit definitely points to this building, so it means that Ol' Zhou and Men Nan are one hundred percent inside here. In that case, why aren't they answering me? Even if they're in danger, they should be able to give me some response, right?"

The message that Tong Tong had sent was a SOS message. Chen Ge knew that something must have happened to their group, but he did not expect things to become so complicated. Chen Ge hammered down the doors on the second floor—they were still filled with children. "Xiao Bu's limbs are hidden on the higher floors. Doctor Gao is not far behind me, and if I rush up the stairs, I might be blocked off on both sides by the shadow and Doctor Gao."

When he was hesitating, a voice suddenly came from the fourth floor. "Chen Ge! Save me! Please save me!"

There was not many who knew Chen Ge's real name in Li Wan City. Chen Ge turned his head up to look and saw Jia Ming poking his head out from the stairs until his body was almost falling. His expression was one of extreme pain. His eyes were red like they were about to pop out from his skull. "Save me! They are all here!"

When Jia Ming spoke, another voice appeared. Chen Ge was very familiar with this voice—it belonged to Inspector Lee. “Don’t come up here! Chen Ge! Leave this place immediately! Tell everything that you saw here to Captain Yan! Remember! You have to tell Captain Yan!”

“Don’t drag me with you if you want to die! Chen Ge, we are all here! Bring us with you! Please save us!” Jia Ming seemed to be experiencing inexplicable pain. He kept trying to stretch his body forward. Chen Ge noticed that his wrist was handcuffed, and the other cuff was chained around Lee Zheng’s wrist.

Lee Zheng, Jia Ming, Scissors, and the rest had disappeared at Fan Chong’s place, but now, they had suddenly shown up here. This aroused Chen Ge’s suspicion. Normally, Chen Ge would continue to observe for a while before making his decision, but the situation now was too unique.

Doctor Gao was catching up, and he would arrive soon. He did not have much time to think, and his body moved instinctively up the stairs. He could not care less about Jia Ming’s life, but he had to save Inspector Lee. A long time ago, when Chen Ge first fought the ghost stories society at Fang Hwa Residence, this police officer had been a big help to him by helping him buy time at the most crucial moment. Chen Ge had never seen himself as a saint, but he would remember every kindness that been directed his way.

“Inspector Lee mentioned Captain Yan earlier, but why would I tell everything I saw here to Captain Yan? Is he really more than he appears?”

Running to the fourth floor, Chen Ge saw Lee Zheng and Jia Ming, who were detained. Their legs and arms were tied. A few children were shoving into the middle of the stairs. Once the children saw Chen Ge, they dispersed.

“What is going on the here?” Cutting off the ropes, Chen Ge helped Lee Zheng get up. He was about to ask more questions when more weird noises came from upstairs. Lifting his head to look, he saw that half of Scissors, the drunkard, and the doctor’s bodies had already been pushed into the staircase, and the children were holding their legs down.

The three of them were on the seventh floor, not too close and not too far.

“The shadow is forcing me to go upstairs, huh?” Chen Ge instantly understood the shadow’s intention.

“Leave us be! You need to leave! This is a trap!” the drunkard shouted, and he sounded quite valorous.

“There is only one shadow; he couldn’t have controlled so many people at the same time...” When Chen Ge was thinking, a loud boom came from outside the building. A chain that was filled with human faces smashed against the wall of the building.

“Doctor Gao has arrived.” Gripping his fist, Chen Ge summoned Xu Yin. He had the Specter hold the flyer and rush to another building to lead Doctor Gao away.

“You think I don’t have any other Red Specters other than Xu Yin?” Chen Ge pulled out the hammer and started running to the top of the stairs as fast as he could. “I refuse to believe that you have more trump cards than I do! After I deal with you, I’ll go reconnect with my old friend, Doctor Gao.”

**Chapter 670: Who Are You? [2 in 1]**

“The two of you should stay here. If anyone falls down from above, remember to catch them.” Chen Ge placed the travel bag with the white cat on the ground, and he ran up the stairs, wielding Doctor Skull-cracker’s hammer.

“Be careful!” No matter how hard the drunkard screamed, Chen Ge did not stop moving. Rescuing people was a matter of convenience. Ever since Chen Ge stepped into Li Wan City, his real target had been the shadow. An entity who was so mysterious yet had endless details that were connected to himself, only by apprehending the shadow would Chen Ge allow himself to rest easy.

“I will definitely be able to get a lot of information about my parents from the shadow.” Before entering Li Wan City, he had predicted this moment. However, his original plan was to have the smiling man and the red high heels help him scout the road ahead. Unfortunately, Doctor Gao’s appearance had thrown his plan into complete disarray.

“However, generally speaking, how things turned out is still advantageous to me.” Outside the building, Doctor Gao was lured away by Xu Yin, and this provided Chen Ge with a rare opportunity.

“The monster is waiting for you up here, do not come up here!” This time, it was Scissors who spoke. His condition was not that good. Faded blots of blood appeared on his body like the capillaries under his skin were all bursting at the same time.

“He’s waiting for me; I’m also looking for him!” Chen Ge ran even faster. Behind him, the white cat crawled out from the bag. It followed closely behind Chen Ge, its movement very agile. The children on the seventh floor were obviously using Scissors’ group as bait to lure Chen Ge further up. They had been given very strict orders. Once Chen Ge approached, they let go of their detainees and immediately escaped.

“Give me your hand!” Chen Ge dragged Scissors and the drunkard somewhere safe. There was no rope or anything similar wound around their bodies, but from the way they reacted, it looked like they were suffering from a severe reaction to something. Their bodies were ravaged by pain, and they had difficulty even standing up.

“Can you walk on your own?” Chen Ge then dragged the doctor to the side. The doctor’s venom had not been cured.

“Leave us be. The reason the shadow hasn’t killed us is because he is planning to use us to weigh you down. That thing will stop at nothing to accomplish his goal,” the doctor uttered weakly.

“Since you can form a complete sentence, it looks like you’re slowly recovering.” Chen Ge was about to ask what had happened to them at Fan Chong’s building, but he felt something cold touch the back of his neck. Turning back to look, the tattooed man’s head rolled out from the eighth floor. His face was bloodied, and his eyes were bulging. The human skull tattoos on his arms had brutally been yanked out from his bare skin. Several emotionless and expression children stood around the man. They held paintbrushes in their hands and were using the tattooed man’s blood to finish their painting.

“The man’s dead?” These children were duller and more emotionless than the ones on the ground floor. The way that they treated a living human as ‘toy’ sent a shiver down Chen Ge’s spine.

“The tattooed man is dead. If one’s ending is the worse the higher we go, then does this mean that something bad has already befallen Men Nan and Ol’ Zhou?” Chen Ge was worried. This was the first time that he realized how important the employees who usually accompanied him were. Without realizing it, he had already accepted them as family and close friends.

The tattooed man’s dead body was shoved down the stairs by the children. It fell before Chen Ge’s eyes. Such a precious life was ended just like that—this was the nature of the world behind the door. In this nightmarish world weaved from despair and pain, life and hope were the most fragile of things.

After the tattooed man’s body landed with a dull thud on the ground, the children dispersed like they had completed their mission. The only thing that remained in the stairwell was the painting that was painted with the tattooed man’s blood.

After the children left, children’s giggling came from the tenth floor. The faces of the children up there had lost their dullness. Their faces were filled with the brightest of smiles, but what they were doing made Chen Ge grit his teeth.

Several children were detaining the phone spirit, Tong Tong. His body was yanked from so many directions that his body had become disfigured. His precious phone had been taken away, and the children deleted the messages that Tong Tong’s mother had sent him one by one before the boy’s eyes.

These children who were little more than animals being reared by the shadow could not be called children anymore. They had been taught to bear hatred for everything good in the world, so they viewed love as the most disgusting in the world. Chen Ge had a feeling that the shadow was training these children as his apprentices, turning them into monsters like he was.

Every employee at the Haunted House had their own story, and Tong Tong’s story had touched Chen Ge the most. The reason that he had taken this boy under his wing was not only because of his power but also the promise that he had made Tong Tong’s mother. Tong Tong did not resist or even cry. He had gotten used to all this. He had experienced something similar both when he was alive and when he was working for ghost stories society’s Han Bao’er. However, the more he acted like this, the more it tore Chen Ge’s heart.

The children knew that Tong Tong would get Chen Ge’s attention. They carried Tong Tong higher up the stairs, obviously trying to lure Chen Ge to follow them.

“Chen Ge! Don’t follow them!” Lee Zheng dragged Jia Ming up the stairs to stop Chen Ge. “We have people who are heavily injured with us. We need to bring them away from this place. When I entered Li Wan City, I contacted other officers at the station. Back-up will be here soon.”

“There won’t be any back-up. I need you and Jia Ming to help me carry these people downstairs. Try to move them as far away from this place as possible.” Chen Ge frowned slightly. He flipped through the comic to one of the pages, but he did so without arousing Lee Zheng or Jia Ming’s attention. He did this in less than one second.

“Aren’t you going to leave with us? What are you going to do?” Lee Zheng tried his best to stop Chen Ge.

“I am not good at educating children, so I can only treat these children who are bullying others as adults, and if they’re adults, things will be much simpler.” Chen Ge raised the hammer while murmuring someone’s name. In the cramped staircase, a thick scent of blood bloomed. A twisted hand appeared next to Chen Ge before slowly falling on his shoulder.

“Capture them all, bring them back with us so that we can give them some corrective education.”

The head that dangled on the shoulders slowly raised itself. The body that was ruined from the car accidents was slowly recovering as the woman raised her head. The Red Specter from White Dragon Cave Tunnel had been summoned. She seemed to have a natural curiosity toward the world outside the tunnel. When the thin blood fog surrounded her body, it gave her a desire to kill everything before her.

After Xu Yin led Doctor Gao away, Bai Qiulin was too weak to deal with any dangerous accident. So, to ensure his own safety, Chen Ge used his other trump card—the woman from the tunnel.

With a Red Specter forging the way forward, he could charge forth with abandon. No matter where, no matter when, a Red Specter was the scariest presence. When the children in the building saw the Red Specter approach, they started to run and hide on instinct. The few children who grabbed Tong Tong also had to put their smiles away. They charged ahead like their lives depended on it. From how Chen Ge saw it, it felt like the children were completing a mission, which was to lure Chen Ge to the top floor.

“The top floor is very dangerous! Don’t go there!” Lee Zheng called out urgently from the back. He seemed to have gained some information from Jia Ming. Compelled by the urgency of the moment, he abandoned Scissors and the drunkard and moved to chase after Chen Ge.

With the Red Specter leading the way, Chen Ge could stop worrying about the danger that might appear along the way. He calmed down to dissect a few important questions.

“The painting that was drawn by the cooperation of the Pen Spirit and Yan Danian showed Ol’ Zhou and Men Nan hiding inside a small room. They were not captured but temporarily trapped. In other words, the shadow does not really have a full control of the situation. He has been caught up in the fight with Doctor Gao, and he only disappeared from my eyes several moments ago. How did he manage to set up so many scary traps in such a short amount of time?”

“The shadow has fought Zhang Ya before, and he knows that I have a Greater Red Specter with me. Therefore, the only possibility he has is to come up with a trap that can threaten a Greater Red Specter before he can deal with me. But I doubt something as powerful as a trap like that can be constructed on short notice.”

Chen Ge knew all this perfectly. He narrowed his eyes, and suddenly, a small detail flashed across his mind.

“I know!” Without lowering his speed, Chen Ge rushed up the stairs without stopping. The higher he went, the deeper the resentment the children carried. They changed from lingering spirits to baleful Specters. Beyond level eleven, some of the children’s shirts were stained with blood, and Chen Ge even saw a young man who was a half Red Specter. Without the aid from the woman in the tunnel, with just him and Bai Qiulin, their journey would have stopped at the eleventh floor.

However, even with the woman's aid, their journey was not easy. Complicated paintings started to show up on the wall. They were painted with some kind special, dark liquid. Chen Ge had encountered this kind of liquid at the hotel earlier. It could cause some kind of influence on Red Specters. Now Chen Ge regretted using such a valuable item to provoke the headless woman. Glancing at the wall, the paintings on the wall were all painted in this dark liquid, and walking past them gave Chen Ge plenty of discomfort.

"All the paintings look rough; they look more like doodling of a bored child. Could these paintings have been made by the ghost fetus?"

The woman who walked ahead suffered most of the pressure, and her condition was not looking so good.

"These paintings can weaken even a Red Specter. Is it because they have something to do with the presence above a Red Specter?" Looking at these paintings, Chen Ge noticed that they were merely recording mundane everyday activities, but for some reason, they made the hair on Chen Ge's back stand on end. He could not explain why he would be afraid of these things. "Could the pictures on the wall refer to the things that I've once experienced? But how come I don't have any memory of them at all? No, these should be the memory of the ghost fetus—they have nothing to do with me."

"Chen Ge! What are you doing? Quickly follow me downstairs!" Lee Zheng and Jia Ming followed closely behind him. The paintings did not seem to have much of an effect on normal human beings. They were unable to feel the deep resentment and hatred inherent in the paintings.

"They still have my employees, how can I, the boss, abandon them and run away on my own?"

Resisting the pressure, the woman in the tunnel and Chen Ge reached the top floor of the building, but Tong Tong had already disappeared. All Chen Ge could see was the door that led to the roof, which had been left half open.

"The shadow allocated so many resources just to luring me here?" The door that led to the roof was covered in black paintings, but the content of the paintings was different from the ones on the wall. They were no longer about life, but they described many death scenarios that were impossibly cruel.

The child in the painting experienced various kinds of death, and he had been alone throughout it all. He did not understand the meaning of his presence like the purpose of his life was to await and experience a harsher death.

The dark paintings when viewed from afar seemed to form the shape of a human and curiously enough, the shape of the human matched Chen Ge's a bit too well. The color of the ink at the bottom part of the strange paintings were relatively light. As the paintings grew, the darker it became. It felt like the monster would return every time he grew older and used the paintings to fill up its body.

Initially, the shape of the paintings should be that of a child, but it had grown with time, similar to Chen Ge. However, Chen Ge's growth was accompanied by light and hope while the growth of the thing on the wall was filled with various scary and improbably ways of death.



“Tong Tong is just behind this door.” Chen Ge looked at the door that led to the roof, and he felt his consciousness fading. It was as if the methods of death were slowly drilling themselves into his mind, trying to make them his own memory.

“I have not experienced these things! These are not my memory!” Chen Ge raised the hammer and planned to shatter the door before him, like he was under the impression that once the door was broken down, the painful memories that did not belong to him would disappear.

His expression was twisted, and just as the hammer was about to fall, he felt a piercing pain around his heart like someone had poked him with a needle. The shot of pain brought Chen Ge out of the haze. In just this short moment, his back was wet with sweat. Reaching into his chest, Chen Ge pulled out the two similar-looking keys from his chest pocket.

“Self-perceptive Key?” The rust on the keys had fallen away for the most part. Chen Ge still had not understood how to correctly use the keys, but it seemed like it was the keys that had helped him moments earlier.

“If his memory melded into mine, then the consequences would have been unimaginable.” Chen Ge put down the hammer and looked at the half-open door. Like a mad person, he spoke to the inanimate object. “Who are you? Why do you hate me that much?”

“We should not stay at this place any longer, let’s leave now!” Lee Zheng looked around him with alert. His hand went to the gun around his waist. He was about to take it out when Chen Ge slowly turned around to stare directly at him.

“Who are you?” Holding the hammer, Chen Ge’s eyes were bloodshot.

“Me? I’m Lee Zheng! Chen Ge, what’s up with you?” Lee Zheng’s hand was over the holster. He wanted to take out the gun, but he realized that Chen Ge was ready to hammer his hand if he reached for the gun.

“You are not Lee Zheng.” Chen Ge’s voice was hoarse. “You said earlier that when you entered Li Wan City, you contacted the rest of the station. At the time, you were pursuing Jia Ming alone. When we encountered each other at the hotel, I did not see you carrying a walkie-talkie, and the range of a walkie-talkie is limited, so I believe that you were using your phone to communicate with the rest of your team.”

“What’s wrong with using my phone?”

“Before entering Li Wan City, I received messages from you. Your voice and speech pattern were similar as Inspector Lee’s, but due to the unique circumstance that I was in, I couldn’t answer your call, so I had you write me messages.” Chen Ge’s eyes were filled with blood, but his voice slowly calmed down.

“When Doctor Gao was battling the shadow, it was just around the time that you all disappeared. Now that the shadow has stopped fighting Doctor Gao, you have reappeared. This can only mean that the shadow is one of you who went missing.”

Lee Zheng still wanted to say something but was interrupted by Chen Ge.

“You were afraid of being exposed, so you used your trump card earlier than necessary and had the curses dispense of the people who were waiting outside the tunnel. That way, you’d be able to continue

hiding your real identity.” Chen Ge took a step forward, and the woman from the tunnel shielded by his side. “In the beginning, I only had a suspicion, but now, I can finally confirm that you are the shadow.”

He opened the comic to release a weak and sickly black puppy. The puppy was overjoyed when he saw Chen Ge, but when it saw Lee Zheng, it moaned in confusion.

“You are the most unique presence to him. You might be able to trick the rest of us, but you will never be able to trick the ‘person’ who saw you as his whole world.” Chen Ge turned to look at the black dog that he had brought out from the doghouse.

Seeing the black phone, Lee Zheng’s hand that went to the gun slowly relaxed. The anxiety and anger on his face slowly dispersed, and in its place was a deep serenity.

“This is just ironic. This is the one good thing I’ve done in my life, and it became the clue for you to see through my disguise.” Lee Zheng looked at the puppy, and the coldness in his eyes caused the puppy to cower in fear. “I should have killed it. Back then, I figured it would fun to keep it tortured.”

Once he finished, Lee Zheng closed his eyes. His body crumbled to the ground, but his shadow stood upright, maintaining his earlier posture.